

## #12b—Voices of the Restoration: Hale Family

(For more see: Week #1 for Joseph Smith's family, and week #12 for Emma's personal history)

### Family History of Emma Hale Smith (1804-1879)

#### Emma's Parents:

**Isaac Hale (1763-1839)**

**Elizabeth Lewis Hale (1767-1842)**

~Elizabeth Lewis Hale (Emma's mother), ancestors traveled on the Mayflower: Elizabeth Tilley and John Howland (the young boy who fell overboard the Mayflower and survived three hours in the ocean before his rescue).

~Isaac Hale (Emma's father), ancestors voyaged to America hoping to find prosperity.

- 1635 Heald (later spelled Hale) arrived to the Colonies as an indentured servant. He settled in Connecticut and enjoyed a modest lifestyle.
- Emma's father Isaac Hale left his parental home in Connecticut to live with his grandfather Arah Ward in Wells, Vermont.
- In 1780, at age seventeen, he marched under the direction of Colonel Ebenezer Allen in the Revolutionary War.
- The same year, his Grandfather Ward died, and Isaac inherited his properties in Wells, Vermont. There was one important stipulation—that he take "into his care his Grandmother Phoebe Ward in her old age, to keep and provide for during her life" (Linda K. Newell, Valeen T. Avery, *Mormon Enigma: Emma Hale Smith*, 4).

Because Isaac deeded a portion of his grandmother's land to his brother in 1784, we assume that she lived only four more years. Free from the responsibility of being a landowner—and perhaps also that of his grandmother—Isaac was free to express his adventurous nature. In 1787, at age twenty-four, he explored the Susquehanna River to the Great Bend. After exploring the area and getting acquainted with the oldest settlers, Isaac went back to Vermont in 1790, at age twenty-seven and married his sweetheart Elizabeth Lewis. Isaac and his brother and their respective new brides were the first white settlers in the area later known as Harmony, Pennsylvania.

Isaac Hale + Elizabeth Lewis Hale								
(1763-1839)			(1767-1842)					
Jesse	David	Alva	Phoebe	Elizabeth	Isaac	Emma	Tryal	Reuben
(1792-1874)	(1794-1878)	(1795-1862)	(1798-1836)	(1800-1874)	(1802-1892)	(1804-1879)	(1806-1860)	(1810-1891)

Isaac Hale	Elizabeth Lewis Hale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth: March 21, 1763 in Waterbury, Connecticut Son of Reuben Hale and Diantha Ward</li> <li>• Marriage: September 20, 1790 to Elizabeth Lewis</li> <li>• Residence: Connecticut, Vermont, New York, and Pennsylvania</li> <li>• Occupation: Farmer, Hunter, Innkeeper</li> <li>• Religious Affiliation: Methodist Episcopal Church</li> <li>• Military: Fought in the American Revolutionary War</li> <li>• Death: January 11, 1839 in Harmony, Pennsylvania</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth: November 19, 1767 in Litchfield County, Connecticut</li> <li>• Daughter of Nathaniel Lewis and Esther Tuttle</li> <li>• Marriage: September 20, 1790 to Isaac Hale</li> <li>• Mother of nine children</li> <li>• Occupation: Innkeeper</li> <li>• Religious Affiliation: Methodist Episcopal Church</li> <li>• Death: February 16, 1842 in Harmony, Pennsylvania</li> </ul>

Soon after their marriage, Isaac and Elizabeth, accompanied by extended family members, moved from Wells, Vermont approximately 220 miles southwest to an area of Pennsylvania along the Susquehanna River. Isaac purchased property on the north side of the Susquehanna. He lived within a few miles of the village of Harmony. Over the years he purchased approximately 150-acre property (Mark Staker, 2025), he built a two homes—in which his nine children were born—and he was buried. During his almost fifty-year residence in the Susquehanna region, Isaac gained a reputation as a solid citizen. At one point he was a supervisor, assessor, and collector. He was also an expert marksman. He became a well-to-do hunter, innkeeper, and farmer, having a large orchard. Isaac was also a fur trader, shipping furs downriver to Philadelphia.

### The Hale Family Religious Practices

The Hales attended Daniel Buck's church, located six miles from their property. However, they stopped attending his worship services due to unorthodox religious practices. In 1807, a large Methodist revival took place near the Hale home. It was estimated that the number of people attending the revival was twice the population of the county. True to form for a revival, enthusiasm ran high. Emma was drawn to Methodism. Emma's maternal uncle, Nathaniel Lewis, was ordained a deacon. Emma's mother, Elizabeth Hale, was baptized Methodist. Isaac Hale stood apart from religion until he overheard Emma praying for him. Isaac then turned to religion and was numbered with those of the first religious class conducted at Lanesboro, Pennsylvania, about two miles east of his property. Before long, Methodist meetings were held in the Hales' parlor with a traveling minister preaching in their home once a month. Emma helped with their music and hymnal.

### Resources:

JosephSmithPapers.org; *BYU Studies*; *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, Richard L. Anderson, *Joseph Smith's New England Heritage* (Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 1971 reprint 2003). BookofMormonCentral.com; BYU Religious Studies Center, FAIR,. James B. Allen and Glen M. Leonard, *The Story of the Latter-day Saints*, 2nd ed. (Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book, 1976). S. Kent Brown, Donald Q. Cannon, and Richard H. Jackson, eds., *Historical Atlas of Mormonism* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994), 6. Whitney Cross, *The Burned Over District* (New York: Cornell University Press, 1950). John W. Welch, "Jesse Smith's 1814 Protest," *BYU Studies* 33 no. 1, 1993): 131-144. Richard L. Bushman, *Joseph Smith and the Beginnings of Mormonism*, (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1984).