

HISTORY OF ELIZA ELLEN HEPWORTH CRAWFORD

by Verda Davis and Lucy Schiefer

In Oxford, Onida, Co. (now Franklin) Idaho lived Squire Hepworth and his second wife, Margaret Ellen Cox Hepworth. Their first son, named John William, was born on 1 Dec 1871. On the 19th of December 1874 their second child, a girl, was born. They named her Eliza Ellen. By the time Squire moved his family to Springdale Utah, in June 1878, they had two other sons. Eliza was baptized by her father, Squire Hepworth 3, May 1883, in the Virgin River at Springdale, Utah, and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints by Cyrus M. Jennings, May 1883.

She received her schooling in Springdale schools, often in the door yard of her teacher's home, where the children sat on rocks or logs. Eliza Ellen said she went to school nearly five months one year. Other years she attended only in the winter months. She had reached the fifth reader when she was old enough to work and had to quit school to help support the family. (Her father had twenty-six children by his two wives. Eliza's mother had twelve.)

Eliza learned to work when she was very young, and when household chores were very different from today's. Eliza remembered carrying a sack to gather weeds and grass for the cows from the hills around her home. When she was small, she dragged the full sack on the ground going home because she wasn't big enough to raise it off the ground. She sometimes had to go to a neighbor's place in the early mornings to get live coals if her family's fire had died out during the night. She would watch to see if anyone had smoke coming out of their chimney, then go there for coals to start a fire. Some times she and her brothers and sisters would carry pieces of wood to repay the neighbors. When she was only ten years old she helped her mother scrub clothes on the washboard for their own family and for neighbors too. Sometimes they went to Rockville (three miles away) on horseback or on a wagon, wash clothes all day, then drive home again. She said the brooms they used to sweep the floors with were made from brush they

gathered along the roadside. They named it broom brush. It held together better than the rabbit brush they sometimes used.

Since horses were the family's only form of transportation Eliza rode horses and could also drive a team of horses hitched to a wagon or buggy, although her brothers usually drove the teams while she lived with her parents. The townspeople usually celebrated every holiday. Often Springdale, Rockville, and sometimes Virgin would get together. Shunesburg people had nearly all moved away by her time, but she did remember going to dances in the big red rock house on the hill in Shunesburg.

Eliza Ellen married John Robinson Crawford 15 March 1892, in the St. George Temple, forty-five miles from her home. The couple went by wagon, two days journey one way.

Eliza was five feet five inches tall and weighed one hundred pounds when she was married. She had blue eyes and light brown, naturally curly hair, which turned dark brown after she was married. As she got older she had a beautiful white streak of hair beginning at the center of her forehead and later when she was nearly eighty years old her hair turned completely to a beautiful white.

The first several years Eliza and her husband lived with John's parents, until they could build a home of their own. John's mother had thirteen children. (He was the oldest.) Since there were five boys before there were any girls, grandmother always needed help in her home. Eliza and John had three children while still living with his parents: William Robinson, Elvira, and Squire. Elvira died of pneumonia when she was six weeks old. Then John was called on a mission for the church, so Eliza had to care for her two little boys and help her mother-in-law.

After John's return from the mission field, the couple built a small home for themselves a short distance from his parents. The boys were so happy to be in their own home. Eliza said they would hold out their arms and say, "And it's all ours." The home was only one room to start, then a lean-to was added on the back and later additions to the lean-to were built.

Eliza often drove the team to town, church, the postoffice, or store if the menfolk were busy, and they usually were. On Sundays, then the men usually went to priesthood meetings, so she drove the team to church so the children could ride. In about 1919 the family bought a new car -- a model T Ford, one of the very few in the area at that time. Some time later the family bought two trucks and carried mail from Pintura to Springdale. They also hauled the children of all the families that lived in Oak Creek to school in Springdale for several years.

Eliza was really a help mate to her husband. They planted an orchard with all kinds of fruit and berries that grew in that climate. They raised almost everything they ate. She dried fruit and later, when they were able to buy canning jars, she canned fruit and vegetables for her family.

She bore eight children, four sons and four daughters. Three preceded her in death: William, Squire and Elvira. The others were named Susan, Newell, Lucy, Norman and Verda.

Eliza knew how to make lye from cottonwood logs for washing clothes. She burned the logs, then poured water over the ashes and let the lye drip into a bucket. She made all her own laundry soap. Her husband had a water wheel and fastened a belt to it to run her washer. (This was before washers were made to run by motors.) The family lived on a hill, and carried their water for years, until they bought a pump that ran water into a tank by the house, then through a pipe to Eliza's mother-in-law's house which was lower than the tank. Eliza loved flowers and worked very hard to make her yards look nice. Since the family lived on a hill, it was hard to get water to their plants. They never had a lawn around their first home. Verda remembers sweeping the yard to keep trash off, then carrying water from the tank and sprinkling it around to keep the dust down so it wouldn't track or blow into the house.

In about 1922 the family built two new rooms on one end of the house, with a big porch on the front and a large cellar underneath the kitchen. The cellar had a dirt floor for storage of fruit and vegetables and rock walls with shelves to store bottled fruit, milk and homemade cheese. Eliza always made her own butter and

cheese. A hot water tank and sink with running water were installed in the new kitchen. Eliza stored some of her pans on the wall in back of the kitchen range, and one day she got one down to use and found a king snake coiled up inside it. She ran to the door and threw it out just as Lucy came up the hill underneath it, nearly scaring them both to death.

In her younger days Eliza escorted or chaperoned her unmarried sisters-in-law, Annie, Fanny, Marilla and Mary, to dances and parties when they didn't have boyfriends to take them, and even sometimes when they did.

Eliza taught her own children to dance before they were old enough to go to public dances, she also taught many of their friends. Her home was always open to the young people of the town for parties or just for a visit. She went with her children to parties and picnics, as well as with her sister-in-law. Many times someone would ride a horse to her place in the afternoon and say, "Aunt Liza, can we have a party at your place tonight?" or it might be for a chicken supper or an oyster supper. The answer was always yes. The boys would furnish the chicken or oysters but Eliza furnished everything else that went with them. Lucy remembers her baking as many as eighteen loaves of bread on a Saturday and having to bake again on Monday or Tuesday. She could bake "Salt Rising" bread that tasted better than anyone else's. Her neighbors often borrowed bread from her if something came up to interfere with their baking day.

Eliza's father moved back to Idaho in 1899. Some of her sisters by his first wife had married by that time and stayed on in Springdale, so she had some relatives to visit; but she got very lonesome for the rest of her family. Her brother John had two children when he moved away. George, Eiger, Richard, Alma and Ira were still single; so were her sisters Lucy, Annie and Hannah. Annie stopped in Eureka, Utah, to work when the family went through the town on their way to Idaho. Later she married a man from Alberta, Utah, and lived in Payson and Santaquin.

Eliza made several trips to Idaho to see her family. Her father lived in Elba most of the rest of his life. Her mother died before he did.

Eliza's brothers, John, George and Ira, spent several winters with her and her family after John and George had lost their wives. Ira was not yet married. Ira got work and stayed on for about seven years, then he got married and moved to Idaho. Two other brothers, Edgar and Alma, came and stayed one winter. Edgar stayed one other winter.

After her father-in-law, William R. Crawford, died in 1913, Eliza took care of her mother-in-law, Cornelia, as well as Emma. The Crawford home was only a short distance from Eliza's. The Crawfords lived two miles from Springdale, on a ranch called Oakcreek Canyon where the family ran cattle in the summer.

In about 1930 the government wanted to enlarge Zion National Park so they bought out the Crawford family. By this time the homestead had been divided between the boys of the family; John, Louis, Samuel, James and Daniel with shares for their mother, Emma, and a few married grandchildren. John and Eliza moved to Springdale. Eliza would have liked to have moved to Idaho, but grandmother was not able to go that far away. So the couple built a small home next to theirs for her. They built a shed or garage for the cars and lived in it until they could finish their home. Some years before, electricity had been brought into the area, so the family had a refrigerator, lights, an electric washer, and also a radio. They built a bathroom in the new home which was greatly appreciated by the whole family. Just after moving into the house, while some of their belongings were still in the shed, it burned down. The family thought the fire was caused by someone dropping a lighted cigarette while stealing gas from their car.

Eliza's two younger sons Newell and Norman climbed West Temple, a mountain never climbed before. Their father was judge of election that day in Nov. 1933. They were careful not to excite their mother; they told her they were going, but she didn't know the mountain by that name because it had always been called the Steamboat Mountain. She would probably have objected, had she known they were planning to climb that mountain. She nearly fainted when she saw the smoke from the fire they built to let the people know they had made it to the top. She was very upset until they were home again.

In Jan. 1934 some men from the C.C.C. camp thought they would try to climb West Temple. They made it up allright, but one of them couldn't make it back down, so the taller of the three men came back for help, leaving two at the top. Norman went with some park employees to rescue the two that had to spend the night on the mountain. They all returned safely.

Eliza made hundreds of quilts during her lifetime. She could also crochet, embroider and knit. In her early life she would knit socks and sweaters for her family. She spent hours mending clothes and darning socks.

Eliza was a counselor in primary to president Pauline Ruesch Crawford. In the summer when the weather was very hot, primary was held in Eliza's home so the children didn't have to walk two miles to Springdale. She had a pump organ (a reed organ pumped by the feet) because there was no electricity there at the time. She was a visiting teacher in relief society for about 70 years, until she had a stroke and was unable to visit. Eliza enjoyed church work, but was unable to attend all the church meetings because her mother-in-law was subject to heart spells, and Eliza was usually the one to stay home and look out for her so the others could go.

Emma, John's youngest living sister was always sickly; her heart valves didn't close as they should when she was born on 2 July 1890. When she was very young she became seriously crippled and needed care all her life. Eliza helped take care of her until 1952 when John had a stroke and Eliza had to take care of him. Then Eliza had a stroke also, so Emma went to live with her brother, Daniel in Parowan for a year. A new rest home was built in Parowan, and she went there to live. After John died, 10 July 1954, Eliza let her son, Newell, and his wife, Ila, live in her home and help care for her.

She lived to be 85½ years old. She died 15 May 1960 at the home of her daughter, Lucy, and was buried 17 May 1969 in the Springdale cemetery.