

## ELIZABETH ELLEN CONDER ROBERTS

*Written by: Leilia Campbell Roberts (Daughter-in-law)  
Transcription, with errors:: Chad Glen Nichols (2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grandson), 31 Oct 2004*

Elizabeth Ellen Conder was born in Salt Lake City, Utah November 11, 1850 two weeks after her parents arrived from crossing the plains. She was the daughter of Ellen Pierce and Edward Conder.

With her family she moved to American Fork, Utah. One day, when Elizabeth was just a young girl taking the cows to the field, she met a man who asked her if she had shoes to wear, since she was bare foot. She told him "yes" but was saving them for Sundays. Later she started to keep company with the young man and he gave her two pair of nice new shoes as a present, but her father would not let her keep them. This courtship lead to marriage and then it was that young man again gave the young lady the shoes. This man proved to be John J. Roberts. He was from Oldbury, Staffordshire, England, having been born there October 31, 1841. His parents were William Roberts and Selina Harper. Elizabeth and John were married February 21, 1870 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah.

John worked for James Chipman and John R. Hindley freighting. Later he went to work up American Fork canyon in the saw mill. While at this work, he lost three of his fingers. This was in the year 1882. Because of the accident John was out of work for some time, but his wife, Elizabeth, met this situation bravely and did all she could to lighten the burden. Their sons were also willing to help out where ever they could.

In about the year 1887, one of the daughters, Mary Emma, drank lye by mistake. She was restored to life in answer to prayer and a vision which Elizabeth had of her father who appeared to her and told Elizabeth that her child would live after everyone else had given her up as dead.

Elizabeth was a good mother and neighbor and always had time to help those in need. In the summer time, she was in demand to help family and friends 'put up' their fruit. She was known for her good pickles and soap making.

The Roberts took great pride in their home. They grew beautiful flowers about the front yard and always had a fine vegetable garden, which provided much of their winter foods.

Elizabeth was a good housekeeper and an excellent cook, 'making out' with whatever they had on hand.

John always spoke highly of his family, of how thoughtful the children were of their parents. He told his family many times, that to be honest and poor was better than to be rich and not honest.

Elizabeth did washings for people. In that day before the invention of washers, laundry was done mostly on the wash board with home made soap. This kept Elizabeth and her daughters busy, but it also helped those who needed this task done.

She was the mother of eleven children: Sarah Ellen, John, William, Edward, Joseph Pierce, Selina, Mary Emma, Rose Ann, Ren, Rachel Elizabeth and Ermina.

After a long illness, her husband died February 9, 1914 in American Fork, Utah. She passed on in June 21, 1919. She remained a true Latter-day Saint through-out her life and was loved by all who knew her.

We, the off spring of such as they, hope to do honor to them by lives of kindness, love, devotion and service.