

Joseph Hepworth (1850) and Mary Ann Green



A Family History

by Shelley Dawson Davies

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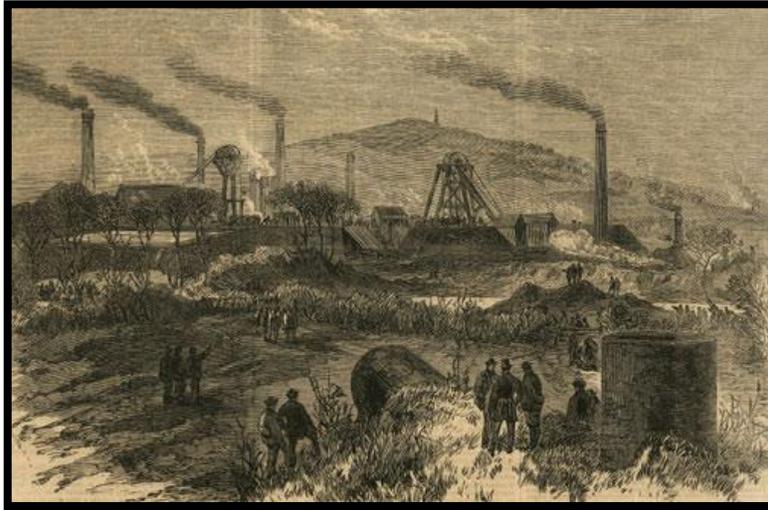
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Chapter 1

English Childhood

The Yorkshire Coalfields



Coal mining during the Victorian period was a dirty and dangerous business.

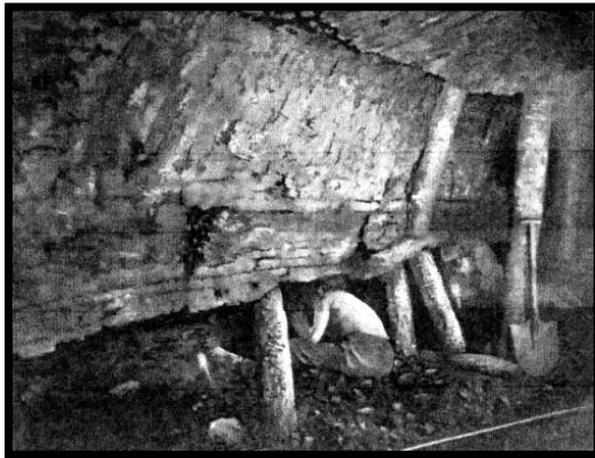
Coal was king, the power behind England's great Industrial Revolution in the nineteenth century. It fueled factories and engines, steam ships and railroads, and afforded comfort, cooking and light in all but the poorest of homes. Great black glistening seams of it ran along Yorkshire's underground, where it provided an income for those who lived above it, the Hepworths among them. Joseph's¹ father and brothers descended into the dark mines every day except Sunday, and as soon as he reached the age of eight, so did little Joseph. The family's survival depended on it.

He began as an errand runner, pushing empty coal carts and taking orders from workers before they entered the mine. Sometimes, with a bit of luck, Joseph and the other boys were sent home if the miners were ill, hung over, or otherwise unable to work. The men determined their fitness for the day by passing a lump of coal from one to the next. "This was always a moment of anticipation for the boys," said Joseph's son Rueben.² "If it went clear around, they would go home. The boys would still be paid, but would not have to work, as the mine owner paid the boys."³

Joseph soon progressed to the job of “breaker boy,” where he was stationed at a horizontal chute with other small children assigned to remove impurities from the stream of broken rock rushing past them on a conveyor belt. He later took his place inside the mine as a “trapper,” listening in complete darkness for approaching coal tubs, his signal to open the wooden ventilation door he sat next to all day long. As an older boy, Joseph was harnessed to loaded carts as a “hurrier,” dragging the rock through passages so low he was forced to hunch over at the waist.

No matter what the job, work in a coal mine was filthy and dangerous. By the time Joseph joined his brothers Edmund,⁴ Squire⁵ and James⁶ in the depths of the mine with a pick and shovel, their oldest brother, Will,⁷ was dead, killed in an explosion which buried him in a pile of coal and rock.⁸ There was always a chance of death or injury in the mines, not to mention the health risks of breathing in coal dust and poisonous gas, but without the work, starvation was certain.

There was little time for anything but toil. It was almost a day’s work just getting to the job site. After a five-mile walk to the entrance, Joseph was lowered down the shaft on a piece of board strung with ropes; from there it was another three miles through the tunnels to his assigned spot. He was often so hungry he immediately sat down and ate his lunch, which consisted of nothing more than two slices of bread, leaving him to walk home on an empty stomach at the end of the day.⁹ “When suppertime came, his three older brothers would eat and then he and his little brother Sam could have what was left. That was the custom that prevailed,” Reuben recalled his father telling him. Eating was almost a secondary concern, as the boys routinely fell asleep at the table from sheer exhaustion.¹⁰



Even children were often forced to crouch while they worked in the mines.

With the family dependent upon every penny for survival, schooling for the children was limited, but young Joseph's "soul was filled with music and a desire to learn," said his daughter Josephine.¹¹ Eventually, he not only learned to read and write, but appreciate music, as well. He taught himself to play both the tin whistle and the concertina and somehow at the age of thirteen, acquired a violin and taught himself how to play it.¹²

Joseph could often be found on Sundays entertaining the youth of Drighlington with his musical talents and sunny, outgoing personality. One young woman in particular found him charming, comparing him to his black bearded older brother, who she found more handsome than the sandy-haired Joseph, but "while James was the more attractive, Joseph had the rare quality of a charming personality."¹³

Unlike the outgoing Joseph, who was friendly with everyone and mixed easily with people, Mary Ann Green¹⁴ was shy and retiring.¹⁵ "At first, young Mary Ann was somewhat coy, a little indifferent," recounted Reuben, "but the English gentleman was persistent and pleaded his cause. Sometime later Mary Ann sent Joseph a Valentine. To him it was an invitation to become better acquainted in the hope that a natural shyness or reserve may be overcome."¹⁶

Sweethearts

Mary Ann had grown up in Adwalton, a village in Drighlington, where her father, Thomas,¹⁷ worked as an engine tender at a local colliery.¹⁸ Although the Drighlington area was pitted with coal mines, Mary Ann later recalled the beauty of the countryside, covered with lovely purple heather in the spring and summer,¹⁹ and the family's cottage with "wide windows, white walls, deep doors, shiny black coal stove and lye-whitened floors."²⁰

The oldest of four children, Mary Ann was fortunate enough to have received instruction in reading, writing and numbers which supplemented her skills in cooking, sewing and caring for her brothers and sister.²¹ She remembered her early childhood fondly, telling her own children how her mother, Pricilla,²² would go to the Leafar Gap fair and of the many things she would buy there. She also told of the great celebration her grandmother participated in when the English soldiers returned home at the end of the Crimean War²³ in 1856.²⁴

The innocence of childhood was lost with the death of her mother in 1864,²⁵ when Mary Ann was only eleven years old. There was no money to hire household help, so the responsibility of chores and children fell directly on her shoulders. She saw to it that seven-year old John,²⁶ four-year old Thomas²⁷ and little Martha,²⁸ only three years old, were washed, dressed and fed every morning before she began the daily tasks of baking bread and boiling potatoes for lunch and dinner. She also brewed ginger flavored ale, prepared cheeses, and when it was available, roasted a bit of beef with Yorkshire puddings, then spent the rest of the day cleaning and putting the kitchen in order for the next morning. Mary Ann even found herself helping a neighbor pick up the dropped stitches in her knitting.²⁹ Yet, even with all these duties, Mary Ann found time to keep company with Joseph and their relationship bloomed, despite the displeasure of her father.

Being in charge of the household from such a young age may have given Mary Ann a certain sense of maturity and independence. She didn't seem to mind when her father expressed his negative opinion about the Mormon missionaries preaching in the area, knowing full well the Hepworth family had not only been members of the church for over twenty years, but Joseph Senior,³⁰ had for some time been president of the local branch.

As a child, Joseph often accompanied his father and his uncle to street meetings in the area, where he and his cousins attracted a crowd by singing hymns. He listened as the men preached about the gospel's restoration³¹ and walked to church on Sundays holding his father's hand.³² The Hepworths were not only committed to living the gospel, but to joining the Saints at church headquarters in the United States. All during Joseph's teens, he watched as his family members left for Utah. Edmund was the first to immigrate, boarding a ship for New York with his new wife in 1863,³³ followed the next year by Squire. His mother, Mary,³⁴ departed with the three youngest children, Mary Jane,³⁵ Martha Annice³⁶ and little Samuel,³⁷ two years later when Joseph was fifteen years old. Hannah³⁸ made the journey in 1869,³⁹ and Joseph Sr. in 1870,⁴⁰ leaving only Joseph and his brother James behind in England.

Joseph was scheduled to immigrate next, but by the time his mother sent money for his passage, he was in love with Mary Ann and decided to remain in England. He gave the funds to James, who left for America in June, 1871.⁴¹ Joseph was twenty-one and Mary Ann was nineteen when they were married the next spring in Birstal's parish church.⁴² They were young, and perhaps not quite ready to begin a family of their own, but nature had forced the issue. Joseph moved into the Green household with his new wife,⁴³ where two months later Mary Ann gave birth to their first child, Ted.⁴⁴

Mary Ann continued to manage her father's household while caring for her own little family. Joseph, now with the spiritual welfare of a wife and child in his charge, set about converting Mary Ann. It didn't take long. Soon after reading a booklet entitled, "The Gospel In A Nutshell," Mary Ann joined the church in September, 1872. She later told her daughter how she crawled "on hands and knees at night to the place of her baptism. Why they crawled on their hands and knees I have never found out," said Annice.⁴⁵ "I only remember Mother telling me this. I was about eight years of age and never questioned the incident."⁴⁶

Mary Ann's father was not pleased with his daughter's decision. He "was very bitter and would have nothing more to do with her now that she was a Mormon," said Josephine. The reaction of her brothers and sisters may have been similar, as Mary Ann was the only member of her family to join the church.⁴⁷



Mary Ann Green



Joseph and Mary Ann proudly posed with their first child, Edmund, in 1872.

Leaving England Behind

The rejection of Mary Ann's family left the young couple with no support; they began making plans to leave for Utah as soon as possible. It took the Hepworths almost a year to save enough money for their steamship tickets, but Joseph was finally able to arrange passage with an LDS group leaving for America the first week of September, 1873. He purchased a pair of tin trunks,⁴⁸ lighter than the old luggage made of wood, painted black and secured with a simple brass lock. He carefully lettered his name and new address across the front in pale gold: Jos. Hepworth, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A. Among the shirts, suits, stockings and petticoats she stacked into the trunks, Mary Ann nestled a set of dainty china plates trimmed in a wreath of pink and lavender flowers to remind her of the home she knew she would never see again.



One of the pretty plates Mary Ann included in her baggage.

Joseph, Mary Ann and baby Ted made their way to the Liverpool docks where they boarded the *Wyoming* along with five hundred English and Scandinavian Saints heading for new lives in Zion.⁴⁹ Almost all of the immigrants were seasick during their first few days on the ocean, but Mary Ann was in worse condition than most, being five months pregnant with her second child. She found the food on board, consisting of sea biscuits and potatoes cooked in their jackets, “most unsuitable.” With a few pennies to bribe the ship’s cook, Joseph was able to sneak bowls of gruel to his wife during the voyage.⁵⁰

There was little remarkable about the *Wyoming*’s crossing until the ship neared Nova Scotia’s Sable Island, known as “the graveyard of the Atlantic” for the many ships wrecked along its shores.⁵¹ As the *Wyoming* approached Sable Island, it ran aground on a nearby sand bank and became stranded. The captain immediately sent a small party ashore for help and ordered all passengers below deck while the crew readied the ship’s lifeboats “if the ship should go to pieces.”⁵²

For the next six hours, numerous cannons shots and fourteen distress rockets were fired in an effort to alert the island’s rescue team. Mary Ann later said she had heard of the “minute gun” and wondered what it would be like, but she got her fill of it that night as she tried to comfort little Ted in the dark.⁵³ The ship rocked “very hard from time to time,”⁵⁴ from both the waves and cannon shots, and with every lurch of the vessel, passengers were thrown out of their bunks. Everyone was frightened, but when the ship sprung a leak below,

Joseph was afraid of the worst. Expecting they would all be drowned, he strapped himself, Mary Ann and little Ted together with a large leather belt so they would be together in case the ship went down. “Where one would go, all would go,” he said.⁵⁵

In a final effort to save the ship, the captain supervised the crew as they threw overboard “ironware, telegraph wire and other heavy articles with which the ship was laden.”⁵⁶ Finally, it was decided to toss the passengers’ trunks over board in an effort to dislodge the ship,⁵⁷ but before the baggage was thrown away, the incoming tide lifted the now lighter ship and it was again free to head for safe harbor in New York.⁵⁸

Four days later the passengers landed at the immigration station of Castle Garden, where they were inspected, cleared for entry into the United States and boarded onto a train headed west. With the completion of the amazing transcontinental railroad three years earlier, there was no longer a need to travel the plains in covered wagons. The Hepworths made the entire journey from New York to Utah in eight days, arriving at Ogden’s rail station on the evening of 28 September,⁵⁹ where Edmund was waiting for them with his horse and wagon to take them to his home in Oxford, Idaho.



One of the tin trunks the Hepworths brought from England.

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Chapter 2

Starting Over

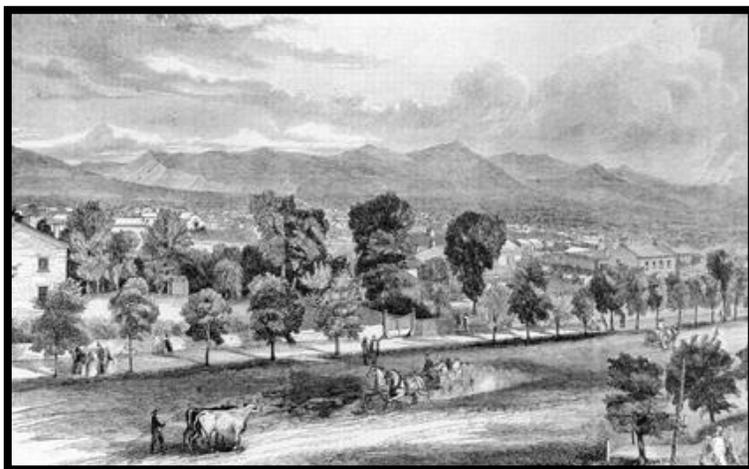
A Promised Land in Utah



The rural beauty of Oxford, Idaho.

Mary Ann was dismayed as the next morning's rising sun revealed a string of rustic log dwellings and an endless stretch of dry grass and sagebrush comprising the settlement of Oxford. Zion wasn't anything like the good home she had left in England, with its green countryside and attractive stone buildings, and already she missed her family. She and Joseph were welcomed and cared for by Edmund, Squire and James and their families, but Mary Ann, only twenty years old and overcome with homesickness, already longed for the life she had left behind.

Four months later, in a log cabin where she could see the winter stars flickering through cracks in the roof, Mary Ann gave birth to her second child, whom she named after her father. It was difficult enough to tend to baby Thomas⁶⁰ with little more than a stack of worn quilts and a meager fire, but there was Teddy to care for too, and he was now a year and a half old, full of energy and curiosity and hard to handle. Mary Ann's thoughts often turned to her former home as she grieved for her father, sister, and brothers. "No wonder Mother was wont to say, 'If there were a bridge over the ocean I would walk home to England,'" said Reuben.⁶¹



Salt Lake City in the 1870s.

Setting up Shop

While some of the Hepworth family had settled on Oxford's isolated farmland, Joseph's sister Hannah and her husband, Charles Balmforth,⁶² were living in the center of Salt Lake City, running a successful grocery business.⁶³ Their mother, Mary, was also part of the Balmforth household. It was a complicated situation. Having left her husband when she immigrated to Utah several years before, she agreed to be sealed to Charles as a plural wife on the same day he married Hannah.⁶⁴ Both mother and daughter lived in the same household until the relationship between Mary and Charles began to sour, around 1875.⁶⁵ Mary, who was determined to once again remove herself from marriage, enlisted Joseph, James and their families to set up a business with her in the city selling coal and kindling wood by the sack. The brothers agree to leave Oxford, renting space in a building on Second South between Main and State Streets,⁶⁶ not far from where both Thomas and John were running butcher shops.⁶⁷

Joseph and James were the backbone of the business, harvesting logs from the canyon and hauling them home where the wood was chopped into stove lengths and slivers of kindling, then bundled into sacks. The Hepworth store offered delivery, requiring Joseph to carry bags of coal and wood on his back up long flights of rooming house stairs. In addition to fuel, the store stocked a limited selection of groceries, including candy "in square glass jars with lids."⁶⁸



One of the mines in old Park City.

Mary Ann gave birth to five more children during the seven years she and Joseph lived over the store: Annice in July, 1875; Rowena⁶⁹ in June, 1877; Roger⁷⁰ in February 1879; Jasper⁷¹ in February 1881; and Ida,⁷² a week before Christmas in 1882. Joseph struggled to support his growing family, supplementing his income from the store by playing his violin at dances. He even travelled to nearby Park City, a boom town where he put his early coal mining experience to use in the silver mines, and Bingham, west of Salt Lake where copper was being dug out of the ground.⁷³ The harder Joseph worked, the more alone Mary Ann found herself. If Joseph was entertaining at a dance, Mary Ann was home alone with the children. If he was working for weeks at time in the mines, Mary Ann was forced to run the household without his company.

Joseph was an easy going man, but Mary Ann was a worrier, and Joseph's absences only intensified her anxiety. Mary Ann's loneliness and homesickness for England grew so much that she often cried herself to sleep.⁷⁴ She took what comfort she could in the letters Joseph wrote while he was away, sending her niece, Amy Balmforth,⁷⁵ to the post office every day. "Mary Ann believed in dreams and sometimes she would say to Amy, 'There will be two letters today,' and there would be," said Annice. "At one time there was an explosion in one of the mines and this caused Mary Ann some worry until she found out that Joseph was all right."⁷⁶

Mary Ann poured her soul into being a good and loving mother, doing what she could to better the lives of her children. “I will always remember Mother for her sweet, tender loving care, and the manner in which she cared for us in our tender years, for her concern in our well-being and the interest she took in our behalf in our later years,” said Rowena. “She was exceptionally clean in herself and kept an immaculate home. I am grateful that she taught us the way to live and be honest with ourselves and our fellow men and to be humble before the Lord.”⁷⁷ Reuben also remembered his mother’s love and service. “My earliest recollection of the tender care of my mother remains rather vivid in my mind. As a small boy I was seated in a high chair late on a Saturday evening, watching mother baking bread and in general making preparations for Sunday. Later in life I was to learn how often she made such preparation, as there was always a crowd of young people or some of Father’s brothers and their families at our home on Sunday. How much we take in service without thought as to the cost of she who gave it.”⁷⁸

Somehow, even though the family was struggling financially, Joseph was able to buy Mary Ann a sewing machine, “one of the first Howe sewing machines in Salt Lake City,” according to Annice.⁷⁹ Mary Ann spent many hours stitching shirts, pants and dresses for the children so they would be as well-dressed as possible. Especially remembered was a pair of bonnets she made, a blue one for Annice, a pink one for Rowena.⁸⁰

City Life

It wasn’t the same as England, but Mary Ann found the circumstances in downtown Salt Lake City preferable to a life in the isolation of Idaho. By the time she and Joseph took up residence in the city, the streets were still unpaved, but the downtown area was lit by gas lamps. “The old lamp lighter would run with his light and ladder from lamp to the other, up and light the lamp then down and off to the next,” said Annice. “I remember when the streets of Salt Lake City were ... a foot deep in dust in the summer and two feet deep with mud in the winter. I remember the boardwalk on Main Street and the cobbled streets and the asphalt paving when it came. The street cars used to be pulled my mules before the electric cars came. I remember when ZCMI, Walker Brothers and Auerbauch’s were small concerns.”⁸¹

The Salt Lake Theater was close enough to attend a play from time to time, something Mary Ann always looked forward to, and the entire family could walk the few blocks to the tabernacle for LDS General Conference every spring and fall.⁸² Each Sunday morning the

Hepworth family made their way over to the Thirteenth Ward chapel where the children attended Sunday school. “My father was a religious man,” said Annice. “We were sent to Sunday school and other such church functions and were taught to pray regularly.”⁸³

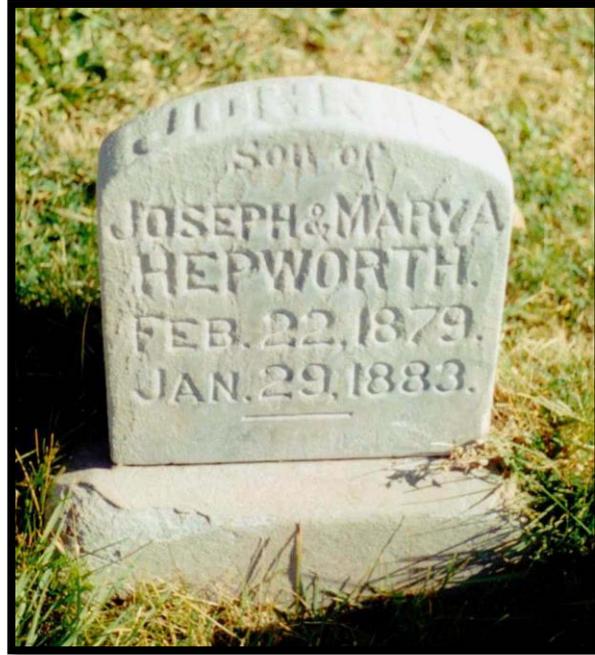
Spiritual education was important for Mary Ann too, who was once unhappy with one of the children’s teachers, “a lady named Rhoda who told us stories about Blue Beard and Jack the Giant Killer. Mother was very much grieved at this. She did not think it proper for Sunday school.”⁸⁴ No matter how tight the budget, Mary Ann always made certain tithing was paid. One payday Joseph gave Mary Ann his entire earnings of twenty-five dollars with instructions that she could either buy the baby some new clothes or pay tithing. Mary Ann rushed over to the tithing office and borrowed a shawl to take the baby to be blessed.⁸⁵

Caring for seven children kept Mary Ann busy every waking hour, but she loved her role as mother, watching as her brood grew. She laughed as Jasper toddled into his first steps, unsure of his ability to walk unless “he was held up a lock of his hair.” He soon learned to steady his steps by pulling on his hair himself. Later, she listened as little Ida spent hours chattering to herself,⁸⁶ and comforted Roger after he peeled the skin off his tongue by trying to lick a frosty axe one winter morning.⁸⁷ The entire family shared Roger’s joy at play when he learned to spin a top. “It thrilled him and he cried out, ‘I ‘pinned it! I ‘pinned it!’” said Josephine.⁸⁸

It was a devastating blow when little Roger suddenly died in the middle of January, 1883.⁸⁹ Mary Ann was inconsolable over the loss of her four-year old son. Joseph had a small trunk made at a nearby shop in which Mary Ann packed away all of Roger’s toys and clothes. She dried and framed a wreath of fragrant hot house violets Joseph’s sister Annice had given her in memory of the child, placing it at the bottom of the trunk. For years afterwards, Mary Ann often opened the trunk, weeping as she examined each item.⁹⁰

The loss of her little son brought Mary Ann to her knees. “She grieved for him for a long time,” recalled Annice. Later Mary Ann confessed that Roger’s death gave her a new awakening to the value of the gospel. Even so, “it took Mother many years to overcome that shock,” said Josephine, who recalled accompanying her mother to Roger’s grave to put a stone at its head over thirty years later.⁹¹

Not long after Rodger's death, two of the other children came down with whooping cough, a dangerous infection that caused violent, uncontrollable coughing. These fits were often followed by vomiting and accompanied by a high-pitched "whoop" sound as the children gasped for air. "Mother recounted how the children would cough and spit up blood from their mouths. One wonders how either the children or mother survived," said Reuben. "Perhaps it was because of these events that Father moved to West Bountiful."⁹²



Little Roger's grave in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

ENDNOTES

- ⁶⁰ Thomas Hepworth (1874-1944), #KWCQ-MCB, www.familysearch.org
- ⁶¹ Reuben Hepworth, "Mary Ann Green," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁶² Charles Balmforth (1830-1903), #KWJZ-YGS, www.familysearch.org
- ⁶³ Sloan, Edward L, *1874 Gazetteer of Utah and Salt Lake City Directory* (Salt Lake Herald Publishing Company, 1874), page 189 . <http://archive.org/details/utahgazetteerdir02unse>
- ⁶⁴ 6 June, 1870, in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- ⁶⁵ Mary formally divorced Charles in 1878.
- ⁶⁶ Martha Annice Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life* (self-published, 1966), page 5. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁶⁷ Sloan, *1874 Gazetteer of Utah and Salt Lake City Directory*, page 228, <http://archive.org/details/utahgazetteerdir02unse>
- ⁶⁸ Martha Annice Hepworth Hayward "Autobiography" (undated typescript). Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁶⁹ Rowena (Hepworth) Page (1877-1930), #KWCF-YQO, www.familysearch.org
- ⁷⁰ John Roger Hepworth (1879-1883), #KWVR-KFR, www.familysearch.org
- ⁷¹ Jasper Hepworth (1881-1960), #KWCN-9H1, www.familysearch.org
- ⁷² Ida (Hepworth) Merrell (1882-1913), #KWVR-KNQ, www.familysearch.org
- ⁷³ Elaine Hepworth, compiler, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green* (self-published, 1987), page 4.
- ⁷⁴ Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life*, page 5.
- ⁷⁵ Amy Ann (Balmforth) Kelly (1864-1936).
- ⁷⁶ Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life*, page 6.
- ⁷⁷ Rowena (Hepworth) Page, "Life Sketch," undated typescript. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁷⁸ Hepworth, "Mary Ann Green," undated typescript.
- ⁷⁹ Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life*, page 10.
- ⁸⁰ Eva Hepworth Vereen, "The Tin Trunk" (self-published, 1956).
- ⁸¹ All three of these once important department stores along Salt Lake City's Main Street have since disappeared. Hayward "Autobiography."
- ⁸² Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life*, page 7.
- ⁸³ *Ibid*, page 10.
- ⁸⁴ Hayward "Autobiography."
- ⁸⁵ Hepworth, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 21.
- ⁸⁶ Eva Hepworth Vereen, "The Tin Trunk" (self-published, 1956).
- ⁸⁷ Hayward "Autobiography."
- ⁸⁸ Hepworth, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 65.
- ⁸⁹ Roger died "of congestion of the brain," according to the *Deseret News*, 7 February, 1883. John Roger Hepworth, Utah Cemetery Inventory, grave K-20-13-1/2 SO, Utah State Historical Society. www.ancestry.com.
- ⁹⁰ Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life*, page 7.
- ⁹¹ Hepworth, compiler, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 65.
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Chapter 3

Bountiful

Tilling the Soil



Farm fields in Woods Cross at the turn of the twentieth century.

Despite their hard work, the Hepworth store in Salt Lake City had never generated enough income to fully support the family. Their struggle for survival in the city finally became too much for Joseph, who moved Mary Ann and the children to a two-room house on a rented Davis County farm in 1884.⁹³ Joseph knew next to nothing about running a farm, but he was willing to try, hoping that living in rural Woods Cross, ten miles north of Salt Lake, would somehow result in a better life.

The farm was located in an area locally referred to as “the bottoms,”⁹⁴ a term which described the level of existence the family had reached by then. They were “desperately poor” and ill equipped to rise to the challenges farming would present. Joseph plowed the fields and planted a crop of oats, watching all summer as the grain matured. Just before September’s harvest, Mary Ann gave birth to Eva,⁹⁵ making a successful crop even more important, but there was no money to be made that first year. The harvest was not only poor, Joseph was unable to sell the grain at a profit. He stacked the bags of oats into one of the two rooms of the house, forcing the family of nine to

crowd into the kitchen until spring, when he hoped the market would bring a better price. Mary Ann and the children adapted the best as they could. When asked one day by a neighbor, “Where do you all sleep?” ten-year old Annice replied, “Some of us sleep under the table and some of us sleep on the table.”⁹⁶

Money for the family’s support had to come from somewhere. Joseph spent the winter doing odds jobs for other farmers, or travelling into Salt Lake with Ted and Tom to look for work. One morning after Joseph and the boys had left for the city, Mary Ann accidentally knocked over a glass milk picture, spilling the only food the children had that day. She cried bitterly, not knowing when they would have anything else to eat. The only thing she could do until Joseph returned was try to keep the children warm with the stack of green willows piled up against the smoking stove.

In the meantime, Joseph and the boys had driven around Salt Lake all day without finding work of any kind. “Father told me he felt impressed to go and see Robert Sherwood, a young boy who came from England at the same time Mother and Father did. He became a successful business man in Salt Lake, and was for many years a good friend of the family,” said Reuben. “Upon entering Sherwood’s store, Father was met at the door and handed a large sack filled with meat and groceries. God bless Robert Sherwood!”⁹⁷

Spring brought no hope for Joseph, who still unable to sell the oats, and was forced to hand them over to the landlord as rent. He was much wiser, much poorer, and very much discouraged,⁹⁸ but decided to try again. The results were the same. “Because of being unfamiliar with farming and also unaware of others who were smart or clever, who could and did take advantage of an innocent Englishman, the venture failed,” said Reuben. With the birth of Benjamin⁹⁹ in June, 1886, Joseph was forced to find other employment. “There were eight children to feed so Father went to work on the railroad as a section hand laborer,” said Reuben.¹⁰⁰

Market Garden

Joseph’s dream of farming his own land refused to fade, however, and shortly before Peter¹⁰¹ was born in February, 1888, he obtained a loan toward an acre of land in East Bountiful, where the family moved into a three-room frame home at Fourth East and Fourth North.¹⁰² It was here where the last two of the Hepworth children were born: Reuben¹⁰³ in November, 1890, and Josephine in September, 1895.¹⁰⁴

The home was small for a family of eleven children, but Mary Ann managed the household expertly as usual, grateful to not only have a kitchen, parlor and bedroom, but a roomy back porch and stone-lined cellar, whose shelves she lined with rows of bottled fruits and vegetables. There was even a little entrance hall built onto the front of the house and a white picket fence enclosing the front yard.¹⁰⁵

The children found their new home much to their liking, especially Annice, a self-described tom boy who climbed trees “faster than anyone in the neighborhood. I let the cow bite my straw hat in two and set myself on fire jumping over a bonfire. Mother had forbidden me to play around the fire, but I did it anyway. That night when I undressed the whole back of my petticoat fell out in one scorched piece,” said Annice.¹⁰⁶ The other girls were content to play with indoor games and toys, such as the paper dolls, fashion plates and crayons remembered by Josephine.¹⁰⁷

As the children reached school age, Mary Ann saw to it they were enrolled at the cost of one dollar a month, “a lot of money then,” said Annice, who recalled how upset her mother would have been if she had known the children walked to school along the railroad tracks. “When we knew the train was coming we used to get down by a big creek, and let the train go over us. This was a big thrill, but if Mother had known, I don’t think she would have been too happy.”¹⁰⁸



Joseph and one of his sons stand in front of the Hepworth home on Fourth East and Fourth North in Bountiful.

Ted and Tom, able-bodied teenagers by the time they moved into the new house, joined their father on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad section gang for a dollar and a half a day. With the strictest economy the Hepworths not only paid off their original loan, but were eventually able to acquire a section of neighboring land that stretched their property far behind the house.¹⁰⁹ Joseph also rented land in nearby West Bountiful and Centerville, going into business as a market gardener. “He raised beautiful heads of white cauliflower, large stalks of green celery, green peas and beans, sweet juicy tomatoes, grapes, peaches, pears, apples, cherries and other good things,” recalled Josephine.¹¹⁰

Market work meant long, thankless hours in the fields, especially during the summer when Joseph and the boys often worked until two in the morning, catching only a few hours of sleep before hitching up the team and piling the wagon high with produce.¹¹¹ It was a ten-mile trip along dusty roads to Salt Lake, where the Hepworths lined up with other farmers at the wholesale Farmer’s Market to sell their harvest.¹¹²

Sometimes, instead of renting a stall at the market, Joseph and his sons drove from house to house in the city, peddling their produce door-to-door, but not always with success. “We sold radishes at six bunches for a nickel,” said Benjamin. “I went in to one house and the lady said she would take five cents worth if she could have three bunches now and three the next trip. I went out and asked Father and he said that would be all right. I went back in and she said she would pay me next trip. I went out and asked Father about it and he wouldn’t let me go back in.”¹¹³ On days when no sales were made, the boys slept in the wagon, making the rounds again the next morning.¹¹⁴

Back on the farm, work could be dangerous as well as difficult. On one occasion, Ted and his brothers were working in the back fields when he was accidentally hit in the head with a hoe. Although the wound “bled like a fury,” Mary Ann stopped the flow with an application of sugar and Ted was soon back at work,¹¹⁵ but not out of danger. He later became entangled in the harness while plowing and Joseph had to carry him home. When Mary Ann saw them coming, she almost fainted. However, Ted was only slightly injured and was soon “up and around again.”¹¹⁶

As soon as the younger children were able to manage small tasks, they joined their older siblings in the fields, although not always willingly. Reuben recalled being assigned to pick peas one summer afternoon. “It was a lonesome job, and so I decided to have Josephine

accompany me. However, she declined, so I fastened a rope around her waist and then to me, but her shrieks for help were so loud that Mother came to the rescue. Let me say that in later years a bond of friendship became a fact by means other than force.”¹¹⁷

The waning of the growing season did not mean the end of labor, as produce had to be sold over the winter in order for the family to survive. Every fall the men back-plowed a large storage pit into which they shoveled sturdy root vegetables.¹¹⁸ As many as three thousand bushels of carrots, parsnips, potatoes and turnips were layered with straw and earth, ready to be dug up as needed, then hauled into the house to be washed and prepared for sale. No running water meant numerous buckets had to be pumped up from the well and carried back and forth, resulting in a constant trail of dirt and mud across the back porch and into Mary Ann’s kitchen.¹¹⁹

There were good harvests and bad over the years, but the family managed to get by until the autumn of 1906. Joseph was optimistic about the eight thousand heads of cauliflower and lettuce maturing in the fields, counting on an estimated income of \$6,000.00, but a devastating east wind changed everything overnight. “That wind was so bad it even blew trains off the tracks,” said Benjamin. “It blew the sand right through the leaves and into the cauliflower, making it black. Mother couldn’t even get one head to use for the family. We didn’t take a dollar’s worth of profit off it.”¹²⁰

This was a bitter blow for Joseph and that fall he finally gave up farming. He arranged for Rowena and her husband Will Page,¹²¹ to run the farm on a share basis; later, Jasper took over the farm on a life lease, paying Joseph a certain amount each month. While Joseph was unhappy about having to give up farming, the children felt differently. “I was about thirteen years old when we quit truck farming, and that was a happy day in our household,” recalled Benjamin.¹²²

ENDNOTES

- ⁹³ Lucile Hepworth Henry, "Joseph Hepworth," typescript, 1973. Lucile was a granddaughter of Joseph Hepworth. Copy held Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁹⁴ Interview with Virginia (Hepworth) Gold, by Janice Page Dawson, 17 July, 2002. Transcript held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁹⁵ Eva (Hepworth) Eldridge Vereen (1884-1963), #KWDQ-LY7, www.familysearch.org
- ⁹⁶ Martha Annice Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life* (self-published, 1966), page 9. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁹⁷ Reuben Hepworth, "Mary Ann Green," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁹⁸ Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life*, page 7.
- ⁹⁹ Benjamin Hepworth (1886-1963), #KWCQ-PKJ, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁰⁰ Hepworth, "Mary Ann Green," undated typescript. .
- ¹⁰¹ Peter Leonard Hepworth (1888-1965), #KWCQ-D6Y, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁰² Elaine Hepworth, compiler, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green* (self-published, 1987), page 22.
- ¹⁰³ Reuben Hepworth (1890-1974), #KWCW-961, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁰⁴ Mary Ann's last child was stillborn, and not recorded on the family group sheet. See: Joseph Hepworth, stillborn child, Bountiful, 16 December, 1898, Davis County Utah, County Clerk Death Record, Utah State Archives film #84244 Reel 1.
- ¹⁰⁵ Interview with Virginia (Hepworth) Gold, by Janice Page Dawson, 17 July, 2002.
- ¹⁰⁶ Martha Annice Hepworth Hayward "Autobiography" (undated typescript). Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹⁰⁷ Elaine Hepworth, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 121.
- ¹⁰⁸ Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life*, page 8.
- ¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*
- ¹¹⁰ Lucile Hepworth Henry, "Joseph Hepworth," typescript, 1973. Lucile was a granddaughter of Joseph Hepworth. Copy held Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹¹¹ Edna May Hepworth Wood, "Joseph Hepworth" (typescript, 1962). Edna was a granddaughter of Joseph Hepworth. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹¹² Josephine Hepworth, "Joseph Hepworth" (undated typescript). Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹¹³ Henry, "Joseph Hepworth," typescript, 1973.
- ¹¹⁴ Edna May Hepworth Wood, "Joseph Hepworth" (typescript, 1962). Edna was a granddaughter of Joseph Hepworth. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹¹⁵ Hepworth, compiler, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 35.
- ¹¹⁶ Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life*, page 8.
- ¹¹⁷ Hepworth, compiler, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 111.
- ¹¹⁸ The pit was one hundred feet long, three feet wide and a foot deep. Wood, "Joseph Hepworth."
- ¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*
- ¹²⁰ Hepworth, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 91.
- ¹²¹ William James Page (1874-1921).
- ¹²² Hepworth, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 91.

Chapter 4

Home and Hearth

Getting Together



Joseph and Mary Ann remained loyal to each other and to the church all the days of their lives.

At fifty-six years of age, Joseph was forced to not only abandon his chosen occupation of farming, but find another way to support his family. He took a job carrying mail between the rail depot and the Bountiful Post Office to make ends meet,¹²³ later turning to travelling around town selling cotton and wool stockings from a black sample case. Joseph wasn't a very successful salesman. "He loved to visit with people and probably did more visiting than selling," according to Edna,¹²⁴ although his income was adequate enough to allow for electric service with the Bountiful Light and Power Company in the spring of 1909.¹²⁵

Despite his misfortunes, Joseph was a happy, optimistic person. "He never complained and he had every reason to get angry with the world," said Reuben. "He was generous with what he had and possessed a forgiving spirit."¹²⁶ Joseph felt comfortable striking up a conversation with anyone, no matter their station in life.¹²⁷ He was often called on to speak at funerals in the Bountiful Ward, where he "regularly bore testimony of his convictions to the truthfulness of the gospel."¹²⁸ Twice a year the Joseph and Mary Ann traveled to Salt Lake City to attend the General Conference of the church, leaving early enough to secure front row seats.¹²⁹ His faith never wavered.



Jasper as a missionary in England.

Forever English

The spiritual commitment of both Joseph and Mary Ann was passed on to their children, all of whom remained faithful to the church. Somehow the Hepworths were able to raise enough money to send Jasper on a mission to England in 1906, a privilege Mary Ann in particular found very exciting, as she had lost contact with her family back in Yorkshire, and was delighted when Jasper managed to locate them. The reunion of families seemed providential. As Jasper walked the down an Adwalton street one day, he stopped a man, asking if he knew anyone by the name of John Green. "That's me," replied Jasper's uncle, who immediately invited his nephew home to meet the rest of the family. Jasper was warmly welcomed, but the gospel message was not; Jasper was asked "to leave his religion outside."¹³⁰

It was through this visit that Mary Ann learned of her father's death eight years before. When Jasper returned home, he brought a pair of china dogs which Mary Ann's father had given her long before she was married. She kept them on a chest of drawers in the bedroom where they were a constant reminder her life in England.¹³¹



Mary Ann's china dogs brought from England by her son Jasper.

Mary Ann remained emotionally attached to England for many years. She yearned to visit England herself, desiring to become reacquainted with her remaining family. Finally, some years after Joseph's death, several of the children combined funds to purchase a ticket as a gift, but "she would not go unless Josephine would go with her," according to granddaughter Josephine Barr.¹³² Since neither Josephine nor the other children were able to buy a second ticket, Mary Ann never returned to her home country. Mary Ann's connection to the old country softened a bit with the onset of World War I. "It took a war to make Mother realize that America was a chosen country. She had six sons who would have been on the battlefield, had they still been in England," said Josephine.¹³³

Even after many years living in America, both Joseph and Mary Ann remained English to the core and traditional in their ways. "Father was a typical English gentleman and liked to be waited upon," recalled Reuben. "When he wanted a second cup of tea, instead of just reaching over to the stove and helping himself, he would take his spoon and tinkle the cup and Mother would get up and help him."¹³⁴

Joseph was especially strict about following what he considered proper conventions when it came to his daughters, requiring them to seek permission to socialize with young men. Annice recalled preparing to leave one evening with a boyfriend after clearing the date with her mother. "When I was just about to leave the house with my partner, my father called out, 'Stop! Who told thee thou could go?' and I could not go until he gave his consent. My father was very strict with me. When I was allowed to go to a dance I had to stay inside the hall. Once night at a dance I went out for a drink of water and was seen by my Uncle Jim, who immediately reported to my father."¹³⁵



Mary Ann and her daughters (left to right): Mary Ann, Annice, Rowena, Ida, Eva and little Josephine.

Mary Ann was no less watchful over her children, Annice discovered when she became engaged to be married. “Charles¹³⁶ was ten years older than I and a stranger in Bountiful. In those days, anyone who didn’t live in your locality was not exactly accepted, so Mother proceeded to find out about this ‘dude,’ as they called him. Mother found out the ward he lived in and went to see his bishop. Satisfied with what she was told, I was allowed to become engaged.

“Charles wore starched collars and cuffs, straw hat and walking cane, fancy vest and all, so different from the country folk we were. He was a perfect gentleman, except that one Sunday when he came to see me, he brought his sister, Lizzie, with him without permission. This almost caused a break in the engagement. My poor, proud mother really never forgave him for it. Our circumstances were very poor and things were so much better for them as far as this world’s goods go. What made him do it, I’ll never know, unless it was to have her find what kind of people we were, and she did.”¹³⁷

Even under the stress of such unforeseen events, Mary Ann’s temperament remained even. “I have no recollection of seeing Mother with her feathers ruffled. She was very mild mannered,” said Rowena, who took after her mother. The rest of the Hepworth family, however, were known for their outbursts and temper. “You would have thought they all hated each other, the way they talked,” said Josephine Barr, “but after they calmed down they would give each other the shirt off

their backs.” As an example of the “Hepworth temper,” Josephine told a story about her father, Rueben, and his brothers, all of whom were very close. Rueben, a Democrat, worked as a conductor on the Bamberger electric railroad running between Salt Lake City and Ogden. One day several of his brothers were aboard when one of them made a negative remark about Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt. “Father stopped the train and made them get off,” said Josephine.¹³⁸

Music Man

While Joseph had the reputation of being a short-tempered and impatient man, he was also known to “spend hours teaching a dog a trick or reading and rereading to memorize scripture, Shakespeare, or poetry,”¹³⁹ a particular favorite with Joseph, who loved rhyming so much he couldn’t help himself. Many of the letters he wrote to his children were in verse, and “he could meet someone and within minutes recite a little poem about them,” said Rueben. “Rhyming was very natural to him, a talent used constantly. Some of his creations were written, but many of them popped out spontaneously.”¹⁴⁰

Joseph was also a natural storyteller who loved making people laugh with his readings in Yorkshire dialect¹⁴¹ and a performer who took every opportunity to entertain an audience, often teaming up with a Salt Lake friend to create spur-of-the-moment street theater. “Father would stand up in the wagon in front of Mr. Butler’s store and talk to Mr. Butler in Yorkshire dialect and Mr. Butler would respond, and between the two of them they would attract considerable attention. One day the crowd was so large the police had to be called to disperse the people,” said Reuben¹⁴²

As much as Joseph enjoyed playing with language, his greatest love was music and his favorite instrument was the violin, which he kept in an old wooden case fastened by a navy blue and white polka dotted tie.¹⁴³ Cradling the instrument just below his shoulder, he played a variety of popular tunes such as “Turkey in the Straw,” “The Irish Washer Woman” and “Horn Pipes.” “He even made a violin from a piece of wood, using such simple tools as a pocket knife and sandpaper,” said Josephine. “After it was finished, he tried it out on Mother and me one Sunday morning while Mother and I rested in bed. Father took his two violins into the living room. First he played one and then the other. He did this many times to see if we could tell the difference.”¹⁴⁴

Having a pair of violins wasn’t enough for Joseph, who came home from Salt Lake one day with a piano. He arrived full of excitement, but was Mary Ann furious. Where was he going to put it? “After

much cussing and discussing, they finally found a place for it and the piano proved to be a blessing,” said Annice, who recalled how the instrument became the center of many family gatherings. “Ted would come from Salt Lake with our cousin Joe Balmforth. Ted played the mandolin, Joe the guitar, and Joseph the piano. Josephine also learned to play the piano and there was much enjoyment in the home.”¹⁴⁵

Friends and neighbors also joined in the Hepworth’s entertaining evenings. “Tommy Harrison used to bring his entire orchestra to entertain us. It filled half of the room. Aunt Hannah Balmforth came from Salt Lake City, bringing children and grandchildren. Uncle Jim and some of his family like to sing for us. Others came also. Anybody who had soul for music found a welcome in our home,” said Josephine. “Father was in his glory. Mother showed hospitality by preparing meals. We talked and ate Mother’s pies.”¹⁴⁶

Among the other instruments Joseph was known to play were the tin whistle, banjo and English concertina, which he “waved in circular movements through the air” as he pressed the bellows back and forth. “He never had a lesson, but I can’t remember seeing my Father attempt to play any instrument that didn’t produce melody,” said Josephine. “Our home in Bountiful was filled with music. Next to the gospel and his family, Father’s great love was music.”¹⁴⁷



Eva Hepworth, left, and her friend Mary Knighton.

Singing Songs

Entertainment was as simple as life was hard for the Hepworths. Reuben recalled his father singing some of the songs he learned as a boy in England. "Some of the little bits of verse I remember are a few lines of 'John Bull;'

*John Bull he was an English man
Who went on tramp one day
With three pence in his pocket
To carry him far away.
He traveled on for miles and miles
But no one did he see
Till he fell in with an Irishman
Whose name was Paddy Magee.*

"To appreciate it was to have Father sing it. He made it come to life. 'Shelling Green Peas' was about a man who was fifty years old and trying to make love to a young girl:

*Although I was age 50 I felt her thrifty
And thought it high time to be taking a wife.
With my bosom on fire in search of Maria
I found her shelling green peas,
Under a tree with a bowl on her knee
Maria sat silently shelling green peas.*

These songs made an impression on me because they were related to [my father's] early life. Sometimes I think his young life was not too happy from the stories he told me about his boyhood."

ENDNOTES

- ¹²³ Edna May Hepworth Wood, "Joseph Hepworth" (typescript, 1962). Edna was a granddaughter of Joseph Hepworth. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹²⁴ *Ibid.*
- ¹²⁵ *The Davis County Clipper*, 30 April, 1909.
- ¹²⁶ Reuben Hepworth, "Mary Ann Green," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹²⁷ Joseph came across people important in political circles through Jasper's wife, Sarah, whose brother Charles Rendell Mabey, became Utah's fifth governor in 1920.
- ¹²⁸ Elaine Hepworth, compiler, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green* (self-published, 1987), page 13.
- ¹²⁹ Lucile Hepworth Henry, "Joseph Hepworth," typescript, 1973. Lucile was a granddaughter of Joseph Hepworth. Copy held Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹³⁰ Hepworth, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 23.
- ¹³¹ *Ibid.*
- ¹³² Interview with Josephine (Hepworth) Barr, by Gayle (Page) Anderson, 13 March, 2010. Mrs. Barr is the daughter of Reuben Hepworth. Copy of transcript held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹³³ Hepworth, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 126.
- ¹³⁴ Hepworth, "Mary Ann Green," undated typescript. .
- ¹³⁵ Martha Annice Hepworth Hayward "Autobiography" (undated typescript). Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹³⁶ Charles Edward Hayward (1864-1933), #KWC6-Z4D, www.familysearch.org
- ¹³⁷ Hayward "Autobiography" (undated typescript).
- ¹³⁸ Interview with Josephine (Hepworth) Barr, by Gayle (Page) Anderson, 13 March, 2010.
- ¹³⁹ Hepworth, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 24.
- ¹⁴⁰ Henry, "Joseph Hepworth."
- ¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁴² Reuben Hepworth, "Mary Ann Green," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹⁴³ Henry, "Joseph Hepworth."
- ¹⁴⁴ Josephine Hepworth, "Joseph Hepworth" (undated typescript). Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹⁴⁵ Martha Annice Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life* (self-published, 1966), page 9. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹⁴⁶ Hepworth, "Joseph Hepworth."
- ¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

Chapter 5

Later Years

Children and Grandchildren



The Hepworths worshiped at the Bountiful Tabernacle.

The Hepworth home in Bountiful was always a welcoming place to gather, especially as grandchildren were added to the family. While their parents visited with other adults inside, the grandchildren were happy to entertain themselves in the barn and carriage house where wagons and buggies, one with fringe on top, served as makeshift playhouses. A game of “Hide and Seek” in the back orchard might be followed by a bite of fruit and a turn at “Pussy Wants a Corner” in the front hall.¹⁴⁸ If the weather grew cold, there was always warmth and fun in the parlor, where “Grandpa would play his concertina and sing, then he would fiddle on his violin while my father, Ben, or someone else would chord on the piano,” said granddaughter Lucille Henry.¹⁴⁹

Holidays brought the extended family together over food at Mary Ann’s table, complete with traditional English fare. William Page¹⁵⁰ recalled rump roast, Yorkshire pudding and plum pudding, and was fascinated by how his grandmother cooked the pudding “in a bag, boiled in a cast iron kettle. After dinner there was Granddad’s violin, his concertina, his poetry (making it up as he went along) and his laugh.”¹⁵¹

None of the grandchildren lived very far away, so Joseph often dropped by their homes for visits, sometimes staying for a few days to help out with chopping wood or other odds jobs. He always handed out pink candy mints from his pocket and sometimes had small gifts for the little ones.¹⁵² Mary Ann, still more quiet and retiring than her husband, rarely left home, preferring instead to remain in the kitchen where she was busy cooking, baking and otherwise preparing for the regular crowd of visitors who dropped by after Sunday meetings.¹⁵³

A particularly grand occasion was Joseph's sixtieth birthday when the children presented him a William Morris chair with high arms and a reclining, adjustable back that everyone liked to sit in.¹⁵⁴ When he wasn't comfortably situated in his recliner, Joseph was often found sitting a wooden captain's chair by the dining room stove. It was there where he enjoyed reading aloud from Shakespeare and Charles Dickens at the end of the day while Mary Ann worked on her darning in the rocking chair.¹⁵⁵

Joseph and Mary Ann marked their golden wedding anniversary with a "never to be forgotten celebration" hosted by their children in 1922. There was quite a crowd with all eleven children and many grandchildren in attendance. After a generous dinner and entertaining program full of poetry and music, Joseph and Mary Ann were each presented with a fifty-dollar gold piece to symbolize their long and loving union.¹⁵⁶



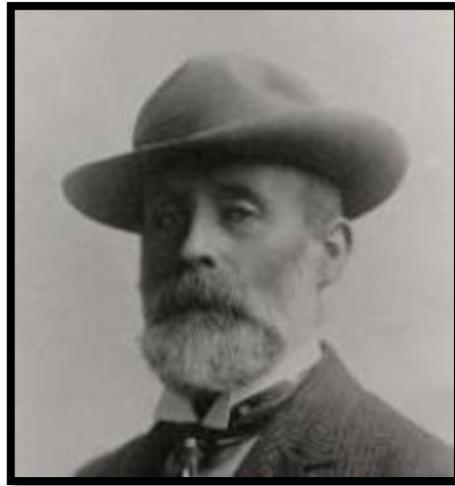
Fifty Years of Love

“Neither of my parents were demonstrative, but underneath the surface their hearts beat true,” recalled Reuben. “I like to think of it the way Shakespeare puts it: ‘Let time reach with sickle as far as he ever can; although he can reach ruddy cheeks and red lips, and flashing eyes, he cannot quite reach love.’ Such was the relationship of Mother and Father.” Lines from a poem composed by Joseph near the end of his life clearly shows the love he had for Mary Ann.

*We are both growing old
We laugh at each other
They call me old Dad
We call her dear Mother.
Although we grow old
Well stricken in years
Our love is not cold
Sometimes we shed tears.*

*Although we shed tears
We have many great joys
We are blest with a family
Of fine girls and boys.
Seven boys and five girls
Two gone before
We'll meet them again
On that beautiful shore.*

*When this life is over
And we die of old age
May we hear a voice whisper
On the over leaf page
Come in little children
You have earned your wage.*



Joseph remained handsome and charming as he aged.

Final Release

Joseph and Mary Ann enjoyed their quite lives together for another four years, until Joseph collapsed while chopping wood on the morning of 23 April, 1926. He had been warned by the doctor not to overdo, but even the effort of “sawing on a very small log, not much bigger than a stick” became too much for him. He felt a sudden pain and made his way into the house, where Mary Ann immediately phoned Benjamin, who drove his father to the doctor in Bountiful. The doctor realized right away Joseph had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage¹⁵⁷ and advised the family their father would probably linger for a while, but “by noon he was gone,” said Josephine. “Mother told me that his last words were, ‘Tell Josephine not to cry,’ but I did.”¹⁵⁸

Joseph left behind many family and friends who remembered him with fondness. The funeral service held in the First Ward Tabernacle was directed by Bishop Cannon, who spoke of Joseph’s “fine qualities, but I rather think that he would have preferred the heart touching strains of the violin that was played,” said Josephine.¹⁵⁹ Joseph’s six sons were honored to act as pall bearers, carrying their father’s body to its final resting place in the Bountiful cemetery.



Mary Ann had “lovely blue eyes and the light of love and happiness could be seen whenever anyone looked at her, recalled Annice.

Mary Ann Carries On

The house was strangely quiet now with all of the children except Josephine married and moved away, and Mary Ann was growing too old to keep up with up with the work required to run it. She and Josephine decided to rent an apartment together for the winter, not far from where Josephine was teaching school, returning to the old home each summer. She and Josephine became especially close during the next few years. They attended musicals and dramas at the Salt Lake Theater, in which such contemporary luminaries such as Emma Lucy Gates and Mary Pickford performed, and enjoyed shopping and lunching together, riding around town in Josephine’s Model-A Ford. “Mother and I were chums. It was fun to be with her,” recalled Josephine, who tried to keep her mother’s fashions up to date through their shopping excursions. “Mother wore black. We worked on that. One spring she wore a navy blue coat. Her hat was black with a light braid faced with a light blue silk. The crown was trimmed with three blue flowers. They were appliquéd on and it was pretty. Ben told her how nice she looked. After that, she began to wear colors.”¹⁶⁰

Mary Ann's health gradually faded, and even though she managed well enough despite a touch of arthritis in her joints, she became bedridden with a leg injury in the spring of 1931. By then, Mary Ann was seventy-nine years old, suffering with pleurisy,¹⁶¹ and was ready to pass on. Ted honored her request for a blessing releasing her to the Lord, and she died a short while later, on 26 April, surrounded by her family.¹⁶²

Mary Ann left a legacy of love and strength for her decedents, centered in her love of the gospel. "She was truly one of God's chosen daughters for she was a real devoted wife and mother," said Rowena. "She was a peace maker in the Hepworth family. My mother has influenced my life more than any other thing,"¹⁶³ a sentiment echoed by Annice. "God bless our wonderful mother, Mary Ann Green. How dear is her memory to those who knew her."¹⁶⁴



Joseph and Mary Ann are buried in the Bountiful City Cemetery.

ENDNOTES

¹⁴⁸ Lucile (Hepworth) Henry (1915-2003), #KWC1-SRW, www.familysearch.org Lucile Hepworth Henry, "Joseph Hepworth" (typescript, 1973). Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁰ William Leonard Page, (1905-1982), #KWZ8-T4C, www.familysearch.org

¹⁵¹ William Leonard Page, *Personal History*, 1976. Typescript held Shelley Dawson Davies.

¹⁵² Virginia (Hepworth) Gold recalled her grandfather brining her baby brother, David, odd items such as a bottle brush to play with. Interview with Virginia (Hepworth) Gold, by Janice Page Dawson, 17 July, 2002. Transcript held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

¹⁵³ Reuben Hepworth, "Mary Ann Green," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies. See also: Interview with Virginia (Hepworth) Gold, by Janice Page Dawson, 17 July, 2002. Transcript held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

¹⁵⁴ Josephine Hepworth Dobbs, "Joseph Hepworth," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

¹⁵⁵ Elaine Hepworth, compiler, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green* (self-published, 1987), page 2.

¹⁵⁶ Dobbs, "Joseph Hepworth."

¹⁵⁷ Joseph Hepworth death certificate, no 39 (Davis County, 1926), Utah State Department of Health, Salt Lake City.

¹⁵⁸ Dobbs, "Joseph Hepworth."

¹⁵⁹ Henry, "Joseph Hepworth."

¹⁶⁰ Hepworth, *Family History of Joseph Hepworth and Mary Ann Green*, page 124.

¹⁶¹ Mary Ann (Green) Hepworth death certificate, no. 27 (Davis County, 1931). Utah State Department of Health, Salt Lake City.

¹⁶² Martha Annice Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life* (self-published, 1966), page 11. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

¹⁶³ Rowena (Hepworth) Page, "Life Sketch," undated typescript. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

¹⁶⁴ Hayward, *Mary Ann Green: A Short Story of Her Life*, page 11.

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