



Mary Alice Bybee Patterson/Tolman

Born January 14, 1863

Died August 9, 1949

Mary Alice Bybee was born in Weber County, Utah, January 14, 1863. She was the second daughter of David Bowman and Mary Elizabeth Penrod Bybee. She was married to John Fife Patterson August 2, 1883, in the Endowment house. Five children were born to them, but their union was short for he was called by death October 27, 1895, leaving her pregnant with their fifth child and alone to struggle and provide for the children.

She moved to Salt Lake City where she studied nursing and maternity work. When her course was completed, she did some nursing there. Then she moved to Bountiful where she practiced extensively as a midwife.

About 1888/89, she married Jaren Tolman. Three more children were born to them. They were sealed October 11, 1899. He died about 1912 at the age of 49, leaving her once more to face the world alone.

She was a very wonderful nurse, there was none better, so she had no trouble getting all the work she could take care of. She actually had a small hospital in Bountiful for many years. Her daughter recalls that she was so busy at times that she didn't sleep in a bed for months on end. She would just sleep in a chair near her patients. During her many years as a midwife, she delivered over 2000 babies.

A few years later, she again went to Salt Lake City to make her home. Although she worked closely with medical doctors, Mary did not agree with much of what they were doing. She also never stopped studying and learning. The combination of these two things is probably what prompted her to study chiropractic. At that time there were very few chiropractic schools, and the skill was learned primarily through an apprenticeship. Mary studied under Dr. Charles Lind, D.C. in Salt Lake. At the time she studied chiropractic and received her diploma, she was 56 years old.

Mary never practiced strictly chiropractic, although she may have integrated some of its principles in what she did as a midwife. She felt strongly enough that her daughter remembers being taken to the chiropractor to be adjusted.

She died August 9, 1949, at the age of 86 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and was buried in Bountiful.

Added to with additional information June 7, 2000, by Lois Joanne Edmunds Anderson, great granddaughter of the above.