The Quaker and Mormon-Pioneer Legacy of

Elam Hollingsworth and Martha Mae Keetch



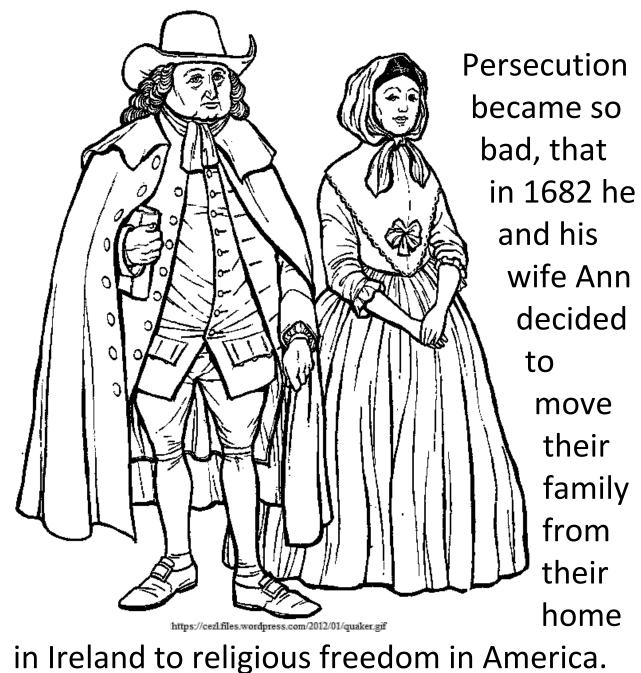


A Family History Coloring Book

20

Hollingsworth/Keetch Coloring Book

Our immigrant ancestor, **Valentine Hollingsworth** (1632-1711), was persecuted in Ireland for his religious beliefs when he became a "Quaker."¹



Hollingsworth/Keetch Coloring Book

by Wanless Southwick - 2018



In 1681 **William Penn** was granted a large tract of land on the west bank of the Delaware River by King Charles II of England.

Penn was a Quaker and wanted his land in America to become a refuge for Quakers and other persecuted peoples. It was called Pennsylvania.²

He wanted to attract colonists to Pennsylvania's rich and fertile lands, so he didn't charge much for the parcels of land he sold. Soon, shiploads of Quakers crossed the Atlantic to make their new homes in Pennsylvania.³





http://www.lenapelifeways.org/kidscolor.htm

Valentine Hollingsworth bought nearly 1000 acres from Penn near what is now Wilmington, Delaware.⁴ He was a man of extraordinary ability and influence. He was called upon to hold office and participate in public affairs.

He was a member of the first Assembly of the province of Pennsylvania and a signer of William Penn's Great Charter (**The Frame of Government of Pennsylvania**) in 1682 which was an important step in the development of American and world democracy.⁵ Penn's Great Charter established complete religious toleration in Pennsylvania.

The colony's fair and friendly treatment of people gave it 70 years of peaceful co-existence with the Indians.⁶ William Penn recognized claims to the land held by the **Native Americans** and maintained a policy of purchasing land from them before selling land for settlement.⁷



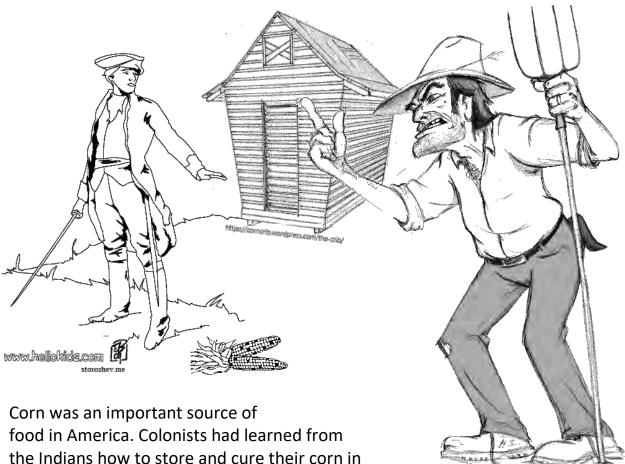
Valentine Hollingsworth's son, **Thomas** Hollingsworth and his grandson, **Abraham** Hollingsworth, moved from Delaware to Frederick County in northern Virginia, where in 1732 they established a 582-acre estate among a group of fellow Quakers.⁸ Abraham's son Isaac inherited the estate, but his other son, **George**, moved on south to an area near Newberry, South Carolina.

George's son, called "**Big Isaac**," married **Susanna Wright** on December 2, 1771, Berkeley County, South Carolina. Big Isaac and Susanna were both "birthright" Quakers and became ministers in the Quaker community where they lived. Big Isaac used to say that his crops never grew better than when his wife was away from home preaching.⁹ They had a large family born to them, but South Carolina didn't suit them well.

In 1805, seven Hollingsworth families left South Carolina in one large group. They split at the Ohio River, three going to Ohio and four to the Indiana Territory. Quaker records reveal that many who went into Ohio soon came on into the Indiana Territory, which was then the frontier and good land could be obtained by Federal Grant.¹⁰

Big Isaac and Susanna were part of that exodus, with five daughters, three sons, and their families, which made them into a large traveling company. They settled in Miami County, Ohio, where they cleared the woods for cultivation, built cabins for shelter, made out-buildings, and put up fences. Big Isaac only enjoyed three years in their new home. He died of pleurisy in 1809, about age 61.¹¹

Susanna Wright Hollingsworth tells a story about her husband "Big Isaac" who was stalwart, over six feet tall, and the picture of uncompromising firmness.



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One day, near the end of the Revolutionary War, a British Redcoat Officer and his squad of cavalry rode up to Big Isaac's corncrib to take away his corn. Nonviolent Quakers, like Big Isaac, generally refused to get involved in any military action during the American Revolution, but on that day, Big Isaac stepped in and blocked the soldiers. The officer drew his sword to strike him. Unafraid, Big Isaac caught the sword, and whirled the officer away saying: "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther!" The startled officer backed down and the soldiers left.

Susanna said she expected Big Isaac to be cut down sometimes because of the way he treated the military when they came onto his premises.¹³

well-ventilated structures called "corncribs."12

Among Big Isaac and Susanna's married children who emigrated with them from South Carolina in 1805, was **William Hollingsworth**, his wife **Rebecca Ramsey**, and their children, **Jesse** (10), Mary (8), Isaac (6), and Keturah (3). William didn't stay long with his father, Big Isaac, in Ohio but moved to the western border of Indiana to help establish a Quaker settlement called "Quaker Point" in Vermillion County, Indiana.

William's son Jesse Hollingsworth married Nancy Patton in 1826. They made their home and raised their children in Quaker Point. After Nancy (38) died in

1844, Jesse married Jane Cook (26). Then Jesse (47) died on November 14, 1846, and his estate went into probate. The probate judge appointed Joseph Cook (Jesse's new wife's father) to be the estate administrator. John Pearson (Jesse's cousin) was assigned to be the guardian of Jessie's minor children: David ("over 14"), Martin (12), William Farrell (9), **Elam** (8), and Ruthe (5).¹⁴



Jesse's orphaned children were split up. Little Ruthe went to live with her older sister Rebecca Hollingsworth Fosdick in Red Rock, lowa.¹⁵ None of them stayed with their stepmother, Jane, who took her new baby, Joseph, and moved to Polk County, Iowa to live near her father.¹⁶ We don't know where Elam or the rest of Jesse's children went. Maybe they lived with grandparents or uncles and aunts?

www.estoringpages101.com

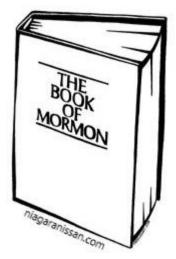
That same year, **Elam's future wife, Martha Mae Keetch,** was born (March 1, 1846), into a family of Mormon converts at Kempston, Bedfordshire, England.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints began sending missionaries to England 9 years before she was born.





Martha Mae's family, heard about the "new faith," and listened to the missionaries. Her father, **William Keetch**, became converted, and was baptized in March 1840. The rest of her family, who were old enough, also joined.¹⁷ William Keetch was called to be a local missionary for the Church. Sometimes he took his oldest son, Charles, with him to teaching appointments. They loaned a Book of Mormon to a young girl named Mercy Truth Barker who joined the Church.¹⁸



Elder Keetch (as he was known) became President of the little branch of the Church at Kempston, where they lived. He was a fluent, forceful and impressive speaker.¹⁹

The Keetch family decided to take advantage of the Church's "Perpetual Emigrating Fund" to finance their immigration to America and gather with other Latter-day Saints in the "Zion" being created in the Salt Lake Valley.



On April 26, 1856, William Keetch (44) left England on the ship Thornton, with his wife Ann Greenwood (44) and seven children: Charles

(18), Alfred (16), Elizabeth (14), Emma (12), **Martha Mae** (10), William (8), and Ann (1). Charles left behind his sweetheart Mercy Truth Barker, with a promise that he would send for her later.



James G. Willie was in charge of the over 700 Mormons on the ship. They all knew they would be pulling handcarts across the plains to Salt Lake City. After the ship docked in New York on June 14, they traveled by railroad to Lake Erie, then by steamboat to Toledo, Ohio, then by railroad to Iowa City, which was as far west as railroads went back then. They arrived at the Mormon Campground on June 26.

Church agents in Iowa City were not expecting additional emigrants that year.

More handcarts had to be hastily built and outfitted, which took weeks. It wasn't until July 15 that they began pulling their handcarts across the plains of Iowa.

> The trek was not a good experience for the Keetch family. Like some others in the company, they became sick with chills and fever (malaria?). When they finally reached Florence, Nebraska, many of them,

including the Keetches,

decided not to go on. They were severely criticized for stopping. Grief and sorrow came to the Keetches in Florence, for William's wife Ann Greenwood died September 10, 1856 and on October 11 his little son William (8) also died. Both were buried in the cemetery at Florence.²⁰

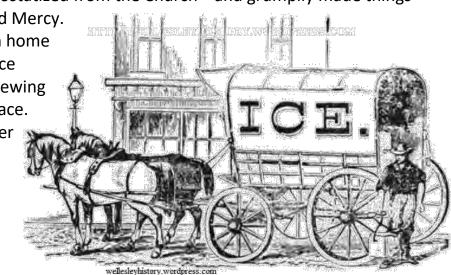
William became bitter. He had been criticized for quitting the trek. His dear wife and son had died because of the trek. This was not what he expected when he decided to gather with the saints to Zion. A mood of darkness clouded the Keetch family as he fell into bad habits and became a "backslider."²¹



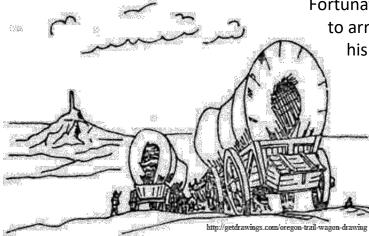
The William Keetch family found a place to live, about 9 miles from Florence. They lived there about four years before their son Charles could save enough money to send for his sweetheart, Mercy Truth Barker. She arrived at the Keetch home from England on July 1, 1860. Immediately she saw they had changed since she knew them in England. "They had lost the Spirit of God and were in blackness, as black as midnight" except for her sweetheart, Charles.

William Keetch had apostatized from the Church²² and grumpily made things

difficult for Charles and Mercy. Charles left the Keetch home and got a job with an ice merchant. Mercy did sewing and made fine pillow lace. They married December 14, 1860. They saved their money and arranged to go west with the Joseph W. Young emigrant train the next summer.

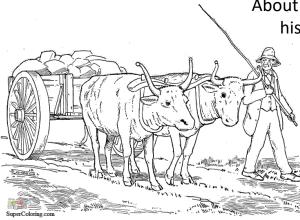


William Keetch tried to borrow money from them to buy him some horses. Then he talked Charles into helping him do the spring 1861 farm work, promising to pay him for his time and load his emigration wagon with all they needed. But when the time came for them to leave, William broke his promise and didn't pay him. Charles and Mercy were destitute!



Fortunately, Joseph W. Young was able to arrange for another wagon to join his company. He let Charles drive the wagon for his passage and Mercy cooked for a group of men for her passage across the plains.²³ She had a baby along the way, before they arrived in Grantsville, Utah where they made their first home in Zion.

Hollingsworth/Keetch Coloring Book



About this time, **Elam Hollingsworth** (22) and his brother Farrell (23) moved from Iowa to the Lincoln, Nebraska area where Elam took a place of 160 acres.²⁴ He planted and freighted to make a living and create a home. One day he was freighting with oxen near Florence, Nebraska and had some trouble. He stopped, met the Keetch family, and stayed there for some time.

Elam noticed their daughter **Martha Mae Keetch** (16). They were attracted to each other. Before he continued on his journey, he left his trunk with her and then came back to Florence to get the trunk and to marry her.²⁵ Her father gave his consent for their wedding on February 27, 1862 in Florence.²⁶

A month after Elam and Martha Mae married, her older sister Emma Keetch (18) married Jonathan Reed. Then, within weeks, her brother Alfred (22) and her sister Elizabeth (20) left the Keetch home in Florence to emigrate to Grantsville, Utah, where they stayed with their older brother Charles and his wife, Mercy Truth. So, in 1862 William Keetch was left alone with just his youngest daughter Ann (7).

Elam and Martha Mae had 4 babies die in their first 8 years of marriage. Finally, their daughter **Emma** was born March 7, 1870 and survived. Then came Edward (1872), Henry Austin (1875), Marvin David (1876), and Ida Maria (1878).

In the fall of 1877, Mormon missionaries from Utah came to Lincoln, Nebraska, where they taught and baptized Elam Hollingsworth.²⁷ He had to quit smoking and drinking, but his family loved the missionaries.

About this time, Elam met Francis L. Wilcox, who told him about good paying railroad construction work with the **Utah and Northern Railway** in southern Idaho. With his new-found Mormon faith and with his

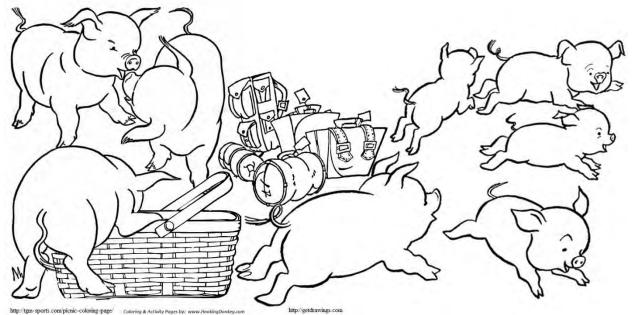


wife's relatives living in that general area, Elam decided to go west and join them.

Martha Mae's brother Charles and her sister Elizabeth had moved from Grantsville to the Bear Lake Valley on the Utah/Idaho border in 1864.²⁸ Martha Mae's father, William, wanted to go west with her. He had been alone for 6 years after his youngest daughter Ann married John Stevenson on April 2, 1871. Humbled, he was ready to return to his Mormon faith.

The transcontinental railroad had been completed for almost a decade, so traveling west was easy. In the fall of 1878,²⁹ **Elam and Martha Mae Hollingsworth** boarded a train with their children **Emma** (8), Edward (6), Henry Austin (3), Marvin David (1), their newborn baby Ida Maria, and the children's grandfather **William Keetch** (67). They rode the train as far as Evanston, Wyoming, which was as close as the railroad came to Bear Lake Valley by then.³⁰

The family unloaded their baggage and waited for Charles Keetch to come pick them up for the long wagon trip to St. Charles, Idaho along the west shore of Bear Lake. While they waited, the adults decided to walk around town and left **Emma** and the other children to watch their baggage. The children got to playing around



and didn't notice a mother pig with a litter of nine piglets which got into their lunch basket and ate all the food in it!

The kids were happy that their Uncle Charles had brought plenty of food with him when he arrived. It was late at night when they finely got to St. Charles, but the whole Keetch family was glad to see them.³¹

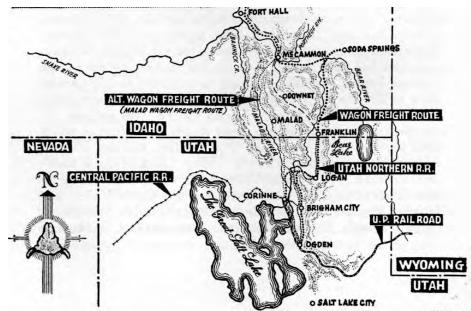


William Keetch remained in Bear Lake Valley the rest of his life. He regained the strength of testimony he once had in England. He again became a fluent, forceful and impressive speaker at church meetings.³² However, **Elam Hollingsworth** was anxious to get employment with the

railroad, so early in the spring of 1879, before all the snow melted, Elam used snow-shoes to hike about 35 miles through the mountains to the railroad

construction site north of Franklin, Idaho, near today's Preston, Idaho.

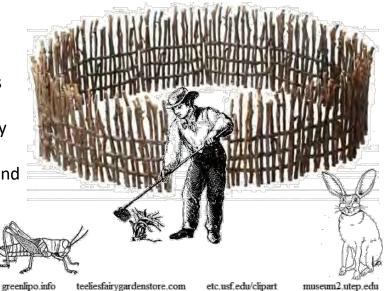
Elam found F.L. Wilcox, who in Nebraska had told him about the job. Wilcox was in charge of the railroad section work and hired



Elam immediately. Elam helped lay railroad tracks and dug a well for the railroad to supply steam engines with the water they needed to create steam.

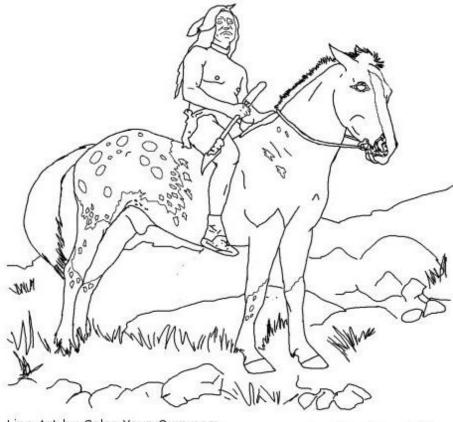


suitable farm land to homestead; a place where they could settle and raise their families. They each found land on a bench area north of where the town, called Preston, would grow. Working for the railroad was not Elam's main objective. He wanted to find a new place for his family to live. Both he and Wilcox scouted around for Elam brought his family to his new homestead. One of the first things they did was to plant a garden, but the rabbits quickly ate the plants as soon as they came up. So, the family went to the river and cut a wagon load of green willows and made a tightly woven fence around the garden spot.³³ It protected the garden from rabbits, but then a horde of grasshoppers moved in



and mowed the tender plants that had been salvaged from the rabbits. Elam and Martha Mae planted the garden again.

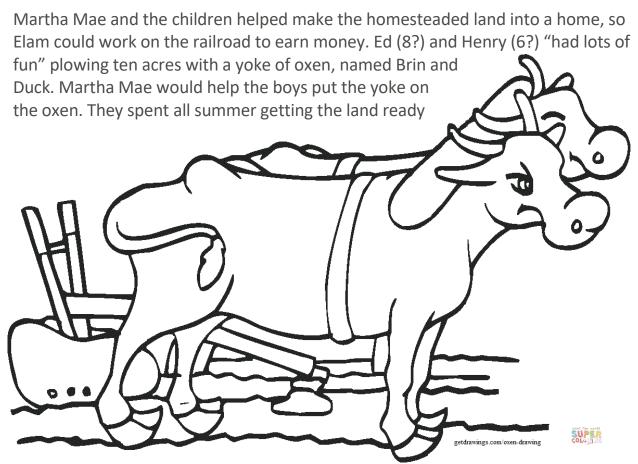
Family tradition tells the story of an Indian who befriended the Hollingsworth family. He rode an Appaloosa horse and watched them plant their garden. They



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gave him food. He brought them wild food. Sometimes he helped them with difficult tasks. They called him "Lone Wolf." He seemed fascinated with Elam's mop of fiery red hair. He called it "head on fire!"³⁴

At first, the Hollingsworth family lived in a tent, while they built a small house on the homestead and got settled.



to plant and when spring came, "it surely did look grand."³⁵ As the children grew, they worked for neighbors to earn money. They also went to school.

With the railroad expansion came more people to the area. On October 21, 1879, the Cache Stake Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints decided to create a new Mormon ward in the area where Elam settled. They called it the "Worm Creek Ward" because of a creek in the area. Nahum Porter was selected as the first bishop with David Jensen and **Elam Hollingsworth** as his counselors. It wasn't long before a more respectable name was chosen. When its name was changed to the "Preston Ward," the community adopted that name also.³⁶ Elam had only been a member of the Church for two years, but he became fully engaged in church and community work. He was a school trustee for many years.

About a year after Elam and Martha Mae arrived at Preston, a daughter was born (1880), but she died as a baby. Then a daughter, Minnie, was born in 1882. On July 9, 1884, less than two months after the newly-built Logan Utah Temple was

dedicated, Elam and Martha Mae went to the temple to receive their endowments and sealings. That same year the last of their children were born; twins named Elam and Martha Mae on November 14, 1884. All their children were sealed to them in the temple on July 11, 1888. The Hollingsworth farm grew as did their family. When their son Austin matured, he began farming the homestead and started growing sugar beets for the Ogden Sugar Company in 1898. Soon, sugar beets became a popular crop in the area and in 1922 the Franklin County Sugar Company built a sugar factory in Preston.^{37, 38}

Martha Mae died March 22, 1899 at age

53. About a year later, Elam (62) started a second family by marrying a widow, **Mary Christina Carlson** (30), who had a three-year-old daughter (Bertha Elizbeth Carlson). Elam's youngest children (the twins) were 16 years old when he married his second wife. Elam and Mary Christina had five children together; Vivian (1901), Clifford Ray (1902), twins Letha and Leda (1903), and Ruth E (1905). In all Elam had **18 children**, although five of them died in childhood.

Elam Hollingsworth died March 28, 1905 and was buried in Preston, Idaho near his first wife, Martha Mae Keetch. His death came three months before his last child, Ruth E, was born. His widow, Mary Christina, was 35-years-old when he died. She remained a widow and raised her family on the Elam Hollingsworth homestead, which was a mile north of the City of Preston. She sold the farm in 1944.

Of special interest to us is the oldest daughter, **Emma**, who married **Wilmer Cadmus Green** on March 11, 1891 in the Logan Temple when she was 21 and he was 29 years old. He was the youngest son of Willard Green, who was another early settler of Preston, Idaho.³⁹ Their first children were born in Preston before they moved their family north to Fremont County, Idaho.

Children of Elam Hollingsworth

Which one was your ancestor?

1 st Family – Elam and Martha Mae	Born	Died
Elizabeth Ann Hollingsworth	5 December 1862	2 August 1863
Hollingsworth Son	16 October 1864	16 October 1864
William Monroe Hollingsworth	16 January 1866	2 March 1867
Margaret Hollingsworth	3 March 1868	21 May 1868
Emma Hollingsworth	7 March 1870	31 January 1954
Edward Hollingsworth	22 August 1872	17 March 1940
Henry Austin Hollingsworth	10 March 1875	30 March 1958
Marvin David Hollingsworth	27 December 1876	3 April 1945
Ida Maria Hollingsworth	8 September 1878	29 July 1962
Ruth Hollingsworth	20 January 1880	23 January 1880
Minnie Hollingsworth	12 May 1882	6 May 1951
Elam Hollingsworth (twin)	14 November 1884	9 July 1935
Martha Mae Hollingsworth (twin)	14 November 1884	27 February 1968
2 ND Family – Elam and Mary		
Christina		
Vivian Hollingsworth	12 January 1901	July 11, 1984
Clifford Ray Hollingsworth	4 February 1902	9 April 1952
Letha Hollingsworth (twin)	8 April 1903	Jun. 30, 1991
Leda Hollingsworth (twin)	8 April 1903	26 December 1992
Ruth E Hollingsworth	13 June 1905	25 April 1985

⁵ https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Category:William_Penn%27s_Great_Charter

⁶ W. M. Russell, University of Reading. http://peace.maripo.com/m_william_penn.htm

⁷ https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Pennsylvania_Land_and_Property

⁸ Hollingsworth Family Papers Collection, 3 THL/WFCHS, Stewart Bell Jr. Archives, Handley Regional Library, Winchester, VA, USA.

⁹ https://www.ancestry.com/boards/thread.aspx?mv=flat&m=1376&p=surnames.hollingsworth

¹⁰ <u>https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/1666446</u> Contributed to FamilySearch by Rai Cammack 9 July 2013

¹¹ https://www.ancestry.com/boards/thread.aspx?mv=flat&m=1376&p=surnames.hollingsworth

¹² The Corn Crib was inspired by traditional Indian corncribs for storing and curing corn. It is slatted for ventilation which leaves the corn exposed to the elements, hence its unique shape: outward sloping walls shed water down and away from the corn. https://corncrib.wordpress.com/the-crib/

¹³ https://www.ourfamtree.org/browse.php/Susannah-Wright/p88091

¹⁴ http://iagenweb.org/polk/vitals/probateA.html

¹⁵ Iowa State Census – 1856 for Red Rock Township, Marion County, Iowa. Ruth with Austin and Rebecca Fosdick.

¹⁶ U.S. Census 1850, Polk County, Iowa – Jane Hollingsworth and son Joseph, near Joseph Cook.

¹⁷ Ann G. Keetch Nelson. 1939. *BRIEF HISTORY OF GRANDFATHER & GRANDMOTHER KEETCH*. Posted to FamilySearch 8 July 2014 by joyce jane boyer salomonson

¹⁸ An Autobiography by Mercy Truth Barker Keetch (1835-1910) dated 1902. Posted to FamilySearch 3 July 2014 by joyce jane boyer salomonson.

¹⁹ WILLIAM K. KEETCH (1811-1888) Author unknown. Posted 8 July 2014 by joyce jane boyer
²⁰ Zelda Keetch Woorsten. 1963. LIFE HISTORY OF CHARLES GREENWOOD KEETCH (1837-1895). Posted to FamilySearch 3 July 2014 by joyce jane boyer salomonson

²¹ An Autobiography by Mercy Truth Barker Keetch (1835-1910) dated 1902. Posted to FamilySearch 3 July 2014 by joyce jane boyer salomonson.

²² *My Life Sketch* by Emma Hollingsworth Green. August 9, 1953 letter to granddaughter Sharon Ward Christensen. Contributed to Family Search by Maureen Ward1 19 September 2013.

²³ An Autobiography by Mercy Truth Barker Keetch (1835-1910) dated 1902. Posted to FamilySearch 3 July 2014 by joyce jane boyer salomonson.

²⁴ Life of Elam Hollingsworth. Author Unknown. Posted to FamilySearch by Wanless 17 July 2018

²⁵ *My Life Sketch* by Emma Hollingsworth Green. August 9, 1953 letter to granddaughter Sharon Ward Christensen. Contributed to Family Search by Maureen Ward1 19 September 2013.

²⁶ Wedding performed by A.B. Lambson, Justice of the Peace for Florence, Douglas, Nebraska on 27 February 1862 between Elam Hollingsworth and Martha Keetch. A.J. Critchfield and Alfred G. Keetch [her brother] witnesses. Certificate contributed by Maureen Ward1 on 19 September 2013 to Family Search. Their marriage license stated that her father [William Keetch] "was present and gave his consent."

²⁷ Eli H. Peirce. Chapter in Biography and Family Record of Lorenzo Snow by Eliza R. Snow Smith. Deseret News, 1884. Chapter LV (pages 407 – 421). [see especially page 416].

²⁸ Life History of Charles G. Keetch by Z. K. Woorsted

¹ "Quaker" was a nickname for members of the Religious Society of Friends. They were part of the religious reformation in England when protestant denominations began to multiply.

² http://law.jrank.org/pages/11668/Frame-Government.html

³ https://www.britishempire.co.uk/maproom/pennsylvania.htm

⁴ In 1682, Valentine Hollingsworth, Sr., and his family, accompanied by his son-in-law, Thomas Connaway, and by John Musgrave, an indentured servant, sailed from Belfast for the Delaware River, arriving a few months after William Penn's arrival in the good ship "Welcome." <u>https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/1666446</u> Contributed to FamilySearch by Rai Cammack 9 July 2013.

²⁹ Dates and places recorded in various histories about Elam Hollingsworth and Martha Mae Keetch are often wrong and confusing. The dates and places used in this family history coloring book come from a timeline constructed from many sources, including documents like the U.S. Census, railroad histories, Church records, Eli H. Peirce's mission report, Francis Lazell Wilcox's biography, and the biographies recorded by their children. jws

³⁰ up.com/aboutup/train_town/montpelier_id/index.htm - Oregon Short Line RR didn't reached Montpelier, Idaho until August 1882.

³¹ *History of Henry Austin Hollingsworth*, Retyped by Theresa H. Corry 23 July 2009. Contributed to FamilySearch by ThersaCorry 31 Dec 2013

³² *History of William Keetch* Copied from a history compiled and Edited by Thodocia D. Keetch Hymas, St. Charles, Idaho. Contributed to FamilySearch 22 April 2013 by StrongViki

³³ *History of Henry Austin Hollingsworth*, Retyped by Theresa H. Corry 23 July 2009. Contributed to FamilySearch by ThersaCorry 31 Dec 2013

³⁴ Head on Fire, History of Elam Hollingsworth and Martha Mae Keetch. Written by Blanche Merrill circa 1990.
Retyped by Theresa H. Corry 16 June 2008. Contributed to FamilySearch by TheresaCorry 5 November 2013
³⁵ History of Henry Austin Hollingsworth, Retyped by Theresa H. Corry 23 July 2009. Contributed to FamilySearch by TheresaCorry 31 Dec 2013

³⁶ C. G. Judy. 1961. *A History of Preston, Idaho*. BYU, Provo, Utah.

https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=5843&context=etd

³⁷ Sugar beet growers disband organization. 1981. The Preston Citizen. Preston, Idaho, Vol. 90, No. 5
³⁸ Hollingsworths Settle the Meadows. 1997. Preston Citizen Newspaper. Preston, Franklin, Idaho. Contributed by nnieJoySass1 to FamilySearch 29 June 2013

³⁹ C. G. Judy. 1961. A History of Preston, Idaho. BYU. [Page 30]