

Life Sketch of Squire Hepworth

*As told by his grandsons and granddaughter, Charles T. Hepworth, Wells Hepworth, and Gay Hutchison
Additions and compilation by his great grandson, ELwood Dennett*

Squire Hepworth, son of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Hirst, was born May 4, 1843 in Drighlington, Yorkshire, England. When Squire was four years old, in 1847, the L.D.S. missionaries came to their home preaching the gospel. Joseph and Mary (Squire's parents) joined, being baptized into the Church – Mary, August 11th and Joseph, December 19th, 1847. When Squire was eight years old, he too was baptized, August 11, 1851.

At the age of nine, Squire went to work in the coal mines, and it appears that he continued to work in the mines until he was at least twenty years old for he is listed as a coal miner on his marriage certificate. At the age of twenty, August 9, 1863, he married Emily Dyson, daughter of John Dyson and Amelia Lambert. Emily was born January 28, 1845 at Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England. Emily did not join the Church in England.

The following is taken from the emigration records of the British Mission and the Leeds Conference:

Squire Hepworth, age 21 (a miner)

Emily, age 19

Sailed May 21, 1864 – Ship General McClenan

Emily was in the later months of her first pregnancy when they landed on the shores of America, a land which was to be their new home, a land of Zion, a land where some of the greatest battles known to man had just been fought, and were still being fought because the great Civil War was still in progress. However, the major battles were shifting farther and farther to the south by the time Squire and his wife landed in America. Undoubtedly, the family saw some of the destruction which had been caused by the war.

The road traveled by many of the Saints making their way across the plains was the same as traveled by those who were forced out of Nauvoo. At Garden Grove the road forked; one road going north, one south, and another west. The western road is mentioned by some as leading westward from Council Bluffs, but another western road is also mentioned which leads by way of Nebraska City. It is possible that this is the road which Squire and Emily took, and they were on their way northward toward the other western road when the birth of their son, Thornton, took place. Thornton was born July 14, 1864 at Wyoming, Nebraska, a little place eight miles up the Missouri River from Nebraska City. The records state that it was at Wyoming, Nebraska, where the family joined with the William S. Warren wagon train which was part of the Samuel D. White Company. Thornton was but five days old when the family resumed their travels toward Zion, and Thornton used to say that he was the youngest child ever to drive an ox team. The family arrived in Salt Lake City, October 4, 1864.

After arriving in Utah, Squire and family joined with his brother, Edmund Hepworth and wife and together they went to Smithfield, Cache County, Utah to make their home. Emily Ann, first daughter of Squire and Emily, was born in Smithfield, December 12, 1865. On the 10th of April 1866 Squire's wife, Emily, was baptized into the church. The following spring, March 9, 1867, Squire and his wife, along with Edmund and his wife, Hannah Cowling, went to the Endowment House to receive their endowments and have their sealings done.

Soon after this, Squire moved to the Oxford Branch in Idaho. Here their third child, Amelia Jane, was born on October 11, 1867 and on April 22, 1869 a second son, Squire Edmund, was born. On January 28, 1871, their fifth child, Joseph Ephraim, was born. He died as a child. On August 12, 1872 James Henry was born in Oxford.

On July 20, 1871, Squire married his second wife, Margaret Ellen Cox. They were sealed in the Endowment House on that date according to the Endowment Records. On December 1, 1872, Margaret gave birth to her first son, John William, in Oxford. Eliza Ellen, first daughter of Margaret and Squire, was born in Oxford, December 19, 1874.

It appears that from here, Squire moved Emily and her family to Stockton, Idaho, a place not far from Oxford, because it was here that their seventh child, Charles Dyson, was born on August 17, 1874. He died as a child. The eighth child of Emily, Clara Elizabeth, was born in Stockton, May 14, 1876.

Squire then moved both of his families to Springdale, Washington County, Utah. Springdale is situated at the entrance of what is now known as Zion National Park; at that time it was known only as Zion Canyon. Zion was dedicated as a National Park, September 15, 1920 but for a year or two prior to that date it had been designated as a National Monument by the Federal Government, and had been attracting people of prominence including a few great artists who had been captivated by the great beauty of the canyon.

The little town of Zion, situated seven miles up the canyon from Springdale, in the area where the Union Pacific Lodge is now located, was first settled by Isaac Behunin. He settled there in 1862 and was the one to give the canyon the name of "Zion." Behunin first settled at Northup then moved to Springdale and soon after moved into Zion Canyon. Behunin and his family raised tobacco and almost all of them used it. He had five sons and one daughter; his daughter was the only one who didn't use tobacco. President Brigham Young on one of his trips into the canyon went as far as the settlement called Zion. Nothing is recorded about his remarks about the beauty of the canyon; what he saw was Behunin's tobacco crop, and then exclaimed: "Brethren, this is not Zion; no, no, not Zion. Zion is the pure in heart." He turned around and went out of the canyon, followed by his company.

Edmund Hepworth and his wife, Hannah, also moved to Springdale at the same time Squire moved there. The St. George Temple records show that Edmund and his wife and that

Squire and his wife, Emily, did work there in 1880.

According to the Springdale records, Squire was very active in the church. Some of the Springdale records were burned when Squire's home burned but enough of them were saved to reveal that Squire was Presiding Elder at the time Springdale was organized into a ward, November 6, 1887.

Springdale was first settled in the fall of 1862 by Albert and George Petty. James Whitlock and others, who had been called by President Brigham Young to leave their homes in Northern Utah to work as missionaries in Southern Utah, elected to establish their homes in the vicinity of a large spring of water from which the place derived its name.

The arrival of William Black and others from Sanpete County, together with those who moved in from Shunsburg into this new location during the winter of 1862-63, swelled the population to a total of twenty families. The surveying of the township was finished in 1863 and other settlers soon moved in to make their homes.

The Springdale Branch was organized in July 1864 with Albert Petty chosen as Presiding Elder. This new beginning, however, was of short duration due to the outbreak of the Black Hawk War in 1866. Its attendant dangers forced the entire population to move into the neighboring town of Rockville for protection. By 1868 the trouble with the Indians had somewhat subsided and a few felt it safe to return to their homes in Springdale, however, only two or three families became permanent settlers until the year 1874. Albert Petty continued to preside over the branch until his death, July 19, 1869.

Albert Petty was then succeeded by Zermia Palmer who presided until 1876 and then Evan M. Greene was chosen to replace him. On June 27, 1879 Edmund Hepworth was appointed as Presiding Elder to replace Evan Greene and held this position until he left with his family to go north in 1880. At this time Squire Hepworth succeeded his brother as Presiding Elder and held the position until the ward was organized, November 6, 1887, with William Crawford as the town's first bishop. Edmund left Springdale in the spring of 1880 and moved to American Fork, Utah, arriving there sometime in April. William Crawford, recently chosen as bishop, asked Squire Hepworth to be his first counselor and Oliver D. Gifford to be his second counselor.

The following is a copy of the original minutes which were taken at that meeting:

“Minutes of meeting held in Springdale for the purpose of organizing Springdale into a ward, Springdale, Washington County, Utah, November 6, 1887. The house was called to order by Squire Hepworth, Presiding Priest. After singing by the choir, prayer was offered by Bishop C. N. Smith. Singing by the choir. President John D. T. McAllister then stated the object for which himself and David H. Cannon, his counselor, had met and presented the name of William Crawford for Bishop of Springdale

Ward. The vote was called for and he was placed by the authorities of the Stake, and was sustained by the people of the ward. The subject of choosing counselors was taken up. Brother Crawford wished a month or six weeks to consider the matter and learn the minds of the people of Springdale, as he was expecting to start for Salt Lake on the morrow. President McAllister then showed the necessity of having at least one counselor to preside in his absence. The name of Squire Hepworth was presented and unanimously sustained as first counselor. Freeborn D. Gifford was then nominated and sustained as ward clerk. The Bishop and Counselor retired for a short time and returned with the name of Oliver DeMille Gifford for a second counselor. A vote was called for, and he, like the others, was unanimously sustained.”

Squire settled on the property later to be known as the Gifford Place, and still later to be known as the Fairbanks Place. He built two homes on this property, one for each of his wives and their families. This property is located up the street a rod or two from where the Springdale Garage now stands.

Bishop William Crawford served as bishop of the ward until February 25, 1895 and then Oliver D. Gifford was chosen as bishop. Bishop Gifford then chose Thornton Hepworth, eldest son of Squire, to be his first counselor. Thornton served in this calling until 1913 and then was sustained as bishop of the Springdale Ward. He served as bishop until August 1, 1926 making a total of 31½ years in these two positions. Thornton was well known throughout the Southern Utah area as a highly respected man. He served his community well in many civic positions as well as in Church duty.

Farms were small in Springdale and the men had to work hard to make and maintain their irrigation ditches. The angry floods coming out of the canyon always presented a problem, filling the ditches with sand and debris and usually in the hottest time of the year when the crops had to have water.

Besides farming, Squire was handy in doing many other things, such as blacksmithing and shoemaking. He loved music and played the violin very well. The following item is taken from the Springdale history written by Nancy C. Crawford, granddaughter-in-law to Squire and Margaret: “Squire Hepworth made shoes for most of the community in the first days of its existence. They were made from any leather available – hand tanned. The soles were fastened to the uppers with whittled wooden pegs instead of tacks. Tacks were not available then. The sewing was done with Irish flax thread and a coarse hog bristle was used for a needle. To make the pegs, small flat slabs of wood were cut crosswise of the grain and then thinned to the thickness desired for the peg. They were cut off this slab. They were sharpened by hand; the different

lengths used for the different thicknesses of leather.”

Squire was a good carpenter and while still living in Springdale, went about building homes for other people. He helped build homes in Kane County too. One of the homes he built was for Hack Jolley in Mt. Carmel, a home which has just been torn down. I, Charles Hepworth, was there to see it and talk about a home being well built. In the past few years this home has been replaced with a new one, and by way of information, I helped tear down the old one and helped build the new, doing most of the finish work such as putting in the door frames, window frames, casing them and hanging the doors.

Gay Hutchinson speaks of Squire building homes in the Muddy Valley in Nevada. Squire Hepworth was the father of 26 children, fourteen by his first wife and twelve by his second. Ten were born before he went to Dixie and fifteen were born in Springdale and one in Shunsburg, a settlement located on the East Fork of the Virgin River which junctions with the North Fork two miles below Springdale. On November 7, 1887, Squire's first wife, Emily, died and was buried in the old cemetery plot in Springdale. After Emily died, her children that were not married went into Squire's other family to live, and Russell says that she did a fine job with them.

The Springdale record states that Squire moved his families from Springdale to Idaho in 1899. Gay Hutchinson informs us of his activities after he moved into Idaho. “Squire moved to Elba, Cassia County and settled on a farm on the north side of Cassia Creek. He did quite a bit of carpenter work and shoe repairing as well as running his farm. He built the old original Hall home in Malta and he also helped build the Lynn Hall in Malta as well as building several homes, barns and graineries in Elba.”

A letter from Mrs. Mary E. S. Hepworth, Edmund's daughter-in-law from Grover, Wyoming, states that in 1900 Squire went to Grover to visit with his brother, Edmund. He built a home for Edmund while there on this visit.

Those of Squire's children who remained in Springdale were married at the time Squire left there. Thornton married Elzina Draper, daughter of Almon and Amy Draper and Squire Edmund married Cecelia Draper, sister to Elzina. James Henry married Mary Mariah Stout, daughter of Hosea Stout. James and Mariah were married July 11, 1894, had three children and then James died June 10, 1901. Emily Ann became a polygamist wife to Oliver D. Gifford, and Amelia Jane married Oliver's brother, Freeborn D. Gifford. Eleanor married William H. Gifford, eldest son of Oliver. Eliza Ellen, eldest daughter of Margaret and Squire, married John Robinson Crawford, eldest son of William and Cornelia Gifford Crawford. Cornelia was a sister to Oliver and Freeborn.

Memories of his home and life in Springdale remained with Squire throughout his life. He made several visits to Dixie to see those of his family who married and stayed there. Thornton's home was his home on all of these visits. The writer recalls the last visit he made to Dixie and

how he had to be watched to make sure he didn't wander off and get lost. The years and hard work had taken their toll and he had become senile. Not long after he left Springdale to return to his home in Idaho, the family was informed of the incidents surrounding his becoming lost in Idaho. The story is related in some detail by Wells Hepworth, a grandson and Ella Beecher, a close neighbor to Squire.

A news item taken from the Elba News on August 31, 1920 states:

“Squire Hepworth, age 78, died at his home Thursday August 26, 1920. Mr. Hepworth has suffered for some time. Funeral services were held Saturday, August 28th, at the home of his son, George, at 3:00.”

The following item was submitted by Wells and Zelma Hepworth: “Squire Hepworth left Springdale, Utah arriving at what was known as Bull Lane in the Raft River Valley, Idaho, late in November 1900. With him were his wife, Margaret Ellen Cox Hepworth, and most of their children. Also, going to Idaho was Russell King, son of Emily and Squire. John William and George, the two oldest sons of Margaret had established themselves in Idaho some two years before their parents left Dixie and were working in the Malta-Elba areas.

Squire settled in the Elba Valley on Cassia Creek. He was an able carpenter and built a log house that still stands in good condition in Elba, although it has been moved from the original home-site and reassembled. He was a master with the tools of his day and taught his sons to be efficient workmen. Ira, the youngest of the family was nearing four years of age when they came to Idaho. He recalls that at least two pairs of shoes that he wore were made by his father.”

The following incidents were recalled by Ira: “Dad had the Jones place rented. One day he had a bay mare called Phoebe and another horse hitched to a walking plow when the horses began to run. Dad was dragged head first into the base of a clump of willows; the lines broke, freeing him when he hit the willows. I was so scared. I was afraid his neck would be broken. Another time we were cleaning ditch. Richard had been out to the dance the night before and Dad found him asleep in the ditch, so he turned the water in on him. Richard's sleep was over.”

The influenza epidemic invaded Elba Valley in the closing months of 1918. The new year of 1919 dawned with much sorrow. Two husky young men succumbed: One on the first day of January, the other on the 9th. I, Zelma C. Hepworth, battled with the flu for many weeks. One night mother told me to look out the window. She explained to me that a man was lost and that neighbors were out searching for him. I can still remember the lantern lights, like giant fireflies, moving about in the darkness. The lost man was Squire Hepworth, who had become senile. He was living with and being cared for by his unmarried sons. He had slipped out of the house in his underclothes with only stockings on his feet.

The following morning when the searching party gathered, Wells, the 12½ year old son of George Hepworth, was with the group of horsemen. When they arrived at the Twitchell farm,

Alma, a lad of 16, joined them. He remarked to Wells that he felt as if he were going to find his father and didn't want to be alone. Wells and Alma were assigned to ride the area nearest the foothills. As they rode along, they topped a ridge where they could see into the mouth of a draw. There they saw Squire huddled in a clearing in the sagebrush. The boys called to the other searchers and a team and wagon was sent for. Squire's socks were worn out and his feet badly frozen, but they healed after a while and he was able to walk on them. He was taken to Russell's home where he was cared for until sometime in the following year. Clarence, son of Russell, remembers his grandfather living with them when his sister, Fern, was a baby. She was born December 31, 1919. Squire passed away at this home, August 26, 1920.

Mrs. Ella Beecher was asked by the family to recall some of the experiences she had as a neighbor living next to Squire and family. She contributed the following bit of information:

Springtime in the little valley of Elba, Idaho is never very warm, and May of 1918 was no different. It was windy, chilly, and sometimes very cold at night, and the night Squire Hepworth left his warm bed and took a long walk towards the mountains was cold and windy. This was in May of 1918 or 1919.

Squire Hepworth was a comely little gentleman with snow-white hair and beard and deep-set blue eyes, a quiet unobtrusive man who always minded his own business. His small farm was located north and east of Elba, near what is known as Connor Creek. He would make a trip with his team and heavy wagon to Elba occasionally to pick up his mail, and he would usually stop at the store there, and it was at this store where Mont Maxfield would see him. He seemed to like Mont and they would visit together, and he would tell Mont many of his early day experiences.

When one of the boys awoke in the middle of that eventful night and found that his father had left his bed, he hastily awakened the other boys and they searched the house and out-buildings. When they could not locate him, Richard got on his pony and rode swiftly to Elba to his brothers', George and Russell, homes; and they with Elihu Beecher and perhaps others, took lanterns and hurried back and commenced searching, but the kerosene lights were dim and the night was very dark and sagebrush thick and tall and the wind would blow their lanterns out almost as fast as they would light them, so they agreed it was futile to search longer that night.

Mont Maxfield was Road Overseer of the Elba Road district and a road was being graded near Conner on the Albion Summit. When he arrived at Connor Creek early the next morning, he learned of Squire's disappearance. A group of men congregated soon, some had come to search for Squire, others like Mont, had come to work. Among the group were Don Whitaker, Lot Udy, Chester Parrish, Arze Udy, Elihu Beecher, Alonzo Parrish, Jerry (Del) Parrish and Osmer Ward with Squire's sons, George and Russell Hepworth. Most of them got into Mont's wagon and rode to the Hepworth home where they left the team and scattered in all directions and soon located the old gentleman about two miles from his home in a brush and rock filled gully lying on his back.

He was barefoot and had no clothing on except his underclothes. He was still in a coma and blue with cold. His feet were bruised and full of thorns and slivers. Some of the men went back for the team and wagon to move him while others built a fire to try and warm his shivering body. It is a wonder and still a mystery how he survived that ordeal, yet he did and lived for quite some time afterwards.