

DUP AF Book 1 page 88

Biographical Sketch
of
Hannah Hardy Eckersley Crompton
by Emma C. Smith

Pioneer Year 1853
Sailed on the Palmyra
Captain Edward Pugh Company

Born: 10 June 1815, Oldham, Lancashire, England

Hannah Hardy Eckersley Crompton was born June 10, 1815 in the city of Oldham, Lancashire, England. She was the daughter of James and Mally Hardy. Her people were good, honest hard-working people. All of them belonged to the Methodist Church and were very devout and sincere. They persuaded her to go to church with them, but she came away unsatisfied with their way of teaching the gospel. One night when she was returning home, she said, "Father, I am a stranger here." About two weeks after, she heard a "Mormon" elder preach and was soon converted as it appealed to her hungry soul that was seeking for the truth. She was baptized in December 1841, when the ice had to be broken and steps made to go down into a pond of water. She was very hoarse with a bad cold, but when she went home after being baptized, she said she was well and the cold had left her. She was baptized by William Schofield.

They emigrated from England in 1845 on a sailing vessel known as "Palmyra". They were six weeks crossing the sea. She landed in St. Louis, with her husband and four little girls, leaving a mother, two brothers and five sisters in England. They all felt very badly at parting with her and told her if she was not satisfied when she reached America to let them know and they would help her to return. She had born to her in 1846 a little boy, who lived six weeks and was buried in St. Louis. Her husband died there in 1847, leaving her to support herself and four girls. Three of the girls are still living. She worked at the Planter Hotel, which was the largest hotel in St. Louis and saved enough money to take them up the river to Council Bluffs, where she met John Crompton, married him in Council Bluffs in 1850. In 1851 there was born to them a little girl who lived one year, and was buried there.

They began to prepare to follow the saints to Utah. Left in the spring of 1853 in an independent company. Their captain was Edward Pugh. When they reached the North Platte River in the state of Nebraska a baby girl was born. They forded the Platte River the next morning. The new baby was called Margaret Emma. The mother was too sick to nurse her baby. She was fed on milk from the cows that had to help pull the load. This milk did not agree with the baby and she was not well until their arrival in Utah. They arrived in Utah

in September. Picked up potatoes on shares and had enough to do them all winter.

They moved to Little Cottonwood, where they resided two years. A baby girl was born to them in 1856. They moved to Cedar Valley in the spring of 1856. On account of the Indians being on the war path they moved to American Fork in 1856. Went through all the hardships of pioneer life. Many times they were without bread and gathered weeds, berries, and thistle roots, until they could raise something. Their first crop was barley, which matured a little earlier than the wheat. This barley was ground in a coffee mill to make bread. Their only sweets were beet and carrot molasses, which they made themselves. Mrs. Crompton sold feathers out of her bed for a shawl to make her two little girls some dresses.

The subject of this sketch made a trip to her native land when she was over 60 years old, to get genealogy of her people, so she could do temple work for them. She found one brother and a sister alive. None of them ever joined the "Mormon" church, but have come to her in dreams for her to do their work for them, which she did willingly. She did considerable work in the Logan, Manti, and Salt Lake Temples. She was a counselor to Sister Mary Hindley in the American Fork Relief Society for seventeen years and was always faithful to every trust. When she left American Fork the President of the Relief Society and members made her a present of a \$15.00 Bible. She was a Sunday School teacher under brother William Paxman for a number of years.

Mrs. Crompton and her husband left American Fork in 1890 and went to Sanpete County to live with her eldest daughter in part of her home, she being left a widow, and they were getting too old to care for themselves. Hannah Hardy Eckersley Crompton passed away in March, 1901, in Sanpete County and was buried there. Her desire was to be buried in American Fork, where she had spent so many years and had so many true friends. After she had been buried fourteen years, her daughter, Mrs. Warren B. Smith went down to Freedom, Sanpete County and had her remains removed to American Fork Cemetery. Of her posterity she left six daughters, eighty grand children and great grand children, and one great-great grand child.

She died as she had always lived a faithful Latter-day Saint and in the full hope of a glorious resurrection and her children call her blessed. She was in her eighty-sixth year when she passed away.