

# Jessie Lebell Brandon

(Told By Grace Olsen)

Dave Acosta  
U.S. History  
8<sup>th</sup> hour

Dave: Ok Grandma, tell me about your mom.

Grace: Well she was born on August 10, 1910, in Mt. Pleasant, Utah. To Elisha and Victoria, your great-great-grandparents. She had some heart problems when she was born and they didn't have a lot of gadgets to test her so they just let her go home hoping she would grow out of it.

Dave: Ight well how many brothers and sisters did she have?

Grace: I believe that she had two brothers and one sister.

Dave: That's cool. Do you know any stories she told you of her when she was a kid.

Grace: (Sighs) Yea well she had a younger brother that would have been my uncle Earl, in I think I may have been 1912 but I can't remember it' been so long, I'm sorry.

Dave: No it doesn't matter that much.

Grace: Well he was born around then and back in them days; you know there wasn't a lot of formula like they have now u know.

Dave: Yea

Grace: and when he was born grandma wasn't gettin any milk in her breast to feed him, so grandpa went out to one of the cows that had just had a calf, and figured that he could give it some milk from it to feed him. But back then they didn't understand that it wasn't good for them. Anyhow he gave him some milk in the bottle and it was said that he lived on it for his first week but it caked up in his stomach and he got a cheese lump in his little stomach. He died not more than a week after he was born.

Dave: That was a hard time for her huh. That would of sucked.

Grace: My mother never did know him.

Dave: Yea well that would be a bad deal.

Grace: Yes (sniff)

Dave: Did she ever say anything about your grandpa?

Grace: His name was Elisha, and she always went on to me about how he was like a town pillar, and he would go around in the wagon 'round Mt. Pleasant and load up the people of the town and take them carollin' in the Winter round Christmas Time. Always she told me how he was a contractor that would build houses and stores around the town. She told me that one time he was building a rock fence around the house that they lived in and a man walking by told him that he was wastin his time that it would never hold up. Still he went down time and time again until he had stacked them three feet high. He was good with his hands and he made it stand sturdy. That fence is still standing around that house to this day. They used to say that he wrote poems sometimes when he was out in the farm and had some time to think, (chuckles) my mother said that he would never like talkin' bout it thought cuz he was possessed to be a tuff man and all.

Dave: Yea I think grandpa showed the fence to me last time we were over there, well I no I wouldn't tell my friends if I was writtin poems.

Dave: Hey my mom told me that your mom's mom was a great cook.

Grace: Heavens she was! My mom used to tell me, while we was eatin dinner that I had to eat it all, and then give me a little wink because she told me once that when he mom was cooking that she would try to come home late and avoid eating dinner because she was very particular about her figure, and with grandma fixin all this wonderful food it was hard to resist.

Dave: Chicks like that are always at my school.

Dave: So what happened to them?

Grace: What do you mean?

Dave: Well how long did they live?

Grace: Well grandpa lived into about his 60's and then he died of that damn sugar diabetes, like your aunt Tina has, and grandma died in her 60's too, of old age I would guess.

Dave: So about your mom now.

Grace: Well her older sister Vianna was getting into make up when she was just five or six and Mom said her and her friends would play dress up with Vianna's make-up, boy did that ever make a girl mad than to have your make up gotten into. I know your mom and aunt Lisa used to do it to me all the time.

Dave: Yea my mom is gonna hear that and bring back the memories huh.

Dave: Yea so what about her teenage years?

Grace: Well Mt. Pleasant wasn't the biggest of towns, so she didn't have much to do to get into trouble, as us young girls used to do.

Dave: There's nothing wrong with that right?

Grace: Not At all.

Grace: She also had a job in the turkey plants cleaning and helping back the turkeys into the trucks. She only made .50 an hour. Not much at all.

Dave: How did she and your father meet?

Grace: She was fifteen I think, at a school dance, and she meet him there, just like in the old love stories, and then after they'd been goin for a while, six months or so they went up to park city and eloped. They came home and told grandma and she said, "I must be hard of hearing, come again?" Again she told her the whole story. She took them for

serious and told Jessie that she'd better put a padlock on the bedroom door before Grandpa came home. When he got there Grandma told him what had happened and they said that he didn't say word he just walked out and did his chores. He didn't talk to either one of them for three days. He came home from work and called both them and grandma into the kitchen. He Asked dad how he was gonna support a wife and family at only the age of fifteen, with no skills, or schooling. He just held out his hands and said he had these and he wasn't afraid of hard work. Grandpa Elisha said he would still have the marriage annulled if it was the last thing he have done. When grandpa came home from work the next day all his chores had been done by dad. He showed that he was a hard worker. Grandpa had a good look on his face and didn't say a word until later that night he told grandma that he was gonna be ok in the world with his Jessie. Dad eventually got on with grandpa working as a hand on his contracting jobs. They moved in with Solvia Dad's older sister for a while, and see mom had never really been taught how to sew or clean or anything like that, because she was always watching the little kids, so when Solvia ask her to do the laundry she would mix all the colors and the white together not knowing any better, and solvia , that witch wouldn't help her or nothing she would just let her do it wrong and laugh at her. Back then their rent for their first house they rented was three dollars a month, but that was back when there wasn't as many jobs, that paid good. They had four kids Uncle Clare, Me, Aunt Vickie, and Uncle Grant. Raising us all on a farm was hard and with the wages dad was earning it wasn't enough for us to make it. We all moved to Provo to try to find better work for dad, but it didn't help much. We moved back to Mt. Pleasant for one summer and mom and dad said that we would be moving over the mountains to Emery County. Not a one of us had ever been to Emery

County but it was dad's decision and what he said went. He got us a house in Huntington Canyon right near Deer Creek Mine where he started work in September 1946. He said it was different work, but it was not too hard.

Dave: Yea well coal mine is a good paying job but its dangerous.

Grace: So he was getting paid 1.50 an hour, and that was just enough for us to get by, still he would take us to a little motel in the canyon call the Reindeer Inn and buy us a treat. We always would look forward to that. That winter we nearly froze to death there was at least 3 feet of snow at our front door every morning. It was said to of dropped to

- 20 degrees up the canyon that year. Dad decided we couldn't live like this, and said that we would find a house down in Huntington that spring. Clare started working in the mine when he was fourteen. Dad was his boss and he like the job.

Dave: Yea that was the good part of it. Well grandma I know that you don't like to tell this story but I think it will be good for the report. Tell me what happened to him in the mine.

Grace: Ok, (deep Breath) he had gone in for the morning shift on July 7, 1953, and he was checkin all the machinery and there was a line of some sort that was split. There were two men on his crew that had been up the whole night before drinkin and they said you could still smell the whiskey on their breath. He asked them to kill the power to the line so he could cut it and fix the problem, they told him it was off and they got kinda pissy with him and told him yes it was off. He was angry and went to cut the line and (Sniffs) he .. was electrocuted. Clare heard them yell for him and he came, he got

down and held (sniffs) dad dead in his arms. If them guys had not been so damn stupid to of been drinkin that night I might have had my dad for a little longer. O what I wouldn't give for that David.

Dave; Yea, It must have been hard.

Grace: My mother didn't know about any of this until about an hour later. The bosses' wife came down to the house and was talking to my cousin Phyliss, and she came into the house teary eyed. She said to my mother I have bad news. My Mom said as long as it's not My Swen. Phyliss began to cry and said I'm sorry but it is, he's been killed in the mine. She went hysterical and started crying and pulling out her hair by the hand fulls. After that she had to have the doctor come and see her all the time, for things for her nerves and physic treatment.

Dave: You took it pretty hard too huh grandma.

Grace: Yea we had just been in fight not to long before he was killed, and if I could I would take the one thing back because I have never forgotten every single detail of that moment.

Dave: So what did you guys do after that?

Grace: Well we stayed there for a bit and Grant and Clare tried to support us, but it was just too hard, for 'em. So we moved back to Grandpa and Grandma's old house in Mt Pleasant. She raised me and Vickie in that house, because Grant and Clare had grew up and gone away, until we were both grown and married. She wasn't able to pay the back taxes on the house, so she ended up moving into a house Clare owned in Mt. Pleasant. After she had been there six months she started wantin' to move to Provo to be closer to Vickie and The Doctors that could deal better with her Diabeties and her heart problems.

She lived in Provo for five to six years. Due to her heart she had heart problems throughout her entire life. On, October 19, 1979 she died alone in her apartment in Provo.