

# Stephen Hales (1849) and Jane Alice Crosby



## A Family History

by Shelley Dawson Davies

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## Chapter 1

# Stephen and Jane

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### A Good Beginning



*Stephen Hales*

**S**tephen Hales<sup>1</sup> hadn't always been at odds with the church. He was once thought of as a golden boy, a child of the Restoration. Born to a prominent LDS family, he had been raised in the gospel of Jesus Christ from the very beginning. He grew up in Salt Lake City, working stone for the new temple alongside his father.<sup>2</sup> His was a marriage sealed in the endowment house for time and eternity, and he made certain his own children were taught the gospel as they grew. But eventually something went wrong. He began to doubt and it gnawed at him as he sat in the pews every Sunday; it worried at him as he went about the daily business of making a living in a community of flawed believers. He loosened his standards and tested the limits of his neighbors with radical attitudes and business practices until his unbelief resulted in apostasy, excommunication and the loss of his family as well as his faith.

Stephen was given the same name as his father<sup>3</sup> and grandfather,<sup>4</sup> two men whose testimonies of the church led them from their home in Canada to Missouri, then to Nauvoo, Illinois. His mother<sup>5</sup> was the daughter of prominent church leader and close associate of Joseph Smith, Simeon Carter.<sup>6</sup> The Hales were among the many families later forced out of Nauvoo by anti-Mormon mobs in 1846, finding shelter in the makeshift settlement of Garden Grove, Iowa,<sup>7</sup> where Stephen was born three years later. The Hales were content to farm the rich lands of central Iowa until Brigham Young called the residents of Garden Grove to leave for Salt Lake City in 1851. That May, when teamster Harry Walton pulled out of Garden Grove headed west, Stephen Senior,<sup>8</sup> his wife Eveline and eighteen-month old Stephen Junior<sup>9</sup> were among the twenty-one families whose wagons lined up behind him.<sup>10</sup> The company arrived in Salt Lake City on 24 September, 1851.

Stephen was brought up in a large home located on the corner of First North and Main Streets,<sup>11</sup> just north of the temple block where Stephen Sr. worked as a stonecutter. The frame house was big enough to accommodate two growing families: his mother's six children, and his father's second wife Henrietta<sup>12</sup> with her five children. By the time Stephen was fourteen years old, he was well-used to getting along with his sisters Eveline,<sup>13</sup> Mary Ann;<sup>14</sup> half-sisters, Henrietta,<sup>15</sup> Zelnora,<sup>16</sup> Elmyra;<sup>17</sup> brothers Henry,<sup>18</sup> Orlando,<sup>19</sup> Franklin,<sup>20</sup> John;<sup>21</sup> and half-brothers Samuel<sup>22</sup> and George.<sup>23</sup>

He found himself in charge of his mother's family at the age of sixteen while his father served a two-year mission to England,<sup>24</sup> and by the time Stephen Sr. returned, Stephen was a full grown man ready for a family of his own. The opportunity came when the Hales moved to a Bountiful farm in 1868,<sup>25</sup> where young Stephen caught the eye of pretty Jane Crosby,<sup>26</sup> a petit, attractive young woman with thick brown hair and clear blue eyes.<sup>27</sup>



*Jane Alice Crosby Hales*

## Marriage and Children

Jane, who was the sixth child of Bountiful pioneers John<sup>28</sup> and Mary Jane Crosby,<sup>29</sup> shared a similar background with Stephen. The Crosbys were early converts to the church who were also driven from Illinois in 1846. They crossed the plains in 1850, and after several years of living in Salt Lake City, they bought farm land in Bountiful. John improved the land and built a log cabin<sup>30</sup> where Jane was born on 20 July, 1853.

Jane's was a simple childhood of farmyard chores and housework, followed by spiritual instruction at the Bountiful ward Sunday school every week. She became a "good cook and good seamstress,"<sup>31</sup> learning patience and compassion in helping to care for her mentally deficient older sister Minerva<sup>32</sup> and little brother John,<sup>33</sup> especially after her sisters, Mary<sup>34</sup> and Sarah<sup>35</sup> left home to start their own families. Jane's leadership abilities were recognized early on; she was chosen as secretary of the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association when she was still a teenager,<sup>36</sup> and she demonstrated her spiritual maturity receiving permission to receive her temple endowment at the age of sixteen.<sup>37</sup>



*The Hales' first child, Stephen Anthony.*

The marriage had a good beginning. Both families approved of the match, and looked on as Apostle Joseph F. Smith sealed Stephen and Jane in a ceremony at the Endowment House, one week before Christmas in 1871.<sup>38</sup> The young couple lived with the Crosby family while they built their own home, not far away at 530 South Second West.<sup>39</sup> Their union was blessed with seven children, the first one, a son named Stephen Anthony,<sup>40</sup> was born almost exactly nine months after their marriage in September, 1872. Jane was staying with the Hales family in Salt Lake City for the birth of her second child two years later.<sup>41</sup> She gave the boy her father's name, John Knowles.<sup>42</sup> With one exception, the rest of the children were born at the regular pace, two years apart, all of them in the autumn: Mary Jane,<sup>43</sup> in November, 1876; Irvin,<sup>44</sup> in September, 1878; Lydia,<sup>45</sup> in September, 1882; Loanda,<sup>46</sup> in October, 1884; and Walter<sup>47</sup> in September, 1886. Sadly, both little Irvin and Walter died as small children.<sup>48</sup>

Jane set to work making her house a home by sewing pretty curtains, tablecloths and braiding rag rugs to cover the bare wooden floors. She cooked three large meals every day, and was known for being able to serve delicious refreshments at a moment's notice. "I remember a beautiful plate of fresh fruit gathered from the orchard: peaches, grapes, etc., mince pie, fruit cake and coffee," recalled Mary Jane years later.<sup>49</sup> So much fruit was harvested from the family orchard out back that Jane and her daughters spent a good deal of time every fall drying the excess for sale or barter at Teasdale's dry goods store in Salt Lake, where it could be exchanged for clothing or other needful items. A cow and a large vegetable garden on their five-acre plot kept the household economy going, and from time to time Jane earned supplemental cash by providing board and room for men employed at a nearby brickyard.<sup>50</sup>

Stephen did whatever he could to support his family, working as a farmhand, a laborer, and signing on as a temple stonecutter for eighteen months from January, 1879, to June, 1881.<sup>51</sup> In between jobs he harnessed up his team and hauled freight from Salt Lake City to Idaho Falls and Black Rock Canyon, south of Pocatello, Idaho.<sup>52</sup> Such hard, physical work began to wear on Stephen by the time he reached the age of thirty, and he began to explore other, less strenuous ways to make ends meet.



*The Hales home in Bountiful, Utah.*

## ENDNOTES

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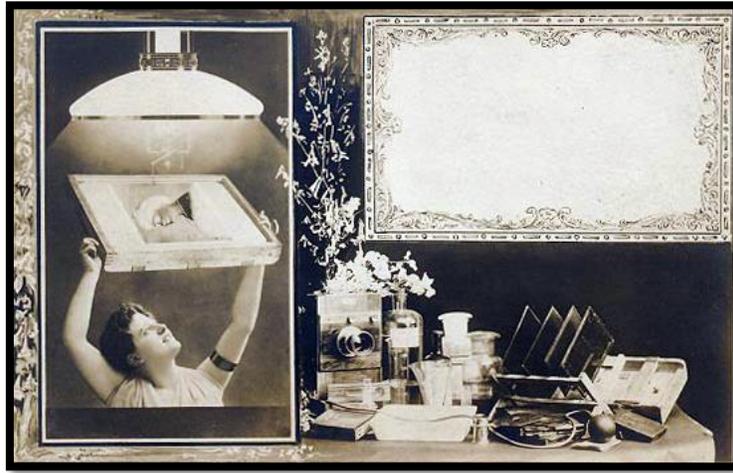
- <sup>1</sup> Stephen Hales (1849-1916), #KWNK-188, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) where verification of all vital dates can be found. Also see family group sheets at [www.DaviesDawsonHistory.weebly.com](http://www.DaviesDawsonHistory.weebly.com)
- <sup>2</sup> Veta May Atkinson Brown, "History of Stephen Hales," typescript, 1955. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>3</sup> Stephen Hales (1820-1881), #KWJW-3CT, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>4</sup> Stephen Hales (1791-1846), #L849-5VN, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>5</sup> Eveline Lydia (Carter) Hales (1821-1898), #MLNZ-C1L, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>6</sup> Simeon Dagget Carter (1794-1869), #KWVQ-5YH, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>7</sup> Lorraine Wight Hales and Ronald Douglas Hales, compilers, *Chronicles of the Hales Family in America* (self-published, 1997), part 4, page 3.
- <sup>8</sup> To differential between three generations of men with the same name, the suffixes "Sr." and "Jr." have been used. These suffixes were never part of the original names.
- <sup>9</sup> Of the four children born to Stephen Sr. and Eveline, only Stephen survived to make the journey west. The couple lost two infant daughters, Mary Isabella Hales (1843-1944) and Lorain Hales (1848-1850), as well as a son Joseph Hales (1845-1849) at the age of four, the same year Stephen Jr. was born.
- <sup>10</sup> Stephen Hales entry, Harry Walton Company, 17 May-24 September, 1851, <http://history.lds.org/overlandtravels/pioneerDetail?lang=eng&pioneerId=41840>
- <sup>11</sup> According to Stephen's granddaughter Cleo (Hales) Page, the home was at 60 West North Temple, where the LDS conference center now stands. Cleo H. Page, "History of Stephen Hales," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>12</sup> Henrietta (Keys) Whitney Hales (1821-1901), #KWJW-3CB, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>13</sup> Eveline Lydia (Hales) Benson (1854-1926), #KW6X-QZ6, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>14</sup> Mary Ann (Hales) Moss (1861-1919), #KWZG-HHP, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>15</sup> Henrietta (Hales) Bosworth (1852-1871), #KWVW-2KR, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>16</sup> Zelnora Jane (Hales) Flitton (1855-1918), #KWZX-8F1, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>17</sup> Elmyra Louisa (Hales) Wellman (1858-1889), #KW8D-R23, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>18</sup> Henry Hales (1852-1889), #KWJJ-RNX, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>19</sup> Orlando Hales (1857-1889), #KWJC-TC6, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>20</sup> Franklin Alexander Hales (1859-1935), #KWZY-VHF, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) Twin Alexander Franklin Hales died as an infant.
- <sup>21</sup> John C. Hales (1863-1865), #KWVQ-CQX, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>22</sup> Samuel Alonzo Whitney (1840-1923), #K2HB-V6K, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>23</sup> George Washington Hales (1860-1913), #KWCL-96F, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>24</sup> Henrietta and her children had moved been living in a separate household in Morgan County, Utah, since 1862. See Hales, *Chronicles of the Hales Family in America*, Part Six, page 32.
- <sup>25</sup> The farm was located at Second West and Fifth South. Hales, *Chronicles of the Hales Family in America*, Part Seven, page 2.
- <sup>26</sup> Jane Alice (Crosby) Hales (1853-1901), #KWNK-18D, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>27</sup> Page, "History of Stephen Hales," undated typescript.
- <sup>28</sup> John Knowles Crosby (1812-1898), #KWVS-MC8, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>29</sup> Mary Jane (Johnson) Crosby (1816-1889), #KWVS-MCZ, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>30</sup> The original cabin survived for many years as a meeting house for the Kimball Camp, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, who moved the cabin to the Bountiful Second Ward grounds in 1937. See Annie Call Carr, *East of Antelope Island* (reprint, Salt Lake City, Utah; Publisher's Press, 1969), page 300 and 473.

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- <sup>31</sup> Janice P. Dawson, "Notes on Jane Alice Crosby Hales," undated typescript. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>32</sup> Minerva Janet Crosby (1846-1909), #KWVR-58K, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>33</sup> John Knowles Crosby (1856-1930), #KWVY-FHB, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>34</sup> Mary Eliza (Crosby) Waddington (1840-1889), #KWVR-58S, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>35</sup> Sarah Frances (Crosby) Thomas (1848-1927), #KWVR-58L, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>36</sup> Janice P. Dawson, "An Economic Kaleidoscope: The Stephen Hales Family of Bountiful," Utah Historical Quarterly (Winter, 1993), page 66.
- <sup>37</sup> "Stephen Hales-Jane Alice Crosby family group sheet," supplied 1979 by Cleo (Hales) Page. This sheet offers only a generic list of materials consulted.
- <sup>38</sup> Hales, *Chronicles of the Hales Family in America*, page 551.
- <sup>39</sup> United States Post Office Department, *History of the Bountiful City Post Office* (pamphlet, 1954), page 8.
- <sup>40</sup> Stephen Anthony Hales (1872-1942), #KWVG-13V, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>41</sup> John related this fact to his daughter, Cleo (Hales) Page. Cleo (Hales) Page, "Personal History," typescript, 1976. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>42</sup> John Knowles Hales (1874-1933), #KWCX-P77, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>43</sup> Mary Jane (Hales) Atkinson Hulse (1876-1968), #KW69-8KB, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>44</sup> Irvin Orlando Hales (1878-1880), #KWVG-1Q3, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>45</sup> Lydia Eveline (Hales) Larsen (1882-1947), #KWZC-S3G, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>46</sup> Loanda Janette (Hales) Burningham (1884-1971), #KWD7-113, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>47</sup> Walter Hales (1886-1886), #KWVG-1QM, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>48</sup> According to Cleo (Hales) Page, Stephen Anthony's brush with smallpox left his face so marred his fiancée broke off the engagement, leaving only John to carry on the Hales family name. Dawson, "Notes on Jane Alice Crosby Hales," undated typescript.
- <sup>49</sup> Mary Jane Hales Hulse, "Hales Hall," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>50</sup> Brown, "History of Stephen Hales," typescript, 1955.
- <sup>51</sup> Temple Block Salt Lake City Record of Stonecutter's time book. See: Hales, *Chronicles of the Hales Family in America*, Part Seven, page 11. See also: Stephen Hales household, 1880 U. S. Census, Davis County, Utah, population schedule, town of Bountiful, enumeration district 14, page 34B, Roll 1336, FHL #1255336.
- <sup>52</sup> Dawson, "An Economic Kaleidoscope: The Stephen Hales Family of Bountiful," Utah Historical Quarterly (Winter, 1993), page 64.

## Chapter 2

# Making Ends Meet

## Talents and Tangles



*A contemporary postcard displaying photography equipment.*

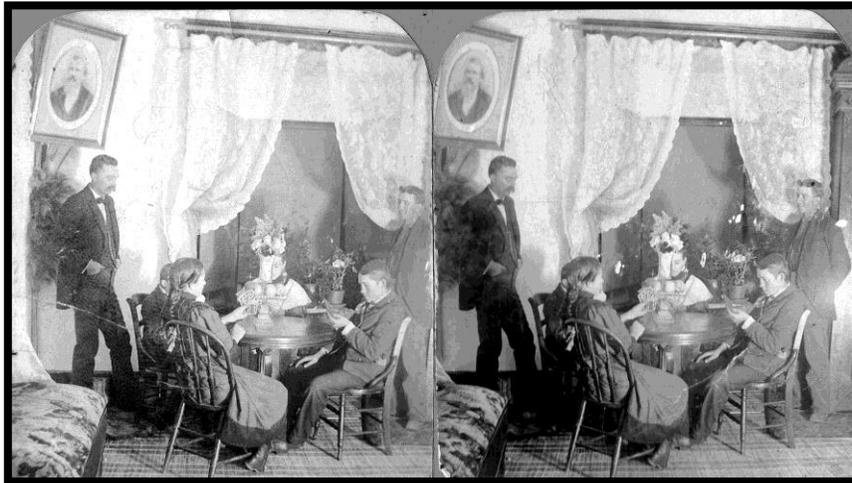
Photography wasn't new in the early 1880s, but the method of taking pictures had changed dramatically since the days of cumbersome wet-plates requiring immediate developing. The new dry-plates not only came ready-to use, but needed less exposure time and could be developed at the photographer's convenience. These improvements made taking photos so much easier that Stephen was inspired to try his luck at becoming the first professional photographer in Bountiful.<sup>53</sup> His ads in the local newspapers called attention to his new home studio where he had set up a series of artistic backgrounds he painted himself, and a supply of props to add interest to portraits lit with the aid of special flashlight powder.<sup>54</sup> His "jovial and kindly"<sup>55</sup> manner came in handy when gathering together large groups before the camera or trying to coax a smile out of a wary toddler.

In addition to taking portraits and family photos of Bountiful residents, Stephen packed up his camera and traveled to local "beauty spots" and downtown streets to shoot scenes for sale as stereo prints mounted on cardboard blanks.<sup>56</sup> He also kept a stack of postcard backs on hand onto which he could develop limited edition runs right in Jane's kitchen. Some of his subjects included an ice harvest, a

group of local cannery employees, scenic views of Ogden and the Samoan relics of W. O. Lee. One winter he even photographed a snow sculpture he titled, "A Living Monument, Dedicated to the American Heroes," surrounded by several pretty young ladies.<sup>57</sup>

## Father-Son Photos

*With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Stephen and his oldest son, Stephen Anthony, who was then a photographer in San Francisco, kept busy photographing the troops. Stephen was in Salt Lake City to take photos of the Bountiful volunteers as they left in May "amidst parades and great fanfare" for California. Stephen Alexander repeated the process when the troops arrived in San Francisco. He reported a brisk business in taking pictures of the soldiers in California, "as the boys are crazy after photos and promise us large returns." The Davis County Clipper, 10 June, 1891.*



*Stereoscope view taken by Stephen in his parlor, with family members posing, including John, far right. The wall portrait is of Stephen's father.*

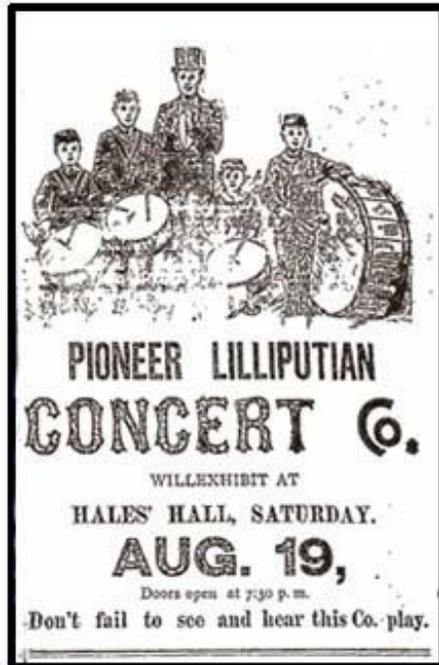


*Hales Hall at the intersection of Second West and Fifth South Streets in Bountiful.*

## Hales Hall

It wasn't possible for Stephen to rely completely on income from his photography business, but he was a hard worker who constantly looked for profitable opportunities in the community. He was successful in becoming Bountiful's postmaster in 1882, when the post office was moved from the west side of town to the more central location of the Hales home.<sup>58</sup> Jane not only agreed to give up space in her kitchen for the operation, but regularly helped sort the big bags of mail spilled across her breakfast table. Stephen Anthony and John pitched in by driving the family's wagon down to the Woods Cross railroad depot to pick up and deliver the mail every day.

With so many people coming by the house in search of letters and packages, Stephen hit upon the idea of opening a recreation center. At first Hales Hall was little more than a small room with a stage and simple benches, but when the Bamberger railroad extended service from Salt Lake City to Davis County several years later, the tracks were laid immediately east of his property, bringing even more patrons to Hales Hall. Business was brisk enough to call for an expansion and Stephen went to work renovating the building in 1892. He reconstructed the entry facing Fifth South, installing a bank of glass-front postal boxes<sup>59</sup> and a ticket office. The main hall was enlarged to include a beautiful wooden dance floor and several upstairs rooms for private parties. "My father was a very good carpenter himself, so did a lot of the work at odd times," said Mary Jane.<sup>60</sup> Stephen built and painted his own scenery as well as a large oil painting that served as the stage curtain. He bought the first upright piano in town, an elaborately carved instrument shipped in from back east, and installed a nickel soda fountain where Jane served soda water and candy.<sup>61</sup>



*Stephen promoted the activities at Hales Hall with regular ads in the local newspaper. Lower right: a contemporary escort card exchanged between dance participants.*

That same year Stephen also landscaped the grounds to create Hales Gardens, a park featuring a “big swing,”<sup>62</sup> croquet, racing and outdoor dancing to attract summertime crowds. He ran an ad in the local newspaper encouraging everyone to come by for “new plays, new company, new ideas. Everything bright and sparkling.”<sup>63</sup> Hales Hall was host to travelling theatrical troupes featuring vaudeville, ventriloquists and minstrel shows, as well as local talent displayed in church operettas and plays.<sup>64</sup> Jane rang a school bell announcing curtain time, then rolled up the painted canvas curtain on such productions as *The Mistletoe Bough*, *Rip Van Winkle*, *East Lynne*, and *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. In the spring of 1892, Stephen combined “a musical comedy which has toured the east” with a “free dance after the show”<sup>65</sup> in an effort to boost attendance.

Dancing was always the most popular entertainment offered, with a variety of steps including square dances, the Virginia reel, grand quadrille and even an occasional waltz. Music was supplied by a local orchestra consisting of a bass viol, two or three violins and a drum. Bountiful violinist James Hepworth recalled receiving admission tickets as part of his pay, allowing his sons to attend the dance without charge.<sup>66</sup>



*Lydia and Loanda dressed as fairies, perhaps for one of the popular masquerades at Hales Hall.*

Occasional masquerade balls were held at Hales Hall,<sup>67</sup> usually with Stephen leading the grand opening march, giving everyone a chance to review the costumes. Later in the evening, after prizes were awarded for the best characters, the unmasking took place. The Hales children often participated in the festivities. Loa remembered once leading the opening march with Lydia, masquerading as Tom Thumb and his wife.<sup>68</sup> Admission was usually fifty cents for dancers and twenty-five cents for spectators. So that no one would miss the fun, Jane supplied costume rentals for such events.

Twice weekly the dance floor was opened for roller skating with skates renting for twenty-five cents. The Hales children owned their own skates and often joined in the fun. Mary Jane recalled having “wonderful times learning to skate with many sore heads and skinned knees, but going happily home.”<sup>69</sup>

A variety of meetings was held at Hales Hall over the years, including political conventions, elections and even phrenology lectures.<sup>70</sup> Anyone was free to rent space at Hales Hall for private parties, family reunions, weddings and receptions. Mary Jane recalled “many parties given by the old time crowd, such as Uncle John Crosby and wife. They served punch and lunches and had wonderful times together going home in the wee hours of the morning.”<sup>71</sup>

The entire family was involved in running Hales Hall. Cleaning and filling the pair of large chandeliers fell to the older children, who found it “quite a job to keep these filled with coal oil and chimneys

cleaned.”<sup>72</sup> Jane was in charge of making and serving refreshments in her “changeable silk dress” and crimped hair. Mary Jane remembered her mother preparing a midnight lunch for the musicians and serving “fashionable oyster suppers to her guests.”<sup>73</sup> The Hales home was used for dressing rooms, and sometimes, when it was too late for the actors to travel on, they also spent the night there. “Many times we had to sleep crosswise of the bed to make room for the actors,” recalled Loa.<sup>74</sup>

Stephen was especially proud of the dance floor that shone “almost like glass,” according to Mary Jane, who remember her father having “some secret preparation for polishing the floor, to keep it so shining.”<sup>75</sup> Before theatrical performances, Stephen sprinkled a layer of sawdust across the floor to protect it from scraping benches; a scattering of candle shavings under dancer’s feet polished it to a brilliant shine.

## Downturn

Stephen also tried his hand at other financial ventures as they came along. He was one of several men involved in organizing a lumber mill, and when that project failed to launch, he leased a brick yard from Jane’s brother, John Crosby. Brick making was one of the largest industries in Bountiful at the time, and it must have seemed like a good investment, but Stephen never did prosper from the business.<sup>76</sup>

Unfortunately, both the local and national economies were in crisis by 1893, creating a slump which lasted until the turn of the century. Declining production, businesses failures and rising unemployment led the Bountiful coop to discontinue issuing credit and collect on debts. Stephen held a promissory note for \$270.00 in partnership with another man, and when neither of them was able to pay, the coop filed suit. Another financial blow was dealt when Richard Solomon, who had leased one of the rooms at Hales Hall for a shoe repair shop, was forced to close his business that fall.<sup>77</sup>

One of the hardest blows for Stephen was the loss of his position as postmaster, although it may not have come as a surprise. In addition to two different petitions calling for a change of location in 1893, *The Davis County Clipper* management complained about the delivery of their paper. It had been taken to the post office, but Stephen, “through an oversight ... failed to get it out in the first mail.”<sup>78</sup>

Another bit of bad luck came Stephen's way when the post office was robbed in April, 1893, by "a very hard character" recently released from a Salt Lake City jail. Hauled to the edge town and told "to get out of the country," the man appeared at Jane's post office counter early the next morning, pretending to write a letter while he cased the office. He managed to open the safe while Jane was occupied elsewhere, making off with some of the Hales' loose cash and thirty-four dollars belonging to the post office. While the thief was tracked down two days later, the money had no doubt already been spent.<sup>79</sup> The post office was moved uptown to the Opera House building in May, 1894, with an admonishment from *The Clipper* editor, who hoped that "from now on...we shall have good post office accommodations."<sup>80</sup>

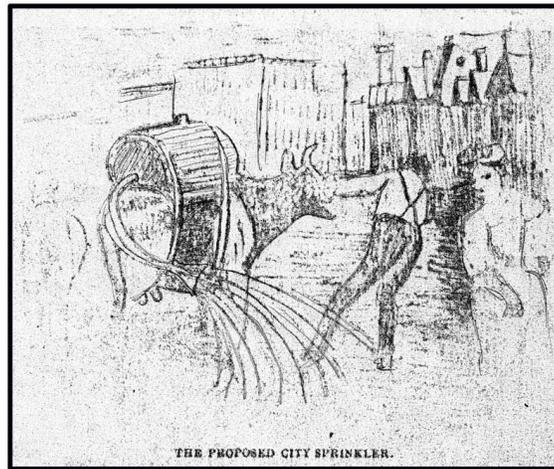
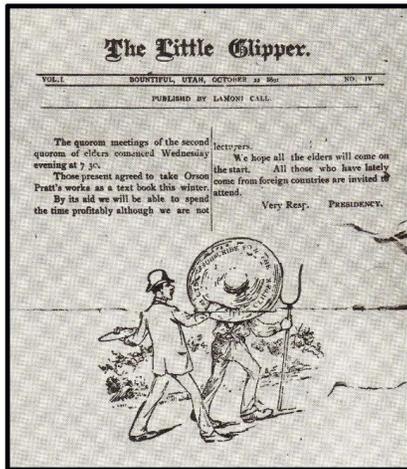
## Scramble to Survive

With the loss of the Hales' post office contract came summertime competition as a new entertainment venture, Eden Park, opened along nearby Barton Creek that summer, offering picnic facilities, refreshments, a ball diamond and dancing. Something had to be done to supplement the family's dwindling resources. All too aware of how many Bountiful citizens wrote poorly, Stephen announced twice-weekly penmanship classes, charging one dollar for twelve sessions. "His ability as a penman is widely known and his beautiful art productions have been seen by hundreds who have visited his dancing hall. It is a pity that our schools are not so graded that Mr. Hales could teach writing in them," commented the *Clipper*.<sup>81</sup>

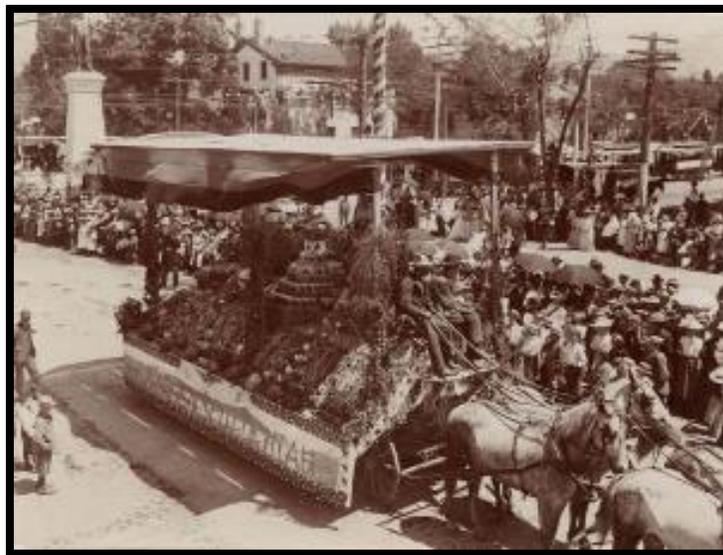
Stephen demonstrated his skill with pen and ink by creating a large work for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, featuring "representations of all kinds of animals and plants native and foreign; also mountain scenery and other things that only an artist would notice," according to a notice in the *Clipper*,<sup>82</sup> which paid Stephen for cartoon work from time to time. He also sold crayon portraits<sup>83</sup> and lithographed copies of an intricate family register he penned.<sup>84</sup> Stephen teamed up with another local artist and photographer in 1897 to paint the Great Salt Lake and its islands on twenty-two-foot streamers for Bountiful's entry in the 24<sup>th</sup> of July jubilee parade celebrating the pioneers' entry into the Salt Lake Valley. Covered with vegetables, the float proclaimed Bountiful as "the garden spot of Utah."<sup>85</sup>

However talented Stephen was, the market for artwork was slim, forcing him to explore other ways of making money. He announced the next year his discovery of "a liniment which will cure all kinds of aches and pains," hoping for enough sales to cover his bills. Although he initially reported the liniment was "giving such good satisfaction

that the demand for it keeps him rustling,<sup>86</sup> further talk of the product faded away. Stephen tried becoming a sales agent for a new force pump used in fighting fires, demonstrating three of the pumps at a local fire to prove their usefulness,<sup>87</sup> but that venture also fell short of his expectations.



*Two of Stephen's pen and ink drawings commissioned by The Davis County Clipper.*



*Stephen's artwork was part of Davis County's entry in the Pioneer Jubilee parade, 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 1897.*



## With a Flourish

*Penmanship was turned into an art in the nineteenth century when flourishing became popular. Hours of rhythmic stroking, sometimes to the beat of a metronome, trained the student to move not just his fingers, but the whole arm to create spectacular designs with pen and ink. Flourishing was even more difficult than it looked. Only the nib and one knuckle of the little finger rested on the paper while the penman rotated the paper under his strokes instead of lifting the pen, allowing for a smoother flow. Above: a flourish drawn by Stephen.*



Stephen penned this intricate "Family Register" which he offered for sale in the spring of 1897.

## ENDNOTES

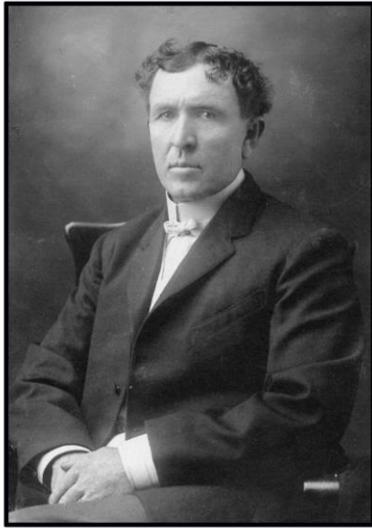
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- <sup>53</sup> Janice P. Dawson, "An Economic Kaleidoscope: The Stephen Hales Family of Bountiful," *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Winter, 1993), page 64.
- <sup>54</sup> Kate B. Carter, *Heartthrobs of the West* (Salt Lake City: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1947), page 135.
- <sup>55</sup> United States Post Office Department, *History of the Bountiful City Post Office* (pamphlet, 1954), page 15.
- <sup>56</sup> Carter, *Heartthrobs of the West*, page 135.
- <sup>57</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 22 October, 1897; 11 February, 1898; 24 February, 1899.
- <sup>58</sup> [Anonymous] *Open House, Bountiful City Post Office*, commemorative booklet 29 August, 1954. Original held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>59</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 29 April, 1892.
- <sup>60</sup> Mary Jane Hales Hulse, "Hales Hall," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>61</sup> Cleo H. Page, "History of Stephen Hales," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>62</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 24 July, 1893.
- <sup>63</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 20 May, 1892.
- <sup>64</sup> Veta May Atkinson Brown, "History of Stephen Hales," typescript, 1955. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>65</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 20 May, 1892.
- <sup>66</sup> *Hepworth-Hirst Family Newsletter*, Spring, 1994, pg 3. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>67</sup> *The Davis county Clipper*, 1 February, 1894.
- <sup>68</sup> Loanda Janet (Hales) Burningham, "Stephen Hales," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>69</sup> Hulse, "Hales Hall," undated typescript.
- <sup>70</sup> Phrenology was a pseudoscience popular in the nineteenth century which claimed the personality traits of a person could be determined by measuring and reading bumps and fissures in the skull.
- <sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>74</sup> Burningham, "Stephen Hales," undated typescript.
- <sup>75</sup> Hulse, "Hales Hall," undated typescript.
- <sup>76</sup> Dawson, "An Economic Kaleidoscope: The Stephen Hales Family of Bountiful," *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Winter, 1993), page 71.
- <sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>78</sup> *Ibid*, page 73.
- <sup>79</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 13 April, 1893.
- <sup>80</sup> *Ibid*, 14 June, 1894.
- <sup>81</sup> *Ibid*, 27 December, 1895; 10 January, 1896.
- <sup>82</sup> *Ibid*, 9 March, 1893.
- <sup>83</sup> *Ibid*, 3 June, 1898.
- <sup>84</sup> *Ibid*, 12 March, 1897.
- <sup>85</sup> *Ibid*, 23 July, 1897.
- <sup>86</sup> *Ibid*, 10 January, 1895.
- <sup>87</sup> *Ibid*, 16 August, 1894.

## Chapter 3

# A Parting of Ways

### Losing the Light



*Stephen and Jane in a pair of photographs probably taken by Stephen himself.*

The Hales family was well-known and well-loved in the LDS ward they attended weekly. All of the children were blessed in the Bountiful tabernacle, which was near enough to allow them to walk to Primary meetings and later young adult activities. Jane was respected as a counselor in the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association, a position she held for seven years.<sup>88</sup> Stephen was a personable, likeable member of the ward who always accompanied his family to church and sat reverently through the long meetings. No one suspected him of gradually falling into unbelief.

The change could have begun with the death of two-year old Irvin in 1880, or with infant Walter's passing six years later; it was impossible to say. Stephen was never outwardly hostile to the church, admitting that it was "probably the best church to be found,"<sup>89</sup> and did not object to paying the family's ten percent at the tithing yard on trips to Salt Lake City,<sup>90</sup> but he eventually lost faith in both the church and later in God Himself.

Stephen's lack of testimony had started to show by the winter of 1884. In a bishop's court held just after the new year, Stephen stated he did not believe in the revelations of Joseph Smith, nor did he believe in Jesus Christ or in a personal God. While Bishop Chester Call had "no feelings against" Stephen, respecting him for his "candor and morality," the court disfellowshipped Stephen and scheduled a hearing on the stake level several weeks later. Stephen continued to emphasize his lack of faith, saying "he thought Jesus Christ was not better than any other man, only more intelligent."<sup>91</sup> The stake court excommunicated him on 23 January, 1885.<sup>92</sup>

## Keeping Up Appearances

*Veta May Atkinson Brown often heard the story of how unruffled Stephen could be. "Well remembered is a story told about grandfather. While sitting in sacrament meeting, a mouse run up his pant leg and he caught and held it till meeting was over and was really glad to get outside and get rid of the mouse."*

## A Dark Cloud

The news of Stephen's excommunication, announced the following day in the Salt Lake paper,<sup>93</sup> spread quickly through the close-knit Mormon community. Now considered socially suspect by many people, he was often referred to openly as "the apostate." Some even falsely accused Stephen of aiding federal marshals in the arrest of local polygamists. As suspected offenders were lined up, Stephen was asked to identify those who had more than one wife. "He went down the line and shook his head," according to Bountiful resident Thomas Briggs. "He said he knew alight, but he never gave them away."<sup>94</sup> Stephen had no arguments with his neighbors about their religion, but some of them still considered him a traitor, especially when he enrolled his children in a non-Mormon school.

At the same time the U.S. government was rounding up polygamists, various protestant churches were trying to influence Mormon children through missionary schools such as Bountiful's Bliss Hall.<sup>95</sup> Since stalwart members of the church sent their children to LDS-sponsored schools, the Hales children found themselves at odds with the community during the week, and endured whispered comments behind their backs on Sundays. "The Mormons of that day, even more than now, took their religion seriously," said Charles Mabey, a former neighbor of the Hales family. "He who did not believe was looked upon more or less as a freak."<sup>96</sup> Although Stephen remained prominent in business and community affairs for some time, he and his family bore a social stigma that was impossible to escape.

Jane was horrified and humiliated. Her temple marriage was automatically dissolved with her husband's excommunication, but she was still dependent upon him for support. She was forced to attend church without her husband, where she tried to teach her children the importance of the gospel their father had abandoned. It was Jane who made certain the two younger girls, Lydia and Loa, were baptized, and it was Jane who arranged for the boys to receive their priesthood ordinations when they came of age.

As the children became old enough to marry, there was the indignity of not always measuring up in the other families' opinions. When John became engaged to marry Jeanette Porter,<sup>97</sup> the Porters invited "invited Stephen and Jane Hales over to dinner because it was the social thing to do," according to Janice Dawson,<sup>98</sup> granddaughter of John and Jeanette Hales. "Grandpa Porter<sup>99</sup> had been the bishop in Centerville for eleven years and was thought of very highly. Grandma Porter<sup>100</sup> cooked and served the dinner, but would not sit down and eat with them. She felt the Hales weren't good enough for her daughter."<sup>101</sup>

The shame and disrespect brought on by Stephen's excommunication ran deep in the family, many of whom tried to cover it up, ignore it or frame it as a lesser offence over the years. Stephen's granddaughter Cleo Page<sup>102</sup> successfully petitioned the church to reinstate Stephen's membership in 1969.<sup>103</sup> While compiling the necessary research for Stephen's case file, Cleo spoke with many family members about the excommunication. When she asked Loa about her father's excommunication, Loa insisted he was "just disfellowshipped."<sup>104</sup> Aaron Porter,<sup>105</sup> Jeanette's brother, remembered Stephen well from attending dances at Hales Hall. "He knew nothing about him that would discredit his character," said Cleo. "He said Stephen Hales advocated round dancing, that is dancing with partners like we do today, but the church was against it. The young people wanted it, so he went along with them. It must have been just little differences like that, not because he wasn't a worthy person."<sup>106</sup>



*The Hales children (left to right, back to front): Stephen Anthony, John; Loa, Mary Jane, Lydia.*

However, it was more than the scandalous dancing styles allowed at Hales Hall that set the community on edge. “The hall built by Stephen Hales... was not run according to the standards desired by the best people,” according to Charles Mabey,<sup>107</sup> who was probably referring to Stephen’s sale of alcohol at the refreshment bar. Stephen went on trial for dispensing beer without a license in November, 1885. “The beer selling was conducted in defiance of the law, under the guise of selling soda water,” reported *The Deseret News*. “The defendant went on the stand and attempted to deny the facts, but unwittingly admitted them when under cross-examination.”<sup>108</sup> Stephen was found guilty and ordered to pay a fine of ninety-nine dollars. He was afterwards repentant over the legalities of the situation, but not of selling the alcohol itself, which he continued to make available at Hales Hall. Stephen reported several years later how alcohol had contributed to the success of a Christmas Night celebration, stating that “the boys were improving in regards to temperance, no one being the worse for liquor.”<sup>109</sup> He even took the negative in a community debate which argued the resolve “that alcohol has caused more misery than has gold.”<sup>110</sup>

## Hales Hall Closes

The misery Stephen felt from a loss of respect in the predominantly LDS community was compounded by increasing financial pressure as the depression deepened and competition doubled. The popularity of two new resorts, Lagoon in nearby Farmington and Saltair on the shores of the Great Salt Lake, led to a steep decline in business for many smaller entertainment spots like Hales Hall. Mormon leaders in Bountiful sought to encourage wholesome activities for their youth, sponsoring dances and other events at the more acceptable Opera House as alternatives to the “injurious” and “evil” goings-on at Hales Hall.<sup>111</sup>

Meanwhile, life at home was deteriorating beyond repair. The tension caused by Stephen’s behavior created a widening chasm in the Hales’ marriage as both husband and wife lived increasingly different lives. Stephen distance himself by spending more time pursuing his various interests around town, leaving Jane to shoulder the family responsibilities, and eventually, the operation of Hales Hall. Jane was forced to negotiate with the city council just to keep the hall open, since Stephen had not paid the license fees. She pleaded that shutting the doors “would work a hardship on her,” but if the hall remained open she would be able to pay the debt more quickly. The city agreed, but the marshal was instructed to collect each evening’s license as it became due.<sup>112</sup>

Jane's health began to fail under the strain. She was ill for several years before anyone realized she had "consumption," as tuberculosis was called then.<sup>113</sup> She struggled with a chronic, blood-tinged cough, night sweats and continual weight loss. By 1898, she was ill enough to require help around the house from her teenaged daughters, Loa and Lydia, and assistance running Hales Hall from Stephen Anthony.<sup>114</sup>

Stephen was fifty years old by then, saddled with debts and more problems than he cared to solve. He was also still at odds with the church, much to his mother's distress. Shortly before her death in August, 1898, Lydia Hales asked her son "to come back into the church, but he said the church left him, he didn't leave the church."<sup>115</sup> But Stephen had left the church, and he decided it was now time to leave his family, his business and his life in Bountiful as well. He packed up and boarded a train headed north to Idaho, leaving his terminally ill wife and two young daughters to fend for themselves.<sup>116</sup>

## What Became of Hales Hall

*Jane and her son made an effort to keep the hall open after Stephen left for Idaho, but finally accepted the opera house's offer of \$80.00 a year to close the business in 1900. The building was sold after Jane's death the following year. It served as silent movie theater and, much later, an auto repair garage. The building remained abandoned and unkempt for a number of years until it was finally torn down in 1941.*

## Move to Idaho

With the beginning of the twentieth century Stephen hoped to find a new life in Rexburg, one of the largest and fastest growing towns in Idaho. Rexburg held the promise of prosperity with its “many businesses and a large number of mercantile houses, wagon and machine warehouses and two hotels,” according to an article in *The Deseret News* that no doubt caught Stephen’s eye. “Almost every day the main street is filled with teams...The future of the Burg is great, and if you want your hat knocked off, just say otherwise.”<sup>117</sup>

Stephen became the city’s first photographer when he opened a studio on East Main Street between North First East and North Second East, a tree-lined lot right in the center of town where he expected to do a good deal of business.<sup>118</sup> Freed from the prejudice of the judgmental community he had left behind, Stephen made new friends in Rexburg with his jovial personality and easy going manner. He generated a small income by carving designs on sets of silver cutlery, drawing and painting pictures, and teaching penmanship to his neighbors.<sup>119</sup> When word came later that year of Jane’s continually worsening health, Stephen chose to remain in Idaho.<sup>120</sup>



*This view of Lydia posing with neighbors was taken in Stephen’s Rexburg garden, located behind his photo studio.*

Jane was admitted to St. Mark's hospital in Salt Lake City where she received treatment for several weeks in August, 1900. Although the paper reported her condition as "slightly improved"<sup>121</sup> when she returned home, her health continued to decline, and by winter, it was clear the end was near. Mary Jane moved home to care for her mother during her last days.<sup>122</sup> Jane quietly passed away on Sunday morning, 22 February, 1901, at the age of forty-seven.<sup>123</sup>

Stephen did not even return to attend his wife's funeral or to settle her estate. He simply went before the notary in Idaho and for the sum of one dollar, granted all claims on the Bountiful property to his children.<sup>124</sup> He did, however, invite Lydia and Loa to join him in Rexburg; at ages eighteen and sixteen, the girls still needed the guidance of a parent.<sup>125</sup> When Mary Jane's husband Joseph Atkinson<sup>126</sup> died 5 August, 1901, she joined her father and sisters in Rexburg with her three small children. Stephen Anthony moved to Rexburg later that year after attending to his mother's estate,<sup>127</sup> but remained only a short time. He returned to Bountiful in May, 1902, and reopened his photography shop in Hales Hall<sup>128</sup>

Stephen seemed to have found some measure of contentment surrounded by his children and grandchildren, but financial success continued to escape his grasp. Stephen sold his Rexburg property in 1904,<sup>129</sup> leaving town with unpaid taxes<sup>130</sup> He was headed east this time, where he could start over with a new identity altogether.



*Jane's grave in the Bountiful City Cemetery.*

## ENDNOTES

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- <sup>88</sup> Janice P. Dawson, “An Economic Kaleidoscope: The Stephen Hales Family of Bountiful,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Winter, 1993), page 66.
- <sup>89</sup> Letter from Kim R. Burningham to Janice P. Dawson, 17 May, 1990. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>90</sup> Dawson, “An Economic Kaleidoscope: The Stephen Hales Family of Bountiful,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Winter, 1993), page 66.
- <sup>91</sup> Letter from Kim Burningham to Janice P. Dawson, 17 May, 1990.
- <sup>92</sup> Letter from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Genealogy Society to Cleo (Hales) Page, 27 June, 1969. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies. See also: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Historian’s Office, Davis Stake Record. GS Ser #6507 F, Utah S18K pt 22.
- <sup>93</sup> *The Deseret News*, 24 January, 1885.
- <sup>94</sup> Dawson, “An Economic Kaleidoscope: The Stephen Hales Family of Bountiful,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Winter, 1993), page 67. Also see: *The Salt Lake Herald*, 13 March, 1887, “With the Usual Result...The marshal and his deputies made another raid on East Bountiful yesterday afternoon, arriving there at about 2:30 o’clock, and surrounding the meeting house where the quarterly conference of the Davis County stake was being held. When the worshipers emerged from the church each face was eagerly scanned, but even with the help of the local celebrity Stephen Hales, they were unable to apprehend anyone for whom they had warrants. A number of persons were stopped, but with the usual results. After the meeting had been adjourned and the attendants had all gone home, the officers applied for permission to go through the houses, which was granted them, and they then made a thorough search, but with nothing more than the usual result.”
- <sup>95</sup> The Bountiful Area Historic Sites Committee, *Bountiful Area Historic Sites, Tour Guide Booklet, Bicentennial Edition* (1976), page 10.
- <sup>96</sup> Charles Rendell Mabey, *Our Father’s House: Joseph Thomas Mabey Family History* (Salt Lake City: Beverly Craftsmen, 1947), page 195.
- <sup>97</sup> Jeanette Rebecca (Porter) Hales (1877-1951), #KWCX-P7W, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>98</sup> Janice (Page) Dawson (1931-), #LNDN-5DB, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>99</sup> Aaron Benjamin Porter (1852-1904), #KWCT-DNK, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>100</sup> Rebecca Margaret (Poole) Porter (1855-1935), #KWCT-DNG, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>101</sup> Janice was told this story by her mother, Cleo (Hales) Page, daughter of John and Jeanette Hales. Interview with Janice (Page) Dawson, 25 June, 2000. Transcript held by interviewer Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>102</sup> Cleo (Hales) Page (1906-1989), #KWZ8-T4Z, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>103</sup> Letter from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Genealogy Society to Cleo (Hales) Page, 27 June, 1969.
- <sup>104</sup> According to Cleo’s daughter, Janice Dawson, other relatives “wouldn’t talk about it either.” Interview with Janice (Page) Dawson, 20 June, 2000. Transcript held by interviewer Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>105</sup> Aaron Benjamin Porter (1875-1964), #KWCX-QGF, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>106</sup> Letter from Cleo (Hales) Page to Veta Mae (Atkinson) Brown, 24 September, 1964. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>107</sup> Mabey, *Our Father’s House: Joseph Thomas Mabey Family History*, page 221.
- <sup>108</sup> *The Deseret News*, 14 November, 1885.
- <sup>109</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 29 December, 1892.
- <sup>110</sup> *Ibid*, 9 February, 1893.
- <sup>111</sup> Dawson, “An Economic Kaleidoscope: The Stephen Hales Family of Bountiful,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Winter, 1993), page 77.

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<sup>112</sup> *Ibid*, page 74.

<sup>113</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 22 February, 1901.

<sup>114</sup> Mary Jane Hales Hulse, "Hales Hall," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

<sup>115</sup> This information was told to Cleo Page by Stephen's daughter, Loa. Cleo H. Page, "Stephen Hales Identity Chart," undated typescript. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

<sup>116</sup> Stephen successfully petitioned for a divorce from Jane, citing "great and intolerable cruelty." See *The Salt Lake Herald*, 9 February and 8 May, 1894.

<sup>117</sup> David Lester Crowder, *Rexburg, Idaho: The First One Hundred Years, 1883-1983* (Caldwell, Idaho, 1983), page 107-110.

<sup>118</sup> Veta May Atkinson Brown, "History of Stephen Hales," typescript, 1955. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid*.

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<sup>121</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 24 August, 1900.

<sup>122</sup> Brown, "History of Stephen Hales," typescript, 1955.

<sup>123</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 22 February, 1901.

<sup>124</sup> Kim R. Burningham, "After the Frost," typescript, December, 1992. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

<sup>125</sup> Loanda Janet (Hales) Burningham, "Stephen Hales," undated typescript. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

<sup>126</sup> Joseph Hyrum Atkinson (1875-1901), #KWC1-GJ6, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

<sup>127</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 26 March, 1901.

<sup>128</sup> *Ibid*, 23 May, 1902.

<sup>129</sup> 22 June 1904, Block 34 Lot, S Hales selling to JS Anderson and EL Widerburg in four installments. Indenture no. 7138. Janice P. Dawson, "Notes on Stephen Hales (1849) Rexburg, Fremont County, Idaho, Property," undated typescript. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

<sup>130</sup> *The Current-Journal*, 25 March, 1905.

## Chapter 4

# A New Identity

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### Life in the South



*Stephen and his second wife Jessie Anderson shortly after their marriage in 1907.*

Stephen had no intention of ever returning when he left Idaho, even if he wasn't sure exactly where he wanted to go from there. He spent a few months in Columbus, Ohio, looking for a foothold before turning his attention southward to Key West, the richest and most modern city in Florida at the time.<sup>131</sup> Not only was the island an exotic stopover for well-heeled tourists, but an important international shipping hub, filled with wealthy homes and fashionable residents who strolled by “wearing big hats with feathers and dresses that came to their ankles, the kind you get from Paris,” according to one local resident.<sup>132</sup> There were such luxuries as electricity, ice and silent movies, and enough business to support four photographers along Duval Street.<sup>133</sup> Stephen rented a room in one of the grand old houses off the main street, and probably worked for one of the established photo studios for a time, but eventually he felt the need to move on, deciding to try his luck farther north in Rome, Georgia.<sup>134</sup>

Rome was smaller than Key West, but it, too, had a prosperous population, tree-lined streets and lovely historic buildings. Rome seemed like the perfect place for Stephen to reinvent himself as S. C. Hales,<sup>135</sup> a handsome middle-aged gentleman with a talent for photography. Stephen quickly found work at The Orr Art Studio,<sup>136</sup> one of several established photographers on Broad Street,<sup>137</sup> where he met a remarkable young woman with dark blue eyes<sup>138</sup> who was “imposing, regal, self-assured, intelligent, independent. She would look at you and declare things.”<sup>139</sup>

Jessie Anderson’s<sup>140</sup> soft Southern drawl belied the inner strength she had developed as the daughter of George D. Anderson,<sup>141</sup> the same George D. Anderson who was elected local justice of the peace and served two terms in the Georgia House of Representatives.<sup>142</sup> Her father had signed up to fight the Yankees at the age of seventeen, but ended the war on furlough, fighting instead the miseries of a malarial malaise that weakened him for life. Before his political career, George barely managed to support his wife and seven children with the proceeds of a saw mill and farming.<sup>143</sup> Jesse’s mother Anna<sup>144</sup> was thirteen when General Sherman’s troops marched through Floyd County and she never forgot the devastation following in their wake. She kept the flame of Southern pride burning in her family.<sup>145</sup>

Jessie, an artist and photographer in her own right, was intrigued by the attractive newcomer, and after a short courtship the pair was married on 2 January, 1907.<sup>146</sup> At fifty-eight years of age, Stephen was old enough to be Jessie’s father, although Jessie thought he was only ten years her senior. She was also unaware of her new husband’s previous marriage and the existence of his five children living in the west. “Strange as it may seem he never told me of his first marriage ‘till a few weeks or a few days before he went away [died], but I know he had some reason of his own for not telling me,” she wrote many years later.<sup>147</sup>

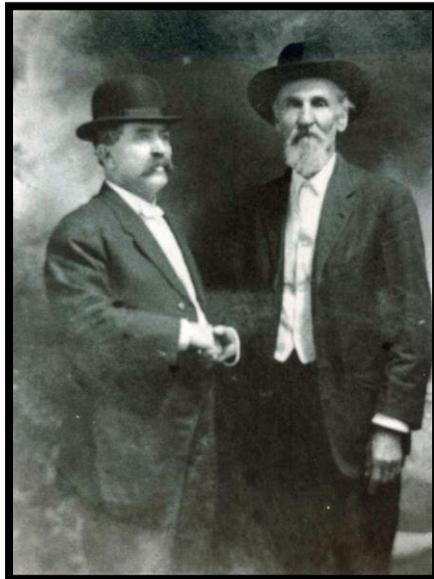


## By Another Name

*Stephen's departure from the west gave him an opportunity to create a new identity for himself, one which included several variations on his name. He added his mother's maiden name, Carter, when he married Jesse Anderson in 1907. His name appears as S.C. Hale in the Cordele City Directory of 1914-1915, and as S.C. Hales on his headstone and in his obituary.*



*Jessie Anderson Hales*



*Stephen and an unknown friend in Georgia.*

Stephen and Jessie struck out on their own three months after their marriage, opening up a photography studio several hundred miles south in the town of Cordele,<sup>148</sup> nicknamed “The Hub City” for all the rail traffic passing through. Twenty-six passenger trains “and who knows how many freight cars, most of them full of the region’s cash crop of cotton,”<sup>149</sup> rumbled passed the Hales’ studio at 103 ½ South Eighth Street.<sup>150</sup> Stephen and Jessie were pleased to have found a prime location for their business, not far from Cordele’s rail depot and right next to The Georgia Cotton Company,<sup>151</sup> where they also rented a small apartment on the second floor.<sup>152</sup>

In addition to photographs, the couple offered custom artwork, with Stephen specializing in pen and ink sketches and Jessie in still life oil paintings. Stephen canvassed the area in and around Cordele with sample works to generate income, but the difficulty of finding consistent commissions kept finances tight.<sup>153</sup> “We did not have any money, but we were happy,” recalled Jessie.<sup>154</sup>

Their happiness was dimmed several years later when their only child, Samuel,<sup>155</sup> was stillborn on 18 January, 1910. “He was fine little fellow, just like his father,” said Jessie. “He had curly hair and light blue eyes. We meant to call him S. C. for his father.”<sup>156</sup> Jessie found some consolation in her faith, and Stephen agreed to join her for Reverend Coin’s sermons at the First Baptist Church “almost every Sunday.” He even attended the Men’s Bible Class,<sup>157</sup> although he admitted he still did “not belong to or have any religion.”<sup>158</sup>



*The Hales’ studio was located in this now abandoned building on South Eighth Street in Cordele, Georgia.*



*The charming pen and ink drawing was done while Stephen was living in Georgia.*

## Fading Away

By the spring of 1915, Stephen was finding the five block walk to church more difficult than before. All that summer he suffered “with indigestion, and very bad,”<sup>159</sup> and other complaints he thought might be cured with the liniment he had left back in Idaho. He wrote to Lydia, hoping she would send him a few bottles. “That liniment [I] used to make... beats anything you ever heard of,”<sup>160</sup> he wrote, but it couldn’t beat the developing heart disease which would eventually claim his life. He soon dropped fifty pounds<sup>161</sup> and took on a sickly, pallid appearance that alarmed Jessie, who noticed his breathing becoming rapid and labored with the slightest effort as the winter wore on. When Stephen was unable to climb the studio stairs, Jessie transferred him into the home of friends Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Hatcher,<sup>162</sup> where he could move about more comfortably.

There was little even the doctors could do for Stephen, however, and eventually he was incapacitated as fluids built up in his failing body. It was only then, on his deathbed, that Stephen told Jessie about his life before coming to Georgia. “He spoke of Salt Lake City as home and said he wanted me to see the city sometime,” Jessie later said.<sup>163</sup> Stephen drifted in and out of consciousness, becoming delirious toward the end. “Before he died he thought he was going on a trip,” said Jessie. “He spoke of someone and called her Mama and a child he called Fred. He looked happy, but he said he was so tired.”<sup>164</sup> Stephen slipped into his eternal rest on 4 July, 1916.<sup>165</sup>

Jessie arranged for Reverend Coin to direct her husband's funeral services the next afternoon,<sup>166</sup> and spared no expense on the marble vault installed in the Sunnyside Cemetery on the east side of town.<sup>167</sup> She chose a granite slab with a large urn, engraving it with a simple, but heartfelt "HUSBAND S.C. Hales Nov. 3, 1866-July 4, 1916."<sup>168</sup> Stephen had been successful in convincing his wife he was much younger than he actually was.

He had also apparently been successful in hiding most of his past from Jessie, even while keeping in touch with at least several of his children out west. In his letter to Lydia, dated December, 1915, Stephen thanked her for a previous gift of cologne. "I think of you all most every day and wish I could see you and the children," he wrote. He also mentioned writing to John, but "never did get answer. I hope you are all well and if you are can get John to write to me."<sup>169</sup> Ties seem to have been severed by John; when Jessie sent a special delivery letter to Idaho informing John of his father's death, he had been living in Salt Lake City for seven years.<sup>170</sup>

Jessie did what she could to mend fences she had no part in breaking. She was kind and caring to the Hales relatives who made contact with her in later years, inviting them to call her "Aunt Jessie." Jessie also wanted her late husband's family to remember him well. "He was a high class man and I know he loved you," she wrote to Mary Jane's daughter, Veta.<sup>171</sup> "I am mailing you a package of his pictures in this mail. I would love to see you give my love to your mother and tell her I hope to see all of you some day."<sup>172</sup>



*Stephen's grave in Cordele's Sunnyside Cemetery.*

## Jesse's Final Years

There was no reason for Jessie to remain in Cordele now that Stephen was gone. She packed up the photography equipment in boxes and moved north to Fort Valley, in Peach County, where she opened a small studio.<sup>173</sup> Fort Valley was a busy town whose prosperity was based on shipping vast loads of peaches grown in orchards covering the countryside. Trains crowded the multiple lines of tracks twenty-four hours a day during the hectic summer days of peach season, creating enough traffic for Jessie's business to survive.

It wasn't long before Jessie met John Houser,<sup>174</sup> a recently widowed farmer eighteen years her senior. John was charmed by Jessie and asked her to be his wife in 1921.<sup>175</sup> She found acceptance with John's older children as "Aunt Jessie,"<sup>176</sup> and settled into a comfortable life in a home at the center of town.<sup>177</sup> Jessie enjoyed visiting her step-daughters Allie<sup>178</sup> and Lizzie,<sup>179</sup> who lived nearby,<sup>180</sup> and kept active with church and Daughters of the Confederacy meetings.

Jessie became widowed a second time when John died in December, 1932.<sup>181</sup> At the age of fifty-six, she found herself without the comfort of either a husband or children. While she had a good relationship with her stepchildren, Jessie longed to be with her own kin. She sold the house in Fort Valley, returning to Rome where she could be "Aunt Jessie" to her many nieces and nephews there.

Eventually Jessie became too frail to live by herself, accepting the offer of her niece Virginia Whatley and husband Charles to share their home.<sup>182</sup> Even though she was surrounded by family, Jesse's thoughts often turned to the happiness she had shared with Stephen many years ago. "I loved the ground he walked on and I still feel the warmth of his love, and I am very lonely and restless at times," she wrote many years after his death.<sup>183</sup>

Jessie's loneliness ended with a heart attack on the afternoon of 5 March, 1961.<sup>184</sup> She was eighty-four years old. A graveside service was conducted two days later at the Beech Creek Cemetery, Rome, Georgia, where she was buried in the family plot next to her parents.<sup>185</sup>

## ENDNOTES

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- <sup>131</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 20 January, 1917.
- <sup>132</sup> Christopher Cox, *A Key West Companion* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1983), page 104.
- <sup>133</sup> The Mamone Key West Directory of 1900, according to Kim. R. Burningham, "Stephen Hales in Georgia," typescript, January, 1992. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>134</sup> *The Davis County Clipper*, 20 January, 1917.
- <sup>135</sup> Stephen used "Carter," his mother's maiden name, when he married Jesse. His name appears as S.C. Hales in his obituary and on the headstone Jessie put on his grave. See Hales-Anderson marriage, 6 January, 1907, marriage record book of Floyd County, Georgia; book H, page 372.
- <sup>136</sup> Letter from Jessie (Anderson) Hales Houser to Veta May (Atkinson) Brown, 8 July, 1942. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>137</sup> Kim R. Burningham, "After the Frost," typescript, December, 1992. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>138</sup> Letter from Jessie (Anderson) Hales Houser to Veta May (Atkinson) Brown, 17 May, 1948. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>139</sup> Burningham, "After the Frost," typescript, December, 1992.
- <sup>140</sup> Jesse (Anderson) Hales Houser (1876-1961), #LC11-93Y. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>141</sup> George D. Anderson (1843-1922), #27HD-XGB, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>142</sup> George D. Anderson was justice of the peace in the Mt. Alto district for many years, and was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1911-1912 and 1915-1916. George Magruder Battey, *A History of Rome and Floyd County, State of Georgia, United States of America* (Webb and Vary Company, 1922), page 380 and 456. Available online at: [http://books.google.com/books/about/A\\_History\\_of\\_Rome\\_and\\_Floyd\\_County\\_State.html?id=xvbTT88nRmoC](http://books.google.com/books/about/A_History_of_Rome_and_Floyd_County_State.html?id=xvbTT88nRmoC). Also see: Jesse (Anderson) Hales Houser obituary, *The Rome News-Tribune*, 6 March, 1961, page 2.
- <sup>143</sup> George D. Anderson, Confederate pension application, available online at: <http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us:2011/cdm/compoundobject/collection/TestApps/id/32979/rec/3>
- <sup>144</sup> Anna Rebecca (Cox) Anderson (1851-1926), #27HD-XB6, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>145</sup> Jesse was a member of the Daughters of the Confederacy heritage organization. *The Rome News-Tribune*, 6 March, 1961.
- <sup>146</sup> Letter from Jessie (Anderson) Hales Houser to Veta May (Atkinson) Brown, 8 July, 1942.
- <sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>148</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>149</sup> Daughters of the American Revolution, Fort Early Chapter, *The History of Crisp County* (Cordele: 1916), page 12.
- <sup>150</sup> *Cordele Georgia City Directory, 1914-1915, Volume 1*, compiled by Ernest H. Miller, Piedmont Directory Company, page 133. See Kim. R. Burningham, "Stephen Hales in Georgia," typescript, January, 1992. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies
- <sup>151</sup> Kim. R. Burningham, "Stephen Hales in Georgia," typescript, January, 1992. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>152</sup> Burningham, "After the Frost," typescript, December, 1992.
- <sup>153</sup> Letter from Stephen Hales to Lydia (Hales) Larson, 6 December, 1915. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>154</sup> Letter from Jessie (Anderson) Hales Houser to Veta May (Atkinson) Brown, 8 July, 1942.
- <sup>155</sup> Samuel Carter Hales (1910-1910), #MFQZ-6W9, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>156</sup> Letter from Jessie (Anderson) Hales Houser to Veta May (Atkinson) Brown, 17 May, 1948. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies. See also: Letter from Jessie (Anderson) Hales Houser to Veta May (Atkinson) Brown, 8 July, 1942. There is no public record of Samuel's birth or death, as Georgia did not keep these types of records until 1919, according to a letter from the Crisp

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- County Department of Health to Cleo H. Page, 2 December, 1963. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>157</sup> *The Cordele Dispatch*, 5 July, 1916.
- <sup>158</sup> Letter from Stephen Hales to Lydia (Hales) Larson, 6 December, 1915.
- <sup>159</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>160</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>161</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>162</sup> *The Cordele Dispatch*, 5 July, 1916.
- <sup>163</sup> Letter from Jessie (Anderson) Hales Houser to Veta May (Atkinson) Brown, 8 July, 1942.
- <sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>165</sup> *The Cordele Dispatch*, 5 July, 1916.
- <sup>166</sup> *Ibid.*, 5 July, 1916.
- <sup>167</sup> Letter from Jessie (Anderson) Hales Houser to Veta May (Atkinson) Brown, 8 July, 1942.
- <sup>168</sup> Block 9, lot 1, grave 1, Sunnyside Cemetery, Cordele, Georgia.
- <sup>169</sup> Letter from Stephen Hales to Lydia (Hales) Larson, 6 December, 1915.
- <sup>170</sup> The Hales family in Utah was not notified of Stephen's death until six months later. See *The Davis County Clipper*, 2 January, 1917: "Mrs. Albert Burningham has just received word of the death of her father, Stephen Hales, the well-known artist and photographer and builder of Hales Hall, which occurred in Rome, Georgia, on the 4th of last July."
- <sup>171</sup> Veta May (Atkinson) Brown (1896-1975), #KWZZ-STQ, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>172</sup> Letter from Jessie (Anderson) Hales Houser to Veta May (Atkinson) Brown, 8 July, 1942.
- <sup>173</sup> Burningham, "Stephen Hales in Georgia," typescript, January, 1992.
- <sup>174</sup> Andrew John Houser (1858-1932), #L8SB-HSQ, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>175</sup> Letter from Elizabeth (Houser) Lester to Cleo H. Page, 12 October, 1963. Held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- <sup>176</sup> Letter from Jessie (Anderson) Hales Houser to Veta May (Atkinson) Brown, 8 July, 1942.
- <sup>177</sup> The Housers lived at 59 Anderson Avenue. Andrew Houser household, Peach County, Georgia, 1930 U. S. Census, population schedule, town of Fort Valley, enumerations district 4, page 4A, Image 78.0, Roll Roll: 380, Family History Film 2340115.
- <sup>178</sup> Allie Houser (1888-1954), #L8SB-H8P, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>179</sup> Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Houser) Lester (1892-1970), #L8SB-H64, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- <sup>180</sup> John's son, Andrew Houser (1894-1924), #L8SB-H64, had moved to North Carolina.
- <sup>181</sup> Andrew J. Houser death certificate #31624, Peach County, 1932, State of Georgia. Indexes of Vital Records for Georgia: Deaths, 1919-1998. Georgia, USA: Georgia Health Department, Office of Vital Records, 1998, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
- <sup>182</sup> Letter from Elizabeth (Houser) Lester to Cleo H. Page, 12 October, 1963.
- <sup>183</sup> Letter from Jessie (Anderson) Hales Houser to Veta May (Atkinson) Brown, 8 July, 1942.
- <sup>184</sup> The Rome News-Tribune, 6 March, 1961, page 2. See also: Jessie Anderson Houser death certificate, no. 4380 (1961), State of Georgia Department of Public Health, Atlanta.
- <sup>185</sup> Kim Burningham visited the cemetery in 1992, where he found an unmarked grave next to that of George and Anna Anderson. He was unable to locate the cemetery custodian to verify the unmarked grave as Jessie's. See Burningham, "Stephen Hales in Georgia," typescript, January, 1992.

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# INDEX

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