

ESTHER COOK

BORN: 28 December 1925 Cedar Fort, Utah, Utah
DIED: 16 January 1927 Cedar Fort, Utah, Utah

FATHER: Barnes Alma Cook (11 Oct 1887 - 21 May 1973)
MOTHER: Alice Adeline Southam Cook (20 Jul 1889 - 15 Jan 1980)

THINGS I REMEMBER ABOUT ESTHER COOK

ALICE ADELINE SOUTHAM COOK

Our tenth baby, Esther, came to us on Monday December 28, 1925 at 8:35 PM. She was a tiny little girl, weighing only four pounds three ounces. She came sooner than we expected and Dr. Worlton who attended me said we would have a hard time to raise her. Annie C. Wilcox was my nurse and Avilda and Kathryn Cook took turns coming to do our house work till I was able to do it.

Esther was such a good natured little thing and for a while just ate and slept. She seemed to do fine and weighed six pounds at six weeks and 9 pounds at four months.

In June after she was born the county nurse from the Extension Service came to examine all the children in town. I took Esther to the clinic. The nurse told me that Esther had rickets. She had not been sick a day in her life so far and I thought she was doing well. All she told me to do for her was to give her sunbaths which I did faithfully. She was breast fed and not fed any of the baby foods that are so common now. Neither the doctor or the nurse told me of anything to do for her other than to give her sunbaths.

On January 11, 1927 she began ailing but didn't seem very bad. She began getting worse Thursday afternoon then seemed to improve and not considered dangerous until Saturday afternoon. We sent for the doctor and he said she had pneumonia. She died Sunday morning at 11:00 AM.

Esther was one year and 19 days old when she died. She seemed such a bright little thing and we all enjoyed her so much. In her actions she wasn't as advanced as other babies her age. She could not sit alone unless I sat her in a horse collar on the floor or let her sit in the tub where she could hold on with one hand. In the last two or three months that she lived she had just learned to reach her arms out to us and also do some of the things a much younger child usually does. But we all loved her so much and it was just like taking a part of my heart when she left us. I felt that I would be glad when six months had passed, as I felt that by then I would not feel so bad. But when six months had gone by it hurt just as bad although I could control myself better. (Taken from the person history written by Alice Adeline Southam Cook)

SHELDON BARNES COOK

When Esther was born mother was told she had a problem baby. Esther was a cute baby but as I remember she never smiled or laughed out loud. She seemed to be hurting all the time. She whimpered all the time, even in her sleep. We all took turns holding her and trying to help her feel better.

The morning Esther died I was in the house alone with Mother. Mother walked over to the crib Esther was in. When she looked at Esther she began to cry. She said I think Ester is dead. Go get Mrs. Berry.

Sister Fanny Berry, wife of Lysander Berry, was Relief Society President of the Cedar Fort Ward. I got in the old Model A Ford we had and drove over to the Berry home. When I told Mrs. Berry that mother would like to have her come over she said she would "Just as soon as I finish here." When I said, "We think our baby is dead," she dropped everything and came running to the car, got in and I drove her to our house.

My father had been out, I think, working in the yard. When he came in the house and was told that Esther was dead he began to cry. That is the only time I ever saw my father cry.

We buried her about three days later. Jim Chamberlain was building a house there in Cedar Fort. The man that was building the home for him, made a coffin for Esther. Before the funeral Mother had me run up to the cemetery to see if everything was ready. When I got there the grave was already dug. No one was there.

I don't remember the funeral. I do remember that after the funeral there were a lot of flowers on Esther's grave. For years she didn't have a headstone. All that marked her grave was a piece of wood with her name on it. Mother finally saved up enough money to buy a headstone.

I remember that mother used to say that because Esther was her tenth child, that Esther was her tithing.

THAYREL VANCE COOK

Esther was one of the most loving babies I ever remember. When someone came into the room where she was and did not pay any attention to her she would yell, not cry, until they noticed her then she would light up like a bright candle. She showed the most appreciation for someone paying attention to her than anyone I know. She was a small baby and did not develop very fast. When she died she was more like a five or six months old child than a one year old both in size and mental development. I think the Lord just loaned her to the family for a while. She was not required to earn her place in the Celestial Glory like the rest of us. She had earned this in the spirit world before she came to this earth. We missed her when she left us. (November 8, 1996)

MABEL COOK SMITH

I remember Esther was born December 28, 1925 on Arvilla's eighth birthday. It was a few days after Christmas but we still thought she was a great Christmas present. Mother sent Arvilla and someone else up to get Annie Wilcox to come to be her nurse.

No matter how many brothers and sisters we had a new baby was always a happy occasion in our family. I was eleven years old.

Esther was born premature and weighed 4 pounds 3 ounces. Mother had her at home and did not have the medical help needed for a baby that small and weak. Dr. Worlton from Lehi was her doctor. He told mother she would have a hard time raising Esther. Mother was determined and gave her special care. Esther weighed 6 lbs at six weeks. Any improvements she made was watched closely.

Esther was a happy baby and would laugh out loud. And when we played like we were fighting each other she would squeal. She thought we were hurting each other.

Mother was very protective of Esther. She took Esther with her most everywhere she went. Mother was the teacher of the Seagull class that Florence was in. The girls in that class would coax

to hold Esther.

Just after she was born I made a little bonnet for her, it looked like a doll bonnet. I still have the bonnet and it is hard to see how a baby could be that small.

On January 1, 1927 Esther began ailing. She had not had a sick day since she was born. It didn't seem bad at first but in a few days she began getting worse. Mother sent for the doctor. He said Esther had pneumonia. She died Sunday morning at 11:00 AM.

Mother had a hard time when Esther died. She spent a lot of time crying. Having three more babies after that helped a lot, I guess. However, I don't think she really ever got over it.

MAXINE COOK HARRIS

Esther had died before I was born. But I do remember mother telling me that when Esther was born a man in Cedar Fort told her that because Esther was the tenth she was mother's tithing. After Esther's death the man came and apologized. (November 8, 1996)