

## History of Elizabeth Kegg Comish

Elizabeth Kegg Comish was born 22-December 1805, at Kirkirise, Isle of Man. She was the daughter of Patrick Kegg and Jane Moore. Of her girlhood day's we know very little. She never had the privilege of going to school, but though she could not read nor write, one had to be quick to beat her in mental arithmetic. She had two brother's and one sister. Her brother John Kegg was the Mayor or Governor of the Isle of Man. Her other brother's name was William Kegg and her sister's name was Ellen.

She married William Comish of Kirkarbray, Isle of Man, at the age of 26. He was born May 1805. She was the mother of nine children, four son's and five daughter's, who all grew to manhood and womanhood, except one son Joseph, who died as a child. Her husband heard of the Mormon religion, he investigated it and soon excepted the truth's of the gospel and was baptized in the year of 1841. Elizabeth didn't join until December 1848, a few month's after her youngest child was born. She was baptized a member of the church by Elder John Taylor. Her mother was very much apposed to the Mormon religion, which may have been the reason she was not baptized before. Her mother said, if she didn't reject the Mormon religion she would not leave her anything, but would give it all to her other daughter Nell. So she must have been the only one of her family to join the church. One time she and her Mother were talking about the Mormon religion and her Mother wanted to know how she knew it to be true. Elizabeth said, pointing to the fire-place, you see that kettle on the hob; yes, said her Mother, well you know it's there? yes said, her Mother, well just as surely as you know that that kettle is on the hob, just so surely I know that Mormonism is true. She passed through many trial's and tribulation's.

After joining the church they made preparation's to emigrate to America. Elizabeth's husband, William Comish and eldest daughter Jane emigrated to St Louis, Missouri in the year 1851, where he found employment and was able to earn enough money to send for the rest of his family inside of a few year's.

This was a great trial to her, with a large family to care for. It took a long time in those day's to get mail. Letter's were few so she suffered much with anxiety and care. She said, she never let any one see her cry, and if any one should happen to come when she was crying she hurried to the wash basin and was busy washing her face. In a few year's she left Isle of Man on her way to join her Husband in America. She met him in St. Louis, Missouri. In May 1855 they started to leave St Louis, Missouri to come out West, with Captain John Hindley's company of emigrating Saint's. They were the first company of the season to enter the Salt Lake Valley. They arrived September 3- 1855. This company was an Independent company, consisting of 206 souls, mostly emigrants from St Louis, Missouri and other part's of the state's. 46 wagon's, 226 Oxen, 54 cow's 14 horses and 4 mule's drew out from the main encampment at Mormon Grove and formed a separate camp on the first of June, and a few day's later (June 7) were on there march for the mountain's.

They made there home in Kaysville, Utah for five year's. Her daughter Margaret married Thomas Frances Roueche of Kaysville and years later President John Taylor married their daughter Josephine Roueche while in exile and he died at there home.

Her husband and two son's-William and John and daughter Ellen left Kaysville Utah on the third of April, arrived in Franklin, Idaho on the sixth of April 1860 at nine P.M. at night, being among the very first pioneer's to enter Franklin, Idaho. They forded what is called Spring Creek. There son John drove the third team into Franklin, Idaho. At this time there were other's in the company. Elizabeth and son Nephi and daughter Emma came later. Jane, Margaret and Elizabeth had married.

Her life was a very busy one as she spun yarn, and knitted stocking's until the last year of her long life. She knew what poverty was. One time the men had gone out to stand guard at Echo Canyon, and had taken all the food but a few potatoes. The girl's said, what are we going to have for dinner, there Mother said, we'll have potatoe's and point. So they cooked the potatoe's there jackets on, when done she peeled one and pointed at the salt and then ate it.

She was very independent always trying to support herself. Very generous and hospitable and as she lived about mid-way of the town she had many caller's who loved to run in and chat with her. So often she would say, stop and have a cup of tay and bread and butter. Many wondered how she kept up the supply in her old age. She was always an active woman. She had her endowment's at Salt Lake City, Utah in the Old Endowment House. She had all the children sealed to them on the ninth of December 1885 except William and Emma. The work for them was done later. She was sealed to her husband 3- April 1857, Heber C. Kimball performing the ceremony. Three of her children, two girl's and a son died, each of them leaving families. When her daughter Ellen Comish Preece died she took the 3 day old baby to raise and also washed and baked bread for the other four children until the Father was able to get a house-keeper. She was always so good to the motherless children. She was loved dearly by them all. She was a believer in witches and fairies. In her native land they would not walk across the green (we would call it a Park) at midnight for fear of disturbing the fairies dancing. She kept a cow, chickens and turkeys. Cared for them herself also a garden. She was very neat in her dress and always wore a brooch or breast pin. Her hair was curled in front and a bob at the back. Although she could not read she loved to hear others read and while they read her knitting needles clicked busily away. She was medium height, slim and very straight. Her husband died 16- Dec. 1877. in Franklin, Idaho, buried in Franklin Idaho cemetery. Elizabeth was 79 years 10 months and 15 days old when she died 6-Nov. 1885 at Franklin, Idaho.



of old age and dropsy. She was buried in Franklin, Idaho cemetery. Her children married the following: Jane Comish married Robert Ashton--  
William Comish married 1st wife--Hannah      She was also the 1st school teacher in Franklin, Idaho--2nd wife--Annie Cooke-- Margaret Comish  
married Thomas Frances Roueche--Elizabeth Comish married George Whittaker--John Comish married Esther Stanford--Ellen Comish married Mark Preece  
Nephi Comish married Emma Howland--Joseph Comish died in St Louis, Missouri, A child--Emma Comish married George Densmore.