

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ELIZA CATHERINE PINNOCK HUNTER



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Eliza Catherine Pinnock Hunter, daughter of William Pinnock and Sarah Ann Brown was born in Coventry, Warwick Co., England 4 March 1846. When she was ten years of age her family was converted to the Latter Day Saint faith. At this time the people were so prejudiced against the Saints, that it was necessary to do all baptizing at night only. So on a cold night in December, the Pinnock family were baptized in the Thames River after breaking the ice to have the ordinance performed. In spite of the precautions taken, the mob heard of this gathering, and before the Saints could dress the mob came after them. They had to seize their clothing in their arms and flee to safety. From this time on the Pinnock home was always opened to the missionaries. Often Elder Frances M. Lyman and Brigham Young Jr. were their guests. Eliza's mother had been a school teacher, and she often helped these missionaries in the study of scriptures, and shared in their discussion of the gospel. It was Eliza's delight to walk with Elders Lyman and Young to the crossroad to prevent their losing their way back to headquarters.

One day when Eliza came from the market with a bottle of milk, Elder Young jokingly asked what they called that. When they said it was milk he laughed and said, "Sister Pinnock you can call it milk if you want to but when you come to Utah, I'm going to see that you get some real milk, and give you a cow too." Brother Young kept his word, for when the Pinnock's came to Utah he did give them a cow.

Eliza showed marked musical talent even when very young. When only five years old, she sang with a special group of Three Hundred children for Queen Victoria, and from the age of fourteen until she emigrated, she was a member of the London Choir. At the age of fourteen, with

nineteen other girls, Eliza was employed in a Taylor shop, where ladies coats and mantels were made. Their employer would have no one but Sunday School Teachers, because he demanded high social standards though he never inquired as to what church they belonged. As the girls worked they often sang, but their employer insisted that their songs be Hymns. It was while working here that Eliza saved enough money to pay her way to Utah.

She left her homeland for America, in Eighteen Sixty Two, embarking at Liverpool on May fourteenth just one year before the other members of her family. The Tabacott was the ship on which she sailed and William Gibson was in charge of the L.D.S. group of emigrants. Eliza turned sixteen on board.

Upon arriving at New Orleans, they sailed up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. Here they were organized into companies to cross the plains. The Captain of the company to which Eliza was placed, was John D. T. McAllister. The only hat that Eliza possessed at this time was a real small one with tiny pink roses in the front and after wearing it for two weeks her face became so burned that she traded the hat to another woman for a broad rimmed one. She prized this new one and was very careful with it, but one night while in their tent a terrible wind came up blowing the tent nearly away. Eliza's hat blew out of the tent and rolled down the hill, and out she went after it as fast as she could go, not heeding the howling of wolves that went prowling near by. After recovering her hat and getting safely back to camp she received a sharp reprimanding from the woman who had her in charge, for being so reckless.

In the camp were five other young girls besides Eliza, and they walked practically the entire way across the plains. When the company crossed the Platte River, the captain thought he would have some fun with the girls. A dozen or two Indians rode up on their ponies and offered to take the girls across. Captain McAllister took one of the girls behind him and went across telling the other girls they would either have to wade or ride behind the Indians. The girls were frightened of the Indians and Eliza vowed that she never could ride behind one. One gayly dressed Indian took a fancy to her, however, and offered to take her across, and her only. An old man of the company lifted the girls upon the horses, but when it came Eliza's turn she slid back down. After being lifted up the third time, the Indian threw his arm back and around her and on they went across.

The company arrived in Salt Lake City in September 1862.

The first lady she lived with in Salt Lake was a Mrs. White, a music teacher. She lived in several families as she had to earn her living. Eliza taught school for three months in Salt Lake City.

The following year her parents came to Salt Lake City and after staying there for about two weeks, they were called to come to Iron County. They came here in the late fall of 1863. Eliza came with them. When the Saints came to Cedar, Bishop Henry Lunt had them stay in the old Social Hall. This family occupied the dressing rooms of the hall until they could get located. While the Pinnock family were staying there, the Ward held a Seventy's party in the hall, which the Bishop invited them to attend. The custom was that the men and boys sat on the north side, while the woman and girls sat on the south side. The Pinnock family sat with the woman and girls. Across the hall were the men and boys. Joseph Hunter looked at the beautiful Eliza, then said to those near him, "There is my future wife."

The two became acquainted at this party and the following year Jan. 1, 1865 they were married by Bishop Henry Lunt. In 1867 they went through the Endowment House.

They had their trials and hardships from the beginning but both were brave and courageous and met them as they came. They first lived in the Old Fort for about one month, then moved up to the new city. Here they lived for about two years in a little log house belonging to Brother George Wood. This little house stood in the yard back of the big Wood House and still stands, but has been given to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, and may be seen in the City Park on Main Street.

The young husband rented a farm, so in the irrigating season, Eliza was left alone a lot of the time. Then it was that Sister Lizzie Leigh would go in and stay with her. They would read to each other by the light of pitch pine splinters. One would hold the torch until her arm ached then the other would take it.

From the little log house they moved into a cellar. Here they lived until two rooms were built above it, then how proud they were of their little home. The day the roof was put on their house, Eliza, with her baby under one arm, a fresh loaf of bread and a bottle of milk in the other ran up to eat dinner with her husband in their very own home. It was while living in this cellar home that Eliza became very ill. When she recovered she had partially lost her hearing. This affliction remained with her the rest of her life.

Eliza had a good supply of clothing when she came to Cedar City, among which was a long heavy cloak. In her early married life, when her babies were small, and shoes and clothing hard to get, she made them a new pair of moccasins out of this cloak every Saturday night so they would be clean and new for Sunday. She also did her own spinning. As Joseph walked to and from the field, he gathered bits of wool, from fences and bushes, that had been snagged from the sheep as they passed. He took these bits of wool home. This young wife washed carded, spun and knit into two pairs of socks for her husband. Because she wanted to make them a little bit nicer than common, she kept the black wool separate from the white until it was spun, then she twisted a black strand with a white one to make the yarn. When this yarn was knit into socks they were speckled black and white. She carded and spun her yarn but had it woven into cloth at the mill which stood by the creek just south and west of the bridge on the road that leads to the canyon. They had to wait their turn at the mill to get their yarn woven into cloth. Sometimes it would be a wait of several weeks.

When their son William was born, Eliza had only one outfit of clothes for him, as she had been unable to get her yarn woven, so Joseph exchanged their yarn with Sister Maggie Walker for cloth and on the third day she sat up in bed and made her baby another outfit of clothes.

At times on special occasions they had spinning bees. Most of the clothing was made from cloth woven here. When Eliza first made her husband a pair of pants, she took an old pair to pieces to use as a pattern. She cut the new ones by them, but couldn't put them together. She got one of her neighbors, who was a tailor, to show her how it was done. She kept the old pair to use as a pattern and all the women of the neighborhood borrowed them.

Eliza was very talented. She had a wonderful voice and sang in the choir until she had a family of four children. The choir leader at this time was Brother John Macfarlane. She could read

