

I was born in Parowan, Iron County, Utah July 26, 1862. A daughter of Edson and Louisa Walker Barney.

My father was a carpenter and contractor. He did the carpenter work on the Wn. Dame home in Parowan and the meeting house in Summitt. He also built many of the dwelling houses in Beaver, Parowan, and Cedar City.

My mother Lousia Walker Barney was a practical nurse and helped many in sickness.

My father had two families on at St. George and one in Parowan. When I was 8 years old my father moved us to Pine Valley where he had work. I received my education by attending school in winter at St. George and by reading the Deseret Weekly and the New York Ledger.

We suffered all the hardships of the Pioneers and were bothered with Indians while living on the ranch.

In 1875 I studied telegraphy, but did not finish the course. We moved to a ranch in 1875, called the "Eight Mile Ranch" in Washington County. When I was sixteen years of age I went with my brother to Siguard, Sevier County, to visit a sister. I stayed there and met my future husband, Edwin Tora Thurston. We were married six months later. We spent most of our married life in Annabella, Utah.

After we were married one year we went to St. George (in 1880) to work in the Temple, where I met and became very well acquainted with Eliza R. Snow. She came to Sevier the next summer and organized the Retrenchment Society for young ladies (Y.L.M. I.A.) of which, I was chosen first counselor. A few years later I was chosen President. I have acted in many of the Church organizations, as Sunday School teacher, Relief Society president for eleven years and head of the Wheat committee in our ward. In 1915 I was chosen supervisor of Domestic Art in the County fair which position I held for twelve years. Now I have a life membership.

5 years old and the youngest died when 7 mo. old. After we had been married a few years my husband lost the sight of his eyes. At times he could see enough to work a little. I worked out and did dress making at home, this way we kept the children in school and gave them all an education. In 1917, I got a job working in the Elsinore Sugar Factory in the store room. I worked about 9 months a year until the factory shut down in 1929.

At present I live in Annabella, Utah. I have 4 living children and 102 descendents. During World War II I had twelve grandsons in the service, eight of these belonged to my oldest son. I am 85 years old still deep busy and my eye sight is good.