

Emma G. Bull



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Mrs. Emma G. Bull was the daughter of James and Eliza (Cheshire) Green. She was born on February 1, 1828, in Birmingham, Warwickshire, England. She heard the Gospel in its fullness as revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith in her native town in 1849, and she was baptized in June of that year by Elder Jeter Clinton. She was the only member of her father's family who became connected with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which she was a consistent and faithful member from the date of her initiation to the close of her earthly career.

Early in 1853, she bade farewell to home, relatives, and friends and departed for Salt Lake City, there to dwell among the people of her choice. The parting was painful, but her trust in God combined with her characteristic self-reliance enabled her to endure the ordeal.

She sailed from Liverpool on the ship *Jersey* for New Orleans at which point she arrived and then proceeded to Keokuk, Iowa, the immigration outfitting point of the Saints for that year. She crossed the great plains in Captain Joseph W. Young's train and endured without a murmur all the hardships and inconveniences incidental to an overland trip of that character, walking almost the entire distance to Salt Lake City - nearly 1,300 miles. The company arrived at its destination in the early part of October, 1853.

Mrs. Bull soon entered upon a career of usefulness in her new home, being the pioneer professional dressmaker of Utah. In the spring following her arrival, she became connected with the original Dramatic Association, and she made her debut as Herme in *Damon and Pithias* on the occasion of the first presentation of that play in the Social Hall. Her active membership in the dramatic organization extended over a series of years.

Emma was married to Joseph Bull on October 28, 1854 with Apostle Ezra T. Benson performing the ceremony. In May of the following year, her husband was called to take a mission to California. Her son, Joseph, was born in the summer of 1855. It is a notable fact of her experience that her husband, during nearly an entire period of ten years of their early married life, was absent from home on missions and attending to business for the *Deseret News*. She was, consequently in this time, left single-handed to rear, care for, and support her three children and herself, which she did with that aptitude, tact, and devotion for which she was justly noted.

She, with heroic fortitude, passed through the trials and hardships of the grasshopper war of 1855-1856 and, with her husband, joined in the 'move' southward with the Saints when the Buchanan army was approaching....

In October of 1877, Mrs. Bull accompanied her husband to England for the purpose of visiting relatives in that country. She remained among them one year, receiving at their hands the most kind and considerate treatment that could be desired. During this time, she accumulated much valuable information connected with her family genealogy, which she succeeded in tracing as far back as the year 1600.

She was a model wife and mother and was possessed of excellent judgment and unusually good business capacity, while her thoroughness extended not only into her domestic life but was characteristic of all her undertakings. She was secretary of the Ladies relief Society of the Seventeenth Ward, and her record was probably the best kept of any other Relief Society in the Territory, having been so pronounced – so far as he examined – by Andrew Jensen.

She performed labors in the Logan and Salt Lake Temples until she officiated for all her dead ancestors of whom she had obtained information. She was one of the regular workers in the Temple last named from the date of its opening, May 23, 1893, until Friday, October 19, 1895, the day previous to her being seized with the illness that ended her earthly career.

The deceased was a woman of refined tastes and marked artistic ability. Some of her pictorial needlework has probably excelled anything of that character ever produced in the Territory.