

WARD EATON PACK AND LAURA CRAVATH
(Parents of Grace Elizabeth Pack)

Born: 17 April, 1834
Watertown, New York
Died: 16 November 1907 (73 years)
Vernal, Uinta, Utah
Married: 17 April 1834
Parents: John Pack and Julia Ives

January 21, 1840
Weathersfield, Wyo., New York
July 28, 1917 (77 years)
Salt Lake City, SL, Utah
Austin Cravath and Eliza Doty

When Ward was two, his parents joined the church and a year later moved to Kirtland, Ohio. The family was driven by mobs into Far West; mobs placed guards in front of their dooryard to prevent Mormons from going in and out of town. Ward would crawl through a crack between the logs in the back of the house to escape the guards.

The family moved to Nauvoo where he was baptized in the font of the Nauvoo Temple. He saw the Prophet Joseph Smith many times--saw him playing and wrestling, dressed in his military uniform, drilling the legion, preaching, and in disguise to fool his enemies. One day Ward was sent to the Smith home on an errand and the Prophet insisted that Ward sit and eat breakfast with him. He stood by the side of the road when the bodies of the Prophet and his brother Hyrum were being brought back from Carthage.

When he was fourteen, he drove a team of two yoke of oxen and one yoke of cows across the plains. When his father was called on a mission to France, the responsibility of providing for the family was placed upon Ward. At the age of nineteen, he was married to Elizabeth Still by Brigham Young.

In April conference of 1854 he was called on a mission to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii). When he returned, his wife was very ill and died shortly after. He soon married Laura Cravath, Elizabeth's best friend. In 1870, he moved the family to Kamas where he and Laura worked with other families in the manufacturing of cheese. He was called on a second mission to the Sandwich Islands. Even while on his mission, he was appointed second counselor in the Summit Stake presidency, a position he held for twenty--two years. In 1884 he lost the bottom part of his right arm in a machinery accident. He learned to write with his left hand, build houses, break horses, and do every kind of farm work in spite of the handicap.

Laura's parents joined the church when she was very young and moved to Nauvoo. When she was four years old her father died of malaria while helping clear the swamps. She was only ten years old when she and her thrice-widowed mother, two sisters and baby brother came across the trail to Utah. She helped drive the team of oxen.

As she reached maturity, she was very attractive, and received forty proposals to enter into polygamy. She resolved never to marry but to stay with her mother and take care of her. Her dearest friend Elizabeth was married to Ward Pack, who was on a mission. She said to Laura, "Laura, don't marry until Ward comes home, then marry him for I would rather share him with you than anyone else." Three months after Elizabeth died, Ward and she were married by Heber C. Kimball. Her wedding dress was a new soft, brown-checked gingham.

She learned to card wool, spin it, dye it and weave it into cloth. She made her husband a suit from raw wool. They lived in Kamas for thirty-eight years. They had a large log room with dirt floor and a lean-to for a kitchen. Each spring she white-washed the log walls and wove 35 yards of bright, striped rag carpet which she fastened to the earth with wooden pegs.

She loved to read and found time to read in the evening doing the churning, sitting with a book in one hand and working the dasher up and down with the other. She wrote poetry. She was the mother of eleven children; her first daughter died while Ward was serving in the Sandwich Islands. When her last child was a few days old, her husband's plural wife died and left a family of four which she took into her home. About a month later, her sister-in-law passed away and left a tiny baby which Laura nursed and cared for with her own baby. A few years later, her husband's sister died in childbirth and she took the young baby and mothered it for nine months at which time it died. After her large family was grown, a younger plural wife died and left two boys, these she also took into her home and reared and mothered them. These children loved and honored her all her life.

After her husband, and two grown sons died, she moved to Salt Lake City to be near her children.. She spent these last years doing Temple work which gave her much joy and happiness.