

HARRIET BROWN

In the town of West Lavington, Wiltshire, England, three daughters were born to the couple John Brown and Sarah Mundy; Harriet (5 Oct 1838), Sarah (19 June 1844), Eliza (30 Jan 1847). Three others died in infancy: Mary (chr Jan. 3, 1841, died 8th Feb 1841), William (chr 21 Jan 1842, died 22 Aug 1844) Jane (chr 21 May 1849, died 10 Jan 1850).

The mother, Sarah died suddenly 27 Feb 1850, creating a real responsibility for those bereft. Harriet, being the oldest, then only eleven years of age, was left in charge with many household duties to perform. The responsibilities that came to her then seem but an introduction to that which was to follow. Surely her life's mission was that of a mother. The dying request of her mother, Sarah had been that the children be taught the principles of the Gospel, and be baptized and become members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints.

Complying with her mother's request, Harriet was baptized in 1849 by William Chapman and confirmed by John Halliday, who was the first Elder in that locality. In 1855 the two sisters, Sarah and Eliza were baptized by Edward Hannam.

On 15 Mar 1851 the father, John married Jane Wilkins. This gave Harriet an opportunity to find employment outside the home. The work was unpleasant- washing steps every morning. Having her hands in cold water so much of the time caused her to have chilblains which extended up into her arms, but she bore them with determination.

Harriet wanted an education. By taking advantage of all the opportunities to earn expenses she was able to receive four years of high school training upon which she had set her heart.

The stepmother, Jane Wilkins Brown bore a son, George (7 Jan 1852) and another child who was very sickly and died in infancy. His name was Issac.

When Jane died (March 1861) still in the prime of life, Harriet resumed her duties looking after the family. Her

responsibilities in the home continued until she was 23 years of age at which time she became the wife of James Ward.

Harriet met James as she was serving luncheon at a social following a Mormon meeting. He had intended to go to the West Indies and had saved his earnings for this purpose. But his plans changed after this meeting. He remained in England and subsequently became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints.

Later, speaking of the impressive occasion of their meeting, he said that as Harriet came to give him a second helping of food, a voice at his back said, "That is your wife." He believed it to be a voice from the unseen world. Harriet, at that time was engaged to be married to another. It was not until two years later that James saw her again. This time they met at a conference held for church members.

When James did ask for Harriet's hand in marriage her father refused to give his permission. James, at that time had a disease called consumption. Harriet's father feared this would bring the suitor an early death.

Holding firmly to his faith in the voice he had heard, James proceeded to find care for himself. He bathed in cold water every morning and eventually became strong and healthy.

Their marriage took place 16 March 1861. To show his respect for Harriet, James hired the bells to ring out in her behalf.

On April 23 of that year the newlyweds set sail from Liverpool, England on the ship, "UNDERWRITER". In the company were 624 saints under the direction of Milo Andrus, Homer Dunkin, and Charles W. Penrose. They arrived in New York 22 May 1861. It was a Sunday night. They found no shelter until the next morning. From then

From then until they left New York they found lodging in an old blacksmith shop.

They arrived in Florence, Nebraska, 2 June 1861 and proceeded to come West separately. James found employment with the Croftin Brothers who were engaged in the erection of the transcontinental telegraph line to Utah. He had paid for Harriet's transportation across the plains expecting that she would be able to ride that distance. Through some misunderstanding, however, it became necessary for her to walk all the way. When they came to a stream of water she would hang onto the back of the wagon. Many times after crossing she had to continue on in her wet clothing.

Harriet arrived in the Salt Lake Valley before her husband and stayed with friends, George Smuin and others. She and James were reunited in October of that year.

The couple proceeded on to Ogden and located on , what was then, the George Smuin property. Now (1953) it would be about 4th or 5th street, East of Washington Blvd. It was here that their first child, Jane was born, (30 Dec. 1861). The weather was most unclean! It has been said that it rained 21 days without stopping. Dry clothing or bedding were not available for either mother or baby. But through the blessings of the Lord both survived.

13 July 1863, a second child, Elizabeth was born. By this time the family has located on the John Holmes' property in North Ogden. Harriet relating her own experiences, said that many times she carried her second child, little Jane walking, to a neighbors home a mile away. There Harriet worked. She did the washing which took her all day. The wages for the day's work - a small piece of butter.

Hundreds of Indians passed through the vicinity of the Ward home. They would camp near Plain City in the winter time, then move up through North Ogden Canyon when summer came, in search of game and berries in Ogden Valley. In fact the Ward home was right in the path of their travel. Harriet was very much afraid of them. She said that one

day while she was away from home some Indians entered her home and took all of her baby dresses. Although they were few, the scarcity of cloth made this a great loss to her.

19 March 1854 James Ward and family moved to a piece of land on the east side of Washington ave, presently (1954) owned by George F. Simmons. Their one roomhouse was located just a little south of the spot where the Simmons' house now stands.

In this humble dwelling their next five children, all sons, were born:

James Henry	born 22 Aug 1865
William	" 8 Sep 1867
John	" 3 Dec 1869
Albert	" 15 Dec 1871
Cyrus	" 29 Dec 1873

The remainder of their eleven children were born in the large brick house which was constructed later. They were:

Joseph	born 25 Nov 1875
Lorenzo	" 14 Feb 1878
Harriet	" 13 Apr 1880
Hyrum	" 6 Oct 1882

Hyrum died 12 Dec 1889. All the rest of these children were married in the Temple.

Only those familiar with the existing conditions of that day can fully appreciate the effort needed to rear a family of this size. There was wool to be carded and spun. The thread was taken to the house of Harriet's father, John Brown who owned a machine that made the thread into cloth. Sewing was done by hand mostly in candle light.

After coming to America John Brown married a third wife, Mrs Beletta Monson Hansen. They lived south of the James Ward home. The Brown property is presently owned by Ezra Harris Brown Unander.

The family kept many cows and there were pans and pans of milk to be skimmed. A cellar under the granery was their only refrigerator. The Wards and the woodfields kept a little store in Oxden supplied with cream. It was located where Keeleys is today. (2463 Washington Blvd). The Wards took the cream to the store one week and the woodfields took it the next week. It was time consuming to make such a delivery - approximately one half day with buggy and horse.

James Ward was engaged in brick making for many years. During this time he employed from six to eight men. All of these were given board and room. Sometimes it was necessary to hire a girl (Annie White) to help with the house work.

Rag carpets were made to cover the board floors. It was no easy task to keep the floors clean. With seven boys wearing boots one could expect dirt and mud to be tracked in. There was little soap. Lye for this was made by allowing water to stand on burned wood. Often sand was used for scrubbing floors. This did a fairly good job.

Because the children had no Sunday shoes all the boots had to be cleaned up on Saturday night. It was quite a sight to see so many boots lined up around the wall waiting for the Sabbath morning.

Harriet Ward became so deft at knitting that she could complete a pair of socks in one evening.

Ironing was done with an old iron which had been brought across the plains. One of the children said, "That iron was a hundred years old!"

The first fruit these people had was probably

the very small cling stone peach which they cooked and preserved in molasses.. Water apples were dried for the winter. In the summer a big cheese was made and stored away deep in the granery. Hops were gathered for the purpose of making yeast. Indian root and yarrow were gathered for medicinal purposes, and salratus for washing clothes. There was also the job of candle making.

James Ward, serving as bishop,s councilor for fifteen yrs. and bishop for fourteen years naturally became the host to many of the visiting brethren. This increased Harriet's responsibilities as cook and hostess.

It seems that the entire life of Harriet Brown was spent in the service of others. She did more than her share in making her family unit the success it was through hard work and sacrifice. She found time to visit the sick and give compassionate service to neighbors. She did much reading to her Danish step-mother who had difficulty with the English language

Harriet was almost continually engaged in Relief Society work in North Ogden. She served as visiting teacher and was also a member of the Board of Directors.

She assisted with the sick and the laying out of the dead. she also officiated for many of her kindred dead in the Temples of the Lord, working steadfast and continually for two months on one occasion.

Harriet Brown died 20 March 1902. It is needless to say that those who knew her invariably spoke of her as being:

" A GOOD WOMAN! "