

Biography of
Elijah Shaw II

Taken from a sketch written by great granddaughter...Jeanette Shaw Greenwell

Elijah Shaw II was born 15 February 1822, in Clermont, County, Ohio. The son of Elijah Shaw I and Lydia Bowen, who were from Deerfield, Cumberland County, New Jersey and were married there 6 February 1805.

In the year 1829 we find the family of Elijah I and Lydia living in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, in a small suburb called Fulton. In the spring of 1832, there was a great flood, covering most of the city of Cincinnati and the surrounding towns. Fulton, being on the river, really got the worst of it. After the flood, Cholera broke out and took many lives.

On 20 April 1833 Elijah I and Lydia sold their property for three hundred dollars and made preparations to move. It has been said that the family moved on westward into a new territory that was being settled in Daviss County, Missouri, and that Elijah owned 900 acres in said county near Adam-Ondi-Ahman.

The family prospered. In 1838, a steady stream of Mormon immigrants, from the East began arriving in Daviss, Ray, Carroll and Caldwell Counties. By the summer the numbers in Northern Missouri totaled about 15,000. Persecutions began, and the family moved to Nauvoo.

In 1845 & 1846 the Saints were still being persecuted by the Anti-Mormons, so most of them left for Winter Quarters and other points. Elijah II and Lydia remained at home to care for their mother, Lydia, who passed away 17 November 1848.

Shortly after the death of his mother, Elijah came down with a bad case of "Gold Fever". The "Gold Seekers" began arriving in Kanesville in late 1849 and by spring there were between ten and fifteen thousand waiting to be outfitted. Some of the men began looking for work to supplement their money.

Elijah II met and became friendly with Orson Hyde. Mr Hyde being the President of the Kanesville Branch of the Mormon Church. Mr Hyde gave Elijah II a job helping him to get together provisions to help outfit the Saints leaving for Utah and also the "Gold Seekers".

Finally they were outfitted and ready to leave. Elijah II decided to stay. He had become interested in Marth Ann Shoop (Shupe). She was the widow of John Whitstein Shoop (Shupe) and had two little girls named Elizabeth Jane, 9, and Sarah Ann 5.

President Hyde thought that they would make a good husband and wife team so he decided to do something about it. He told Elijah II that they were both single, and she had no means of support so he had better marry her and take her to Utah.

Elijah II told President Hyde that he still wanted to go to California, and that was no place to take a woman and a family, but President Hyde said, "Well, marry her anyway." They were married 6 April 1850.

Elijah II had saved some money to go to California, and they decided to stay in Kanesville and buy a farm that one of the Saints was going to sell. He began

farming immediately. He was an exceptionally good farmer.

On 11 January 1851, their first child, a boy, was born. They named him William Orson.

On 5 July 1852, their friend, Orson Hyde left Kanesville with a caravan of other saints. Elijah II and Marth Ann helped outfit these saints, they decided to wait until the next year to go. After the saints left Kanesville wasn't a peaceful place anymore.

That spring they made their preparations and moved west. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley Sunday, 7 August 1853. A daughter, Marth Ellen was born 25 August 1853, just 18 days after their arrival. Her legs were crippled, but with the help of the Doctor, her legs straightened.

They went to West Jordan and spent the fall and winter close to the Card Mill (Wollen Factory.) In the spring they moved to Centerville, and bought a farm. On 22 June 1855, another baby boy arrived. He was named Edmund Riley.

During the winter of 1855-56, Elijah II came down with a severe case of Mountain Fever. So severe was the fever that he nearly died. The Mormon Elders were called in to administer to him. Through their faith and prayers, he regained his health.

This started him thinking more and more about the Mormon Church. And to Martha Ann's delight, on 29 September 1856, he was baptized a member.

On 5 March 1857 another daughter joined the family, Laura.

In 1853 William W. Drummond was sent to Salt Lake to become a Federal Associate Judge. In his reports to the attorney general he made many false accusations against the Saints. In May 1857, President Buchanan sent troops mobilized and sent to Utah.

The Saints moved South, and the Shaws moved with them. They went as far as Provo where they camped. In June 1858 the army entered Salt Lake and on Thursday 1 July 1858 the Saints returned to their homes.

On 2 December 1858 a violent East wind storm struck and did much damage. Elijah's barn was blown down. That spring the family moved to Centerville, Utah.

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The family then moved to Pleasant View. They lived there for the rest of their lives. Elijah started fruit growing in the area and had large orchards. He also planted many kinds of berries.

Martha Ann bought a spinning wheel and a weaving loom. They also bought a herd of merino sheep and made a much softer woolen material to make their clothes from.

The family worked hard and played together. They prospered. A home was built, it had a large room on the second floor that was used for dancing. Elijah

bought property around the area, and also in the Ogden Valley area.

Martha Ann died 21 November 1890, and was buried in the North Ogden cemetery. In Elijah's older years he often visited his children. Each year the ditches had to be cleaned. In the spring of 1901 it was wet and cold. Elijah worked at clearing the ditch and got wet. He lay down on the porch in the sun to dry and fell asleep. He contracted pneumonia and died on 5 May 1901, at the age of 79. He was buried beside his wife in the North Ogden Cemetery.