

## Eliza Gill Hartley

1815 - 1891

Eliza Gill was born 28 November 1815 in Norton Lees, Derbyshire, England. She was the daughter of Robert and Betty Swindin Gill. Eliza married Samuel Hartley who was the son of Samuel Hartley and Mary Wells.

Eliza and Samuel Jr. were the parents of eight children:

Sarah Wells Hartley	b. 10 Aug. 1836	d. 12 July 1921	md. Curtis Lyman
Matilda Jane Hartley	b. 14 Sept. 1838	d. 27 Oct. 1916	md. (1) Russell Gideon Brownell md. (2) William White md. (3) Christian Overson
Robert Gill Hartley	b. 1840	d. In England	
Samuel Hartley	b. 14 Jan. 1842	d. 19 June 1898	
Clementine Emma Hartley	b. 1844	d. In England	
Josephine Lucy Hartley	b. 11 Apr. 1846	d. 13 Jan. 1929	md. Thomas Zundle
Farewell Harrison Hartley	b. 19 Sept. 1848	d. 2 May 1919	md. Carline Carlson
Lorenzo James Hartley	b. Apr. 1851	d. In England	



Eliza and her children heard the Gospel and joined the Mormon Church. One daughter and two sons died and her husband. His family persecuted her for joining the Mormons, so she and her children emigrated to America leaving England 25 May 1856, on the ship "Horizon" with a group of 856 saints. This group made up the Fifth Handcart Company, which was led by Edward Martin, a returning missionary.

The first three Handcart Companies that year had started out in May and June. They made it to Salt Lake City in fairly good time and shape, but the fourth, the Willis Company, also had trouble with storms and snow in the Rocky Mountains, as did the fifth Company.

This company was somewhat late to be starting such a journey and there were further delays while waiting for the handcarts to be made. However, they were so anxious to get to Zion, they started crossing the plains even though it was so late in the season. Several hundred miles out, they became quite destitute as their food provisions were becoming short and there had been so many wagons and handcart companies ahead of them that grass to feed the animals was scarce. There were a few wagons with this company pulled by oxen to haul tents and the heavier equipment. Some of the stock died and many of the men also died along the way. Those remaining became so weak that by the time they came to a camping place at night they didn't have the strength to pitch the tents. When they were traveling through the Rocky Mountains they became even more destitute. More died from exposure and illness. There was heavy snow and the waters were covered with ice. They had hardly anything to protect them from this kind of weather. They became so worn out from walking and pulling the handcarts through the snow and mud, that only about one third of those remaining could walk. Fourteen-year-old Samuel and eight year old Farewell had their feet frozen. Samuel's one leg was frozen to the knee, which later was amputated in Salt Lake City, and he was fitted with a wooden peg-leg with a handle on to aid him in walking.

Word of the plight of this belated Handcart Company reached Brigham Young in Salt Lake City. He sent men and wagons with provisions to rescue them. An advance party of three men rode into camp on horseback on 28 October 1856. These men were Joseph Young, Daniel Jones and Able Garr. The saints were so

thankful for this relief company they greeted them with tears and smiles of joy. The relief wagons arrived with provisions the next day. Those who could not walk were now placed in wagons.

Sometime after Eliza arrived in Utah she married a man by the name of Sam Couche. They lived for a time in Fillmore, then later went to Deseret where Sam farmed and helped in building the fort there. When the dams kept going out, Eliza and the children came to Oak City. Eliza was a sturdy pioneer and worked hard making a home for herself and children. She raised good gardens, grapes, fruit trees and lots of flowers. Eliza was a very outstanding character and was strong for what she thought was right. She was always a hard worker.

She died 17 November 1891, at nearly the age of seventy-six and was buried in the Oak City Cemetery, 19 November 1891.

**Samuel Hartley**  
(Son of Samuel and Eliza Gill Hartley)

Samuel Hartley was born 14 January 1842. He never married. In spite of his injured leg, he was a lively, happy person. Samuel was often asked to entertain at parties with his imitations of birds, animals and people. He was also quite a dancer, even with his peg leg. The wooden leg had a handle to aid him in walking. After his mother passed away he went to live with his sister, Matilda Jane Overson, who lived in Leamington. He herded sheep and worked on McIntyre's Ranch. He died 19 June 1898, in Leamington at the age of 56 and his body was brought to Oak City for burial.