

Emily Atkin - Patriarchal Blessing

A Blessing given by W. G. Young, Patriarch, at the home of Bro. Richard Warburton, Tooele City, March 19th, 1874, on the head of Emily Warburton daughter of Thomas Atkin and Mary Morley. Born Oct. 17th 1830 at Louth, Lincolnshire, England.

Sr. Emily I lay my hands upon thy head and I bless thee with a kind father's blessing. For thy heart has been set to do good all the days of thy life. You are of Joseph through the loins of Ephraim; and you are entitled to all the blessings of the New and Everlasting Covenant. You have been willing to give unto thy companion another wife; and have been willing to share with her, that in this you might honor God; and because of this sacrifice you shall be blessed from this time forth. Your children shall strew flowers of comfort in your path; and they shall multiply and increase, and become a great nation of faithful sons and daughters; and the bitterness of thy sorrow shall be taken away; and thy heart shall be comforted.

And peace and comfort shall be in thy habitation. And I bless thee with every blessing thy heart can desire in righteousness; with the attributes of faith, wisdom, knowledge, hope and charity; and you shalllives. For I seal you up unto eternal life, with the forgiveness of your sins in the name of Jesus, Amen.

This blessing was given to Emily Atkin, Richard's first wife on the same day a blessing was given to Martha Jane Stewart, Richard's second wife and Emily's oldest child, Richard E. Warburton. All blessings were given by W.G. Young, the Patriarch. Hand written copies were found in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Church History Archives in the Richard Warburton manuscript folder. I find this blessing very different from the one given to Martha. Emily had married Richard Warburton May 29, 1851. She and Richard had been married a month short of twenty years at the time Richard married Martha Jane Stewart as a second wife. They had lived in this arrangement for nearly three years at the time of this blessing. Perhaps this counsel touches more than we know from any accounts we have so far. The descendents of Emily and Richard are indeed a large number of people and most are faithful in the Church, seeking to live the teachings of Christ. Emily apparently took the counsel given in this blessing because she was never described as being bitter.