



MILDRED ROSETTA ROMRELL HARDY 1906 -1987

Mildred Rosetta Romrell Hardy was born 18 December 1906 in her parent's home at 256 Fourth Street, Ogden, Utah, to Ruby Rosetta Taylor and Hyrum James Romrell. She was named Mildred Rosetta after her mother. Mildred's older sister, Belva Josephine, born 28 October 1903, was named after her maternal grandmother, Josephine Bingham Taylor, who was the second wife of polygamist Levi James Taylor.

Mildred's father's parents were George Romrell and Patience Swingewood, both from England who spent most of their married life in Five Points, Ogden, Utah, in the Lynne LDS Ward. Mildred's younger sister, Fern Patience, was born 4 July 1911.

When Mildred's mother's sister, Grace, died leaving three children, Ruby and Hyrum decided to raise the second child, a 13 month old boy, Glen Orton. He was very sickly and had convulsions, but with the good care given him and the faith and prayers of Ruby, he became healthy and strong. On 25 June 1917, Mildred's mother gave birth to Leonard Hyrum in their home on Fourth Street. Another brother, Roland Taylor, was born 15 June 1922, after the family moved to 1139 North Harrisville Road.

It was a tradition in Levi James Taylor's family for his children and grandchildren to be baptized into the LDS Church on their eighth birthday, so Mildred's Uncle, Wilford Taylor, baptized her 18 December 1914, in a watering trough at the home of her Great Uncle Alfred Taylor. The snow was deep that day and it was cold, so her parents put hay and heated rocks in the bottom of the sleigh with lots of blankets to keep warm. After the baptism, she was wrapped in a blanket and carried into the house. As soon as she was dressed in dry clothing, Grandpa Taylor confirmed her.

Mildred's first twelve years were spent in the old family home on Fourth Street. The house was completely surrounded by tall poplar trees. An iron bar was placed up high between two of the trees and a long rope was fastened to this for a swing. This swing brought Mildred more pleasure than any other thing in her childhood. All the neighbor children and many adults enjoyed the swing as well. Mildred loved to slide down the banister in their home and slide down the steps which were carpeted with hand woven carpet.

The family home stood on the east side of their farm property. From a young age Mildred helped work on the farm. She followed her father all over the farm and helped him with his chores. As she did, he talked with her, pointing out the farm's good features and faults. When a prospective buyer came to look at the farm, Mildred's parents had gone to town. She took him around the farm and told him all about it. The man was very pleased and Mildred

felt she had told him the truth about the property. When he came back later, her father asked the man if he wanted to walk over the property. He said, "No." He thought Mildred had done a good job of showing it. The farm land to the west of the family home was sold to the city for a park called Pioneer Park. A pioneer pageant, "All Faces West," was held on the hillside for many years. Later, on 5 April 1979, Mildred and her sisters were instrumental in having the park renamed "Romrell Pioneer Park."

Mildred was pleased when her parents bought the house in Harrisville at 1193 North Harrisville Road. It was only four or five years old, had running water in the house, and a modern tub and toilet. It was probably the newest and nicest home in town at the time. It had been built by Alex Taylor for his wife who was an invalid. The home had a dumb waiter which operated by pulling it up or down from the kitchen to the basement with ropes. The dumb waiter had three shelves where they put fruit jars after canning and other things to transport to the basement for storage. Mildred remembered that it was fun to crawl on a shelf and have a ride.

There was a wonderful group of young people for Mildred to associate with in Harrisville: Helen Shurtleff, her sister Margie, Thelma Brown, Eileen Agren, Chester and Mae Guthrie, Glen Barnett, and Clifford and Gailord Taylor. Mildred participated in the first road show ever performed in Harrisville. However, when Mildred was about 13 or 14 years old, her mother was not well and Mildred stayed home from MIA and other activities to help her mother. In doing so, she felt she became shy and quieter than she was before.

In addition to other chores on the farm, Mildred took the cows out to pasture and brought them back in the evening during the summer. Down the lane (Chugg's Lane) east of the railroad tracks there was a place that had quicksand. It always frightened her to have to cross that area. It was worse with a load of hay, because the horses had to be kept moving through it in order to keep themselves and the wagon from sinking.

When she was 14 years old, Mildred went to work at the Five Points Canning Factory. One summer she worked at a little grocery store in Harrisville near the brick yard (Garfield's Store), which included selling gasoline. She had to pump the gas up into a glass tank on top of the pump for each sale, and then the gas ran into the car tank by gravity. Another summer she worked at the Shupe Williams Candy Company.

Mildred attended Weber Junior College for two years and graduated from the Normal Course in 1927 with an Associate of Arts degree. After graduation, she taught 35 pupils in first grade at Wilson Lane School. She also taught art to the fourth and fifth grades. That year her mother passed away and this resulted in many readjustments in her family. The youngest, Roland, was only five years old. The following year Mildred taught first and second grades at Slaterville and also taught art, reading, and writing in the third and fourth grades.

In December 1924, Mildred met Harvey B. Hardy. Dating was difficult because of his work and college schedule. They kept their courtship going and talked on the telephone often during the next five years. The first week of June 1929, Harvey graduated from college. He

quit his jobs at the Forest Service and the railroad, bought a Model T Ford, and he and Mildred were married. They went to the northwest to sell woolen goods. They were at Lake Chelan, Washington, 12 July 1930, when their first baby girl, Marion, was born premature and only lived for about half an hour. Later they returned to Ogden.

On 30 March 1933, Mildred and Harvey had a son, Keith, born to them in the home of Mildred's parents, where she was staying. He weighed four pounds and four ounces. Sister Annie Maxfield assisted with the birth and she held the baby in the oven all night to keep him warm. In the morning he was taken to the hospital in an ambulance and put in an incubator for three weeks. Their daughter Maxine was born 26 October 1936.

Mildred was active in the LDS Church and served as Relief Society President, the first Stake Chairman of the LDS Girls, and many other church callings including stake missionary. She and Harvey served two foreign senior missions: two years in Birmingham, England, and twenty months in Calgary, Canada. At stake conference in 1977, Mildred had a memorable experience when, seven of their 13 descendents were participating in one way or another in the conference, and the other six were in the audience.

Mildred's husband, Harvey B. Hardy, was the sixth bishop of the Harrisville Ward, served 14 years on the stake high council, and was president of the stake mission, and served two senior missions with Mildred. In addition, he was an ordinance worker in the Ogden Temple for 10 years. He passed away at age 81 on 5 December 1986, from lung, liver, and pancreatic cancer that originated from a melanoma on his hand. He is buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

Six months later after the death of her husband, Mildred was diagnosed with stomach cancer. She passed away 18 November 1987, 11 ½ months after Harvey died and one month before her 81st birthday. She is buried along side her husband in the Ogden City cemetery.

SOURCE:

Hardy family records.

Hardy, Mildred Rosetta Romrell. *Autobiography of Mildred Rosetta Romrell*. Unpublished manuscript.

Agren, Eileen	Romrell, Fern Patience
Barnett, Glen	Romrell, Roland Taylor
Brown, Thelma	Romrell, Ruby Rosetta Taylor
Guthrie, Chester	Shurtleff, Helen
Guthrie, Mae	Shurtleff, Margie
Hardy, Harvey B.	Swingewood, Patience
Hardy, Keith	Taylor, Alfred
Hardy, Marion	Taylor, Clifford
Hardy, Maxine	Taylor, Gailord
Maxfield, Annie	Taylor, Josephine Bingham
Orton, Glen	Taylor, Levi James
Orton, Grace	Taylor, Ruby Rosetta
Romrell Pioneer Park	Taylor, Wilford
Romrell, Belva Josephine	