

## ELIZABETH PRESTON WELSH HORSLEY

Elizabeth Preston Welch Horsley born March 31, 1848, near Savannah, Andrew County, Missouri. She was the daughter of John Welsh and Eliza Billington Welsh, who emigrated from England in the year 1841 on the ship "Henry," making acquaintance of one another on the boat and three years later marrying in the city of Nauvoo.

At the age of four years she, with her parents, her little sister and her grandmother Welsh, left their home in Missouri and started westward for the valley of great Salt Lake, making the trip with their own teams. They felt very sad and lonely when they had to leave their home and three uncles, a grandmother and grandfather buried in Nauvoo. The family suffered many hardships, as did other pioneers, but the Lord blessed them, and near "Chimney Rock," their hearts were made glad by the arrival of a baby girl. Here the family together with the rest of the company, made a stop for three days.

After reaching Salt Lake, the Father purchased a home in the Ninth Ward where they resided for two years, or more, and then moved to Centerville, where they made their home for about two years. In the year 1864, the family made another move, this time to Perry, Box Elder County. Three years later, March 9, 1867, Elizabeth Welsh was married in the Endowment House at Salt Lake City to William Horsley of that place. After they were married they returned to Perry to make their home. Here they resided for about ten years and while there, they kept a small branch of the Brigham Co-op Store. Later Brother Horsley was called to Brigham to superintend the Co-op store, which position he held for five and a half years and was then called on a mission to England. He was away during the years 1885 and 1886, returning in 1887. All this time Sister Horsley had the care and the responsibility of training the six children, which she did nobly, and a great credit is due her. During this time she, with her boys started the store, or business, known as "Wm. Horsley and Sons". Fifteen years later Brother Horsley filled a second mission of two years, or more, again leaving the responsibility of the family with Sister Horsley. They were blessed with eight children, all being born in Box Elder County.

This is but a brief sketch of a life which was noble and devoted to her family and religion to the last degree. No complaint has ever passed the lips of this faithful wife and mother. Her duties were faithfully performed and have always been a pleasure. She is not seventy years of age.

## LIFE SKETCH OF ELIZABETH PRESTON WELCH HORSLEY

Elizabeth Preston Welch Horsley, daughter of John Welch and Eliza Billington Welch, was born March 31, 1848, near Savannah, Missouri. Her parents crossed the plains and arrived in Salt Lake City in the year 1852, when Elizabeth was four years of age. The only thing she remembered of her birthplace was of sitting on the banks of the Platt River with her sister Maria. While journeying over the plains, the tipping over of their wagon while crossing the river was very vivid in her memory.

They lived in Salt Lake City a short time, then moved to Centerville where she spent a happy childhood and early girlhood. At the age of sixteen Elizabeth was full of life, her surroundings looked attractive to her and she had bright hopes for the future. It was a sore trial, indeed, for her to have to leave her girlhood companions and schoolmaster to whom she had become so attached, and move to a strange community to make new friends and acquaintances. Her father took up a farm in Perry, Box Elder County, and the family moved there to make their home. While in Centerville, it being only a short distance from Salt Lake City, she made many trips to town with her father to sell his produce. All her life she retained a pleasant memory of her Centerville friends and loved to reminisce of her girlhood days spent there. Elizabeth had a very unselfish and sympathetic nature. She was a favorite of her grandmother Welch, who lived near them in a log cabin. For many years she slept with her grandmother and was a companion to her. She shared the household duties with her sisters. Their mother had the work so well planned, having them take turn about, that no arguments or disputes were necessary. Each girl did her given task cheerfully.

A short time before Elizabeth was married she was stricken with scarlet fever. She became so ill that her life was despaired of. While her

mother was sitting by her bedside weeping, expecting each moment to be the last, a power came over her and she recalled the promises that had been given this daughter when she was blessed and given a name. "I immediately dried my tears," said the mother, "my faith was sufficiently strong and I knew my daughter would be healed and live to see her blessing fulfilled."

Shortly after her recovery, she was married to Wm. Horsley at the age of nineteen on March 9, 1867, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. Daniel H. Wells officiated in the ceremony. Elizabeth's early married life was spent in a little log house on a small portion of rented land near her father's farm. This humble beginning did not seem to mar their happiness or retard their future progress. We quote the following from a diary her husband kept: "Our house was humble, our furniture scarce, as everything was high priced at that time, and I had to make my way entirely alone, but the Lord blessed me with a good wife who was both economical and industrious and we struggled on in unity and contentment." They prospered and in a few years built themselves a comfortable home on their own land. Later on William was called by the Co-operative Association to travel, calling on all small settlements enroute to purchase their produce in exchange for groceries and supplies. This left the responsibility of farm duties on Elizabeth and the small boys. She accepted it uncomplainingly. Their united thrift and economy soon permitted them to build a very pretentious home for those days. It was with many regrets she left this new home, having lived in it but a short time, to move to Brigham City where her husband had been made Superintendent of this Co-operative Association. This position he held for seven years, when he was called to go on a mission. They moved from the Third Ward where they previously resided to property on Main Street, the site where the Horsley & Son's store now stands.

During her husband's absence she encouraged and assisted her young sons in carrying on a small produce business. On her husband's return, he enlarged this department, added general merchandise, establishing in a short time one of the most prosperous businesses in the surrounding territory.

Sometime later more children were born to them, making a family of eight. This family of five boys and three girls was reared in an atmosphere of devotion to their religion, which was life itself to their little mother. They were taught to be loyal to their fellowmen and to do their part in civic affairs. They have honored their inheritance and teachings, for they have remained true to their faith and have held positions of trust, both in their church and state. No greater reward did their dear little mother desire.

Elizabeth was devoted to her home and its duties, but she was never too busy to search out the sick or needy and prepare food and clothing to be sent to their homes. She was active in the Relief Society Organization and was a visiting teacher for many years. She was interested in Civic affairs. She was a member and took active part in the Ladies' Republican Club. She enjoyed people and had many friends, and she loved to entertain them in her home. She was an excellent cook and prepared banquets for her friends and relatives to partake of. As a child she revered her father and continued to do so to the end. She was a lovable and dutiful daughter to her parents. The last years of her mother's life was spent in Elizabeth's home, and her every comfort was a first consideration.

She had lived a full life and was ready and willing to join her husband and two children who had preceded her in death. On the 8th of April 1924, she went to meet her loved ones, and her last words were her testimony to the truth of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.