HATTIE WOOLF CRANNEY
1862-1896

Hattie Woolf Cranney was the 2nd daughter and 3rd child of Harriet Wood and Absalom Woolf. Her sister, Esther Marilla, who was 2 years older, died at the age of 6 years.

Hattie was born 8 July 1862, in Millville, Cache, Utah, where her parents had just moved from Nephi, Utah. They later established a home in Hyde Park; however, Hattie spent most of her girlhood in Millville with her maternal grandmother, Esther E. Wood, the widow of Martin Wood. Grandmother Wood was a semi-invalid and she had been ill most of the time while crossing the plains. She was a capable seamstress and a broad-minded, educated woman.

Hattie was taught all the thrifty pioneer tasks and received the schooling available at that time. She enjoyed the Church and social activities of the community and was closely associated with two dear cousins, Esther and Ida Pitkin, of Millville.

Hattie was married 10 Aug. 1882, to Willard Duane Cranney, Sr. In the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah.

She was a small, refined, dainty person who weighed about 100 pounds. Her hands and feet were extra small. She had sturdy constitution, large hazel eyes, a smooth, fair complexion, and wavy brown hair. She was blessed with excellent health, and was never ill except in childbirth. She bore 10 children in 14 years of marriage.

Hattie was quick in accomplishing daily tasks, and alert and interesting in conversation, as she constantly read good literature. She was immaculate in her appearance and in her household duties. Hattie and her husband had 3 homes after their marriage. The bridal apartment was a single room that was built on the southwest corner of a long porch of Willard’s father’s home in the heart of Logan, Cache, Utah.

The 2nd home was soon built on some property Willard owned on the then-called “Island” in Logan near the Logan River, and the “Providence Bench” in Providence. Part of the building had been a store. It had large front windows and a back room. 2 more rooms were added and a summer kitchen, a milk cellar and a root cellar. A large orchard of choice fruit trees and berry bushes, large shade trees. And grass were planted around the new home. The extra acreage, used as a pasture land, had a hedge of wild rose bushes around it. (This land was later sold for city lots and the land near Logan River was later used for a nursery by Larsen Co.) The Indians used to come to obtain a special “eye water” that Dr. Cranney, Willard’s father, made for their camp-smoke-damaged eyes.

Willard Duane Cranney, Sr. Was called to be bishop in Petersboro, Cache, Utah, 10 miles west of Logan. He traveled there many times by team before he built a modern house on some farm land he had purchased from Charles Maughan. This new house was a 2 story frame building, located near the railroad track at the Petersboro loading spur at Petersboro. Everything was in order, painting done, the floor coverings laid, furniture, and even curtains arranged, when Willard took his wife, Hattie, and 6 children from Logan to the new home on a sunny day, the last part of December 1891. How delighted the children were with the new home. There was a long front porch, an entrance hall, an extra large kitchen and living room combined, with a pantry and a summer kitchen in back of the house. There were barrels to catch rain water, and a pump located over a spring to provide culinary water; also 2 springs much farther away provided water for the animals. The house itself had linoleum—a new thing in those days—to cover the kitchen floor. And there was a copper reservoir attached to the kitchen range.
The large front bedroom and the upstairs bedroom floors were covered with woven rag carpets, carefully stretched over fresh straw. These were straw-filled “ticks” or mattresses for the beds, with hand-stitched quilts and 2 feather beds—a trousseau necessity. How the children enjoyed the magic of the stairway and these rooms.

Claire was born 26 Jan 1892. She was the only child born in this Petersboro home. Eldon, who died in infancy, and Fay were born at Grandmother Harriet’s home in Hyde Park, and Leslie was born at the old Hiram King Cranney home in Logan.

So much happened in the 5 years Hattie lived in this home. It was a period of a busy farm life. The household problems were multiplied by the need to cook for large crews of men. The grain was “headed” and put in stacks, then threshed with a “horse-power” machine; about 22 men were needed. There were hay men, also, and cattle, milk cows, and farm animals to be cared for.

In the large, cool, rock cellar, there were long rows of double shelves for the milk pans. Cream was skimmed from then, churned, and molded into pounds of butter to be sold at 25 cents. Later, the milk was strained into 5 gallon cans and taken to the dairy. An icehouse was a necessity. Plenty of homemade ice cream was enjoyed with neighbors and guests. Entertaining relatives, friends, and strangers was no trouble, for there was always room and plenty of food at the long table. Long benches furnished surplus seats. Invited friends came from Logan, Millville, and Hyde Park and always found an open house. The children never tired of seeing the trains passing by day and night.

Willard had a variety of hired men to help on the farm, while Hattie was provided with capable girls to help with the work, especially in the busy farm season.

Hattie was an independent, capable, loving wife and mother. She was appreciated for her friendly, sociable, and generous attitude by all who knew her.

She died 22 Oct. 1896, at Logan, Utah, when her 10th child was born, at only 34 years of age. Her untimely death was a terrible tragedy. However, everything was in order for her unexpected departure. The children had all been provided with new clothing. Extra quilts had been made. Fruits and vegetables had been canned, while Hattie was at the old Cranney Home in Logan for her confinement, where she had first gone as a bride 14 years earlier.

Hattie’s death was a terrible shock to her husband, her children and relatives and friends. Bessie Adamson from Wellsville, Utah stayed with the older children and their father on the farm. Kind relatives cared for the younger children. Hattie’s sister Alice Lyon, took the tiny baby, Leslie, and cared for him for a few years. Grandma Harriet kept 1 ½ year old Fay until she was 13. She also had Cleo and Claire until Willard married Stensa Jansen 4 years later. The life of Hattie Woolf Cranney was a short, active and full one. Her children, except Eldon, grew to maturity and have provided her with a long list of honorable descendants who are thankful for her sturdy character and their birthright from this good woman. By Viva Cranney Munk, Daughter

Typed into the computer by Kathleen Jardine Woolf 21 Oct. 2002 Idaho Falls, Idaho
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