MARY SYME
by Viola Reese

Mary Syme 10th child, daughter of James Brown Syme born 26 August 1834 at Stobsgreen, Edinburgh Scotland, who was the son of George Syme born 22 January 1798 Stobsgreen, and Janet Cranston born 13 October 1802 Peniweck Scotland. Her mother was Margaret Livingston Haldane born 24 August 1836 at Cousland Edinburgh, Scotland who was the daughter of James Haldane, born 29 May 1811 at Borthwick and Helen Knight born 3 December 1815 at Newbattle Edinburgh, Scotland. Her great grandparents were George Syme, Margaret Ramsey and William Cranston, Janet Gordon and John Haldane, Janet Thomson and Robert Knight and Margaret Livingston.

Her parents upon hearing the missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints became converted and were baptized in 1863. Mary was born 27 November 1875 at Haywood, Lanarkshire, Scotland. She was blessed 29 November 1875 by Elder Hogg, Haywood branch, Scotland. She was baptized a member 30 May 1885 and confirmed 31 May 1885 by her father James Brown Syme.

Her eldest sister Helen born 23 May 1858, at Cousland Edinburgh, Scotland left there to come to America in 1879. She went directly to Salt Lake City and worked to earn enough money to send, so her father could come to this country. He came with a son-in-law William Little and they stopped in Almy, Wyoming and worked there for a few months in the coal mines until they were able to send money for the rest of the family.

Mary with her mother and eight brothers and sisters, Jane (Jessie) born 10 February 1861 Newton Grange, George born 18 March 1863 Haywood, Eliza Snow born 24 November 1864, James Haldane born 22 November 1866, William Cranston born 18 March 1869, Margaret Johnson born 4 March 1871, Annie born 10 April 1873, Robert Haldane born 13 April 1878. One brother George born 27 December 1859 died in infancy. All born in Haywood Lanarkshire, Scotland. A nephew William Little Jr. born 12 November 1880 also came with them. They left Scotland 22 October 1881 and arrived in Almy, Wyoming 10 November 1881. They stayed here a short time and then moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming.

They lived in Rock Springs, Wyoming till 1886 when she with her parents, three sisters, Margaret, Annie, Jane, and a brother Robert moved to Wellsville, Utah where the boys bought a home for them. They lived there for two years returning again to Rock Springs, Wyoming 3 June 1888.

She had very little education because of illness. She took no active part in church but did attend Sunday services with her family.

I visited at the home of Uncle Jim on several occasions and found Aunt Mary to be a very lovable person, always wanting to do something for you such as cleaning shoes or anything else she could. She had red hair, blue eyes, fair complexion and was tall and slender.
Her mother died 26 August 1891 and it was her request that Mary live with her brother, James H. Syme and family. They moved to Lyman, Wyoming where they took up a homestead about 1900. Mary made her home with them until her death from influenza 15 October 1913 and was buried at Lyman, Wyoming. She never married.

AS TOLD BY HER NIECE Verna Syme Bradshaw
at a Family Reunion 1950

The story I have been told by my parents about Mary is:
One day a beautiful baby girl was born. She seemed to be a spirit that had come to earth, just to receive her mortal body. She was so fair and sweet–more like an angel. Her hair was a beautiful red color when she was a child, more like spun gold, blue eyes and a very fair complexion. When she was about nine years old, she became very ill and had some very sick spells.

My grandfather James Brown Syme had the gift of healing. He worked at the coal mines and every time Mary would have a bad spell, he seemed to know. He would immediately go home and administer to her. She would recover for a time. “One day he felt like there was something wrong at home” so he left his work and went home. They told him that she had passed away and he immediately administered to her and told the Lord that he couldn’t do without her. His prayer was answered and she grew into womanhood, but the sickness left her with an affliction.

When grandmother Syme died it had been a request of hers that Mary live with my father and mother and they cared for her for years. She loved my mother very dearly. She was so kind to us children always wanting to do things for us. She was so faithful and sweet. A loveable character. Never forgetting a birthday of the families of some of our good neighbors. She lived a very useful life.