

MARY ELIZE WHITE CAMPBELL¹

(Written by Nephi James Brown
Half Brother of Mary Elize White)

Mary Elize White Campbell, daughter of John White and Elize Brown White, was born November 3, 1864, in a log house in North Ogden, Utah. For about six weeks after Mary's birth her mother was very seriously ill. When Elize Brown White's life was despaired of, her mother, who had died in England, came to her and administered comfort and real hope. She said "My child, you will get well because your mission on earth is not completed." Mother asked her if she was happy and she answered, "Yes, very happy, but will be more so when I get all of my children". The room was filled with a peaceful, heavenly influence which remained after she left. Very soon Mother got well and strong again. As long as she lived she always bore a fervent and unchanging testimony concerning the reality and truthfulness of this visitation. Mother (Elize Brown White) was naturally very spiritually minded. She was only seventeen when Mary was born.

Mary was born in real pioneer surroundings, absolutely devoid of modern conveniences as we know them in the home today. In spring and early summer, however, the fragrance of wild flowers, the songs of native birds and the verdure of newly planted fields greeted her on every hand. The cool, clear streams, the pure air, the blue skies were in constant evidence, and the nearby lofty Wasatch mountains, silent sentinels of strength, offering protection and a certain, quiet security. Mary's childhood, prior to the age of six, was very happy because she was, more or less, the center of attention in a well ordered home in which there abounded an atmosphere of happiness and peace. She received the affection and favors of both her father and mother noted that though their days were filled with rugged work and responsibilities, their lives were one grand song of tranquility and forward looking success.

Mary's father died suddenly, being ill only a few days. A sudden tangible gloom and feeling of depression was cast over their home and their hopes. Mary's sister, Anne Louise, was born June 10, 1869 four months after her father died. They weathered the storm of bitter disappointment and reverses and in about a year and three months, May 9, 1870, her mother was married to Thomas B. Brown, a man of great faith, in somewhat humble circumstances, but a man of great patience and consideration. His first wife Jane, a sister of John White, had seven living children at the time of her death, May 19, 1874. This entailed a lot more work for Mary and mother in helping to look after Jane's family.

Very soon after mother's marriage to Thomas Brown they moved into a one room, plus lean-to log house that they built on the fifteen acre farm that John White had bought. This was located about a half a mile north of the Old White farm (Washington Blvd. and about 2500 North) and homestead. During the spring and summer of 1871 a nice two room brick house was constructed immediately

¹.Nephi James Brown, His Kindred and His Friends, Written by Nephi James Brown, 1963, page 178-184

south of the log house. Into this new house mother moved about two weeks prior to the birth of her first son, John Henry. This was the first brick home built in North Ogden. It is now (1958) eighty seven years old (the home was torn down during the 1960's).

It was quite a problem to make a living for the two families. All who were old enough to work had to work hard. When Mary was only twelve years old she would stand on a box and scrub clothes on a wash board. She milked, watered and stocked the cows, helped in the garden and did all kinds of farm work and chores. Her mother, who was an excellent seamstress, taught her very early in life the art of good sewing. During Mary's life she quilted one or more quilts for each of her grandchildren-60 in number at the time of her death. Her schooling was limited to the winter months. The school house was just a one-room adobe building up in the main part of town. They studied reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic. She remembered four of her teachers: Julia Wade, Mr. Wardleigh, John Gibson, and Larenzo Waldram. They furnished their own books and each child had to pay two dollars tuition each quarter.

The drinking water was carried in buckets from Layfayette William's well and they all drank from the same long handled public dipper. Mary had to stay home from school one day each week to help with the washing. They took school seriously and tried hard to learn and to remember.

As she grew older she went out to work part of her time doing house work, washing and ironing. At the Sidney Steven's home she received sixty cents worth of merchandise from his store for a day's pay. At some other times she did a two weeks wash for a family of three for twenty five cents. With the first money she earned she bought her first pair of Sunday shoes which were a real luxury and of which she was very proud. At various times during the summer she did house work for \$1.50 a week with a few meals added, and on one special occasion she was paid \$2.00 a week.

She and her mother did a great amount of sewing by hand until later she was invited into Sarah Alvord's home. Sarah Alvord was fortunate enough to own a sewing machine. Mrs. Alvord taught Mary to sew on the machine. This was a wonderful opportunity and helped greatly in getting some of their sewing done. Her first quilt was made on shares. Mrs. Alvord furnished the material for two, then Mary pieced them by hand at home and earned one of the quilts for herself. She knit stockings and lace and sold many pieces. She was exceptionally industrious and apt at making things. She gathered straw from wheat and oats; processed it, braided it and made it into hats. She sold the hats for fifty cents each and had plenty of pleased customers. On one occasion she gave a house party. A fiddler was hired to furnish the music. For his pay he received one of the many hats Mary made and went away perfectly satisfied. The road was very often too muddy to cross so while visiting her neighbors they would talk in fairly loud tones across Washington Ave. from fence to fence. Sometimes they traveled in mud almost up to the hubs.

Mary was naturally religious and she observed the fine example set by her mother and step-father. She was one of the first members of the Y.L.M.I.A. when organized in North Ogden. She later became treasurer of that Association; which position she held until sometime after she was married. She was also a Sunday School teacher. Mary was very popular with all the young folks and had many friends. Her most ardent admirer was Warren Campbell, a very industrious, alert and talented young man. A wonderful courtship followed, and he won her affections for all time.

Warren and Mary were married in her mother's home by Bishop Thomas Wallace, November 15, 1884. Mother gave them an old fashioned wedding dinner, to which the majority of the people in the community, (at least all the grown-ups), were invited. They were all served an abundance of food, there was a good program and all had a happy time. Honeymoon travel those days was almost out of the question. At first they lived in two back rooms of his father's home.

On June 23, 1886 in the Logan Temple they received their endowments and were sealed for all time and eternity. In this they rejoiced.

Warren was very ambitious and strong. He spent many days in Cold Water Canyon cutting logs. He brought them down, had them sawed into lumber and with his father's help built a two room frame house adjoining the Mormon Reynold's property.

In the Spring of 1888 they decided to try pioneering in Liberty up in Ogden Valley. They took their two daughters, Louise and Geneva, with them and at first rented a house from James Ferrin. They bought some land from Ellen Holmes and built a one room log house from trees he cut in the mountains. They raised good crops and were encouraged.

That winter they returned to their home in North Ogden, where in March 6, 1889 their son Warren Delbert was born. That spring they sold their North Ogden property. Mormon Reynolds bought their nice frame house and moved it to his property. William Holmes bought the land. The house still stands as part of Orson Reynolds home. They took up their framing venture again in Liberty, buying more adjoining land. Warren built an additional log room. They worked hard but lived happily. Virgin soil graciously responded to skillful labor, and the lush pastures were splendid for their cows and other animals.

In winter the snow at times was almost six feet deep and crusted so that they could drive over fences with bob-sleighs directly to their pioneer neighbors homes. Nephi Brown's sisters Mary Shaw, Ross Bailey, Kate Ward and their husbands were living in Liberty and Charles and Andrew Clark and many others with their families were a friendly, happy group.

Their daughters, Myrtle, Luella, Etta, and Bessie were born in that two room house. I (Nephi Brown) recall that John Leonard was born in our home in North Ogden. Later Floyd, Curtis, Vera, and Doral were born in Liberty. During these years Warren and Mary were able to complete a very fine five room frame house joining their two room log house so that they were comfortable situated minus, of course, many modern conveniences. Mary spent many hours sewing and knitting as she supplied the whole family with winter stockings, she also made all of the best dresses for her daughters as well as for many neighbors and friends. She had unbounded energy.

I (Nephi Brown) remember very well attending the big wedding supper given for their daughter Louise, when she married William I. Southwick in January 1904. Nearing the summit in North Ogden canyon on horse back in late afternoon I encountered a real blizzard; the road was completely obscured and drifted and I would most likely have perished had my horse floundered in the gullies. It is also noted that on Mary's fiftieth birthday, Warren and the children bought her a very fine gold

watch and chain.

Mary and Warren were both active in the Liberty Ward, she in the Relief Society and he as a member of the Bishopric, and they were very highly esteemed in the community. Upon the advice of his physician, they moved to North Ogden, March 5, 1906. In North Ogden, Cyrus and Donald were born. When their seventh child was born, they had six daughters and one son, but when their fourteenth child was born they had seven daughters and seven sons.

In North Ogden Mary was a visiting teacher in the Relief Society and for many years was quilt supervisor. Mary was a wonderful cook and quite naturally had a tremendous amount of experience in this regard. Before her second daughter Geneva was married she had eleven children, herself and husband to cook for, which amounted to a total of 39 individual meals to prepare each day, or 14,235 in a year. It is estimated that from the time her first child was born until the time her last child was married, a period of 47 years, she prepared or helped to prepare in excess of 334,499 individual meals! I (Nephi Brown) shall never forget how good the new potatoes and peas and the golden brown trout from Spring Creek was. This food was not purchased anywhere. Mary inherited a strong and rugged constitution; she had superb health and strength and stamina, reserve energy and driving force that seemed to be unlimited.

She was the soul of virtue, honor, honesty and industry, and possessed great faith. To raise thirteen children to adulthood is no small task, and she taught them by a noble example. She was faithful in the Church all her life. She possessed a firm and undying testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel. Three of her sons, Delbert, Floyd, and Donald filled missions for the Church. She made more than thirty quilts for grand-children's wedding presents (at her death, she had an inventory to give to her grandchildren that were not yet married). She was a most devoted wife and mother. All during the time of her husband's serious sickness prior to his death she gave him constant care and attention. Her beloved Warren died when he was only sixty five years old.

On December 21, 1938, Mary was married to Charles Maxwell, for time only in the Logan Temple. He was a very fine, congenial gentlemen, and treated her well. Mary was nearly eighty three at the time of her death. Her funeral in North Ogden was a large one; a host of friends were there. About a hundred and fifty of her children, grandchildren and great grand children were present. She has gone to a great reward, her salvation is pure; her happiness wonderful. She and Warren, I (Nephi Brown) am sure will receive a glorious resurrection, and will progress throughout all the eternities.