

History of Mary Catherine Redd Workman

(Mother of Thelma Workman Stirling, wife of Rex Stirling--son of Thomas)

When I was fifteen years old my dear mother died at the age of forty-five years, leaving my sister and I of Mother's family and .my step-mother Nancy W. and three boys and one girl. The baby girl Rebecca died three weeks after father died and O. Arthur was born about two months after father died. Step-Mother had seven children by father, but only two are alive now, John and Lem.

I worked out sometime after I was left an orphan, working very hard, house cleaning, washing, hoeing and irrigating in the field, and I did not have much happiness during that time as I had a hard Master, but later I went to live with Aunt Marian Pace, my father's sister, and she was a good mother to me, and I honor her memory. Later I went to live with my sister who did all she could to make life easy for me, but she was sick most of the time. I spent one winter in Loa, Wayne Co. with my cousin Eva Pace. I had a good time that winter. I went to woman's class there, from which I got a great many valuable instructions that helped me to take care of my health and also my children. While at home, I was teacher in Sunday School, and first counselor in the mutual to cousin Ellen for a year and first counselor in the Primary four years.

I always had a great desire to get an education and by working hard any place I could get work I was able to lay up a few dollars, and had the privilege of attending the A.C. of Utah at Logan, Utah, during the winter of 1895 and 1896. I studied hard and took a very heavy course, and skimping some times, hardly having all I wanted to eat. I had one cheap dress I had made myself, for best and one for school for the whole nine months in school. Ellen and I used to wash, mend and cook for two more students, John and Jim Mathis, of our home town, and they paid the rent. The next summer I studied hard to take the County examination so I might take schooling I had ever had. I, however, passed the examination and got a school in Virgin, Utah, teaching the first four grades. I received \$30.00 per month and had to pay for my board out of that. The next year I taught the same school and they raised my salary to \$35.00 per month and I layed up money both years, after paying my tithing and repairing my clothing myself. It was in this first year of teaching I met my future husband. He was teaching, too, and in the Spring went on a mission to Texas. After teaching two years I was able to attend the Branch Normal School at Cedar City. That was one of the most enjoyable winters of my life. Cousin Velo and Alice Redd and I lived together, associated with the very best young people in school and was among the highest students. Taking part in time highest classes in the normal. The next summer I took a correspondence course and received my diploma. The winter of 1899 and 1900 I taught a grammar grade school, the fifth grade, 60 students, in St. George and enjoyed my work and the associations of friends that winter very much. That winter my salary was \$42.00, only two teachers in the large school that received more. I thought that was very fine wages.

Elder Jacob L. Workman and I were very good friends when he went to the mission field and we corresponded all the time and when he came home in Sept. 1899 we were engaged. He taught school that winter in Springdale and on the 16th of May 1900 we were married in the St. George Temple.

The next winter, after spending the summer in Virgin, his home town, I taught school in Rockville, the 5, 6, 7 and 8 grades. He taught at Springdale and we lived in Rockville. He would go up to his school in the morning and back at night. There never was a couple more devoted and happy than we. Those were days that will always be fresh in my memory. On July 22, 1901 our baby girl Thelma came to gladden our home on my birthday. We were then living in Virgin. My husband attended the B.N. School at Cedar the next Winter, being the first [Mayor] of that school.

We lived in Salt Lake City and then New Harmony where my husband taught school. There is where my baby girl Ora was born on Dec 29, 1903. My husband was called to Seattle, Washington where he got an appointment from the Government as Government Meat Inspector. He had to go before Ora came and when she was two months old, I went with the two babies to live. That was the most beautiful country I ever lived in, but I love Utah best, because our own people live here and they are most all L.D.S. and Mormon Elders, also some who are not of our faith. My husband was a counselor to the Branch President there. He was always a leader and a worker where ever he lived and a general

favorite among all classes. I have worked in all of the organizations all the places I have lived and have tried to be useful all my life. In Sept 1904 he was called back to Salt Lake City where he got his appointment as Postal Clerk on the R.R. That winter Bro. Workman got a lay off from the Gov. and took a school in Harmony. In the Spring we moved back to Virgin. He then went to Ogden as transfer Clerk from the train to the Post Office, but it was a dangerous position and to please me he resigned and came home. He taught school in Rockville the following winter where we enjoyed ourselves with our two babies. The water having reached the town site on the Hurricane Bench, in the Spring of 1906 we moved there and helped pioneer the town of Hurricane, our future home. We entertained our friends there, took part in the theatres, J.L. was especially gifted on the stage. Worked in the organizations, and made our lives useful and were surely happy. My husband was the first school teacher and first Post Master here. Here I was set apart as the first Relief Society President, April 12, 1908, which position I held for about 19 years, and tried hard in my weak way to be a mother of the ward. Our dear departed Bishop Isom told me many times how he appreciated my work. We worked hard here to make us a good home so we could be comfortable and happy. J.L. filled a short termed mission in Texas after we moved to Hurricane. We went back to Virgin a year and run a hotel during an oil boom. After J.L. came from his second mission the Lord blessed us so we were able to build one of the first good homes in Hurricane. We had just moved in and were so comfortable and happy, when he was stricken with pneumonia and was only sick six days when he was called to the other side to leave me and his two little girls to mourn his loss, which nearly broke our hearts. It was hard for me to acknowledge the hand of God in his going but I have long since been able to say, "the Lord's will and not mine be done." The greatest wish has been that my life might be filled with good works and I might raise my girls with pure lives and to be useful and to marry L.D.S. husbands; so we would all be worthy to meet him in the home he is preparing for us.

John Hardeson Redd was born in Sneeds Ferry, Onslow Co., North Carolina. He and his wife Elizabeth moved with their family to Murfreesboro, Tennessee where my father was born June 20, 1842. In this town the Redd family was converted to the L.D.S. faith. They then moved to Spanish Fork, Utah where my grand-parents died.

Benjamin J. Redd (my father) was born in Murfreeboro, Tennessee in June 20, 1842. The family of John H. Redd (father of B.J. Redd) joined the Mormon church in Tennessee when my father was small. He was a slave owner at the time, but after joining the church, he gave them all their freedom, and moved with his wife Elizabeth and family to Spanish Fork, Utah, where he and his wife died. Benjamin J. later moved to southern Utah and helped build up the little town called New Harmony, being called there by the church authorities. In Jun 20, 1865 he was married to Clarissa Alvira Taylor. Four children were the fruits of this union.

He helped in the early settlement of Utah, to guard against the attacks of the Indians. He was extremely honest, hard working farmer and a faithful Latter-day Saint. After the death of my Mother Jan. 18, 1874, he married Nancy Luella Workman, Feb. 8, 1877. Seven children were the fruits of this union. They were married in the St. George Temple. He died Sept. 16, 1887 at New Harmony, Utah of Intermitting Fever.

My father was an honest tithe payer, his first duty was always to his Heavenly Father. He taught his children to love the truth, and to place their virtue ahead of their lives. He had no bad habits, always teaching by example. It was truly said of him at his funeral, "that he was one of the best men that ever lived."

Clarissa Alvira Taylor Redd was born Oct. 3, 1849 at Fort Bridger, Wyoming and was married to my father June 20, 1865 by William Pace. She was an industrious house wife, good Latter-day Saint and a faithful wife and loving mother. She bore four children and gave her life that her last baby might come here and take a body. She died Jan. 18, 1874 in New Harmony, Utah. Sarah K. and Mary O. are living and Bonnie and Vilata died before Mother was called to go. She was only past 24 years old when she died. She was a good seamstress and took delight in dressing up her little daughters, cute and tidy.

Nancy Luella Workman Redd was born April 2, 1860 in Virgin, Utah. Married to my father, B.J. Redd Feb 8, 1877 in the St. George Temple. She bore seven children by my father. Five have died, John and Lemuel are still living. She is a good Latter-day Saint, a good Mother and a friend to everyone who needs her help. She is very hospitable to everyone, especially to those that are less fortunate. When she lived out in the world, her home was always open for the Mormon Elders.

Jacob Louis Workman filled two mission, was Pres and teacher in the Y.M.M.I.A., Pres. of Deacons, Counselor to Presiding elder in Seattle, Washington, teacher in Sunday School, Ward Clerk in Hurricane, taught school four years. Took great interest in social work among the old and the young. Was a real entertainer, was Post Master of Hurricane, was Government meat inspector in Seattle, was Postal R.W. Clerk. Was one of the first to build a good home in Hurricane, was a favorite among all classes. He was especially witty and a very sunshiny disposition. He was honest and honorable, and loved his fellow men and also his God, which he delighted in serving. He could see a great future for Hurricane.

John Workman, son of Jacob Workman was born Oct. 8, 1789 in the state of Maryland, Alegana Co. Married March 1809 in Overton Co. Tennessee. Andrew Jackson, son of John and Lydia Workman, was born July 15, 1824. He served in the Mormon Battalion. He came from the Gold Fields in California, after his discharge from the army, to Salt Lake City, Utah. He married Rebecca Deck June 4, 1855 by William Pratt. He then returned to San Bernardino, Cal. After a term he returned to Utah settling in Virgin where his wife died. They had three children, Evelyn, Louis A. and Manti. All are dead. He was married to Sariah Ann J. Eager March 17, 1866 by Wilford Woodruff in the Endowment house in Salt lake City. Grandma died March 27, 1825. Five boys were the fruits of this union. Amos, Nephi, Charles, Edwin and Jacob L. Grandfather died June 15, 1909. Jacob L. and Charles are dead.