



LYDIA SOPHRONIA THORN PERRY HALL
By Elner Hall, a granddaughter.

Lydia Sophronia Thorn, the eighth child of Ashael Thorn and Sarah Lester, was born 30 June 1843, in ~~Essex Co., New York~~. She had three brothers and six sisters. Her mother died when she was a child and her father came to Utah to be with the Saints.

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They lived at Three Mile Creek (Perry) Utah. Grandfather had a big farm, on which were two springs, a large house, granary and a tool house.

He also had a saw mill and a molasses mill. Grandmother and her younger sister, while herding the cows, made playthings of clay. Evenings they would knit stockings and had to do a certain amount before going to bed. Grandmother often helped her younger sister so that they could go to bed together. ^{There} Being no school near by, their schooling was very limited.

Grandmother had a good memory and ability as a story-teller. She often told stories to her small daughter and her friends and in later years, her grandchildren loved to stay overnight with her and hear her stories.

Grandmother had a very interesting incident happen to her when a young girl at home. She dreamed of finding a small girl on the hillside with a handful of sun flowers and her tongue swollen from thirst. While she was telling her step-mother her dream, her brother came in and told them about some emigrants by the name of Holdbrook, staying at night to rest and their small daughter being lost. The family, neighbors and some soldiers had searched all night without finding her. Her step-mother urged her to go and look for the child where she had seen her in her dream. Grandmother was advised that such a small child could not have wandered across the creek full of water without drowning. She found the child as

Seen in her dream.

A Dr. Claw wrote a lengthy poem about the incident. The following are the last three verses:

"And there upon the rock hill
Which rose beside the stream,
She saw a wandering child alone
Then wakened from her dream.

At noon so singularly impressed
Her dream she did relate;
Nor had she at that moment learned
Such was the case at stake.

But as tidings to her came
With rapid haste she strayed,
Leading the tireless searchers
Her vision seemed portrayed".

Grandmother's homelife was unpleasant when her father was away to work. Her step-mother was childless, harsh and had little understanding of children. Grandmother made her first button-hole by puckering the material and cutting off the end. Her step-mother ridiculed her. Her father asked his wife why she didn't show the child how instead of ridiculing her.

Grandmother married when very young, about fifteen years old. She became the second wife of Henry Elisha Perry. They were married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake. Sarah Sophronia Perry was their only child. When her child was small, she took her to Springville, to visit her younger sister, (She was Leo Robertson's father's first wife). While working at the Edward Hall home, she became acquainted with William Hall, the oldest son. After she obtained a divorce, they were married in the Endowment House. They had five sons and six daughters.

Their first home was a one room log cabin. They later had five other homes in Springville. Grandmother was a hard working wife and mother. She did her own housework, knitting, sewing, soap making, drying fruit, and

Lydia Sophronia Thorn Perry Hall

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growing a garden. Grandmother had a physical handicap in doing her work. Her right arm was improperly set when broken during her childhood.

She died March 20, 1912, at their home, 845 East Center Street, in Springville, Utah. A neighbor, Bishop Condie, was visiting with them, when she walked over to her husband, brushed back his hair and spoke to him, dying as she sat down. She was buried in the Springville, Evergreen Cemetery.

The following information was obtained from the JOURNAL HISTORY in the Church Historian's Office, pages 10, 13, and 22: The Miller and Cooley Company was organized by D.A. Miller and John W. Cooley, 8 June 1853, on the west bank of the Missouri River near old Winter Quarters. It was joined on Sunday, 12 June 1853 on east bank of the Elk Horn by Asahel Thorn- 11 persons, 3 wagons, 2 horses, 14 cattle and 28 Sheep, also joined by Joseph Thorn and Laurana Thorn. On 7 July 1853, the company divided into two divisions led by Miller and Thorn, at no time were they more than a half day's journey apart. They arrived in Salt Lake City, 9 Sept 1853.

D.D.H.

HISTORY OF
LYDIA SOPHRONIA THORN PERAY MALL(PIONEER)

BORN JUNE 30, 1843.

CAME TO UTAH SEPTEMBER 9, 1853.

WRITTEN BY

MARY L. SMART, 2nd COUSIN

OF CAMP SPRING CREEK.

OF DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

OF SOUTH UTAH COUNTY.

SPRINGVILLE, UTAH.

LYDIA SOPHRONIA THORN PERRY HALL.

Lydia Sophronia Thorn was born June 30, 1843 at LaSalle County, Illinois, the seventh child of Ashel and Sarah Lester Thorn. Her mother died when she was a child and her father came to Utah with his family along with his brothers and sisters and their families, so he could be with the Latter Day Saints in Zion.

In the spring of 1853 the Thorn and Chase families formed a company of their own and were all ready to start their journey when they went and talked with the authorities in charge of migration. They were informed that they would have to go with one of the regular companies and that one would be ready in just a few days. So they joined the Miller and Cooley Co. and left Six Mile Grove, a short distance from winter quarters on June 9, 1853. Joseph Thorn was made their Capt. and was also their blacksmith; Solomon Chase was their Medical Doctor and their wagon repairer; the older children herded the cattle ahead of the company. The only members of their company who were not members of the families were Dan Bagley and Eric Caste, who were brought along as extra teamsters with their fine teams. All the group had good outfits, so wanted to travel together and save as much time as possible. The two grandmothers (widows), Mary Ann Armstrong Thorn and Amy Scott Chase, traveled in their own light wagons. From their camp in Council Bluffs, they were three months and three days coming to Salt Lake City arriving Sept. 2, 1853. Soon after their arrival, because of the shortage of feed, Richard and Joseph took their families and cattle and sheep and went to Cedar Fort and spent the winter. Ashel Thorn moved his family to Three Mile Creek, which is now Willard, Boxelder Co., Utah. Solomon Chase stayed in Salt Lake City. In the spring Richard Thorn and Solomon Chase (whose wife was Richard's sister) moved to Big Cottonwood and Joseph Thorn went to Cache Valley and made his home. The two grandmothers made their homes among their children where ever they could do the most good in helping with the families.

Ashel Thorn bought a farm, erected a large home, a granary and tool shed. He also built a saw mill and a molasses mill. On his property were two springs, so there was good pasture for their animals. As was the custom in other families the younger children herded the cows. While the cows were grazing they busied themselves making playthings of clay. Lydia and her younger sister had to knit the stockings for the family and to make sure they completed this task, they each had to knit a certain amount each day. Lydia was a fast knitter and her younger sister would get tired and sleepy, so after Lydia finished her assignment she would help her sister do hers, so they could both go to bed together.

They lived a long way from any school so she did not learn to read and write like most children. But she was an alert child, with a marvelous memory, so was able to retell any story that was either told to her or read to her. She entertained her family and her many friends with the stories she kept in her mental storehouse.

As in many families, their food was plain but nourishing and the children were always happy when they had something special. Lydia especial-

ly liked soda biscuits. On one occasion she took one biscuit that was left over from dinner and hid it in her father's workshop, thinking to have it when she was hungry. But as many of us do, she forgot it, and when her father found the biscuit and asked who put it there, she was very embarrassed to tell him that she did.

Their father married again and their stepmother did not seem to understand the children. She seemed to feel that they should learn how to sew and do other things without any special instructions or attention. One of these incidents always remained clear in Lydia's mind. One day Lydia undertook to make some button-holes in a dress. So she folded the cloth and snipped off the end. And of course she had a squarish hole. For doing it that way her stepmother made fun of her and scolded her. Her father overheard the conversation and he asked his wife why she did not show the girl the proper way to make a button-hole and not to scold her. But through this trial and error method, Lydia became apt with the needle.

Lydia, as well perhaps, as some of the other children, did not like her step mother and she wanted to leave home but hated to do so because she dearly loved her father. So when she was only sixteen years old she married Henry Elisha Perry as his second wife. To this union was born a daughter whom they named Lydia Sophronia. Soon after this marriage Lydia had the misfortune to break her right arm, and as it was almost impossible to find anyone who could set an arm properly in those times, the arm grew stiff and became a handicap to her. This marriage caused much unhappiness with his first wife, so Lydia was not made welcome in their home, Lydia had to work hard to make a living and even with her crooked right arm she became an expert spinner of wool. Her place in the family circle still caused her much sorrow, so in a few short years she got a civil divorce but not a Temple divorce from Henry Elisha Perry. *Temple div. granted 19 Nov. 1860*

Sarah

Later she came to Springville, Utah to visit her sister, Abigail Thorn Robertson, 1st wife of Alexander Robertson. She found so much work to be done that she stayed all summer and did house work or spun wool for a number of families. It was this summer that she became acquainted with William Isaac Hall while she was working for his mother.

Lydia married William Hall on Dec. 29, 1865 in a civil ceremony and in May 1869 they went to the Endowment House and were married. To this union were born eleven children, five boys and six girls, William, Lester, Edward Ray, Cassius, Isaac, Viola, Abigail, Nancy Elenore, Arminta, Ethel and Ora. When they were first married they lived in a one room log house belonging to Jessie Ballanger on 4th South and 2nd West in Springville, Utah. As their family grew and they became more prosperous, they moved to larger homes, having lived in six different homes, all in Springville, during their lifetime together.

She was a good housekeeper and home maker. She worked hard and did the usual variety of work required to rear a family such as cooking, washing, ironing, mending, sewing, spinning wool and making cloth, drying fruits and vegetables, making batts for quilts and then making the quilts etc.

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Even as busy as we think she must have been, she still had time to go help a friend or neighbor who were in need. Her grand-daughter remembers her telling of going into homes where there were contagious diseases to help nurse the patient, yet she never contracted the disease, and she greatly lightened the burden of the suffering family.

She was desperately ill before her last child was born but was immediately helped after the Elders administered to her.

She was a kind and loving mother and always welcomed her Children's friends to their home and her story telling was an enjoyable part of their visits. To me she was a lovely person, being a cousin of my father, as her home was considered a half way house between school and home, which was a distance of one and one half miles. We were always welcome to come in, get warm and rest awhile.

Lydia's granddaughter tells one incident which occurred in her grandmother's life that depicts her faith and her ability to remember details "One night when a young girl, Lydia had a dream, In this dream she saw a child wandering on a mountain side. The next morning as she was telling her step-mother of her dream, her brother came into the house and told them of a child being lost all night. A family on their way to Oregon had stopped near by for the night. While they were making camp ready, this small child had slipped away unnoticed. In just a short time she was missed and the family started the search for her which lasted into the night. Local men also joined the search, but she had not yet been found the next morning. Lydia's step-mother was so impressed with the story that she told Lydia to go and see if she could help them find the child. The men folks tried to get Lydia not to cross the Creek and climb the hill because they felt sure that so small a child could not have crossed the creek and climbed the steep mountainside. But Lydia insisted on crossing the creek at a certain point and climbing the mountain and in just a short time she could see a child going on in head of her. She tried to call to her but the child kept going on. When Lydia finally caught up with the child, she was very frightened and had prickly pear thorns in her bare feet, some sun flowers in one hand and a hair pin (out of the bob on top of her head) in the other hand, and her tongue was swollen from thirst. This was the same child as she had dreamed about. After assuring the child that she just wanted to take her to her parents, she let Lydia carry her. As soon as Lydia got to a place where she could see the searchers below she waved her sunbonnet and the men came and carried the child to camp. Needless to say that the family were truly grateful to Lydia for her part in finding the child.

The last years of her life, Lydia suffered with a heart ailment that made it impossible for her to sleep lying down. One morning she had her regular morning work done and so went over to visit a neighbor for awhile. While she was there she complained of a terrible headache, so she went home. In a few minutes Bishop G. S. Condie, another neighbor, came. They were all visiting when she stood up, walked over to her husband, stroked his hair, said something to him that they did not quite

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understand, and went back and sat down. She gave a gasp, her arms dropped to her sides and she was gone. This happened at 11 A. M. on March 20, 1912.

Another neighbor and distant relative remembers being called in to help prepare the body after the death. She remembered going into the cellar to get fruit bottles to put ice in and pack around the body. How different were the methods of caring for the bodies in those days and now.

Funeral services were held for her in the Springville Fourth Ward Chapel and her remains were laid to rest in the Springville Evergreen Cemetery on March 22, 1912.

Written by Mary L. Smart
Member of Camp Spring Creek
Springville, Utah. Feb. 1956.

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