

NELSON S. HOLLINGSHEAD

By his grandson, Vernon Wm. Heap

I got from the Pioneer record that grandfather, Nelson S. Hollingshead came to Parowan with the first company with Elder George A. Smith. Leaving Salt Lake City Dec. 7, 1850 arrived at Center Creek, now Parowan, Jan. 13, 1851.

At the age of 26 years was a Priest in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

He married Myhettieable Thornton and to them 8 children were born, 4 boys and 4 girls. My mother, Louisa Hollingshead, being one of the girls.

He also married Elizabeth Evans (a sister to Ginken and Thomas Evans) to them were born 7 children, 6 boys and one girl. He moved this second family to Minersville. Grandfather built and run a flour mill in Minersville, also built the first flour mill in Panguitch and helped to build the first flour mill in Parowan. He was the miller here at the time of the Mountain Meadow Massacre.

He let that company have flour from the mill as they went through Parowan.

Grandfather also did cabinet work, such as cupboards, flour bins and furniture for his family and friends.

I have a cupboard and bin he made for my mother. They must be at least 75 years old.

Grandfather was a looser to the Indians in livestock, such as mules, horses and cattle. I was told he sent some of his teams back for other Pioneers.

He died in Minersville when I was just a babe.

I was my mother's fifth child, born in Parowan, Utah, Oct., 14, 1884.

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Nelson Stoyell Hollingshead, pioneer of Salt Lake City, Parowan, Panguitch, Minersville, and Greenville, joined the Mormon church, later known as the Latter Day Saints, soon after the church was organized by its founder and leader, the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Nelson was born September 22, 1824 in York west (Toronto) Canada. He was the eldest son of Aurelia Mathews and Thomas Hollingshead. He had five brothers and two sisters, Aner Mathew; Thomas Wm.; Rhoda Ann; Joseph Eston; Elizabeth Emily; George Wyman; and Erastus Wyman.

Thomas Hollingshead was born July 14, 1795 in Digby, Nova Scotia. On February 6, 1823, Thomas married Aurelia Matthews, who was born in Argentele, Lower Canada, Oct 22, 1802.

The Hollingsheads came to America from Holland about the time of the Mayflower, and settled in the East. They lived in the United States until after the Revolutionary War, then went to Canada, and to Digby, Nova Scotia, where they lived until 1838. The first six children of Thomas and Aurelia were born in York West Canada. They then moved to Adams Co. Mo. where the last two were born.

The Hollingsheads were affiliated with the Mormon Church as early as Sept 22, 1838, for on that date, Thomas was one of fifty saints who signed a petition to Governor Lisbourn of Mo. which stated:

"Your petitioners, citizens of Carroll Co. Mo., praying for relief, have been sorely agrieved by the lawless mobs, inhabitants of this and other counties. Between 100 and 150 armed men threatened us, your petitioners on said day, and threatened us with force and violence, trying to drive certain peaceable citizens from their homes, in defiance of all law and threatened to drive them out of the country. The mobs decided to give them til Oct. 1st and if not gone by that time would exterminate them without regard to sex or age and destroy their chattles by throwing them into the river. We therefore pray you to stop all lawless proceedings."

On Nov. 29, 1839, Thomas Hollingshead was among many who presented claims against the state of Mo. for loss of property, the loss being valued at \$800.00. He helped to build the Nauvoo Temple and had a share in the Nauvoo House. He was an excellent farmer, and he and his son Nelson, helped to care for the farm of Joseph Smith's father. He was a carpenter and wheelwright by trade, and he and his son Nelson, whom he had taught the trades to, were of much help to the pioneers through all their persecutions and pilgrimage from East to West. They helped to build homes and home furniture throughout Zion, as well as saw mills for lumber for the dwellings, and grist mills for grinding their flour.

Nelson Stoyell Hollingshead was an exceptionally brilliant and talented man and was outstanding in his scholastic ability. When he was but a boy of six, he read the Bible thru in its entirety and could tell much of what he read by memory. Even while young he found few things he could not master. He was very well educated, having attended schools in Canada as well as those in the East, wherever they lived. He was a great thinker, when he read the papers or heard things he did not understand, he sat down and figured them out. He had fine morals and a pleasing personality, was a faithful Mormon and a true pioneer, even as his fathers before him who sailed to the New World in the first ship after the Mayflower, to seek religious freedom.

Brother Hollingshead was ordained a priest Sept. 1, 1844, according to Quincy Ill. conference records. From that time until death at the age of 60, he praised God and worked diligently to fulfill whatever calling came to him, feeling it always a privilege and honor to serve God and keep his commandments.

When the Saints left Illinois to seek new lands in the West, many would not have been able to make the journey had not Nelson S. Hollingshead loaned them the use of his mules. He had several span of mules besides the loose livestock. He was a great help to the emigrants throughout their journey to the valley. He arrived with the first company of 1847, and worked there for Brigham Young. He built and operated the first grist mill for grinding flour in Salt Lake. There he remained until he was called to help settle other

mansites.

The family of Thomas Hollingshead lived in Salem, Utah until 1849, then all of them except Nelson went out to California, and settled in Wheatland, Uba Co.

On Dec. 21, 1850 George A. Smith led a company to Iron County. Nelson Hollingshead was called to go with this company, as he was to be the mill-right for the Southern settlements. The company consisted of 120 men, 30 women, and 18 children. There were 101 wagons, 2 carriages, 100 horses, 12 mules, 368 oxen, 160 head of loose cattle, seed grains sufficient for work, plows, axes, and all other implements and fixtures as would be necessary for the building of a new settlement. The company had 1 millright with his millrace, two sawmill sets, 5 carpenters with tools, 1 blacksmith, 1 gunsmith, merchants, farmers, etc. each with his particular necessities, besides 1001 rounds of ammunition, 1 cannon and several guns.

The company had quite a good journey from Salt Lake. Nothing unusual happened, except that it was very cold. Christmas Eve was reported to have been the coldest night, being 16 degrees below 0. The company arrived in Little Salt Lake Valley January 13, 1851 and after two days of resting and rejoicing set to work to build the fort, a grist mill, a saw mill, stores, and were carrying life on in quite a normal way. The grist mill and many of the homes had been the work of Brother Hollingshead. He and nine others had donated their services to build a home for the Bishop George A. Smith, in the summer of 1851.

While still in Mo. Nelson H. had met Mehatable Thornton, who was a daughter of Harriet Goodrich and Ezra Thornton of Conn. and Mass. Mehatable was born in Penn. Nov. 27, 1828. Her Parents were early followers of the Mormon Prophet. Her father Ezra died from percutitions in Farwest, Mo., Nov. 3, 1836. Harriet was left with a large family, but she was financially well off until the mobs destroyed their property and livestock. In 1839 Harriet presented claims to the state of Mo. for loss of property valued at \$3, 100.00.

The Thorntons came West with the Aaron Johnson company, Sept. 8, 1850. Their family homes were in Springville and Parowan. Nelson Stoyall Hollingshead went back to Salt Lake in the fall of 1851 to meet his sweetheart, Mehitable. They were married in the Endowment House Dec. 21, 1851, by President Brigham Young. Their first child was born in Salt Lake Sept. 20, 1852. They then moved back to Parowan, where

Harriet Aurelia was born Nov. 5, 1854.

On Nov. 10, 1855, Nelson H. and Lorenzo Barton went to Salt Lake City where they reported that the brethren in Cedar City were busy around their big furnaces and had sufficient fuel to last two or three months. They had their hot air apparatus arranged and attached additional machinery to the water wheel so as to increase the power considerably as well as the blast. (These furnaces were for the smelting of the Iron ore to be made into bars. Later the ore was shipped north to be smelted, and the furnaces in Cedar were abandoned.)

They also reported ~~one-half~~ the wall around Parowan was 12 ft. high, the rest 8, and that the people were working splendidly. There were three wooden gates in the wall. Many wolves molested the chickens, ate pumpkins, squash, etc. Mrs John Farrar died of hydrophobia two days after being bitten by a wolf while she was coming from her chickens. A man who attempted to save her was badly scratched but didn't die. (Pioneer History Book.)

On July 30, 1859, notes from Parowan recorded the data that a flood at Parowan had damaged the old saw-mill and dam, and it was thot best to abandon the old grist-mill dam. The new saw mill being built by Nelson S. Hollingshead, George A. Smith and James Lewis would soon be ready. (Parowan Record)

Emily Elizabeth was born to the Hollingsheads in 1857, and in Oct 1859 the fourth child, Louisa Amelia was born. During this confinement, a young Welsh girl, Elizabeth Evans, went into the home to care for the household. Bro. Hollingshead became attracted to this fine young girl, and two years later June 29, 1861, he took her to Salt Lake with him and his first wife, Nehitable, and had them both sealed to him at the same time. This second marriage was also performed by President Brigham Young.

Elizabeth was only 17 at the time of her marriage, her husband 37. Elizabeth was a daughter of Mary Davis and Abraham Evans, both of whom were from South Wales. They crossed the plains in the hand-cart company of 1856. Elizabeth was only 12. Her father died of what they thot was cholera and was buried on the west side of the Green River in Wyoming. Her mother and the family came to Parowan, where they made their home, and worked at what ever labors they could find to do. Brother Evans had been a very wealthy man in Hysythor, Wales, where he owned a brewery and other property, but when he joined the Mormons he left his business in the hands of his employees and emigrated to America.

ing died before making proper disposition of his property, neither he nor any of his family received any profit from it after leaving Wales.

In 1864, Nelson H. was called to go to Panguitch with a company of men and women to establish a town. Brother Hollingshead built a grist mill there. They lived there about a year. Elizabeth's second child, William Thomas, was born in Panguitch Aug. 23, 1865. Panguitch was abandoned before long because the Indians were too war-like in that area. It was resettled a few years later.

Brother Hollingshead built two homes on his lot on Mainstreet. (The Wm Lyman home now stands in their place.) Each wife had a home of her own, and each was overly fond of their handsome brilliant husband, and showed occasional signs of jealousy. Elizabeth was young and strong, while Mehitable suffered much ill health. Elizabeth was able to follow her husband much more easily than Mehitable, so it was she who went to Panguitch with him and to the other towns.

Being an untiring worker, Bro. Hollingshead was busy at his lathe when not at his grist or saw mill. He made nearly all the furniture in both his homes besides cupboards, chairs, flourbins, tool chests, etc. for his family and friends and to sell. Many of the home furnishings he made are in use today, both in Parowan and in Minersville.

The lumber that went into the Salt Lake Tabernacle Organ came from Nelson Hollingshead's saw mill in Parowan canyon. He had 16 head of mules that were part of the spans used to freight the rough lumber from Parowan to Salt Lake. He hired his son-in-law Wm Rufus Johnson, and his brother-in-law, Steven Thornton, to freight the lumber with his mules. The Hollingsheads ran a freight-line with mules both north to Salt Lake and points between, and south to Calif. as well as Deleamar and other mining areas.

The Tabernacle was dedicated in 1867, and is noted the world over for it's organ, which was built under the careful supervision of George Careless.

N.S.H., in company with Bishop Dano, Peter Wimmer, Henry Holyoak, E. Hanks, Silas S. Smith, John Robinson, and Joseph Fish, left Paragonah, traveled up Bear Creek Canyon on their way to Panguitch. They camped about 2,000 ft above Paragonah, at Little Creek Peak. Where they camped the snow was from 1 to 3 feet deep and was crusted hard enough to hold the horses, but the wagons sank. (March 20, 1866, Parowan Record)

When little Chester, Mehitables fifth child, was five years old, he met a tragic

death. He and the other children loved to watch the big vats of skins being tanned. The Allon tannery was just across the street from his home. One day, April 8, 1867, the vat was full of boiling water, which was being prepared to boil a horse to get out the fat to oil the leather with, the little fellow played too near the boiling vat and fell in. He was dead before he could be rescued, by George Lowe Sr who was working there.

Lillian May was born to Hetta, Mehitable, Feb 6, 1869. That same year at the Oct. conference in 1869, in Salt Lake City, Nelson H. Was called to go on an Eastern States Mission. After he fulfilled this mission and again returned to his home in Parowan, he was called to go to Minersville to help settle and to build a grist mill. Mehitable was very much saddened by this new call, for it meant she was again to be left alone with her large family. She was not a well woman, and was unable to follow her husband as he followed the calling of the church. She loved her husband dearly, and she loved the church, but it grieved her that he be called away so very much when she was in such ill health. When 'Hetta' was a young girl, she had been playing ball and it struck her on the left breast. It was sore and tender all her life, and as she grew older, it turned to cancer which caused her much suffering and an early death at the age of fifty-three. (53 years 2 mo & 11 days)

Mehitable stayed in Parowan when her husband, who was truly a man of God, answered the call of the church and moved to Minersville. Elizabeth and her family moved there with him. There he took up a homestead where he raised hay, grain, fruit, and all farm produce, which his sons sold to neighboring communities. He also raised cows, horses and mules. He built a flour mill in which he ground flour for all the surrounding country for many years. He and his family lived in the mill until their brick home, which is still in good repair, was being built. His son Abraham, was born in the mill Oct. 14, 1871. After the home was completed, he turned to the construction of a dam at the mouth of the canyon to divert the water from the middle of town to the south of it where it could be used more advantageously for farms. The dam was built to a height of over 12 feet, the dirt for which was bucketed out by a bucket brigade. The dam is still in use, tho a portion of it had to be rebuilt after a flood damaged it in about 1933.

In about 1875 Nelson Stoyell H. built a grist mill at Greenville, he worked there for some time also.

After the Cave Mine was discovered in the hills eight miles north of Minersville,

it drew a group of men from surrounding towns and states to work in it. Bro. Hollingshead was hired as a carpenter to timber the mine, (these timbers were hauled from Parowan canyon). He also built a tramway from the mine down off the mountain side, which was quite steep and high. He also built the homes, (or at least had them under supervision) in the entire village at the mine where the workmen lived. (Wm Thornton, who is still living in Parowan, age 82, remembers hauling the lumber over from Parowan to timber the mine and to build the homes. He is a cousin of 'Hetta').

During the years Bro. Hollingshead lived in Minersville he tried never to show favoritism between his two wives. He visited in Parowan as often as possible and stayed as long as he could, sometimes weeks at a time. He never traveled empty, but always hauled produce over to help feed Hetta and their family. One such trip he had a load of lovely big red apples, and was taking his son Stephen with him. They met another wagon on a steep pitch coming down 'Parowan Hill' (now called Minersville Hill). The road was so sidleing the wagon box tipped off the wagon, and apples scattered to the winds. The little boy, Steve, was buried under the apples. After he was rescued and the fruit gathered up, the trip was resumed.

It was about this time that Nelson H. was called to go to Emery County to what they called Castle Valley, to build a saw-mill. He took his sons with him. When they returned several months later, his son Joseph, brought home and introduced to Southern Utah the first Lightning saw. It would cut several more trees in a given length of time than any saw used up until that time.

On February 7, 1881, Mehitable succumbed to the cancer which had been bothering her so long. She was the mother of 8 children, 6 of whom survived her. Her children were: Nelson Thornton Hollingshead; Harriet Aurelia; Emily Elizabeth; Louisa Amelia; Ghester Goodrich; Charles Horace; Joseph; and Lillian May.

After Mehitable's death, the two families remained friendly and visited back and forth a lot. The boys in Elizabeth's family used to go all over the Southern country with their thresher and were well known and well liked wherever they went.

One sunny April day, Brother Nelson S. Hollingshead had his saddle horse saddled ready to go to the Cave mine after his pay check when one of his sons arrived from Parowan. He told his father that he would like to go to the mine with him and see the



progress made there and to see some of his friends who worked there, so they unsaddled the riding horse and harnessed up the team, because they had but the one riding horse. Later that day when they were returning home, the high-lifted, prancing horses were hard to hold on the steep winding road. The harnesses had no britchen on them, and the wagon brakes were not very good. The wagon bumped the horses heels, the frightened team took the bit in their mouths and began running down the winding decline. The wagon wheel struck a boulder near the road. As the wagon lurched, Nelson was thrown with terrific speed against a jagged rock. The impact made a hole clear thru his side just above the hip. The son, being younger, was able to jump clear of the wagon with only slight bruises. There were no Medical Drs. in this end of the country at that time, and all that the home nurses could do was to no avail. Bro. Hollingshead never spoke again, tho he was not unconscious of the pain and itch of the sore, for he lay for hours at a time trying to ease the pain by pulling his clean silk handkerchief thru the hole. Much grit and splinters were cleaned from the wound but it was still itching and burning. On April 16, 1884, just one week after the fatal accident, he motioned for his wife to bring his year and a half old son who was creeping on the floor, to his bedside. He loved the baby and kissed him as tears filled his tired eyes. He bid his wife and family a sad silent goodbye, then slipped away to follow his last great call, and to join his beloved 'Hetta'.

It was a sad little mother who was left a widow to raise her family of six boys and one girl, four of whom were too young to work. The children of Elizabeth's family were: Mary Elizabeth; William Thomas; John Franklin; Abraham; Stephan Barton; Erastus Wyman; and Andrew Jackson Hollingshead.

Besides her own family, Elizabeth raised her grand-son, whose mother had died at his birth. She worked hard to support her family, she wove carpets and rugs, spun yarn, and made shawls and ~~scarves~~. In 1906 she had a stroke and was practically helpless for 16 years. She died at the home of her son Abraham, in Lyman Wyoming in 1921.

Thirteen of Nelson Hollingsheads 15 children survived him and both of his wives, and most of them followed his example and married in the church. Of those who did not, he felt rather badly, but as he once wrote to Elizabeth in a letter from Salt Lake, he said: "I will not chastize them, but I am sorry that any of my children would think of

marrying outside the church after all I have done. I have considered it a privilege and an honor to perform the duties I have for the church, and I have always prayed that all of my children would follow in my footsteps."

The Hollingshead children are scattered throughout Zion. Of the five towns he pioneered, children who carry his name live in but two of them, descendants live in all of them. Stephan and Andrew live in Minersville, also the family of Mary. Joseph and Louisa lived in Parowan most of the time until their deaths. Louisa's family and descendants still are residents of Iron County. Her family was Mary Ellen Heap Lowe; Henry Heap; Vernon Heap; Nehitable (Hettie) Heap Johnson; Lellon B. Heap; Le Roy Heap; Louisa Heap; Jennie Heap Winn. Both Edward and George Jr died in infancy. The rest lived to raise families.

My grandmother, Louisa Hollingshead, married George Heap, a son of William Heap and Mary Ellen Ward, in Parowan in 1874. She was blessed with the large family she prayed she might have, but not blessed with the health to raise them. She died from complications of child birth and pneumonia when her 10th child, Louisa, was 10 days old, in March of 1895.

(For history of Louisa H. Heap, see Louisa and George Heap)