



LILLIE ROSETTA HAYES HARRIS 1869-1960

Lillie was born 18 January 1869 in Swansea, Wales, to Richard Hayes and Anna Marie Turner Hayes. Her family immigrated to Utah when she was three months old. After spending two weeks on a ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean, they completed their journey on the newly constructed railroad as far as Taylor's Crossing (Riverdale). Friends met them and they finished their journey to Ogden in a wagon where they lived in a home on the corner of 24th Street and Washington Boulevard. The J. C. Penney store was later located there. From there they moved to a large farm in Harrisville.

Lillie first attended school in Ogden. When her family moved to Harrisville she attended school in a little adobe school building that stood on the property which she and her husband later bought.

Levi J. Taylor was her first teacher in Harrisville. All the grades were in one room and books were in short supply. The first student to arrive at school in the morning made the fire in the stove and brought in a fresh bucket of water, everyone drank from the same cup.

During this time, Lillie helped with the family finances by washing clothes on a scrubbing board for fifty cents a day, sometimes missing as many as three days of school a week to do this work. She continued working in this manner until she married.

Dances were held in the old adobe school house where fiddlers Lish Thomas and Ernest Hicks provided music for square dancing. Waltzing was banned. Lillie was required to be home from dates by ten p.m.

Farr West was part of Harrisville at the time, and Sunday LDS Church meetings were held in Harrisville one Sunday and at Farr West the next. Walking was the only mode of transportation unless people were lucky enough to have a horse. When the dirt roads were muddy, Lillie and others walked into Ogden on the railroad tracks.

Lillie worked in Ogden as a governess to a banker's wife, Mrs. Dooley. She also was a governess for others.

After her marriage to Martin Dennison Harris in the Logan Temple on 4 February 1890, Lillie helped with finances by keeping boarders, raising others' children and selling many hundreds of pounds of butter that she made. Her career was "homemaker."

Lillie and Dennison's children were Emma, Fern, Martin, Alma and Lillie. They had three children who died in infancy.

She loved growing things and had two large beautiful flower gardens. Raising canaries was a special hobby. She also enjoyed making many quilts, rugs and crocheted articles. She worked hard and was always busy.

She served as Relief Society President in the Harrisville LDS Ward for twelve years. During this time the flu epidemic of 1918 hit the area. Both she and her husband helped the sick and suffering, but neither of them or their children contracted the disease. During World War I, she helped to knit many articles for the Red Cross and spent many hours canning food for an emergency.

Except for the six years she spent as a matron and superintendent of the Roy Infirmary, she and Dennison lived in Harrisville until 1942 when the federal government took their property to establish an army depot.

Lillie and Dennison celebrated their 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries. At age 84, Lillie was chosen to be Queen of the July 24th parade. She was thrilled and proud and was beautiful in her orchid-colored satin dress.

Lillie died 8 April 1960.

SOURCE

Garner, Marilyn. "Lillie Rosetta Hayes Harris." Unpublished manuscript.

Dooley, Mrs.	Hayes, Anna Marie Turner
Harris, Alma	Hayes, Richard
Harris, Emma	Hicks, Ernest
Harris, Fern	Taylor, Levi J.
Harris, Lillie Rosetta Hayes	Thomas, Lish
Harris, Martin	Turner, Anna Marie
Harris, Martin Dennison	