

Short History of Elizabeth Ann Ferguson

Written by Margaret Alice Robinson as included in a letter to Catherine O'Donnell Kump Hiatt dated 7 Dec 1952. Transcription 10 Dec 2004 by Chad G. Nichols (great grandson of Catherine).

Elizabeth Ann Ferguson, daughter of Thomas Ferguson and Sarah Ann Knott, was born Oct. 8, 1836 in London, England. As a young lady she and her girl friend, Anny Warren, would slip away from home to go to the Mormon cottage meetings. She was the only member of her family to accept the gospel of which her family thoroughly disapproved. Elizabeth lived with her Uncle, William, and Aunt Emma Knott. She with her Uncle and Aunt joined the church, and soon after came to the United States. It was on her journey to Utah that she met the man she was to marry, George Holyoak. They were married in Salt Lake City in the Endowment House Oct 9, 1866.

When they arrived in Parowan Elizabeth Ann was given half of the house built for Eliza, George Holyoak's first wife. Eliza and Elizabeth got along very well. It was in this house that Elizabeth raised her family of six children: Emma Elizabeth, George James, Sarah Jane, Thomas Knott, Joseph Ferguson, and Mary Ester Maria.

While her family were still young her family spent six months in the State Penitentiary for living the law of Plural Marriage. The older boys did the chores and to help make ends meet Elizabeth took in sewing, and also went out by the day. She learned to cut patterns by the Curtis Model and used to make mens and boys clothes as well as womens and girls. She practically supported her family until she had a swelling in her arm and hand and partly lost the use of her hand. She also had a colony of bees from which she made quite a little income. She worked in the Relief Society for many years.

She died April 5, 1922. She came in the Daniel Thompsen Co. in 1866.