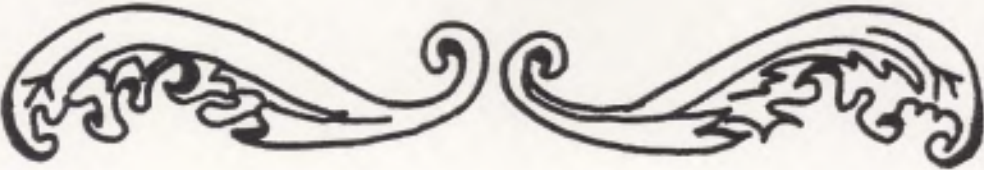


*THE FATE
OF THE FRYERS*







COMPILED BY BESSIE "BESS" SNOW
A GRANDDAUGHTER OF
JANE FRYER

1973



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PREFACE

In compiling this story of the Fryer family I have tried as much as possible to stay with actual facts which in this case I think comes from Uncle Richard Fryer's Journal, Grandmother Jane Fryer Jordan Harrison's letters, and family records. When it comes to stories that are told from generation to generation, I find that very often the final telling is like John Fox Junior's comment on the picture show of his novel, "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine." After seeing the show he said,

"At least they had a pine tree in it."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the many friends and relatives who have so kindly assisted me in gathering this material on the history of our people, I wish to express my appreciation. They are as follows:

Lucy Fryer Vance, granddaughter of Richard Fryer; Dr. and Mrs. Dan J. Swindle, he is a grandson of Annie Jordan Richey Hodges; Eva Page Higbee and Golda Page Smith, granddaughters of John Thomas and Sophia Fryer Geary; Sherlene Jensen Clove, a step-daughter of Geary Page a grandson of John Thomas and Sophia Fryer Geary; Linna Harrison Barton, granddaughter of Jane Fryer Jordan Harrison; Leah Keele Elison, granddaughter of John Thomas and Sophia Fryer Geary; Rhoda Ranson Milsson, Granddaughter of Annie Jordan Richey Hodges; my two sisters, Linna Snow Paxman and Elizabeth Snow Beckstrom, granddaughters of Jane Fryer Jordan Harrison; and Merton E. Doolittle, a grandson of Frank Jordan Jr. I also received information from my Mother, Effie May Harrison Snow and William R. Palmer, President of the Parowan Stake, who are now deceased. Art was done by Nell Malchus.

Bessie "Bess" Snow
Pine Valley, Utah

FRYER FAMILY

GENEALOGY

SHEETS

BUTLER FAMILY

*ELIAS BUTLER

Born: about 1677 Alverstoke, Southampton Hampshire Co., England

Died:

Son of:

Married: Mary Winter June 29, 1702 Titchfield, Co., England

Mary born about 1681

CHILDREN:

Mary Butler

Born: February 24, 1703-4 Titchfield, Co., England

*JOHN BUTLER

Born: about 1705 Titchfield, Co., England

Jane Butler

Born: August 30, 1709 Titchfield, Co., England

*JOHN BUTLER

Born: about 1705 Titchfield, Co., England

Son of: Elias and Mary Winter Butler

Married: Catherine about 1709 Titchfield, Co., England

CHILDREN:

Elias Butler (Twin)

Born: July 23, 1731 Swanick Titchfield, Southampton, Hamps. Co., England

Died: August 11, 1731

Edward Butler (Twin)

Born: July 23, 1731 " " "

Died: September 12, 1731

*EDWARD BUTLER

Born: March 25, 1734 " " "

Died:

Richard Butler (Twin)

Born: January 12, 1736-7 " " "

Died: February 25, 1736-7 " " "

Ellis Butler (Twin)

Born: January 12, 1736-7 " " "

Died: April 3, 1737

James Butler

Born: February 17, 1737-8 " " "

Married: Dorcas Smith, September 29, 1760

Henry Butler

Born: November 25, 1741 " " "

Mary Butler

Born: May 14, 1744 " " "

*EDWARD BUTLER

Born: March 25, 1734 " " "

Son of: John and Catherine Butler

Married: Amie Ashley who was born about 1740

*EDWARD BUTLER (continued)

CHILDREN:

*MARY BUTLER

Born: February 20 or March 18, 1762

Married: James Fryer

James Butler

Born: June 24, 1764

Titchfield, Southampton, Hampshire Co., England

Edward Butler

Born: November 4, 1769

" " "

Married: Phillis

Elias Butler

Born: October 25, 1772

" " "

THE FRYER TRAGEDY

Richard Fryer and his wife Teresa lived in Toquerville with their four children. Richard was building a home of native lava rock during the years 1874-75.

Altho poor, Fryer was a man of culture and refinement. He was an artist, sculptor, musician, played for dances, led the choirs, painted the curtains and scenes for the local plays, and gave music lessons. He was a violinist in his own right.

There were people in the community who thought that Fryer considered himself better than the rest of the town and resented it. Fryer was assaulted and mistreated. For example, a few young men caught him, tied his feet to a single tree that was fastened to a harnessed work horse, and raced through the streets of Toquerville dragging him behind them. These cruel incidents might have injured him and caused a mental breakdown.

In addition, Richard became upset and worried because he thought his wife was carrying on a love affair with their next door neighbor, Thomas Batty. He finally ordered her to leave his house and take her infant son, which she did. After that she lived most of the time with the Thomas Batty family. Richard began to have temporary spells of insanity and had them for a year or two before an undreamed of tragedy took place.

On the morning of March 16, 1875, Fryer knocked on the door of Thomas Batty's house, and upon being asked, went in and asked if his wife was there. Being answered in the affirmative, he asked her if she had not brought disgrace and shame enough upon him. Fryer then drew a loaded revolver and fired a shot at Thomas Batty, the ball entering the left eye and coming out of the back of the head. Batty then fell onto the shoulder of Henry Willis, who was present, when Fryer fired a second shot, the ball entering the back part of the head and coming out through the right eye. Fryer then turned and fired at his wife, who was yet in bed, the ball entering below the left ear and lodging in the head, near the right eye, which shot produced instant death. Fryer then shot his infant son, who was in bed with its deceased mother, the ball entering the child's forehead and coming out the back of the head.

After completing the tragedy, Fryer went to his house, a portion of which had lately been built of rock, unfinished, being without doors and windows. After getting into the house, he reloaded his revolver with cartridges, a number of which were found upon him by the sheriff. The sheriff of Kane County, as soon as he was notified of the facts, went as near the house of Fryer as was deemed safe and called from the bystanders a posse, instructing them to arm themselves, which

they did. The sheriff and posse then approached the house as near as was wisdom. Then the sheriff called and asked Fryer if he would surrender. The first time he answered, "I will not, if you want me, come and take me." The second time his answer was, "I will not. I have had enough of you and Bishop Bringhurst." The position occupied by Fryer precluded the possibility of taking him without a further sacrifice of life. After viewing the position and believing that unless immediate action was taken, more innocent blood would be shed, the sheriff ordered the posse to fire, which they did, killing Fryer instantly. Besides a revolver, Fryer was armed with a sharp butcher knife and a heavy loaded whip.

At their deaths, Richard and Teresa Fryer left three children: Eliza, age 13; Annie, age 11; and 3-year-old George. A Brother and Sister Lang raised George and took him to Mesa Arizona. The girls stayed in Toquerville and Eliza married David Baxter the next year, and they lived in the rock house Richard had built. She was fourteen and David was 53. Annie lived with them and, when mature, married Charles Clawson and moved to Colorado. Later, Eliza and David sold the house to the Presbyterian Church and they used it for a school house.

From: The Fate of the Fryers, compiled by Bessie Snow
in 1973.

FRYER FAMILY

*JAMES FRYER

Born about 1737 Titchfield, Southampton, Hampshire Co., England

Died:

Married: Elizabeth (Last name unknown)

CHILDREN:

Mary Fryer

Born March 15, 1761 Titchfield, Southampton Hampshire Co., England

*JAMES FRYER

Born: December 7, 1762 " " "

or February 6, 1763

Married MARY BUTLER* (See Page 1)

John Fryer

Born: March 3, 1765 " " "

Sara Fryer

Born: March 1767 " " "

Rebecca Fryer

Born: April 12, 1776 " " "

*JAMES FRYER

Born December 7, 1762

Married: Mary Butler

CHILDREN:

James Fryer

Born: August 10, 1783 " " "

William Fryer

Born: November 20, 1785 " " "

*MOSES FRYER

Born: February 6, 1786 " " "

or December 31, 1786

Mary Fryer

Born: December 25, 1796 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight

Sarah Fryer

Born: October 18, 1798 " " "

Emanuel Fryer

Born: January 9, 1803 " " "

Elizabeth Fryer (Twin)

Born: April 9-29, 1809 " " "

Edward Fryer (Twin)

Born April 9, 1809 " " "

*FRYER, MOSES (My Great-Grandfather)

Born: February 6, 1786 Titchfield, Hampshire, England
Died: July 6, 1862 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, England
Married: 1st Elizabeth Pinnock

CHILDREN:

James Fryer

Born July 26, 1808 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, England

Married: Anna Hollis

Mary Ann Fryer

Born: September 21, 1810 " " " " "

Died: 1852

John Fryer

Born September 28, 1813 " " " " "

Sarah Ellen Fryer

Born: July 1, 1816 " " " " "

Married: Anthony Chevalier

MARRIED 2nd ELIZA MILLER (My Great-Grandmother)

Born: November 5, 1796 South Hampton, England

Died: July 8, 1871 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, England

Daughter of James Miller and Ann (Last name unknown)

Born 1750 Born 1760

MOSES & ELIZA MILLER FRYER had the following

CHILDREN:

Eliza Fryer

Born: January 5, 1820 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, England

Married: James Russell - (She signed her name Eliza Forward)

*JANE FRYER (My Grandmother)

Born: September 7, 1823 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, England

Married: 1st Francis Jordan

Married: 2nd Richard Harrison * (See pages V and VI)

William Aaron Fryer

Born: September 17, 1825 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, England

Died: was captain of a ship and was lost at sea while on a trip to New Zealand.

Edward George Fryer

Born: March 23, 1827 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, England

*SOPHIA FRYER

Born: July 12, 1829 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, England

Married: 1st John Thomas Geary August 27, 1852

Married: 2nd Joshua Thomas Willis

Died: May 27, 1872 Toquerville, Utah (See page VII)

George Nicks Fryer

Born: February 12, 1832 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, England

Leah Fryer

Born: March 31, 1835 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, England

*RICHARD FRYER

Born: May 4, 1837 Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, England

Married: Theresa Ann Revel April 17, 1861 Johnson Settlement, Rust Valley, Utah

Died: March 16, 1875 Toquerville, Utah (See page VIII)