

Hannah Schofield Cowling Hepworth

Hannah Schofield Cowling was born April 2, 1834 at Westgate Hill, Tong, England. She was the only daughter and oldest child of David Cowling and Eliza formerly Schofield. As a young girl, Hannah worked in a mill. It is thought that she ran a weaving machine.

Hannah was baptized into the LDS Church September 9, 1852 at the age of 18. Two of her three brothers were baptized that same year and her mother was baptized in 1856. Both of her parents died in England, her father June 6, 1856, and her mother in 1865.

Hannah married Edmund Hepworth on September 17, 1862 at Birstall Parish in Yorkshire. They emigrated May 30, 1863. One of Hannah's brothers, Peter, emigrated at the same time. Another brother, Richard, emigrated a year later on April 28, 1864.

Hannah raised a respectable family of three boys and five girls of which three died in childhood. She also raised Eliza Sant's two boys as her own.

On January 2, 1890, the Grover Relief Society was organized, and Hannah was chosen and sustained as president. She was set apart by James Jensen, Sr., Albina Jensen was chosen and sustained as first counselor and Lovina S. Thurman as second counselor.

Meetings were held once a month on the first Thursday. The sisters bore their testimonies and encouraged each other in work they had been called to do. At this time there were no outlined lessons in the Relief Society. They used the *Woman's Exponent* and read articles from it. Many times Hannah walked to Relief Society from the old ranch.

As early as February 5, 1891, the sisters began to feel the need of a Relief Society house. Sister Hannah mentioned this to Bishop. Jensen. He said it was the right thing to do so she asked the brethren to help them. Later on, the brethren went to the canyon to get out logs to build the house. A site was chosen on the north side of the meeting house lot with access to it on the north street but this house didn't materialize until September 15, 1957, sixty-six years later. Also, Hannah tried hard to get a granary to store grain in. During this period, the sisters donated wheat and oats and stored it where they could.

The responsibilities of the Relief Society were quite different from today. Besides caring for the sick, they made burial clothes and took care of the dead. Hannah helped bring many babies into the world. Many times she stayed in the homes until the woman could get out of bed



Hannah Schofield Cowling Hepworth

which was always ten days.

The sisters in those days had but little money so their donations for charitable purposes consisted of thread, calico, wool, eggs, butter, and carpet rags. Very often eggs were sold at eight cents a dozen.

In 1906, Hannah was released as president of the Relief Society after having served faithfully for 16 years. At the time of her release, she was 72 years old.

As to any woman, plural marriage was a challenge to Hannah. She never complained but always tried to do her part to keep peace in the family. In 1901 after moving Hannah to the mill lot in Grover, Edmund spent most of his time with Lydia and family. At this time, all of Hannah's family were married except Edgar who was 22, but Lydia had six girls and one boy at home, the eldest being 18 and the youngest, two. One can imagine the trial this would have been for Hannah, but she was a noble person in the way she handled herself, never grumbling and always with patience. Polygamy was a difficult law to live, and it was harder on the woman than the men. We admire these women who lived this law of God.

Hannah had a strong testimony of the Gospel and did her best to live up to its teachings. She set a good example for her family and all her associates.

She had a kind sympathetic nature and was a peacemaker. These characteristics are well portrayed by her devotion to the two little boys when their mother, Eliza Sant, died. She also kept a welcome spot in her home for those who needed one.

Hannah loved flowers and enjoyed having them around. In her later years when it was hard for her to dig in the soil, she had Edmund put in an extra window on the east side of the kitchen of the double-roomed cabin on the mill lot. Onto this window she had a flower box built. In the spring of 1902, she sent back East for some bulbs and had a lovely window garden.

Whenever needed, she helped the members of her family. She helped bring over 40 grandchildren into this world and helped Lydia with the birth of some of her children. When George's first wife, Camera, died, she did what she could to help. The following are some choice phrases written by Miss Lilly Field about Hannah.

“...I told Mr. Jensen, I'd like a boarding place to read, write and prepare work in quiet after the busy days in the school room. He told me there was only one place in Grover where there were no children and that was the home of Mrs. Hannah Hepworth, whose youngest son, Edgar, had gone on a mission. Mrs. Hepworth was from Wakefield, Yorkshire, England and had seen Queen Victoria. She honored her Queen. I think she gave me room and board for \$10.00 per month. The wages there for primary teachers was \$45.00 per month then... Each term when I went back to teach, kind Mrs. Hepworth would try and have something new for my little room; a new cushion for my chair, or a new curtain

for the one window in it. Always an act of kindness she tried to do. These acts through the years have endeared the doer of them to countless numbers.

The cottage was small, a log one; but oh, the kindly welcome I received from this loveable lady. She was seventy years old, short and fleshy, so pleasant and nice. I thought, "My! How old she was!" Her daughter-in-law, Mary, lived with her. Mary told me she and Edgar were married only five days when he went away on his mission to San Francisco, California. That was something I'd not heard of before. What a strange way for a young bride to be left behind. Mary was an unusually bright girl and we became great friends...

When dear Aunt Hannah needed drinking water she'd take a small lard bucket and say, "I'll get water at Rich Astle's spout." I'd laugh and beg her to let me bring the water for her. She would be out of breath when she got to the house."

In the spring of 1906, Miss Lilly Field left Grover and that left Hannah alone. In the fall of 1906 Edgar and Mary stayed with Hannah for the winter. Edgar was the postmaster at that time.

In the summer of 1907, Hannah went to live with Edgar and Mary who had bought them a home of their own from Rich Astle. This home was located on the lot where Gus Larsen now lives. She lived with Edgar until about 1915. At this time she moved into John's old home which the family fixed up for her. She lived here until her death in 1918. John and Caroline lived in a new home just south of Hannah.

In 1912, Edmund and Hannah celebrated their Golden Wedding. This celebration was held at the remodeled double-roomed cabin on the mill lot. A dinner was served to all those present. There were some friends and relatives from Idaho and Utah present. One of the grandchildren, Ezra Hepworth, got lost and couldn't be found anywhere. He was finally found behind the organ fast asleep.

Edmund died in 1915 and left 70 acres of land and four cows for Hannah. This helped to keep her. That Christmas each family member donated some money and bought Hannah a new rocking chair. This was her very first piece of new furniture. The next year she bought herself a new plush coat from the earnings of her cows.

At the age of almost 84 years on January 6, 1918, Hannah passed peacefully away in her sleep fulfilling the promise of her Patriarchal Blessing which stated she would never taste death.

The following is Hannah's obituary:

After an illness of about two months, of a complication of diseases resulting from old age, Hannah Hepworth, wife of the late Edmund Hepworth, passed away peacefully to the great

beyond Sunday morning, January 6th 1918, surrounded by loved ones, at the home of her son John E. Hepworth in Grover.

Grandma Hepworth, as she was lovingly called by all, was born in Tong, Yorkshire, England, April 2, 1834, and at the time of her death was in her 84th year. She in company with her husband, set sail from her native home May 30, 1863, enduring the perils and hardships incidental to sailing vessel voyages, and arriving in New York July 19th ...arriving at Salt Lake October 15th of the same year. After residing in Utah and Idaho for a number of years, from thence they came to Star Valley in 1888 where she has since remained until her death.

In the passing of this noble woman, Star Valley has lost one of its original pioneers, and a most honored and beloved citizen. Through her entire life she was always patient, cheerful and most lovable, and her wise counsels will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Her mission in life seemed to be one of peace on earth, good will to man. She was a faithful and consistent Latter-day Saint always, and filled honorable positions of trust and responsibility in the religious cause she represented.

Besides a host of friends to miss her, and cherish her memory the following children survive her: Joseph Hepworth, of Blackfoot, Idaho, William Hepworth and Eliza Jensen of Metropolis, Nevada, and Loretta Astle, David E., John E. and George W. Hepworth of Grover, Wyoming.

Beautiful and impressive funeral services were held in Grover meeting house, Wednesday p.m. the speakers being A. P. Welchman, Lars J. Hailing, Louis C. Jensen, A. C. McCombs, O. P. Peterson, E. M. Thurman, John Astle and Bishop Ray S. Thurman. A solo was also sung by Mrs. Charles S. Thurman. Interment was made at the Grover cemetery, the grave being dedicated by J. F. Astle.

The entire community joins with the family in feeling the loss of this worthy and esteemed woman.



Edmund and Hannah Hepworth Family

Back Row: William Henry, Laurretta, George William, Hannah Eliza, John Edmund
Front Row: David Edgar, Edmund, Hannah Schofield Cowling, Joseph Edmund