

## Story of Clara Elizabeth Hepworth

*Clara Elizabeth Hepworth was born on  
Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup> 1876 Baptized May 15<sup>th</sup> 1884  
Confirmed May 15 1884  
Married April 25 1894  
Died Oct 28 - 1925*



Clara Elizabeth Hepworth was the eighth of fourteen children. They are Thornton, Emily Ann, Amelia Jane, Squire Edmund, Joseph Ephraim, James Henry, Charles Dyson, Clara Elizabeth, Mary Annice, Russell King, Eleanor, Hyrum, Lavinia, and Harriet. There were also twelve half-brothers and sisters.

They are John William, Eliza Ellen, Samuel, Alvin, Squire, George, Anna Lavicia, Lucy, Richard, Hannah, Edgar Cox, Alma Bee, and Ira.

Clara's father Squire Hepworth was born in Drighlington, Yorkshire, England, on 4 May 1843. He was converted to the Latter Day Saints Church by missionaries who labored in England. He married Emily Dyson in England on 9 August 1862. They left England on 15 October 1863.

Their first child Thornton was born at Wyoming, Nebraska on 14 July 1864, and five days later they started west with the William S. Warren wagon train which was part of the Samuel D. White Company. They arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah on 4 October 1864. From there they went to Smithfield, Utah, and lived there for some time. Their second child Emily Ann was born in Smithfield.

Emily Dyson was sealed to Squire on 9 March 1867, in the Salt Lake Temple. They then moved to Oxford, Franklin County, Idaho. Five of their

children were born in Oxford.

While living in Smithfield Squire met Margaret Ellen Cox. They were married and she was sealed to him 10 July 1871.

Clara Elizabeth was born on 14 May 1876, in Oxford, Franklin County, Idaho. The two families left Idaho on 5 May 1877, and headed for southern Utah to make their home in Springdale. Clara had her first birthday in Salt Lake City. They arrived in Springdale on 14 June 1877. Today Zion National Park includes part of their old home. Her mother died on 8 November 1887, when Clara was only eleven years old.

Mother had very little schooling as they only had school a short time each winter in Springdale. She had to work very hard. One time she was using the scythe and cut her foot with it. It took a long time to heal as it was cut to the bone through the instep.

The young of that era had fun and parties by having candy pulls, popcorn parties, and group singing. Fruit cutting bees when there was fruit to be dried. They also had hay rides and went horse back riding. Clara went to choir practice each week. She was a good singer.

When a young lady she went to Pipe Springs to spend a summer with her brother Thornton. She also worked at Moccasin, Arizona and one summer in Kanab, Utah.

When Clara started to go with Gottfried Ruesch she rarely went out with any other boys. She married him and was sealed to him in the St. George Temple on 25 April 1894. She was 17 years old.

She still had to work hard as Gottfried was a carpenter and a farmer. There wasn't much money to be had.

*Clara Ruesch was born on Saturday  
29, 1894 Blessed January 2, 1885 by Squire  
Hepworth. Married Thornton Hepworth  
Baptized by Elder  
William Ruesch Dec 29, 1902 Confirmed  
by Isaac H. Langston, Jan. 4, 1903 in  
last meeting.*





Their first son Oren was born on 29 December 1894.

Clara was a loved person. Her sister Eliza said of her that she was a might sweet sister. Although she did have a temper and once in awhile it showed.

Hyrum Ruesch was born on Thursday September 17 1896 Blessed Sept. 26 1896 by Squire Hepworth reblessed in last meeting Thursday 1896 by Samuel K. Crawford Baptized Sept 17, 1904 by Elder William Ruesch confirmed Sept 19, 1904 by Bishop Oliver D. Gifford Ordained Deacon Jan. 26, 1913 by Thornton Hepworth  
Died 21 June 1965



Son Hyrum was born on 17 September 1896.



The third son Howard was born on 30 December 1898.

Howard Ruesch was born on Friday December 30, 1898 blessed Jan. 7, 1899 by Thornton Hepworth. Baptized June 2, 1907 by F. D. Gifford. Confirmed June 2, 1907, by D. D. Gifford. Ordained a Deacon April 16, 1911. by F. D. Gifford. Ordained Priest April 12 1919 Samuel K. Crawford Ordained an Elder Sept. 1924 by Bishop Thornton Hepworth. Died Nov. 14, 1977

In 1901 Clara was called to be secretary of the Relief Society, with Emma J. Crawford as assistant.

Another little bundle from heaven arrived. Rulon was born on 28 January 1902. However, his life on earth was a short one. He died of blood poisoning from a cat bite, 2 December 1906.

Rulon Ruesch was born on Tuesday January 28, 1902 Blessed in last meeting March 2, 1902 by Thornton Hepworth. Died December 2 1906

With a growing family to feed and care for, there had to be food. There was always a large garden and plenty of fruit to can and dry.



Her first daughter Lydia was born on 1 November 1903. That must have been wonderful for her.

Lydia Ruesch was born on Sunday November 1, 1903. Blessed November 8, 1903 by Bishop Oliver D. Gifford.  
 Baptized Nov 5 1911 by J. Gifford  
 Confirmed Nov. 5 1911 by J. H. Langston  
 Died 12 April 1971

Clara also taught Primary for many years. She did her cooking on a wood burning stove. Her home was a small one, only one room at first and then it was added upon. Living room, kitchen and two bedrooms. The walls must have bulged.



Now along with everything else, along comes another baby boy. Calvin was born 30 March 1906.

Calvin Ruesch was born on Friday, March 30 1906  
 Blessed April 7, 1906 by Bishop Oliver D. Gifford.  
 Baptized June 14, 1914 by Bishop Thornton Hepworth  
 Confirmed June 14, 1914 by Bishop Thornton Hepworth  
 Died 4 Oct. 1976

Of course, the washing was no easy job. It had to be done on the scrubbing board. With a family that size it took all day to do it.

Mother and the other ladies in town would get out and play ball with the children. It must have been quite a sight seeing the ladies in their long dresses playing ball. In the summer time when friends came to visit, they would sit out on the lawn and talk.



Then 20 August 1908, brought another son, Ivan.

Ivan Ruesch was born on Thursday August 20, 1908 blessed Sept. 6, 1908 by Thornton Hepworth. Baptized Sept. 24 1911 by Oliver H. Gifford. Elder confirmed Sept. 24 1916 by Elder Samuel K. Crawford  
 died 17 Feb. 1955

By this time she had rheumatism quite bad. It was hard for her to get around.



However, a daughter was born on 8 September 1910, Amy Rowena.

Amy Rowena Ruesch was born on Thursday Sept 8, 1910 blessed Oct. 2 1910. by Elder Thornton Hepworth. Baptized Sept. 8, 1918 by Elder Wm. Gifford. Confirmed Sept. 14, 1920 by Elder Samuel H. Crawford.

Mother corded her own wool to put in quilts. She also had a spinning wheel. She loved flowers and had roses, lilacs, bridal wreath, myrtle, and flags.



Harmon was born on 3 October 1912.

Harmon Ruesch was born Oct. 3, 1912  
blessed Nov. 3, 1912 by Thornton Hepworth  
Wed 22 Dec 1963

One summer son Howard was driving a team and a wagon load of lumber to St. George. Mother went with him. She showed him a place in Duncan (no longer exists) where she had worked as a girl. Mother developed a heart condition and it was most difficult for her to do her work. Some times she couldn't get out of bed. Once when she had rheumatism very bad and couldn't walk, father took her to the St. George Temple. He explained to the authorities what they were there for. They gave her a blessing. She did improve and was well enough that she could walk and do her own work after that.



Another baby boy was born,  
Melvin on 8 May 1915.

Melvin Ruesch was born Saturday  
1915 blessed May 8  
Wed 8 May 1955



Two years later another daughter  
Iona was born on 17 February 1921.

Iona Ruesch was born on ~~at Springdale~~  
May 17 1917 blessed by Bishop  
Thomson Hepworth July 1 1917  
Baptized June 7 by Leonard Hepworth  
confirmed June 7 by Bishop Thomson  
Hepworth.

A Mr. Johnson arrived in Springdale. He was from New York. He became a good friend to my Uncle Walter Ruesch. He had a great admiration for the Mormon people and collected their artifacts. He also had a pair of hand knit socks that the heel had worn out. He asked around town if any one could knit a heel

in them. Mother could and did. He never wore them again. They went into his collection.

Binney was born on 23 January 1921. He was only about a month old when he died on 17 February 1921.

Binney Ruesch was born on ~~Jan 23~~  
Jan 23 1921 blessed Feb 1921  
by Annes & Clifford died Feb 17 1921

Mother always had a start of potato yeast on the back of the stove. I think that she made bread every other day, and always several loaves at a time. It took lots of food for that family. She also made her own laundry soap.

One summer, as young boys, Harmon and Melvin and two grand sons Bertrand and Lyman worked and got some money to buy some material for Mama to make her a dress.

One time mother climbed the east rim trail in Zion National Park to go out to visit son Howard and family at their ranch.

Early in 1925, Howard and Susan and their small son Howard C. came to Springdale to visit us. Howard was just learning to walk at the time. Mother had a small lard bucket that he really took a liking to. She gave it to him and he surely did treasure that little bucket. He used it to gather acorns.

By this time mother's health was failing so she went to St. George to see the doctor. Daughter Lydia went with her. The doctor took out her tonsils and she bled to death. She died on 28 October 1925 at St. George. She is buried in Springdale, Utah.

I was just 8 years old at the time.

By daughter  
Iona Ruesch Savage (1977)



The fort at Pipe Spring where Clara spent one summer.