

## HANDWRITING SAMPLES OF FIRST GENERATION BENNIONS

Two years ago in our Christmas issue of the Recorder we brought you photographs of the first generation Bennions — Samuel, John, and their wives. This year, we have decided to present copies of original handwriting of each of them, as far as possible. We have samples from Samuel and his first wife Mary Bushell, and from John and his three wives, Esther Wainwright, Esther Ann Birch, and Mary Turpin. We were unable to locate samples from Samuel's third wife, Rhoda Jones, or from his little known second wife Sarah Williams. If you can help us in these two cases, please let us know.

Along with each item we have included a transcription. If you take the time to try to read the original handwriting, you will better appreciate the labor of love performed by your family historians. Typing the original punctuation and spelling is a real challenge!

We were unable to find a handwriting expert who could analyze nineteenth century handwriting, but if we had been able to do so, we are confident of the results — fine, hard-working individuals, of strong moral character, loving husbands/fathers and wives/mothers, dedicated to raising families devoted to each other and to the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

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## Season's Greetings

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# Samuel Bennion

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*Memorandum  
and Day Book*

*Samuel Bennion  
G S L. Valley  
1858  
L  
L*

## Samuel Bennion (continued)

My Father John Bennion was  
Born November 9<sup>th</sup> 1786 at Mancott near  
Hawarden County of Flintshire  
North Wales England  
was the Son of William and Elisabeth  
Bennion was brought up and followed  
the Occupation of a Farmer—  
Married to Elisabeth Roberts  
on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1811 at  
St Marys Church in the City of Ches<sup>ter</sup>  
County of Cheshire Eng<sup>land</sup>—  
Lived on a small Farm in the  
Moor Lane near Hawarden County  
of Flintshire, about twenty five years  
John Bennion and Elisabeth Roberts  
Children are has follows

Mary Bennion A Born  
August 25<sup>th</sup> 1817

Samuel Born Dec<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1819

John Born

Eliseath Born

Samuel Thomas Daines

# Samuel Bennion (continued)

✓  
My mother Departed this life on  
the first day of May 1837  
after a lingering illness of several  
years first of the dropsy and after  
wards a stroke of the Palsy losing  
the use of one side  
aged 40 years Buried in How-  
arden Church yard

My grandmother Eliseath Roberts  
died May 13<sup>th</sup> 1839.. Aged 78 years  
Buried in Hope Church yard

My grandfather Robert Roberts  
died August 1839  
Buried at the same Place

My Father was Baptized into the  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints  
on the 2 May 1844 in the River Mersey  
by Elder James Houston, of Nauvoo  
Left his native land for Nauvoo  
in the Spring 1844

# Samuel Bennion (continued)

Departed this life on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Sep<sup>r</sup> 1846 at ten minutes to four o'clock P.M. for three weeks before he died he was confined to his bed Complaint was Bilious fever and dumb tongue

Buried on Saturday morning the 26<sup>th</sup> under a large oak tree in the Big Field by the side of the Woods and by Samuel Bent

at Garden Grove  
Mormon Settlement 160 miles west  
from Keuroo, State of Iowa  
in full faith in the work of God  
in the Latter days

# Mary Bushell Bennion

Wash. Jan 18 '12

Dear Children

Sunday evening Dear  
Lizzie as I am alone I embrace this opportunity  
of writing a few lines to you. Hoping they will  
find you all well as this leaves us at present.  
~~I have just returned from your school~~  
I have had a very nice social party they are  
all well your mother is well and was there  
also. Dear Lizzie you say you would like me  
to write you a good morning letter I have  
no other desire in my heart but to do you  
all the good I can. a word of kindness how  
good it is I expect you will all be tired.  
Sometimes it seems we would falter by the way  
~~but never mind we will put our trust in~~  
our heavenly Father and he will bring us safe  
into the Kingdom of our Lord we must try and  
overcome our own feelings. That seems to me to be  
the hardest thing I have to overcome. We have  
had some very cold weather lately last Wednesday  
was the coldest day I have felt for some years.  
I was thinking many times through the day.

## Mary Bushell Bennion (cont.)

whether the boys were out. We are going to have our Annual Relief Society Party on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February next I think the sisters felt well our last meeting was a very good one there seemed to be very good feelings amongst the sisters I must give this for time to a close give my kind love to Hyrum I often think of you all and pray for you to I hope you will remember us in your prayers you must forgive me for not writing to you before I hope you will write as often as you can If any one comes home from Rush St seem quite natural to me to ask them for letters please excuse all mistakes good night.

I remain your affectionate sister.

Mary Bennion

John Bennion

Jordan Home  
April 19. 1874

Dear sister Hannah

Although I have not had a letter from you since I last wrote I fancy you will welcome a few lines from me. After getting rid of a cold I had in the winter I have enjoyed excellent health, also the family most of the time all well at present our children has had a good opportunity of schooling the past winter and I think have well improved it.

The spring season has been late & stormy which has kept us backward with our farm work. I have nearly completed plowing & seeding 16 acres of wheat 5 of oats & 2 of peas we have about 10 acres yet to plow & seed with potatoes & Indian Corn now that I have my family around me I can accomplish considerable farming as well as sheep raising. This spring I have enlarged my Orchard about ninety young trees of Apple pear & Plum. Utah is becoming a noted fruit country at present the mining districts consumes the surplus. Saml R started last Tuesday to attend the sheep through the lambing season. It takes 4 or 5 hand wool is down to 22 cents per pound at present.

## John Bennion (continued)

During the winter President B Young has been in the south country, a warmer climate he is now on his way here, holding meetings in the Towns he passes through from there here. He is expected to arrive at Salt Lake City tomorrow. Yesterday a steam engine arrived by rail from Sinker & Davies works, Indianapolis. This is the opening of business which I hope will grow and may cause Thos Davies to visit us on business interest for the firm.

Bro Samuel is fixing for the trip this summer. Samuel R our son is so tied up in business, building him a good house, farming & tending his stock that he cant see his way clear to visit England now. I rec'd several papers from you for which you have my thanks, Jane is well, I see her about every day, she has improved herself in school the past winter, she has a good home at Saml R<sup>d</sup> and I think is doing well. I hope this will find you well & Andrew steady knowing that if he is it is a great comfort to you & the girls. How much has little Hannah grown since we left. I have not wrote to my friends in England lately, been too busy. Kind regards to all the family with yourself.

Your affectionate Brother  
John Bennion

# Esther Wainwright Bennion

Ly S L City Nov. 10. 1861

Dear Mother

Another immigration has come in to swell the throng of Lions sons & daughters amongst them we have been looking & inquiring for some acquaintance of yours who had lately parted & shook hands with Mother Wainwright, who had requested them to see & remember to her to this part of her family, whom she has little hopes now of seeing on this side the veil, Mother we have in this been somewhat disappointed. Brother Jabez Woodward has returned home he called to see us a few hours after but had not seen Mother for a long time she is not now able to walk to meeting we are told

Elder Milo Andrews saw Mother last winter he tells us she is feeble and can not last much longer here, our friends coming away would gladly call and see you Mother, in years past they had pleasure in doing so and frequently speak of your kindness and inquire if we still here from you, we would gladly hear of your welfare, the more so as your health & strength fails we think still your mind and desires are towards God & his people it is perhaps well that sister Hannah is near by to take care of temporal things in your old age, but your greatest comfort can alone be drawn from those who are the friends of God & his cause there ties & friendship is for time & eternity

## Esther Wainwright Bennion (cont.)

The family are all in good health and doing well. Mary is married to a young man near by name George Calder, he has a farm they are doing well, the rest of the family 5 daughters & two sons are at home growing up healthy robust and above all an obedient family. They know they have a good kind grandmother accross the big waters, they can now be shown nice Sunday frocks worn a few times by them each one in turn now the youngest is outgrowing them, to be layed by to show to the next generation.

The two chairs I brought out of my bed room are good yet we talk of having them painted and preserved as a family relic.

We have plenty both of cloathing & eatables, few people here are in a better way of living than we are, such as this county affords, we have several hundred sheep, some fifteen horses & about 60 cattle. Make & wear our own cloaths, make our candles, soap, treacle, preserves, have a young orchards coming on, so you see we are preparing to live within ourselves. Build & inhabit, plant & eat the fruit thereof.

The war does not disturb us at all only since the people of the south have turned to fighting a number of our people have gone a few hundred miles southward to grow cotton, tobacco, dye stuff, grapes, lemons & other things, formerly grown & sent here from Southern States, we have seen some grow here, in small quantities.

## Esther Wainwright Bennion (cont.)

For several months past we had news from the States ~~1000 miles in 4 or 5 days time & twice a week by a pony rider~~, now the telegraph is in operation successfully we get news daily, also a daily mail to California papers through our streets

The United States army quartered here the last three years have all gone away, the Indians are peaceable as a general thing. Crops have been the best this year than any time since we settled this country. We think ourselves a prosperous people, like bees gathering in the honey while the sun shines.

We received a letter from a cousin William Bennion dated 373 Scotland road Lpool <sup>March 1861</sup>. I intend to answer it with you would show him this.

We also received a letter from Mrs Elizabeth Davies formerly Ediz Bennion of Moor Lane Dated Omaha, Nebraska Territory U. S. June 1861.

Bros Sam & Bennion & Family are well and in same place 1/2 miles from us.

November 24<sup>th</sup> Please have a letter wrote to us give us your age & were born also Fathers and all your children when I were born.

All the Family joins me in a kind remembrance to you & yours.

I remain

Your affectionate daughter  
Esther Bennion

## Esther Wainwright Bennion (cont.)

Letter to Mother  
Dear Mother

Please take this letter to my  
mother Mary Wainwright Bennion  
and tell her I am very  
much  
lovingly  
and  
affectionately  
yours  
Esther Bennion

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# Esther Ann Birch Bennion

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Engleville Nov 11<sup>th</sup> /72

Dear Mary

I received yours of Oct 20 last night, was glad to hear from you, hope you all continue in good health, We are well except bad colds which the three biggest boys have, We still have the sheep to take care of and as we have had no word from St George I have no idea when it will be different. I saw the Business Agent of the Company three weeks since, he said the Shareholders were displeased with Bro Bennion and did not intend to take them till they got ready, last week I wrote to Bro Snow about it and if they do not take them when the time is up I will send them to St George and leave them to do as they please.

## Esther Ann Birch Bennion (cont.)

The weather has been very severe since Oct 26, snow fell in the mountains, so they have had to keep moving, and both the biggest boys <sup>with</sup> them leaving me poor help. My hands are completely tied even the Indians have moved off. I expect you will blame me when I say that half our crop is spoiled but what could I do no team or wagon and even David away. I have worked hard Mary to try and save what I could but it has froze hard every night for two weeks. I did not mean to say much about it I should have done first rate if I could have had the boys home and a team for them to work with it is impossible to hire, folks here have plenty of their own work to do.

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## Esther Ann Birch Bennion (cont.)

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I don't know yet how I shall get wood, men here are calculating on working on the railroad with their teams this winter, guess I shall manage to get it when the boys get home some how. Bro Moody got home a day or two since, will stay here this winter he says he will try to get up a school, has wrote to St George for a teacher, meetings are forgotten but I hear of some missionaries coming to feel after us.

I milk two strippers and Old Fidge has a young calf but she only keeps it at present, my pig the first in Dixie, is quite fat though small, I have plenty of frozen squash to boil for her, think I shall keep her another month. I have been sorting over the potatoes today, think there will be about

## Esther Ann Birch Bennion (cont.)

It's near eleven o'clock, good night  
I pray God to overrule all things for good

fifty bushels of good ones, safe in  
the cellar under lock and key  
after selling enough to pay for getting  
them ~~my~~ thankful for so much  
thought there ought to be a hundred  
Well Mary I guess I'll quit, wish  
you was here, don't laugh at my  
perplexities, you know what a goose  
I am, hope David will be a good boy  
I did hate his coming up there the  
worst of anything he is so queer  
Give my love to all the family  
to your boys and yourself

write again please and address

Keep this letter  
to yourself

Esther A Bennion  
Eagleville  
Via Pioche, Nev

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# Mary Turpin Bennion

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In memory of my Mother died  
December 22<sup>th</sup> 1863.  
Dear Mother thou art dear to me  
Though thou art gone to rest  
And thy advice so good and true  
Is a comfort in my breast.

Dear Mother when I think on thee  
And words thou hast said  
I feel that they are good and true  
And blessings on my head.

And when I look on this dark world  
And think it a trouble here to dwell  
I know thy gentle voice would say  
Do right and all is well.

I ever shall remember Mother  
The day when last we met.  
~~With kind words~~

when you clasped me to your bosom  
with kind words I can't forget.

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## Mary Turpin Bennion (cont.)

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When you looked upon me then  
I was with a Mothers love  
you prayed for God to bless me  
with wisdom from above.

Thou taught my infant lips to pray  
And all ways have the truth  
Thou watched er me in infancy  
and guarded me in youth.

Mother why should I mourn for you  
when thou art gone to rest <sup>surely</sup>  
Far from this wide and wicked  
Thou dwelllest with the blest.

And when my days on earth are past  
And my work is finished here  
O may I dwell with thee at last  
And those I love so dear

March 18th 1868  
Mary Turpin Bennion

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# TRANSCRIPTS OF LETTERS

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## Samuel Bennion

*[from his daybook]*

My Father John Bennion was Born November 9th 1786 at Mancott near Hawarden County of Flintshire north Wales England Was the Son of William and Elisebth Bennion was brought up and followed the Occupation of a Farmer Married to Eliseabth Roberts on the 24th of September 1811 at St Marys Church in the City of Chester County of Cheshire England Lived on a Small Farm in the Moor Lane near Hawarden County of Flintshire, about twenty five years John Bennion and Eliseabth Roberts Children are has follows

Mary Bennion Born August 25th 1817

Samuel Born Decr 11th 1818

John Born

Eliseath Born

“ married Thomas Daives *[this line not original handwriting]*

My Mother Departed this life on the first day of May 1831 after a lingrining illinness of Several years first the dropsy and after wards a Stroke of the Palsy loosing the use of one Side ,  
Aged 40 years Burieded in Hawarden Church Yard

My Grandmother Eliseabth Roberts died May 13th 1839. Aged 78 years  
Buried in Hope Church yard

My Granfather Robert Roberts died August 18, 1839 Buried at the same Pleace

My Father was Baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints on the 2 May 1841 in the River Mersey by Elder James Houston, of Nauvoo Left his native land for Nauvoo in the Spring 1844  
Departed this life on the 24th day of Sep 1846 at ten minuits to four oclock P.M. for three weeks before he died he was confined to his

bed Complaint was Bilious feaver and Dumb ague Buried on Satuarday morning the 26 under a large oak tree in the Big Field by the Side of the Woods & by Samuel Bent  
at Garden Grove Mormon Settlement 160 miles west from Nauvoo; State of Iowa

in full faith in the Work of God in the Latter dayes

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## Mary Bushell Bennion

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*[This letter was written by Mary Bushell Bennion, Samuel's first wife, to Eliza Ann Harker Bennion, the wife of Hyrum Bennion and Mary's daughter-in-law. At this time Mary was 55 years old, while Eliza was 18 and had married 25 year old Hyrum 6 weeks earlier. Mary died three months later of typhoid.]*

West Jordan Jan 28, '72

Dear Children,

Sunday evening Dear Lizzie as I am alone I embrace this opportunity of writing a few lines to you hoping they will find you all well as this leaves us at present. *[illegible line]* have had a very nice social party they are all well your mother is well and was there also. Dear Lizzie you say you would like me to write you a good mormon letter I have no other desire in my heart but to do you all the good I can. a word of kindness how good it is I expect you will all be tried sometimes It seems we would falter by the way but never mind we will put our trust in our heavenly Father and he will bring us safe into the Kingdom of our Lord we must try and overcome our own feelings that seems to me to be the hardest thing I have to overcome. We have had some very cold weather lately last wednesday was the coldest day I have felt for some years. I was thinking many times through the day whether the boys were out. We are going to have our Annual Relief Society Party on the 10th of February next I think the Sisters felt well our last meeting was

# TRANSCRIPTS (cont.)

## Mary Bushell Bennion (cont.)

a very good one there seemed to be very good feelings amongst the sisters. I must bring these few lines to a close. give my kind love to Hyrum I often think of you all and pray for you to I hope you will rember us in your prayers you must forgive me for not writing to you before I hope you will write as often as you can If any one comes home from rush It seems quite natural to me to ask them for letters please excuse all mistakes good night

I remain your affectionate Mother

Mary Bennion

## John Bennion

*[This letter was written by John to his sister-in-law, Hannah, the sister of John's first wife Esther Wainwright. Hannah lived in Liverpool, England.]*

Jordan Home  
April 19, 1874

Dear Sister Hannah

Although I have not had a letter from you since I last wrote I fancy you will welcome a few lines from me After getting rid of a cold I had in the winter I have enjoyed excellant health, also the family Most of the time all well at present our children has had a good oppurtunity of schooling the past winter and I think have well improved it This spring season has been late & stormy which has kept us backward with our farm work I have nearly completed plowing & seeding 16 acres of wheat 5 of oats & 2 of peas we have about 10 acres yet to plow and seed with potatoes & Indian Corn now that I have my family arround me I can accomplish considerable farming as well as Sheep raising This spring I have enlarged my Orchard about ninety young trees of apple pear & Plum Utah is becoming a noted fruit country at present the Mining districts consumes the

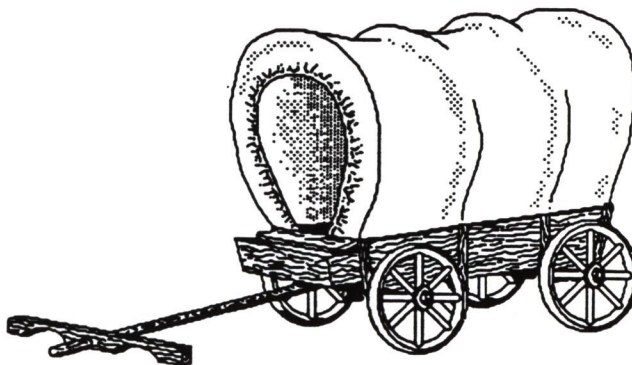
## John Bennion (cont.)

Surplus Samuel R started last tuesday to attend the sheep through the lambing season It takes 4 or 5 hands wool is down to 22 cents per pound at present.

During the winter President B Young has been in the South country, a warmer climate he is now on his way here, holding meetings in the Towns he passes through from there to here He is expected to arrive at Salt Lake City Tomorrow

Yesterday a Steam engine arrived by rail from Sinker & Davies works, Indianapolis This is the opening of business which I hope will grow and may cause Thos Davies to visit us on business interest for the firm Bro Samuel is fixing for the trip this summer Samuel R our Son is so tied up in business, building him a a good house farming & tending his Stock that he cant see his way clear to visit England now I recieved several papers from you for which you have my thanks, Jane is well. I see her about every day, She has improved herself in school the past winter, She has a good home at Samuel Rs and I think is doing well I hope this will find you well & Andrew steady knowing that if he is it is a great comfort to you and the girls. How much has little Hannah grown since we left, I have not wrote to my friends in England lately, been too busy kind regards to all the family with yourself

Your affectionate Brother  
John Bennion



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## Transcript of Esther Wainwright Bennion Letter

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*[This letter was written by Esther Wainwright Bennion to her mother, who continued to reside in England. At this time Esther was 44 years old and the mother of 10 children, 8 living, ages 2 to 17. She would subsequently give birth to two more children.]*

G S L City November 10, 1861

Dear Mother

Another immigration has come in to swell the throng of Zions sons & daughters amongst them we have been looking & inquiring for some acquaintance of yours who had latly parted & shook hands with mother Wainwright, who had requested them to see & remember to her to this part of her family, whom she has little hopes now of seeing on this side the vail, Mother we have in this been somewhat disappointed Brother Jabez Woodward has returned home he called to see us a few hours after but had not seen mother for a long time she is not now able to walk to meeting we are told Elder Milo Andrus saw mother last winter he tells us she is feeble and can not last much longer here, our friends coming away would gladly call and see you mother, in years past they had pleasure in doing so and frequently speak of your kindness and inquire if we still here from you, we would gladly here of your welfare, the more so as your health & strength fails we think still your mind and desires are towards God & his people it is peraps well that sister Hannah is near by to take care of temporal things in your old age, but your greatest comfort can alone be drawn from those who are the friends of God & his cause there ties & friendship is for time & eternity

The family are all in good health and doing well. Mary is married to a young man by the name of George Calder, he has a farm they are doing well, the rest of the family 5 daughters and two sons are at home growing up healthy robust and above all an obedient family they know they have a good kind grandmother accross the big waters, they can now be shown nice Sunday frocks worn a few times by them each one in turn now the youngest is outgrowing them, to be layed by to show to the next generation The two chairs I brought out of my bed room are good yet we talk of having them painted and preserved as a family relic We have plenty of both cloathing & eatables, few people here are in a better way of living than we are, such as this country affords we have several hundred sheep some feefteen horses & about 60 cattle make & wear our own cloaths, make our candles, soap, treacle preserves, have a young orchard coming on, so you see we are preparing to live within ourselves Build & inhabit, plant & eat the fruit thereof The war does not disturb us at all only since the people of the south have turned to fighting a number of our people have gone a few hundred miles southward to grow cotton, tobacco, dye stuffs, grapes, lemons & other things, formerly grown & sent here from Southern states, we have seen some grow here in Small quantities For several months past we had news from the states 1000 miles in 4 or 5 days time & twice a week by a pony rider, now the telegraph is in operation successfully we get news daily, also a daily mail to California passes through our streets The united states army quartered here the last three years have all gone away, the indians are peacable as a general thing Crops have been the best this year than any time since we settled this country we think ourselves a prosperes people, like bees gathering honey while the sun shines

we recieved a letter from a cousin William Bennion dated 373 Scotland road L pool March 1861 I intend to answer it wish you would show him this we also recieved a letter from Mrs Elizebeth Davies formerly Eliz Bennion of Moorland Dated Omaha, Nebraska Territory U. S. June 1861 Bro Samuel Bennion & Family are well and in same place 1/2 mile from us

November 24th Please have a letter wrote to us give us your age & were born also Fathers and all your children when & were born All the Family joins me in a kind remembrance to you & yours

I remain

Your affectionate daughter

Esther Bennion

Sister Isabel Clayton Dear Sister please take this letter to my mother Mary Wainwright and read it to her yourself and oblidge

yours respectfully

Esther Bennion

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## Transcript of Esther Ann Birch Bennion Letter

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*[This letter was written by Esther Ann Birch, John's second wife, to Mary Turpin, John's third wife, while John and Esther Ann were serving in the Muddy River Mission. At this time, Esther Ann was 39 years old, had 7 children aged from 1 to 14 years, and was 7 1/2 months along with #8! Mary T. was 31, had 6 children from ages 2 to 13, and was 6 weeks along with #7. John was in England on a brief genealogical mission. For more details of the circumstances surrounding this letter, the reader is referred to the recently published Bennion Family History Vol. 4: History of John Bennion.]*

Eagleville Nov. 11th / 72

Dear Mary,

I received yours of Oct. 20 last night, was glad to hear from you, hope you continue in good health. We are well except bad colds which the three biggest boys have. We still have the sheep to take care of and as we have had no word from St. George I have no idea when it will be different. I saw the Business Agent of the Company three weeks since, he said the shareholders were displeased with Bro. Bennion and did not intend to take them till they got ready, last week I wrote to Bro. Snow about it and if they do not take them when the time is up I will send them to St. George and leave them to do as they please.

The weather has been very severe since Oct 26, snow fell in the mountains, so they have had to keep moving and both the biggest boys be with them leaving me with poor help. My hands are completely tied, even the Indians have moved off. I expect you will blame me when I say that half our crop is spoiled but what could I do, no team or wagon and even David away. I have worked hard Mary to try and save what I could but it has froze hard every night for two weeks. I did not mean to say much about it, I should have done first rate if I could have had the boys home and a team for them to work with, it is impossible

to hire, folks here have plenty of their own work to do. I don't know how I shall get wood, men here are calculating on working on the railroad with their teams this winter, guess I shall manage to get it when the boys get home somehow. Bro. Moody got home a day or two since, will stay here this winter, he says he will try to get up a school, has wrote to St. George for a teacher, meetings are forggotten but I hear some missionaries coming to feel after us. I milk two strippers and Old Fidge has a young calf but she only keeps it at present, my pig the first in Dixie, is quite fat though small. I have plenty of frozen squash to boil for her, think I shall keep her another month. I have been sorting over the potatoes today, think there will be about fifty bushels of good ones, safe in the cellar under lock and key after selling enough to pay for getting them in, thankful for so much though there ought to be a hundred.

Well Mary I guess I'll quit, wish you was here, dont laugh at my perplexities, you know what a goose I am, hope David will be a good boy. I did hate his coming up there the worst of anything. Give my love to all the family to your boys and yourself.

Write again please and address

Esther A. Bennion

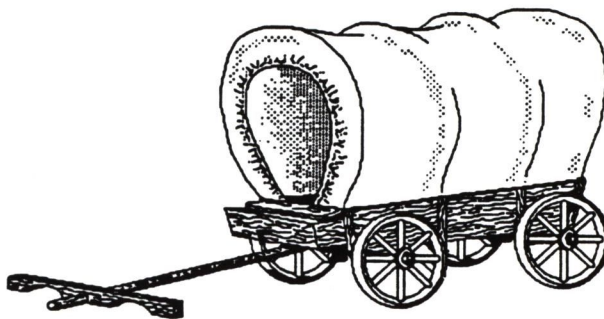
Eagleville

Via Pioche, Nev.

Keep this letter to yourself Mary.

Tis near Eleven o'clock, good night, I pray God to overrule all things for good.

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## Transcript of Mary Turpin Bennion's Poem

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*[Mary Turpin Bennion, the third wife of John Bennion, was 25 years old and the mother of 4 children ages 7 years to 9 months when she wrote this poem. Her mother had passed away at age 48.]*

In memory of my Mother Died  
December 22th 1863

Dear Mother thou art dear to me  
Though thou art gone to rest  
And thy advice so good and true  
Is a comfort in my breast.

Dear Mother when I think on thee  
And words thou hast said  
I feel that they are good and true  
And blessings on my head.

And when I look on this dark world  
And think it a trouble here to dwell  
I know thy gentle voice would say  
Do right and all is well.

I ever shall remember Mother  
The day when last we met  
when you clasped me to your bosom  
with kind words I cant for get.

When you looked upon me then  
Twas with a Mothers love  
you prayed for God to bless me  
with wisdom from above.

Thou tauth my infant lips to pray  
And all ways love the truth  
Thou watched or me in infancy  
And gaurded me in youth.

Mother why should I mourn for you  
when thou art gone to rest  
Far from this wide and wicked world  
Thou dwellest with the blest.

And when my days on earth are past  
And my work is finished here  
O may I dwell with thee at last  
And those I love so dear

March 18th 1866  
Mary Turpin Bennion

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## BENNION BITS

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### Volume 4 Copyright Issues

If you have had the good fortune of obtaining a copy of the Bennion Family History Volume 4: The John Bennion Family, you may have also noticed the copyright statement at the beginning. The author, Ruth Rogers, has had so many requests for use of excerpts that she has asked us to clarify the copyright. Your Bennion Family Executive Committee discussed the issue and decided the following, with Ruth's approval:

*Material may be excerpted from this book provided that (1) the excerpts are for non-commercial use, and (2) proper credit is given for the source of the excerpt.*

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### Lee Udall Bennion Found!

In the last quarter's issue of the Recorder, we published a drawing of a sheep wagon, along with a plea to help us identify the artist, a Lee Udall Bennion. As you might imagine, our pleas were answered. Lee Udall Bennion is the wife of Joseph Bennion, and they are both artists living in Spring City, Utah, which is in the middle of the state not far from Snow College. Joseph is a "double Bennion", descending on one line from John Bennion and Esther Ann Birch, and on another line from John Bennion and Mary Turpin.

Both Lee and Joseph are very successful in their own fields of art — Lee in oil painting and Joseph with ceramics. Lee has paintings permanently on display in the Relief Society Headquarters, the City/County Building in Salt Lake City, and in the Springville Art Museum. She was also recently featured on the back page of the November 1991 issue of Southwest Art magazine. She tells us that the wagon sketches were done "very early" in her career. Joseph has taught art classes at both BYU and Snow College, and his work has attracted attention in the Soviet Union. Four of his pieces are on display in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Riga, and somewhere in Siberia! He recently returned from a Ceramics Symposium in Latvia.

Joseph and Lee are "thirtysomething" and the proud parents of three girls. Joseph's aunt is Eileen Bennion McKean, an illustrious member of our Bennion Family Executive Committee, but Eileen was out of town when the last issue went to press or she could have spared us this embarrassment!

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**Comments** (additional family names and addresses, Recorder ideas, projects, etc. Contributions to "Bennion Bits" are strongly encouraged! When you include new family names and addresses, please tell us how they tie into the family tree -- very important for our computer!)

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