

DUP History presented by Janet J. Petersen

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Old Mill Camp
Ferron, Utah

History of Mary Harriet Burgess Bullard

As told by Grand-daughter Velma Cox Petersen

Mary Harriet Burgess came to Utah in 1848 at the age of six. Her parents came with the handcart company of that year. She was a sturdy and intelligent child. Because there were two small sisters, she often spoke of walking most of the way behind the hand cart . She was always willing to tell her family about her experiences during her life.

Mary Harriett Burgess married Ezra Nelson Bullard on July 27,1856 in Salt Lake City . They settled in Pine Valley in the foot of the mountains. They cleared the land, built a log cabin and raised their fourteen children there.

It was here in Pine Valley that Mary had a spiritual experience that changed her life. She had been very ill for quite some time and the family had little hope that she would recover. She was alone in the house when a stranger came to her bedside. He told her he knew how ill she was and he also told her that the Lord had need of her courage and strength. He admonished her that she should arise from her bed and within three days, she would be completely restored to good health. He laid his hands on her head and anointed her to have healing hands and he also told to use them in the healing of the sick and of the bringing of new life into the world.

As the stranger was leaving her home, he turned back to her and told her that her father, William Burgess, had written in the family bible the wrong date of when he entered into the Salt Lake Valley. He told her to contact her father and have the date checked.

Soon after the stranger left, her husband returned home and upon questioning him, if he had seen a stranger leaving the area and he told her that he had seen no man when he came to their home, or into Pine Valley.

For as long as Mary lived she never changed her story, nor did she ever refuse to help the sick and suffering. Whenever Grandma Bullard came to their home with her little black bag with her, the children of the house thought that she carried a baby in the bag because she usually would leave a new baby there, so, she must have had a new baby in her black bag.

Mary was busy with 14 children of her own, but she was always able to pick up and go to help those in need of her healing and caring .

Another story of one of her experiences told by her family concerning her caring for the sick. One night a man came into her house in the early evening. He wanted grandma Bullard to go to his house and help his wife with having a baby.

She got in his buggy and they started up the road to his farm. The road was very rough and the man was very nervous and excited and was going too fast for the conditions. The wagon went over a huge rock knocking the wheel off the buggy. Grandmother and the man were both thrown from the buggy . She had a large gash on her face. However , the man helped Mary on one of

the horses and she carried on to the man's house, delivered the baby and sent help for the father.

Grandfather Bullard was known for his very kind nature. He loved nature and he loved all of the little children. His understanding of the Indians and his ways made this man a wonderful and important man to have around when problems with the Indians arose." He was a peace - maker with pioneers and Indians..

Ezra Bullard was a farmer, but was also a man called on frequently to help with Indian uprising. He was a veteran of the Blackhawk Indian and Echo Canyon Wars. He was often away from home for this purpose, He was a large man and loved the hilly country of Pine Valley.

He was very gentle with the little animals as he was with the children, never impatient or in a big hurry. His understanding of the Indians and his ways made this man a wonderful person to have around when pioneering and starting new settlement were a way of life,

One more interesting story about grandfather Bullard is told about him. When his grandchildren were being weaned from their Mother's, he would take them to his home and keep them for two days while they adjusted to the change in their lives. (What a man!!!)

Another fun story about Grandma Bullard...She had gone shopping at Ferron Merc. On a quest to buy a new hat. Hat's were very important to a lady of that day. Soo-- as she was trying on various hats, she had put her old had on the side of the counter. Now because this was a once a year sale on hats, there were quite a few town ladies in attendance. One being a friend "Lizzie Conover. As Grandma had made her choice of hats, she was walking over to the counter with her purchase, when she turned around , seeing her friend Lizzie leaving the store with her old hat on her head. She said "liz, where are you going with my hat? " Lizzie replied, "it is my hat, I just purchased it". Grandmother quickly took her new hat off, removed her old had from Lizzie's head and said, "Well Lizz, if this hat is good enough for you, it is surely good enough for me." She shoved her old hat on her head and left the store with her old hat.

Grandma Bullard was a woman of great faith and certainly fulfilled her commitment to the Lord as well as always loving and caring for her family and all those around her.

Grandfather Bullard passed away and was buried in Bicknell. Grandmother Bullard was then encouraged to move to Ferron, where she could be helped and looked after in her old age.

She lived up on the hill by the Red Church. She continued to heal many sick people, including Grandmother Maria Cox, who was advised by the local doctor to go to Salt Lake and see a Dr. Up there for treatment for a terrible infected sore on her leg that would not heal.. Grandmother Bullard could see that the thought of that would make matters worse, due to the financial burden and the long trip, so she decided by putting her faith in the Lord, she would be able to heal Maria. At this time Grandmother Bullard was 76 years of age. Maria was in bed for six weeks with Grandmother Bullard doing her miraculous healing. She would use a portion of one-half iodine and one half glycerine inserted on cotton with a sterilized cotton pad made from a sheet and almost burned brown in the oven.

Grandmother made sure Maria stayed in bed the appropriate time for the wound on her leg to heal.

She was a woman of tremendous strength and conviction of the power of the Lord . This woman who had walked as a child of six from Nauvoo to Utah, behind a hand-cart , was proud, intelligent and very humble.

She was truly an ancestor to be proud of. She lived to be 94 years old.