HISTORY HISTORY

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May Isabella Newton was born April 3, 1849 in Manchester, Lancaster County, England, daughter of James Leiah and Elisabeth Blackburn Newton. She had two full sisters Eliza and Elizabeth and one full brother Hyrum. When Mary was only four years old her parents came to Utah, and like 1853 other emigrants of that day, walked from Council Bluffs and settled in the tenth Ward, corner of 3rd South and 7th East Street. For some time they lived in a one-room adobe house, but later built two brick rooms.

In the spring of 1858, Mary was now 9 years old, she, with her family, were obliged to vacate their home and go to Springville, Utah County, where they remained until the following July. This was necessary on account of the approach of Johnson's Army.

When Mary was just a young girl about 12 years of age she gleaned in the wheat fields south of the city as did Ruth of old. She did a considerable amount of spinning, often walking to a place north of the Warm Springs to obtain wool for spinning.

She was fond of dancing and was very popular among the young folks.

She met a fine young man, also a resident of the tenth Ward, which resulted in her marriage to Hyrum Strong, February 1, 1863, by Heber C. Kimball.

Their first home was one room adjoining Grandfather Strong's house; however, they soon built a one-room adobe house just east of the old home and as time passed they added other rooms. The first arrival to bless this happy union was Hyrum Albert, January 8, 1871, followed by Elizabeth Irene, July 17, 1874, Irvin Jacob, October 9, 1877, Myrtie Belle, Sept. 6, 1880; Ralph James, Aug. 11, 1883; May, Dec. 17, 1886 and Daisy, October 18, 1890. The first born, Hyrum Albert, died when nearly 8 years old, December 17,

1878; his sister Elizabeth followed three weeks later, January 8, 1879, the day her brother would have been 8 years old.

During the early part of their married life Mary was left alone to raise the children and look after the cow as her husband was away most of the time, either going after emigrants or working on the railroad; later he hauled freight to Park City, making it necessary to be away about four nights each week.

The Indians often frightened her when she was alone and at one time she had to pick up her child and run to the neighbors for safety. She also had a narrow escape when one of the wild oxen went on a rampage.

Good water was very scarce and until a well was dug on their premises she had to carry water nearly a half a block. Ditch water was only fit for washing and had to be carried some distance.

After having lived in the 10th Ward for more than 40 years the family moved to Kaysville, May 30, 1894 where it was very difficult for Mary to get acquainted. However, she finally joined the Relief Society and for several years visited the Saints, accompanied by Sister Flint and others. She was very active in church work until poor health prevented her going out. She has kept up the record established by her good husband in observing the law of tithing and fast offering.

(By a son Shoring / Strong)

Grandmother Strong was a Relief Society teacher with Mrs. Jane Flint, when she lived in West Kaysville. They had a long beat, going with horse and buggy in all kinds of weather. When she moved to her daughters, she went teaching with Mrs. Emily Barnes.

Grandmother was a good quilter and was always there on time to help with the Relief Society quilts. She was a good fruit cake maker and made many birthday cakes for her friends.

She was good around sick people and stayed many a night helping out with the sick.

We children all love to go over to Grandma's and listen to her tell stories of her younger life. I remember she had many plants and flowers which she loved and cared for.

In her last years of ill health, she was full of courage, love and sympathy. I never saw anyone suffer so cheerfully. She was so thoughtful of everyone more concerned in others than in her own illness and suffering.

Grandmother Strong died in Kaysville at the age of 84 and is burried in the Kaysville City Cemetery.

(written by a grandaugther, mary babelle Semmens Judkins,