HANNAH ANN DUBOIS (possibly ELLS) SMITH DIBBLE
Born: 31 July 1808 Salem, New Jersey
Died: 28 Oct 1893
Buried: Springville, Utah, Utah
Parents: Richard and Ann Dubois
Pioneer: Between 1847 and 1851
Spouse: (Possibly ELLS) J. Smith (John F. or Joseph, Jr.)
Children: 1. Mary Jane Smith --7 July 1833
2. Peter Aker(s) Smith, 4 or 24 May 1835
3. Philo Dibble
Spouse: Philo Dibble
Married: 11 Feb 1841 Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois
Died: 7 June 1895
Children: 1. Hannah Ann Dibble -- 7 Jan 1842
2. Loren Walker Dibble 29 May 1844
3. David Dubois -- 30 Nov 1845

Facts about exact route and company are not yet available.

This, like many other details of her life, remain shrouded in secrecy. Her parents were Richard and Ann Dubois who likely came from the famous Dutch printing families. Robert Dubois, who worked at the printshop where early Mormon books were printed, was related, but exact relationship is a mystery. She had strong family ties to Princeton University, established in 1746 near her birthplace and she may have studied there. She was described as a tall, stately, brilliant, lovely lady. Incomplete records indicate, but do not prove, that she was the first plural wife of Joseph Smith. With or without benefit of clergy, as they say, she became the mother of a little girl born 27 July, 1833, at Jacksonville, Morgan, Illinois. She named the child Mary Jane Smith, and family legends say she was the child of Joseph Smith. (Some records have surfaced which say the father was John F. Smith, but they may have been falsified to protect both Hannah Ann and the child.) The family of Joseph's Uncle John possibly took responsibility for Mary Jane at times. (or William Smith)

In July, 1833, Hannah was likely with the group in Missouri who started to print Joseph's translations. A violent mob attacked and drove them back toward Ohio. That same year, Philo Dibble was shot and wounded so severely he was not expected to live, until healed by Newel Knight. Philo had been baptized a Mormon on 6 October 1830 by Parley P. Pratt, and his wife, Celia Kent, baptized ten days later, had borne two children.

From 1833 on, both Hannah Ann Dubois and Philo Dibble had reason to keep their whereabouts and activities "to themselves."
The Ohio and Missouri Mormons were reunited in the Nauvoo years. Hannah Ann came to live with the family of Joseph Smith. She may have married someone else in the meantime, or the name Ells may have been an assumed name, related to the printing. She, with several other bright young women, like Eliza R. Snow, lived with Joseph and Emma Smith and the children. Joseph was often away. Emma was often ill. The young women cared for and taught the children, cooked, cleaned, wrote, served meals, and generally embellished life for the Prophet, his family, and the living stream of Mansion House guests. Philo was often among them. On October 16, 1840, Celia Kent, his first wife, died, leaving 5 small children. On 11 February 1841, Hannah Ann Dubois and Philo Dibble were married by Joseph Smith, at his house, and Emma prepared a splendid wedding supper for them and a large party of friends. Both Hannah and Philo had close ties to Joseph Smith and had helped in special, unusual ways. This committed them to secrets they would harbor for life. For example, they made the death masks of Joseph and Hyrum after June 27, 1844, preserving those two visages for future generations. Philo painted scenes in Nauvoo, such as Joseph Smith commanding the Nauvoo Legion.

They had 4 children when they married. Then Hannah Ann bore 3 more in the perilous years between 1842 and 1845.

Hannah Ann and Joseph Smith had the above-mentioned children:
Mary Jane Smith b. 27 July 1833 Jacksonville, Morgan, IL
Peter Akerly Smith b. 24 May 1835

Celia Kent and Philo Dibble had the following children:
Eliza Ann Dibble b. 18 Aug 1829 Clarion, Cuyahoga, OH
Sidney Dibble b. 29 Nov 1831* Clarion, Cuyahoga, OH
Emma Celia Dibble b. 10 Mar 1834 Liberty, Clay, Missouri
Philo Dibble (Jr.) b. 17 Oct 1835 Liberty, Clay, Missouri
Philander Dibble b. 1838 Liberty, Clay, Missouri

*A headstone in Springville Cemetery, UT, is carved with "PHILO DIBLE 1806-1895. HANNAH A His wife 1808-1893. SIDNY Their son 1832-1910. PHILANDER Their son 1834-1877. This indicates the integration of their families.

Hannah Ann and Philo Dibble had the following children:
Hannah Ann Dibble b. 7 Jan 1842 Nauvoo, Hancock, ILL
Loren Dibble b. 29 May 1844 Nauvoo, Hancock, ILL
David Diboise Dibble b. 30 Nov 1845 Farmington, LEE, IA

Hannah and her family came to Utah as soon as they could, first to Davis County. In 1851, Brigham sent them to Utah County. They took up a large farm in Mapleton, and built a log cabin. Close to a mountain and the freshwater spring for which nearby Springville was named, they reared their family. In addition to farming, Philo continued his paintings, and Hannah continued to utilize her talents, especially her fine mind.
HANNAH ANN DUBOIS (Possibly ELLS) SMITH DIBBLE  (revised)page 3

Hannah Ann and Philo had known many of the first great leaders of the church, many of whom were dead or disillusioned. They were grateful for their sanctuary in Utah. Eventually, their youngest son, David Duboise, built a log cabin near the original one, and farmed with his dad. By 1995, both cabins had been torn down, and an elegant house sits hugely on the homestead as if it had always been there. Only a part of the land is still owned by descendants who bear the Dibble name.

Hannah Ann and Philo grew old together, and sat for a portrait near the end of their life, likely in 1890. In that year temple work was done in Logan, Utah, for Celia and her five children.

Interestingly, they apparently never practiced polygamy in Utah. However, at least one daughter did--Mary Jane Smith married Philomen Christopher Merrill as wife #2. She and Cyrena Dustin, wife #1, were both married and sealed to him at the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah, 5 April, 1851. She bore eight children before her early death, 2 June, 1871, at age 37.

Five of Hannah’s nine children (counting the five borne by Celia Kent), preceded her in death, as did most of her contemporaries. She had been forced to flee all over the Mormon map, but in Utah she found some peace. On 28 October, 1893, at age 85, she died, and her body was buried in a small cemetery in the center of Springville, Utah.

Hannah Ann Dubois’s daughter, Mary Jane Smith, married Philomen Christopher Merrill and they had eight children. Among them was Jedidiah Grant Merrill, who married Harriet Amelia Dunn and had eight children. Among them was Mabel Merrill, who married Mahonri Barnum Crane and had 9 children. Among them was Jack Roland Crane, who married Jennie Sparks and had 8 children. Thus, Hannah Ann Dubois is the Great-Great-Great-Grandmother of Jack Roland Crane.

Her descendants likely number in the thousands already.

Linda Crane Brittain
Great-Great-Great Granddaughter

P.S. I have been seeking Mary Jane and her lineage since November 12, 1952, when I discovered Mary Jane Smith as a dead end on my pedigree, opposite her husband, Philomen Christopher Merrill, born November 12, 1820, who was exactly 120 years older than I. Many people have helped me, and at last my efforts have been rewarded. I hope to learn more about the heritage that is ours through Mary Jane Smith and her mother, Hannah Ann Dubois.