

## **Life Story of Hyrum Pearse Folsom**

Hyrum Pearse Folsom<sup>8</sup> was born September 1, 1841 in Buffalo, Erie C., New York, the second child and first son of William Harrison Folsom and Zerviah Eliza Clark. His parents had been baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints by John P. Green, on 17 February, 1843, after taking some time to cut through two and a half feet of ice at the mouth of the Niagara River, Buffalo, New York, where it was done.

Hyrum's father went to Nauvoo to visit the Prophet Joseph Smith about three months after his baptism at the request of Joseph Smith. William H. Folsom had considerable experience in design and construction. He had been engaged with construction of the Erie Canal with his own father for several years which accounted for their residence in Buffalo. Construction of the temple in Nauvoo was underway and we assume Joseph desired the assistance of William H. Folsom as a finisher and joiner in the work there.

A short time later William brought his young family to Nauvoo, including his wife Zerviah, his daughter, Amelia and Hyrum. The family suffered much in Nauvoo during the strenuous times recorded in church history. They mourned the deaths of the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum feeling much anguish at their martyrdom. Persecution against the Mormons continued and all the saints were fearful for their lives because of the threatening mobs.

At this time a third son, William Burdette, was born on 28 February, 1846. Shortly after this William H, And Hyrum (then about five year old) were laying sick in bed, with Enoch Reese's gun between them when a roving mob entered the house and began opening a box of clothing and throwing things on the floor. Zerviah said, "Let those things along. If there is anything in there that belongs to you I'll get for you." One of the mob pointed a bayonet towards her and told her to "Get out of the way or I'll ram this bayonet through you." She loudly exclaimed, "Ram and be damned!" Just then the officer in charge looked into her eyes and spoke up saying, "I guess there is nothing in the box we want. Let it be." However before they left the officer said "If you will step out side we will make way (away?) With your husband and furnish you and your children means to take you to your relatives." She said, "Get out of my house you murderers!" and opened the door. They looked very wicked but they went out.<sup>9</sup>

They stood and watched as friends and leaders walked down Parley Street in the freezing cold. The Folsoms had been asked to remain with a few others in Nauvoo to see to the completion of the temple. This they did. William and the other assigned men took turns guarding the temple block around the clock before and after their work shifts. They diligently worked to this end.

(Hyrum Pearse (Pierce) (Pearce) Folsom, *Pearse* spelling was used by Rhea Folsom Smurthwaite in her submissions to the DUP library.)

'This account was often retold by Hyrum and Amelia.

The hardships continued as the Folsom family along with the remaining "Nauvoo saints" were forced to flee. In direct contradiction to the treaty signed after the Battle of Nauvoo none of the families were allowed to take supplies or belongings. Instead they left under threat of their lives to camp on the Mississippi River bottoms. They had no shelter from the elements and ate berries and roots to survive. All turned sick with ague (chills and fever) and survived near starving conditions when a modern miracle happened. Hyrum recalled..."Every day, for ten days, night and morning, quails came, so thick that a small stick or club could be thrown at them and kill enough so all were supplied with needed meat." Amelia and Hyrum were old enough to help catch the tame birds with their bare hands for their mother to cook. The owner of a large cornfield close by the camp guarded his corn with a gun and would give no assistance. Neighbors from the town of Keokuk saw the plight of these people and brought wagons to assist their travel.

The Folsom family moved to a village called Farmington On the eh Des Moines River, about twelve miles away. For a time Hyrum's father made washboards and clothes pins and Zerviah made horsenets, which they sold for food for the family. During this time the mobs occasionally stoned the Mormon residents. One time they hurled a large stone through the window of the house where they lived with another family, the Whitesides. The stone fell on the bed just between Hyrum and another small boy. Had it either one of the boys the blow would have been fatal.

In the spring of 1847 the Folsom family moved into Keokuk where they began to assemble goods and materials to sustain them. Hyrum's father resumed carpenter work but was later employed by Mr. Hughes to go to California by way of Cape Horn to join others working near the mine fields. (See details of his sailing experiences and his time in California which are included in the life story of Hyrum's father, *William Harrison Folsom.*)

Since his father left Zerviah and the three children to care for themselves, they began the job of planting a "kitchen garden" and maintaining the cabin where they lived. The children assisted their mother as much as they could. Amelia helped care for the younger children all around the settlement. Their schooling was not neglected, and Zerviah assigned writing tasks and number instruction on which they worked daily. The following childhood accounts were dictated by Hyrum for his life story...

*"In chopping wood two different times the ax glanced and cut my foot quite badly, once the toe was near off. Another time I disobeyed my parents' instructions and went to the house next door where a man was lathing. On climbing the stairway I stuck my hand around the doorway and (he lather hit my finger and mashed it. When it-grew together a small finger like a baby's grew close to the end. In time it annoyed me so that I had to have it removed.*

*Shortly after this I was swimming in the Mississippi River and diving from a spring board. and I struck my head on a rock in the bottom of the river and nearly drowned and I have a hole in the top of my head on account of it."*

After two years Hyrum's father wrote to the family and told them to meet their father in Buffalo, New York where they could be reunited and also visit Grandparents and relatives living in the vicinity. We can imagine the joy of this sweet reunion and the satisfaction they felt being once more together.

The Folsom family returned to Keokuk and remained there for a total of nine years where they served in various callings helping to equip the many groups of immigrants coming through the town. William Folsom was engaged in the grocery business for two years and then resumed his architect and building business.

By 1853 William H. Folsom was moving houses and raising them. He had a large carpentry shop with machinery that used horsepower to run the machinery, similar to those used in early days in Utah with threshing machines. One day Hyrum got on this machine to drive the horses, contrary to his father's orders. The platform to stand on had not as yet been placed. *"Boy like I wanted to strike the horses and stepped out on the rim of the master wheel, and the small friction-wheel that held the master wheel in position ran over my foot cutting off my big toe. This was in the month of July. Father said to get a doctor quick and sent me home. Four doctors were at the home soon after and when they finished my mother told them she had a family physician that would attend to me and they need not come any more. This doctor came immediately and found me screaming with pain. He took all the bandages off and cut all the stitches. In fact he undid all they had done and remarked that I would have soon had lockjaw. A large portion of the arteries and bones of my foot were exposed and it was a great question if amputation of my foot would be required. He ordered my foot laid on a oilcloth and ice cloths were placed on it. Twice a day the Elders administrated to me. but the doctor did not know this. He was so pleased with the improvement that he brought a large number of doctors and surgeons in the neighborhood to see me. When he was told that I was blessed by the Elders each day, he acknowledge that he was impressed that we Mormons were doing something because it improved so fast. For about six months I walked on crutches and had a small wagon and made a harness with bridle and lines for my dog and he pulled me around town. Persons who see my foot now are surprised that I walk and do not limp, which I have always claimed it was by the blessing of the Lord when the accident occurred."*

Finally in the spring of 1860 the Folsoms again were fitted out with three ox teams and a light spring wagon and a saddle pony and once more resumed their journey to the Rocky Mountains. *"I was driving one of them and when about fifty miles from Council bluffs, I fell off the wagon and the front wheel ran over my back. Father jumped out and picked me up and laid me in the wagon, thinking I was dead, as apparently I was. He said, "Oh Lord, what shall I do, what shall I do? When a voice said unto him "administer to him". An elder named Lewis was driving one of the teams. He called to him and they administered to me and anointed my back with oil and immediately a red streak appeared on my back showing where the wheel had passed over me. In a few minutes I came to, and my father asked if I thought we could drive to the creek that was some five miles away. I was again administrated to and we drove to the creek. The next day they started to move on, hut while the road was smooth as possible for a wagon road, it seemed to me that we were traveling over plowed ground. I complained and they camped for the day."*

*They gave me a cathartic and administrated to me again. In the morning we started on for Council Bluff arriving there in three days. I was administrated to each daily and on the ninth day I was walking around."*

They crossed the plains in company with Joseph W. Young in the first "out-and-back" group he ever led. They arrived into the Salt Lake Valley in the fall on October 3, 1860. At that time Hyrum was nineteen years old. They immediately took residence in a house that had been prepared for them by a friend, Enoch Reese. Hyrum's first job in the city was putting a glass front in his store on Main Street. He then opened a carpenter shop on Main Street between and 2nd South. He gained valuable experience in the building and carpenter business by working along with his father on many jobs. In Salt Lake some of their first work was that of helping with the Beehive House porch for Brigham Young under the direction of Joseph Schoenfeld.

In the spring of 1861 William Folsom and his wife and oldest son and daughter were among the guests invited to a special a special performance given for the families of President Young and Heber C. Kimball at the Bowring Theater. Shortly after this Wm. H. Folsom undertook the job as architect for the Salt Lake Theater. Hyrum was the first to work as carpenter there. The building was dedicated on March 6, 1862, by Daniel H. Wells.

Quoting a letter written by Hyrum to George D. Pyper at the time of the jubilee celebration for the Salt Lake Theater he said: *"I claim to be the first man who worked as a carpenter on the theater and worked until it was entirely finished. When the first stringer that went across the building was placed, I was on the west wall and placed the west end and got on it and walked across to the east side (80) eighty feet. It was then (50) fifty feet from the cellar. I worked on the theater until it was entirely finished and then commenced making scenery frames. The first night the theater opened and for about a year, I had charge of the west side of the stage and William Hint the east side and we shoved scenery. I went from there as doorkeeper to the second circle. In connection with eleven others I was a soldier in the play of "The Virginian." I continued to work in the capacity for a year or more and up until I went on a mission to England in 1864. I was all this time one of the stage carpenters."* (Hyrum Pearse Folsom}

In July of 1862 another son was born to the Wm. H. Folsom family, Richard Clark Folsom, He passed away in November having lived a few short months. Zerviah never regained her health. The family helped her as much as they could fulfilling the responsibilities. Hyrum, as the oldest son, was a great comfort to her. The entire family rejoiced when Amelia married President Brigham Young in January, 1863. Sadly, that year as the family began to prosper, Hyrum's mother was taken from them on August 16, 1863. She had been a great source of strength and inspiration to them all.

Hyrum was called on a mission to England the following spring. When serving there he was called as President of the Durham conference and later of the Warwickshire Conference.

*"From Romance of the Old Playhouse by George D. Pyper, p, 320."*

While he was on his mission a very lovely young English lady went to live at the Folsom home as a seamstress. She was a girl of delicate coloring. Her hair was blond, her eyes, blue, her complexion exceptionally clear, and her cheeks a natural cherry pink. The family admired her gentle ways and fastidious skills very much and secretly hoped she might catch the eye of their brother, Hyrum. Their hopes were realized in a very few months, for when Hyrum returned he took one glimpse at Nancy and began to court her diligently. They were married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah on December 29th, 1866.

Hyrum and Nancy lived in Salt Lake establishing a small home not far from the other Folsoms. Hyrum continued to work with his father on several building projects. He and Nancy were blessed with a young daughter, Grace Amelia, on October 25, 1867. Not long after this the couple was called to the "Muddy Mission."

## Hyrum Pearse Folsom Experiences in the Muddy Mission

In 1868, two years after Hyrum and Nancy were married, they were called to go south and help settle the "Muddy mission." At this time Hyrum was a young 28 year old husband and father. He had crossed the plains and settled in the Salt Lake Valley with his father and mother and sisters and also served a two year mission to England. Little is recorded about the experiences of Grandfather and Grandmother Folsom while on this "most difficult of all Mormon colonizing efforts." The Muddy Mission was the only unsuccessful colonization effort launched by Brigham Young in all the world. Those who persisted on this mission demonstrated much faith and obedience to counsel. They showed devotion to the ideal of building and sacrificing for the building up of Zion. Perhaps the story of this experience will add to our collective knowledge of Grandfather's legacy.

The Muddy mission was located about ninety miles south of Saint George and fifty miles from Las Vegas in what is now south-eastern Nevada. In all the country there is no more forbidding landscape. The desert summers are hot often reaching 120 degrees. Even the summer heat at St. George is considered mild by comparison. There is little rainfall. The Muddy River moves sluggishly down the valley depositing enough silt to create a narrow strip of fertile land on which the pioneers planned to farm, Hyrum tells us, "The land immediately on each side of the creek was extra good. Some higher up had quite a bit of alkali. About one half was more or less sand, and clay would be about average."<sup>2</sup>

The Muddy Mission was suppose to serve as an agricultural valley producing semi-tropical crops essential to the collective well-being of the other settlements. It was to serve as a way station and stopping point on the route between San Bernardino and the central settlements of Utah. Brigham Young even envisioned an inland water way and the Muddy Valley offered the best place for providing food, supplies, cotton, and services along those future routes.

"Captain Thomas Smith had charge of the mission at the beginning. He and quite a few others were from Farmington, Davis, Co., Utah and they settled there in the fall of 1864, just camped and corralled their wagons on an open spot that proved to be mostly alkali land. They relocated and formed an open fort of adobes which they called St. Thomas and at the lower end of the valley another fort about eight miles up the creek and called it St. Joseph, or Mill Point."<sup>3</sup>

- By the time Hyrum and Nancy reached the mission in 1866 a few canals had been dug and water
- was being directed from the stream for irrigation. Five acres was all the land a household could get

Samuel Clarice-Pioneer in f the Outposts of Zion by S. George Ellsworth (1987.)

*2 Hyrum Pierce Folsom Life Story*

<sup>3</sup>*Excerpted from the Hyrum Pierce Folsom Life Story*

By the time Hyrum and Nancy reached the mission in 1866 a few canals had been dug and water was being directed from the stream for irrigation. Five acres was all the land a household could get for farming. Hyrum began clearing their land and it was a major undertaking. The creosote bushes, cactus, and mesquite are known to be quite obstinate. Once the soil was plowed and watered it proved to be fertile and they planted half their piece in cotton, and the rest in wheat, with some rows of corn, oats, and garden vegetables. Farming in the region required careful attention because unmonitored irrigation would bring the heavy alkaline minerals to the surface. Joseph W. Young complained that, "A piece of land will be good one year, and the next be full of mineral and perhaps half the crop lost."

Hyrum and the others had to travel 130 miles away to reach Pine Valley where timber could be found, thus it was very costly. He found his extensive building experience and carpentry skills were in constant demand. All of those called to settle the mission had specialized skills. Hyrum was an expert "joiner" and he could aid in all aspects of the construction of homes and public buildings. He explained that the houses were mostly "adobes with flags or tools for roof, dirt floors and cotton cloth for windows and doors. They had poverty stricken wagons and plows and cradles."

Nancy was careful attending little Grace Amelia who could toddle about the fields. She even feared for her daughter's life. For in addition to the difficulty of simply sustaining life Nancy and Hyrum had to deal with the Indians who often traversed the valley. This was the time of the Black Hawk War and Ute's and Paiute neighbors were continually driving off cattle, horses, and mules. Hyrum stated that "the Indians were troublesome and the second year stole all our stock and we came near having a fight. It was averted by the wisdom and coolness of Bishop James Leathhead who was then residing. It was necessary to herd the stock in the daytime and corral and stand guard at night And at no time while we lived there could we trust them, although the last two years they worked with us some."

These pioneers had so much to endure. They lived and struggled together sharing all food and materials and pooling other resources when necessary. When tragedy struck one that loss affected all the others. A fire broke out in the St. Joseph fort on August 18, 1868, about 8 miles away from St. Thomas.

"Most of the men were in the fields when it happened. It was 119 degrees in the shade, and "everything was as dry as tinder." At one side of the fort was a large tent where some boys were trying to light a fire on which to cook some potatoes. The tent caught fire and, "the wind blew great flakes of the burning tent upon the tops of the houses which were all thatched with cane and dry as tinder." The fire spread, "burning up 19 rooms and nearly all of the contents." The meeting house within the fort burned down. Those who had the most suffered the greatest loss. People so near to destitution as it was became all the more destitute. Some families were left with only what they were wearing, and that not their best by any means.<sup>4</sup>

*History of Joseph W. Young.*

"...in five minutes the house was a burning mass & everything we had lost in less than half an hour. The school house & one half of the houses in the fort were burnt down. I saved my plough & the running gears of my wagon. All else was lost My wagon box, all our beds, clothes, all our wearing apperal. My own wife's & all that Lydia had left, all our furniture, the cooking stove broken, all our wheat & flour burnt up, all my tools, spades, hoes, rakes, shovels, augurs, all my books...in fact the whole gathering of all my travels & many of my own journals all was gone & next morning neither my wife nor I had shoes to our feet nor a hat nor bonnet to cover our heads & but very little to cover our backs,...But there was no use to sit down & cry about it so we got into an old tumble down room belonging to one of the brethren & began to look after our cotton crop....<sup>5</sup>

Saints along the valley were called on to assist the families with what they could spare. The news spread as far away as St. George and pleas for surplus goods went out. A few weeks later Hyrum helped move the settlers to a new location about a mile and a half upstream from the original Mill site and a new Saint Joseph was laid out. All began the chore of hauling sand for making adobe from the creek bottom. "Many lived in a wagon box."

The Folsom family welcomed their second child, Hyrum Burdette Folsom, on October 13, 1869. However sorrow continued to follow Hyrum and Nancy. Little Hyrum was weak and small. He survived only three months and died on January 13, 1870. They buried him in the St. Thomas cemetery. "By this time the United States Government run the state lines and we found we were in Nevada and our taxes would be extremely high and burdensome. President Brigham Young sent a delegation which gave the saints the privilege to stay or move, and all but five voted to move away.<sup>6</sup>

President Joseph W, Young called the meeting of the settlements for Monday, December 20 1870 at two o'clock. He read a letter addressed to the Muddy missionaries and sent by Brigham Young in which the President of the Church referred to the "noble work" they had done "in making and sustaining that outpost of Zion against many difficulties, amid exposures and toil." He went on... "We now advise that you gather together in your Several Settlements and take into consideration your further course and if a majority, after fairly canvassing the subject conclude to remain and continue to develop the resources...All abide by the result, but if the majority of the Saints in counsel determine that it is better to leave the State, let it be so done...."

The final removal occurred at St. Thomas on February 20, 1870 and as the Folsom family had decided they would return with the others to their former location in Salt Lake the wagon train commenced their journey. "The long lines of wagons leaving the Muddy Valley reminded some of the Camps of Israel. The roads were no better leaving the Muddy than they were going down.

*William Gibson Hyrum Pearce*

*Folsom Life Story*

The trek was made more difficult by having to "make new roads" and by a snowstorm that caught the group in the Santa Clara Mountains "which made it very uncomfortable"<sup>7</sup>

Thus ended the colonizing experiences of Hyrum Folsom. Reading his personal accounts of the Muddy Mission failed to explain to us the degree of commitment he was called upon to make as a faithful and obedient church member. Those who undertook the mission to the Muddy and stayed created a legend of dedication, hard work and endurance. This most difficult of all Mormon colonizing efforts stands out as the example of persistent labor under the most difficult of circumstances. In all the settlers' journals and diaries are found many declarations of faith, obedience to counsel, and working for the kingdom. Very few that I have read express calls for sympathy, only recognition of great effort and unusual difficulties. The Muddy people added much "seasoned experience and wisdom" as they helped build other communities to succeed in the west. Hyrum Folsom became a mature and well seasoned pioneer from his experience. We are privileged to be his descendants.

Diane S. Wheeler (Great Granddaughter through  
Hugh B. Folsom)

Samuel Claridge "Henry Eyring - Conference  
address, April 1994

They returned to Salt Lake City and Hyrum engaged in the contracting and building business with his father and brothers. He was captain of the first "ten" of the Nauvoo Legion Artillery from 1861 to 1870. He was employed by the Henry Dinwoodey Company for twelve and a half years. During this time he was also secretary for five years and a member of the Board of Directors of the Deseret Agricultural & Manufacturing Society and a highly respected businessman. He served as a member of the 11th Quorum of Seventy of the Liberty Stake for forty years. In the year 1878 Hyrum bought 100 acres in the town of North Salt Lake and additional 15 or 20 acres near their house. He was successful in selling this property for a profit in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Although Hyrum was an excellent accountant, he decided to resign his office job at Dinwoodeys and go into the business of making bricks and adobes with his father. He therefore turned in his resignation to Mr. Dinwoodey. Having worked as Mr. Dinwoodey's "right hand man" for 12 years he was honored with a retirement party and presented with a gold watch on September 1, 1883, Hyrum's 43rd birthday. *"To whom it may concern: this certifies that Mr. Hyrum P. Folsom was in my employ for twelve and a half years. During that time he had entire charge of my office affairs and proved himself to be a capable, faithful honest man. He left my employ to engage in business of his own and carrying with him my entire good will and best wishes for his success."* Henry Dinwoodey.

Uncle Dee, who had the gold watch for many years said *"The watch is about a hundred years old and still runs. I don't show it off much because I am afraid that someone might pick it up. It's antique and a beautiful watch and engraved."* It was passed on to one of his grandsons in 1993 when he died.

The beautiful home where the family lived was always known as the "HOUSE ON THE HILL" because of its location on the side of the hill above the highway leading from Salt Lake City to Ogden. It was about halfway between the two pioneer resorts, "Warm Springs," and "Becks Hot Springs"...both places being noted for their medicinal remedies. This house was always admired by passerby for its beautiful landscaping of trees, lawns and flowers and the well-kept barns and sheds which Hyrum had built. People from the city loved to come and visit with the Folsoms because of their wonderful hospitality and even strangers that had troubles along their way stopped at the big house to receive warm clothing and nourishment. The children enjoyed running up and down the sides of the hill and playing in the leaves in the fall. The Folsoms were noted for their family parties and numerous entertainments both inside and out. Hyrum had acquired a spring up on the mountain which he had piped to the house. Thus the housekeeping facilities were very adequate for the times. One very unique feature of interest was a dumb-waiter which was installed from the basement to the upper floors to send the supplies from the cupboards below. At that time, there was nothing to block the sunsets on the distant lake from the people in the home. It must have been a grand site.

Dee Folsom was a younger son of Hyrum Pierce Folsom and Annie L. Folsom, a dentist by profession.

Other children came to bless this happy home. Hugh Broadbent Folsom was born on April 6, 1871, and Guy Broadbent Folsom was born October 20, 1873 in Salt Lake City Utah. Guy lived only three months. Another son, Aaron Broadbent Folsom, was born in November of 1874 followed by two more sons, Paul Broadbent Folsom on March 2, 1877 and Mark Broadbent Folsom on May 23rd, 1879. This made six boys and one girl. In time two other girls would be born to this union.

Many of the members of the Church were asked by President Brigham Young to accept the principle of polygamy. Hyrum Pierce did so with the full support of his wife Nancy. On January 4, 1879 he married Eliza Lutz Linze in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah as his second wife. He was fourteen years her senior, she being 24 and he 38.

Hyrum and Eliza's first child was a boy named, Roy Folsom, born on December 19, 1880. Their second child was Martin Ross born January in 1883.

Rather than testify against their husbands many of the plural wives went on what was called "The Underground" or in hiding. Nancy Folsom's sister had married Jesse Murphy and they had a big house in the southern part of the city in the Millcreek area where Eliza and her two children went to live. Had it been for other circumstances this could have been a very pleasant place to reside with its beautiful surroundings in the country. Their third child, Clara, was born here in 1885. *"With three children now, Roy, Ross, and Clara, I moved to St. George, Utah in about 1887 to live with my half-sister, Cornelia. On January 7, 1888 my fourth little one was born, a little girl that I named Cornelia, after my sister."*<sup>2</sup>

In the meantime many husbands, rather than desert their wives, went to serve in the Utah State Penitentiary for several months. This Hyrum agreed to do and for five months he lived among other "brethren" in prison wearing striped prison garb and enduring the separation from his loved ones with fortitude. Hyrum was honorably released to live with both families on September 23, 1886. This happy reunion did not last long however, for in January 1889 Nancy passed away with pneumonia. This necessitated that Annie come from St. George to take over the responsibility of raising both families which now consisted of ten children, six of Nancy's and four of Annie's.

Annie took over her duties very willingly and with the wonderful help of the children, especially Hugh, the oldest, age 17, she managed to keep them well and happy. (Annie told the touching incident about Hugh who, on his own, began at this time to gather the family's shoes each Saturday evening and take them away to polish them for Sunday. She saw this as a quiet way of showing support to his "Aunt.")

Quoted from the life story of Annie Eliza Lutz Linze Folsom

Once again great sorrow came to the Folsom family. In the year 1890 a diphtheria epidemic spread over the entire city and the Folsom family did not escape its wrath. Thinking the children were ill from the great Christmas celebration they did not realize the seriousness of the conditions until Cornelia, almost two, passed away on January 1st, followed by Ross, a week later on his 7th birthday, January 7th, 1890. The doctor came and said that they all had diphtheria in their throats and he prescribed some medicine to check it. In the midst of this sorrow, Annie Eliza was in a "delicate condition" and gave birth to her daughter, Cacia on the 29th of January. Then again on the 7th of February Paul, almost three, died followed by Aaron, age fifteen, on the 15th of February. This means that within a six week period of time they lost four beloved children and had one more child born into the Folsom family. Only grave side services were allowed, by law, and Annie was unable to attend because of her new baby. It is hard to fathom the bereavement that was felt in that home. Although we cannot understand their sorrows we can witness the strength and faith they showed as they carried on in faith.

The following is a letter of comfort sent to Hyrum and Annie by his sister, Amelia Folsom Young who was away from Salt Lake at the time and had heard belatedly of the deaths. It gives us an insight into the fondness she felt for her brother and also the personal loneliness she experienced at times.

*February 23, 1890*

*My Dear Brother & Family,*

*Last evening's mail brought me the sorrowful news of the death of Aaron and last night and today I have felt sick with grief to know of the sad home you have and the heavy loss you have had in your family this winter. I know you are broken hearted and feel your affliction is more than you are able to bare, but I hope God will have mercy on you and give you strength to endure and that you may feel that he knows best what is for our own good and these little ones he has given to your care. While we are sorrowful and grief stricken here, I feel that Annie is happy with her meeting of her family. (This would have been his first wife. Nancy, who had died in January of 1889.) If we could only have a view of them I believe our grief would be less and we would feel that a wise providence had overruled for the best. They will be anxiously waiting for the rest of you and a happier meeting than any of us can have any idea of here will then take place. I feel there is very little in this life to cling too. All are perishable mortals and our short and sorrowful lessons may be for our best in the future. You have laid away your treasures and have something to go to and to meet you all while I feel I have none to go to and none to leave, to meet or grieve for me and my life is lonely and very sad most of the time.*

*There must be some cause for this. Have you had a cesspool or bad water from the pipes (spring) or a had cellar in your house or your bathroom sinks and other places looked to, to see if this disease has not originated from them? However, I suppose your Dr., whoever he may be, has thought of all this as well as yourself*

*and others, but my thoughts have been of your surroundings that some of the places had been forgotten somewhere and perhaps (his may of been the start of all this terrible trouble. I hear you have been very sick, also Fanny. I hope you are all improved and will try to lake care of yourselves the rest of the winter and have no further trouble. My home news all the winter has been very sad. Father or some member of the family have been sick. My visit here has been very pleasant with this exception and my own health has been very good for which I feel is a great blessing. I am very sorry to hear of so much sickness and deaths among my friends and acquaintances. In almost every letter I have received since I came has contained the news of someone's death. The weather here has been very mild and I suppose this is the cause of so much sickness all over the land.*

*Hoping my next news from home will he that all are well. I will close with love to all the family and kisses for the little ones. God bless you all and give you comfort and aid in this sad and sorrowful hour is the prayer of your Sister.*

*Watch for us. darlings. Watch for our coming.*

*Be at the golden gate to let us through*

*And may the sight that greets us first **in** Heaven*

*Be one, we pray, dear loved ones, of you.*

*Lovingly, Your Sister, Amelia*

For many years Hyrum was very successful in the venture of brick making obtaining more money than his livelihood required. Their red brick plant was located in Section 23 of North Salt Lake. The brick yard supplied "sand mold" and "wire cut" brick for many buildings and furnished employment for a number of men for several years. The plant was located where the sand and gravel pits now line Highway 89 from Salt Lake. Then came the depression of 1893 when there was a slump in business and he was forced to mortgage the big home to help save the business. He eventually lost it through foreclosure.