

FROM A BIOGRAPHY WRITTEN BY JOHANNE:

We had chicken, ducks and a good garden. I had a good market in town for these. The girls helped so much to prepare the chicken and ducks for sale, also churning butter and milking the cows. My husband, Timothy, had returned to Utah for Conference and brought back his other two wives. Ann was very weak and half-starved. She lived with me on the ranch until her death on 7 Mar 1893. The children called her "Grandma", and she was very dear to us. We had another daughter, Louvina Rasmine, born 8 Feb 1890, at the San Rafael Ranch. Ann delivered her and was a great blessing to me at that trying time.

Elizabeth, the youngest wife (the children called her "Aunt Lizzie", hated the ranch, so my husband bought her a nice home in Manassa, where she could attend Relief Society and other meetings and quilting Bees. He spent quite a bit of time with her. I was naturally resentful and then I felt very guilty for feeling this way. I prayed for help to overcome my weakness. My husband had a very bad ulcer on his leg. I would doctor him and nearly get it cleared up, when he would spend more time in Manassa. When he would return, it would be as sore and irritated as possible. I would work so hard to get it to partially heal, and my prayers wouldn't work and I would be resentful toward Elizabeth again.

Then our only living son was struck down with Poliomyalites. I worked with him, night and day, wrapping him in hot, wet, wool blankets. The doctors put him in a cast, and tried to get him to lie still, but he would not stay put. He would drag himself out of bed and crawl around on his one good leg and arm, cast and all. I would scold and spank him but to no avail. He was so determined. When we discovered that he was regaining the use of his paralyzed leg, we removed the cast and gave him more freedom. I wish we hadn't kept his right arm in a sling. Even so, with his sheer determination and our prayers, he became nearly whole and fulfilled a good life as promised in his Patriarchal Blessing by J.C. Bertholson. On 27 Aug 1896 (he would be eight years old at this time), he was promised all the blessings the doctors had said would be impossible. The promises were all fulfilled eventually.

Then Louvina became ill with Rheumatic Fever and had very bad heart trouble until she died at age 15 years.

When my twins were born and died about 1895, I was alone at the ranch. I was so sick and unhappy that I prayed to our heavenly father that I could just die. It was like I traveled a long way, but without walking, just moving along. Then I was with someone, very pleasant. I was looking down at myself. I was just lying on the bed and my children were crying. Anne, our eldest daughter, was trying to console them with "Aunt Lizzie will have to care for us." She was trying so hard to quiet the rest. I promised the person I was with, if he would just let me go back and raise my own children myself, I would never complain about Lizzie again. I was so very sick for some time, but I was given a second chance, and with God's help I am not resentful to Lizzie any more. After all, I have four living children, and poor Lizzie lost her only one. I have so much to be grateful for. I had no more children after losing the twins, Henry and Georg. I was only 42 years old at the time.

Anne and Mary attended school at San Rafael. It was a Mexican and Catholic town, with a one-room school house. They attended four months in the wintertime. They were only taught reading, writing and arithmetic. The same every year, with no chance for advancement. Later we sent them to the mission school, two miles away. Mary and Anne drove there for two winters in a "one horse shay". For several years, Timothy ran a commissary (Store) for the saw-mill men. They would cut lumber near the summit and place the logs in the frozen Conejos River. When it thawed in the spring, the men would be camped at the ranch where the logs could be easily snaked from the river and loaded on wagons for shipping.

Timothy's health was getting continually worse and he could no longer work the farm or commissary. Anne had gone away to work when she became

13 years old. So we had a beautiful home built in Manassa. It took so long to finish that we lived in two other homes in Manassa while it was being finished. There were much better schools for Mary and John and Louvine to attend (Anne was away to work). I could finally enjoy visiting with close neighbors and to attend relief society meetings, quilting bees, etc. When we moved into our new home (next door to Lizzy), Timothy spent almost all his time at my home now. It was such a nice comfortable home, and Mary and I really dressed it up. Mary married William Jackson in 1901 and Anne married Nephi Christensen in 1904. Both were married in the Salt Lake Temple. Then in 1905, our little girl, Louvine, died. Her heart just finally gave out. Then Timothy, my husband, was miraculously healed by two elders administering to him. The two of us traveled to Salt Lake where we did a great deal of Temple work for my family in Denmark and his in England.

In about 1910, John Timothy, our son, graduated from the San Lewis Academy in Manassa, then he went to work at a saw mill camp for John Langston. While he was working there, he met his future bride. I really wanted him to marry a nice Mormon girl from Town. His intended lost her mother in a Typhoid epidemic at Edith, Colo., in 1910, and since had been raised by her father, James Robert Winfield Holcomb. She was Effie Henrietta Holcomb. She had one brother, Robert Lee Holcomb, and one living sister, Lucy Jane Holcomb. Her youngest sister, Thelma Lucille died in the same epidemic as her mother, Minnie Dick (Billings) Holcomb.

Her father worked at different sawmill camps, always keeping his children with him. They were not Latter Day Saints. Effie was a pretty girl but with black hair. They had no Genealogy traced. I decided this was a good time to send John on a mission. I would give him time to come to his senses. When John went on his mission, he brought Effie to Manassa to live with his sister, Anne's family. Effie was baptized 2 Apr 1914 by Lafette Jackson in Nephi Christensen's "calf pasture," and confirmed at Manassa Ward. John left for his mission 10 Jan 1914 under direction of L.O. Bennion (central states).

My husband Timothy died 12-13 May 1914 (in Aug. he would have been 80 years old). I will be 61 years in December. I sold my beautiful home to the president of the stake and moved in with my daughter Anne and family. He (the stake president) proved to be a con man who had worked his way up in the church in order to cheat people. There were several other widows in the Romeo, Manassa and Sanford wards cheated out of their life savings and homes. He caused the bank in Romeo to close its doors to this day.

Now I was without my main income and my beautiful home, and my poor son John was without money or scrip on his mission. He filled a good mission, converting several families and other people. Then he received an early discharge in order to come home and try to get my property back for me. When John returned from his mission he wrote to Effie to tell her that as soon as he got my affairs straightened out, he would go out to her father's to see her. Their original plans were that when he was released, she would meet him in Salt Lake where they would be married in the Temple, then return to Manassa to make their home, after a short honeymoon. Effie was so unhappy about the change of plans that she took his engagement ring, wrapped it in a big package and stamped it, "Glass, handle with care", and mailed it to him. He was on the next train to change her mind and bring her home.

They were married the 28 June 1916 in Nephi and Anne (Gilbert) Christensen's parlor, by Samuel Jackson, Sr. (his sister Mary's father in law). I was so disappointed that they were not married in the Temple, that I could not stand to be there, so I went back to Salt Lake to do some more Temple work and genealogy. From this time on, I spent my years between Salt Lake laboring in genealogy and Temple work and home in Manassa with my daughter Anne's family. I helped deliver most of Anne's and Mary's children. They both had some stillborn babes. Mary had 12 living (4 girls and 8 boys) and Anne had 10 living children (3 boys and 7 girls). John's wife Effie had four living children (1 son and 3 daughters). So I have 26 grandchildren (25 still living).

Lizzie (Cartwright) Gilbert remarried a widower with five children (three still living at time of marriage), Zebedee Vance, after his wife died in 1920. The Vance children were all grown and they really resented this marriage. Lizzie was born in 1859 and Zebedee in 1866, so she was a little older than he. Her first husband, Timothy, was born in 1832, so he was 27 years older than Lizzie. I really wish her well the rest of her life.

(Minnie notes: Lizzie died in 1931, and Johanne Margrethe in Feb 1928. Ann, who died in 1893, and Johanne and Elizabeth were all three buried beside Timothy Gilbert in the "Old Cemetery" of Manassa, Conejos, Colorado.)