

## ROBERT S. CRAIG AND ELIZABETH CLARK

By Ellen King

Robert S. Craig, son of James E. Craig and Elizabeth Miller, was born 15 February 1834 at Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland, England. He died 30 September 1880. at Spanish Fork, Utah.

Robert is listed in the 1860 Utah census as Labourer, age 26. I have been told he came to Utah with Johnson's Army, but I do not know if this is correct. He was a private in the U.S. Infantry, in Company A, 5th Regiment. He was discharged in 1861. He was never baptized.

We do not know how or when he and Elizabeth Clark became acquainted, but they were married 15 August 1864 at Spanish Fork. They had seven children. Three died in infancy. His last child, William John, was about five months old when his father died, leaving a young widow to raise four children.

He was a common labourer and was threshing grain when he died, 30 September 1880. I have never seen a picture of him.

Elizabeth Clark, wife of Robert S. Craig, was born 8 May 1844 at Hamilton, Wentworth, Ontario, Canada. She was baptized 20 November 1861 at Spanish Fork, Utah, and died 2 December 1926 at Provo, Utah. She was married 15 August 1864 to Robert S. Craig, and was sealed to him 30 March 1939. Her father was Elick/Alexander Clark, and her mother was Sarah Dawson.

My great grandmother Elizabeth Clark was a short, plump, pleasant looking woman. As long as I knew her, she was quite wrinkled and had a twinkle in her eye. When she was in her seventies she spent part of a summer with us in Strawberry Valley. This was our mountain retreat. There were three families including ours. We had a beautiful forest and a reservoir all to ourselves.

Mushrooms sprang up everywhere after a storm. They came up during the night or early morning and had to be gathered before sun so they would not be wormy. Grandmother loved mushrooms, so she would come in my bedroom, gently shake me and ask me to go mushroom gathering. She never took anything to put them in, but she always wore an apron. She would gather the corners together and I piled the mushrooms in until she was satisfied. It was hard for her to stoop over, so I picked them and put them in her apron. The walk in the early morning was very refreshing. At home we would clean and prepare them for cooking. She would simmer

them with a little butter and pepper and salt and we all had a tasty treat. I think this is where I learned to like mushrooms.

Grandmother could not raise her arms to comb her hair, so I was assigned to do this daily chore, and I enjoyed doing it. She loved to have it brushed and brushed, and when she was satisfied I braided it in four braids and wound them around each other on the back of her head.

She married Robert S. Craig 15 August 1864 and they had seven children. Three of the children died in infancy, and she was left with four children to support, raise, and educate.

Robert served in the army, so she was able to get a widow's pension. It was small, but she managed. She lived as a widow for forty years, dying in 1926.