

HISTORY OF THE LIFE OF EMILY JANE (WHIMPEY) EVANS

I was born in Stone Creek, Ohio, on October 18, 1875. My father's name is Isaac Lewis Whippey and my mother's name is Alice Calaway (Butts) Whippey. I was one of nine children who lived in our family. There were six girls and three boys. One child was born but died (Ruth) shortly after birth. This would have made ten in the family had she lived. The names are as follows: Mary Elizabeth, Martha Ann, Emily Jane, Henry Lewis, Cora Alice, John Neubern, Lottie, Laura Rebecca and Hyrum Isaac (Mickey).

My Grandmother and Grandfather were converts to the Church in Wales, England, and came to America to be with the Saints. The family settled in Ohio, where Grandfather and my father worked in the mines to obtain additional funds to come on to the west. One oddity in our family history is the meeting of my Grandma and Grandpa Whippey. My Grandfather Whippey and my Grandmother Butts each lost their mates so Grandfather married Grandmother Butts, he having 8 children and she having 5 children. My father and mother were then step sister and brother, and fell in love and married.

When I was living in Ohio as a little girl I remember going fishing with my father. The way we fished, Father would give us kids gunny sacks and then he would wade into the river and would feel under the edge of the moss and would throw the fish or whatever else came along on to the bank and we would have to hurry and grab whatever else came with the fish and put them into the gunny sack. The ones we didn't want would just struggle back into the water. More than once I remember getting hold of a snapping turtle or a snake.

I remember Mother telling me how tiny I was at birth. I only weighed 2 pounds 8 ounces and they said that I could fit into a cigar box. When I started to walk, Mother said I used to walk right under the tables, I was so tiny.

The family moved on to Utah in the year of 1862, when I was seven years of age. We came on a narrow gage train. And I remember at one of the stops coming to Utah I got lost and the man at the station placed me up on top of a post so I could be seen and that is where Father found me. When we got to Salt Lake there was only room enough in the carriage for Grandmother and Grandfather, so Father and us children had to walk from the train depot to the hotel. It wouldn't have been a bad walk if it hadn't been raining and the streets were streams of mud. I can still see Father with his little family trudging up the street with mud up to our knees.

We settled in Lehi, Utah, where we joined Lewis and Rachael Whippey, who were brother and sister to my Father, and had come out a year earlier. Father learned about a new Coal Mine opening up at Winter Quarters, Utah, and left to go there about six months after our arrival in Utah. The family joined Father at Winter Quarters shortly there after. We lived in Winter Quarters for several years, and most of us children grew up there and were married there.

Some of the things I remember during those early years and in my youth are the following events:

1. Our home was located just in front of the L.D.S. Church and father had gone to Emery County to take up some land that was available there. Mother and all the children were in the house when a snow slide started. The snow came down to the church and then parted there and came around both sides and onto our home. If it had not been for the church being in the path of the slide we would have all been killed. The interesting thing was that mother had taken all the children out of the bed rooms and had them with her in her room. The bedrooms where the children usually slept were completely destroyed and if the children had been in there they would have been covered with snow and lost their lives. As it was, Mother was packed solid in the snow and my brother John was smothered quite badly before we could get to him and give him relief. All in all, we felt that the Lord surely blessed us and took care of the family that night.
2. I remember the day I was baptized a member of the church. It was in the month of November and ice was on all the creeks in Winter Quarters. It was necessary to break the ice so we could be baptized. This is something I will always remember, but the folks in those days thought nothing of this type of event because they were so thankful to become members of the church that cold water and ice were considered a part of it all. I might mention that Mother and Father were baptized in Lehi, because they could not let it be known that they were L.D.S. prior to this time because of the persecution they would have had to go through and maybe even loss of life if it had been known that they were members of the Church while living in Ohio. Grandpa Whimpey was baptized in Wales, England, and came to America with his family to be with the saints.
3. I will always remember the trip we made in a wagon from Winter Quarters to Manti to have the children sealed to our parents. Mother and Father received their endowments in the Logan Temple and had taken the oldest daughter, Mary, to stand as proxy for the rest of the children, but after arriving there they found out that all the children had to be represented, so it was necessary for us to go to the Manti Temple at this later date. In those days this was considered quite a journey.
4. I remember my grandmother, Elizabeth Butts Whimpey, had a disease called milk leg, and it left her crippled, so that she had to use a crutch to walk. When she and grandfather Whimpey went to the Manti Temple to get their endowments, Grandmother heard a voice that told her to lay down her crutches and she would be able to walk. She turned to Grandfather and asked him if he heard this voice and he said, "No", but she said that she was going to do as she was instructed, so she laid down her crutches and walked on and left the temple healed of this disease.
5. When I was about 12 years of age, a group went swimming in Utah Lake. My Aunt Laura Butts took me out into the water on her arm to teach me to swim. She asked me to try and touch bottom, which I was unable to do. I became frightened and started to struggle. Aunt Laura was having a difficult time trying to get me back to shore and it looked like we might both be drowned, but Laura used her head and kept talking to me and holding me away from her and managed to get us back to shore safely. We were both sick from the experience.
6. When I was about 14 years of age I attended Relief Society with my Aunt Laura Butts in Lehi. Sister Eliza R. Snow, the wife of President Snow,

was speaking to the sisters present, when she started speaking in Tongues. At the completion of the speaking my Aunt Laura gave the interpretation, and while doing so she put her hand on my shoulder and it felt like a bolt of lightning going through my body, and I will always remember this feeling that came over me. This was one of the first events that started to give me a testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel.

My school days were spent in Winter Quarters. My early girl friends were Cassie Evans (Davis), Margaret Anne Thomas and Mary Jane Thomas. We had some good times together doing all the things that young girls do. Our neighbors were Thomas Parmley and Sam Pattfield.

When I was about 15 years of age I started working in the boarding house at Winter Quarters. It was necessary for me to go to work to help maintain the family. I worked there for a couple of years and then I was hired by Bishop Parmley to help them in their home. It was at this time that the Isaac Evans family moved into Winter Quarters. Isaac Evans (Father), Kathrine Thomas Evans (Mother), and the seven sons: William T. Evans, Harry Evans, David T. Evans, Richard T. Evans, John I. Evans, Talliesin T. Evans, and Hector Evans.

The Evans boys enjoyed music and Dave Evans liked to direct plays. It was here that I became so well acquainted with the family. I took part in many of the plays, mostly taking the comic parts and singing the comic songs with Dave Evans. I always loved to dance and took quite a few dancing parts. All my life I loved to dance and even when I was in my late seventies my grandchildren would ask me to dance for them. My father taught me how to step dance and even now I remember and love all the dances we did. My children still marvel at the way I can still remember all the songs we used to sing from memory, but that is one thing I have truly been blessed with, and that is a keen mind and a good memory. My children, I'm sure, will always remember me as quite a cut up and will remember my love for singing and dancing. It was during this time that I met Talliesin T. Evans and we played parts together in plays, etc. He was called to go on a Mission for the Church to his native country, and before leaving asked me to write to him, which I promised I would do. About a year and a half after he returned from his mission we were married in the Salt Lake Temple, on the 16th of January, 1894.

We made our home in Winter Quarters for approximately a year, then we moved to Lehi and I remained there until Oscar was born. From Lehi we moved to Castle Gate, where Tally was born. That same fall we moved back to Winter Quarters where Vivian, Maude and Ivar were born. Ivar lived only 14 months then he died from bronchitis. This was the first death in the family.

It would be well to mention that about this time, shortly after the birth of Vivian, that the Winter Quarters mine explosion took place. This explosion took the lives of David T. Evans and Richard T. Evans. This tragedy came as quite a blow to the Evans family. We had just moved to Clear Creek two weeks before the explosion or the life of Daddy, Talliesin T. Evans, would have been taken with his two brothers.

It was in Clear Creek that Isaac was born and shortly thereafter my health was such that I was ordered to leave the high altitude, so we moved to Castle Dale. My health improved and about a year later we were back in Winter Quarters where Emily was born. We then moved to Castle Dale again and built our first home. This was some undertaking as Dad was working in the mines and he

4

paid the fellows he hired to build the home in advance and the men took the money and bought some liquor and were intoxicated when they were building the frame work. The frame fell and broke so they had to hammer it together, so our first home had quite a buige in it. It was in Castle Dale that Lucille was born. We then moved to Sunnyside where Pershing was born, and Maude, Isaac, Tally and Vivian were married. Dad Evans also became Bishop while in Sunnyside and we had many lovely experiences in the Church. When Dad was bishop our family was custodian of the Church and this was some job for at that time the Sunnyside church really looked big to us and that was quite a few rooms to keep clean besides our own home and family duties. When Father was Bishop the time I really remember were the Sundays we had conference and the Stake officers would stay at our home and eat their meals with us. These were times I will never forget and I'm sure these occasions were a great influence on my children's lives as these were righteous men with a great tesitmony to share.

Nov 9 25 From Sunnyside, Dad Evans and I with Emily, Lucille and Pershing moved back to Castle Dale to our little home to make a start on the farm. While here Emily and Lucille were cheerleaders for the school and I remember going to the basketball games and really enjoying them. Also they were in many operas and musicals at the school, and I enjoyed sewing their costumes for them and seeing them perform.

Many happy days were spent in Castle Dale with the children coming home to visit us. I think everyone of my grandchildren remember these times, when we had beds everywhere in the house, upstairs and down on the floors besides the many beds we had. While in Castle Dale, Dad Evans tried the chicken business and also farming, but having been a miner all of his life this was indeed a new and strange adbenture for him. While here we also had a horse named Darky which the grandchildren enjoyed riding, and this took them out of our hair while the girls put up fruit and fixed the big family dinners we had. These were very precious moments which I shall never forget.

After all the children had left us, Father and I enjoyed our home and friends in Castle Dale. In my later years in Castle Dale the doctor said that I had to go to Provo for an operation. They said that I had a growth at the outlet of my stomach. Vivian was living in Provo, so Father and I went to her home and stayed while I went to the hospital for tests. Before I left Castle Dale, Bishop Larsen and Carl Botts gave me a blessing in which they told me that with my faith and their faith that I would not have to be operated on. After all of the tests I had at the hospital the Doctors said that I did not need the operation--that nature had taken care of the growth. I am sure that this would not have happened if it wasn't for the power of the priesthood.

Throughout my life I have always been quite sickly. When I was a child I had rhuematic fever, which left me with a sluggish heart. Along with my heart condition I was also anemic, and had many illnesses, so through these conditions I saw many times the healings performed by the priesthood. One time when we were living in Sunnyside I was very ill and in great pain. The children said that my moaning could be heard all over the house. The doctors could do nothing for me so when the pain got so bad that I couldn't endure it any longer, I asked that Dad and Oscar give me a blessing. They laid their hands on my head and as soon as the blessing was over I fell into a deep sleep and from that moment on we could all see how much I had improved.

Although my heart was bad physically, I was said to have a very good heart in giving. I could not stand to see people go without if we had anything at all

left over. I remember when we were living in Castle Gate a tramp came to my door and so I sat him down on the back step and fed him. After that every tramp that came into town would come to our door and we found out that they had put our house number on the post down by the railroad tracks, a place to get a free meal for sure.

The only time in my life that I felt that maybe I was the only person with a good heart was when we were living in Castle Dale. Dad was working in the mines so I had the responsibility of the children and living. So many times, living with the children alone, I found that people in town had stolen our coal and wood and potatoes or anything they could get their hands on. I could not get over such a thing, and it had stayed with me all these years. While in Castle Dale, one year Oscar went to the desert to tend sheep. This is one memory I shall never forget, for I almost worried myself sick about him and besides he being the oldest with me living with the family alone with Dad gone, he was quite a staff for me so I really did miss him.

I never did learn how to sew by someone teaching me. I taught myself and managed to make all of my children's clothes. You could not go to the stores in those days and buy your clothes like you can no, so it was a necessity that you sew. Even I marvel how I used to cut out patterns and fit them to the children. If I had had the patterns they have now days what a blessing it would have been and how much time it would have saved me. I really did enjoy sewing for them, though. Anything I did for my children was a pleasure. Our family life was always one of enjoyment. We always had a piano, so we always had a house full of neighbor children besides our own, mingling together in our home. Our children always enjoyed each other and always enjoyed the simplest things. I remember the nights we used to play card games together and the scolding I would get from Father for he said it was a waste of time, that I should be reading. But I enjoyed playing with the children and wasn't a book worm like Father was. I'm sure our children and grandchildren will always remember our home as a home of love and great religious devotion.

On November 4, 1944, Dad Evans passed away and was buried in the Pleasant Grove cemetery. I sold my home in Castle Dale and moved to Pleasant Grove in a little home next door to my son, Oscar. It was quite a change for me to move from all of my friends in Castle Dale to a new home where I had to make new friends, but I have enjoyed my new home, although I shall always miss my old friends. I have also enjoyed living with my children during the winter months and I'm so thankful for my family. I am thankful that I was married and sealed in the Temple and that I have taken an active part in the church. I love all of my children and I am thankful for my grandchildren and great grandchildren and for the privilege I have had to live long enough to see them and enjoy them.

Before I close I am thankful for the open house which my children gave me honoring my 80th birthday. It was a great highlight in my later life.

I would also like to give the positions which I have held in the church. I was President of the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association in Winter Quarters. I was Treasurer of the Relief Society in Sunnyside. I was counselor in Relief Society in Castle Dale for three years. I also worked in the Primary. I was a Relief Society visiting teacher for 45 years.

In conclusion, I would like to bear my testimony to the truthfulness of this gospel and how the gospel has helped me in raising my family and in later years. Through prayer I have gained great comfort and by my faith in the gospel I believe in the hereafter that Daddy and I and our family will all be together again. I leave my testimony with you that this is the true church of God and we must strive to live the commandments of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.