

MARY ANN COOPER DAVIES  
1860-1951

I am the daughter of John and Mary Ann Lewis Cooper. I was born 13th of July 1860. My father was born the 27th of May 1834. Mother was born the 11 of November 1833. My parents came from England in the year 1856 on the ship Enoch Train. They crossed the plains in Capt. William Hodgett's company as far as Devil's Gate. Winter came on early that year and father, with a number of others, were chosen to stay at Devil's Gate and guard the emigrants goods that were cached there. They suffered with cold and hunger; some of them starved, others froze, and they dug under the snow for onions and segoes. They had raw hides for floor mats; they scalded the hair off and cooked and ate them to keep from starving. Mother went on into Salt Lake that fall, got there on Dec 11th. In telling us children, she would say: "My feet and legs to the knees were as black as that chimney back." (In those days we had fireplaces.) Father came in the next spring 1857, and they were married in June. They went direct to Fillmore where they lived and died and all their children were born.

In the year 1880, April 30th, I married Thomas Davies in the St George temple. When we left Fillmore, there was snow on the ground, but when we reached the Divide, it was warm and the service berry bushes were all in bloom. When we reached St George, the flowers were also in bloom. My father went on a mission to England the same spring. We went to Deseret to live. Ethel, my first child, was born there on the 26th of February 1881. Then we went back to Fillmore and Ivan was born there on the 17th of January 1883. The next October, my husband went on his mission to the Southern States; he was gone two and one-half years and got home on 26th February 1886. May was born Nov 17 1886.

The next summer, he went to work in the canyon to log for Melville and Greenwood. He took the children and myself with him. One Sunday, all the mill hands and loggers went to town except four married couples and one single man. Cam and Mary Melville had one child and we had three. We had all been down to the mill. It was cloudy and had sprinkled a little. As we went up to the cabin, my husband noticed the creek had raised and we had a barrel of fish in it, so he asked one of the men to help him lift it out. As he did so, he looked up the canyon and he could see the tops of the trees coming down. He ran and called: "a flood is coming." He came to the door, picked Ivan and Ethel up under each arm, told me to take the baby and run. By the time we got around to the back of the house, the flood was there. We went up the mountain and it was so steep we could hardly climb it ordinarily. About halfway up the mountain was a lone pine tree where the mill hands had made a bunk house. It was getting dark and raining so we went and stayed in it all night. We made a fire and some of them went and got bedding and lay down, others sat up all night. In the night, every little while there would be a land slide. It would just boom. It sounded like a cannon going off. In the morning we went back to the cabins. They were all right. The flood had gone down the other side.

We could not go back home down the canyon, so the men got their horses, not a saddle in the company. We were in White Pine canyon. We went over the mountain into Paradise Canyon and then into Bear canyon and down Pine Creek Ridge to Fillmore. It took us all day long. When the head ones were at the top of the mountains, the hind ones were at the bottom. In the year 1888, mother had a dream about me. She dreamed that I was lying in a stream of clear water. She thought I was dead. She pulled me out and worked with me. I opened my eyes and said, "what did you do that for?" She answered, "I am not going to let you die."

Dora was born in September 24 1888 and I was very sick. They thought I was dead. They worked with me and brought me to and I said: "What did you do that for, I was so comfortable." Mother said, "We're not going to let you die."

That year, we moved back to Deseret. We took up land on the north side of the river and Deseret was divided into three wards and we were in the Hinckley ward. Leah was born on Oct 11 1890.

In November 1892, we had a cyclone strike our house. It blew one room away and the roof off another. Allreds were our neighbours. Their house blew down to the square and one of the boys came over to see if they could come over there. We asked if anyone was hurt and he said: "Not very much." My husband said: "You are as well off as we." He looked up and saw that our roof was gone. Sister Allred's brother was there for a visit. He took all of them to Deseret to Brother Allred's brother's place and then he came back for us. The wind was blowing so hard, the horse could hardly keep his feet. He had only a one horse buggy and the top was up. I expected it to go over any time. He asked me where I wanted to go. I told him the first house that has a roof on it and that was Brother Hutchinsons. We stopped there and on Nov 29, Nellie was born. We named her Ellen H. after those friends who befriended us. We stayed there till our house was ready and I was well enough to go home.

April 27 1895, Lynn was born. November 2 1896, Mary was born. March 4 1898, Clyde was born. He lived one hour. On April 3, 1899 Lorenzo Snow was born. In August 1899 on the 17th, we had a sad bereavement. Our daughter May passed away.

We were talking of going to Canada. We did not know whether it would be just right. We wrote to Apostle F. M. Lyman as we were well acquainted with him and he knew our circumstances. He wrote back to us and told us it was pleasing to the Lord and to his servant if we would go to Canada. We started on April 3 1900. We came overland. We drove cattle and my husband's mother was with us; she was over eighty three years old. We laid over only one-half day on her account. We came to Cardston the first summer and bought land at Spring Coulee.

May third 1892, John Lewis was born. We were living out on the farm and as our children needed schooling and no school being near, we sold out and went to Raymond to give our children an education. We moved to Hillspring in August 1910. We moved to Cardston so we could work in the temple as we were getting old and we wanted to do a little good before we passed on. At this writing (Feb. 29 1933) I am almost seventy three years old.

My brothers and sisters are: John Lewis, Charles William, James Henry, Isabel, Franklin, Arthur, Florence May

Sources hand written copy of the patriarchal blessing. By Lynn Leavitt

Deseret June 3 1890

A patriarchal blessing given by Patriarch E. H. Blackburn upon the head of Mary Ann Cooper Davies Daughter of John and Mary Ann Lewis Cooper born 13 July 1860 at Meadow , Millard Co. Utah

Mary Ann in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I bless you with this your Patriarchal blessing which will be a stay in the staff and a comfort and a peace unto you, through your continuance in the faith, and it shall be a shield unto you, when the powers of darkness shall assail you. Your lineage is of the house of Joseph and a decendent of Ephraim and through the covenants you have made in the last days you are entitled to the blessings of our redeemers kingdom and to the blessings of the house of the Lord, to the holy annointings and to be inspired with the gifts of the holy Ghost. Greatly blessed of Lord to live in this the last dispensation, blessed to be come in the own due time of the Lord a leader of thy sep , blessed to be inspired to aid in the cause of Zion to have and enjoy the influence of the Holy spirit through all your varid labors, to have numerous posterity and them to be blessed of the Lord wisdom to be given

unto to thee, gift of discernment to be placed upon thee to discern between the righteous and the wicked, blessed with the spirit of Judgement to be inspired with dreams and visions, Thy understanding to be quickened, blessed shalt thou be in thy spirit and blessed shalt those be in thy body, seek unto the Lord and the temptations that has surrounded thee may depart from thee , seek and ye shall find, knock and the door of revelation shall be opened that thy guarding anigel may be with thee, to comfort and sustain thee through all that thou mayest be called to pass through, for remember that all that thou art called to pas through shall be for thy honor and glory in the Celestial world. Thy name is written in the Lambs book of life and through thy faith and diligence there to remain, blessed to finish a glourious work in the ouse of the Lord and if thou will desire it with all thy heart, thou mayest speak and converse with departed spirits. B;essed tp be a saviour upon Mt. Zion, blessed to have power to over come and be numbered with the sanctified blessed to obtain and recive the good things of the earth, and blessed shalt thou be in thy habitation , that mayest not lack for any good thing blessed to inherit and enjoy the blessings of the Celestial world and a glourious resserrection

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord Amen.