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Biographical Sketch

of

Mrs. Hannah Binns Wild

by Eliza W. Buckwalter

Pioneer Year 1852

Born: 6 Apr 1840 in Colne, Lancashire, England

Married: John Singleton, 1856

Died: 1 Feb 1907

As we turn, one by one, the pages of our calendar, and we near that honored day, the second Sunday in May, our hearts are turned toward those who gave us birth, and now approaching this day it gives me unbounded joy to have the privilege of writing this history of my mother to read to the Daughters of the Pioneers.

In far away England, our mother country, in the little town of Colne, Lancashire, on the 6th day of April, 1840, to John and Mary Coverly Binns was born a baby girl who was named Hannah. This was a second marriage, there being two older children by a former marriage. Their names were Isaac and Ellen.

When Hannah was six weeks old, my grandfather decided to leave England for America, not for the Gospel's sake as many thousands were doing at that time, but to better his financial condition. He being a mason by trade, felt that America offered better opportunity for his line of work.

After landing in New York they went on to St. Louis, Missouri. On his arrival at that city his anticipation of more and better employment did not meet with any disappointment as at this time the Mississippi River, which runs through that city, was overflowing its banks. Grandfather had not been in the city long before he had taken over a contract to build levees along the banks of the river. He also took another contract to build a sewer from Franklin to Shoto's Pond. These contracts were great financial successes.

Everything was prosperous and all went well until a terrible epidemic of that dreaded disease, cholera, broke out. During their sojourn in St. Louis four more children had been born to them: Sarah, Thomas, Mary Jane, and Lewis.

The heartaches and suffering caused by the disease are too terrible to be recounted. It was here that the mother and the last named children succumbed to its ravages, leaving mother and Aunt Sarah, two little motherless girls. They were sent away from the home for a time to prevent exposure to the disease and were cared for by a Mrs. Somers until the epidemic had subsided, the older half-sister keeping house for grandfather.

When of school age Hannah entered the city schools. She was very apt in her studies but had to labor under a great disadvantage on account of a defect or nearsightedness of her eyes. The teacher would place the lesson preparation on the blackboard. Hannah would have to deprive herself of the recess period in order to get close enough to the blackboard to copy her work. Notwithstanding this handicap her progress in school was very marked and her attendance in the school of that city formed a splendid foundation for her future.

While yet in St. Louis grandfather met a widow by the name of Jane Creer Sualam who had a little stepdaughter named Elizabeth left from her former husband. He married the widow and adopted the child who was cared for as one of the family. It was through the influence of this wife, who was a devoted Latter-day Saint that grandfather became a member of the church. They soon became enthused with the desire to move westward. It was now 12 years since arriving in St. Louis and grandfather had accumulated considerable means and for those days was considered in splendid circumstances. In the spring of 1852 they began to make preparations for their journey across the plains. They were to travel in Captain Wm. Field's company.

Their equipment for the trip was the very best that could be bought. Two new wagons were fitted out, stoves, beds and every comfort and convenience that could be used on such a journey, also a splendid supply of provisions. Grandfather was appointed assistant captain. He bought a little pony for the girls to ride and drive the loose stock. Aunt Sarah, who is the only one left to tell about it, says it was just like a pleasure trip for them. If they got tired riding in the wagon, they would ride the horse or walk for a change. In this way they traveled along until coming to a locality where there had been trouble between some non-Mormons and some Indians. The Indians had stolen a pony and one of the emigrants killed an Indian, so the Indians were all on the war-path and it was considered very unsafe for anyone traveling to camp near there, so their captain did not call a halt for three days and nights until he was sure they were on safe ground.

One other memorable stop was at Fort Bridger where there was a little store kept by Jim Bridger. By this time some of the oxen in the company were almost worn out. Grandfather bought several new ox teams to replace the others which were left behind.

They arrived in Salt Lake City in September, 1852. They bought a small home and were soon permanently located. They remained in Salt Lake for three years, moving to American Fork in 1855, where father Binns bought the site at Warm Springs and started the first Tannery. He bought the home north of the tabernacle now occupied by Bert Wooton, also what was formerly known as the Binns farm in the bottoms, from Richard Robinson a brother of Wm. S. Robinson, who was wanting to go to Southern Utah.

In the fall of 1856, when Hannah was 16 years of age, she was married a plural wife, to John Singleton and moved into the bottoms on the Singleton farm. To them were born five children: Thomas, Samuel, Sarah, Mary Ellen and Phoebe.

Everything seemed prosperous with them. It is almost impossible to think that a cloud could so suddenly cast its shadow over two happy homes. But, on the morning of December 23, 1865, her husband and his brother went to the west canyon for wood. On their return trip they were caught in a terrible snow storm. Neither drivers of oxen could see their way. They wandered off the road and when found in the early morning hours of Christmas Day John Singleton was frozen to death. His brother had worn a beaten path around the corpse until searching parties found them. This storm goes on record as being one of the most severe Utah has ever known. Mother was now 25 years of age, a widow left to face the cold world with five small children, the oldest one 9 years of age. She was full of hope and full of courage and through all her trials did very little complaining.

Early in the year 1868 she was married as a plural wife to Joseph Wild and to them were born five children: Eliza, Ernest, Ruben, Elizabeth and Susan, Ruben and Elizabeth dying in infancy.

By her frugality, aptness and willingness to work she could face poverty or trouble with a determination that always conquered.

My earliest remembrance takes me back to the old spinning wheel where I used to sit and pick the wool for her to spin into yarn to be knit into stockings. It seemed any and everything that a woman's hands could do she was not afraid to try.

When the children were old enough to take care of the home she did some nursing, this work appealing to her very much. About this time my grandfather was left with no one to care for him. Most of her older children were married. She and the younger children left the farm home in order that she might take care of her father in his declining years.

At this time in our community doctors and nurses were scarce. Even our few faithful midwives had passed away. Realizing this condition friends of mother and Mrs. Alice T. Steele persuaded them to take up the study of obstetrics. In the spring of 1881 they began their study. They were set apart especially for their labors by Thomas Shelley, Wm. Grant and Wm. R. Webb.

After practicing for little over a year they decided to take further instructions along this line. On October 31st, 1882 they went to Salt lake City and continued their studies under Dr. Romanisa B. Pratt. On their return they immediately began their practice in maternity work.

My effort to tell the immensity of mother's labors would indeed be a feeble one. During her 26 years of practice she was in attendance at over 1500 births and in most cases doing the nursing as well. Her labors were not confined to maternity work alone but she was willing to aid wherever who could be of service.

There was no night too dark or too stormy for her to answer any call. There was no pillow so hard but what with a gentle hand she could often and give repose to a weary head, no pain so severe that with a gentle rubbing she could not ease, no heart so heavy that by a few encouraging words she could not lighten. She was especially considerate of the poor.

On January 24, 1907, she was stricken with what seemed to be an attack of la grippe but later developed into pneumonia. Each day she thought she would be able to be dressed the next day, but on

Friday, February 1st, surrounded by her family and friends she passed away.