

LULO HANCEY ERLANDSON
1875-1970

Lulo Hancey was the daughter of James Hancey and his 2nd wife Louisa Purser Hancey. She was born 9 May 1875 at the family home in Hyde Park, Utah. She was the 7th child, and the youngest daughter in a family of 9 children, 6 of whom grew to maturity. The records show that on 6 Jan. 1876 she was christened by Robert Daines who Bishop of the ward at that time. Although she was christened Lulo, she was always known as Lula.

These were polygamy days in the LDS Church and were difficult days for wives and families. The town of Hyde Park was still in the early days of its settlement and development. Father James was busy serving the community as doctor and dentist, as well as a carpenter and machinist. We wonder how much time he was able to spend with his family as he had 12 living children at this time and married his 3rd wife, Annie Marie Christophersen, in Oct. 1879. Each wife had their own individual home and they were all located in close proximity to each other and to James's shop. It is known that family members played and associated with each other into their teenage years. Rachel Seamons Hancey, James's first wife, whom he married in England, was a "second mother" or grandmother to the other 2 families.

There was an elementary school in Hyde Park and all the children attended school. Their social life was usually part of their church activities. Lula was baptized on her 8th birthday, 9 May 1883, by Thomas Duce and confirmed on 12 May 1883 by Benjamin Hymas.

The children of these pioneers families were taught to work. Not only did they help with household chores, but they hired out to other people whenever possible to earn a few extra dollar. Not too much is known of Lula's early childhood days. However, when her mother, Louisa, took her 2 youngest sons and went to Idaho to homestead in the Snake River area. Lula remained in Logan. She attended Utah State Agricultural College in Logan (now known as Utah State University). It was there that she met Otto B. Erlandson from Payson, Utah, as he, too, was a student at the College. Lula and Otto were married on 12 June 1895 in Logan, Utah. In October 1895, they went to Salt Lake Temple for the Temple blessings and sealing. After their marriage, they moved to Payson, Utah, and lived there the rest of their lives.

Otto Erlandson was a hard-working and prominent man in the community. He was a farmer, and was proud of his fine team of white horses. He and his brother, Henry, were partners in orcharding. Their large, productive peach orchard was located below Strawberry Canal east of Payson. At peach time each year, Otto and Lula would bring a load of peaches to her family in Cache Valley including some of her father's 3rd wife Annie Marie. Otto's sons Roland and Wendell later took over this business. Otto and his brother Henry were also in the lumber and hardware business. This, too, was a successful enterprise as they expanded their business and built and operated a hardware store in Santaquin as well as the one in Payson. Being involved in the lumber business, Otto also became a building contractor and built several homes in the town.

Otto built a beautiful new home for Lula. Their yard was beautifully landscaped with shrubs and flowers. It was truly a "show place" for the community. Gardening was a hobby for Lula. She helped to organize and belonged to local flower clubs. Together members could share flower bulbs and starts, and information in caring for them. As a result, there were many yards in the community with beautiful flower gardens and well-kept yards. Lula especially liked roses and always had a beautiful rose garden, even into her older years.

Lula enjoyed sewing. She never owned a sewing machine so did everything by hand.

She would order many of her dresses from a catalog firm, and when they were received she would remodell them to her liking-all sewing done by hand. She even made curtains for the windows of her home and was proud of her tiny, neat stitches done with her needle and thread.

She was always busy in her home making it attractive and enjoyable for her husband and family. She reupholstered some of her furniture and had satisfaction in the finished project. She was a good cook and prepared delicious and nutritious meals for her family. As she had been taught in her home, and as was the custom, she preserved fruits and vegetables from their garden for winter use.

Lula never owned a washing machine and sent all of her laundry to the local laundry to be done by them. This would certainly help the business.

The Payson Camp of the Utah Daughters of Pioneer was organized in Payson in May 1922, and Lula was a charter member. She always took an active part in this organization and served as an officer. It is assumed this indicates her respect and appreciation for her pioneer heritage. She belonged and took an active part in the Caltus Club in the community, and served at least one term as president. The Caltus Club was a woman's organization comparable to the Chamber of Commerce which had been organized for the male members of the community.

Another hobby of Lula's was reading. She did not waster her time on the "trashy" material, but was an avid reader of all kinds of good books. She was an active member of the community Literary Club and gave many book reports to the members. She wrote poetry, some of which was published in the local newspaper.

She was involved in church activities, especially the Relief Society and helped in the homemaking department, as well as being a visiting teacher.

While Lula was involved with and busy in the community blubs and activities, Otto was busy with his businesses, and he also had tome to serve the church and community. He was appointed a school board trustee in 1897 and was involved in the plans and building of the Peeteetneet Elementary School. It was completed and in use by Jan. 1902, and the building is still in use in 1987. Otto was Bishop of the Payson 1st Ward from 1928 to 1933. A new ward meeting house was built at 225 South 4th East during this period.

Otto and Lula were one of the first in the community to own a car. Lula never drove a car, but they enjoyed going for rides in the evenings to enjoy the countryside. Lula was afraid of heights and did not enjoy rides in the mountains. They came to Logan, Utah to visit her sister, Lettie, but Lula disliked traveling through Sardine Canyon on the old road from Brigham City to Logan. It was a high and winding and was frightening to her.

Lula was a very private person, never personal with her family, not even her daughters-in-law. She was a proud individual and kept herself well-groomed and her house neat and clean. It is told that as her hair was turning gray, she would color it by using "Rit Dye." This probably wasn't too good for the hair, but it colored the gray.

Lula and Otto were the parents of 2 sons---- - Otto Wendell and Roland Bernard. They were given the nicknames of Jimmy and Script, respectively, and were always known by those nicknames. Both sons worked with their father in his businesses, and were prominent in community activities. Wendell died in 1948 at the age of 47. The obituary notice outlines his many achievements and accomplishments including a Veteran of World War I and a member of the American Legion. He was the father of 2 children—one son and one daughter.

Roland was married but never had a family. He was killed in a car-pedestrian accident in Salt Lake City in 1961. This was a sad day for Lula as her husband had passed away in 1956,

and now she was alone.

Lula continues to live in her own home and cared for herself. Her granddaughter, who lived in Salt Lake City, would go to Payson every week or so to help her with grocery shopping and cleaning the house. Lula was proud and independent and insisted on living alone and caring for herself until at the age of 95 she passed away on 24 March 1970. She was buried in the Payson City Cemetery next to her husband and 2 sons.

Information furnished by the family and taken from the book JAMES HANCEY AND HIS FAMILY Publ. 1988

Typed into the computer 30 Oct. 2002 Kathleen Jardine Woolf Idaho Falls, Idaho