

HISTORY OF ANNIE HOWE SMITH

By her daughter Patience Smith Adams

Annie Howe Smith, daughter of Thomas and Hannah Masters Howe, was born on November 29, 1850, in Sutton, Warwick, England. At the age of fourteen, she worked in a lace factory which required walking three miles each way. Very often girls who worked there would be without lunch money and she would share her lunch with them.

Missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints found the Howe family and converted them. Moses Thatcher, one of the missionaries from Logan, Utah, helped them to come to Utah. They left England with a family of five children (one child had died before this time) and crossed the Atlantic ocean in John Bright's ship on June 4, 1869, with 722 saints. They arrived in New York, New York, on July 23, 1869, being seven weeks enroute to America. John McCraw and Fredrick C. Anderson were in charge of the company. The weather was rough and during a terrible storm, Annie went on deck alone. She was thrilled with the sight of the high waves. The captain, knowing she did not realize the danger, took hold of her almost frightening her to death, and sent her below. One saddening incident occurred when a child of the family died and was buried at sea.

After arriving in America, the family cross the plains in covered wagons to Utah. The Howe family settled in Salt Lake City and were active in the Church. Thomas worked for President Wilford Woodruff for a time, and later the family moved to American Fork to help settle that community. At that time, Annie was allowed to come to Logan to live with Moses Thatcher family, where she stayed for six months. These people helped her to overcome her homesickness, and along with the Baugh and Quinney families, who had been friends in England, she soon felt better. She was a friendly and outgoing person who loved people. She didn't have an opportunity for much formal schooling as her parents did not have the necessary finances.

Church was held in the "old hall" on the corner of Main and First North Street in Logan. Thomas X. Smith was the bishop of the Fourth Ward. Later she was told that he remarked to a man next to him on the first day that she attended church, "That girl coming in the door is going to be my wife." This became a fact a year later when in 1869 they were married in The Endowment House in Salt Lake City. At that time, the three day journey from Logan to Salt Lake was made in a wagon.

Annie was his second wife and became the mother of 11 children, seven girls and four boys. Four children died before reaching adulthood. A little girl, Adaelad, was accidentally burned and lived six weeks suffering terribly. Annie was alone at the time...they had a large fireplace. She had no cradle, so made a bed in a big chair for the sleeping baby. She heard the cows get out of the barn and to prevent them from eating the garden, she ran out after them. The noise awoke the baby and she fell out of the big chair, crawled to the fireplace and was badly burned. Mother never did get over watching that child suffer before she died six weeks later. Soon after they moved from that place to a one-room house. There was not much furniture. She made some out of boxes, cutting up some petticoats for coverings. Later her husband built a six-room home, Fifth North and Second East. She really though they had moved to the country. Her husband said: "This will be the best part of the city some day." Today it really is. She lived there the remainder of her life. There was an acre of land, and they had a farm 10 miles out of town. She planted a Virginia creeper vine at the west corner of the porch which grew to make a cozy corner to play and work in. They planted a good garden, fruit trees, raised horses, cows, pigs and chickens. She had a good rock-lined well with good water. In the summer, after churning cream she would put the butter in a bucket and fasten it to the top of the well for coolness. She would cook three meals a day for the thrashers and sometimes would take food to them in the fields in the wagon. They were surely hearty eaters. She would cook days ahead, making 20 pies at a time and many loaves of bread in order to be prepared for their appetites.

It was hard living in polygamy as some of her husband's first wife's children were older than she. She was left alone very often. She was very active in the Church. No tribulation, however, severe, dampened her zeal. Nothing embittered or disturbed her faith. She endured without murmuring over hardships, hunger and toil; her faith in God was wonderful. She was a good wife for a bishop, always looking for needy and suffering, and then telling her husband.

When she had four living children, her husband was called on a mission to England. She worked hard at anything she could do to support her family. At this time, the first wife, Margaret, died and left ten children. Since it was impossible for Thomas to return home, he remained in the mission field to finish his mission. Annie did everything in her power to help the first family such as curing pork, rendering lard and sending milk and vegetables to them.

When Thomas returned home, the law was after him for practicing polygamy and he went underground for awhile. But through it all Annie never wavered and always told the children not to say anything against polygamy as it was a commandment of God at that time. Annie was a Relief Society Visiting Teacher for the most part of her life and many times she would divide what flour she had with some one she knew was in need. With her Relief Society companion, she went to homes where there was sickness, cleaned for them and helped in other ways. She did her part cleaning the church building too.

They were not without pleasure and fun. With her friends, she would go to various homes to participate in rug and quilting bees. They would stay all day, have dinner together, and would leave in time to be home and have supper ready for the family. Children, who were not in school, were included on these days and shared in the fun.

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Her husband passed away January 1, 190⁷. This was the recorded date but he died December 31, 1906, just before midnight. After the children were raised, she spent most of her time in the temple, having done 1400 names. During the flu epidemic of 1917-18, Annie was in Salt Lake with her daughter Jennie, who was very ill. She was alone with her and her two small children. Jennie's husband, Edwin C. Stoddard worked for the railroad and was in Pocatello on business. Annie went to the drug store for medicine, being in a hurry, she got confused in her directions and was lost for two hours. She stopped and asked God to direct her home. When she reached there, Jennie was unconscious and died soon after leaving the two small children, Cleve 20 months and Ruth 9 months. The children were taken to another sisters, Marie Kimball who raised them. They could not stay with their father as his job required him to be away from home too much. They grew to be fine outstanding citizens with families of their own.

Annie Howe Smith's last words were to keep the faith and do all we can for others and never forget that God comes first, the all will be well. She died November 16, 1925, at the home of her daughter Fannie Goodsell, leaving a rich heritage of two sons, four daughters and eighteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She was just a few days from being 75 years old.