HANNAH ELIZABETH HANCEY PRICE

Information furnished by her family.

It was on 2 Aug. 1873, that the 10th child, a daughter, was born to James Hancey and his first wife Rachel Seamons Hancey. She was christened Hannah Elizabeth on 6 Dec. 1873 by Robert Daines.

Hyde Park was settled in 1860 by Mormons, and James and Rachel were among the original settlers. James was a polygamist and had a 2nd wife, Louisa Purser in 1865. In 1979, he took a 3rd wife, Annie Marie Christophersen.

In 1874, when Hannah was born, the population in the town of Hyde Park had increased to about 400. These pioneer days were days of hardship, but the saints were bound together with a unity of faith and courage and purpose. As has been said “they worked together, they worshipped together, they suffered together and they played and rejoiced together.” The Northern Railroad was built through Cache Valley at this time and it furnished work for a number of men, a blessing to all. Hyde Park now had a store, a meeting house, and a school house. The social activities were usually church activities. Children went to school and to Sunday School. It is assumed Hannah participated in these activities. She was taught the Gospel in her home by her mother, and on 8 Aug. 1881, she was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church by John W. Woolf, Jr. At this time it was customary for children to be baptized in the canal that had been built through the town, and this is, no doubt, where Hannah was baptized.

Both of Hannah’s sisters married and moved to Iona, Idaho. In the summer of 1888, Hannah went to Iona to visit her sister, Mary Eliza Metcalf. It was on this visit she met William Henry Price. He courted her during the summer until she returned to her home in Hyde Park to continue her schooling. Will came to Hyde Park in July 1889 to visit and continue the courtship, and it was on 31 Dec. 1890 that they were married in the Logan Courthouse by Judge Fullmer.

After their marriage, they returned to Iona, Idaho and established their home. They were young, Will was 21 and she only 17, but they were happy and ready to make a home and rear a family. Their first home consisted of one room. As the family grew, 3 more rooms were added. At that time, there were only 3 other log houses between their place and Eagle Rock. There were no set roads or fences in the area.

These were pioneer days in the Idaho area, and Hannah continued to endure the hardships of the day. Loneliness was one of the trying experiences and Hannah was alone much of the time while her husband worked on the early canals built in the area. Will Price was a progressive man and acquired considerable land. He took special pride in having a well-equipped farm and fine horses. In Oct. 1905, they had the first rural telephone for miles around. They also had the first hay press and grain binder.

They took time from their hard work to have some fun. Neighborhood dances were often held in the Price garage. The family took great pleasure from camping and fishing, and they arranged to spend at least 2 weeks each summer camping in the mountains. These trips were usually shared with friends and relatives. Will loved to hunt and was an expert marksman. Along with his brother-in-law, Art Hancey, he was a charter member of the Idaho Falls Rod & Gun Club.

Hannah possessed a good measure of wit and charm. She had an abundant capacity for fun, and although she had much work to do with raising a large family and cooking for hired
men, she always had time to entertain company. Her happiness was in managing a comfortable and happy home. Will and Hannah were the parents of 8 children, 7 of whom grew to maturity. They are: Mary Florence, Bertha May, William Lorin, Maude Alta, Thelma June, Gilbert Glen and Frank Eugene. Ezetta was the 2nd child and died when 5 years of age. The children were all born in Iona, excepting Maude Alta, who was born in 1900 in Hyde Park, Utah. It is interesting to note she was delivered by her Grandfather James Hancey’s 3rd wife, Annie Marie, who was a midwife in the Hyde Park area at that time.

Will and Hannah lived for 62 years in the same house. But it was more than a house, it was a home, for as Edgar A. Guest said “It takes a heap of livin’ in a house to make it home.” Theirs was a home where they worked and played together, where happiness and love were shared, and where moral standards and ideals were taught.

Hannah suffered a stroke and passed away 10 May 1952, at the age of 77. Will continued to live in the old home with his son Gilbert, until the following year on 24 Sep. 1953, he passed away quietly in his sleep. His 84th birthday had just passed on Sept. 18th.

MY MOTHER by Maude Price Timmermeyer (daughter)

My mother, Hannah Elizabeth Hancey Price, came to Idaho when she was 14 to stay the summer with her sister Eliza who lived near a little settlement called “Iona”. My Dad owned a place near Eliza’s and met my mother when she was 16. As she spoke to us of her life as a young girl in Hyde Park, and told of the hardships the pioneers endured there and how cheerful and friendly they were, she seemed very proud of them.

When she was 10, she went to work for a family nearby for a dollar a week. Her half brother, Fred, was the one she mentioned most because of the pranks he pulled and the jokes he told on his family and friends. Fred carved a rolling pin out of mahogany for Mother’s wedding present. My daughter, Caryl, has it now. Mother had a high sense of humor and a wonderful memory. She loved to recite poems in public, and she would sing nursery songs to us as she nursed her young baby.

Water was carried from a stream nearby; she had a hand washer, no conveniences as we know them now. 8 hired men and her family were given well-balanced meals 3 times a day. We were always clean and she sewed late into the night making our clothes. Everybody who came were always made welcome. She established moral standards and ideals for us; loved us and my Dad, and lived a happy, but not easy life.

Mother visited us once while we were living in Los Angeles, and another time, she and daddy spent Christmas with us when we lived in Oceanside, Ca. She bragged about getting a suntan on Christmas day while sitting on our patio.

She and my husband Bob were great friends. He called her “Hannah”. They played cards and checkers. They always tried to cheat each other.

When we were in Idaho, we would take mother to church in a station wagon. How that thrilled her. Mother loved beautiful flowers so we took her for rides in the country and the hills to see the wild flowers.

Mother was a jewel in a rough setting. When she passed away, we were bereft, and from then on the family scattered. She was the family cornerstone.

By Thelma Price Bixby (daughter) I have loving memories of times mother and I spent together during my grade and high school years. Most of the family had left the “nest” and I was the only girl left, along with 2 younger brothers.
Mother had an innate appreciation of artistic forms and colors as reflected in her hand-made rugs and quilts. Her pies were a gourmet treat for all. The pie crusts were made with lard which she had rendered. She made many pies for Relief Society and social functions when food was served. During the canning season, mother canned hundreds of quarts of fruits, jams, jellies, preserves and pickles that lasted until the next canning season. She dried apples and corn to be eaten and enjoyed during the winter months.

We had a phonograph which was purchased from Sear, Roebuck & Co. After playing a record a few times, mother memorized it and used the material in her readings in Primary as well as for programs of church gatherings.

Many times at night mother would mix bread and let it “proof” over night. Early the next morning we would awaken to the smell of baked bread; usually 6 loves.

When the family got together in later years, all spoke of mother’s love and dedication to the family. This was reflected in her handling of problems arising between us children. She never spanked us. Her method of correction would be to say something in Danish, we didn’t know what it was, and tell us to go outside to settle matters. And we did just that.

When the grandchildren and their friends came home from school, they always had the bus let them off at mother’s home. She entertained them with stories and poems. The neighborhood children always called her “Grandma”. Mother looked forward to visits with grandchildren and her Relief Society Visiting Teachers. She was adamant that we children get an education, and made many sacrifices to make it possible. She took a great interest in all phases of our lives.

Lauren (Mrs. Dick) Lee  Granddaughter  Hannah was a kind, hard-working woman who did her best to make the children happy. Being a dutiful wife, Hannah Price never served supper unless her husband was there. Consequently, Mary Florence, her daughter, has said on occasion that her eyesight was very strong, because as a child, she had frequently stood on a chair near the window scanning the fields in order to spot her father coming in for supper at which time the family could eat. Indians were still roaming the countryside when Mary Florence, was a child, and occasionally the Indians would come to the Price home asking for food. The children were always frightened and would scurry to a hiding place, but Hannah would calmly give the Indians food and assistance.

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