

I would like you to know about your great grandmother, my mother, Ann Butler Richards, and some of her spiritual gifts. She was very close to the Savior and had a very strong testimony of His mission on earth, and His love for us. She once had a dream that she was in a meeting. In her dream, she saw the ceiling open and a messenger motion to her that she should follow him. She followed him up to a big building. They went inside and the Savior greeted her and started to introduce her to the brethren in the room. The Savior said this is brother Joseph, brother Hyrum, brother Brigham Young, brother John Taylor, brother Wilford Woodruff and brother Lorenzo Snow. When Ann met brother Snow, he said to her, "I met you as a child in St. George, at the conference when I made the prediction concerning the drought. I told the conference that if they would pay an honest tithing that the Lord would bless them with rain and they would be able to harvest their crops and that the drought would be finished. Because of ill health during her life, she came close to death three different times, but she chose to return to her body so that she could benefit her family. The first time, she had been married only a short time. Her father, John Lowe Butler II had died when she was nine years old, came back to her and told her that she could return to heaven with him at that time. Ann then asked her father what would happen to her husband, Will. She was told that Will would leave the church if she left at that time. She returned to her body to help Will. My mother chose to return to her life on earth. The result of this was that my father, Will Adams Richards, became strong in his testimony and remained strong for the rest of his life. Another time that she was at death's door was when I was about seven years old. The messenger told her at this time that her family again needed her so she returned again to help her family. She chose to return so that her husband would not leave the church. Another time when I was seven she was told that she had children to raise. The third time she was told that her husband Will, would need her help during a long illness. She would need to help him through a long illness. Even though she suffered many illnesses and poor health she chose to remain on earth to help her family.

I would like to tell you of a special story about how my father gained a strong testimony of the payment of tithing. Once, when I was a little girl. At the time of tithing settlement, my father had only thirty dollars to his name, which he owed as tithing for tithing settlement. He also needed to purchase hay or feed for his horses and cows for the winter. As he approached to tithing office he pondered what he should do. He was in a great turmoil of spirit and didn't know what he should do. After much thought he decided to test the Lord's promise. As he left the tithing office, he ran into a neighbor who asked him if he would feed his cattle for him until he returned. As payment for this job, the neighbor told him that my father could have a small bale of hay. My father readily agreed to feed his neighbors cattle with a thankful heart. For several months, until spring grass was back in the pastures. That little amount of hay lasted and he was able to feed his own livestock for the rest of the winter. My father always that Heavenly Father had blessed him because he had paid his tithing.

Ann was also gifted with a spiritual insight of future events. One time, my sister, Ruth was leaving for a job in Alaska but was waiting for the arrival of a copy of her birth certificate from Utah. My mother told Ruth to go ahead and pack because the certificate would arrive in the mail that very day, so she wouldn't miss taking this job opportunity. Another time my mother had a dream, where my father, Will came her. In March, 1945, where my father, who in life had always been very neat and clean but in this dream was very dirty and disheveled about his personal appearance. Mother said to Will, "Why Will, what has happened, where have you been?" My father told her that he had been in Germany. Mother said "Will what have been doing over there?" He said to her, "Who do we have in Germany that we need to be concerned about. I've been in Germany to help Brick." A few days later I received a telegram from the War Department, stating that my husband, Russ who had been missing in action since November, had been found as a Prisoner of War. In later years, when Russ and I were talking about this dream,

he said that he felt many times there had to be something prevented the bullets flying around him but did not hit him. In March, 1944 I got a letter from the government that he was missing and on March 4, 1945 I was told that he was a prisoner of war.

When my mother, died December 12, 1953, she was laid out as if someone beyond the veil had come to take her home.

I have a very strong testimony and a great love of my Heavenly Father, and my Savior, Jesus Christ. I know that Joseph Smith was the first prophet of this dispensation. And through him the Savior returned his church to the earth.

I had a very special dream that changed my life. When my invalid son, Alfred was about four years old, my father, William Adams Richards, came to me in a dream. He looked very disapproving at me and I said, "Oh you haven't come for Alfred. Please take me instead." My father told me that I had a family to raise. He then put his arms around me and drew my head to his shoulder. I could feel his arms around me and how strongly he loved me. He said that I needed make some changes to my life. Alfred lived for another 15 years and I started going back to church and increasing my study of the gospel.

I want my grand children and great grandchildren to know of my feelings about the gospel, and my Saviour. I know that my Heavenly Father and my Saviour Jesus Christ love me and want to bless my life. Joseph Smith was the prophet chosen to restore church in this the last dispensation. Jesus Christ is the head of the church and reveals his will to our current prophet, Gordon B. Hinckley. I have a great love to my Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and I know that they love

Sincerely,

Naomi Richards Eller
Christmas -2004