

JOSEPH MORONI AND ELIZABETH JONES PERRY

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Elizabeth Jones Perry was born the sixth child and eldest daughter of John Pidding and Margaret Lee Jones, who were converts to the L.D.S. Church in England and emigrants to America shortly before Elizabeth arrived. She was born at the old Cedar Fort, December 13, 1853, at one-quarter past 2:00 on Tuesday morning, and she was blessed at the old school house on Sunday, January 15, 1854, by Brother Lee. She was baptized by Richard Aldridge on Sunday, the 25th of March 1865, and confirmed at the same time by Elder Moses Clawson.

Her parents had first heard the gospel in England in May, 1845, and had been baptized into the Church in 1846. They set sail for America from Liverpool, September 9, 1848, on the ship "Erin's Queen", in company with two hundred thirty two saints under the direction of Simeon Carter, arriving in New Orleans on Saturday, October 28th. They found it necessary to remain in St. Louis for some time to earn money to come to Utah, and it was June 20, 1852, before they left there. They arrived in Salt Lake City in time for the October Conference, and were asked by President Brigham Young to come to help settle Iron County, and as John was skilled in iron work he was to help get the Iron Mines in Cedar started. It was late in the year and they were forced to remain in Nephi over the winter, arriving in Cedar City, April 2, 1853.

Conditions were hard for these first settlers and they were all to become used to living under very trying circumstances. However, the family was industrious and probably had very happy times as well as poverty. Elizabeth's father and family moved to Enoch in 1871, but she did not stay there long as she was married to Joseph M. Perry on December 2, 1872.

When Elizabeth was planning her wedding dress she couldn't do as the girls now days do. Her Father obtained a bale of cotton from somewhere (probably Dixie) and brought it home, Elizabeth corded and spun the cotton into small balls which her father took up to the man who did the weaving, who lived over by Coal Creek. After the cloth was woven she carefully cut out all of her marriage clothes. The scissors she had to use were a pair which had been brought across the plains and one-half of one of the blades had been broken off, but she managed. For thread to sew this cloth she got a yard of factory and unraveled the threads to use. There was only one needle available, and she often told of how careful she had to be as she knew she must not loose it.

Great preparations were made for marriages then as well as now. Joseph and Elizabeth (affectionately called Joe and Tizzie) went by wagon to Salt Lake to be married in the L.D.S. Endowment House. They were gone about one month, two weeks each way. There was no elaborate wedding party when they arrived home from their wedding trip, but there surely must have been an abundance of happiness and jollification when they arrived home. Setting up housekeeping in those days was not complicated by trying to decide where to put all the trousseau and wedding presents. No indeed, when Joe and Elizabeth set house-keeping it was far more primitive. Joseph's father gave them a building lot. They lived in a one-room house 12 x 12 feet. Besides their clothes Elizabeth had 1 pillow and 1 frying pan given to her by her mother. They had to sleep on the floor at first until Joe could provide a bed frame. Just before their marriage Joe had been working up on the side of Square Mountain getting logs. He brought to their first home his contribution of 2 or 3 cracked plates and 2 or 3 knives he had been using on this job. Elizabeth's father came and made for her a three-legged tripod which she placed over a fire outside on which to do her cooking. The bread was baked for some time in a little rock oven outside also.

The first home served as the nucleus for the larger home which still stands on the corner of 1st South and 200 West. It is now 75 years old and four generations of the family have lived there. Joe did all the work himself, with Elizabeth watching the proceedings with anxious eyes. Oftimes all she had to give him for his dinner was bread and molasses, as they were very poor at the time, and it seemed that they were never very well-off financially.

To this couple ten children were born. Joseph Edgar born 5 September 1873; John Henry, 14 August 1875; Clara, 2 June 1877; Susannah Margaret, 2 April 1879; George William, 18 March, 1882; Mary Ellen, 12 August, 1884; Frederick J., 3 September, 1886; Alice Jane, 3 March, 1889; Myron Jones, 23 May, 1891; Moroni, 13 July, 1897.

Like most girls of that time Elizabeth must have been taught the housewife-ly arts by her mother. She knew well how to make excellent butter and cheese. Mary can remember going to Enoch with her mother to get another crock jar or two from her grandmother Jones to put some of their supplies in. She always tried to make 15 gallons of Pottowatamie Plum Preserves and 15 gallons of Mustard Pickles every fall to supply her family over the winter. Other available fruits were put up and dried also. Oftimes these supplies would be used, or the meat supplies would turn rancid, before the fresh fruits and vegetables came on in the spring of the year, and for a month or so they would be rather short on supplies. Elizabeth was fond of Pine Gum, and used to be glad when she or the children had an opportunity to gather some.

Elizabeths washings were always white and clean. One of her favorite sayings which Susie remembers to this day was "clean the corners well, and the center will take care of itself."

She liked to crochet, knit, and make quilts. She was a teacher of these arts to her children. Quilting with her friends was always fun for her. She did many pieces of fancy work and there is still some of the nice things she did in the possession of her daughters. A beautiful christening outfit for her babies and pillow cases are among the items. Mary remembers very plainly a dress of blue demin, with a cape to match, her mother made for she and Alice Jane, which she wore for a long time until it turned light blue.

She liked very much to go to Relief Society and attend her other church meetings. She had a nice singing voice, which she inherited from her mother, and liked to sing. She sang a lot and used to sing in the choirs in Cedar. In fact Joe and Elizabeth both liked music and nearly all of their children played an instrument and sang. The girls all loved to sing and play the organ. The boys all played in the bands and orchestras of Cedar for many years, and gave much pleasure to others through their music. Joe played the E Flat Clarinet and mandolin. He was leader of the Cedar Brass Band for many years. The older grandchildren remember well the mandolin which was kept handy on the Secretary so he could play a tune or two whenever he chose. His neighbors were often serenaded in the evening when he would take his clarinet outside the house and play a few selections. On a quiet summer evening he could be heard for several blocks.

Edgar played the baritone horn, Fred the cornet, John the baritone and violin, George the bass horn and trombone and Moroni the Cornet. Moroni led the town band and dance orchestra in Cedar until the music department at the B.A.C. was enlarged. John, too, will be remembered for the contribution and enjoyment he gave with his dance orchestra. Band concerts in the City Park were a favorite form of diversion and enjoyment for the citizens of Cedar, and were a special drawing card for the Perry family because they were so well represented in the playing.

Like most of the families in this area, ranching on Cedar Mountain was a big part of every summer. Joe and Elizabeth owned a ranch in Urie Creek on Cedar Mountain. They moved their livestock up every summer and milked the cows, raised calves, and herded sheep and pigs. Lots of cheese and butter was made and taken to town during the summer and fall for family use, sold to the stores, and of course used to help pay tithing. Going to the ranch in those days wasn't as much fun as it is now, because it meant leaving friends behind and lots of hard work. Joe and Elizabeth had one of the nicest homes on the mountain due to his ability as a builder. The home consisted of a large front room with porch along the front, a kitchen, a milk house, and an upstairs for bedrooms. It was constructed of logs. When they used to move up in the spring they used to try to go at the same time as Joe's brother Hyrum and Naomi did, because Hy always had a very good team, and Joe and family had the biggest load because of the large family, so help was needed on some of the steep hills. The children always had to walk from the foothills to the top of the mountain as the wagons were loaded so heavily.

Elizabeths' family remained in Enoch and much visiting was done between Cedar and Enoch. Their home was always open to family members and friends. Elizabeth always liked to visit in Enoch with her family on holidays and special occasions. One year when her mothers birthday was about to fall due, Elizabeth and Sisters decided on a big birthday party to be held at Enoch. A large birthday cake was baked and an icing of beaten egg whites and sugar concocted. Of course, icings are not always failure proof and this one was determined to not set as it should. So the cake was placed before the fireplace for a while and turned frequently to see if the icing would set better. A turkey (which was really a novel article) was also obtained and roasted for the occasion. When the party was held Elizabeth

decided that the younger children should be left at home, but she took Clara and when she came back to Cedar she had carefully saved one of the turkey legs so that those children who had to miss the party at least got a taste of turkey.

Joe's ability, skill and knowledge as a carpenter was one of the outstanding things for which he is remembered in this community. During the years he was most active he worked on or completely built most of the houses and barns in Cedar. His "gear" and machinery was always in good repair -- wagons, saddles, harnesses, and farm machinery. Barns, sheds and fences were kept up. Oft times cash was scarce and he accepted livestock or produce as payment for his work. One time he was paid in honey for a job done and that was all the sweet they had for their use in putting up fruit and table use also. Joe's sons were well taught along these lines with all of them being able carpenters. Edgar and John were among the public minded citizens who went to the mountains to secure logs for the building of what is now the College of Southern Utah. John was especially skilled in furniture building and repair work. Edgar always had sheep wagons or small repair job to do. Moroni has many buildings in Cedar today showing his ability as a builder.

Besides being a carpenter, livestock and farming was also a part of the family. They owned the ranch on Cedar Mountain and also farming ground in the South Field. The boys of the family grew up helping their father along these lines also, and today still own the farm land. George and Fred continued to farm for their livelihood acquiring more land and livestock.

At one time Joseph and Elizabeth were one of the few people in town who owned a sausage mill in which the finished sausage had a casing around it. They were on especially good terms with James and Rachel Jones Bryant and the sausage mill was put to good use by both families.

Tragedy struck the family first with the death of Myron on March 16, 1894. There were no doctors in Cedar at this time and Sister Pryor, the community nurse came to the home and pronounced him suffering from Flu Pneuonia. She used her skill and practical knowledge to help him, but in spite of her efforts he passed away. His death was a deep sorrow to all the family. The day of his funeral there was a terrific blizzard which was so bad that only those people went to the cemetery who were necessary to the interment of the body.

When Alice Jane was a small girl, she remembers Rena Squaw coming to the Perry's home as the Indians did in those days to beg for food and meat. The housewives usually had bread, potatoes, or dried fruit for them when they called with their bags. Elizabeth the mother was joking with Rena about giving Alice Jane to her, so when Rena left she took Alice Jane by the hand and started across the street with her. Alice Jane was willing to go and had got across the street when her brothers and sisters decided it was not a joke, and came to coax her back home with them. Rena went on her way enjoying the joke.

After the death of John Pidding Jones in 1890, Margaret, Elizabeths mother was frequent visitor at the homes of her various children, and Joseph and Elizabeth welcomed her when she came to stay with them. One of the nice upstairs bedrooms which had a fireplace, was always her bedroom when she came. One of Elizabeths children would be chosen to build a fire when Grandmother awoke, then carry her breakfast up to her, and many stories and incidents of Margaret's life were told as Grandmother and Granddaughter toasted their knees in front of the fire.

The summer of 1897, it was decided that Elizabeth would not go to the mountain ranch as she was expecting a baby, so the girls were given the responsibility of going and doing the best they could. Alice Jane was only eight years old but she can remember well bidding her mother goodbye when they were packed and ready to leave for the ranch. Elizabeth had a strong feeling that she mentioned several times that she would not live to raise her last baby. This premonition proved very true as she passed away a few hours after Moroni was born, July 13, 1897. John also tells the story of being at the ranch with the family at this time; he was awakened from his sleep about midnight with a feeling that a voice had spoken to him, telling him to get up. He did so, and obeying an impulse, went to the calf pasture where he caught and saddled his horse. It seemed that he was to go to town; but as he stood there, more wide awake, he started to reason with himself, and finally unsaddled the horse and went back to bed. In the morning, Will Perry and a friend came from town with word that their mother had passed away.

Susie took over the work at the ranch during her mother's illness in 1897, and carried on making the cheese and butter until her marriage, while Clara took charge at the home in town. After Elizabeth's death, the responsibility for the care of the family fell on the older girls shoulders. Their Grandma Jones and a Sister Ezrie, a neighbor were very good to help in the home. Facilities for an education were not always plentiful then, and home responsibilities were heavy for the girls in this family. Mary Ellen for instance, quit school at the age of 14 to help at home, and assumed full responsibility at the age of 17, as the older girls were married. She managed the home in town, while Alice Jane assumed the responsibility for the ranch with the sons George and Moroni helping with the heavy work. Fred and Hannah also went to the ranch to help out.

After Elizabeth's death Joe was more than ever a devoted father to his children. His home had always been precious to him, but now he rallied to his childrens needs, and for the rest of his life the demands of his children and his home were strongest in his life. He presided over the home with dignity. His children respected him for his good judgment and they listened when he spoke. Although he frequently had "discussions" with his boys, his decision on the matter was final. His children were all well taken care of and Moroni never lacked for devotion and security. Joseph took the best care of his baby both day and night. He slept with him at night and could change diapers with the best. Moroni reciprocated as children oftimes do, and began bringing the childrens diseases home. This was not considered serously though until he brought home the whooping cough, which Joe caught and had a severe case of it.

Joseph Perry is remembered as a kind, generous person. He was especially good to children. Many times he would say to his little ones "come sit on my lap, I'll play you a tune and give you a piece of hard tack." He did not believe in whipping children. He felt that parents who whipped their children were cowards who took advantage of the fact that they were bigger. Riding his horse he was always straight, confident and dignified. His home was always cheerful and inviting; the buildings and grounds were always in good repair and well cared for.

When George went to Ireland on his mission in June 1908, the family was very proud of him. They all supported him and his father worked hard to send him the financial help he needed every month. Upon his return home there were some converts to the church who came to Utah with him.

The good home life that Joseph and Elizabeth Perry established, Joseph carried on after her death, and after his death in 1915, the remaining children in the Perry family continued on with. Mary and Edgar kept the doors open to the grandchildren, and their nieces and nephews. They displayed the same love that they were taught. Mary left for a few years when she married, but on the death of her husband she went "back home." There is a welcome still there at the Perry home for all who wish to go.

The 1 of July 1956

A True pioneer story

Did you know that my mother was borned down in the old Fort. and that was the place were she learned to card and spin. She and the other young people. helped to build that big doly wall. to keep the indians out

And did you know when she was going to be married her Father ^{John Pidd Jones} bought a bale of cotton. and brought home a gave it to his daughter Elizabeth. to make her wedding clothes. she carded it and spun it. and it into big reals. and sent it to the weaver man. to make it into cloth. and when it was finished. her Father John Pidd Jones took it home to is daughter. she cut it out. with a pare of old blunt. sizzler. she didnt have any thread. so she raveled some thread. from a piece of factory cloth. and if she dropped her needle. she would have to hunt for it. until she found it.

It took them to weeks to go to Salt Lake City. to be married they wouldnt get married any other way

So when she went to house keeping. She had to pillow and a quilt and a prying pan.

her husband Joseph M. Perry. and some other men. worked up on the square mountain. cutting logs, and bringing them down with oxen. (to help build up Cedar City. and some of the logs are in some of the old building to day

so when her husband brought his greib box home. he had a knife and forgy. to cracked plates.

piece of bread, and some salt bacon.

They tried to live, and do what was right, they paid there
wt day offering, with a little flour, butter, and eggs. they paid an
honest titthing, the Lord blessed them with a beautiful
family, they were well to do, when they died

one day I asked my mother: were did they get
the ~~dobies~~, to build that big wall, down to the Old Fort
he said: they wated for a big flood to come out of the
mountains, it would bring dirt and clay, it would run
ll over the meadows, and when the hot sun would dry it
up, and make dobies. She said the wall was 15 feet high

She said they men went up the Mountains and got big
logs, and made a bowery, for the 4 and 24 of July,
they held their meetings there, some of the Apostiles wete
come and old meeting

I hope you will like this story.