

June 25, 1889

Transcribed from a copy of the original epistle. This Sunday, February 1, 1891, by request of Sister Merlin Eastham Kearn, daughter of Sister Jane Huntington Eastham. By Joseph Irwin,

“Blessed are they who die in the Lord”  
“Oh death where is thy sting,  
Oh grave where is thy victory.”

My dear Friends:

I see by a brief notice in the Deseret News of last evening, that Dear Beloved and Cherished Mother in Israel, Jane Eastham, died on the 22 instant (*Jane Huntington Eastham died on 22 June 1889*).

I feel that I cannot suffer myself to be silent on receiving this sad news, although perhaps silence on my part would best become the sorrows I feel for the earthly loss we have all sustained by the departure of one so good and true, and faithful, in all respects as Mother Eastham.

I cannot think of any woman beyond the circle of my near kindred, to whom I owe so much gratitude and affection—as to Mother Eastham.

Her unwavering kindness to me and all my fellow travelers in a distant land. Her generous hospitality to the servants of God, her Motherly care and genuine solicitude and sympathy for the youthful Elders who ever found a Mother’s welcome under her blessed roof, together with all her many noble virtues, as a woman and a saint, have endeared her most affectionately and sincerely to everyone who knew her.

From the depths of my soul I can utter the words of the News, “God bless Mother Eastham,” and I bless her memory as beyond all price.

She was and is worthy of all confidence and affection. She always was an ideal of perfect womanhood in my mind, true, pure, gentle and prudent. A faithful and consistent Saint of God.

What great honor could anyone desire than that all her virtues were God given, and therefore, nothing we could say would add to or diminish aught from her sterling worth.

She was God’s own daughter. He loved her more than we know now, and, while we mourn her absence from us, no more to return to mortality. The Great Father of us all and myriads of kindred Saints behind the veil are welcoming her gracious spirit back to them. Her toils, her sorrows, her pains and suffering are past.

And now in the Paradise of the good and pure, she happily awaits the resurrection of her precious body from the dust. To dwell in glory, immortality and eternal life.

While I drop with you the tear of sympathy and sorrow, I rejoice with you in the knowledge of the truth, and thank God that we shall meet again, if we are faithful, with our beloved ones who have gone before us to God, from whence they came.

Cheer up my friends, we do not mourn as do those who have not this blessed hope.

I know that Mother Eastham has “fought the good fight” and kept the Faith and that henceforth there is laid up for her a crown of everlasting life. God bless her noble examples to the good of her children and children’s children to the latest generation.

Brother Eastham you have my sympathy and my friendship. I beseech of you to continue forever true and faithful to your covenants---with God and your companion.

Give my love to all the children, peace be unto them.

I know what it is to lose a mother and they also have my heartfelt sympathy.

I sincerely hope it may be as well with all of us as with our mother.

God bless and comfort you all, is the earnest prayer of your Brother Joseph F. Smith, son of the Martyred Hyrum

**Deseret New Obituary published June 24, 1889**, it is thought to have been contributed by a missionary who lived at Grandmother Jane Huntington Eastham’s house in England.

#### A Gem of a Woman

Yesterday we learned of the death the day previous, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Grantsville, Tooele County, Utah, of Grandmother Jane Eastham.

She was a native of England and was born March 22, 1817, being therefore in her 72<sup>nd</sup> year (actually 73<sup>rd</sup>!).

The deceased will be remembered by a large number of Elders who have labored in that part of England where Leeds is located, in which city she also resided.

She was one of the most kind hearted, gentle and hospitable beings we ever met. Besides being the possessor of good common sense.

A high sense of honor and unfaltering fidelity to her religion. Having been one of the early converts (1839) to the faith, in her native country.

Besides her husband, she leaves several married daughters and a large number of grandchildren. All of whom were warmly attached to her.

Many who read this brief reference to a noble woman, will say with the writer, “God bless Mother Eastham”, and will ever cherish her memory.

Among those will be President Joseph F. Smith, an old acquaintance and personal friend of the deceased.