

HISTORY OF MARY EMILY ADAMS ELISON, the daughter of John Adams and Annabell Warburton. I was born of pioneer heritage. My grandmother pushed a handcart across the plains. My father and mother were born and raised in Tooele, Utah. They left Utah in 1881 to be some of the first settlers of the Oakley Valley.

I was born in Oakley, Idaho, September 15, 1884, in a two room log house with a dirt roof. My father took up forty acres of land which was covered with sagebrush. He cleared the sages by hand with a grubbing hoe. I watched him plow the ground with a hand plow and ox team.

My schooling was in a two-room log building with a dirt roof. There were two teachers for eight grades. The room had a big stove sitting in the middle which burned wood that had to be cut and hauled from the nearby hills. We walked over a mile to school as there were no buses. Sometimes we would go in a sleigh with a horse hitched to it. The snow would drift along the fences and we could ride over the top with the sleigh. I graduated from the eighth grade and that was the extent of my schooling.

I was baptized in Goose Creek July 27th, when I was seventeen years old. As I grew up I attended Primary, Sunday School, MIA and was a member of the Campfire Girls.

Most of the food we ate was raised from our own land. My father excelled in raising fruits, flowers and vegetables. There was always much to be done with the produce so I learned early in life how to care for it. We had a large orchard with fruits of all kinds. As the fruit came on people would come to buy it. I always had to help pick it. When the apples were ready, I would have to pick up the windfalls. Then, in the evening, the family would peel them with an apple peeler, then core and quarter them. They were then placed on large scaffolds to dry. They were covered with a thin cloth to keep the flies away. When the blue prunes were ripe they were also prepared and put on the scaffold to dry. When the fruit was dry we would put it in cloth sacks with 25 and 50 pounds to a sack. These were sold to the shepherders to take to camp. We always had our own vinegar made from our apples. Father also had a cider mill.

We had to wash with a hand washer and boil the white clothes. We had to heat the heavy irons on the stove to iron the clothes. I

always had to keep the kerosene lamps filled and the chimneys cleaned. There was no electricity. We had a large churn that stood on four legs. I would churn 10 to 12 pounds of butter a week. It was printed into pounds, then wrapped in paper with the pounds and Mother's name printed on it. We would sell this to the store for 20¢ a pound. When the grain was harvested we would have to cook for the men who worked with the threshing machine. There were from 14 to 16 men. My mother always had me grind the coffee for the breakfast and set the table the night before as they would start to thresh as soon as it was light. We had to cook three meals for them.

I was the oldest daughter of the family and since Mother's health was not too good, I had work to do everyday. For entertainment we had quilting bees and would also go by horse and buggy to dances at night.

I was twenty when John and I were married. His father and my mother went with us to Burley by team and buggy. Grandpa Elison put us on the train at Minidoka after we crossed the Snake River on the ferry. Then he returned to Oakley and Mother went on to Salt Lake City with us. We were married in the Salt Lake Temple on the 5th of October, 1904, by John R. Winder. We spent several days in the Salt Lake Valley visiting relatives. John's father met us at the train when we returned.

Our first home was two rooms in the Elison home. Here our first child, Thera, was born. Later we bought a two room log house quite close to town where our second daughter, Loreda, was born. Then we built a two story brick house. Lano and Annabell were born in the new brick home. John worked at the general store in Oakley. He served as a counselor to Bishop Rosell H. Hunter, then took his place as bishop of Oakley Second Ward after the death of Bro. Hunter.

On April 27, 1915, the Raft River Stake was organized with headquarters in Almo, Idaho, and John was chosen to be Stake President. We moved from Oakley to Almo June 9, 1915, by team and wagon. We had to make several trips from Oakley through Birch Creek and up through City of Rocks. We bought a Model T and when the family went, we drove the car through Albion and Elba. In Almo, we built a bungalow type home and here Okla was born. Three years later, twins, Elmo and a still born child were born. Our means of livelihood here was farming. Our daughter Loreda was killed while riding a horse when she was nine years of age. After we had lived in Almo five years, the General Authorities made Malta the headquarters for the stake. In July, 1920, we moved to Malta and rented a house while we built the brick house. We moved into it November 21, 1921, when Rachel was three weeks old.