

The Small White Stone

*Summarized by
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Once upon a time, many years ago, Mormon missionaries held a special meeting in a wooded area in Dalry, Scotland. There was great contempt for those missionaries, and a very influential and special woman named Mary Benson organized the other women to throw rotten eggs, potatoes, and cabbages at the elders when they started their preaching. At her signal, they would let fly their ammunition. But the signal was never given because when Mary heard the missionaries speak, she immediately became interested in their wonderful message and was converted on the spot. She went home and told her husband that she had found the true church, and they were both baptized in 1849. Little did they know that their lives would be forever changed in a dramatic and wonderfully miraculous way?

New members of the Mormon Church were called to gather to Zion, which was located in America amongst the Rocky Mountains in the valley of the Great Salt Lake. Many hardships occurred to prevent Mary and her husband, Thomas Hull II, and their eight children from leaving when they wanted to, but by 1853 the family was making preparations to sail to America. William Gibson Hull, their fifth child, was an eleven-year-old lad at the time. His oldest sister, Elizabeth, was a young girl of eighteen. This is a story of her special influence on her family as they went through many trials and adversities following their baptism.

Elizabeth was an exceptionally bright girl, and was also very spiritual. She knew her Bible so well that her friends called her the "Walking bible." When the family planned to go to America, she suddenly became very ill, and continued to worsen so much that her family thought she had died. They put on her burial clothes and put her body in a casket.

Mary Benson, her mother, had a dream, and in the dream she was told that Elizabeth was not dead. At about 11:00 PM, Elizabeth arose from her casket and told her family that she had come back for a short time only, and that her mission was not quite fulfilled on this earth. She said she had been in the Spirit World, and that she had been allowed to return for three weeks.

The family took off Elizabeth's burial clothes and put them in the back room along with her casket. Just

three weeks later, to the day and hour, she passed on to the next world. Robert McClelland, Elizabeth's younger brother, then a boy eleven years of age, remembered every detail of her two deaths and of all she related to her family. It so impressed him that he never forgot.

He has related how Elizabeth sat up and told them all of the spiritual things she had seen. She told them that they would all go to Zion, but that she would not be able to go with them because she had a lot of work to do on the other side. She told her mother that she (Mary Benson) would be called from far and near to take care of the sick. She said that her father would be called as an Indian Interpreter, and he would never be harmed in that capacity. She told them many other things, but soon her time was up. She died from what was known as brain fever at that time, and was buried in Wheagfall, Scotland in 1853.

The family eventually did go to America. It was reported while they were in Omaha, that Thomas Hull II was appointed, under the direction of Brigham Young the prophet, to learn the Indian language so that he could be the interpreter for the saints while they were crossing the plains. Mary was appointed to care for the sick and the needy. When this call came to her, Mary was given a white, walnut-sized stone by someone from the Spirit World. Thomas Hull II believed it could possibly have been given to her by their daughter, Elizabeth, who had died in Scotland, and had promised them that they would all reach Zion.

The small white stone gave Mary special powers to find lost children, heal the sick, and solve other emergencies. At one time, a child was drowned, but was found by the use of the stone. Another time, a child was lost and by using the stone, was found. Upon her deathbed in 1876, Mary Benson was ordered to bury the stone she had kept for years. So, in spite of her illness at the time, she went out and buried the stone in a field in Hooper, Utah, where she, herself, was buried after her death.

This story is extracted from a very large account of the tragedies and affairs of this faithful family. They experienced hunger and sickness when they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. Stories of faith and prayer attended all of the western migration of this worthy Hull family, and stories of Priesthood blessings, faith and hard work are prevalent in their histories. They were constantly serving others. Thomas Hull II was resourceful and brought the weaver's trade, which he had learned as a young man in Scotland, into the Cache Valley. He grew flax and made various fine

linens. Mary learned to sew and became very expert at the sewing machine, making the most beautiful and stylish dresses in the valley. Their efforts became a very successful community enterprise.

The story of the small white stone is the story of a special gift that one family used when there was no other way to communicate or complete their work of service for the Lord. God, in His mercy, provided a way for Mary to complete her tasks when there was work to be done for many who depended upon her gifted efforts.

Most of the facts of this story is extracted from the book of "Robert Rigby Hull and Grace Evelyn Bailey" and compiled into story form by Kaye Starr Heninger, 1999.