

Autobiography of Etta Campbell Gibson

I was born in Liberty, Weber County Utah, June 30, 1894 the sixth child in a family of fourteen. As I remember my childhood we were a normal happy family. Mother and father were industrious farmers and very good managers, both inside and outside the home. They had a place for everything and saw to it that we put everything in its place (a splendid training). We rode to church and school in a white topped buggy in good weather and in a bob-sled in the winter time, about one and one half miles to each. When the weather was good we often walked. Our amusements were mostly furnished by the church and school.

At home we all had our daily tasks and took our turns at each as we become old enough. Immediately on returning from school we changed our clothes and put on older ones, shoes and all. We always attended school looking dressed up and clean. During the winter months we each were allotted either a pan of feathers to snip the sharp ends off to make pillows or a bunch of carpet rags to sew to make the carpets that covered our floors. Mother taught us to sew by letting us have scraps to make quilt blocks or doll clothes. She managed to keep us busy; a good thing (more of such training would do a lot to help today). We herded cows in the summer and picked strawberries and raspberries to help with the family expenses.

Father was made second counselor in the bishopric and mother was counselor in the Relief Society. On Sunday we all went to church; the day before was spent polishing shoes, pressing clothes and cooking. As the smaller children were made ready for church they were set on a char and there they stayed until we were ready to do. I did the same with our three boys. The result, they were taught how to sit still and went to church clean and neat.

We moved to North Ogden in March 1906. Father and mother had just built a nice new home in Liberty when Father's health caused us to move to North Ogden. In North Ogden our home was located just one block from church and school. We had many more advantages. I graduated in 1910 and continued on two more years through the 9th and 10th grades, equivalent to two years of high school. I then had a bad accident with my eyes and on the doctors advice quite school. That was one of the saddest days of my life. I started working at the Utah Knitting Store in Ogden and worked there until I was married April 12, 1916.

I enjoyed teaching in Sunday School Kindergarten. Our ward put on dramas about every two weeks in the winter season. I liked taking part and was usually the leading lady. We had many good Friday night dances in the ward hall. In fact our social life was very happy; good clean friends and an ideal social environment.

Bob (Robert B. Gibson) and I decided that we would have something when we got married, so we both worked and saved. When we got married we had an equity in a farm in Liberty and enough money to rent a four room cottage and to buy and pay for furniture, quilts, sheets, handwork, etc with these and the things received at our wedding reception were enough to start housekeeping. Our first home looked very beautiful.

Bob was bookkeeper for the W.O. Kay Elevator Co. He received \$85.00 per month and we thought that was fine. Salt Lake afforded many entertainments. We had good friends. I taught the first group in Primary in the Salt Lake Tenth Ward.

I was very sick when Wayne was born, May 19, 1917. My closest neighbor was a nurse and a very dear friend. I do appreciate all the help she gave me. About seven months later Bob was very sick. He had appendicitis and it broke before he got to the hospital. We are very lucky to have him. Through the prayers of the Elders and a very good doctor he got better and about a year later went back for another operation. The expenses were terrific but we paid it off finally and are both very grateful that we could and remain healthy. We sold our Liberty farm in 1919 and bought a four room cottage at 433 Fletcher Court and bought furniture for our 4 room including a piano. We were very proud of our home. We painted the house throughout and landscaped the yard. Wayne had a sand pile and a very nice yard to play in.

In March of 1921 we moved to a farm in Linrose, Franklin County, Idaho. We bought a 320 acre farm with W. H. Berrett. We took over our share in 1922 and moved to Preston. Bob worked for the Husler Elevators and we started to pay for our farm. "Partnership and a national depression" were almost too much for us. While on the farm I had to change from city conveniences to kerosene lamps, pump water by hand, a hand washer and a horse and buggy for transportation. The change was hard especially with financial reverses. John was born while we were on the farm. I fixed all of Wayne's clothes over, bought a few diapers and that was all. He was surely a welcome baby for all of us. As for Bob he just loved John and Wayne and I had such a secluded life that we adored the extra work and amusement he brought. He was a sweet good natured baby. We took him everywhere we went that winter. We wrapped him in shawls and took him six miles in a bob-sleigh to have him blessed and named in Weston. We went to ward parties in the school house. He was never sick. John was Baby Jesus in the Christmas ward play.

We had fixed up the almost new four roomed house, painted and papered it and put our nice furniture in it and had one of the nicest homes in Linrose. In fact every where we went we made any house we lived in an attractive home both inside and out. Our friends we made in Lincrose are among our truest and best friends. At the time of Wayne's illness twelve years later they helped with our farm work, brought us home canned vegetables, turkeys, chickens, and meat and best of all came to see us and comfort and encourage us.

In 1922 we moved to Preston, Bob started work at the Husler Elevators and we also started over again. We lost most of the money we invested when we come to Linrose and had a mortgage on our farm to pay off that almost exceeded the value of the farm. We rented a four room house in the First Ward. We were welcome in the ward and town and soon become very interested in our new environment. After one year the owners of the house wanted to move in to the home so we bought a home on First West Street in the Third Ward. We made a very nice home there. We enjoyed the Third Ward and I did Primary and Sunday School teaching. Bob worked in Mutual and later was superintendent of the Sunday School.

Wayne and John had many friends and a good back yard to play in. The upstairs of our house was not finished. We needed more room for by now we had another boy, Dale, born 2 July

1924. Instead of finishing this house we bought a nice home at 315 South Second East Street, again in the First Ward. It was a very good place for the boys to range, have a pony, dogs and all sorts of pets.

Things ran smoothly until 1934, we had our home and farm almost paid for. On August 17, 1934 Wayne was stricken with Polio. I can not tell you had we all felt, it seemed that life was over for us all. How Wayne ever got hold of himself and become a success he is today, we all wonder. There were discouraging and worried years for all of us. John, Dale, Bob and I gave all we had, and even with all that the expenses were far beyond our means. We gave him the best of care; he was about fifteen months at the Warm Springs Foundation in Georgia, and for a time at the L. D. S. Hospital in Slat Lake City. At home he had the best possible care. With his help we got him through the University of Arizona in Tucson. He had a good start, and that is what we all wanted. So we started over again to pay our accumulated bills. By this time John had one more yard at the University of Idaho in Moscow. We managed a little help for him and he did the rest. Dale had enough to start college, then after six months at Moscow he went into the Army Air Force.

Dr. Cutler, who had been our family physician all these years seemed to sense that Bob and I were about ready for a break down, Bob all ready had a serious illness. Dr. Cutler advised us to move from the big house now that the boys were all away from home and get into a place where we could relax and rest more. We took his advise and bought our present home at 60 West 1st North Street. It is a good thing that we did. I went to the hospital that November for a thyroid operation. Life was easier even with our worries about Dale preparing for war.

(The following was written in February 1949). We are very blessed Wayne is married and lives in Phoenix, Arizona. He is Executive Secretary for the Arizona Teachers retirement System. John also is married and lives in Boise. He is an engineer and has a good job with Minneapolis Honeywell Co. Dale is married for a year and has a good job at Hill Field. He is an Electrical Engineer.

We have three fin Daughter-in-law and two lovely grandsons. On March 24th Dale and Fern presented us with our first granddaughter.

(January 18, 1950). At the beginning of the new year we are very happy we have loved one another through trials and good times. No one ever had a better husband, we serve one another and take pleasure doing so.

(January 18, 1952). We are both well and happy. Bob keeps busy, he teaches Sunday School and is a member of the City Council. I am finishing my fourth year in the Daughters of the Utah pioneers. I was Vice President for two years and in 1950 became President of the Franklin County Camp. We have repaired the Battle Creek Monument and put an iron fence around the monument on Fourth South Street where the 1st Preston School House stood. We put a new fence around the monument at Thomas Spring in Cub River Canyon and a new roof on the little log school house on City Park. We have filed and indexed all histories with the help of a very fine board. I enjoy this work very much. I became a visiting teacher in Relief Society September 1951. I do lots of hand work and have won prizes on my bed spread (crochet), sweater and shawl at the County Fair. I

make dresses, shirts, pants and dolls for my five grandchildren. I also with my husbands help, have canned many cans of fruit for my boys and their wives. We have helped each boy with a down payment on their homes.

Wayne married Margaret Tinsley; they now have one child and their home is at 2021 East Virginia Street in Phoenix. They are getting along well and are very happy with their wonderful boy Roger.

John and Jeannette are living in Boise, Idaho. They have a home at 309 South Garden Ave. They have two children, Robert and Connie. They are also getting along well and are very happy.

Dale and Fern are living in San Diego, California. They have two little girls, Kathleen and Karen. Their home is at 605 Catalina Blvd. They are very happy also.

We try to visit each of their homes at least once a year and they come to see us nearly every summer

Etta died on June 15, 1963 in Preston, Idaho leaving her husband, their three sons and their families. Robert B. Gibson died in 1984 in Logan Utah.

Her husband wrote the following relating to Etta's Autobiography. In looking through Etta's "Book of Remembrance: I found the story of her life as she had written it several years ago. She had planned later to bring it up to date, have it typed and give each of you (her family) a copy. I knew that she had done this several years ago but did not remember just how detailed it was. We tried to have this sketch copied in her own handwriting for each of you but the copying machine would not reproduce it clearly so we will furnish each of you with a typed copy. If you will read this in connection with my history one will supplement the other, and the last years of her life are described in my history.

Your Father and Grandfather

Robert B. Gibson