

LIFE STORY of

JOHN BETHEWEL THATCHER, JR.
and SARAH ELLEN "NELLIE" MUIR

Compiled by Weilding Thatcher Shaw

PARENTAGE OF JOHN B. THATCHER, Jr.:¹

John Bethewel Thatcher, Sr., "----the fifth child and third son of Hezekiah and Alley Kitchen Thatcher, was born 22 October 1834 in or near Springfield, Clark county, Ohio---. John B. would have been about twelve or thirteen when the long trek West started.---They traveled in the wagon train with other pioneers ---and arrived---on 23 September 1847. In 1849 the family left the Salt Lake Valley for California---. After spending eight memorable years in the mining, hotel, mercantile, freighting and ranching endeavors in California the family returned to Utah. John B. and his brothers Aaron and Moses stayed behind to complete missions for their church but followed early the next year --- via the southern route---."

John Bethewel Thatcher, Sr., at the age of 23 ½, married Rachel Hannah Davis on March 8, 1858 at Salt Lake City, Utah, when she was 21. They "----Soon thereafter moved to Payson, Utah, and built a little adobe house, shingled with clap boards that John sawed and split out of logs he brought from the canyons.---Their first child was born there and was named John, after his father."

Rachel Hannah Davis was "----a beautiful young lady with long Auburn hair. Rachel was the oldest daughter of the family of Nathan Davis and Sarah Woolley. She was born in West township, Columbiana county, Ohio, on the 5th of March 1837 and accompanied her parents to Utah in 1851. Her youth was one dominated by the Quaker religion and the rigorous life of the Ohio frontier. She, as the oldest daughter, was called upon to do much of the domestic work of the household and in so doing prepared herself for her future life. With her Quaker ancestry and teachings, reverence, charity, humility, patience and obedience were as much a part of her life as the breath she breathed and under such an influence she could not be other than a kind and affectionate daughter and a loving and lovable wife and mother."

"In the fall of 1859 John B. left Rachel and the baby in Payson and---came to the newly settled, northern Utah valley known as Cache Valley." "In company with his brother -- and his sister, Harriet, and her husband, William B. Preston, they stopped and camped on the site where Logan City now stands. ---This took place on the 30th day of September 1859."(Reference: Logan Journal of 1909.) "Aaron, John B. and William B. Preston built the seventh log house in Logan and then spent the rest of the fall in cutting and harvesting hay for the church cattle in the valley. In the spring of 1860 the remainder of the family left Payson and moved to Logan to make it their permanent home."

All the rest of their children were born in Logan, Utah. "----John was chosen one of the first group of school teachers in January 1860. --In April of 1861,---John B. was made the Bishop of the Third Ward.

Also in 1860 the Thatcher family developed their first saw and flour mill in Logan.---In 1864 the Logan school board was organized with John B. Thatcher as one of three members. In 1866 Logan city was formed as a municipality and the first election gave John B. the post of Alderman. ---John B. was the manager of the Thatcher Milling and Elevator Company for a time and also manager of the Coop-Mercantile store.---It was said of John B. that in speech and dramatic readings few could equal him. ---His public speaking ability was to hold him in good stead in his later years as he entered politics and public service."

On 14 October, 1876, on her 24th birthday, John B. married Sarah Maria Davis, the younger sister of his first wife "under the then practiced law of plural marriage.---Sarah's young life was thus somewhat different from her older sister in that she was born in the west---."

"John's health began to fail while in Logan under the constant indoor conditions and when his brother, George Washington, and his brother-in-law, William B. Preston, decided to invest in a stock ranch in southern Idaho, John B. was happy to join in the investment as a partner. They---settled on a location in the sparsely settled Gentile Valley on the Bear River. The spot was fifty miles northeast of Logan in the southern end of the valley. ---John B. elected to become manager of the ranch and moved there in the fall of 1881 with Rachel and their ---children---, leaving Sarah and her three children in Logan to manage the affairs there. ---In several of the recorded histories of John B. it is noted that he urged Rachel to stay in Logan until he had the ranch in operation but she refused to leave him."

CHILDHOOD:

John Bethewel Thatcher, Jr., was born May 22, 1859, at Payson, Utah, Utah. He was the first child, his Father's namesake. He undoubtedly was a close companion and comfort to his Mother, as the next three children, Hezekiah, Katie, and Eva, died before he was 10.

"My first school was in Logan Second Ward. (I) attended a private school in W. B. Preston's home while he was on a mission 1868-9. (The) Teacher (was) Aunt Harriet Thatcher Preston. (I) attended (the) first High School held in Logan, UT. (I was a) Ward Teacher in (the) Second Ward, Logan, for three years. (I was) active in (the) first M.I.A. work in Logan. Ben Cluff, Henry and Archie Lamareaux, Joel Ricks and myself and others organized an improvement association in 1873, holding weekly meetings in an old log granary on the Cluff lot, between 1 and 2 North on Main, near (the) present Court House. (I) worked as a cashier in the retail dept. of Z.C.M.I. for two years, 1879-1880. (I) was working there when called on (a) mission." ²



MISSION OVERVIEW: ³

"April 19th 1881 - Left Logan in company of several of the brethren for our field of labor as missionaries." His calling was to the Northwestern States Mission, Wm. M.

Palmer, President. John traveled by railroad across Wyoming and Nebraska, where, as they approached the Missouri River, they were stopped by flood waters. When 20 miles west of Omaha, "April 21st - - Arrived at Valley Station in the afternoon where we found that we could not proceed any farther until the Elkhorn Bridge was fixed. Part of the bridge is washed out and the water is so high that it is almost impossible for anybody to work at the bridge. Backed up to Fremont where we have to stay all night. April 22nd - Have been at Fremont all day, and at last have made arrangement with the Sioux City R.R. to take us to Missouri Valley Junction where we can connect with the Chicago and North Western Road. Left Fremont at 10 P.M. and arrived at Blair a station near the river at 12 P.M., where we have to stay all night. April 23rd - Left Blair at 6 A.M. and went to the Missouri River where we expected a steamboat to take us across at 7 but, on account of not getting our telegram they did not cross until 10 A.M. which delayed us so much that we didn't catch the train at M. V. Junction and had to stay there all day.

They left Missouri Valley, Iowa, at 6:30 P.M. on April 24th, Sunday, crossing the Mississippi River at 9:35 A.M. the next day and arriving in Chicago at 3 O'clock that afternoon. Some insight into John's upbringing and temperament is found in the comment, "Mrs. Carpenter and her children seemed sorry to part with me. The smallest child crying and saying she wouldn't let me go."

From here they went to Lima, Ohio, where they "hunted up the family of Father's relation who received us very kindly. Mr. Kiplinger telling us he wanted us to make our home with him while we were here."

"May 5th - --Heard from Bro. Palmer yesterday and find that we are to go to Elyria, Lorain Co." This area is in Ohio, near Cleveland. Further direction came, "May 17th - --received a letter from Bro Palmer telling us that we had the State of Ohio to work in and to work where we got a chance." His companion was George O. Noble. They worked there until the first of July when John made a two day sight-seeing trip to Niagara Falls. Shortly after his return he worked for a month among his Mother's relatives at East Rochester, near Canton, Ohio.

Then, in August, they made a trip to above Grand Rapids, Michigan, for a conference. This experience seemed to solidify his strength with experiences in healing and the handling of opposition. "Aug 23rd. - I, with the others who stayed at Bro. Palmers went to Bro. Harringtons where we found Sister Perces Root sick, and we administered to her and she was healed at once." The Conference and traveling to and from took about a month.

John returned to East Rochester and they worked there until the opposition got so bad they had to leave. On Oct 10th he records "we received a paper containing the account of Apostle Pratt's death." The middle of November they traveled southward, and in five months had covered most of southeast Ohio. This was a hard period for John. The opposition was strong, his health not as good as before and it was here he heard of the death of his Uncle Joseph and soon after, that of his Mother. Her death was a grave shock to John as he very much adored his Mother.

In mid April they returned to East Rochester. After a visit of nearly a month, working with relatives, they moved on west through the Wooster, Mansfield, Elyria region where John had a baptism and several

healings under his hand. John returned to East Rochester briefly and then went to Conference at Covington, Indiana in mid June. At this Conference John and his new companion, C. C. Bartlett, were assigned to Nebraska, Elder Noble staying in Indiana.

John and his new companion left the 30th of June for Chicago, Omaha and Fremont, Nebraska. They served near Omaha until October experiencing strong spiritual forces against them so as to bind the tongue only to be released by appeal to God. Here his Journal becomes dim and ends without the completion of his mission.

Recorded on the fly leaf of a copy of the Inspired Version of the Bible published in 1867 in possession of Stan Brower, along with the signature of "Jno B. Thatcher Jr., Gentile Valley, Idaho", is the following note in his handwriting: "Dear Stan. I bought this book in Winter Quarters, now known as Florence, Neb., in Oct 1882 from an old lady who, with her husband emigrated to Utah in early days, then, dissatisfied returned to Neb. where her husband died. She was rebaptized and was anxious to return to Utah. I gave her \$3.00 for this book leaving me with 50 cents to go into Iowa to finish my mission. I paid 25 cts to cross the Missouri River at Blair, a man coming across in a row boat to take myself and companion over. We had wild grapes for breakfast, and spent the remaining quarter for crackers and cheese for dinner. Granddad."

John wrote later in his Personal Record Sheet that he returned from this mission on 20 Nov. 1882.

MISSION LETTERS:³

John wrote letters a lot on his mission and seemed anxious for letters from home. "April 27th - --Wrote some letters home today and expect answers soon. May 3rd - Wrote to Mother today, and asked why some of them don't write. May 4th - Wrote a letter to Frank today, also wrote postals to Cousins Ella, Allen and Hattie. Have written to Father, Mother, Hyrum, Art and Nell, and think it about time some of them were answering my letters." "May 26th - -I got a letter from Sallie Farr." "June 6th - --I wrote to Miss Alice Muir and Lula -" "June 15th - --I wrote to Grand-Ma -" "June 16th. - -I received six letters from Utah, also some photos of my Dear Brothers and Sisters and was so pleased to get them that I did not know what to do, hardly." "June 17th. - I wrote to Mother and Nell this morning -" "June 28th. - -wrote to Miss Carrie Benson -" This wasn't just a 'greenie' attitude with him. He was very pleased to receive mail and papers from home and would walk miles to the post office to check for mail. "Jan 3rd - I walked to Caldwell, where I received a nice silk handkerchief from 'Nellie' also one dollar from Milty & Naty."

John also studied a lot and received and gave much good instruction by mail. "Sept 13th - I read in our church works most of the day, --. Sept 17th - I spent the day in reading and writing. Received a letter from Uncle Moses which contains much instruction." A number of these letters received from others were copied in his Journal. Also some that he wrote, as this excerpt under date of Jan 5th, written to "Bro Quinney". "--I have noticed that those most bitterly opposed are, as a general thing, as corrupt as hell (using plain English) and only raise a disturbance to shield themselves. They

think it is awful to have more than one wife, and raise a respectable family, but don't think it a disgrace to ruin female virtue, and cast upon the world women whose good name is gone forever, just through the lustful and brutish appetites of men who are as low as it is possible to get in this life. They think it a disgrace to raise a large family, and they kill their children to avoid it." (It is interesting that these comments could have been uttered as truly, and even more forcefully in our day!) "--I am informed that congress is going to take steps to stop polygamy. It may bring things to a crisis, which is all right as it will have to come sooner or later. We find the people indifferent, as a general thing, to all but worldly affairs, and they think a show of repentance at the last moment will usher them into the Kingdom of God."

MISSION PREACHING:³

His preaching started slow, but gained strength. "May 15th Sunday - --I had my first chance to talk tonight, but didn't tire the audience very much, for I 'trembled in my boots'." Later, on "May 30th - -- getting a chance to ride, I was so busily engaged talking, that I passed my stopping place and, as the gentleman was going to Amhurst, and back, I concluded to go with him, and had quite a talk with him." "June 12th. Sunday. - --We had a good meeting in the afternoon and evening but I had a mean feeling and a power working on me to such an extent that I could not face the congregation in the afternoon, but after praying I felt the power leave me, and I felt well in the evening." "Sept 1st. - --While on the train between Lansing I got into conversation with a gentleman on the subject of Miracles, and silenced him, as he said that the miracles worked in our church were not on the same principle as in the days of the Savior, I proving they were the same. I learned one thing, that is, God takes the weak of the earth to confound the wisdom of the wise." "Nov 20th. Sunday. - Held meeting in the evening, and I went home with Mr. Matthias Davis, and talked to the family until 1 AM." "Feb,y 15th - --attended a Free Methodist protracted, (or rather, dis-tracted) meeting. The meeting lasted nearly three hours, the preaching being very good, but when they began to pray, sing, shout, dance, and hug each other, I got disgusted. The poor deluded people suppose that the Spirit of God causes them to act in that way, but I know that the Holy Spirit speaks peace to the heart, & doesn't breed confusion & discord. Women would jump up & down, shake their hats off, run around the house, some shaking hands, others hugging the men, and one tried to get at us, but I got as far away as possible, as I prefer to wait until I get home to be hugged. The people stared in astonishment when we refused to let the women hug us. Some would walk around the house with glazed eyes, staring at the ceiling, their hands and arms all twisted out of shape and screaming at the top of their voices, others whirl around till completely exhausted. Some of the men would shout & jump, but, being stronger, the spirit didn't get control of them so much. I was glad when it was over, for it tired me to see them act so, and I could feel the evil power at work." "Feb,y 18th - --held meeting in the evening, Bro Noble's discourse offending a great many because he told them how the evil spirit worked, contrasting it with Paul's description of the Spirit of

God. Received a challenge from an infidel for a debate, but he failed to get the house, so gave it up." "April 2nd Sunday - -held a good meeting in afternoon -- held meeting--. Spent the evening talking with a no. of young folks, some of them being very insolent, but I paid no attention to it. After going to our rooms, Mr Bennett came into my room and we talked until 1 o'clock." "May 28th Sunday - I spent the morning reading sermons to the Saints from the Des. News, and in talking. PM, went out walking with Frank L. Crippen, brother to Sister Haag, and explained the principles of life & Salvation to him, and on returning we all met in Bro. Haags parlor and held a short meeting, I administering the sacrament, and instructing the Saints, and we had a good time." "June 3rd - Bro. Frank was unable to go to work, being troubled with severe pains in his side, but on my administering to him the pain left him, for which we feel to thank God, knowing that it was through Him that the blessing was received." "June 5th - I consecrated a bottle of oil for Bro. Haag--" "June 11th Sunday - I attended Sunday School, and had the pleasure of answering several questions on the power to perform, and the necessity for miracles. It is surprising to see the extent to which prejudice will carry a person, even causing them to refuse to investigate, for fear they might believe."

"June 17th - At 10:30 A.M., having met at Red Ribbon Hall, Covington (Indiana), our Conference was opened. --Elders Geo. O. Noble, Moroni W. Pratt, Stephen R. Marks, myself, Sylvester Bradford and Prest. Wm. M. Palmer addressed the congregation, all having a faithful testimony to the truth of the Gospel of Christ." "June 25th Sunday - Bro. Bartlett and I went to Portland to attend the meetings of the Rev. Birch in opposition to 'Mormonism'. Listened to two lectures against our cause, the weapons used being slander, vituperation, novels and newspaper reports. The Rev. gentleman used as his text the 8th verse of 1st chapter of Galatians, 'Tho we, or and Angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed,' and in my reply, I used the same text, proving that he had preached other doctrine to them, and therefore came under the curse." "June 28th - -the photographer came up from town and took a photo of the house with all of us standing around, also a group consisting of Bros. Palmer, Folland, Bradford, Hawks, Noble, Marks, Pratt, Bartlett, and myself from Utah, Bro. Johnson, Mr. Shelby and Mr. Hunter." "July 19th - In the evening Bro. Dahl took us to Stromsburg, where we held meeting, but the powers of darkness were arrayed against us to such an extent as to overcome Bro. Bartlett, causing him to silence. I silently asked God to rebuke the power that was afflicting him and then took his place, as he had almost recovered, but on trying to talk I could hardly see the congregation. But God blessed me so that I was enabled to talk for some time."

OPPOSITION:³

Opposition was strong, both plain and devious and sometimes violent. "May 2nd - A young lady came in, in the evening, and was greatly astonished when she found we were Mormons. The people who find out who we are stare at us and seem greatly surprised." "May 19th - Stayed at Bro. Haag's this evening but will not stop any more after

tonight, as the folks are talking about us and Mrs. Haag doesn't think she can stand the talk." "May 22nd Sunday. - Held meeting but it was not very well attended. It was better in the evening although the heckler(?) element was pretty strong. They made quite a disturbance yelling and throwing a toad into the house." "June 19th. Sunday. - We went after the keys of the town hall which had been promised us, but found that the Marshall had received orders from the Mayor to not let us have the hall unless we paid five dollars which we could not do." "June 27th - We found the following notice pinned on one of our bills at Grafton yesterday. 'Brigham says, he or she who judgeth a matter before they tasteth is not wise. N.J.B. The people who would allow these or any other men to advocate such a damnable and lustful cause in their midst, are not worthy to be called an enlightened and intelligent people. One who knows.'" "Aug 25th. - As we left the school house we were stoned, but none of us were hurt, though myself and some others were hit." "Sept 27th. We went to Lynchburg in evening and only a very few persons being present we had not commenced meeting, when we were assailed with a shower of rotten eggs which were thrown at us through a window, and smeared us, as also several young ladies and gentlemen." "Sept 28th - Somebody has started a false report about us saying we had said that we're glad Prest. Garfield was dead and he got just what he deserved, and it is causing considerable excitement." "Oct 3rd. - The feeling against us is increasing, as the papers are publishing the report-" "Nov 10th & 11th. - I was surprised at receiving an invitation from Mrs. Jolley, who is sick with the smallpox, to call on them, but, on learning that it was only to have a talk I didn't go as I am expecting to leave here and didn't want to expose myself. Nov 12 & 13th. - Have heard several persons express the opinion that Mrs. Jolley sent for me only to get me into the disease." "Dec 17th - Before leaving Mr. B's the ladies expressed a great deal of `pity to see me engaged in a work so repugnant to them' but they found me a hardened `Mormon'." "Dec 27th - Called on Mr. Amps Knouffs, who got quite excited and wouldn't give his consent for us to use the church, so we went into town (Kennonsburg) tried to get the town hall, but were followed by Mr. Knouffs who excited the people against us, and tried to get us mobbed, but failed. He talked very rough, saying he `wouldn't tolerate such damnable heresies' as we taught, and if he `had the power, I would sink you so far in hell that you wouldn't get out again', (using his own words.) Bro. Noble told him he had the same spirit that caused the Savior to be crucified." "Jan 29th - -went to the church two miles east called Zion Hill, attended prayer meeting and expected to hold meeting there but Mr. Sampson Harris, one of the trustees objected, using very rough language, and saying it was an honor to the country that the prophet Joseph was killed by a mob." "Feb,y 18th - -During the evening a note was thrown in, which read as follows. - `Take Notice. It is about time you Mormonites was on your way back to Utah. Eggs are plenty, but wives are scarce, so git out of here by 6 o'clock on 19th inst.' As if, forsooth, we wanted any of their wives. For my part I intend looking nearer home for a wife & that not somebody else's wife." "Feb,y 25th - Mr. Bane, the director who gave his consent, came this morning and refused to let us hold any more meetings." "March 31st - Held meeting in the evening, which was poorly attended, and some rowdy men and boys tried to break it up by

throwing eggs against the window, and throwing one into the hall. Just after we closed our meeting, the roughs waiting for us got into a fight so we slipped out, and down a side street, thus avoiding them--" "April 6th - Two very zealous `Christians' made some insulting remarks at the close of our meeting, exhorting the young folks `in the name of the Lord not to believe such a false and corrupting doctrine' as we preached (on the Kingdom of God) and saying that we were false prophets, deluded, etc."

CONDITIONS AND SUPPORT:³

Missionaries went without purse or script at that time, depending upon the kindness of the members and general populace. This often necessitated the companions being split up for the evening and, often, for days. "April 29th - -went to the bath house where we fixed up a little-" "May 8th Sunday - -We took supper with Bro. Grill and wife, a young couple, who were baptized last March, and had a pleasant talk with them." "May 18th - -returned to Bro. Grills where I tried to read but my eyes are too sore." "May 26th - Had a fine bath at the Cave." "May 28th - -then walked to Bro. Grills where I found Bro. Noble had just arrived. He had been to Medina and while there had been stung by bees, and his face was swelled very badly. "June 4th - Went to Ridgeville in the evening and tried to get a place to stay over night, but were turned from about 20 places, and had to go to a hotel to stay over night. "June 17th - -had all the cherries I could eat at one place we stopped at." "June 19th. Sunday - In the evening we started out in the country as we did not want to pay any more hotel bills, and we separated, I staying at a house about two miles out, Bro. Noble going on farther." "June 20th. - --stopping at the strawberry bed which we found when out here before and had all the berries we wanted." "July 6th - -going to a hotel at Collinwood, as a gentleman who I asked for lodgings gave me enough to pay the bill, he not having room at his house." "July 10th. Sunday - We then started for Elyria, walking till 12 PM then getting in a barn where we slept until morning." "July 20th - David gave me \$1.50 for my work in the field-" "Aug 5th - Uncle M. Davis gave me five dollars to help me on my intended trip to Michigan, for which I thanked him very kindly--." "Aug 8th - Cousin David Davis gave us five dollars for work we had done for him." "Sept 7th - I walked to Wooster 10 mi. then took cars to Canton and walked to E. Rochester 22 miles, arriving at 8 PM tired and hungry as I had only 5 cents worth of crackers all day." "Sept 26th. - -I received a letter from Father containing a check for 20 dollars." "Sept 30th. - I went to Hanover with Uncle Eli and bought a suit of clothes and a hat, and as I have my boots, which were ordered last week, I have a new outfit, and hope I won't get any more eggs." "Nov 7th. - I left Mansfield and walked 24 miles, staying over night with a farmer who I paid for my lodging." "Nov 26th - -Walked 9 miles this day. Several young men got up a collection among themselves and paid our hotel bill, the Landlord not charging us for the bed, but only for food." "Dec 14th - -failing to get to stay, tried several places, finally going to Mr. R. Z. Bakers, having walked 6 mi. through the mud, part of the time being after dark, and O! how dark. We were splashed up considerably when we arrived at Mr. Bakers." "Dec 22nd - -walked 5 miles through the rain

and mud to Mr. Wm. Smith's where we stayed over night." "Dec 31st. - Mr. David Miller, the sheriff, who kindly allowed us to have the court house, also gave us a dollar, and our supper. I received \$25.00 from Father and Mother for a Christmas present." "Jan 4th - Joined Bro. Noble and we proceeded to the school house through a snow storm, held meeting and stayed at school house all night." "Jan 5th. - -stayed at the hotel, as I had a slight cold and didn't want to stay in the school house for fear of catching more." "Jan 21st. - -got the key of the school house, tried to get some coal from Mr. George Taylor, but he said that his conscience wouldn't allow him to show us any favor. He is very bitter and won't listen to us, but thinks he knows it all. A gentleman living near the house gave us some coal so we got the fire burning, held meeting--" "March 30th - After meeting, Mr. A. Langhead & B. E. Dilley sent us to the hotel, and paid our bill. We had had nothing to eat since morning, and went to bed supperless, so were quite hungry." "April 2nd Sunday - -in afternoon took a walk to the R R bridge where I took a bath--" "May 11th - Cousin Sue took me to Minerva in the buggy. Just before starting she gave me \$1.00, which was thankfully recd." "May 24th - I started out for Elyria, Bro. Noble intending to start for Covington, where we will hold Conference on 17 & 18th of June. After walking 18 miles I stopped and got some dinner, then walked 14 miles and stayed at the hotel in Rochester, feeling quite tired. Dist. 32 miles." "June 5th - I received some letters and a box of cake made on my birthday." (that is - May 22nd!) "July 4th - -called at a house to get a drink, and was bitten by a dog."

MISSION PHYSICAL WORK:³

"May 10th - Stayed with Bro. Haag and wife last night, and have been here all day with them. Bro. George and myself set out two evergreens for them this morning." "May 30th - We helped Bro. Grill make a milk stand-" "June 7th - I helped Bro. Grill milk, as he has twelve cows to tend, and I will help him when ever I am at his place." "June 16th - We planted some garden for Mrs. Grill-." "June 28th - I worked in the garden a short time--." "July 12th. - -helped Mr. Squires to bind wheat towards evening." "July 18th. - I worked for Cousin David in the field hauling wheat, as he could not get a hand to help. Blistered my hands some." "July 28th. - I worked for David in the field binding Oats." "Aug 2nd - I worked for Uncle Moses in the morning-." "Aug 3rd. - I worked for Cousin David all day hauling Oats-" "Aug 30 & 31st. - I helped Elders Zundle & Warner saw wood-." "Sept 15th. - I helped raise a barn for Mr. Curry-" "Nov 15th - -I helped Uncle M a short time with the threshing." "Dec 27th - -stayed at Mr. D. J. Ube Vickers, helping him gather in his sheep from the hills." "March 29th - I helped Servis (Rich) build fence. In the afternoon we all worked at the fence--" "April 19th - Uncle Moses came after me to drive team, hauling wood to the Depot, he having a contract for 100 cords. Rained hard in the afternoon, and I got wet, so I stopped work and changed clothes, staying at Uncle Eli's over night. April 20th - Hauled wood all day--. Felt sore and stiff after my work, as I haven't done any for so long. April 21st - I hauled wood all day. Took a load of lumber to the house when I quit work for the day. -April 22nd - I

hauled wood until 3 PM when it began to rain, so I took a load of lumber to the house, got a grist from the mill--. April 24th to 28th - Hauled wood, finishing at noon on 28th." "May 20th - We divided a swarm of bees for Mr. Selby--" "June 2nd - In the afternoon I pumped the cistern out and when the boys came we cleaned it out good." "June 26th - -helped do the churning after dinner--" "July 20th - Spent the morning helping Bro. Dahl set up his harvester." "July 22nd - Worked all day binding oats." "July 24th to 28th - Worked in havest field. 29th Rained so we couldn't work." "July 31st - Worked in field all day. Aug 1st 2nd & 3rd Worked in field."

LABORS WITH RELATIVES:³

"April 29th - -hunted up the family of Father's relation who received us very kindly. Mr. Kiplinger--. April 30th - Have had quite a talk about friends and relations with the family. The better we get acquainted the better we like each other. Charley, who is my age nearly, says he is going to try to go out to Utah with me." "June 14th. - I left Mr. Waltzes for Troy where I found the Bishop family, but they knew nothing of Cousin Ella. I took dinner with them and had a long talk about our Gospel." "July 14th. - Uncle Eli and I went to Bayard to get my baggage, and then went to the farm where Cousin Howard lives, and had a drink from the spring where my Mother drank while a little girl." "Sept 25th. - We held meeting in afternoon and evening and went to Howard's I went to the Ball place, the home of my Mother just before she left Ohio." "Oct 10th - we rode with Cousin James Weaver to E. Rochester--" "Oct 25th. - I spent the morning at Uncle M's--" "Nov 17th. - Left E. R. in afternoon and walked to Cousin James Weavers." "April 14th - I went to Minerva, had a few minutes talk with Uncle Balis Davis, then went to E. Rochester where I received a kind welcome. I spent the evening at David's where I had a pleasant time. --April 15th --went to Uncle Moses Davis's in the evening--" "May 1st - Spent the morning at Uncle Eli's and in the afternoon went with Cousin Sue after Sassafras and had a pleasant walk through the woods." "May 7th - In the evening Cousin Sue and I took a buggy ride calling at James Weaver's and Oliver Taylor's and having a very pleasant time, getting home at 10 PM." "June 8th - Aunt Susan and I went to Cousin James Weavers, spent the day pleasantly--" "June 9th - I took the horse and buggy and went after Aunt Sene Taylor, as she wished to attend the funeral of her old friend Mrs. Stackhouse." "June 11th Sunday - Spent the day at David's, and went over to Uncle Moses' with Uncle Eli, Aunt Susan and Miss Edwards, then returned to Uncle Eli's."

BAPTISMS:³

"Oct 30th Sunday. - I walked out to Egberts and spent the morning with them, then returned to Elyria and baptized and confirmed Sister Crabtree's son, by a former husband. His name is John J. Kirkbride. Age at time of baptism 8 yrs 2 days." "Nov 9th. - I continued my journey, arriving at E. Rochester about 3 PM. I met Bro. Noble near E. Rochester and went with him to the creek in David's field, where we were met by him, Bro. Noble baptizing and I being mouth in confirming him."

"May 30th -Returned to Elyria, when I found that Frank Crippen wished to be baptized. He and I attended decoration ceremonies, and in the evening we proceeded to the river where I baptized him, and after returning to the house, I confirmed him a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." June 23rd - -after supper Bro. Bradford baptized Mrs. E. B. Smith, he, Bro. Noble and myself confirming her, Bro. Noble being mouth."

PERSONALITY:

SOCIABILITY:³

John was sociable and enjoyed the company of others, including young ladies. "May 21st - Mr. O'Connor asked me to stay to dinner which I did having a very pleasant time with the family. He has three grown daughters at home, two teaching school." "Nov 27th. - We held meeting, and I was invited home by a young lady, Miss Parsons, and, with several other young folks, sat up all night with a corpse." "Jan 31st - I had a pleasant talk with Miss Delia Tilton in the afternoon. She was quite interested in our gospel and I think will investigate." "June 26th - -we spent the evening talking and singing."

SENSITIVITY TO BEAUTY:³

John was sensitive to the beauty around him and wrote of it. "May 2nd - -went to the woods to gather flowers." "May 3rd - Took a ride with Mrs. K. this evening to the Cemetery, which is the finest one I ever saw, being laid out in circular lots with a drive around them. Some of the monuments are very fine, costing as high as 3000 dollars." "May 13th - Just before sunset we went to the lake shore and was well paid for our trouble as we saw a very fine sight. The sun was setting in a mass of fleecy clouds and was really handsome." "Aug 3rd. - -in the evening went with a young man, Jim Kentner to a Mr. Whitacres where I had a pleasant time listening to the music, there being a violin and organ, and well played." "Aug 14th. Sunday - -our road being along Woodward Ave. a very fine broad street, and some of the finest houses I have seen are on this street. Detroit is sometimes called the Venice of America, and is the finest city I have seen yet." "June 1st - -went to the library in the evening with Bro. Frank, listened to the band, then went to the falls, the moon being bright and the sky clear, the falls looking grand and beautiful."

RECREATION:³

"April 26th - Went to the theater and was very well entertained by the play." "May 13th - Went to the Circus in the afternoon, and had a pleasant time." "June 18th - I left the hotel for a walk on the beach and had a pleasant time, the breeze from the lake being cool and refreshing." "July 21st. - I went to Mount Union with Howard, Morris and their wives to attend commencement exercises at the college and had a very nice time-" "Sept 19th & 20th. - -and went fishing the afternoon of the 20th and caught 5 small sunfish." "Oct 11th. - We went to the woods and gathered hickory nuts, having a very good time."

"March 25th - -we spent a very pleasant evening, Miss Tavia Caldwell playing and singing for us." "March 28th - Lewis Rich asked me to go to a Literary Institute at Dumfertle school house, which I did, having a pleasant time, and taking part in the exercises." "April 18th - - went up to Cousin Morris's to hear the music, the house being full of company. The instruments were an organ and two violins, and I enjoyed it very well." "June 30th - Arrived at Chicago at 5 PM -- we stayed all night, visiting Dr. Davison's Museum of Anatomy, also Hooley's theatre, but didn't like the play very much, took a walk through the streets after the theatre was out and were accosted with 'Hello boys' by two young women, street walkers, but we didn't go out to hunt that kind of amusement, so passed on."

CURIOSITY:³

Curiosity was high in his nature and he could not pass up an interesting item without seeing and commenting on it. "April 20th - Crossed Dale Creek bridge at 12:10 P.M. Utah time. It is the frailest bridge I ever saw. The length is 260 ft, heighth 126 ft. Sherman is the highest station on the U. P. and is close to Dale Creek bridge. Altitude 8242 ft." "May 13th - Went to the Circus in the afternoon, and had a pleasant time." "May 22nd Sunday. Today I am twenty two years old, it is the 22nd of the month, and I am going to preach twice, being quite a number of twos." "June 4th - We then left for Elyria, and on the road, about four miles from Lorain there is an observatory erected by a company for a lake survey. I ascended it and had a fine view of the lake and surrounding country. The observatory is 135 feet high and is a good place for viewing the country." "June 10th. - I saw some turtles for the first time, in the water along the road." "June 29th - At about 8:30 a very severe storm of wind and rain came up, the wind blowing down trees in every direction. It only lasted a few minutes, but left its track plainly marked by fallen trees and hanging limbs." "June 30th - I arrived at the Niagara Falls this morning and went to Prospect Park where I had a lunch, then went to Prospect Point, which is at the edge of the American falls and from which place a good view of both falls. The American Falls are the highest, but not as fine as the Horseshoe fall as the water is muddy and only about four feet deep where it takes its plunge over the cliffs to the rocks below." "July 1st - -took the steamer Chicord for Toronto and return, the distance to Toronto being 43 miles, a very pleasant ride across Lake Ontario. Across the river from Lewiston at Queenstown Heights is a monument erected in honor of General Brock who was killed at the above named place in the war between England and America. He is said to have been one of the best Generals in the English army at that time, and was respected by all who knew him." "July 7th - -walking from there to Kirtland, and went to the Temple which we found in a dilapidated condition and names written all over the walls and some on the ceiling." "Oct 10th. - -we received a paper containing the account of Apostle Pratt's death. It was sad news to us, but we should not mourn, as he was a great & good man and has gone to his work behind the veil, sure of his reward." "Oct 27th. - -walked 3 miles to the rail road going to the coal mines, and got a ride of over a mile on the engine which is the smallest one I have ever seen on a road-" "Nov

5th. - I spent the day at the Cracker factory where Charley works. Saw how they make Crackers finding that they use ammonia, tartaric acid and other drugs injurious to the health." "Nov 24th. - Saw the Ohio River for the first time, also the border of West Va." "Feb,y 8th - Saw an oil well which had been burning for three years. It was sunk 1616 ft. and a stream of salt water then came up in the pipe, which was an 8 in. one, and the water was sent up with such force as to reach a height of 300 feet. There being so much water they could not work the well, so the pipe was drawn out when the gas and oil rose to the surface and was set on fire." "Jan 2nd - We sat for some photo's--" "April 5th - --at Birmingham we saw the directors of the school house, and Dr. Rosamond influenced the others to let us have it. The Dr. has one of the finest libraries I ever saw, among the collection being a Book of Mormon of the 1st edition which he values at \$100.00." "April 12th - We proceeded to Gnaden-hutten and visited the scene of the massacre of 96 Christian Moravian Indians by the whites in 1782. A monument has been erected in their memory at a cost of \$3000.00 and is 35 feet high, built of a gray sandstone, and looks very nice." "June 30th - saw two effigies of Guitteau hanging, this being the day of his execution."

LACK OF PREJUDICE:³

"May 1st Sunday - -went to Sunday School, and had a very pleasant time. Was in the Minister's class and like his way of teaching. Visited the S. C. Concert which is just like our Union." "We went to the Methodist church this morning, and heard a good sermon but it was written down. The Subject or text was from Proverbs 'Train up a child in the way it should go, and when it gets old it will not depart from it.'" "Sept 19th & 20th. - Received the news of the death of President Garfield and feel to mourn with the nation at his death." "Nov 1st. - I then returned to Collinwood by way of Euclid Ave. and visited the Lake View Cemetery where Prest. Garfield is laid." "Feb,y 26th - Sunday. We went to Hoskinsville and attended the Methodist Service, Rev. Mr. Fisher giving a very good discourse from the following text. 'But if while we seek to be justified by Christ we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.'" "

HIS MOTHER'S DEATH:³

"Jan 17th. - I spent the morning reading. Wrote a letter to my Darling Mother and after dinner went to Sarahsville where I received several letter, one from Mother written on the 10th."

1882⁴

Gentile Valley Idaho Jan 10th.
My Dear Son

We received yours
of the -----and were glad to
hear that you were well, and hope
this will find you still enjoying
good health. I had a letter from
Father last week, he was well, said

he had finished my Secretary and took it to the painters and told him to take time and make a good job of it. He has been working in his shop this winter, and the boys do the feeding and out door work. Aunt Hannah wrote to him and told of Uncle Josey's death, she says she thinks you are rather young to be sent out preaching. I think that our boys are more earnest in trying to fulfill

(page 2)

their missions than some of the men are, and the sooner they take hold of the work the more good they will be able to do for themselves and others. I am glad that you received your money and when you need more don't be afraid to let us know. Sarah told pa when he was down last, that you had to have the filling taken out of your teeth, wasn't it a good job? or what was the trouble. I have sent the News to you all the time, we didn't have any paper wrappers or mucilage, so I wrapped them in a piece of paper and tied them with a string, have you got any that have been sent that way? Perhaps they havn't been forwarded from Rochester, we are going to send for some wrappers and then I

(page 3)

think you will get them alright. Your father had a letter from Col. Fulmer last week, he wants to buy a part of Aunt Sarah's lot or the house and lot both if pa will sell. I don't want him to sell it if we can get along without, we will need the fruit until we can raise some here, and I think property will increase in value for some time yet, in Logan. Col. signs himself
Your Matrimonial Nephew.

We have had a great deal of rainy weather this winter, but it has been quite cold for two or three days past, there is a little snow, but not enough to make very good sleighing. Our house is real warm if it is an old cabin. I believe it is warmer than our house in Logan.

(page 4)

Arta came in Saturday and wanted me to take a sleigh ride he was going to take his wife and Sister Hale. I wouldn't go. I had my floor partly scrubbed, and the children were getting ready for their primary, and several persons were after their mail, and pa was busy in the store. I never had so much to do in my life, the mail comes every day about 2 o'clock except Sunday and the folks are calling at all hours for their mail, and I can't get along with my work very well when I have to stop so many times. I don't know whether there is any sense to this letter or not, I have had to stop writing so many times. Hem says he sends lots of kisses to you.

With love to you and Bro.
Noble, I remain your loving Mother.
Rachel H. Thatcher

(This was the day she was killed, Jan 10th 1882.) "Jan 26th. - I spent the morning writing, started a letter to Mother but didn't finish it. Went to Caldwell, got two letters, one with the Gentile Valley post mark which I opened thinking it my usual letter from my Darling Mother, and O how shocked I was to find that she had met with an accident by which she lost her precious life. O Mother, Mother, how hard the parting is. And I had been looking forward to our meeting again with such joy. It is almost too much to bear, but God rules, and knows what is best, though it nearly breaks my heart."

His Uncle, Moses Thatcher, wrote a letter⁵ of consolation and explanation, advising John to remain in the mission field, and to break the news to the Davis family, his Mother's relatives. He reported the contents of a telegram in which the time of death

was "fifteen minutes past ten this (Tuesday) morning--". Moses said the log cabin on the Gentile Valley ranch was made of one room to the north, built first and soundly, and an add-on room of logs to the south, built firmly at the south end but where the logs butted to the north room "only secured by means of two inch planks nailed on the inside and outside just in the corners--the logs rested one upon another, being held in place only by these perpendicular pieces--. Nathan, Howard and Henry were in the north room and were safe. Your Mother was standing at the table, when on hearing a sudden cracking noise, and seeing one of the ceiling joists upon which the canvas was tacked, settle somewhat, ran to put a prop under it--and at the same time told little Gilbert to run for his father--. The child got out--when the top logs at the end of the room shot out on the East side--. Your Mother fell towards the stove and her head was caught between the first and second ribs of the roof and the blow and weight, while not being sufficient to crush the head--was sufficient to take her life instantly. The south end of the roof remained, and Lula, Lettie and the hired girl were saved. There was no other place, scarcely, where your Mother in that room could have found this untimely death."

"Sunday March 5th - Today is the 46th anniversary of My Darling Mother's birthday."

MARRIAGE:

His Missionary Journal does not indicate directly that he even knew his future wife, but it does refer to letters to and from a "Nell" or "Nellie", who also sent him a "nice silk handkerchief" for the Christmas of 1881. When John left on his mission Nellie Muir was about 18 ½ years of age and when he returned she had just turned 20.

"My Mother was born and raised in Woods Cross, Utah. My Father was born in Payson, Utah. I have no idea how they met. Mother said that they had only met three or four times and Dad went on his mission, and they corresponded all the while he was on his mission."⁶

That some prior acquaintance and attraction had been achieved is most reasonable as they were married one month after John's return. On December 21, 1882, John Bethewel Thatcher Jr. and Sarah Ellen "Nellie" Muir were married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City by Joseph F. Smith.⁷

PARENTAGE OF "NELLIE" MUIR:

William Smith Muir was born July 19, 1822 at Bannockburn, Shropshire, Scotland. On Jan. 19, 1842 he was baptized, at the age of 19 ½. On Jan. 1, 1844 he married Jean (called Jane) Robb, who was also from Scotland being born Jan. 10, 1822, Logie Parish, Sterling, Scotland. Thus he was 21 ½ and she almost 22 at the time of their marriage.

William and Jean sailed for America in the same month they

were married, arriving in Nauvoo on April 18, 1844, shortly before Joseph Smith was martyred. They took part in the 1846 exodus from Nauvoo and on July 16, 1846, William left his expectant wife and one child to join the Mormon Battalion. He was mustered out of the Battalion exactly one year later in California. He, with others of the Battalion made their way north to Sutter's Fort looking for employment to be able to purchase supplies for the trip back.

They began the trip back east in September. When they reached the Tahoe Valley, they met James Brown, who brought them letters and the advice to go back and winter in California as the supplies were very scarce at the new settlement in Utah. This they did, and were there when gold was discovered. Nevertheless they left California and its gold in July, arriving in Salt Lake City in October and then Council Bluffs in November, 1848. This was 2 years and 4 months after William left his family. William found his wife alive but the one child he left and the one born while he was gone were dead. In June of 1849 they left for the Salt Lake Valley arriving in September, walking most of the way.

William and Jane settled in Woods Cross (now West Bountiful) on a claim obtained from Isaac Morley. William engaged in farming and cattle raising. In the tradition and call of the day, William entered into Polygamy, taking for his second wife on 23 Oct. 1853, Mary Ann Berry, being married in the Endowment House.

Mary Ann Berry was born on 25 Feb., 1833, in Cooksfield, Sussex, England. She was baptized on 24 Apr. 1851 at slightly more than 18 years of age. Joining the church cost her both family and friends. She came to America to be with those of her own faith. She worked for a few months in Salt Lake City before her marriage. She was thus 20 years of age and 11 years younger than William and Jane when she married William.

Mary Ann gave birth to ten children, four of which lived to maturity. Nellie was the fourth of the ten and the third of the four who lived to grow up. One daughter, her last, died at the age of 5 days and was her namesake, Mary Ann. The Mother followed the child two months later on 2 Apr., 1874. This left Nellie motherless at the age of 11. She, and some of the other children of Mary Ann, went to live with Jane. Her Father, William Smith Muir died on 27 Nov., 1896, nearly 14 years after Nellie was married.

Nellie kept a book of poems (now in the possession of Estelle Jensen Ward), and on one page she recorded a poem of hers with the chorus:

Dreaming of home, dear old home,
Home of my child-hood and Mother.
Oft when I wake, tis sweet to find,
I've been dreaming of home and Mother.

Her Father wrote on one page at the time of her marriage:

My Daughter Nellie

Soon you will go north.
May all these happy days that
you have passed through,
be reminders for your
future happiness with the
man of your choice.
In your future home be
very humble & prayerful
that the Lord may always
help you & yours. Respect
your father

W. S. Muir



DESCRIPTION OF JOHN AND NELLIE THATCHER:⁶

"Mother had hair about like my sister May's, kinda brown. Her eyes were brownish blue. She was 5 foot 2 inches tall and at one time she weighed 225 pounds. One time in Teton Basin she raced in a sack race together with Melissa Ann Atwood Shaw, who was about the same size. There was also Mrs. Breckinridge, who was bigger than both and one or two others that were pretty good size and they all got in sacks and had a race!

"Dad was about 5 foot 11 inches tall. His eyes were almost brown at times. When he was young they were light brown, then later, they turned blue. He had a red mustache and his hair was reddish brown. When I was a little girl, about eight, I will never forget it, I would sit on his lap while he was reading and take ribbons and comb his mustache and braid it and put ribbons on it. He was ambidextrous to an extent. He ate with his left hand and was basically left-handed but when he was a kid they made him change and write right-handed. So he wrote right-handed, ate left-handed, chopped wood right-handed, but shoveled left-handed.

"Later, when Dad went to Church to the University Ward in Salt Lake City, after Mother died, and I think they called on him to dismiss Sunday School, and he asked them to excuse him. It was such an unusual thing for Dad to do anything like that, to be excused, that I asked him why afterwards. He said that he was scared, and of course he had a bad heart, and the fear aggravated it to such an extent that he thought that he would faint, so he asked to be excused. At that time he told me that he had never in all his life got up before a crowd to speak, to preach or to get up in front of the public in any way without having to overcome fear or endure it all the while he was speaking. Mother said he used to stand with his feet crossed and put his big finger on the corner of a table and lean on it while he spoke until she was afraid he would fall.

"Mother was just the opposite from Dad. She had no inhibitions or fear about getting before the public or anything

like that. She could perform and speak and she could sway crowds with her speaking very easily. That old Stake House in Driggs, which could hold about 1,000 people, was jam packed, so crowded that they were standing up in the aisles and in the doorways and in the hallways and they called on her to recite as part of the program. She recited a poem and she had them weeping, the people were furtively and openly wiping their eyes because it was so good, it was such a wonderful performance that she put on. Of course the applause was great and she came back and this time she recited a comedy, I think it was Jarias Green and his Flying Machine, anyway it was a comedy, and they were laughing just as wildly as they were weeping just a few minutes before. Of course the poems had something to do with it but her performance or way of putting them over was that way too. She was very good and she would get up and speak in Church and Relief Society, and one thing about it, if she knew anything at all about the subject she could speak without preparation. But poor Dad, he would study and work and then he would have fear all the while he was speaking. Most of us kids take after him except maybe Preston and Rachel. "Mother told me that when Mother and Dad lived up in Teton Basin they went to a meeting out at Rexburg with people from all over that country. Mother got in the wrong building, she was supposed to go to one building because she was in Relief Society and she got mixed up and went into another building. While she was there one of the speakers got up and asked if there was anybody that understood this lady that had got up and talked. Mother said she sat there like a dumbbell because she thought everybody had understood her. She thought that was what he was asking, if everybody had understood, and she did, so she just sat there. But come to find out nobody else understood what the woman said. After the meeting was over they began to talk about it and then she knew that the woman had spoken in tongues and that she understood it and she could have got up and repeated it but she didn't know that was what they were asking for. She was in the wrong meeting anyway and a little bit timid because of it, I suppose."

FIRST IDAHO YEARS:

"My first son was born in Gentile Valley 19 Oct. 1883, where I worked for a year on Father's ranch. Moved to Idaho Falls in 1885. Worked for the UNRR two years and was instrumental in helping locate and build the first L.D.S. meetinghouse, canvassed the stores, banks, saloons, and all business houses for donations and received very good support. The first Bishop was a Bro. Thomas."²

"At one time Dad worked in the roundhouse at Pocatello. Mother told me about the heavy winds then that would move hay loads, rack and all, from one field to another. They also lived in Eagle Rock (Idaho Falls)."⁶

"When in Idaho Falls, Dad worked on the telegraph lines west of Idaho Falls, as I recall him saying. When they put in the

telegraph poles they would have to dig down three and four feet in the lava rock. He said it was just pure misery and they couldn't go very far nor very fast because they were digging most of the time through straight lava rock."⁶

"Indians lived there too. Mom said that this old buck Indian came to the house and wanted a drink. Mother had just churned so she asked if he wanted buttermilk and he would grunt instead of saying yes. So she gave him a quart container full of buttermilk. When he got through she asked him if he liked it. He just grunted again so she gave him some more. When he got through with that he said, 'Heap no good!' That was the funny part of it, after he drank two quarts it was 'Heap no good!'" "The Indians scared Frank and Wallace when they were little, Mother said. They had this fence with a little tiny hole in it or a picket off of it or something, just the bottom part of the picket leaving a little hole in the bottom of the fence. Frank and Wallace were on the outside when an Indian came up there. Frank got so frightened he tried to crawl through this tiny hole and he couldn't get his hips through, he was so chubby. He was just a wiggling and worming and screaming to get through there and Wallace picked up a great big rock as big as his head and he held that up ready to throw it at the Indian. Soon as Frank got through the hole Wallace scooted through too. Mother said that she got a big kick out of it afterwards because the Indian was standing there and he was just laughing fit to kill watching those boys get through the fence.

"For a long time so many of the hobos would come there to Mother's door and she'd feed them. She got to talking to some of the other women about it and they said, 'Why you're marked.' And she said, 'Marked? What do you mean?' And they said, 'Well, those hobos have put a mark somewhere on your fence or on your gate or on a post indicating that you are an easy mark for food and any coming through will see it and come to you to get food.' She said, 'Well, what's a person supposed to do about it?' And they said, 'Make him chop some wood or do some other kind of work for his food and it won't be long and they'll put up a sign to stop.' So the next one that came along she had him go out and chop some wood while she fixed dinner and it took her about a half hour and he was chopping wood all that time. She fixed him a nice dinner but after that the hobos began to dwindle away, they never came back much after that because they had to work for their dinner and they didn't like that."⁶

STAR VALLEY WYOMING:

"Not liking the RR business, I moved to the headwaters of Blackfoot River where I worked three years, putting up hay and feeding, then I moved to Star Valley, Wyo. locating in the lower Valley and engaging in the dairy business and with my brother engaged in the Creamery business."² The headwaters of the Blackfoot River lies east of Blackfoot, Idaho, and is in the area of Henry, Wayan and Grays Lake, a region of high elevation

valleys. Star Valley, Wyo. lies a few miles over a small pass to the east.

"In 1894-5 I located and platted and surveyed a townsite on land owned by my Uncle, Bishop Wm. Preston, filed the survey in the land office of Evanston, Wyo. and was made Bishop of the Bedford Ward, on this townsite."²

"Then they moved to Bedford, Wyoming, and that's where all the rest of the kids were born after the first three boys. Dad was sent there by the Church to organize the Church in the Valley. Dad was Bishop up there for nearly 10 years. Rachel was the first white child born in the Valley. Dad had a farm in Bedford and he also had a dry goods store together with Uncle Nate Thatcher. He lived up there, too, and Uncle Howard Thatcher. Uncle Frank Thirkill was up there too at that time, but I don't think he was in on the store. They all worked together. I believe the store was in Thayne."⁶

"One time there was supposedly an Indian uprising, they were on the warpath. People from all over the Valley, there in Bedford, Fremont County, came to Dad's place. Mother would put the babies in the bedroom, they laid them side by side in two rows down the bed and the bigger kids were rolled under the bed. She had two rooms just literally covered with babies, packed like sardines. Dad said that they had a wheat field that was just getting ripe and one man came there and was so excited that he took off his saddle and put his horse in the timber and took his saddle and bridle out in the middle of that wheat field and hid them. Dad said, 'Just as if that wouldn't be one of the first things that they would do, to fire the wheat field!' It turned out that it was just a big scare and no Indians showed up. Mother said that she had a lot of company and visited a lot."⁶

"Mother said when Frank was a little boy they had some visitors from Salt Lake, Church officials, and Dad was the Bishop so they stayed at our place. One of them was bald headed. Frank was still in dresses but he was just learning to talk good. He kept walking around until he'd get in front of that man and look up at him and Dad would push him back. The third time he got around front there was a lull in the conversation and he looked up at the man and said, 'You'ms face is on top of you'ms head ain't it?' Mother said she was so embarrassed because he was a high official in the Church. The crazy things that kids can think to say."⁶

"Mother had a covered sleigh with a stove and the canvas drawn tight so that just a peephole was in front. She would go about Star Valley giving painting lessons in all weather. The horses mainly knew where to go but she would peek out with one eye to check. This eye got cold and had an infection from that. -- Later, Mother -- got an abscess in her right eye --. Then one night when she was asleep and Dad in his sleep turned and his elbow hit that eye and broke the abscess. It was excruciating pain. I never will forget the scream she gave. It scared us all, we were all just so scared! But her eye healed up after

that. That bothered that eye the rest of her life."⁶

"I remember also we had our picture taken. There was Mother and Dad and Estelle and myself and I think Preston and May were in it too.

"One winter when I was about 4 or 5 years old Mother rented a house in Paris, Idaho, so that the older children could go to the Academy there. She took in boarders and measles started among the children and spread clear through the boarders too. Mother would make an oat tea for the kidneys by boiling oats and draining off the liquid and adding a little sugar. It was the nastiest stuff I ever drank."⁶

"At this house in Paris, Idaho, Mother had May and Rachel scrubbing floors until they were white. She made them do it on hands and knees and wouldn't allow any overlap between scrubbing spots, the whole floor had to be the same color. At the same time Mother was making soap in a kettle on a tripod over a fire in the yard. She would put in the grease and bring it to a boil and add lye and water and taste the mixture until it passed her approval. Then she would pour it into a tub and let it set. Later the tub would be turned upside down over a board and the soap cut up into bars for storage. She made the lightest and whitest soap that way. On this day while May and Rachel were scrubbing the floor, Estelle and I were to cut up the soap. It was still pretty soft so you could push your fingers into it and Estelle cut with a butcher knife. The soap kept slipping so I pushed my fingers into it to hold it in place. Estelle cut and hit something and I said, "You ran into a rock" and pulled my hands out and she kept on cutting. Then I looked down and my finger was bleeding, just dripping blood, but I couldn't feel anything because of the deadening of the lye. I ran into Mother to show her, dripping blood all the way, right across the floor they had just scrubbed. Boy did Rachel tell me "what for" for getting the floor bloody!"⁶

"Dad started a Creamery in Bedford, Wyoming. It was the first one that was put up there, in fact it was the only one there and the one that is running there today is an offshoot of the one that Dad started years and years ago. Frank Thirkill was running it in partnership and Uncle Nate was in partnership in the dry goods store."⁶

THAYNE WYOMING:

"In 1896 (I) was elected Representative to the Wyo. Legislature serving one term. We located our creamery in the Thayne Ward, engaged in merchandising, and I was manager and moved to Thayne in 1904, giving up my office as Bishop."²

"The winter Estelle was born Dad represented Star Valley on the Wyoming Legislature. There was a woman representative named Estelle Real (or Reel) and when she heard of Estelle's birth she asked Dad if she could name the baby. He said yes and the woman gave him a silver cup with 'Estelle Real' engraved on it."⁶

"The next thing I remember was Dad building the big house. We left the farm and went into this big house and went into the big general merchandise store with Uncle Nate. Dad had built a great big nine room house, the first plastered house in that area. I remember the hall, the stairway wood was all done in cherry wood and Mother had a big pineapple tree that reached from the floor to the top landing. If you reached out and pinched that plant it would smell just like pineapple and would scent the whole house. It was a great big tall thing and it was in a great big bucket."⁶

"When I was about 6 years old the store burned down. Uncle Howard Thatcher, I believe, was overcome with smoke. It melted the candy in the candy counter until it was one big messy glob. Mother was the first one to notice anything about it because we kids went in there and wanted something. It was the 4th of July and we went in to get some candy and, of course, we asked Mother and she was busy and she said, "Wait a minute." I remember that distinctly. She was waiting on another woman and she had to go towards the front of the store. On the right as you go in she had olive oil, vanilla, vinegar and all the liquid stuff up there. And while I was standing there a cork blew out of one of the olive oil bottles. Mother turned around and she said, 'That's funny,' and I remember her reaching up and touching it. She told us kids, 'Now you go on up to where they're having a program at the meeting house.' She wanted to get us out of the way, she knew immediately what would happen. She went and told Dad. Somehow or another somebody had started the fire days before by putting something lighted in a knothole. The building was double and filled with sawdust for insulation. That sawdust, you see, had been burning and burning and that liquid stuff in those bottles had got so hot that it would pop the cork. Mother had noticed it was hot in there, you know, but she didn't pay much attention to it as she thought it was because they were busy. Preston and Estelle and May and I got part way up to the church house and then beat it back when we saw the flames. There was a pair of sugar scales up on the counter and ordinarily Mother couldn't lift one corner of them. When that fire started she lifted those things right off that counter, she was so excited, and carried them outside and sat them down. Frank picked up a phonograph, one that took a cylinder record and had a huge horn on it. I'll never forget that either because I was standing right there. He didn't shut it off, it was playing all the time and it was playing that old record, 'Whoa Bill, whoa Bill, where ya gonna go Bill', all the while he was carrying it out from the back to the front of the store. Other people, they were picking dry goods up and shoes and throwing them out the back door, and the flames were going in that direction, they would throw stuff out and it would just lick them up and char them, the shoes would just shrivel in the flames. They were so excited that they didn't know what they were doing. They were throwing the silks and things out to the flames and carrying cottons out the front door. The things that were less expensive

they were saving and the expensive things they were giving to the flames. Everybody was excited, I know that, and the thievery going on! Some people would come up in their wagons and as things were brought out they would just load their wagons and go off with it. Dad and Uncle Nate and Uncle Howard were so busy they didn't see what was happening. Oh, it was terrible confusion! All they had was a bucket brigade, there wasn't a thing they could do, you see it was all inside the walls and just burst out all at once, all over. The insurance had just run out a few days before. Dad had sent it back, I recall him saying, but they had sent it back because of some flaw in it. He got it July 3rd and he had fixed it up to send it back but hadn't mailed it yet. If it had been even in the Post Office, they could have collected the insurance. All they gleaned from it was two or three hundred dollars from the stuff that they had saved. There was seventeen years life savings in that."⁶

TETON BASIN IDAHO:

"In 1905 our store was destroyed by fire, crippling us severely financially, and we moved our creamery to the Teton Basin. I took an active part in Church work, being in the High Council of Teton Stake from 1907 to 1913."²

"After the store burned down we moved to Teton Basin within a year or so. Frank had married Martha Heap and he stayed and lived there in Bedford. Dad went on ahead and took all the household goods. But I remember Mother and Estelle and I in the 'White Top' going and it was cold. Mother was quite a big woman and she had me on one side and Estelle on the other and she made us take off our shoes and stick our feet under her thighs so we could get them warm because we were so cold. We'd sit on the seat with our feet up like that pushed under her so we wouldn't freeze them."⁶

"The next thing I remember is we lived up there by Jack Henrie's place above Lofthouse's place right up against the foothills in Teton Basin. We lived there the first winter. The next place we moved to was across the creek south of the Shaw homestead. Dad and Wallace built a creamery on the east end of it near the road and just south of the bridge across from the Shaw homestead. Grandpa Shaw helped build it also. Don't ask me how Dad got the money, that was something that kids never knew anything about and didn't pay any attention to the wherewithal of things."⁶

The following is an envelope with this on it:

Return address:

RETURN TO
SPRING CREEK CREAMERY CO.
MANUFACTURERS OF
FULL CREAM CHEESE AND GILT EDGE
CREAMERY BUTTER

