

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF SAMUEL SMITH HEPWORTH
COMPILED IN "1979" BY HIS CHILDREN



Samuel Smith Hepworth, second son of James and Melina Smith Hepworth, was born 16 May 1877, in Salt Lake City, Utah. When Samuel was two years old the family moved to West Bountiful, Woods Cross, Utah. His parents told him that when they reached eleventh west, before they reached their house, the mud was so deep the horses could scarcely pull the wagon through, and remembers this street was always muddy, watery and swampy, and Samuel became very frightened.

Their home was small and of wooden structure. In the winter when it was coldest the beds needed to be moved to the center of the room because in the morning the frost was white on the walls and when it was not that cold the boys laid in bed and counted the nail heads that shone white with ice.

He received a Father's Blessing and a name in Salt Lake City, Utah and was baptized August 1885 at the age of 8 years, in Mill Creek, East Bountiful, by Louis Grant and was Confirmed at that time by Joseph Argyle, Sr.

Samuel attended school the first three years of his life at the West Bountiful school, that was on 8th North and 7th West. He had two teachers while there that were opposites. The first he loved very much, her name, Olive Durbidge. The second was a very severe and strict man. When the children misbehaved he whipped them, which was done often at that time. Charles R. Mabey attended that school and had been promised a whipping at the end of classes. Samuel and Charles went over to a little Willow patch, at recess and worked the full time to make a little willow mat and fastened it to Charles's back, then covered it with his shirt. The boys wondered why the teacher could never figure it out why Charles never flinched or cried out. Charles R. Mabey became Governor of Utah. Samuel next went to school on Onion Street, just north of the Phillips Oil Company. His teacher was Sister Lucy Muir.

When Samuel was 13 years of age, he went with his father to Hatch's Store (on 11th West and about 27th South), and there they met John Winegar and his daughter Grace. After purchasing their groceries, Samuel told his father on the way home that Grace Winegar was the girl he was going to marry, and 10 years later he did.

During Samuel's teenage years, he worked for Hatch's brick yard. At that time the Hepworth Family decided it was time to build a bigger house and Samuel took brick for pay and earned all the brick in their house on 11th West.

At the age of 19, Samuel was called on a Mission to the Southern States. He received his Endowments in the Salt Lake Temple, 17 February 1897, and left the following day. When he arrived in Alabama it was night and there was no one there to meet him, and he learned he had to walk 7 miles to his Mission Headquarters. The Missionaries at that time traveled without purse or script. At one time Samuel and his companion were moved from the town they had been working in to a New District. While walking through the

woods, Samuel's companion had an attack of Malaria. It was so bad he could not go on and Samuel walked 3 miles to the next town to get help, if he could. He found a small store with a postal outlet, and as he entered the still small voice told him to ask for his mail. He thought that was strange because no one knew where they were. Again he was told to ask for his mail, and so he did. He was handed an envelope addressed to him, and when he opened it there was a one dollar bill inside. Samuel bought the Quinine that his companion needed so badly and then walked back the three miles and helped the sick Missionary and they were able to go on the next morning. He had many other wonderful and faith promoting experiences.

He was honorably released from his Mission, 4 May 1899.

On 6 September 1899, he married Grace Mae Winegar, the girl he told his father would be his wife, ten years before. He and his wife had five children: Three daughters and two sons.

When the children were small they rented a house at 1151 West 5th South, Woods Cross, Utah for \$3 a month. In 1908 they moved into a house, that Samuel built, on 11th West in West Bountiful. The family resided there until April 3, 1923. At that time they moved into the second house Samuel had built, at 55 West 5th South, in Bountiful, Utah. He was very proud of this house because he had built it himself. He would not sell it as long as he was alive, even though he lived with his family after his wife died.

Samuel's cousin, John Hepworth came from California to Utah, to do Temple Work for his wife's family, and stayed at Samuel's home. He awakened at daylight and said there were three men in his room blessing the house. When questioned as to whether they were blessing the house or the family, he said definitely they were blessing the house. After Samuel's death the house was purchased and moved to Orchard Drive, to be used as a genealogical outlet for the L. D. S. Church.

Samuel worked in his early life for Hannah Eldridge and her son James. On Samuel's birthday, Sister Eldridge always held a birthday party for his children and her grandchildren and there was always a \$5 gold piece in Samuel's piece of cake. When he left Eldredges', he worked for the Perry Burnham Company, which later became a part of Hardesty Mfg Co. until he retired.

In 1928 Samuel had Polio. Dr. Foster Curtis said at that time the Dr's knew what it was, but not how to treat it. Samuel walked on two crutches for a year, and declared he'd walk again or die on the street trying. This was the best therapy he could have had. He walked first with one crutch, then with a cane and then without any help. It left one leg shorter than the other, but with a shoe lift he did very well. In later life the hip calcsified and again he became very lame.

During all his suffering he did not complain nor at any time feel that he was being forgotten by the Lord. He was a cheerful man and always good company.

When Aunt Grace Fackrell died, Samuel bought her organ. He already had a knowledge of harmony and taught this science to his children. He had a beautiful baritone voice and could sing any part in his vocal range. He sang for many years in the Ward Choir, and as a young man sang in a Male Quartette. Samuel enjoyed dancing and was able to belong to a dance club for 10 years regardless of the effects of polio.

Family night was every night except Monday. This was Priesthood Night. One or two nights each week the family sang together with Samuel at the organ. One or two nights each week the family sat around the table and studied 'Carpenter's Travels'. This was a set of books on countries and cities all over the world.

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Because of Samuel's Mission, and because his wife was also religious, the home was a very spiritual place. There was always family prayer night and morning and always there was a blessing on the food. If the children began squabbling Samuel always sang to them, "School thy feelings, Oh My daughters or Sons" as the case may be.

Samuel served two Stake Missions and was a Ward Teacher for 50 years and received a certificate as recognition for his service. He served two years on the Genealogical Stake Board and did much Temple Work. He was Assistant Chairman for the High Priest Quorum in the Bountiful Second Ward. Samuel had the gift of prayer and was called often to administer to the sick.

His children will always claim him blessed because no family ever had a better father.

Samuel always said "All people should keep a record of themselves and families, and live worthy to be accepted back into the presence of their Lord and Eternal Father." Samuel died 21 February 1970, in Salt Lake City, Utah.