

*I By Owen Butler*  
John Lowe Butler III

-----His Saga of settlement of Manard and building of Twin Lakes Reservoir

Johns father, John Lowe II, could not but be aware of the council LDS Church President Brigham Young had given for the Saints to build up the Kingdom by establishing homes, farms, etc., and not chasing for gold. He called his son John, who was soon to leave on a mission, to his bedside (he being critically ill at the time) saying to him "Go, my son, but when you come back I'll be gone, I want you to lead out and take the family to new country. John, you are my oldest son, you have been a good and faithful servant to your Heavenly Father, and have done a wonderful job of taking responsibility of supporting your mother and younger brothers and sisters. Son, there is nothing left here for this family. I admonish you to go where there is new land opening up, with new opportunities for bigger and better farms where all the family can work together. Go and seek out a place that will be fruitful. John, my life is short and I will be gone before you return from your mission. I do love and appreciate you and know that you will carry out my wishes. I leave you this blessing."

John II died 30 Dec 1893 and his son, John III, his namesake, did lead out in the search for good land and many of his family and their families followed him to Camas Prairie.

In the spring of 1903, John, together with his younger brother, Xenion Taylor (K.T.) set out for Idaho to begin his quest for land and opportunity. After looking over several sites they got their first glimpse of Camas Prairie in 1903. It was a wonderful sight, grass was a foot high, flowers in bloom, cattle grazing by the thousands.

They started for Fir Grove to look up the Dixon family who they had heard about while on a stop in Hagerman. While visiting with the Dixons they found there were four other Mormon families living near Soldier, the only town on Camas Prairie at that time. Their names were Jenkins, Adams, Stotts, Labrum and a bachelor named Jim Stewart.

They talked of forming a company for the purpose of building a reservoir. This would fulfill the wishes of their father and the dreams of all the family. They could have their own community, town, church, school. There was plenty of land and water.

Part of the plan was to build a reservoir which would necessitate buying the Alec Sypher ranch known as the Twin Lakes Ranch. John met with these men from Soldier several times--they were all excited about building a reservoir and developing the land that could be irrigated under it. John's first commitment was to recruit people for this project. He filed a Desert Claim and then went to Hailey to run a ranch for the summer. When fall came they went back to Utah to recruit family and friends and to return the next spring.

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All of Johns brothers and sisters except sisters Francetty Butler (also known as Zettie) born 7 April 1876 at Panguitch, Garfield, Utah; d 27 Sept 1959' md John Christensen 21 July 1898. They were in business in Richfield, Utah and never did come. Also sister Sarah Butler (also known as Sadie) b 2 Feb 1878 in Panguitch, Garfield, Utah; d 4 July 1942; md 12 Jan 1898 to Gomer MOrgon Richards. They were living in Salt Lake City at this time.

Joh Lowe butler !!!, b 5 June 1874 at Panguitch. d July 1 1937; Md 5 Nov 1899 to Bertha Malvina Thurber, dau of Albert King Thurber and Agnes Brockbank. He led all the rest of his brothers and sisters back to Camas Prairie. Johna nd Bertha had the following children:

1. Lazelle Smith Butler, b 7 Jan 1901, Richfield, Sevier, Utah; died as an infant.
2. Jay Grant Butler, b 7 Sept 1902, Richfield, md 1 Oct 1925 Laura Edith Peck; a good portion of his growing up years was on Camas Prairie. Died in Shelley, Idaho 199 .
3. Elma Butler. b 20 Nov 1904 at Gilman ranch near Hailey, Idaho. d 31 Jan 1905/
4. Gladys Butler; b 15 Nov 1905, Manard, Blaine Co, Idaho; md 23 July 1931 to Ervin Erastus Larsen. Believed to be first child born at Manard.
5. Edith Butler, b 5 Nov 1907, Manard, Md 1 Sept 1927 to Melving L. Whitehead. Died in Twin Falls.
6. Donald Thurber Butler. b 20 May 1910, Manard, md (!) Elizabeth Bosch, div; Md (2) 22 June 1941 Inis Fifielf (Kussee). He died at Rockland, Idaho.
7. Glenn Lowe Butler, b 6 May 1912, Manard; Md 15 June 1940 to Clara Helene Rhuddy.
8. Etta Butler, b 1 June 1914, Manard, md (1) 3 April 1937 Horace W. Sullivan; (div); md (2) 20 Jan 1949, Charles Richard Mayberry.
9. Ross Erin Butler, b 16 June 1916, Manard; md 19 Sept 1937 to Margin Dawn Werry. This makes a total of 6 children of John and Bertha Butler born at Manard. They moved away this same year/
10. Agnes Butler, b 11 Nov 1918, Acequia, Minidoka, Idaho; md 16 May 1941, Roland Samuel Pack.
11. John Lowe IV. b Nov 5 1920, Acequia, Ida, Md 12 Aug 1945 to Marjorie Hou Call.

John 11's sister Caroline came to Manard with her husband Isaac Erin Thurber. She was born 2 Dec 1880 at Panguich, Garfield, Utah; d 11 May 1969 at Boise, Ida; md 7 Apr 1903 to Isaac Erin Thurber. He took up land at Manard and was the first bishop at Manard LDS church. Their first child, Helen Thurber, b 7 Nov 1904, Richfield Sevier, Utah; md 1 Nov 1928 to Audubon Mathias Dalton. She was only a year old when they came to Camas Prairie.

2. Waldo Arion Thurber. b 21 July 1906, Soldier (Now Fairfield, Camas Co); md 27 Nov 1934 to Evian Pearl Seetin. Waldo was baptized by his father in the river near their home at Manard.
3. Rex Gordon Thurber, b 16 April 1909. Manard, (now Fairfield); md 15 June 1929 to Catherine Samuel.
4. Erin Butler Thurber, b 26 March 1911, Manard; md 11 Sept 1936 to Afton May Crowley. He died 19 1948 at Long Beach, Cal.
5. Milton Jay Thurber, b 23 Feb 1916, Manard; md 13 Apr 1937 to Mary Madge Crowley;

Caroline and Isaac Thurber had 4 children born at Manard. In 1916 they moved away as Erin had poor health and he died shortly.

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Johns younger <sup>brother</sup> Horace Calvin Butler, came to Camas Prairie and took up land. He was born 6 Feb 1883, Joseph, Sevier, Utah; d 6 Oct 1958; md 16 May 1906 to Ida Gould. He died in Rupert, Idaho. Their first child, Ruth Butler, b 23 Feb 1907, Monroe, Sevier, Utah; md 14 Dec 1935 to Eugene Roberts. The family came to Manard when Ruth was a tiny baby. (2) Ray Gould Butler, about 1910 in Manard, md 7 Jan 1934 to Thelma Wadsworth; Frank Talmadge Butler, b 10 Feb 1912, Manard, md 2 Feb 1935 to Eudors Swenson; Claude G. Butler, b 8 May 1917, Manard, d 9 Feb 1937; Wesley G. Butler b & march 1919, Acequia, Minidoka, Idaho, md 19 June 1943 Dorothy Madeline Manfield; Norman Butler, b 8 Aug 1920, Acequia, md & June 1947 to Ralph Robert Gordon; Dale Horace Butler, b 10 Aug 1927, Rupert, Minidoka, Idaho, Md 4 Apr 1950 to Verla Feith Noble. Horace moved with his family to Acequia in 1916.

Johns sister, Olive Butler, b 26 Jan 1885, Richfield, Sevier, Utah; d 31 Dec 1971, md Jesse Loren Smith 17 Jan 1908. He was a building contractor and they had lived various places before coming to Manard in 1910. Their oldest child, Loren Butler Smith, b 1 Nov 1908, Imbler Union, Oregon, md 16 May 1931 to Ethel Marie Miller; Horace Butler Smith, b 26 Dec 1910, Manard, md 15 Aug 1932, Afton Jane Cole; Norman Butler Smith, b 17 Oct abt 1911, Manard, md 6 Sept 1936 to Grace Carter. They shortly left Camas Prairie and six other children were born later.

Johns sister Jane, b 22 Feb 1888, Richfield, Utah, md 6 Mar 1918 to Elmer Walter Nielsen; He was a wheat farmer and stockman, farming the Fir Grove ranch on Camas Prairie. Their 3 oldest children were born on Camas Prairie. The oldest, Elma Jean, b 3 March 1920, md 22 July 1943 to Haward Otto Christensen; Fae, b 8 Sept 1921, Manard, md 9 May 1943 to Robert Elvin Williams; Carol, b 22 Oct 1923, Manard, to 14 Dec 1943 to Harold Monroe Sagers; Donna Mae, b 10 March 1927, Wendell, Gooding, Idaho, m d 22 June 1950 to William Leroy Kidd. All of these girls spent their summers and part of the winters on Camas Prairie while growing up. Jane was the homemaker for her brothers K.T., Lee and her sister Eva until her marriage at Manard.

Johns brother, Xenion Taylor (K.T.) b 10 May 1890, Richfield, Utah, md 5 June 1918 to Thelma Neoma Peterson, b 12 Sept 1899, Filmore, Millard, Utah. He was a rancher and cattleman on Camas Prairie until Dec of 1919. None of their children were born on Camas Prairie.

Johns sister, Eva, b 9 Dec 1892, Richfield, Utah. d 24 June 1940, Md 2 July 1913 to Bailey Allen Dixon. Their oldest child, Wallace Bailey Dixon, b 30 May 1914, Manard, d 20 Nov 1930. Eva and Bailey left Manard about 1916, subsequently 2 other children were born to them.

The youngest brother of Joh, Leland Thomas Butler, b 22 March 1897, Richfield, Utah, md 21 March 1943 to Helen Camile Carther Philips. No children born to them. Lee stayed on Camas Prairie with K.T. until fall of 1919.

Johns half brother Denison (Den) b 7 April 1883, Monroe, Sevier, Utah, d 18 Mar 1952. md Margaret Wardroup (1) of Soldier and they lived for a time at Soldier. DEns younger Anne Butler b 6 June 1891, Monroe, Sevier, d 12 Dec 1953, md William A. Richards. They came to Manard where daughters Ruth and Neoni wereborn and went through grade school.

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There were others who came to Manard because of Johns influence, namely, John L. Robinson, C. Robinson and Elva Robinson. John married a local girl, Amett Jenkins and they spent the rest of their lives on Camas Prairie and raised 3 children there, namely Mildred, James and LaVell. Elva married Riley L. Dixon, one of the Dixon already living on Camas Prairie. Their children, all born on the Prairie, Clifton, Dwight, Lois, Dot (Dorothy?) and Deloris.

There were four Nielson brothers who came to Manard from a community close to Richfield, Utah. Erastus Nielson was already married to Edna Peterson. They had 3 children, the eldest died as a small boy. Orville and June grew up on the prairie.

Oliver Nielson was a widower with a small boy, Ferman. After he came to the Prairie he married Addie Adams Robertson who had 4 small children by Robertson, Claude, Flossie, George and Alma who were all born at Manard.

By this union were born Verda, Norman, Morris, Venoy, Darell, Carl and Jene. All but Jene were born at Manard.

Elmer Nielson married Jane Butler, previously mentioned, at Manard. Their family is mentioned earlier.

Ivan Nielson married Alberta Peterson, a sister of Edna Peterson Nielson and Thelma Peterson Butler. To this union was born Lila, Oneita, Earl, Arva, Caroline and Leon. All were born on Camas Prairie but Earl and Arva. They moved to Wendell in the early 30's.

Johns wife's mother, Elizabeth Brockbank Thurber and her uncle Joe and aunt Annie Thurber and her brother in law Oliver Nielson, whose deceased wife was a Thurber, and Aaron Thurber, previously mentioned, and Joshua Thurber all came to Manard. Joshua married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Robinson, sister of John L. Robinson. They stayed at Manard till the early 30's and all their children were born there—Agnes, Loyd, Alvaretta, Albert King, Delsa and Melba.

Bill Gould, a brother in law of Horace Butler, also came to the Prairie.

There was a strong bond that held the Butler family together at Manard until about 1916 when most of them started moving away and going their separate ways. In Johns case, he had been very ill and couldn't carry on his work. Frost wiped out the crops for several years. This was the beginning of the end of the community of Manard and the strong ties that held the community together.