

Coloring Story Book

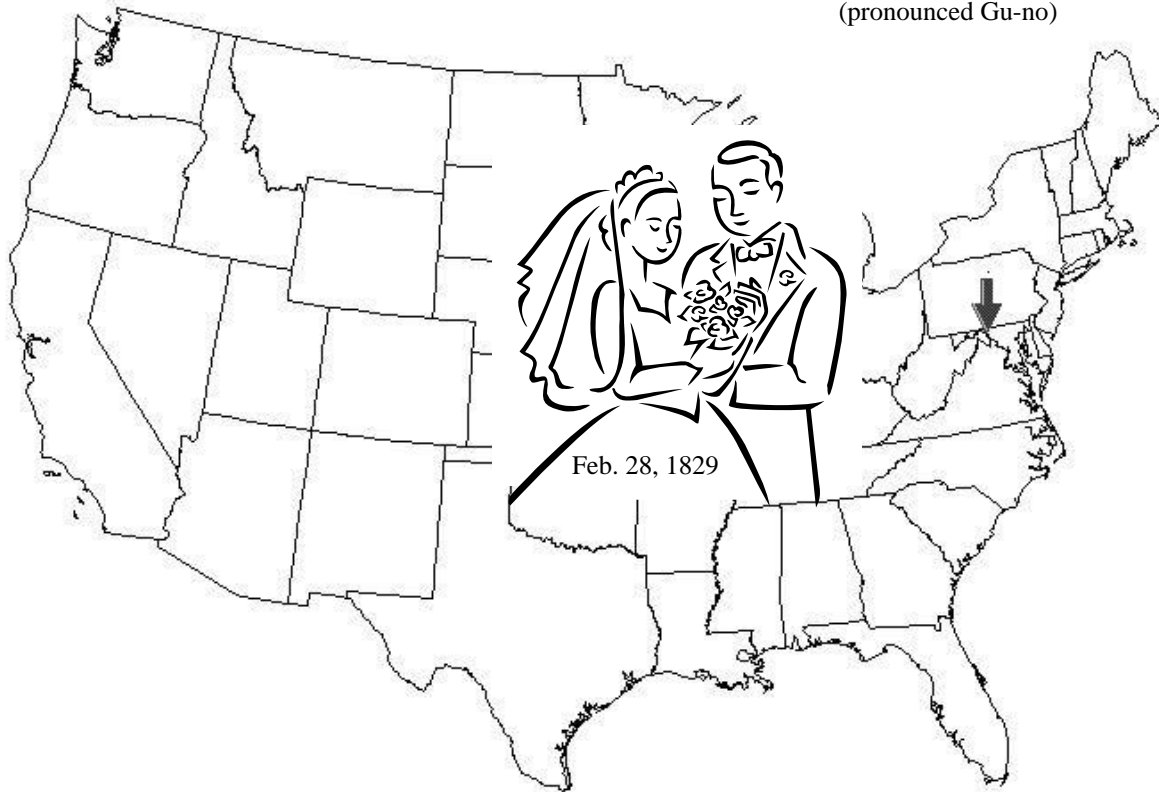
From Virginia to California – A Utah Mormon Family’s Experience



Hezekiah Thatcher (1809 – 1879)
and his wife Alena Kitchen (1808 – 1889)
(she was usually known as “Alley” [pronounced “Ollie”])

Hezekiah Thatcher and his girl friend Alley Kitchen lived in Berkeley County, Virginia near a small place called Gano Town.

(pronounced Gu-no)



They got married. They worked hard to earn money so they could move to a better place.



She did spinning and weaving. He cut down trees and made lumber.

They had a baby named Joseph Wycoff (1829).

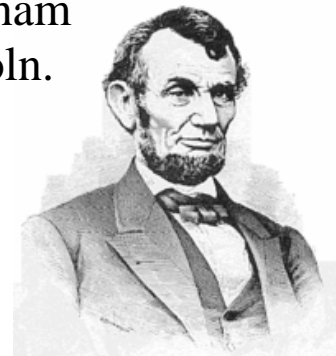
In 1831 they took their little boy Joseph and moved to **Ohio**, where they farmed. Three more children were born to them there, Catherine Mary (1831), Mary Ellen (1833), and John Bethewel (1834).



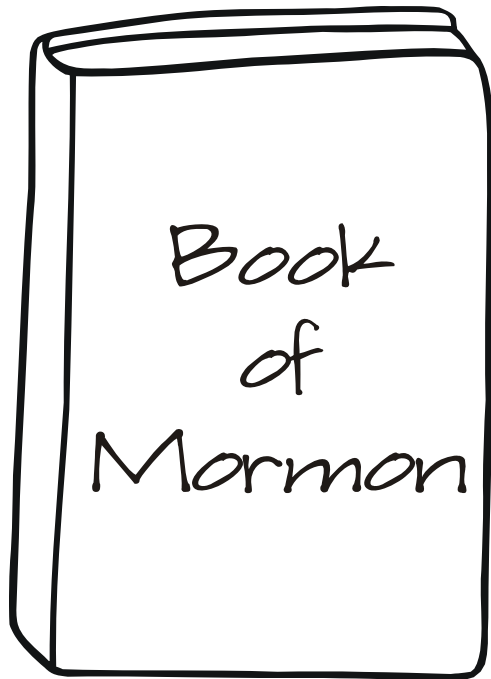
Then they moved to **Illinois** in 1836, where Hezekiah helped build the “State House” in Springfield.



There, he got to know the young politician Abraham Lincoln.



They added more children to their family while they lived in Springfield, Illinois; Aaron Dunham (1836), Harriett Ann (1838), George Washington (1840), and Moses (1842).

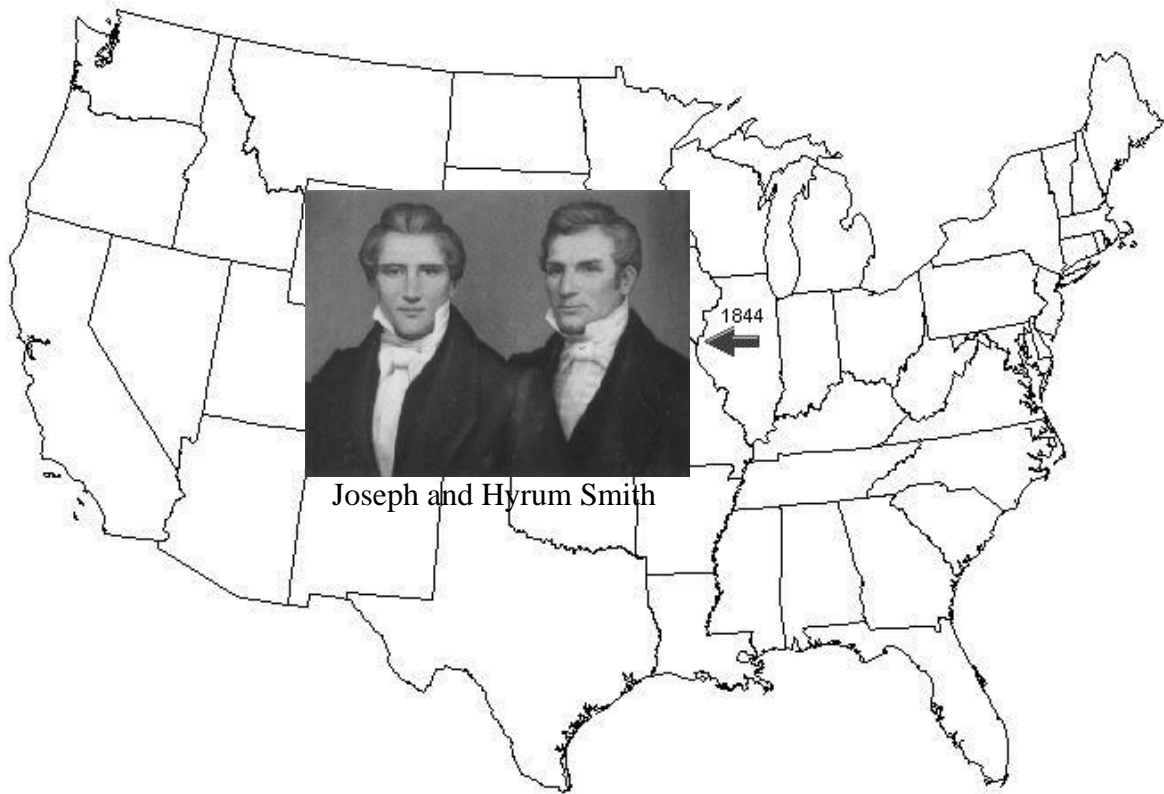


Hezekiah and Alley began to hear more about Mormons, who were fleeing into Illinois from Missouri to escape persecution.

When Mormon missionaries came to their town, Hezekiah and Alley listened to their message. They believed and were baptized December 19th, 1843. It was so cold; they had to cut through a foot of ice to get to water for the baptism.

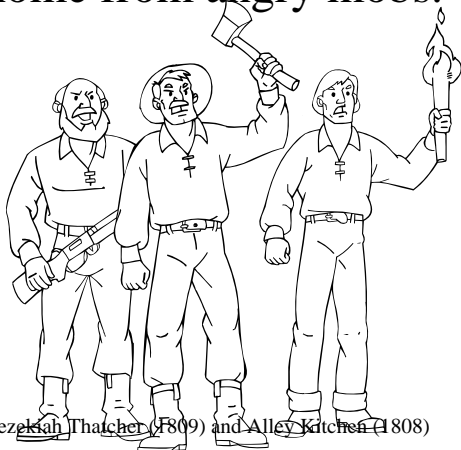


In 1844 Hezekiah and Alley moved to be with the Latter-day Saints; first to Macedonia and then to Nauvoo.

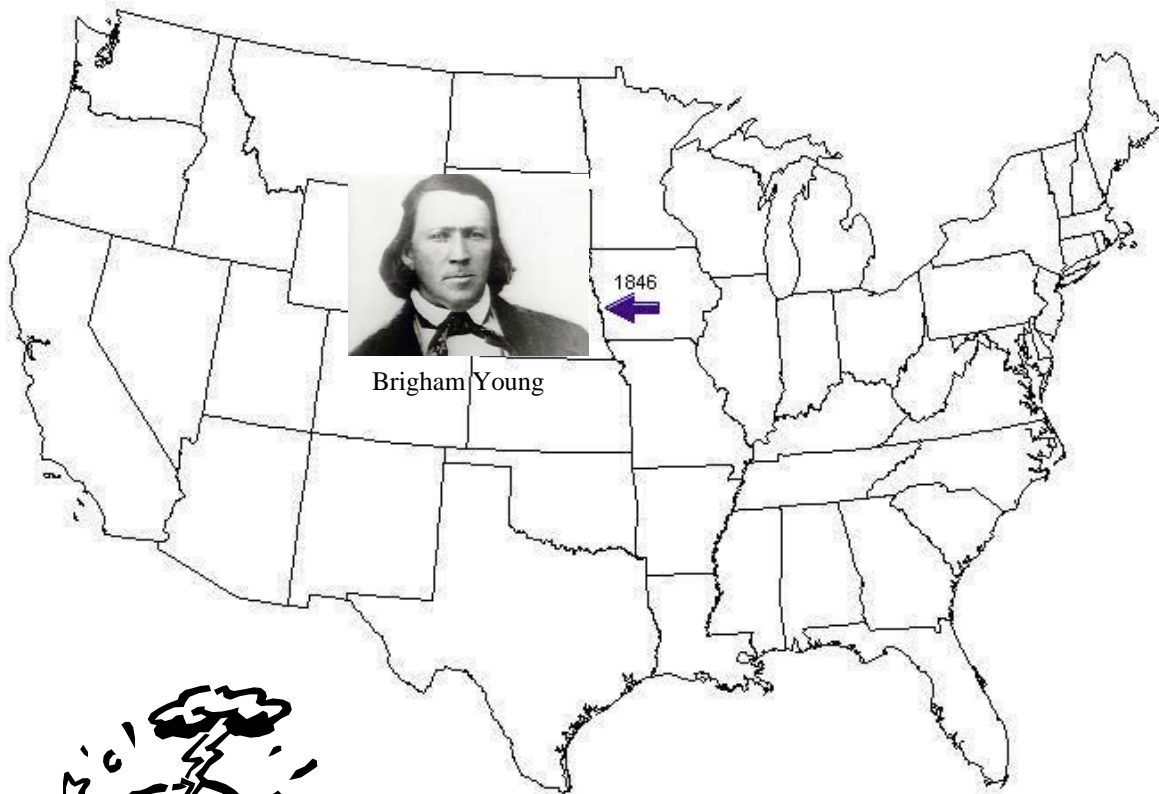


Hezekiah knew the prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum. He was defending Nauvoo when Joseph and Hyrum were martyred. He saw their dead bodies be brought back to Nauvoo. He named his next child Hyrum Smith (1844).

Alley and her little boys defended their Nauvoo home from angry mobs.



In 1846 they left their home in Nauvoo and followed Brigham Young west toward the Rocky Mountains. The travel was hard.

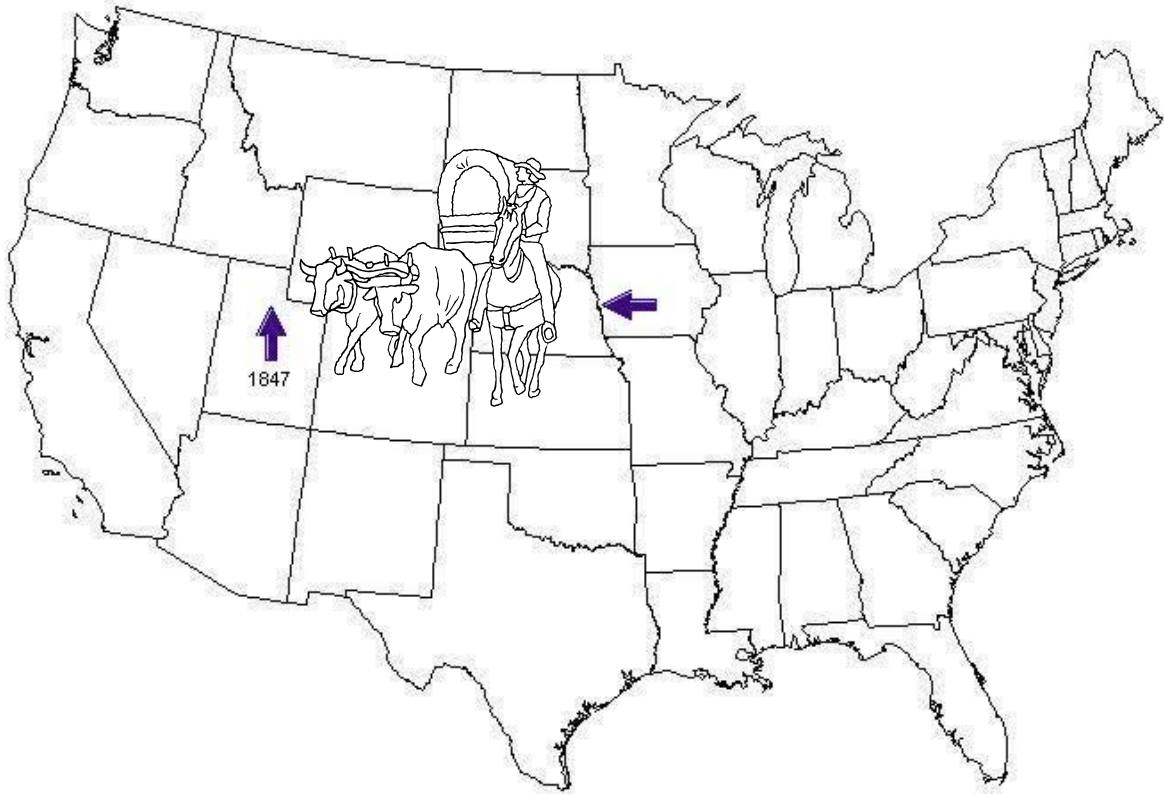


They stopped at Winter Quarters, where Alley got hurt helping Hezekiah build a temporary log cabin. Her head and face were crushed and bruised between two heavy logs. She could have died. She carried the scars for the rest of her life.

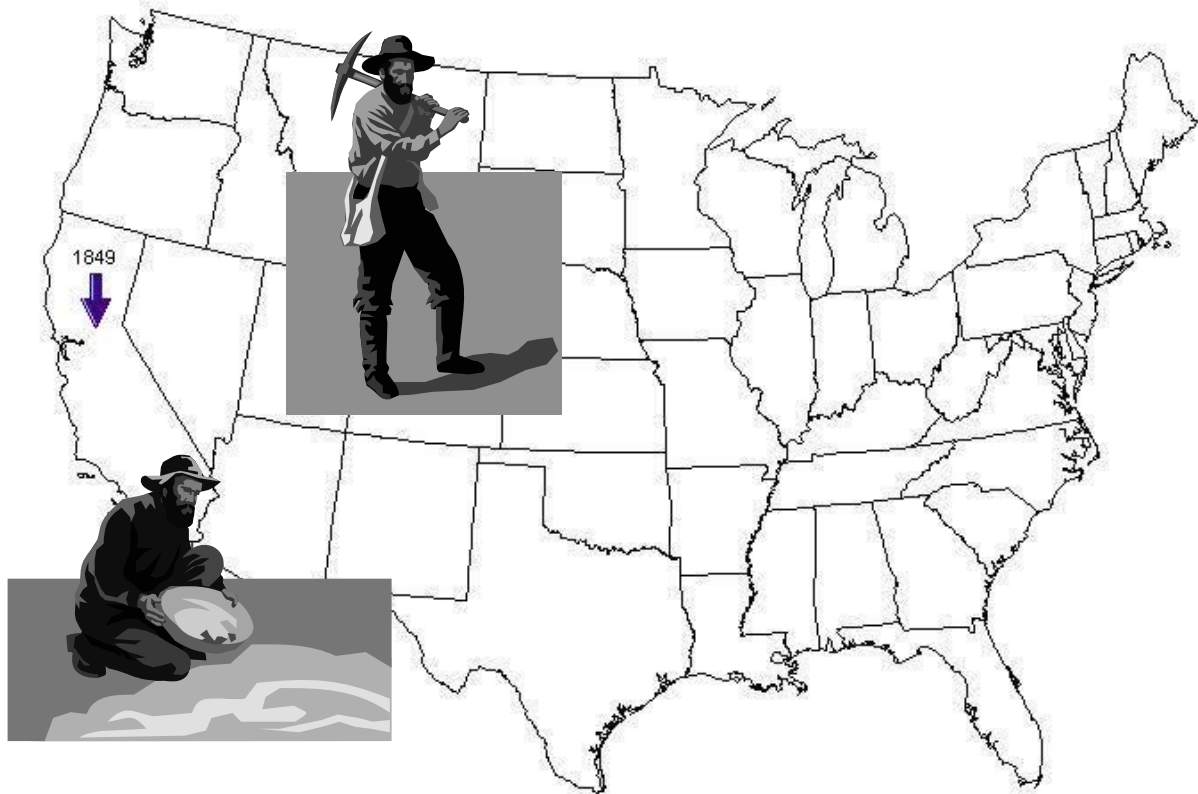
She was a strong woman. She was soon back on her feet, helping take care of others in the camp.



They started across the plains in June of 1847. Alley drove the ox team the whole way. They arrived at the Great Salt Lake valley in September, where they built a little adobe hut inside the Old Fort, where they lived through the winter.



In 1849 the Thatcher family decided to go to the gold fields of California, despite the discouragement of Brigham Young.



Hezekiah couldn't work in the mines, so he set up a place to eat called the "Halfway Eating House," a hotel, and a store. Miners paid them in gold.



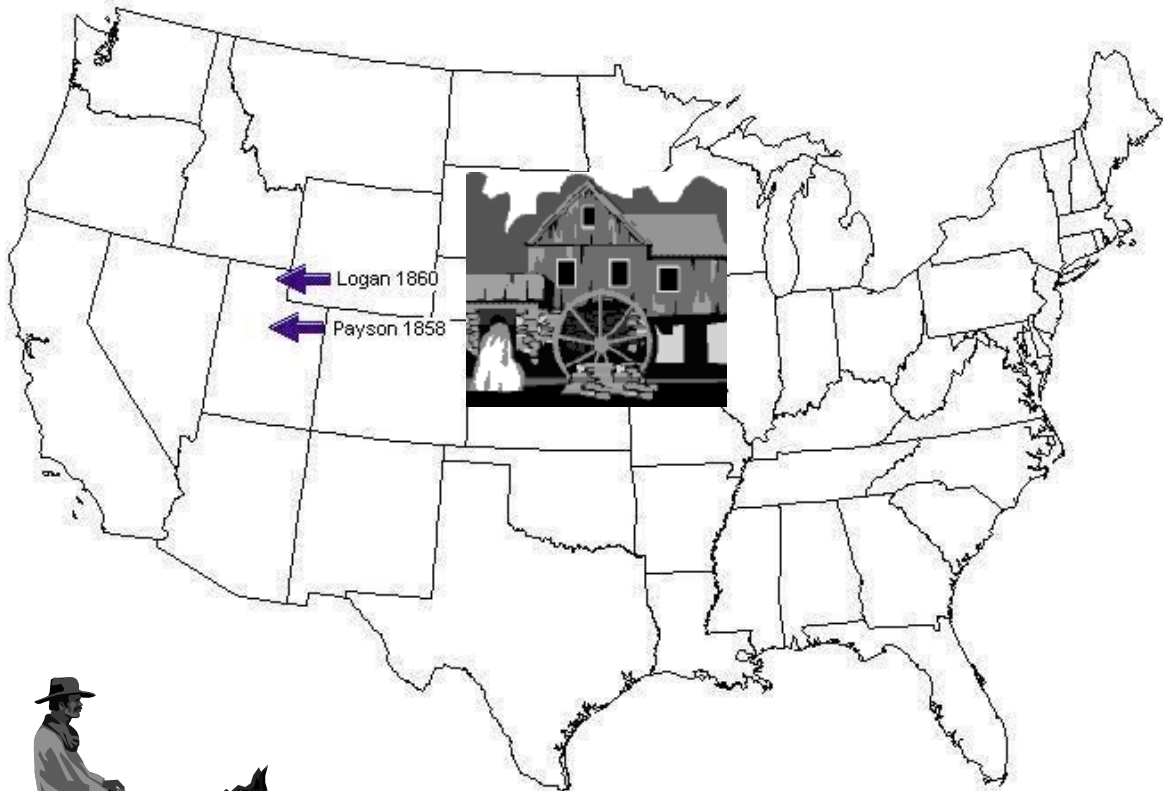
Later they bought a ranch 30 miles west in Yolo County, where they stayed until 1857, when they returned to Utah.



The first thing Hezekiah did when he got back to Utah was pay his tithing on the California profits with cash and some donated property.



He also brought splendid horses with him from California. His horses were the finest in the Utah Territory for a long while.



The Thatchers tried to settle in Payson, Utah, but there was little room or welcome for new settlers there. Brigham Young asked Hezekiah to start a new settlement in Cache Valley, so he moved his family north to start Logan, Utah in 1860. They built cabins, dug canals, built the first water-powered saw and grist mills, and started a mercantile store. Hezekiah and Alley stayed in Logan the rest of their lives.

Personal Characteristics:

- ✓ **Frugal** – “The saving man shall never want,” said Hezekiah. He stored up against a time of need.
- ✓ **Economic** – Hezekiah regarded honest labor as the true source of prosperity, wealth, and happiness.
- ✓ **Faithful** – Hezekiah’s deep veneration for Deity was shown by his willing obedience to priesthood counsel.
- ✓ **Generous** – Hezekiah gave money and time to help the less fortunate. In 1867 he donated a profitable mercantile business to the Church to help fund the gathering of the worthy poor saints from Europe to Zion.
- ✓ **Modest** – Hezekiah’s quiet nature often prevented him from voicing his thoughts to the good of others. He could speak with power if the occasion required it. He had others preach and pray for him. His deeds were his memorial.
- ✓ **Uncomplaining** – Alley bore the death of children and personal hardships quietly. Dutiful wife. Tender and affectionate mother. True and sympathizing friend.
- ✓ **Inspirational** – Alley was earnest and conscientious in advocating the principles of the Gospel. She was so familiar with the scriptures that she found it not difficult to confound and confuse ministers of various denominations with whom she came in contact in California.

My name is: _____

**I am a descendent of Hezekiah Thatcher
and Alley Kitchen through their child:**

(put a check mark in the box next to your ancestor's name)

Joseph Wycoff Thatcher (1829 – 1881)

Abraham Thatcher (1830 – 1830) [no posterity]

Catherine Mary Thatcher Holden (1831 – 1856)

Mary Ellen Thatcher (1833 – 1836) [no posterity]

John Bethewel Thatcher (1834 – 1917)

Aaron Dunham Thatcher (1836 – 1909)

Harriett Ann Thatcher Preston (1838 – 1920)

George Washington Thatcher (1840 – 1902)

Moses Thatcher (1842 – 1909)

Elizabeth Thatcher (1843 – 1843) [no posterity]

Hyrum Smith Thatcher (1844 – 1852) [no posterity]

Hezekiah Thatcher (1847 – 1847) [no posterity]

Virginia Thatcher (1851 – 1851) [no posterity]