

George and Elizabeth Susan Burnett Brunt



Elizabeth Susan Burnett was born to William Burnett and Mary Ann Denham in Shoreditch, Middlesex, England. She was the third of four children. In 1858 the family moved to Canterbury, New Zealand by way of a long ocean voyage on the ship *Zealandia*. In the 1860s the family was converted to Mormonism by LDS missionaries. At the tender age of 17, Elizabeth married the son of a family who had also immigrated to New Zealand from England. She married George Brunt, then 22 years old, in 1869. Their first child, Mary Eliza, was born in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1870. A son, William John, was born in 1872; another son, George, came in 1876; and a daughter, Annie, in 1878.

When Elizabeth's parents and siblings moved to Utah, Elizabeth did her best to convince her husband, George, that they should move as well. George didn't want to emigrate, but after awhile was finally persuaded to sell their property to pay for passage to the United States. In 1879 Elizabeth and the children left for Utah. They sailed to San Francisco and took a train to Utah where they stayed with her brother, William. George joined them the next year. Shortly afterward their daughter, Annie, died after a sudden illness.

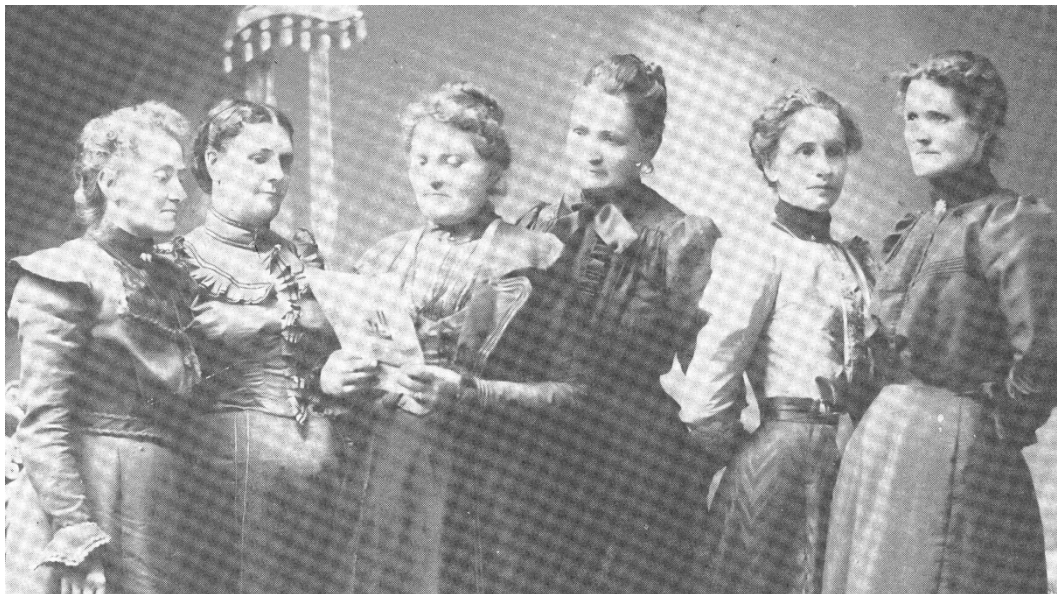
The Brunts eventually welcomed other children: Maud Elizabeth in 1881, Joseph Alfred in 1883, and Violet Grace in 1886. In 1885, the Brunts decided to move to Idaho to take advantage of available farm land. By chance, they found themselves in Eagle Rock, Idaho, and

rented a farm on Sand Creek, near the present-day ruins of the Lincoln Sugar Factory. Their crops failed during the first year, so they moved into a rented house on an alley in Eagle Rock. George hunted for work; but finding none, boarded a train for Butte, Montana where he heard there was work in the mines. Sadly, after a short time in Butte he contracted a sudden illness and died. He was buried there; his grave has never been located.

Elizabeth was compelled to carry on raising her six children alone. With the help of her older sons William and George, and by taking in laundry, using water from the Snake River, she managed to survive the challenge of being a single mother in the last years of the 19th Century. The boys eventually built a home for their mother on Canal Avenue. After her children were raised, her daughter, Maud, died in childbirth, and Elizabeth raised her granddaughter, baby, Maude Groberg.

Elizabeth Brunt served her church for several years on the board of the Bingham Stake Relief Society. She died on February 14, 1929 at the home of her daughter in Iona. Her grandson Delbert Groberg later built condominiums on the property where she had lived on H Street and Sage Avenue, naming the project “Elizabeth Court” in her honor.

Summary by Connie Otteson, author of *George Brunt, Young Pioneer of Eagle Rock*.



Bingham Stake Relief Society -
Elizabeth Brunt, second from left