

DUP AF Book 2

Biographical Sketch

of

Agnes Hunter Householder

by Maud Deakin, daughter

Pioneer Year 1863

Sailed on the Synousre

Captain Horten D. Hight Company

Born 18 Feb 1859 in Woodeud, Bathgate, Scotland

Married 1 May 1877

Agnes Hunter Householder was born February 18, 1859 at twenty minutes to nine in the morning, Woodeud, Bathgate, Scotland, the fourth child of Ebenezer Hunter and Agnes Martin. She was blessed April 24 by James Hunter. When she was four years old, she with her parents Ebenezer Hunter and her mother Agnes Martin Hunter and Brother will, left Scotland on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 1863 on the ship called Synousre. There were 764 immigrants who had joined the Church of Jesus Christ of latter Day Saints and were anxious to come to the promised land, America. They were under the direction of David M. Stuart. Others who came upon this ship were Brother Isaac Able and wife Ann Metley and children. Brother Andrew Crystal and wife and children, including Maggie Crystal. Reading from Ebenezer Hunter's diary, he says. There were several fierce storms encountered, and at one time the ship caught fire endangering all their lives. They arrived at Castle Garden, New York during a fierce battle at that point between the Blue and the Gray. This was during our great Civil War.

The passengers were landed, in the night, on board a freight train and taken inland to a place out of danger. They immediately began the trip across the plains with ox team. In Captain Horten D. Hight's Company. They were on the vessel 11 days. They arrived in Salt Lake City October 8, 1863 and at American fork October 11, 1863. The family first lived with grandfather James B. Shelley and Mary Bathgate Shelley. Grandmother Mary Bathgate Shelley had come to America in 1856 and had crossed the plains with Dan McArthur's hand cart company. She married James B. Shelley after she arrived here. The Shelly home where my mother and her parents went to live is just a little east of where the Elisha Boley Senior home now stands, would be almost in the center of where the road is.

While they were living here, Jed Merce and several other boys including Willard Julian would come to the fence and call to mother and her brother, Will, just to hear them talk as they spoke the Scotch language. One day, when her brother, Will, was talking, Mother felt he was being made fun of. She called to him and said, "Koome wan in the house, Wally, and stop your blathering." This afforded them much amusement and which Jed like tell of Mother of in later years.

The first home which grandfather Hunter built was just north of the Boley home and south of John Robert's home. It was here that John Hunter was born. Grandfather Hunter then built an adobe house where the Dave Greenwood service station stands and it is here Mother can remember clearest things that happened. Of taking the cows to the pasture bare footed to a place next to the Heber Robinson home. But there was no cement highway then, just a rough dirt road.

The first school she attended Mary Ellen Griffiths was the teacher. Mother lived with Mrs. Griffiths so at school she would have mother stand in the center of the room with a stick in her hand to keep the children quiet; many a nice piece of skimmings candy or apple was given to mother if she wouldn't hit them.

The next teacher she had was Joseph B. Forbes. For talking in school to some across from her, they had to come up in front of the room and stand before the class, Mother with his hat on and he with her sun bonnet with the past board slats in it as a punishment for talking. Her father being a school teacher and music teacher, she obtained a good education of those days.

When she was ten years old her mother died, leaving the four children: Will, mother, Ellen, and John in care of Aunt Alice Parker Hunter. Grandfather Hunter's second wife soon gained their love and respect.

Mother worked in several homes, Spratleys, Mrs. Pyrphy and on the Bennie Brown farm getting fifty cents per week. When she was sixteen years old her father, Ebenezer Hunter, subcontracted getting out the marble stones for building the temple. Mother went to Cottonwood Canyon with her father and helped Emma Featherstone cook for the men working there.

Mother suffered all the hardships of pioneer days. Her father built another home which is now in the third ward. My Mother was baptized when she was eight years of age in the old Adams Mill race and rebaptized July 27, 1849.

She was married to my father May 1, 1877. They lived at Pleasant Grove and American Fork for a little while after their

marriage. But, father being a miner, they moved to Bingham Canyon, a place above Hyland Boy called the last chance. While living here their first baby died January 15, 1779. The road was closed with so much snow, they could not get out. The baby was buried in a snow bank until the roads were opened in the spring and they could take the body to Salt Lake to bury it.

My father moved back to American fork in 1889 and lived in the home where both hard working people and we children were very fortunate in having the kind of parents we had. My mother was never the kind of mother who belonged to clubs and lodges, but the good old fashioned kind where her home and babies meant everything to her. She was the kind of Mother who had twelve children and knew it was right that she should have them, and was fortunate enough to raise ten of them to man and womanhood. She lived in a day where there wasn't Doctors, Clynics and Nurses, but had to be all three to her family. Many times I have awoke in the night and could hear Mother singing softly and low to some of the babies who were fretful. We never realized how tired she must have been, with so many little ones. It was our Mother who first taught us as we knelt in prayer before going to bed. My Father who art in heaven.

We children were taught to work just as soon as we were old enough to make work. Our homes, then, with their white washed walls, floors scrubbed until they were white, shoes blackened and stood in a row. She would bathe the children Saturday night, and each one who was old enough to go was sent to Sunday School [on] Sunday morning. Mother had all of us children blessed and baptized in the church.

In 1898 the family moved to Sunshine, a mining camp just four miles from Mercur. Here mother run a boarding house also a rooming house. Sunshine was a town of 300 to 400 people. If there was anyone sick they came for Mother. If any babies came they came for Mother. As they had to send four miles to Mercur for a doctor. When anyone died it was Mother who washed and laid out the dead until the undertaker came. And many a man who came looking for a job, Mother fed them until they could get a job. And many, many

meals have been given to those who have come and gone and did not have money to pay. For acts of Kindness and charitable deeds, Mother won a warm spot in the hearts of the people of Sunshine. After father's death Mother married Asher Biddlecome. Four years later he died and mother was left a widow a second time. Mother moved to American Fork with the younger members of the family where she bought her home in the Third Ward. She became a Relief Society Teacher.

She has done her work in the Temple having father's work done and the children who have died sealed to them. There never was a grander Soul than our Mother and as a tribute, I am placing in this Poem.

### OUR MOTHER

We have heard the poems of many,  
And their praises to the stars,  
But the sweetest of all posies  
Among the many are  
To Mother

We have looked the whole world over  
And had many many friends  
But never one so sweet and true  
Until the very end  
As Mother

We know of God's forgiveness  
And his kindness to us all  
But to us, we have found no other  
Who would support us at our fall  
Like Mother

We have sinned because we are human  
And confessed those sins to some  
But for guidance and salvation

There is not another one  
Like Mother

We have lived in many houses  
But that doesn't make them home  
The loving hands that has made it such  
Belongs to one alone  
And that is Mother.