

A story of events in Anna Johanna Gilbert Christensen's Life

My family had settled up the Conejos River at San Rafael, Conejos County, Colorado, coming from Riverton, Salt Lake County, Utah. There was an old Mexican man they called "Tuscarero," who worked for father. San Rafael was a Mexican Settlement. The people there belonged to a sect called "The Penitant Catholics." When they could not pay money to receive forgiveness for thier sins, they were required to whip themselves, to pay penance for thier sins. When one of the members of the sect died they would whip themselves to help him gain penance for his sins. Tuscarero belonged to this sect, and there was many days when he could not go to work after paying penance. Father, with a big grin on his face would, mischiavously pat him on the snoulders, causing the old gent to go to his knees saying "No! me pretty sickee in the backee." I, along with some of the Mexican cnildren would sneak over and watch their whipping parties. The members would emerge from an adobe dwelling called the "penitant House", into the yard where the would march chanting "Hay you, Hay you", all the while whipping themselves, first over one shoulder then over the other, with rawhide whips. This went on for three nights. members came from all the settlements, in the area, Vistas, San Jaun, San Rafael, and others. The Men folk were a sick looking lot for days after this performance. The State Humane Society, finally put a stop to this performance, or drove it under ground.

When I was thirteen years old I went to work for the Bailey Mayer family at Antonito for \$2.00 a week, (a good wage in those days) Mr. Mayer operated a dry goods store where he and I had many a wordy conversation, as he was an apostate Morman and enjoyed condescending with me. After one year of this I went to work for the Ewald family, who ran a rooming and eating house, with a raise of \$3.00 to \$4.00 weekly. At first I made the beds and did the dishes, Mrs Ewald was a very good cook. She soon han me making the pies And before long I was doing all the cooking. After two years of this I spent some time at home. Then I went to work for a family in Alamosa for two years for \$5.00 a week. After spending some time in Manassa with my family and getting aquainted with the young people there, I went to work for Mrs. Meyor, who operated the second hotel in Antonito, for \$8.00 per week. Mrs. Mayer proved to be a ver hard task master though so this job lasted only three months. I then went to work for Mrs. Mc Gregor, a seamstress who promised to teach me to sew, for doing the house work, but there was so much work to do and Mrs. Mc Gregor was so busy that she never had time to teach me. The shop and home were located above a livery stable operated by Mr. Mc Gregory, with the smell from downstairs and Mrs. Mc Gregory's failure to keep her promise this job was terminated. I returned to Manassa to work in Hugh Sellers' Grocery and dry goods store. NOW I was able to go to church and Mutual and to join with the other young people, something I had not been able to do before. I was secretary of Mutual for some time. I was able to go to the parties and dances. I dearly loved to dance. I met Nephi Christensen who was a very good dancer we dated off and on for some time, when he wanted to marry me I insisted on a temple marriage. When we got our recomends we traveled by Train to Salt Lake with two other couples, and were married in the Temple at Salt Lake City, Utah.



Anna Johanna Gilbert as a girl



Nephi Christensen as a young Man



Anna & Nephi wed 1st Place for Postumes at Danne (93)



Back Row: Fred, Anna, Kalle, Zelma, Corrine, Frederic, Nephi, Vina, Adell, Nephi, Cliff, Henry, Margrethe, (mother), Anna Johanna, Eloise, Marvinne. Wilma is held on Papa's lap with Norma between Wilma & Anna. Papa - Nephi Christensen (my husband) Papa - Above, Anna Johanna Gilbert (me) Clarence Gilbert (our son) Missing from picture



1- My Husband Nephi Christensen
2- Our Son Clarence Gilbert Christensen
3- Our first Grand Child Wayne Allen
4- Our first Grand Child Margaret Ann Christensen
5- Me, Anna Johanna Gilbert Christensen as a Great Grand Mother (Year 1944)