

Jannie Hull Riley

William Hull and his wife crossed the plains in 1859 from Pennsylvania. He was about twenty years old and she was younger. After reaching Utah, they went to settle land, which is now known as a town by the name of Franklin, Idaho. Of all the problems connected with pioneer life, the most difficult were the Indians. Near Franklin, Idaho, where Thomas Hull and family settled, lived a tribe of Shoshones, who immediately began to cause the pioneers a great deal of trouble. Before leaving Salt Lake, they tried had been instructed by Brigham Young to feed the Natives rather than fight them. This they tried to do. In December 1862, the situation became unbearable. Colonel E. Connors was sent with soldiers for protection. While waiting their arrival, William Gibson Hull, who was 20 years of age and spoke the Indian language fluently so he was serving as an interpreter for the colony, was holding a council with the Indians. He was endeavoring to make them understand that the saints had no more grain and to stall them off until help would arrive. Seeing they could not stall any longer, William and his brother Thomas were in the process of loading [nine] sacks of grain on an Indian pony when they saw the soldiers coming. William called, "Soldiers" in the Indian language and pointed in the distance so the Indians cut the sacks of grain loose and fled. The grain was scattered all over the ground and the two young men worked for some time gathering up the precious grain.

Colonel Connors found the Indians encamped in a ravine and ordered his soldiers to kill everyone. His motto in the battle that followed was "Nits make lice" so men, women and children were all killed. This fierce Battle of Battle Creek waged for four hours and over three hundred woman and papooses were killed as were about one hundred braves. Many of the braves had left previously, believing their families would be spared.

William Hull and several others had watched the battle from the side lines on a small hill, being instructed by Colonel Connors not to take part. After the battle was over and Colonel Connors and his

troops had left, William and others went over the battle ground looking for traces of life. William found two Indian women badly wounded and cold, but alive in a battered tepee. One covered a little boy with her skirt and another child was covered by the skirts of a dead woman. Overall, two Indian women, two boys and one little girl were found. The boy Shem, who was adopted by Brother Farlinson, died. Bishop Hatch adopted the other boy. William took one little girl, who was badly wounded, to the home of his parents. There she was nursed back to health by his mother and sisters.

Jane always thought of the children that were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hull as being her own sisters and brothers, but she was unlike them, being very short and not strong and well. It was probably for this reason that they moved back to the Salt Lake Valley where Jane could have a doctor's care and less strain upon her nerves since Utah was better settled than Idaho. She later showed a great liking for outdoor work and in this way she soon became strong and well, although she carried an arrow scar where either an Indian or white man had shot her in the leg. It is unknown who shot her with an arrow because guns and rifles were scarce at this time so some early settlers used bows and arrows, though they were not as accurate as the Indians.

For several months, Jannie could not speak one word of English. In fact, she would not even try. William tried very hard to teach her. On April 7, 1863, William left to go back to Omaha to help bring an immigrant train across the plains. While he was gone, Jannie grew well and strong and greeted him in English upon his return. She carried six scars on her body throughout her life as a result of being wounded during the battle.

A week after the Battle, some Indians came into Franklin trying to sell horses they had stolen from the soldiers. Among them was Jannie's uncle. He told them she was four snows old and that her name was "Pasoats." This meant that was probably born in the fall of 1858 or early in 1859 and was practically four years old.

She was renamed Jane and called Jannie, and she became part of the Hull family. Her adopted parents were Thomas and Mary Benson Hull. She gained four sisters and four brothers, Mary, Ann, Isabell, Eliza, Thomas, Robert, William and Brigham. In addition, she had two half-sisters and one half-brother left in Scotland. The half-brother, Adam Hull, was one of the first colonists to Australia.

All of Jannie's brothers and sisters were quite a bit older than she. Brigham, the youngest, was five years her senior. At first, Jannie was timid and backward, going to church and school, but not mixing very much with the other children. As time passed, she adapted herself to the white man's ways. Jannie was always afraid of Indians came around and many times she ran and hid when they approached. On several occasions, endangering her own life, she went for help when threatened by the Indians, and thereby saved the lives of the white people.

In the year 1870, Thomas Hull, his wife, Brigham and Jannie moved to Hooper, Utah. The rest of the family was married. They built an adobe house across the street from where later the old North School was built. Jannie was then about twelve or thirteen years old. She attended to the family duties required of her and in her spare time she helped make the adobes of which the home was built.

Six years after moving to Hooper with the Hull's, on September 13, 1876, her adopted mother Mary Benson died. This affected Jannie very much. She had learned to love Mother Hull as her very own. Jannie then went to live with William Gibson and his family, who also lived in Hooper. She had previously lived with this family for a season when two of their children were born. She did all the house work during this time, besides caring for the confined mother and babe.

It was while she lived at the home of William Hull, helping to care for five little boys that romance came into her life, which resulted in her married to George Heber Riley on September 11, 1875. He was a young boy of a fine pioneer family in Hooper. Her good mother-in-law, Harriet Emmett Riley, took care of

her at the birth of all her children, giving her the loving care of a real mother. Jane Hull Riley reared a large family of ten children including George, Hattie, Mary, Eliza, Bertha, Hurbert, John, Arthur, Ida and the last one died at birth. She was the grandmother of Thelma and Heber Graham, children of Hattie, and George and Rejoyce Williams, children of Mary.

Jane (Jannie) Hull Riley was a patient, kind, ideal mother, having a genuine love for her children. She believed that her first duty was to make a good home for her family. She taught them to pray and sent them to school and church. The people of Hooper testified to the beauty of her children in their youth with their dark eyes and hair and lovely complexions. She was an excellent wife and an immaculate housekeeper. It was her joy to cook a delicious meal for her family and friends. Many a child received cookies when visiting her home and many friends loved her because she had helped them in times of need. She lived a life of hardships, sacrifice, work and toil in her quiet, gracious and uncomplaining way.

She died from heart failure on October 19, 1910 in Ogden, Utah and was buried in the Hooper Cemetery. She was officially sealed to Thomas and Mary Benson Hull through the ordinance of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the Salt Lake Temple in 1920, but was never legally adopted by the laws of the land.

Jannie's daughters have followed in her footsteps. They married well and raised fine families. They were also fine housekeepers, good neighbors and honorable citizens. Ida, her youngest daughter, was a graduate nurse of the Dee Memorial Hospital of Ogden, Utah.