

Nancy Eleanor Ballinger

From Stories of Theron Smith Hall, His Parents and Grandparents
Written by Dorothy Lufkin Davenport Hall
For her grandchildren in 1977

Nancy Eleanor, isn't that a pretty name? This Nancy was born in Kentucky, many years ago. We don't know what she did as a child, but she probably played the games all children play – ball, and hide-and-peek – and she surely worked hard as all farming pioneer children did.

She and her older sister Scythia Jane were married the same day to twin brothers, Nancy to Edward Hall and her sister to Edwin. This was the year Nancy was sixteen years old.

In May 1850, Nancy and her husband, Edward, and their children started on the long journey across the plains. They traveled with a Mormon wagon train for protection.

Nancy became interested in the Mormon beliefs and was baptized. Edward joined the church later in Utah.

Their youngest child at this time was little four year old Sarah. Two years before she had fallen on a freshly mopped floor and had dislocated her hip. The doctors were unable to make it stay in place, and so Sarah couldn't even stand alone.

Elder Orson Hyde was in charge of this wagon train and rode back and forth visiting the different companies. Nancy had great faith, and she desired to have him administer to her little girl. She stood little Sarah in her favorite place by the wagon tongue and told her, "I'm going to get a good man and ask him to bless you, so God will make you well." She hurried then as fast as she could, but before she could reach Elder Hyde or call out, he drove away. She slowly retraced her steps, still so full of the great faith within her, that she didn't feel disappointed.

As she neared the wagon, she heard a shrill little voice calling to her, and to her great joy, her little daughter came running toward her crying, "I can walk, Mamma, I can walk."

Her mother's faith had made her whole.

All her life Nancy had great faith in Our Heavenly Father and His love and goodness to His children here on earth. She was very kind and sympathetic and helped nurse the sick and take care of the new babies.

She was good to the Indians and befriended them many times. She taught her children to be kind to them and honest and fair with them in every way. When she was gone the Indians mourned her, too, saying "Heap big squaw gone."

Nancy was a large woman and very heavy, too. Some portable steps were made for her, to make it easier for her to get in and out of the wagon when she was called to go and attend to the sick. She was never too busy or tired to go when she was needed.

She was called affectionately “Aunt Nancy” and loved by all who knew her.

Her full name was Nancy Eleanor Ballinger Hall. Among her grandchildren were Owen and Theron Hall.

Nancy Eleanor Ballinger (born 1826, died 1890).