ELIZABETH MARY ANN HARDY RUSSELL

Born in Cambwell, England, 21 Oct 1858, the 2nd child of James and Mary Ann Hyde Hardy. She came to America with her parents in 1863, when she was 5 years old. She came directly to Provo, where she spent her girlhood days. She knew all the hardships of Pioneer life. With her mother and brother, Harold, she gleaned the wheat fields of their land that they might have bread for the family. They would bring the wheat home and thresh it the best they could, and then Harold would take the wheat to the mill and get it ground into flour. She tells how she and her brothers have cried for bread, when there was none to be had.

Her education was at the Brigham Young Academy under the tutorship of Karl G. Maeser, being one of his original 29 students. She made her home for a time with the Henry Dixon family, where she met Alonzo Russell, whom she married in the Old Endowment House in 1878. She then moved with her husband to Grafton, Washington Co., Utah, where they lived on a farm. She again felt like a pioneer. Her first real sorrow overtook her in the death of her baby boy, Clarence. Her father being called to go back to his native country as a missionary for his church, she, her husband, and baby came to Provo to bid him farewell. While here her father-in-law wrote her and cautioned her to be careful and not let the baby get near water. All went well until they were 3 miles from their home, when the wagon broke down, while stopping to have it repaired the baby toddled away and fell in the ditch and was drowned. It was necessary to remain here 3 days for a little casket to be made by hand for the burial.

She was the mother of 8 children, 7 sons and 1 daughter. 4 of her sons preceded her in death. One of her sons she gave to her country-Sterling enlisted in the World War I in 1917, and was in battle throughout the war. He lost his life on the battle field of France 7 Nov. 1918, just 4 days before the Armistice was signed. Her living children are Harold of Springdale, Utah, Alphonzo of Alberta, Canada, Eugene of Orderville, Utah and Juanitta Muhlestein of Pleasant View of Provo, Utah.

Her faith in her Heavenly Father was manifested in many ways. Her daughter tells how she would ask all of the occupants of the wagon to get out & kneel down & pray before going down a dangerous embankment, when going to a near-by town. And they were always protected from accident. She would often kneel at the bedside of a loved one, who was sick and pray for the Lord to make them well, and almost instantly healing would be the result. To go to church the river had to be crossed, & she, her sister-in-law and little daughter would take off their shoe and stockings and wade the river to get to church which was 2 miles at Rockville.

Her religious activity was in the Relief Society and Primary. She was an officer in the Primary in Grafton and a Relief Society Teacher there at the Manavu Ward in Provo at the time of her death. After 30 days of illness she passed away in 1923.

Typed into the computer Oct. 2002 Kathleen Jardine Woolf  Idaho Falls, Idaho
Information from Provo Ward Records