



**Huldah Abigail Nickerson Barrus**

When Hulda was seventeen years old, she married Emery Barrus who had been working as a farm hand for her father. At this time, the Prophet Joseph Smith and some other elders visited that part of New York, making their home with Freeman Nickerson, and his family joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1833.

In November, 1839, Freeman Nickerson's family and his son-in-law, Emery, started on their journey to Nauvoo. Finding the Ohio River frozen, they wintered at Jefferson, Missouri, arriving in Nauvoo in 1840. They built homes, and lived in comparative peace until about 1844 when the Prophet Joseph Smith was murdered in the Carthage jail. After that, the persecutions became very severe. People began preparing to cross the Plains.

Huldah's husband had a shingle mill on an island in the Mississippi River. Hulda would hold one end of the cross cut saw and help him saw the trees into blocks ready to be made into shingles. They turned the shingle mill into a wagon shop to help make wagons for the crossing.

They were driven from the island and wintered in Sheridan Point, Iowa, where Hulda's father died. Emery and Hulda built a house here and raised crops for the family and others. They also built a house at Winter Quarters and farmed to raise food. They again started the journey westward in 1850.

They moved to Grantsville, Utah, in 1853. Emery built many houses in Grantsville. He became the first mayor and Hulda became the first Relief Society President. They raised sheep, would take the wool from the sheep, card it, spin it into rolls, make the rolls into yarn, the yarn into cloth, and the cloth into clothing for the family and neighbors.