

GRANDPA'S PETTICOAT??

By Amelia A. Bennion

[Amelia's husband LeGrand is a great grandson of Samuel Bennion and Mary Bushell by way of Hyrum Sr. and Hyrum Jr.]

"Grandpa's petticoat??!!" grandchildren exclaim, "Grandpa wore a petticoat and it's at the Pioneer Memorial Museum?"

Yes, pioneer baby boys and girls alike wore christening dresses with matching petticoats that reached to the floor when their mothers were seated for picture-taking. These outfits, usually designed for a first baby in the family, were often worn by each succeeding child. Such delicate dresses and petticoats required hours of tucking, ruffling, and embroidery work; consequently, they were carefully preserved to be passed to the next generation.

Dozens of baby outfits, attesting to talents of early pioneer seamstresses, are on display at the museum. Undoubtedly, any number of Bennion-related grandfathers' petticoats may be found there. Let me tell you how one particular petticoat in the museum was used by several generations of Bennions:

A case in the clothing section displays a tiny petticoat made by Eliza Smith Spencer. She was a widow with two young sons when she emigrated from England to the Salt Lake Valley in 1851. She subsequently married Joseph Harker, becoming his second wife. The first years of their marriage were

(continued on page 2)

Contents

Grandpa's Petticoat?	1
Patriarchal Blessings	1
Samuel's First Blessing	2
Samuel's Second Blessing	3
Samuel's Third Blessing	4
John's First Blessing	4
John's Second Blessing	5
Recollections of Early Bennions	6
Williams Ancestry Found	11
Bennion Bits	11
President's Corner	11

John and Samuel Bennion's

Patriarchal Blessings

In the early days of the Church, members often received more than one patriarchal blessing, and we have the records of three for Samuel and two for John. As these blessings often contain information of interest and importance to their posterity, their blessings are reproduced in this issue.

As a reminder of the significance of patriarchal blessings, we quote from a June 28, 1957 letter written to all Stake Presidents by the First Presidency (David O. McKay, Stephen L. Richards, and J. Reuben Clark, Jr.), as quoted in Bruce R. McConkie's Mormon Doctrine: "Patriarchal blessings contemplate an inspired declaration of the lineage of the recipient, and also where so moved upon by the Spirit, an inspired and prophetic statement of the life mission of the recipient, together with such blessings, cautions, and admonitions as the patriarch may be prompted to give for the accomplishment of such life's mission, it being always made clear that the realization of all promised blessings is conditioned upon faithfulness to the gospel of our Lord, whose servant the patriarch is."

spent at "Old English Fort" in Taylorsville, Salt Lake County, Utah. A daughter named Eliza Ann Harker was born to them at the Fort in 1853.

Eliza Ann grew up and married Hyrum Bennion, a son of Samuel and Mary Bushell Bennion. "Grandmother Eliza" welcomed the birth of Hyrum's and Eliza Ann's first child, Hyrum Jr., with her special handiwork. The "surviving" petticoat (now shortened and showing much use) was subsequently worn by Hyrum Jr.'s six brothers and sisters, and may have been used by others in the greater family.

After Hyrum Jr. grew up and married Nellie North, their eight children each wore the baby petticoat for christening. In turn, the daughters of Hyrum Jr. and Nellie used the "treasure" on their babies' blessing days in the 1910's and 1920's. The most recent Bennions to wear the petticoat are today young grandparents themselves.

What fun to learn that a favorite "hero's" petticoat is at the Pioneer Memorial Museum, located at the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers' headquarters at 300 North Main Street!

STORIES ANYONE?

The editorial staff of the Bennion Family Recorder is constantly on the prowl for material for this esteemed journal. If you have any information on the early Bennions that you think may be of interest to more Bennions than yourself, please share it through this publication. Send your submissions to John Bennion, 2166 Parleys Terrace, Salt Lake City, UT 84109 (801) 466-7524. Thanks in advance!

SAMUEL'S FIRST BLESSING

[At the time of this blessing, Samuel and his wife Mary Bushell were the parents of five children, but only two were alive, two having died in Liverpool and one in Nauvoo. Their next child would be born six months later.]

Great Salt Lake City, Utah

5 March, 1848

A blessing by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Samuel Bennion, son of John and Elizabeth. Born at Flint, North Wales, 11 Dec. 1819 [1818].

"Brother Samuel, I place my hands upon thy head, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, and seal upon thee a father's blessing. Inasmuch as thou hast left thy native land and thy former friends to seek a resting place with the Saints for the Gospel's sake and the salvation of the children of men, the Lord thy God is well pleased. He desires to give unto thee all the blessings of the holy priesthood, which ever was conferred upon the posterity of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I seal it upon thee and thy posterity to continue from generation to generation, until Israel is gathered in the final restitution of all things which the prophets have spoken of since the world began.

"Inasmuch as it seemeth good unto thee, thou shalt go to thy native land and preach the gospel to thy friends and to thy nation by the power of the Holy Ghost. The wise and the learned shall be confounded because of thy wisdom. The high and the low shall submit themselves unto thee. Thou shalt bring many to Zion from every land where thy lot is cast. Thou shalt have power to rebuke the ragings of the sea, remove mountains by the prayer of faith; shalt have an inheritance in Zion with thy brethren, the children of Ephraim. Be satisfied with riches. Thy name shall never be blotted out. Be not fearful in tribulation and these words shall not fail. Even so, amen."

Recorded by John Smith

SAMUEL'S SECOND PATRIARCHAL BLESSING

[By this time Samuel's wife Mary had given birth to six more children, including her last, Alice Jane, just 7 days before this blessing was given. Of the total of eleven children, seven were alive at this time. His brother John also received his second patriarchal blessing at this same occasion.]

Given at English Fort, Dec. 10, 1856, by John Young, upon the head of Samuel Bennion, son of John and Elizabeth, born Dec. 11, 1818, Hawarden, North Wales.

"Brother Samuel, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I lay my hands upon your head to bless you and to seal and ratify the blessings of the everlasting covenant, even to confer a father's blessing upon your head. I pray that the spirit of our Heavenly Father may rest down upon us at this time, that whatever is spoken may be dictated by the Holy Spirit. In as much as you are a lawful heir of the seed of Abraham, the blood of Joseph, you are entitled to the blessings of the priesthood of the Son of God, which blessing I seal upon your head at this time, and I say, Brother Samuel, that in as much as you have embraced the gospel and gathered with the Saints you have a right to the blessings of the heavens and of the earth, all which I feel to confer upon you at this time, and I pray that your mind may expand to comprehend the things of the kingdom of God, for I bless you with blessings with both temporal and spiritual blessings.

"If it be your desire, you shall live to suffer and to rejoice with the people of God. I confer upon you the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and say Brother Samuel, that in as much as you are willing to abide a Celestial law you shall have celestial glory and have power to govern yourself and your household with propriety and discretion, and blessings shall be around you and your household, and the spirit of discernment and wisdom shall be upon you to discern light from darkness, good spirits from evil ones, and be prepared to detect all spirits that may come to you or your family with an evil design.

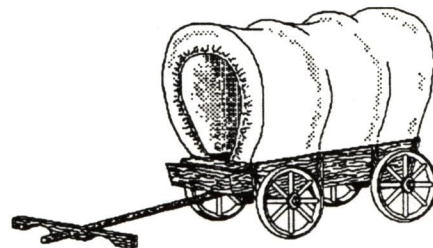
"You can live to see the redemption of you, and help to build up the Temple of the living God, upon the consecrated spot, even upon the place which has been ordained in the heavens that it should be built, and thou canst help to do it if thou wilt be faithful, and no power shall be able to overcome thee, and no weapon formed against thee shall prosper.

"In the Lord's own due time thou shalt have wives & children, and shall call thee blessed. I pray that thou may be preserved in innocency and peace, and live to avenge the blood of the prophets & martyrs of Jesus, & teach it to your posterity that they may do what you cannot do.

"Be faithful all things are yours, and your name shall be had in honorable remembrance, and the day will come when you will go forth to preach the gospel of salvation perhaps in your own native land, and notwithstanding, you may be in perilous times, yet you shall always be prepared by your Heavenly Father, and shall live till you have accomplished your work which is assigned you upon the earth, be a savior upon Zion, be mighty in Israel, a pillar in the Temple of the living God.

"I seal upon you these blessings, together with all you desire of your Father in Heaven, and I do it in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, even so, Amen."

J.V. Long, Reporter. [illegible], Scribe



SAMUEL'S THIRD BLESSING

[As of this date Samuel's first wife Mary had passed away three weeks earlier. Their seven surviving children were aged from 32 to 16 years old. Samuel had also married Rhoda Jones 4 years earlier, and she had given birth to one child two years prior to this blessing.]

Taylorsville, West Jordan
Salt Lake County
May 13, 1872

A Blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Samuel Bennion son of John and Elizabeth Bennion. Born at Hawarden, Flint Shire, North Wales, December 11, 1818.

"Brother Samuel, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, I place my hands upon thy head and seal the Blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob upon thee, and say unto thee, be of good faith and of good cheer, for the Lord knoweth thine integrity. He hath heard thy petitions and will answer thee according to thy faith. Thou shalt live until thou hast finished thy mission. Thou art also entitled, through obedience, to the gospel, to the blessing of the New and everlasting covenant, with the gift of the priesthood. Thou art numbered among the fathers in Israel and thy name shall be written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Thou has seen many changes and passed through trying events, for which thou shalt verily receive thy reward. Again, I say unto thee, be of good cheer and let thy heart be comforted, for thy last days shall be thy best days. Thy posterity shall be numerous and shall be honorable in the land. Thou shalt assist in gathering scattered Israel, and shall comfort the heart of the poor and needy, and feed many in time of scarcity. Thou shalt also be a saviour among thy kindred and rejoice with many hereafter. This, with thy former blessing, I seal upon thy head and I seal thee up unto eternal life with power to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection among thy kindred and friends. Even so, Amen."

Recorded by H. E. Lewis

JOHN'S FIRST BLESSING

[As of the date of this blessing, John was married to Esther Wainwright, and they were the parents of six children, five of which were living. They had lost Ann, age 1, during the journey across the plains. The youngest child at this time was John Edward, born two months prior to this blessing.]

Great Salt Lake City February 28th 1851. A blessing by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of John, son of John and Elizabeth Bennion, born Parish of Hawarden C of Flintshire North Wales July 9th 1820.

"Brother John I place my hands upon thy head and seal thee a fathers blessing in the name of Jesus Christ for thou art a descendant of Joseph who was sold into Egypt and a trueful heir to all the blessings that was sealed upon his children by his father Israel therefore advise and prepare thyself for the work where unto thou art called for the Lord will clothe thee with power to administer in the holy Priesthood to gather the remnants of Jacob from the four Quarters of the Earth and the Children of Judah to their inheritance that was given them by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. No power on earth shall stay thy hand no miracle shall be too hard for thee to perform by the power of the Priesthood which is sealed upon thee to continue through all the generations of thy posterity thou shalt gather thy thousands and lead them to Zion for the winds and the waves of the sea shall obey thy voice and thy name shall be known among many nations as a mighty man thy posterity shall be numerous so that they cannot be numbered thy rejoice shall be according to the desires of thine heart even to see the earth cleansed from wickedness the saints dwell in peace and none to make them afraid shall be satisfied with riches and honors and in the end inherit eternal life in as much as thou art faithful to the end no power shall take it from thee even so Amen."

JOHN'S SECOND PATRIARCHAL BLESSING

[This blessing was given to John six months following his marriage to Esther Ann Birch. He would marry Mary Turpin about five months later. John and Esther Wainwright now had 8 children, six of whom were living. His brother Samuel received a blessing the same day.]

Given at the English Fort, December 10, 1856, by John Young upon the head of John Bennion, son of John and Elizabeth, born July 9, 1820, Hawarden, Flint County, North Wales.

“Brother John, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I lay my hands upon your head to bless you even with a father’s blessing, and to seal upon your head the blessings of the everlasting gospel. I pray that the Holy Spirit may rest upon you and me that whatever is spoken may be by the dictates of the Holy Ghost.

“Thou art a lawful heir to the everlasting covenant, being a literal descendant of Ephraim and an heir according to the promises and blessings of the fulness of the Gospel all which I feel to seal upon thee at this time. Inasmuch as thy heart is honest before the Lord and thou hast embraced the Gospel, left thy native land to sojourn with the people of God and to help to build up his kingdom and to establish righteousness, and it is thy delight, thy meat and drink, to help to do the will of God, therefore all the blessings which the Lord has designed to give unto the faithful thou art entitled to. I seal upon thy head the blessing of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and I say brother John that thy posterity shall be numerous upon the face of the earth. You shall have power to govern yourself, which is a great victory and your mind shall expand and you shall be enabled to understand the things of the celestial kingdom and in as much as you have it in your heart to carry out the principles of the celestial home you shall be blest and have power over devils and unclean spirits and the eye of your understanding shall be like an eagle to behold things afar off and also near by; you shall

have power to administer to the sick and many shall rise up and call you blessed, and your name shall be had in honorable remembrance in the Church and no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and notwithstanding, you may be called by the voice of the spirit to proclaim the gospel to those who are in darkness and in the shadow of death; and thou shalt have the holy comforter which leads unto truth and brings past things to mind, and you shall not fall by the enemy but you shall live till your hair is as white as pure wool and in as much as you desire it you shall live to see the redemption of Zion and help to build up temples, and you shall have flocks and herds for I realize by the spirit that is in me that thou desireth to do good. Thou shall see the downfall of nations and the widespreading glory of the kingdom of God until thou art satisfied with life. I say brother John be faithful and diligent and you shall be blest in your family and in all things you can desire before your heavenly Father, for there is an eternity of blessings awaits you, and I can seal you up to eternal life upon conditions of your faithfulness, and you shall have power to come forth in the first resurrection, and shall be one of the pillars in the temple of the living God to redeem those that died in the darkness, and you shall have on the holy armor of God. You shall have power to stand against the grand enemy and be a mighty man of God and be led by the Spirit and the still small voice. I seal upon you these blessings and all you desire, for the heavens are full of blessings for you, and I do it in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, even so, Amen.”

J.V. Long, reporter. H. Long, scribe.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY BENNIONS

[What follows is an approximate transcription of a tape recording on file with the Utah Historical Society. The tape was originally made at the October 1959 Bennion Family Reunion, and consists of a group interview of Mary Elizabeth Lindsay Bennion. Mary Lizzie, born in 1870, was the eldest daughter of Joseph Lindsay and Emma Bennion. Emma was a daughter of Samuel Bennion and Mary Bushell. In addition, Mary married Edwin Bennion, a son of John Bennion and Mary Turpin, so she was a granddaughter of Samuel and a daughter-in-law of John! Mary passed away in 1969. Unfortunately we cannot be certain who is speaking at each moment in the tape, but here is our best guess: ML = Mary Elizabeth Lindsay Bennion; C = Cora Lindsay Bennion, Mary's sister who married Milton Bennion, another son of John Bennion and Mary Turpin; D = Desla S. Bennion, grandson of John Bennion & Mary Turpin via Alfred Bennion; and N = at least one other unidentified female, possibly Laura Bennion Nebeker. In October 1959 Mary Lizzie was 89 years old, Cora was 84, and Desla was 70.]

D: We are in the home of Mary Elizabeth Lindsay Bennion, who was the wife of Edwin Bennion. Also present is her sister Cora Lindsay Bennion who married Milton Bennion, who was the youngest son of Mary Turpin Bennion. These two sisters are also granddaughters of Samuel Bennion and Mary Bushell Bennion. They, with our Uncle Archie Bennion [a son of John Bennion and Esther Ann Birch and at that time 83 years old and the only surviving second generation Bennion] represent the surviving second generation of the Bennion family of Utah.

ML: We're not the second generation!

D: Well, you represent it because you married two of the second generation, and so your recollections are of their age and I assume would be representative of that second generation. So when we get your recollections we, as the Historical Committee, Laura Bennion Nebeker and myself, will give that to our family as the recollections of the second generation

of the Bennion family, along with Uncle Archie's. Is that agreeable to you?

D: Mary Lizzie, how old were you when your grandfather, Samuel Bennion, died?

ML: Nineteen years old.

D: What do you remember about him? What were his characteristics? You look at his picture and it's rather stern.

ML: He was very jovial, and very friendly. He had a lot of company. Always company there, it seemed to me. You know, church people and business men. He was quite a business man, grandfather was. He was a county commissioner for a long time.

D: They were called county selectmen, I think.

ML: They used to call him a selectman, yes.

N: Was he the first Bishop of Taylorsville?

C: John Bennion was first.

D: I think John Bennion was called a Branch President wasn't he?

ML: That's right, and then Samuel was the first real Bishop [of Taylorsville Ward].

D: Then John Bennion was called on his Dixie mission, according to this history down here, and these letters that I've read. Then Samuel Bennion was appointed Bishop, as I recall.

ML: I remember him all through my young life. He used to pitch hay [], and his old home there, I can just see that as well as if it were very recently.

D: As I recall, the house was one of the first real brick and pomet homes in Taylorsville.

ML: Yes, and it was the best equipped and the best furnished. That parlor we used to think was grand. It wasn't opened every day in the week for the children. It was for company and Sundays and things like that.

D: What were some of the things you remember about the parlor? I remember we had a parlor, too!

ML: It had a red and green carpet, and on the walls was a white and gold paper. The lace curtains were

(continued on page 7)

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY BENNIONS *(continued from p. 6)*

flowered lace, white lace curtains and green blinds. The furniture was black horsehair and black wood, and it was very beautiful. They had a stove which showed the fire when there was a fire in it, and it made the room very cheerful and nice. In the center of the room was a round table. It had a cover on, a flowered cover with fringe around it. On top of that was a big family bible [now deposited at the Utah State Historical Society]. On the wall were three large oil paintings done by Daniel Weggeland, the pioneer artist. One of himself [Samuel] in the center, grandmother Bushell on one side and Rhoda on the other. They hung above the couch in the parlor. Then he had a secretary and bookcase all in one. The bottom was his desk. The top was filled with books. Behind the stove, on the mantle, were two large vases. They had peacock feathers in.

D: I remember those peacocks. I think he gave peacocks to everybody, didn't he? I remember we had some in our old home.

ML: He got those feathers from the peacocks out in the barnyard. There was a dining room that was comfortable. I remember there was a couch in it for Grandfather to lie down. He had an arm chair, not a rocker, just a kind of high-back chair with arms. It was his chair. That was at the head of the table. It was a long table in the dining room. That was used mostly every day. We didn't go in the parlor often. There was a homemade carpet on the floor in the dining room.

D: Did they have straw underneath it?

ML: Yes, they always had straw underneath. There was straw in the bedticks, too. Later on, there was a porch all the way around the house. Later on they built a kitchen out of the porch, a nice, large kitchen where they used to eat, and they were out there a lot. The old kitchen was dark, and it was at the back and it wasn't so nice.

N: Did they have bedrooms upstairs?

ML: Yes. There was one bedroom downstairs just off the parlor, opposite the parlor.

D: You say that he had the picture of his two wives there. How did he manage his family? Did he

manage his two families and where was Aunt Rhoda?

ML: Well, Aunt Rhoda was the hired girl for years and she lived right in the house. He married Rhoda before Grandmother died.

N: Was Rhoda attractive?

ML: Yes, she was rather attractive. She had dark eyes. She had the two boys, Wilfred and Arthur [four other children did not survive]. She buried little Rhoda — I believe she buried two children.

N: Do you think she fell in love with your grandfather while she was working there for him?

ML: Well, I don't know. I think maybe he married her for convenience.

D: Don't you think, at least according to my grandfather, John Bennion, the authorities told him to marry her? It was just one of those things that was an obligation. It wasn't because he wanted to do it. He was instructed to marry her.

ML: And they married him to get some help! That's the way they used to do it when they were coming across the plains. Don't you know Charles C. Rich? He had married one woman and gave her a wagon and a team to drive. She didn't want to come alone so he married another girl and the both of them came!

C: They did some queer things!

D: Convenience was possibly keeping an existence sometimes!

C: That's right. I don't think he had any slick time of it. And they thought, you know, that Brigham Young told them it was all right and they believed it.

D: According to my father, his father, John Bennion, the authorities came over there and told him he had to take another wife. He had two, and so the two wives picked the third wife, Mary Turpin Bennion.

C: A sixteen year old!

ML: She cleaned the house and she lived with Esther Wainwright.

D: Well, Samuel Bennion was very much of a business man, wasn't he?

ML: Yes, he was. Samuel Bennion was a good business man, a good farmer, he had a good orchard.

(continued on page 8)

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY BENNIONS *(continued from p. 7)*

Oh, I can remember that orchard. We used to go down to there and get wagon loads of apples.

C: We used to have apple juice. We used to go down there and peel apples, and to dry for winter. And little red plums, yes, little potawatamie plums. They grew along the ditch bank. We used to love to go down there, didn't we?

ML: Yes, we did. And Grandfather was always cheerful and always liked to see us come. He made us feel at home. At Christmas time he used to buy a 25 lb. wooden bucket of candy and then just have a little sack to give to lots of people, and that was a real treat in those days when I was a little kid. I remember that. He had a lot of company. Now John Taylor, I remember when he was out there on the underground, President John Taylor, and lots of prominent people. [Family members have stated that there was a trap door in the kitchen, covered by a rug. When John Taylor needed to hide out from the military he came to Samuel's home, went through the trap door down to a room that was kept in readiness for him, until such time as he could safely leave]. They were always welcome and they always set a good table. They always had plenty to eat. I remember that very well.

N: Did they have a good garden? Did they eat well?

ML: Yes, they always had a good garden, and they had a flower bed out in front of the house with all kinds of flowers. They had a Burton-Gardner fence all around.

D: What's a Burton-Gardner fence?

ML: Well, just like this out here.

D: Yes, oh yes, sort of a picket fence woven.

ML: Yes, with wire and wood. It was like that. They had animals around.

N: Did he have all the children work and help?

ML: You betcha. Everybody learned how to work. My goodness, yes they did!

D: How soon in life did they begin to work?

ML: I used to hear them say that they would send the boys to Rush Valley with cattle or horses, and I heard Heber say that they didn't have any shoes and they would go barefoot until their feet got so sore and then they would have to tie rags or canvas or gunny sacks

or anything.

D: They didn't think anything about sending them out when they were 10 or 12 years old?

ML: No, no, no. That was good and old, 10 or 12.

C: I'll say it was. I can remember hearing my husband [Milton Bennion] say they used to have a round-up of the cattle every fall and he said when he was thirteen years old he had the night herd and he used to get so sleepy that he would almost fall off his horse. But he was afraid to go to sleep for fear that Samuel R. and John R. would get after him.

N: Did they milk cows and have a barn and have chickens?

ML: Oh yes, they had a fine big barn. Archie Frame, I can remember when Archie Frame built the barn. And Grandfather was great for fine horses, you know. I can remember the old whitetop they used to have. Hyrum Jr. has a picture of that barnyard, and the whitetop and horses, and cows, oh yes, they had cows, of course they did. They milked the cows, and had pigs and everything else. Grandfather was a good farmer. I can remember seeing him go out to water when it was raining hard. He said the streams were always higher when it was raining hard and the ground was wet and it would soak in better. He would put on his rubber boots and his slicker and get out in the rain.

D: What kind of discipline did he use with his children? You know generations change and they don't use discipline now the way we did. Was he a very strict disciplinarian with his family and his children?

ML: Yes, I think he was, fairly, but not too strong. I don't think they were ever afraid of him. I don't think anybody was ever afraid of him. I can remember when he was Bishop and used to sit up on that stand in the old brick school house. He always went over on the end to sit down. He didn't sit right back of the stand. He would go over and sit down on the end, the east end of it. The old rock school house, you know. That is where I remember seeing John Bennion, was in that old rock school house.

(continued on page 9)

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY BENNIONS *(continued from p. 8)*

N: Is that where you had Sunday School?

ML: Yes, we had Sunday School in there.

D: How old were you when John Bennion was there?

ML: I was only seven years old when John Bennion died. It wasn't long before he died that I can remember him.

N: Tell about when you can remember him in Sunday School.

ML: Well, I was sitting by the fire one Sunday morning in Sunday School and I had a coat and a hood on, a cape and a hood, you know, woolen, and it was awfully warm and I didn't see any other seat. I didn't know where else to go but he came along and saw that I was so warm that he told me where to go and sit. They used to pass tickets around — they gave us a ticket if we got to Sunday School on time, just a little fancy ticket with a little picture on it. I remember him coming to me and showing me where to go and sit and that is the only time that I remember him.

D: You were four years younger, so you probably don't remember him, Aunt Cora.

C: No, I don't remember John Bennion at all.

N: You remember his funeral?

ML: Yes, I remember his funeral. It was held outside and I remember that they had the white top buggies — you know, a lot of people had white tops in those days, and I can remember that long string going up over the hill to Salt Lake.

C: I remember seeing Samuel Bennion in his casket down in his home.

ML: Yes, I can remember when Grandfather died.

C: You were 19 then and I was about 15, between 14 and 15.

D: Why did they hold the funeral in the old brick school house? I believe the church and the school house were the same weren't they, until they built that meeting house?

ML: Yes, your mother, you know, taught in that school house.

D: Yes, she lived with your Grandfather, also. I remember her telling me that.

ML: Well, she used to live with John Bennion more

than Grandfather.

D: Is that right?

ML: Yes, you know Hattie Morier [sp?] was a great friend of your mother's and Rebecca Mantle. Those ladies were high class ladies, you know. I think it was John Bennion where she lived and boarded. They used to board the school teachers.

D: I know for a time she boarded at the Samuel Bennion home.

ML: Well, she may have done — I think that Grandfather was very friendly with her, I'm sure he was. She used to do quite a lot of things for the ward, and put on things for the school children. C : She was my first teacher. I will never forget that first morning I went to her school.

ML: Oh, I remember things she used to put on. My goodness, the things. We had a fair one time. Each pupil represented a state, and they told about this state, and they had a sash, with the state printed on. I was Vermont. We told about each state. She used to do lots of interesting things like that.

D: She used visual aids, then. It is very common now.

ML: And I think that Grandfather was always very friendly with your mother.

D: It's delightful for me to hear stories about my mother [Amelia Eliza Slade Bennion].

C: I remember your mother so well. I was secretary in the Primary when Aunt Susie was President and your mother was counselor. That was my first job in the church! I was about 13, I think, then.

D: Mary Lizzie, when you married Uncle Edwin you went on a mission with him, didn't you? Did you go to Holland?

ML: Yes, I did.

C: You had your honeymoon there!

ML: Yes!

C: Then you came home with Father [Joseph Lindsay] from his mission.

ML: Yes. My father was on a mission, and after I'd been there seven months he was released to come

(continued on page 10)

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY BENNIONS *(continued from p. 9)*

home and I came home with him.

C: You came home pregnant!



ML: Yes.

D: Let's see, who was the oldest? [child of Mary Lizzie]

C: It's Ted — Edwin Anthon.

D: So he was born when you came home.

ML: Yes, he was born at Mother's house there in Taylorsville.

C: I remember that night so well.

ML: Yes, I lived there until Father [Edwin] came back from his mission.

D: ... The church and the school were just about the same, weren't they?

ML: Oh yes, they weren't separated like it is now.

D: Well, which was built first, the little brick school house?

ML: The rock school house. Yes, that was built first.

N: That is where I taught school first.

N: Was that on the brow of the hill?

N: Right on the top of the hill, yes. The old rock school house.

D: Then the other two wings were built of brick afterwards, weren't they?

ML: That's right, one on the east and one on the

west.

N: Then the church was built later?

D: Wasn't the school house used a church?

N: Well, I guess the one on the west was the church, wasn't it?

ML: Yes, that was the biggest. The other was for school.

D: That rock school house, was it built for a school house or for a church first?

ML: Well, I think for a school, probably, wouldn't you think?

C: Well, I think a church and school. It wasn't big enough for a church. The church and school both used it. It is the only thing that I can remember that I ever went to for anything. I think it was built for a church and school too, for several years. Albert Spencer taught there and Mahonri Spencer taught there.

N: Was there kind of an aristocracy of certain families there?

C: There were the Lindsays, the Butterfields, the Mantles, the Pixtons and the Bennions. They were the top notch!



WILLIAMS LINK ESTABLISHED

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Helen Madsen, our lead family tree researcher, has made contact with a descendant of the brother of Sarah Williams. Sarah was Samuel Bennion's second wife whom he married in 1853, but is little known to us because, to the best of our knowledge, they had no surviving posterity. However, Leon Williams of Alpine, Utah, a descendant of Sarah's brother, has extensive information on Sarah's lineage, her family's residence in the Salt Lake Valley, the conversion story of her parents, their immigration to Nauvoo, and more. Sarah's father is buried in the Union Cemetery south of Salt Lake City, and we have reason to believe that Sarah is buried there as well. Brother Williams is preparing information for us regarding Sarah and her family, and it will be published in future issues of the Recorder. Stay tuned!

By Bob Bennion
(801) 484-8308

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I am continuing to work on the project assuring that the Bennion Family Association is organized within the IRS guidelines for tax-exempt organizations. We recently submitted amendments to our original Articles of Incorporation, which were accepted by the State of Utah's Department of Commerce on August 21, 1989. These amendments reflect the revised focus of our family organization as discussed in the previous newsletter, and are available to any family member upon request.

As usual, your comments and/or suggestions on this or any other Bennion subject are encouraged and appreciated.

BENNION BITS

The new President of Ricks College, Steve Bennion, is a great grandson of John Bennion and Mary Turpin via Milton Bennion and Cora Lindsay, then Lowell L. Bennion and Merle Colton. As an interesting sidelight, Milton wrote in his memoirs "My father labeled me Milton after the great English poet, religious, political and educational reformer, explaining that he wanted me to become a man of letters rather than a farmer and rancher like most of the Utah Bennions of 1870." It evidently worked, as Milton became the Dean of the School of Education at the University of Utah, and Milton's descendants include M. Lynn Bennion, Lowell L. Bennion, John W. Bennion, and the aforementioned Steve Bennion, all prominent educators!

The Bennions have a "Hawaii Connection": Linda C. Gonsalves writes "Our oldest son Greg Gonsalves is a freshman at BYU, where he will be

playing on the historic first NCAA-sanctioned BYU Volleyball Team. He'd love to meet other Bennion Cousins going to BYU. If any Bennion Cousins visit Kauai please call and introduce yourself. 882-5906 or write 6500 Ahele Dr. Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii 96746. Make your reservations early!!! (just kidding)

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*THIS SPACE IS RESERVED
FOR
YOUR NEWS
IN THE NEXT
ISSUE!*

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