

HISTORY OF HANNAH MARIA JAQUES JACKSON (1850-1929)

Hannah Maria Jaques Jackson was born February 18, 1850. She was the daughter of Zackariah Jaques, Jr., and Sarah Clewer. She was the 5th child born to this couple. She was born in Foleshill, Warwickshire, England, in the country quite near Coventry, England. Hannah loved this beautiful country. She describes it as lovely green meadows, and tells how she and her girl friends liked to run and play in the meadows. One of her favorite pastimes was to run with her special girl friend down the meadows to a spring of clear, clear water. Here they would fall on their knees and admire themselves in this clear water.

Hannah's parents were average people, very good and industrious. They heard the gospel of Jesus Christ preached by the early Elders who were sent to England for this purpose. They were blessed with 5 children - 4 girls and 1 son. Their oldest daughter was born in the year 1838 and died that same year. Their second daughter was born November 5, 1840. She was given the name Mary Maria. A third daughter, Sarah Ann, was born April 22, 1845. Then came Hannah's brother, Josiah, born March 4, 1848.

I do not know just when Hannah's parents joined the Church, but Hannah was just two years old when her father left England and came to America to find work so his family could also come over to America. It was their desire to come and raise their family among the saints here in America. Zackariah was an engine winder and worked in the factories but wages were low and it was then they decided for him to come ahead of the family. Plans did not work out like they had planned. He came over to America in the year 1852 and arrived in St. Louis, Missouri, where he began to work. It was at this time that the dreadful disease, cholera, was raging. Zackariah contracted this disease and died, thus leaving Sarah and her four children in England to make their own way. Hannah, being only two years old at the time her father left England, did not remember him.

Sarah was determined she would come to America. She was a very industrious woman and was gifted with making ends meet. She went to work in the factories weaving cloth. Her children were taught to work and were sent to school as they became old enough. Hannah was left at home where she was taught to keep house, weave, and cook. For eleven years this family struggled to make and save. Sarah began to put money in the immigration fund which was set up by the Church to help people save for their voyage to America. Finally the day came when Sarah had saved enough to have her heart's desire come true, but when she took her savings book to the Church headquarters she had not been given credit for all she had put in. But, in time, this was made right so they could leave.

In the year 1863, when Hannah was thirteen years of age, she, with her family, set sail for America. There were many Saints on board the ship. The voyage was hard and very crowded. There was much sickness on board. Scarlet fever broke out and many were stricken with this disease, Hannah being one of them. She was very ill and it looked as if she would not live. About this time, the Captain of the ship thought it would be better to throw her overboard since she was not going to get well anyway. But Sarah would not listen to this. She had great faith. She fasted and prayed, and with the prayers of the Saints on board, Hannah's life was spared. The aftermath of the disease left Hannah's hearing impaired. From this time on she gradually lost her hearing. By the time of her death, she was almost totally deaf.

Finally the day came when they reached the United States and preparations were made to cross the plains and come to Utah. They crossed the plains with ox teams and wagons. Hannah tells how hard the trip was, how long it took, but they were blessed as all her family arrived safely in Salt Lake City.

From Salt Lake they were sent to Nephi, as were many of their company, to settle and make their new home. Here they began pioneer life -- a life so different from the one they

had left in England. But Sarah was not one to give up. She and her children pitched in and began to make a home for themselves. Hannah learned to work hard. She could weave her own cloth and make her own clothes. She kept house and learned to live the hard life of a pioneer.

Time passes - Hannah's two older sisters married, and Sarah Ann moved to Salt Lake to live. Four years after they came to Utah, when Hannah was seventeen, she met Samuel Jackson. They fell in love and were married December 21, 1867, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. It was in the winter time and, of course, very cold, and it took two long days to go from Nephi to Salt Lake City by team and wagon. The trip was made and they were married. Her sister Sarah Ann thought Hannah and Samuel should stay in Salt Lake where they could have a much easier life, but Hannah and Samuel would have none of this. They returned to Nephi and began their married life. Samuel was a very industrious and hard-working man, and, with a wife like Hannah, they soon made a start. Their family began to arrive. They were blessed with their first child, a son, Samuel Jr., who arrived September 15, 1869. William, a second son, came to their home August 21, 1871. Three years later, a daughter, Bernecia, was born, June 29, 1874. Then came Lafayette, a son, born November 6, 1876, and their baby daughter, Mary Hannah, came February 10, 1880. Thus, Hannah and Samuel were blessed with five wonderful, healthy children.

Samuel had a farm which he farmed. He also freighted goods to the miners in Nevada. Hannah helped him in every way she could. She raised a garden, milched cows, made all their clothes. She tells of how happy she was when the gentiles began to come to Utah - they brought money with them - so times began to be a little better. They were able to build them a very comfortable home, and Hannah was happy and content. Her children were taught to work, and when Samuel was away freighting, her boys, who were very hard workers and very trustworthy, helped her care for the farm, etc.

When Mary Hannah was just one year old, Samuel, her father, was called to go on a mission for the Church to the southern States. Hannah was happy to have him go even though it would be hard for them - but they kept things going while he was gone. This was in 1881.

When Samuel returned home in 1883, things went on for a while, and then they began to change. Samuel was advised by the General Authorities to take a plural wife. So, in 1885, Samuel married Martha Ann Jackson (her maiden name), and in that same year he was called as a Counselor to the Bishopric of the Nephi Second Ward.

Life goes on for Samuel, Hannah, and Martha, and their family. Samuel and Martha were blessed with a baby daughter, Vida, born July 17, 1887.

During these years, Samuel was looking ahead, and he was desirous of obtaining more land for him and his boys. About this time Samuel heard of the very place. Brigham Young was sending members out to Colorado to settle in the San Luis Valley in the extreme south-central part of Colorado. This appealed to Samuel and he wanted to go out there. Hannah was not too pleased with this. She tried to talk Samuel out of going and leaving their home in Nephi but to no avail. Samuel was determined to go. So arrangements were made and Samuel took Martha and Vida and went to Colorado. There he worked and cleared land, and built a cabin for his family to follow. Hannah and her sons made ready for the trip. It took Samuel a year to get ready for them to follow. Samuel, Jr., and William took all of their possessions, with teams and wagons, and drove out to Colorado. They were just boys but they made the trip. Hannah and her one son, Lafe, and two daughters, Bernecia and Mary Hannah, were able to go on the train as far as Pueblo where Sam and Will met them, and they went on to the San Luis Valley to Manassa, a small town. Samuel had secured land east of this town, and to this place Hannah went to start pioneer life all over again. Hannah hated Colorado but she did not complain, instead she pitched right in and raised a garden, raised chickens, milched cows, raised pigs for their meat, cured the meat, made soap from the rinds after she had rendered the lard. She worked hard, as

did Samuel, Martha, and all their children. But soon they were able to make a start and Samuel built them a very comfortable home on the ranch. These were the years between 1888-90 or 91.

When Martha's second daughter, Fannie, was born June 6, 1889, it was quite an event for all of them and especially for Hannah. When Martha started in labor, Samuel set out to bring the midwife, who lived some ten or more miles from the ranch, leaving Hannah to take care of Martha til they came back. The little daughter, Fannie, decided not to wait for the midwife. She was born before they got home with the help. Hannah was so frightened. She had never delivered a baby before, but she managed to tie the cord and to keep the baby and mother warm, and then she walked the floor and prayed til Samuel came with the midwife. The midwife told Hannah she had done a good job, but it took Hannah some time to recover from this.

Time passes - Samuel bought a place in Manassa, and here he built a very lovely brick home for his wives and families.

While living on the ranch, Hannah was to see her three sons each fill a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, within the bounds of the United States, and, after the three boys were married, they each filled a mission to England, where they preached to the people from where their parents were born and raised.

Hannah had many trials to bear. Lafe lost his wife not long after they were married. This was a very hard thing for them to bear.

So, when the family moved to Manassa, there was Samuel, Hannah, Martha, and her three daughters Vida, Fannie, and Jessie Elizabeth, also Mary Hannah and Lafe. (Jessie was born to Samuel and Martha on August 2, 1892.)

In the year 1896, Samuel was made Bishop for the Manassa Ward, a position he was to hold for 21 years. Hannah was a very good Bishop's wife. She continued to raise a garden, milch cows, raise chickens, sell eggs, raise pork for their meat, and since most of the tithing and fast offerings were paid in kind, it involved a lot of work for Hannah as well as for the Bishop. She made butter and bread and gave to the poor. One dear little lady from the south would never have anything except Sister Jackson's butter, and she used to come to the house to see that she was getting just that.

Hannah became very famous for making braided rugs. She made them for all the family, and she also quilted many quilts. She made these quilts from scraps of cloth, and many were made of wool scraps which made heavy warm quilts. I might add, her braided rugs were very colorful. She would dye the rugs from the heavy underwear and braid these with the dark pieces.

Each spring, for as long back as I can remember, Hannah would pack up and take Mamie, her granddaughter, and go to the ranch where she would cook for the men while the sheep were lambing, and during the shearing, and til they took the sheep to the mountains for the summer. Then she would come back to Manassa and raise a fine garden. She was the first person to raise strawberries in the Valley, and this brought many people to see them. It had been supposed that these fruits could not be grown in the Valley because of the short season.

Here I might add that while Samuel was Bishop there was no hotel in Manassa, so when the General Authorities came for conference, Hannah always took care of them, providing them with food and beds while in Manassa. Many of the General Authorities would praise her and all appreciated her service to them.

One of the greatest griefs and heartbreaks for Hannah was when her baby daughter, Mary Hannah, passed away. Mary had been married just a year when this happened. She died of childbirth complications and left a baby daughter, Mary (Mamie), who Hannah and Samuel cared for. This broke Hannah's heart. She grieved over this for many years but she was permitted by Wilbur Sowards, Mamie's father, to keep the baby, and no one could have had a better mother and father than were my grandparents to me.

One interesting thing happened when Samuel, Jr., was old enough to be baptized. During the years of moving and growing up, Hannah's baptismal record was lost so she was re-baptized when Samuel was.

Hannah remained faithful to the gospel and obeyed its principles all her life. She never forgot her early teachings. She was always very careful with money and yet she loved beautiful things, but, even then, when money was plentiful, she was very careful about spending it. Hannah was a firm believer in the law of tithing. She always paid her tithing, and she always told me that if you didn't pay your money to the Lord the devil would get it, and she lived by this rule.

Samuel passed away May 3, 1919. This grieved Hannah to her dying days. After his death, she lived in the big house with Mamie til Mamie married Jordan Rasmussen. Then Mamie and Jordan lived with her til her death. She continued to work in the garden. She also loved to read the scriptures and enjoyed this so much. She was always so thankful for her eyesight as she was too deaf to hear very much. Her sons and daughter, Bernecia, all lived within a block of her home, and hardly a day passed that she didn't go see all of them. When Mamie's and Jordan's two babies came along, she spent so much time tending them. They loved her so much.

Ten years after Samuel died, Hannah was stricken with a kidney infection and was bedfast for about a month when she passed away. Thus ended the life of a noble woman much loved by her family. She died August 29, 1929, and was buried by her beloved Samuel in the Sowards Cemetery, and Mary Hannah and Lafe were buried close by. She was 79 years old.

History written by Mary (Mamie) Rasmussen, Granddaughter.