



MARY HANNAH BAKER BEAN

"MOTHER BEAN"

Mary Hannah Baker was born in Nephi, Utah (Juab County), March 25, 1868. She described her birthplace as follows: "A log house - two large rooms 'buried' in locust blossoms". It was in the north side of town near a large creek. Mary Hannah was the sixth child in the family of thirteen, born to William George and Hannah Hayward Baker.

In June, 1872, Mary Hannah's parents returned to Richfield, Sevier County, Utah, having been compelled by Indian disturbances to go North (to Nephi) for a few years (4 or 5). In their flight they had taken only bedding and food and people, they and others returned to find their houses stripped of everything, even doors and windows. (Mary Hannah was born in Nephi, during this stay there). The family settled again in Richfield where Mary Hannah grew to womanhood.

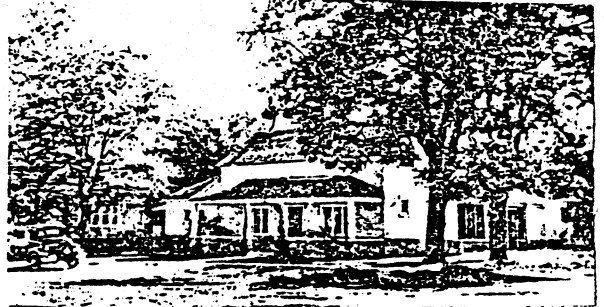
When she was about fifteen she was chosen as councilor in Primary organization. Later she worked as councilor in Ward and Stake Mutual, taught a class of girls in Sunday School and was constantly active in Church work.

On December 7, 1887, in the Logan (Utah) Temple, she married Victor Emanuel Bean, son of George Washington Bean and Elizabeth Baum Bean. Victor had ten acres of land and one hundred dollars. Most of the money was spent on the wedding trip.

They lived at the Baker home for one year. Ethel, the first child, was born at the Baker home. Soon after the baby arrived, the young

(Mary Hannah Baker Bean - 2)

couple moved into a four room adobe house which they rented for two and one half years. Victor Vern (second child) was born there. They then moved to Annabelle, Utah, where Victor taught in the school one winter, then they returned to Richfield. The third child, George Ariel, was born on May 12 that year (1892). In the late summer they went to Provo to enable Victor to attend school. The young wife kept eight boarders to help pay expenses. Victor had been County School Superintendent for several years. He resigned this position to attend Provo school during the winter of 1892-93 and the summer of 1893, returning to teach at Annabelle (1893-94). Mary Hannah remained at Richfield - Annabelle was not far away and Victor rode back and forth frequently.



Mother's home - Richfield

Erma, the fourth child (me) was born in December 1893. The next year Victor became Principal of the Richfield schools and remained in that position until they moved to Boulder, Garfield County, Utah. Mary Hannah was very happy in Richfield. They now had their own little brick house (purchased a few years before). Her parents and grand-parents and many of her girlhood friends were there, it was the home she loved best.



Summers in Boulder

Two of her brothers, George and Henry, had gone into Southern Utah (Boulder) to establish cattle ranches. George urged Victor and Mary to come to Boulder. Victor went back with George and returned to announce that he had found a place. Mary Hannah was troubled at the thought of leaving Richfield - to travel with her six small children (one a baby six weeks old) in a covered wagon, over a wilderness of sand, cliffs and wooded mountains. The road was difficult. Sometimes only the scratches on the acres of white sand stone showed the path of the few who had gone before into the Boulder country. This move was made in the spring of 1898.

Victor had been offered the principalship of the Escalante School (35 miles from Boulder) at \$75 per month, and that of the Panguich School (much farther from Boulder) at \$125 per month. Quoting Mary Hannah on this: "Of course he took the Escalante school, as it was nearer our Boulder place and besides,



The home + store - Escalante

(Mary Hannah Baker Bean - 3)

\$125 was so much money it looked like the Devil's temptation!"

Buying a town home in Escalante, the family moved back and forth, going to Escalante for the school term and to Boulder in the summer. In Boulder the house was of logs - one large room. The boys slept in a tent. The Escalante house was of brick. One winter the wife and three children remained in Boulder with stock that couldn't be left alone.

The indoor work of a teacher became an increasing danger to Victor's health. Although he had been a very successful and much loved teacher he planned to change his work in the interest of his health.

In 1903 they moved to La Grande, Oregon. Again Mary Hannah felt that they were getting too far from the loved ones at Richfield, and often longed (at first) to return, but as the children grew and became rooted in Oregon, she loved her surroundings more and more.

Three children were born in Oregon. Victor was finishing a six months mission in Wallowa when Jesse was born.

The Oregon home was a 69 acre place on the south foothills - mostly pasture and orchard. While living there her husband engaged at various times in dairying and selling ice and chain wood.

With the exception of a three year intermission (1909-1912) spent on a large rented farm in North Powder, while the place in La Grande was rented to others, Mary Hannah lived in La Grande from 1903 until her death in 1934.

In July, 1913, Victor, her beloved husband, met his death, being the victim of a falling tree. At that time he was employed as foreman in a lumber camp.

There were ten children in age from four to twenty-four

The eldest, Ethel, and the next were married, Vern having married just before he left to fill a position. At home there were eight children of whom was Ariel, aged 21.

Victor had always been her "rock of strength" and she was completely baffled and bewildered in her unfortunate situation. Some suggested that she lighten her financial worry and go to the mission field with her, but in that she took a firm stand declaring that by faith and wo



"Cedar + A" - La Grande

(Mary Hannah Baker Bean - 4)

must manage to keep him there. This they did and often she remarked that at times it had looked impossible and that she really could not see, after his return, where the money had come from.

Several years after her husband's death she sold the old home (The boys had other interests now), and moved nearer church and school, to a home where she knew comfort and peace and considerable relief from hardship. While there she worked in the Ward and Stake Relief Society (Councilor).



1002-3rd LaGrande (before we cut the grass)

She had a kindly interest in her fellow beings. She was both sympathetic and capable in caring for the sick and needy and was much sought after by those suffering in mind or body. She was affectionately known to her children and grandchildren and to many acquaintances as "Mother Bean". The secret of her being so widely loved by all who knew her was her unselfishness. In fact, her life was a continual service to others. Her own comfort was never considered when another's

need claimed her time and energy.

During the late years of her life it was her privilege to spend a winter in Salt Lake City doing temple work. I quote her regarding this experience. "My Patriarchal blessing said 'For the day will come when you shall enter the Temple of God and do a work for which your name will be held in honorable remembrance'. I thought of that promise when we, with our large family, moved so far away into Oregon - and again and again, as our family increased and we faced what seemed such hopeless poverty, and it looked as if that promise that had meant so much to me could never possibly be worked out - but I lived to find inexpressible joy in its fulfillment."

In the spring of 1932 her health failed quite suddenly - the cause, a weakened heart action. Two years later, on the morning of her sixty-sixth birthday, she died. As she felt her time coming she constantly assured her children there was no cause for great sorrow at her passing. I quote her again: "I have loved and enjoyed my children always - and I always will, but after all, twenty-one years has been a long, long wait for my reunion with Victor - so when it comes, remember that everything is just all right."

ERMA B. CHADWICK

(Copied by Mae Bean 7/1/39
at Portland, Oregon)

(Mary Hannah Baker Bean - 5)

(I suppose everyone tries at some time of life to express thoughts in poetry. I was in Southern Utah - Salt Gulch - sitting on a rock among cedar trees and sage brush (1916) when this self-called "poem" developed. It is poor poetry but I still mean every bit of it.-- Erma B. Chadwick)

T O M O T H E R

As a child, I heard somebody say
That before we came to this earth
We had a voice in the choice
Of our fathers and mothers - - our birth.
'Twas a mystery to me
And it always will be
How I came to have my choice first.

How do I know that I did?
Why, Mother Dear, how could I doubt?
Anyone choosing before me
Would surely have picked you out.
Oh, it's the truth,
You are my proof -
(If they knew what they were about).

Some offered me "bargains" and "good deals"
And whispered "Here's one, missed your sight"
Some urged - some coaxed - some pleaded,
Some argued with all of their might.
One said "Here's a mother
And I'll throw in this brother".
I said, "No, thank you, this one's just right."

Of course there were next best and third best,
And best four and best five and best six,
But oh, Mother Dear, If I hadn't been first,
Wouldn't I be in a fix?
Yes, I hung on to you
I'm glad I did, too
In spite of their shrewdness and tricks.

And Mother, the longer I know you,
The more you become my ideal,
When I think of your goodness, love, patience - -
I can hardly believe you are real.
Yes, for a mother
I just want no other -
Mother - - I got a wonderful deal!



Mary Hannah
Baker (Bean)

(1868-1934)