

Almira Higgins Chase

In 1964 three sisters, Lula Kearsley ["my grandmother" handwritten above this name], Bertha Perry and Ruby Griffith, while visiting at the home of Lula in Logan, Utah, recalled and wrote the following story concerning an experience of their mother, Mary Chase Stevens.

In early 1873 an epidemic of small pox hit Moroni, Utah and surrounding areas. On February 23, 1873 our grandmother, Almira Higgins Chase, wife of John Darwin Chase, and Daughter of Nelson Higgins and Sarah Blackman, died from small pox. She was born May 28, 1830 in Ohio.

Just a few days after she passed away, she came to her daughter, Mary Chase (our mother), when Mother was just 15 years old. She was driving two black horses. She dropped the reins, but the horses kept pawing at the air. Mother said to her, "Mother, don't you think the horses will get away from you?" She replied, "No, they won't go until I tell them to." Then she said, "I came for Clarissa and Amy. I need them in my work." They were her daughters. Both were married. Clarissa had three little girls, but Amy had no children.

Mother begged her not to take them, but to take her. "No, Mary, I can't take you," she said, "but I must have Clarissa and Amy."

Within three weeks of the time Grandmother died, both Clarissa and Amy died. Before their deaths Clarissa kept saying, "Oh, don't let me die. I want to stay and raise my three little girls." But Amy said, "Hurry and get me ready. Mother is coming for me and I don't want to keep her waiting." She would repeat this every little while.

Clarissa died first and Amy soon after. They were living in Moroni at the time. They had to send to Salt Lake to get material to make their burial clothes.

Postscript - By Amy Kearsley

In 1982 while I was searching records to document the John Darwin Chase - Almira Higgins family group sheet (as part of our four generation program), I found that Clarissa's death date was 8 March 1873, about two weeks following her mother's death - 23 February 1873. The family group sheet listed Amy's death as March 1873. However, the Manti Temple Record listed her death date as 16 March 1872. I wondered which was right.

Then I remembered that somewhere in my files was the story told by Mother, Aunt Bertha and Aunt Ruby which LaRue had typed up. I found it, and on the basis of their recollections, I felt impressed to record Amy's death date as 16 March 1873, eight days after Clarissa's death.

I made a notation on the bottom of the sheet of Amy's death date in the Manti Temple records, but I strongly feel the 1873 date is correct.