

BIOGRAPHY OF HUGH BROADBENT FOLSOM

Hugh Broadbent Folsom, son of Hyrum Pierce and Nancy Broadbent Folsom, was born in Salt Lake City, Utah on April 6, 1871. His earliest recollections are of living on the corner of Folsom Avenue (between St, Temple and 1st So. running west from 1st West) in the house facing to the east. Up to the age of about five years his playmates were Mose, Frank, and Fred Taylor, who lived across the street and Eugene, Charles, Hugh J. and Dr. Cannon, who lived down the alley. From the time these boys shared their seats in school, they have followed each other's journeys through life.

The neighborhood boys, under the leadership of Tod Mason, called Hugh, "Tubby", because he was fat, Hugh's father objected to nicknames and named all his children names that were hard to substitute. One day, he heard the boys use this pet name for Hugh and became angry with the boys. For years Tod told this story on Hugh.

An early childhood prank that is still remembered concerns an old woman, who lived in a one-room adobe house which had a plain paneled door. On Valentine's Day the neighborhood boys sent her comic valentines, kicking the door and running away. One time she chased them. The crown had stopped under a street lamp, and in the light, she recognized Hugh, because she used to deliver milk to their house. She said, "I'll tell your father on ye'," The father realized the time the boys had had, yet, by the twinkle in his eye, showed that he didn't blame them.

Hugh distinctly remembers a particular Sunday suit which he wore at the early age of four. It was made of velvet, trimmed with silver buttons and had knee pants. The buttons, buckle and a picture of this suit are still in his possession.

At the age of seven he was taken to the Amelia Palace (later called Guardo House) and noticed the beautiful grounds. As he reached the steps of the house, he remarked, "I have never been in this house before." Aunt Amelia said, "You have never been in yet !"

One year at Christmas time, Hugh's father was short of money and instead of buying gifts for the boys, he made them a pigeon coop in the attic of the barn. He used boxes for the pigeons' nests. The boys were well pleased with their Christmas.

His first attention to girls was at the age of ten or thereabouts. The custom was for the boys to sit on the rear seats at Sunday evening meeting. After meeting they lined up between the door and the gate, and as the girls came out, they would ask one to walk home with them. He would have liked very much to ask a certain Fannie Ostler (later wife of Bishop Spencer), but never had the courage to ask her,

His mother's early teachings remained with him all his life. She had him kneel down by her with his hands in her lap, to learn the Lord's Prayer. She taught him never to swear, to keep the Sabbath day holy—and that meant no skating on the frozen lake nearby, where everybody else came on Sunday. Skating was one of his boyhood pleasures and accomplishments,

The first school he attended was in the upstairs of a store. It was a private school run by Mildred Eakel Randall and required tuition.

He was baptized by James McMurrin July 1, 1879 and confirmed by J. W. Johnson July 3, 1879. The church authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints were not sure the proper records had been kept of some of the early baptisms and because of this, many people were required to be re-baptized. Hugh was re-baptized by Alexander Burt Feb. 23, 1888 and re-confirmed by Joseph Derbidge March 1, 1888. On this same day, he was ordained a deacon by Joseph Derbidge, and later at the age of thirteen or fourteen was president of the Deacon's Quorum in the old 19th Ward (which stood where the 22nd Ward is now, about a half mile south of Warm Springs). He was also Sunday School teacher at this age and has served in this work over fifty years.

His next schooling was acquired in the 19th Ward under three trustees. In this school also school tuition was required of the pupils. To attend school there he had to walk two miles to and from school and in the winter these roads were nothing but frozen clods of mud,

His early social contacts were made with a group of young people who met in the evenings to play games. Their games were held at periodic intervals and in many respects could be likened to a club.

His father, Hyrum P. Folsom, was engaged in the business of making brick. He hired Mr. Garrett, an experienced brick-maker, as foreman. Hugh worked under Mr. Garrett's supervision from the time he was thirteen until he was seventeen. They worked in the brick business in the summer time and Hugh went to school in the winter. In these years he learned the business thoroughly. He could make bricks, build a kiln, burn the bricks, and dry them. At the age of seventeen, Hyrom P. Folsom suggested that Hugh be made foreman. Wm. H. Folsom, Hugh's grandfather and halfowner in the business thought him too young but agreed to give him a trial. The first year under his management the older men said they netted more profits than in any other previous year.

His first appearance before the public was at the graduation exercises of the eighth grade. At this time he was class valedictorian. Those graduating were: Bertha Irvine, Lillian Hamlin, John E. Pike and Hugh B. Folsom, Wm M. Stewart (father of Charlotte Stewart. and Clara Stewart Boyer) was teacher and principal of this school at the time. He became a great influence and a most impressive friend as time went on, for they both went to the University of Deseret together. Here he studied courses in education, physics, chemistry, and botany.

At the university he became better acquainted with Josephine Whitaker. When the 19th Ward was having a Calico Ball, he asked her to go with him. She gave the usual answer, "I have nothing to wear." But before the day of the dance she managed to make a blue dress for the occasion. They rode in a two-wheeled cart which had no back to the seat, so. on the way home, Hugh had to put his arm around her back to support her.

When Josephine moved back to Centerville, their courtship was carried on through correspondence. Hugh had to ride in a horse and buggy from North Salt Lake to Centerville, so they couldn't see each other very often. This journey took from two to three hours under favorable conditions, and when the roads were muddy, it took much longer or made travel entirely impossible,

During this time diphtheria came to the Whitaker home and after many months of suffering took Josephine's brother Alma and sister Gracey. When Hugh called to see Josephine he could only talk to her for a few minutes, outdoors by the gate, because of the cold weather and the dreaded contagion of the disease. His own family were stricken at the same time, and within sixty days they lost four children. Two of these were his own brothers Aaron and Paul and two were his half-brother Ross and half-sister Cornelia, No anti-toxin had as yet been discovered, and when anyone contracted this disease, their case was hopeless. When the 23rd Ward was divided from the old 19th Ward, Hugh was ordained from a Priest to a High Priest to fill the position of second, counselor in the Bishopric. George R. Jones was the Bishop and Francis Femstrom was the first counselor

After seven years of courting, he married Josephine Whitaker June 21, 1894. John R. Winder performed the ceremony in the Salt Lake Temple, They were given a wedding supper and reception in Centerville. During the evening the company was entertained by a duet sung by the bridal pair entitled, "Blue Danube River". The next morning they packed some of the wedding presents and Josephine's trousseau trunk on the back of the one-seated buggy and started out for the city. The Folsoms had a reception for some of their friends and acquaintances who lived in the city.

They rented a house for about a year, then they bought a yellow frame house nearby, in which their first child was born. They named her Ethleen. About two years later they sold this house and moved in the old Overton House (on the hill at the point of the mountain on the Salt Lake and Ogden highway). This was the same house in which Hugh had lived from the time he was eight years old until he was married. At this time the house was owned by a Mr. Smith who had obtained it from Hyrum P. Folsom on a mortgage foreclosure during the depression of about 1893. Hugh and Josephine lived there in the absence of the owner. While living there Florence was born. Their next move was across the Jordan River, where Paul was born.

These frequent changes of location were made for Hugh's convenience in going to school. His first school was the Bonneville, in which he was janitor, teacher and principal. There were fifty-two pupils ranging from the first to the seventh grade inclusive. He was there for three years receiving a salary of forty dollars a month. His next promotion was to be principal of the Uintah School (which is now called Edison) for two years at a salary of fifty dollars a month. While he was at the Riverside School it was enlarged from a four to an eight-room structure, After two years he was made principal of the Fremont School, which was a nine-room building. In two years he was again promoted; this time to the Washington School. For seventeen years he was principal there, becoming acquainted with the names

of nearly all of the children and, in time, some of their children. During this time he used to ride back and forth to work on a bicycle or on the street cars, and since it was so far, in bad weather he was sometimes late, so he asked to be changed to a closer school. The Webster School was about five miles nearer his home and made it much easier for him. At present he has been there for eighteen years. He is always interested in new theories of practical child psychology as applied to education and has studied courses from the University Extension Division in order to keep in touch with modern trends and advancements in this field.

About 1902 they bought a double house at 366-68 Harvard Ave., which they improved. They rented one side to the Mozley's when they were first married. While living there the family was enlarged by the addition of Edna, Donald, and Juliet, making six children. He was president of the branch in the Liberty Ward district before it was divided from the Second Ward meetings in the store on the corner of third East and Harvard Avenue. During these years he was in charge of the theological Department of the Salt Lake Sunday Schools before it was divided into the four city stakes of Salt Lake, Ensign, Pioneer and Liberty. The Sunday School Superintendency was comprised of Josiah Burroughs, Charles D. Felt, and Willard Burton at this time. He was Superintendent of the Liberty Stake Religion Classes at the same time holding two important positions. When John H. Coombs, Liberty Stake Sunday School superintendent moved out of the stake, Hugh, who had been a counselor, was chosen to take his place. Later when he was released from this position to fill another, he received a congratulatory letter from the general authorities of the Church signed by David O. McKay and others, commending him on his work. This letter is still among his souvenirs.

In the fall of 1907 they built the house at 951 East 9th South, in the Emigration Ward District, The following year Rhea was born and later Dorothy, their last child. The family consisted of two boys and six girls. Hugh was made second counselor in the first organization of this ward, when it was divided from the First Ward. John Vetterli was the Bishop and John G. Kelson was the first counselor. After some time he was released from this position to be Superintendent of the Y.M.M.I.A. of Liberty Stake.

In 1927 they built the house at 1444 Harvard Avenue and lived there six years. During this time he was the teacher-trainer in the Yale Ward Sunday School for two or three years. He also worked on the finance committee. At this juncture of their lives they found themselves with a large house and only the two of them to live in it, as all their children had married. As this was the time of the Depression, they sold their house and moved to Centerville in the old Streeper house, remodeling it and making it a beautiful home. This was also a large house but they wanted to welcome home any of their children who could come to visit. They have established a tradition at Christmas time for all the children and grandchildren to have an old-fashioned celebration with Santa Claus in person to culminate the Christmas Eve.

While living here he has been a teacher in the Mutual and Sunday School, and at the present time he is Superintendent of the Sunday School, carrying on these activities along with the manual labor of caring for his orchards. He owns two orchards, one of ten acres in Centerville and one of nine acres in Bountiful. During his summer vacations from school these occupy nearly all of his time and have been a source of added income. However, he has taken several trips, visiting the World's Fair in San Francisco in 1915, Yellowstone Park about 1920, Zion's Park, Bryce Canyon, Grand Canyon of the Colorado, Los Angeles, California and the World's Fair in San Diego in 1935. Last year, 1937 he made a trip to Alaska and the Northwest, enjoying the boat trip very much.

He spends a great deal of time working with his tractors, although he has owned eight cars of the Reo make, two of which were trucks that were needed to haul fruit from the orchards to the city market. This also provided an outlet for the extra energies of some of his children during their growing years,

His home life is unimpeachable. He is known for his regular habits and simple desires. He has no vices, having always lived an exemplary life. He is a good citizen and is respected by young and old in the community. His greatest pride is in his children and grandchildren. He has had twenty-seven grandchildren up to the present time, twenty-five of whom are still living. He is always thinking of them and planning things for their benefit. He is very generous with his worldly possessions. He has a very even temperament, never showing anger.

Hugh B. Folsom is broad shouldered, sturdily built, being about five feet eleven inches tall. He is rarely sick. His high forehead and Roman nose mark him as an intellectual. His blue eyes always seem to express kindness and understanding, I am proud of the heritage he has given me and hope to show my appreciation of his many great and good qualities by living the kind of life he would have me lead.

by Rhea Folsom Smurthwaite

April 6, 1938

Then the World War was started, and the cherry orchard was getting to be so much work, and all the men and boys going to war, it was impossible to harvest and sell the fruit, and the only thing he could do was to sell out and move to the city again. It was almost impossible to buy gas for the car, most of the children living in the city. So he moved to the city, bought a five-room house from a man named Mr. Browick on Laird Ave....I don't think Mr. Folsom ever liked the house, it was made of lumber, small windows and some of the rooms were small. He went about looking for another house, found one on Yale Ave,...He immediately went about to remodel ... Having no other work to do, he started in the real estate business. He bought and sold houses, houses, houses....He lived at 1765 Yale about two years, then sold to Mr. Maack and moved to 1980 Yalecrest.

— Josephine Folsom 1950

Hugh Broadbent Folsom died on January 29, 1946. LeGrand Richards spoke at his funeral.. He was buried in Centerville.