

Gooding Idaho

Mar. 5-1963

Dear Folks I am dissapointed and sorry I was not home when you called recently. It so happened that I was at the Idaho Falls Temple that day left home 3-45 A.M. arrived home about 7-30 P.M. Found your note on arrival. We had a very nice day at the Temple. There were thirteen from Gooding and twelve from Wendell. It is a fine thing to be permitted to go to the Temple and participate in ordinance work for those who have passed on without having had their work done I enjoy going. Ross Butter called by the 17 of January and picked me up. We went through an evening session stayed that night with Edith and Grant enjoyed their hospitality and visiting with them. The next morning they went to the Temple with us. We went through three sessions that day and I was home about 7 P.M. Ross has picked me up three or four times which I appreciate very much. It is nice to be in his company and visit with him. One trip he had the Stake President and clerk along. another time he had a Bishop and the High Priest group secretary and his wife along those trips were very enjoyable. in connection with visiting with Edith and Grant. My health is very good for which I am very grateful.

Edith I am ^{glad} to note you are writing your mother's history. I am afraid I cannot be of much assistance to you. Bertha was nine years older than I and Erin nearly twelve. My father passed away when I was just under two years old leaving mother a widow with three children.

We lived in Grass valley at that time owned a little farming ground in connection with our home. Erin at that early age took care of the farm after father passed away.

I am not sure as to time but I think one or two years after father's passing mother disposed of the property in Grass valley bought or traded for a city lot in Richfield Utah with a two room adobe house on it also five acres of pasture ground. Later on we added a two room adobe lean to ~~to~~ the house.

My recollection of early boyhood and home life has to do with mother and I mainly and she was a wonderful mother. She being a widow and ^{not} having much of this world's goods.

Erin and Bertha were both away from home working a good share of the time to help maintain themselves and the family. Mother also did house work and washing for folks in Richfield in order to get along she was Relief Society president for years in Richfield also in Manard Idaho. As I remember Erin's work took him away from Richfield most of the time but Bertha helped with house work and caring for families in Richfield mainly.

I am not certain whether they attended the B. Y. U. more than one year or not. But this I do know Erin Bertha and your father attended school there one year together. That year living in the same quarters and attending school together and their close companionship ^{probably} was the forerunner of the engagement and marriage of your father and mother and Uncle Erin and Aunt Caroline. It seems that the odds were against me getting a Butler so I took the next best a cousin. A very fine wife and help meet. We had a lot of ups and downs together homesteading on barns, Paraisies and raising a family. Our home was very pleasant under conditions. We tried to get along harmoniously and succeeded in doing that pretty well.

Although she was physically disabled or partially so for a number of years her attitude was good she looked on the bright side of life.

Coming back to your mother. I do not recollect her being home very much. It seems to me she taught school one or two years in a little town of Sigard near Richfield. In 1894 there was a severe epidemic of Diphtheria in Utah and Idaho. I was one of the victims of that dread disease. But thanks to our Heavenly Father and the power of the Priesthood I am one of few that had it and survived compared to the many children that were taken.

One family lost three out of four children.

Bertha was working away from home at the time and came home to help mother take care of me.

Mother had been helping families with sickness in the neighbourhood part of the time.

I was so bad Mother and Bertha one or both were with me day and night. I rec'd medical treatment every two hours if it had not been for the constant care of mother and Bertha and the blessings of the Priesthood through administration. my life would not have been preserved.

Mother and Bertha and the loving care they gave me has staid with me through the years. I was eight years old at the time.

Bertha was always active in the church and had a host of friends. her gentle friendly disposition was admired by all who knew her. She was or is one of the choice spirits as is your father. You can be proud of the leamage you were permitted to come through as spirit children from our Heavenly Father.

Edith I am wondering if you are working now - in case I should come over to Twin; What would be the best time to come.

Love and best wishes

Uncle Josh