

The Life Story of Henry Rampton

Written in his hand and ending in the year 1896

Transcribed by Carol V. Merrell, a second great granddaughter
With some grammatical corrections and punctuation

(Page 1)

Henry, son of William and Elizabeth Rampton, was born in Old Alresford, Hants (Hampshire), England on Sept. 8th 1829. My father's family consisted of five children, three boys and two girls as follows: Sarah, born Oct. 28th 1822; William, born July 6th 1824; Elizabeth, born April 28th 1826; Henry, born Sept. 8th 1829. Charles, born Aug. 12th 1831. My mother died in Old Alresford July 28th 1833 aged 42 years.

Father married Sarah Balchin in 1834, an esteemed mother-in-law to us all.

I, Henry Rampton, worked at my trade as a Blacksmith with my father sometimes and others in different places until 20 years old, then I went into business for myself in Botley in Hampshire. I there received the gospel Feb. 6th 1853.

I married Catherine Harfield March 9th 1850, and we were both baptized on the above date, Feb. 6th 1853 in her 29th year by Elder William Bridge. Were confirmed about one week afterward but have lost the date of confirmation by William Bridge. On the 31st of July 1853 ordained a priest by Elder William Bramwell, President of the Southampton Conference.

(Page 2)

On the 9th of November I had an application for my business. On the following day I gave it up to Adams & Knight. I commenced on the following morning. It took about two weeks to settle up my business affairs. I sold my tools for 33 pounds. My object in giving up my business was to immigrate with the saints to Utah. After leaving Botley I went to Swaraton and stayed with my wife's father and mother. While there inquired after the ages of my wife's relatives. Father, John Harfield, was born in the year 1787; married Sarah Kill 1815 at the age of 28 years. Sarah Kill was born in the year 1793; married in 1815 age 22 years when married. Children of the above: Elizabeth was born 1816; son, George, in 1818; Mariah in 1820; James in 1823; Caroline in 1824; Mary Ann, deceased in 3 months, in 1826; Mary in 1837.

Thomas Wake married Elizabeth Harfield and lived in London. Thomas died Nov. 22, 1869 aged 78 years. Elizabeth Wake died Sept. 3rd 1870.

(Page 3)

I left home to immigrate to Utah 5 Feb. 1854. Went to Basingstoke, took train for Reading in Berkshire. Stayed during the night. Next day arrived at Liverpool in the evening at half past seven.

Stopped at 63 Great Cross Hall Street with a Mrs. Powel's, a Boarding House for the Saints, and there found Eli Whitear who had preceded me without his luggage, and sent me word to bring it along to Liverpool. What with staying a week in Liverpool and being very much strained for means, we were sorely put about and had to resort to every possible way even in disposing of my watch and Catherine hers and other things we had about us we disposed of to get sufficient means to go and purchase tin ware and etc. We set sail on Sunday, 12th day of March 1854 on the ship, *John M. Woods*.

The weather was very rough in the Channel for 6 days before we cleared. I seemingly was more seasick than Catherine and it lasted longer. After I recovered seasickness, I employed myself in mending the tin ware for fellow emigrants and it remunerated me some. Elder Robert Cambell was president of the ship's company and Elder Jabes Woodard and McDonald were his counselors. The ship was divided into 8 wards, a president over each. We had a good time on the 6th day of April being the 24th year the Church had been organized and on the 24th of April we held a conference on board and each president of the wards reported on the condition of his ward.

(Page 4)

On the 22nd of April we had quite a time on board with a tea party or dinner. There were about 80 sat down to a good meal, afterward singing and a theatrical performance. As I ought to have said in seating at a meal on account of room we had to sit down 2 wards at a table. We held meetings on each Sabbath in the morning on the deck and in the afternoon in our respective wards altogether we had a prosperous Voyage.

We arrived in New Orleans May 2nd 1854. We shifted our luggage onto the steam boat *Josiah Lawrence*. We were 12 days coming to St. Louis from New Orleans. The ship's company was detained on quarantine 5 days. We went into quarantine on Sunday. I asked permission of the doctor to go up into St. Louis to get work. On the Monday morning he favored me. I therefore started and succeeded in getting work and returned across to the opposite bank of the river the same evening, but too late to cross with the boat. I had to sleep on the bank all night. In the morning the doctor sent a boat over for me. My dear wife, Catherine, was very much frightened at my not returning. The evening before on Thursday the ferry boat came to take the passengers to St. Louis. We took our luggage to a room I had procured on Biddle Street. On Saturday I worked in a shop on Gratroit Street, and on Monday I went to work in the Mississippi Foundry. I worked there 2 weeks and then to work for a Mr. Dunn on G_____.

(Page 5)

St. Louis in a horse shoeing shop where I worked for 2 years. But we had not been there over 6 weeks before my dear Catherine was taken Sick. She was sick 3 weeks. I took her to a more cool part of the town to a Mrs. Patterson's. I moved her there on the first day of Aug. and she died on the second 1854. Her body lies interred in the Wesleyan Cemetery 2 ½ miles out of St. Louis. Her great, great loss I will not attempt to describe for I felt I was alone in a strange country whose costumes were so different from what we had been used to. But a consolation to me, she died testifying of my great love for her and calling on Mrs. Patterson as a witness. I continued to work for Mr. Dunn, attended the meetings, and passed the time as best I could. In attending the meetings, I became acquainted with Frances

Dinwoodey who crossed the sea in the same ship with me and my wife; and I spent my evenings at her house on Washington Avenue and thus passed the time until the 25th of Dec. 1854. We were married by Elder Milo Andrus, President of the St. Louis Stake, in a tea party given in the church on Washington Avenue. We lived with her step father & her mother in St. Louis until the following June when Father Evans and my wife's mother immigrated to Utah.

(Page 6)

I myself while staying in St. Louis held several important positions in the priesthood. First, I was called to be a counselor to the president of the priest quorum, afterward ordained an elder under the hands of Bishop Charles O. Card 28th of June 1855. I acted as his second counselor. I afterward was called to act as first counselor to Bishop Lowe and then the same for President Lee and the same for Bishop Turner.

Henry James, my first child, was born in St. Louis Nov. 4th 1855. He was blessed on the 9th of Dec. 1855 by Elder James H. Hart. All the time we were striving to gather a little for our emigration which we finally accomplished and started on the 2nd of June 1856. Arrived at Florence on the 14th of the same month and laid there until the 6th of July and then started across the plains. John Bank, Captain of the company after 3 months travel, arrived in Salt Lake City 5th of Oct. 1856. All well and glad to see the place after so much loss and anxiety. We attended the conference in Salt Lake on the 6th. On the 8th I went to Sessions Settlement (Bountiful) and got work from a man by the name of James Udy. I worked for him about 3 months. I then rented a set of tools of Henry Dinwoodey for \$95.00 per year. I bought an adobe house & lot of Evan Smith for \$240.00 in Sessions Settlement and _____ of J. K. Crosby and started work.

(Page 7)

Pretty hard times stared us in the face, but thanks to God my Heavenly Father, he gave us the victory over hard times, and we got along very well. Jan. 17, 1858 William was born. He was born on my father's birthday, so I named him William after him. I was continually looking around for tools of my own during this time. I bought a small horse of Sydney Kent and sold it to Alexander Daft for an anvil. I got John H. Handiferd to make the woods of a pair of bellows and I leathered them and put them together, and I also made me a pair of vices and then returned the set hired back to Henry Dinwoodey and paid him for the use of them.

In the fall of 1859 the President of the United States sent several thousand of the United States troops to Utah to chastise us, but they were not permitted to come into the territory. A great many of our peoples went out into Echo Canyon to dispute their pass. I stayed at home and shod teams to have out provisions. The Army of the United States wintered at Bridger and Fort Supply. As a people we all went south in different parts, our settlement being located on the Provo Bottoms. We left a few guards to look around. We stayed about 7 weeks in wagons and brush shanties and then we came to return home. In the spring of 1859 William Dinwoodey his wife and 2 children, William and Alice, and Mr. Needham left for the states.

Page 8)

The general instructions at this time is for all families that cannot sustain themselves here in the old settlements, is that they go to Cache Valley as they began to settle there in 1859. The paper called *The Mountaineer* started during the summer of the same year 1859. Capt. Hooper was sent to congress in the place of Dr. Barnhusel.

Charles Hyrum born March 30, 1860, 15 minutes past 10 o'clock. We received our endowments in the Endowment House in 1860.

The war with north & south broke out; Abraham Lincoln is President.

The telegraph was completed in 1860.

A daily mail established during 1860 and 1861. The pony express ran through from the states to Salt Lake. The theatre was commenced and went up briskly.

The Morrisites raised up in 1862.

William Rampton, my father, died March 25th 1861 aged 66. James Rampton was born June 2, 1862.

March 29th I took to wife Eliza Stratford formerly from Malden, Essex, England. We were married 13 months and on Saturday evening half past eight o'clock, April 25th 1863, dear Eliza died in child bed and her baby also, a fine little fellow, a boy. He was buried in the same coffin with his mother's arms and buried in East Bountiful. On the following Friday, May 1st, my son, James, a dear little fellow, died having been blessed by Elder William Henry Lee April 30th 1863.

Gold fever raging in the North _____ of our people g_____.

(Page 9)

In 1866 I built a shop down by P. G. Sessions also a small cottage for Father Hall on my Lot.

In 1866 the Militia of Davis Co. was reorganized in Farmington. Lot Smith promoted to be a Brigadier General of Davis and Morgan Counties quite a time training now. The Indians in the southern settlements seems stirred up to commit depredations on our brethren and killed quite a few. Sanpete seems to suffer the most.

In the states in 1866 quite a stir about a society called Fenians.

William, Henry James, and Charles, May 3, 1868. Henry, William & Charles were rebaptized. Henry Lee officiated.

Walter Rampton was born June 18th 1866 and blessed on March 7th 1867.

Catherine Rampton born Wednesday, June 9th 1869.

In 1868 I took Ada MacDuff to wife on the first day of Nov. 1868.

George Albert Rampton was born on Tuesday, 15th Day of March 1870.

(Page 10)

In 1864 Bear Lake was began to be settled. A few families went from here. The same year I bought the adjoining lot to mine of William Jackson for \$150.00. Arthur was born March 12th 1864 about 9 o'clock in the morning.

John F. Kinney was sent to congress as delegate. He made quite a speech there. In 1866 was sent to Washington.

In the fall of 1865 the struggle between the North & South ceased. The Eastern people are feeling very bitter at this time against the Saints.

The new tabernacle in Salt Lake City commenced 1865.

In 1866 a great deal of freighting to the northern mines , flour and other provisions.

Also in 1866 a great many stores started in the different settlements. One was started in East Bountiful by Anson Call & Co. in a brick building built for that purpose.

The same year we sent 500 teams to the Missouri River for the emigration. I sent two horses for the same purpose. One was lost and one returned.

(Page 11)

April 15th 1872 the Supreme Court decided Judge McKeen's rulings were illegal.

John Rampton, son of Henry and Ada, born May 16, 1872, Thursday, 5 o'clock in the morning.

Jane Rampton, daughter of Henry and Ada, born Friday, April 3, 1874, 8 o'clock in the morning.

Thomas Rampton, Son of Henry and Ada, born July 19th 1876, Wednesday night half past 12 o'clock.

Chester Call ordained Bishop and the wards divided 1877.

The Temple of St George finished in the spring of 1877; Logan Temple, in the summer of 1877.

Brigham City Factory burned down in the winter of 1878

John Duncan buried in a snow slide in Mill Creek Canyon in the spring of 1878.

(Page 12)

Built the barn in 1877.

President Young died 29 Aug. 1877.

Bought John Porman's House and lot 1877 for \$400.00.

Built 2 school houses, one in 1876 and the other 1877.

Richard Rampton died Nov. 25th 1876.

Martha Burns, wife of Charles Burns, died Feb. 1878 Hot Springs.

Henry James, son of Henry and Frances Rampton, married Luna Smith of Centerville & went through the Endowment House March 1st 1878.

Nelly Eliza, daughter of Henry and Ada Rampton, born Oct 14, 1878, Monday 1 o'clock in the day.

William married to Charlotte Park of Centerville in Nov. 1878.

James Rampton, son of Henry James, born Dec., 1st 1878. This is my first grandson.

(Page 13)

Called to go on a mission to England 29th Nov. 1878. Started Jan. 5th 1879. I labored in the South Coast 10 months then removed to the Mansfield District in the Nottingham Conference. I returned in 1880. I enjoyed good health during my mission, had a good time with my relatives.

I have labored in East Bountiful as a Ward Teacher over 25 years. I acted as School Trustee several years.

I was ordained a seventy in the 29th Quorum of Seventies, Augustus Farnham, President. Afterwards on Dec. 11th 1882 ordained High Priest and set apart as alternate in High Counsel of the Davis Stake. I served about one year. I was ordained High Priest by Joseph F. Smith. Then called by Bishop Call to act as his 2nd counselor in the place of William Thurgood deceased. Set apart as counselor by President J. Taylor.

Served 14 years until Bishop Call resigned to go to Portney on the 18th of Jan. 1896.

(Page 14)

Bishop David Stokes set apart as Bishop of East Bountiful Ward 18th of Jan. 1896.

Henry Rampton set apart as first counselor to Bishop Stokes Feb. 3, 1896 by Apostle Franklin Richards

(Attached Newspaper Clippings)

DIED. In the 3d Ward of this city, June 1, 1881, at 10:20 a.m., of old age, ELIZABETH EVANS, wife of John Evans, and mother of Henry and James Dinwoodey, of this city. She was born Dec. 21st, 1795 in Somersetshire, England; baptized in the Liverpool Conference August 31, 1841, and immigrated to St. Louis in 1853, and to Salt Lake in Sept., 1855. She was an affectionate wife and mother, beloved by all who know her, and died in full faith.

Funeral at the 3rd Ward Schoolhouse, on Friday, at 10 a.m.

Friends are respectfully invited.

LIGHT. – On the 20th of April, while travelling, within eighteen miles of “Katherine Waters.” Overland Telegraph Line, Australia, from fever, William Henry, eldest son of Daniel Light, of Preston Candover, in his 33rd year.

(Page 15)

Work to be attended to in the house of the Lord:

Aunt Harriet Holloway died Feb. 16, 1862, aged 64 years – not baptized for.

Uncle John Holloway died Oct. 23, 1865, aged 75 years – has been baptized for May 3rd 1892 in Logan Temple. These have to be sealed.

Uncle John Rampton died Sept 11, 1827 - has been baptized for but not endowed.

Uncle James Rampton died Sept. 9, 1836 – baptized for but not endowed.

Uncle George Rampton died Aug. 27, 1842 – baptized for but not endowed.

Thomas Rampton died Sept. 5, 1841

Grandfather Jonathan Rampton died June 9, 1845 - to be baptized for.

Grandmother Frances Rampton died Sept. 10 – 1857 – has been baptized for in Logan Temple May 8, 1892, to be sealed.

Ann Mayhew baptized for in Logan Temple May 3rd 1892 – but not endowed for.

George Page baptized for in the Endowment House Aug. 23, 1860 – but not endowed for.

Mrs. George Page died Oct. 14th 1830 – to be baptized for and both to be endowed and sealed.