



Alice Fish Walsh Strong

16 Apr 1829 – 8 Aug 1924

Born in Over Darwen (near Blackburn), Lancashire, England

As a young girl in Over Darwen, England during the Industrial Revolution, she worked six days a week from age 9 until she was 20 in a local cotton factory as a mill girl, rising to the position of overseer of four of the steam looms.

Since the roads were paved with cobblestones, she often wore clogs, shoes with iron rims around the bottom of the shoes. They sounded like tap shoes when she walked but did not wear out very fast.

When she was sixteen one of her girlfriends mentioned that she had been listening to missionaries from America, so she went with her friend to hear them and soon was baptized in the LDS church. Her new religion gave her hope and she experienced faith for the first time in her life.

She married a young man in the local parish church and soon had three children. When the call was sent out to gather the saints to Zion she

decided to go to America. They didn't have much money so they sailed from England and joined the Martin handcart company. They started late in the season and were caught in the snows and cold. One son died along the trail and her husband died at Devil's Gate in Wyoming just as the rescuers came.

When she got to Utah and was able to un-wrap the rags on her feet, some of her skin and flesh came off with the rags.

She wanted her mother to know she had arrived alive so she got a job doing washing to earn money to buy a 25 cent stamp to write home.

She was eventually married again to Jacob Strong and raised three more children that they had together.

In spite of all her trials she lived until age 95. She said she wanted her descendants to know that although "I have passed through many trials, I have never regretted coming to Zion."

Her picture can be seen on the credits of the full-length feature film Ephraim's Rescue about the handcart pioneers that came out in 2013.



Home in Darwen Lancashire England.