

True to the Faith

Eugene and Mary Christiansen Smith Family



By David R. Barkdull
Great Grandson

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Edition 1

True to the Faith

Text and music by Evan Stephens (1854-1930; LDS)

Shall the youth of Zion falter
In defending truth and right?
While the enemy assaileth,
Shall we shrink or shun the fight? No!
True to the faith that our parents have cherished,
True to the truth for which martyrs have perished,
To God's command,
Soul, heart, and hand,
Faithful and true we will ever stand.

While we know the pow'rs of darkness
Seek to thwart the work of God,
Shall the children of the promise
Cease to grasp the iron rod? No!
True to the faith that our parents have cherished,
True to the truth for which martyrs have perished,
To God's command,
Soul, heart, and hand,
Faithful and true we will ever stand.

We will work out our salvation;
We will cleave unto the truth;
We will watch and pray and labor
With the fervent zeal of youth. Yes!
True to the faith that our parents have cherished,
True to the truth for which martyrs have perished,
To God's command,
Soul, heart, and hand,
Faithful and true we will ever stand.

We will strive to be found worthy
Of the kingdom of our Lord,
With the faithful ones redeemed
Who have loved and kept his word. Yes!
True to the faith that our parents have cherished,
True to the truth for which martyrs have perished,
To God's command,
Soul, heart, and hand,
Faithful and true we will ever stand.

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PREFACE

Two years ago in 2009, Gary Hansen, from our Smith Family Organization, asked me to prepare a history on Eugene Smith for the next family association meeting in 2011. I happily accepted this request and soon began my research. What a wonderful journey this project has taken me on in the past two years. I have met relatives whom I never knew like Navarre and Pat Smith and Betty and Jim Jenson. This project has also helped rekindle old friendships with other relatives like with Eunice Tsantis, Cora Ley Erikson and others. I have visited many of the sites where the Smith's once lived, worked, worshipped, and played. At times as I have stood or walked in the places of their earthly existence I could sometimes feel the distant echoes of their past resonating within me as I thought about what had transpired in these locations.

One of my choicest experiences was to meet Dora Lee Anderson Thomason who was my grandmother, Dwinna Smith Bennett's best friend in High School. She was a wonderful 96 year old lady still living in her home her deceased husband had built for her many years ago. She lived in Burton, Idaho, just a mile or so up the road from the Smith's Thornton home. In the summer of 2010, Cora Ley Erikson suggested I visit with her and other distant relatives she thought might be helpful in my work. Because I felt a great sense of urgency to meet them, a few months later in September, I made the trip to the Rexburg area and had a wonderful visit with her and some of these relatives.

During my visit with Dora Lee, I learned that her father, Wilford C. Anderson, had been Eugene and Mary's bishop between 1925 and 1934 in the Independence Ward. They were also close family friends with the Smiths and Eugene was his counselor in the bishopric. Like the Smiths, the Thomason's, whom Dora Lee married into, were also from Cache Valley, Utah. The patriarch of their clan was Gustave Thomason, a counselor in the Logan 4th ward which Eugene's father, Bishop Thomas X Smith, presided over. One of his son's, Charles, R. Thomason was Mary and Eugene's Bishop in the Independence ward from 1908-1925. What a treat it was for me to sit down with Dora, in the front room of her lovely home and listen to her tell me about her family, my grandparents, and great grand parents. As her memories and stories began to flow, in my mind's eye, it was as if she had taken me back in her time machine to all those years ago. Many of her stories were just bits and pieces but it wasn't too hard to fill in the gaps and visualize my grandmother and her parents, Mary and Eugene Smith while she told me such

wonderfully nostalgic tales. As we strolled down memory lane, I could feel of their love and warmth swelling inside of me. What a choice experience this was for me. I will always remember her sweet kindness, her appreciation and warm hospitality she greeted me with.

Sadly, it only a few months later that I received word that Dora Lee had suddenly passed away. How grateful I am that I heeded the promptings I had felt and took advantage of this amazing opportunity. Family history is not just about the dead but about the living too. It is about discovering who we are, who your family is and was, and being reminded of our heritage, the hopes, the dreams, and the values of those who have gone before. It is also learning about how they lived their lives and sacrificed so much on our behalf while endeavoring to give us the opportunities we enjoy today.

Much of this book consists of the letters between Eugene and Mary, he and his mother, sisters, and a few family friends who wrote to him while he was on his mission. I debated back and forth whether to include them all, just some, or simply summarize these letters. However, these writings contain a unique glimpse into not just what they were doing, but how they felt, what their daily concerns were, and how they loved one another. They also tell us who they were and what they hoped and wanted to give us, their posterity. All of this and many other thoughts, feelings, and emotions are so tenderly conveyed in their writings. Many of the individual letters read separately are fairly routine and unremarkable. However, just as only a few brush strokes on the artist's canvas reveal very little of what may be, when all of their writings are taken in their entirety, a wonderfully detailed panorama of their life presents itself. So, after rereading their writings and reflecting upon their content I decided to include all of them and provide a summary at the beginning of each section so that you, in a more personal way, can connect with the Smith family and their life just as I did.

There is some confusion as to exactly where and when Mary and Eugene lived when they first moved to the Snake River valley of Idaho between 1903 and until 1907. First hand accounts such as land and church records, school records for Mary's employment, a payment ledger kept by Mary all state they lived in Lorenzo. Glenice Smith Anderson, their oldest daughter and born in 1911, in one instance wrote on a postcard of the family log cabin that they lived in LaBelle and recorded that baby Kenneth's birth and blessing also occurred in LaBelle. While she had access to these records when she wrote her accounts in 1980, it was thirty years after her parent's death and she had no first hand knowledge of this period since she was born four years later.

Lorenzo and LaBelle were located adjacent to each other and until the Lorenzo Ward was created out of the LaBelle ward in 1905 the Smith's were members of the LaBelle ward. Perhaps these location names were used interchangeably without any clear distinction and thus misused.

In addition, my research in the County Courthouse land records for Fremont, Jefferson, and Madison counties did not turn up any land records during this period. However, two years later following their land purchase from William Gallbraith, there is a receipt to a Mr August Zitting dated 1 June 1905 and signed by Eugene Smith. On the back side is a hand written record of payments made between 24 August 1905 and 22 January 1908. At the bottom is written "Payments on house in Lorenzo". Later someone added the words so it read, "Payments on house in and acreage Lorenzo. Eugene and Mary Smith". And when the Smith's moved north to Independence in 1907, the Independence Ward membership clerk noted that he had received the Smith records from the Lorenzo Ward. It is my assessment and opinion that the Smith's most likely lived in Lorenzo during this period but could have possibly later briefly lived in a second location like LaBelle as the receipt seems to suggest.

Chapters six through twelve comprise all the existing letters written to Eugene or by Eugene between 1915-1917 during his missionary. The beginning of each of these seven chapters includes information about Mary and her children who remained in Thornton during this time and then a chapter summary of the existing letters for this period.

NOTE: Brackets "[]" are used to indicate explanations by the author. Some minor editing and changes were made to source material in order to clarify when necessary. Most spellings in quotes were automatically corrected by the software spell check program.

If you wish to contact me with additional comments, questions, or sources of information my email address is: drbarkdull@gmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When I was younger and would visit my grandmother, Dwinna Smith Bennett, she would water the seeds of family history work which had been instilled in my soul long ago. I believe she brought to my remembrance what I had once been asked and promised to do. I am grateful to my grandmother for patiently and lovingly nurturing this desire in me.

I'm also thankful to Grandma's sister, Glenice Smith Anderson, who in her own wonderful loving way, embraced me with the warmth of her spirit and the hospitality of her pioneer home. She so generously and willingly shared her family information, her memories, and in so doing touched my heart with the love of parents, my great grandpa and Grandma Smith.

Thank you, Eunice (Anderson Tsantis) and Cora Ley (Anderson Erikson) for so freely giving of your time, efforts and resources to assist me. This book would not have been possible without their help. Thanks Nancy (Bennett Wagstaff) for always so lovingly and warmly opening up your heart, your home, and your family history information to me over a life time. And Mom (Sally) and Dwinna Mary Bennett, the oldest living grandchildren, for all the time you have spent writing your memories and responding to my enumerable emails and questions.

Thank you all!

FORWARD

In the fall of 2010 while I was busy researching and contemplating how I would write this book I was asked by my church stake leaders, here in Colorado Springs, to serve as the logistics leader for our upcoming stake trek the following summer in Wyoming. At our first planning meeting in November, we began with an opening song "True to the Faith". As we sang this hymn I was distinctly impressed that this should be the title of Mary and Eugene's book. This was an unexpected prompting but it was one that came with great clarity to my heart and mind. At the time, I thought it a bit strange that something so seemingly inconsequential, the title of a book, should be made known to me in such a way. In the coming months as I continued my research and read Mary and Eugene's letters, I received several more "quiet" affirmations.

Initially the focus of this book was to be just on Eugene Smith. But I soon realized it would be impossible to separate his life from his wife Mary and their three children Leon, Glenice, and Dwinna; for they were his life and he was theirs. Eugene was a modest, understated, and humble farmer with a deep enduring faith and belief in his God and his religion. He and Mary worked hard to teach and instill these values which were rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ, in their children and provide a safe and loving home for them to grow up in. Their children were a reflection of all their hopes and aspirations for them and their future posterity.

This book is not about Eugene and Mary's Mormon beliefs. Yet who they and their forbearers were, were so intertwined with the gospel that I soon realized it would be impossible not to write about them and this integral aspect of their life. Like each of us, the Smith's were imperfect. Yet reading their letters they shared between each other while Eugene served a mission and Mary remained at home to raise their young family, teach school, run a farm and keep the home fires burning, give an intimate glimpse into their thoughts, their imperfections, but mostly into the hopes and dreams for their family and their future. The kind of people they were striving to become, their love for family, their fellow man, and for God were all rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Their daily life's exemplified service to others, honesty, hard work, and love of family and community. Like many of their contemporaries who were first and second generation Americans, their story began not in far western reaches of America's Rocky Mountain states but thousands of miles away to the east and across the Atlantic Ocean in the lands of their nativity. Mary and Eugene Smith were their family's first generation born in this

new and foreign land of opportunity. They were also the first to be borne under the covenants their parents had made when they had gone to the temple to be married and "sealed" for eternity as a family. They themselves were then able to go to the House of the Lord to make those same obligations and have an opportunity to receive the same blessings.

While they were richly blessed, Eugene and Mary were no strangers to deep life-wrenching experiences of sorrow and pain. They struggled with the temptations of this world like we all do. Yet they supported and loved one another and ultimately they dealt with and overcame these challenges we each struggle with in our own lives. Despite their set backs, they remained true and faithful to the promises and covenants they had made. They and their friends struggled to subdue a new land in Idaho's Snake River Valley. They worked by the sweat of their brow, they remained true to their God, never forgetting Him in their life's each day and they raised their children in the same manner.

As I completed my research and the writing of this book in July 2011, I began to ponder in my mind's eye the entirety of what I had learned about my great grand-parents and what it all meant to me. Then as I was reading some of the last few letters Mary wrote to her family and on behalf of her ailing husband, I began to come across multiple instances where she used the phrase, "True to the Faith" in the context of her own life and that of her family. I had not read these letters prior to this but this was a confirmation to me that what I had been guided to do eight months earlier was correct. As I read these words I felt their presence once again, just as I had the month before in the Salt Lake Temple when my oldest daughter, Nichole Marie, was married. I felt Mary and Eugene were happy and rejoicing on that occasion because of the choices Nichole had made with her life. Like her great great Grand-parents who over 100 years before had also gone to the House of the Lord, she and her husband Zane were remaining "True to the Faith" which her forbearers had established. And as I sat there in the sealing room of the temple contemplating this, I knew once again that this book was something they were likewise pleased with too.

For

Kenneth, Cora Lee, Dora Lee, Navarre,

Cora Ley, Ellen, Sharla, Reva, Eunice,

Dwinna Mary, Sally, Nancy, Jinny, and "little" Harold

"I was always ruled by kindness and I wish I had the ability to do likewise. My Dad was always kind to me and I feel he deserves more credit than he got for many of mother's successes. He always stood behind her and encouraged her in her endeavors whether in the church or civically."

-- Dwinna Smith Bennett

Sunday morning at the Smith home getting ready to go to church:

Many the time on a cold blistery night or day, Dad would say, "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak!" and go out hitch the horses to the sleigh in sub-zero winter weather or wagon in the spring (it was so muddy), buggy in summer and as many of the neighbors as there was room for were gathered on the way."

-- Dwinna Smith Bennett

In 1916, there had been an early freeze that had destroyed much of their grain crop which Mary was counting on to support her family and husband. Consequently she penned the following to her husband serving in the mission field:

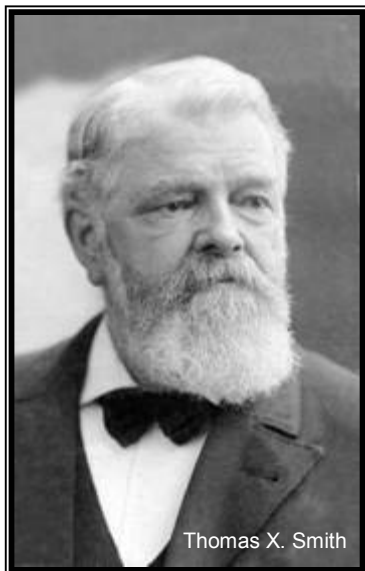
"Success in life does not depend upon our yield of grain or any other returns we may get for our labor but in the knowledge that we have given good service and done our best. I know we did. We planted and our Heavenly Father has given the increase and I am thankful it is good."

*-- Mary C. Smith
23 Aug 1916*

Chapter 1

Our Parents Faith

Thomas X. and Ane Smith



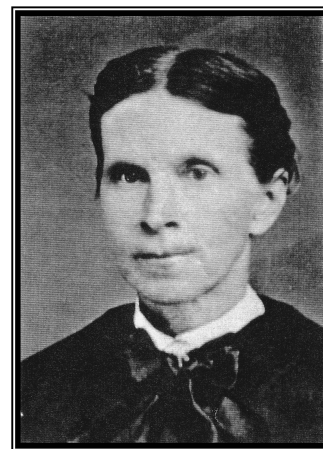
Thomas X. Smith

Eugene Smith's parents were Thomas X. and Ann Howe-Smith. Both were of English descent and were converted and joined the Mormon church in England. Thomas was a hatter by trade and was baptized into the church on March 28, 1849 by John Mead. His first wife was Margaret Gurney Smith. They and their infant daughter set sail from Liverpool to America on the ship Falcon on the 28th day of March 1853. They arrived at New Orleans after a little over seven weeks on the sea and traveled up the Mississippi river and landed at Keokuk, Iowa. From there they commenced their journey to Salt Lake in the Appleton Harmond wagon company.

After their arrival in Utah, Thomas looked for work to make a living and feed his family. Life was hard and they felt that they were strangers in a strange land but the Lord was with them. He soon found work with Brother Willard Richards and a place for his family to live. Thomas worked for Br Richards until he died and then they moved to Farmington, Utah. While there he was ordained a Seventy in the fourth Quorum. In 1857, the Great Utah war began with the invasion by Federal troops under the command

of General Sidney Johnson to put down the supposed Mormon rebellion. The saints had to face the army of the United States with what implements of war they had; most were very poor.

Thomas went up into Echo Canyon and worked as a scout while his family removed south to Payson, Utah County. Next came the grass hopper war of 1859. It was destroy or be destroyed in their brave effort to fend of this plague of locusts. "The Lord permitted them to come and He



Margaret Guerney, 1st wife of Thomas X. Smith

had to send them away," Thomas said. In 1859 they left Farmington for the Cache Valley in northern Utah and settled in Logan.

Thomas became a wagon master hauling freight under Brigham Young. He was called to preside over the 64th Quorum of Seventies in the city of Logan and later to preside over the Logan Fourth Ward and acted in that capacity for forty-six years. In 1876 he was ordained High Priest and set apart as a Bishop at the same time under the hands of President Brigham Young, Orson Pratt and George Q. Cannon. Three times he labored as a Logan city Alderman and a judge. He helped to quarry rocks to build on the Salt Lake Temple and also helped plan and build the Logan Temple.

In 1880, Thomas was called to go on a mission to England where he labored in Nottingham Conference three months and then was called to preside over the Manchester Conference. While there word came that his first wife had died on the 23 of December 1880. This left a large family to be cared for; twenty-two at the time plus two living wives. He was released to return home in 1881. Later he went with Presidents C. A. Card and Thomas E. Ricks to help organize the colonization of Cardston, Canada. This was the time when many polygamist men had to go under ground to escape the federal authorities.¹ Thomas spent a long and useful

life in the service of his families and those around him. He was a great man with many talents and abilities which he willingly used to assist others for both their temporal and spiritual welfare.

Thomas's second wife was Anne Masters Howe. She was born 29 November 1850 in Sutton, Warwickshire, England. At fourteen years of age she began working in a lace factory. At fifteen she and her family were converted to Mormonism by Moses Thatcher. They immigrated to America on the John Bright passenger ship on 4 June 1868. They crossed the plains by railroad until they got to Wyoming where they were taken by wagon train the

rest of the way to Utah. Anne went to Logan to live and work in Br. Thatcher's home. She married Thomas X. Smith in 1869 in the Salt Lake Endowment House. She was the mother of eleven children, eight of whom lived to adulthood. One of her little girls fell into a fire and was



Anne Howe, 2nd wife

¹ LDS Church Archives; Call Number MS 2050; Mormon biographical sketches collection; Reel 11; Box 16, folder 2, item 9.

terribly burned. She suffered greatly and died six weeks later. Ane went almost wild with grief and soon after moved to another one room home. There was not much furniture in her home. She made some out of boxes and cut up some petticoats for coverings. Later Thomas built her a six-room house where she lived the remainder of her life. She had an acre of land at her Logan home and a farm ten miles out of town. She raised cows, pigs, chickens, had fruit trees and a garden.

Ane was very active in the church. No trial, however severe, dampened her faith. She endured many hardships, hunger and toil; she had a strong testimony in her God. She was a good bishop's wife, always looking for the needy and suffering, then telling her husband. Most of her pleasure was taking her children and staying all day with friends quilting and sewing. With her Relief Society companion, they visited the sick, cleaned their houses and divided their food with them.

It was hard living in polygamy, as some of Thomas's first wife's children were older than Ane. She was often left alone to manage her family affairs. When Thomas left for England on his mission she had to raise her four small children on he own. In 1880, it was daily struggle to keep things going at home. Later Thomas had to go underground for having two wives to escape the federal marshals hunting down any polygamists. Despite all this adversity Ane taught her children never to say anything against polygamy as it was a commandment of God at that time. After her children were raised, she spent most of her time serving in the Logan temple.

During the 1918 flu epidemic, Ane's daughter, Jennie, was struck down with the deadly disease. Ane left Logan and went to Salt Lake to help nurse her back to health. She was again alone with her gravely ill daughter and two young grandchildren. Her husband was away in Pocatello on business during this time. One day she went to the drug store for medicine. Being in a hurry she confused her directions and was lost for two hours. She stopped and prayed to God to direct her home. She was then able to retrace her steps and found her daughter's home. When she arrived home though she found Jennie unconscious. She died soon after.

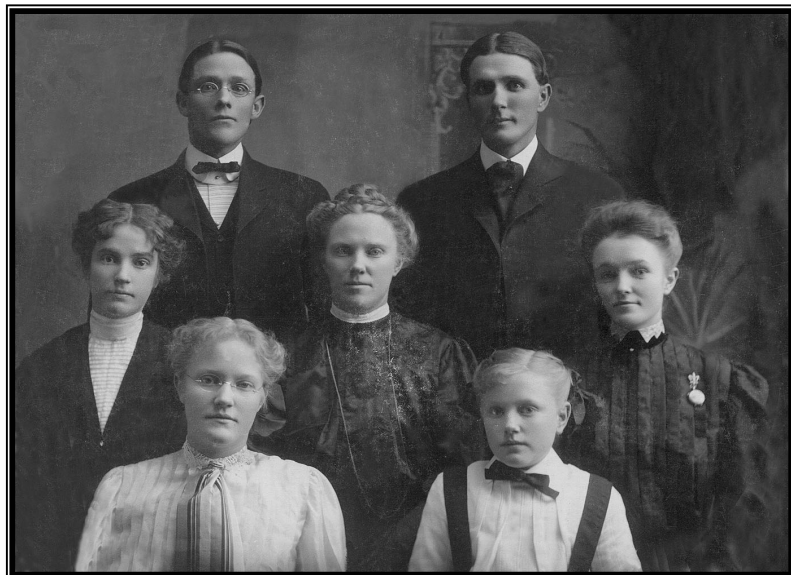


Ane contracted stomach cancer and eventually succumbed to its effects in 1925. Her death was not unexpected and so when her time came most of her children were with her. Her last words to them were to "keep the faith, do all you could for others, and never forget that God comes first, then all will be well." She died November 16 at the home of her daughter, Fannie.

While Eugene was on his mission, his mother wrote and bore this testimony to him in 1916; "My dear son, . . . I have many faults and failings but I know the Gospel is true and I know the Lord can help and bless you in your work. I also know he will bless you in your work. I also know he will bless your wife and little ones and farm, flocks and herds if you only you try and keep his commandments."²

Of his parents Eugene wrote, "Father was a man of amazing patience and calmness and a great leader. Mother was a woman with a great sense of honesty and compassion. She insisted on cleanliness of body, mind, and surroundings. They taught us to be upright, honest and proud of their heritage. They also taught us of our own self worth as a human being. They had this innate ability to help those in need feel they were doing the giver a favor and feel their own worth and want to do better. Often own family went without so to help others. Like his mother, Eugene was impatient at times, but he firmly believed in not letting the left hand know what the right was doing when helping others. Many of these same traits were passed down to Eugene."³

When Ane Smith passed on, Eugene's wife Mary wrote to him in Logan and paid tribute to his mother. She said, ". . . My



About 1900: Thomas X. & Ane Smith 2nd family
Back to front; Left to Right: David, Eugene, Mabel,
Fannie, Patience, Marie, and Jennie

heart goes out in sympathy to you and our dear brothers and sisters. I know how you will miss your mother and how you will long for her presence. Still we should not grieve. She desired to

² Letter from Ane Smith to son Eugene; 26 April 1916.

³ Unfinished "Life History of Eugene Smith" by Eugene Smith; written after 1923.

go. She was lonely and anxious for the companionship of her loved ones beyond the veil. She has earned her rest and has gone to receive the reward God has promised to His faithful children. Great shall be her reward for her devotion to and the sacrifices she has made for the Gospel; for her noble motherhood, for her generosity to the poor and needy, for her years of toil both in her home and among the sick and afflicted, for her labors for the dead and for the clean, pure life she has lived. She has been a good mother and has taught by word and example the truths of the Gospel and has admonished her children to be pure and ever faithful to the teachings of our church. "⁴

Peter and Ane Maria Christiansen



Ane Maria Hanson
Peter's 3rd wife

Mary Ida Christiansen's mother was Maria Hansen Christiansen. She was born in Nodager, Denmark, January 26, 1850 and was baptized a member of the Mormon Church at the age of 12 years and immigrated to Utah in 1862. She was the third wife of Peter Christiansen. They were married on May 25, 1867. She was the mother of eleven children, three of these died in infancy. She and the other two wives all lived in separate homes but on the same city block next to each other in Hyrum, Utah. She worked as a Relief Society teacher for many years, serving those in need and help of her assistance. She was a lover of flowers and found great satisfaction in giving them to her family and friends. Her daughter Mary later wrote of her mother, "Years after her death, I went back to the old house to visit. One day, I went with one of our old neighbors, mother's friend, to Relief Society. Another dear old neighbor and friend, Mrs. Martha Hansen, presided at the meeting. She said, Sister Smith, we would like to have you instruct us. What was I to say? But it came to me as a flash. Though Mother is dead and gone and so too was her lovely garden which was encompassed by the old gray picket fence, but she and its fragrance and beauty reached yet even beyond the town into the busy hearts of men, women, and children. They have taken the memories of its beauty, its fragrance, and loveliness and it has lived in their hearts to lighten their feelings. Mother's garden blooms still in many hearts. No doubt, in her Heavenly Father's house, mother has a garden, filled with flowers of

⁴ Letter from Mary Smith to Eugene. Copy of original letter in possession of David Barkdull

beauty, flowers of love, flowers of smiles, and good deeds. Dear old mother of mine, all the wealth, and the honor and platitudes of men could not repay, if it took from me the memory of mother's flower garden. Mother's garden has blossomed into immortality."⁵

Mary's father, Peter Christiansen, was born 30 January 1835 in Febeck, Denmark. His mother was Christina Pederson and his father was Christian Christopherson. Peter said, "My father was a hard working man. The farm on which we lived was part of the estate of a rich landlord. When I was seven years of age I commenced school. Father was always religiously inclined, and was an ardent student of the Bible. The Bible was used as a textbook in school. So well versed did I become in the Bible that the priest wanted me to become a minister, as I could answer so many questions. When I was 11 years of age, I went out to work. When fourteen years old, I was confirmed by Pastor Finder. He offered me a years college training if I would become a minister. This my father would not let me do, as he could not afford to help me. When I was sixteen I began to learn the blacksmith trade from Jacob Hansen of Gerlon. When I was twenty-two, years of age I married Miss Ane Petrinia Pederson. My wife at the time we were married, kept house for an old bachelor who owned a good farm of twenty-five acres. We worked for this man for six years. I did the farm work and my wife kept the house. While living here we accepted Mormonism."



Peter Christiansen

Peter continued in his own words how he first learned about Mormonism,

"It was the taunting word of the village gossip that caused me to stop my plowing in the spring of 1861 and hastened me to my father's home. 'Hey Peter Christiansen' she called when in my plowing I came near to the village street. 'You wouldn't be holding your head so high or think yourself so great if you knew what I know about your parents.' Plainly I heard her, waved a greeting and went on, hurrying to get away from her voice. Along the fence she followed chuckling and soon called again 'oh you may make it appear that you don't hear my voice or care, but other people know that your father and mother are very friendly with the Mormons. In fact, they have joined the Mormons!' Determinedly I went on up the field from her amused laughter and loud taunting voice. I was not going to let her know that her words had disturbed me or that I paid any attention to her foolish gossip. But as soon as she was out of sight I went to the house calling to my wife to hurry and get dressed for we were going to visit my father and mother. Plainly she showed her surprise that I would quit plowing in the early afternoon and go visiting. My best team was rapidly

⁵ Glenice S. Anderson, grand-daughter; Life History of Maria Christiansen.

hooked to our carriage and as we drove along the pleasant road, I told my wife what I had heard.

Arriving at my parent's home, we were greeted pleasantly. In a little while my mother had taken my wife to the kitchen to prepare a nice meal for we must have of the best when we came visiting. Silence reigned in my father's sickroom. Now that I was here how was I to ask the hated question? Father turned and with a quizzical look asked, 'what is it my son. What has brought you here this busy day?' 'Is it true that you and mother have become Mormons?' 'Yes' 'Why, on earth have you taken such a foolish step?' My father, who was very ill, turned and pointing to a book that lay on the table said, 'I am too tired to answer your questions son, but stay with me tonight and read that book and I believe the answers will be given to you.' We stayed and when all was quiet and my father asleep, I picked up the book and read the title, 'The Book of Mormon', and began reading. When early morning light began to fill the room, I turned to my father and saw that he was awake and watching me. I laid the book down trying to appear uninterested. And in answer to his query, 'well, how did you like the reading?' I answered, 'Oh it is good as a history of many battles.' But it was not long before we joined the Mormons too."⁶

In 1863, my wife and I and our four children, two girls and two boys started for Utah.

When I got married my father had given me a lot and a house, worth \$400. Now that I was ready to leave, I gave that to my brother and sister. I also gave \$400. to my wife's relations. I paid the way for many other poor people, who wished to come to Utah. We all left Copenhagen on 23 April 1863, in a big company, all en route for Utah where we arrived in Salt Lake City 15 Sept 1863.

I planned to become a farmer when I reached Utah, but the brethren who had come to assist and advise the immigrants, told me to take tools and become a blacksmith, as they were badly needed. They told me I would be a blessing to the people. So I returned to Omaha and purchased tools and steel. I planned to make plows from the steel when I reached the Valley.

On 2 July 1864, Ane Pederson my first wife and Maren Olsen, the girl who had come with us to America, and who had made her home with us, were sealed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. In obedience to revelation given to Prophet Joseph Smith, I married and was sealed to my third wife Anna Marie Hansen on 25 May 1867. I was ordained an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Denmark and shortly after coming to Hyrum was sustained as a teacher in the Hyrum Ward and labored in this capacity until 1891 when I became the President of the Quorum. I held that position until the town was divided into several wards. Then I was ordained a High Priest and set apart as counselor in that Quorum. When the president of that

⁶ Peter Christiansen; "Oral History of Peter Christiansen" as dictated by him to his daughter, Mary Ida Christiansen Smith, before 1920.

Quorum died, I was chosen to take his place, which position I retained until the persecution against polygamists became so strong that I had to flee [to Colorado].

While acting as Trustee in the Hyrum school system, I worked hard to secure a system of graded schools. This was the first in Hyrum and Cache Valley. I also took part to get a system of irrigation worked out in Blacksmith canyon. I became president of that company, and was reelected to that position several times. I was also a member of the Hyrum City Council, being reelected each year. I enjoyed social gatherings and liked to mingle with my neighbors in social and dance. For many years, I had charge of all the dancing parties in the north east corner of the Public Square. I was president over the Scandinavian people in town, and led the singing at such gatherings. I also labored as a teacher in the theology class which I enjoyed very much.

In 1864 I was called to assist with laying out of the Hyrum city blocks and streets. Next we started an Institution under the name "United Order". It consisted of a store, steam-saw mill, steam-shingle mill, water saw mill and a dairy to make cheese. Bishop O.N. Liljenquist was president of the whole concern. James Unsworth the secretary. I was manager of all the mills. I donated some of the things for our new church and helped in every way to build up the community. During this time I did blacksmith work for people from all the towns in south Cache Valley. One time, I purchased old iron rims from wagon wheels that had been discarded when the gold rush was on in California."

O.N. Wilson remembered about Peter, "I have held your father up as the greatest benefactor in town because he mastered his blacksmith trade in his native land. He was always at the High Priest meetings and could rattle off the scriptures that he had learned in the Lutheran Church, which he always defended."

Peter went on, "I also purchased land in the north-field and on the bench east of Hyrum and began farming. When the crickets came, six years in a row, they would take the crops but after the scourge the Lord blessed me and my neighbors. The grasshoppers came from the north too small to fly, they hopped, and were so thick that they blackened the entire ground. They took the gardens and practically everything that grew. Fasting and praying often brought results and in one instance the hoppers turned their course and our town was saved."

Peter was always a deeply religious, careful, and frugal man always doing for himself or blessing others lives with the skills and abilities he had been given. Early in his life he had promised the Lord he would give up coffee. One day while visiting his daughter Mary, she offered

to make him a cup of hot Postum, but he refused her saying, "Daughter, would you have me break my promise to the Lord." He evidently felt Postum was the same kind of drink as coffee.

Peter Christiansen was a faithful Latter-day Saint, honest, upright and always seeking after praiseworthy things. He faithfully and unselfishly served his family and the people of his community in many civic and ecclesiastical capacities. He was the father of 22 children, 171 grandchildren and numerous great and great-great grandchildren. He outlived his three wives who all died between 1907-1916 and he was eventually laid to rest next to them in the Hyrum city cemetery.⁷

In January 1917, Peter wrote the following in a letter to one of his children about how he felt after the death of his last remaining wife, Ane Maria. He said, "My desire is to do some good in my one mission here upon the earth and to live so I can make my account with my God and Savior Jesus Christ a little better. I need all the mercy I can get and I thank God for his mercy and kindness towards me and for the faith and strong testimony of the true gospel." Mary, his daughter, commented, "When you read such a humble letter from father who has done so much for the work of God, it makes you feel as if you too wished to do a good work. Surely eighty-two years of sacrifice and living for truth and striving to do God's will, has earned for father a noble reward. It is wonderful how the Gospel builds you up and how little sacrifices grow into big results."⁸

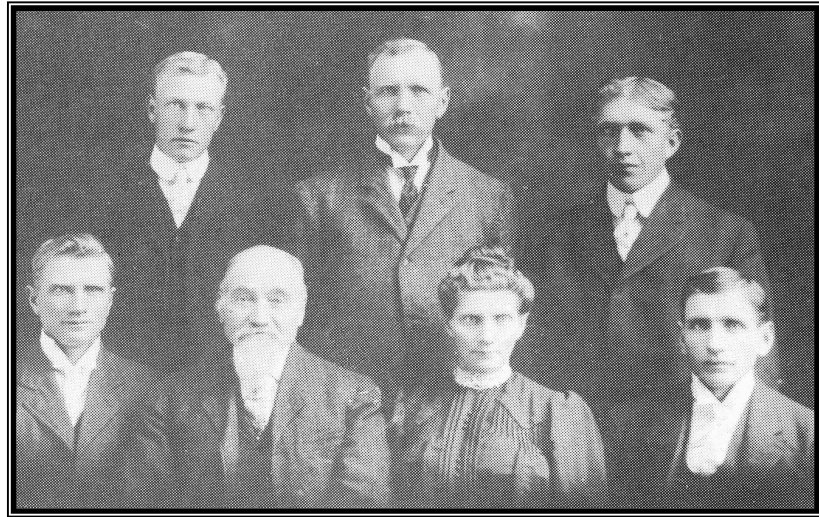
The Smith and Christiansen families sacrificed much to follow the direction of their new church leaders. They gave up their homes, good employment opportunities, their extended family and all that they knew in this life. The Christiansen's freely gave of their money to assist others in their journey to Zion. They willingly did so because they felt and heeded the burning in their hearts of their faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ which they had embraced.

⁷ "Oral History of Peter Christiansen"; As dictated by Peter Christiansen to his daughter, Mary Ida Christiansen Smith, before 1920.

⁸ Letter dated 5 Feb 1917, from Mary C. Smith to her husband Eugene, copy in possession of David Barkdull



Ane Petrine Christiansen, Peter's 1st wife



Peter and Maren (2nd wife) Christiansen and



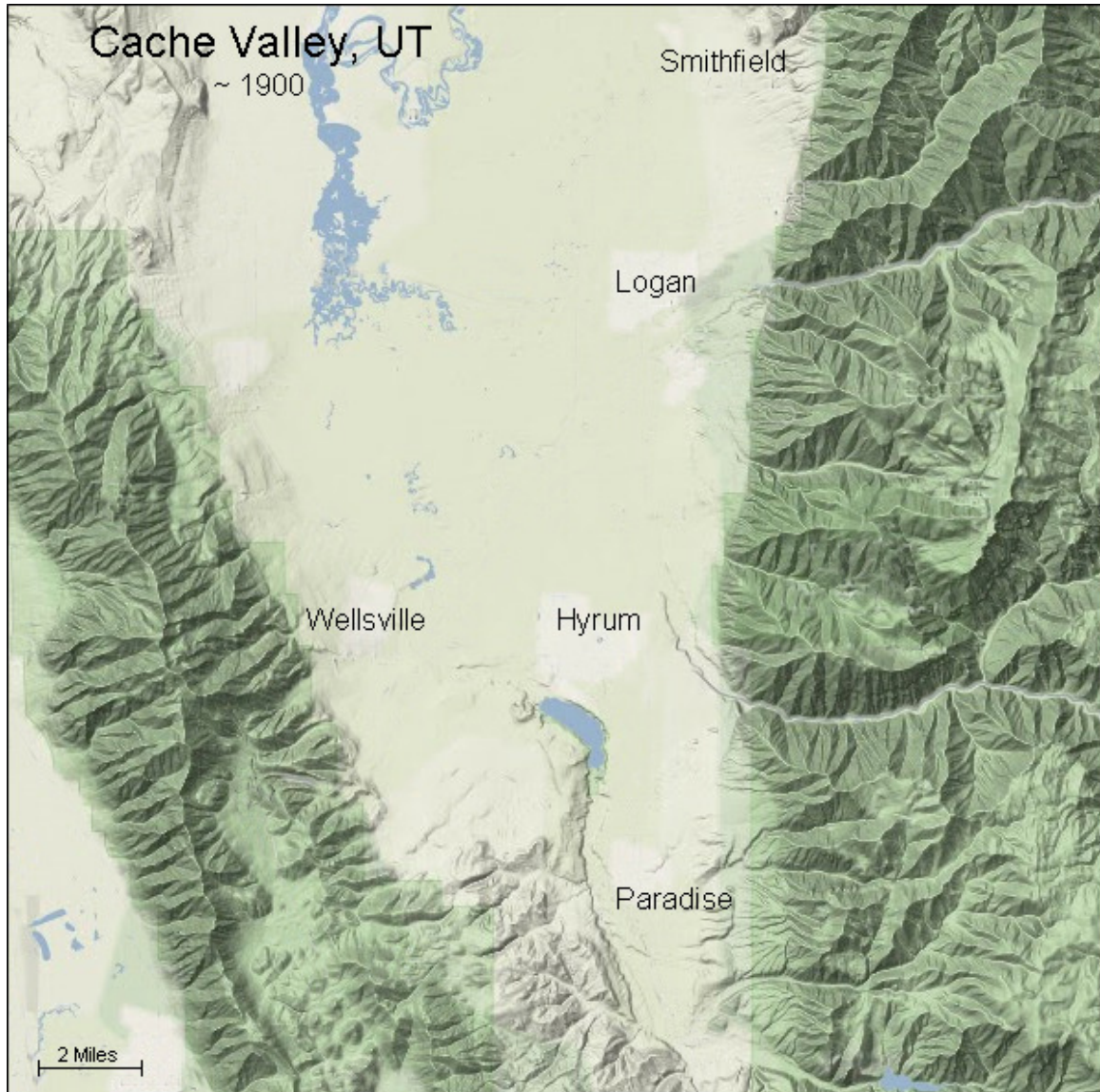
Peter and Ane Maria (3rd wife) Christiansen and family. Mary, top right

Chapter 2

Cache Valley, Utah

Eugene Smith & Mary Christiansen

1879-1901



Logan and the Smiths

“I, Eugene Smith was born on the 24th of May, 1879 in a one roomed log cabin in Logan, Cache County, Utah. The cabin was located on the south west corner of block of what is now

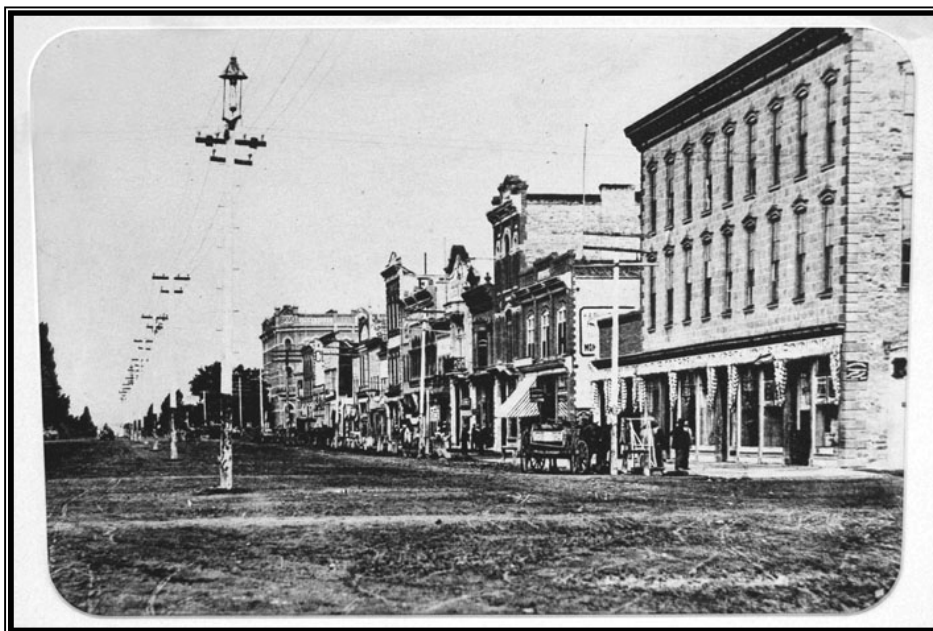
known as 3rd North and First East Streets."¹ Eugene's father, Thomas X. Smith, blessed him at church a week later on 2 June. His mother, Ane Howe Smith said of her son, "he was a happy child and spoiled by all. His slightly curly dark brown hair and sparkling brown eyes helped to make him attractive. He loved people and always managed to be where the action was. Early in life he showed a quick wit, was full of fun and had a great understanding of how people felt."²

Of his childhood in Logan, Eugene was to later write the following:

"In 1885, I first attended school at the Linquist hall under the tutelage of Clara Rice. For three years she had charge of my educational training. The discipline of these early teachers was severe and woe unto the culprit who disobeyed their laws.

I remember well one incident that happened in my schooling. Miss Rice had forbidden us to duck our heads in the stream of water flowing past the school. One day seven of us boys disobeyed. We were placed in a row in front of the pupils to remain until the close of school. Strictly she enjoined us not to laugh saying, 'The first one that laughs, I'll whip with this ruler.' Solemnly we stood there. In a little while I looked along the line at my fellow

offenders. The dejected expression on the solemn face of Alfred Liljenquist, who looked like a drowned rat with his hair plastered close to his tanned face and neck and water dripping to the floor was too much for me. I could not suppress my feelings but indulged in hearty laugh.



About 1895: 100 North Center Street, Logan Utah

At the close of school, I was bidden to remain and received my punishment. Whack! came the ruler over my back and shoulders, then over my head. For a time I did not flinch then the punishment became so severe that it brought tears to my eyes. They must have touched

¹ Unfinished "Life History of Eugene Smith" by Eugene Smith; written after 1923.

Lorenzo Ward records; Microfilm 7285, Items 1-3, Book II; Salt Lake City Family History Library.

²Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 1.

Miss Rice. She desisted, closed the school, but asked me to remain. During her talk to me we both cried. From that time forth she was kinder to me and I tried in every way to please her and be a help to her.

Willard Laugton was my next teacher. Then I was transferred to the Rock School in the fifth ward. Will Reese and Will Raymond were two of my other teachers and they both seemed to understand me and took an interest in directing and guiding my studies.

In another school disciplinary incident I was being punished and had to stand in the corner as a dunce. Another harsh teacher would sometimes place offending children in a big stove in the room and leave them there all day if they had broken a rule or made a noise. They were not allowed to go to the toilet "outhouse" and many would have accidents. It was an age when you were quiet in school and you did not question what the teacher said or did; she was always right."³

On 3 October in the fall of 1887, at the age of eight, Eugene became member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints He was baptized by Charles H. Lunberg and confirmed by Christian F. Bessler down at the old Mill Race in Logan across the creek from the old Central Mill.⁴ Describing his early adolescents Eugene said, "About this time a change came over my life. I had an older brother David [two and a half years older] whom I idolized. I wished to go with him, but he like so many other older brothers did not want a kid brother tagging along so refused to let me go with him. I fell in with companions whose ideals were not so high and as the need of obtaining an education was not stressed as it is now, I accomplished but little more in school."⁵

As Eugene grew up he shared with his family many of the responsibilities of farm life. He helped herd and milk the cows, churn and make butter, plant and weed the family garden, and worked in the harvest fields. He also learned to grow and care for sugar cane and make it into sugar on his father's ten acre farm north of town. He helped out on the church farm also located north of Logan. He often took, upon the instruction of his father, the tenth of the produce from their garden to the tithing office. Then after the bishop divided all the produce that was brought in, he helped to distribute it to the poor, sick, and needy. Because his older brother David, was

³ Unfinished "Life History of Eugene Smith" by Eugene Smith; written after 1923.

⁴ Smith, Eugene; copy of LDS High Priest ordination certificate in possession of David Barkdull and Unfinished "Life History of Eugene Smith" by Eugene Smith; written after 1923.

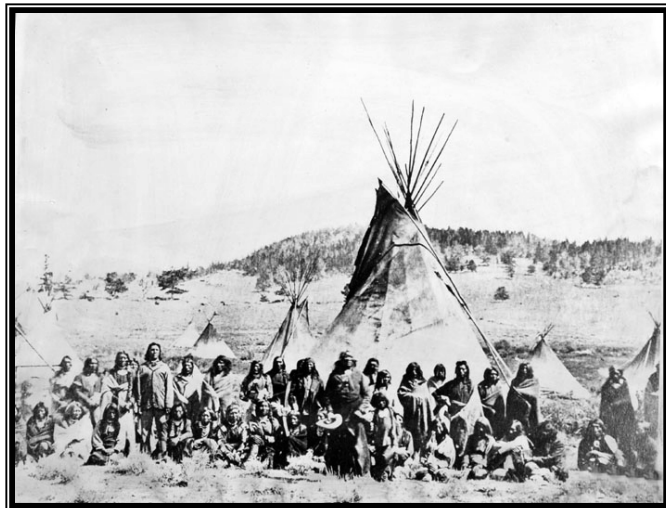
⁵ Unfinished "Life History of Eugene Smith" by Eugene Smith; written after 1923.

often not well and his father was usually busy with church and civic duties, Eugene learned to accept responsibilities much earlier in life.⁶

However, like many young lads Eugene and his friends were never above a little mischief making. During the middle of summer when the watermelons were ripening in the fields, he and his companions would sometimes

commandeer this summer-time treat. There was nothing more better tasting on a hot July afternoon than the sweet refreshing juices of a fresh melon. Sometimes while raiding the patches he and his friends would get caught and pursued by a half angry farmer. Typically though the farmer's half expected this to happen and simply rather enjoyed opportunity and thrill of a good

chase. Eugene also enjoyed the outdoors and the chance to go up into the canyons to haul firewood and timber for buildings.⁷



1900: Shoshone Indians, Cache Valley, Utah

As a teenager growing up in Logan during the late 1890's it wasn't too uncommon to see

"Indians going through the town site and down along the stream. One time Eugene and his friends saw an Indian woman walking along a stream. Curious as to what she was doing they followed her but kept a respectful distance. Then she disappeared into the bushes for a short time and then emerged with a newborn child in her arms and quickly joined her companions."⁸



Owen Woodruff, Eugene Smith's friend growing up in Logan, Utah.

In the early years of his life two of his close companions were Melvin J. Ballard, and Abraham Owen Woodruff, future apostles in the LDS church. Melvin Ballard would later operate the Logan Knitting Factory where Mary Christiansen would work and

with whom Eugene would be a traveling salesman selling their products.⁹

⁶ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 2.

⁷ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 2.

⁸ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 2.

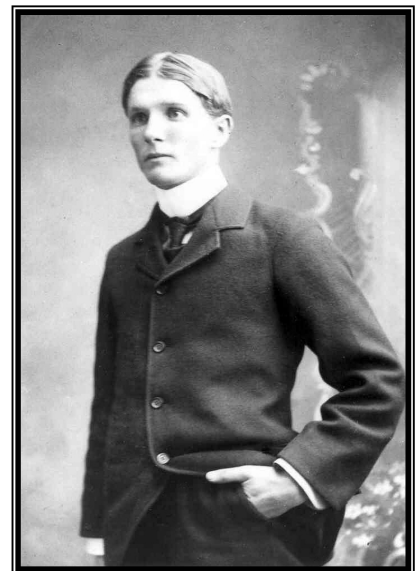
⁹ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 2.

Another life long friend of Eugene's was Joseph Fredric Smith, or "Fred" as he went by. Fred was Eugene's nephew but he was only five years older than him. Thomas X Smith was Eugene's father and Fred's grandfather but they were descended through different mothers. Fred later recounted, "I first became acquainted [with Eugene] when I was a small boy in Logan. I went to visit with my mother in Logan and he was still living at home at the time and worked on his father's farm, my grandfather, Thomas X. Smith. I became quite attached to "Uncle Gene" - - I visited him real often."¹⁰

Like many youth his age Eugene, "loved all kinds of athletic games from playing ball to walking on his hands. He excelled in most sports too. When he was past fifty [years old] he demonstrated to me that he could still turn cartwheels and walk on his hands. Early in life he learned to and enjoyed ice skating on the mill pond in the Benson Ward, Utah and swim in the local streams."¹¹

Eugene was always proud of his personal appearances and grooming. Everything he wore had to be spotless. The custom in those days was a weekly bath. But Eugene had a daily bath even if it meant going out to the well bringing the water up in buckets and heating it in the fireplace and later on the kitchen stove. One day he was asked to attend a picnic and he took a long time in dressing perfectly and then asked his brother and sisters if he looked alright. They assured him that he did and although he believed them, he still had to see for himself. So he went out to the well, looked down into the still water below and sure enough there was his meticulous reflection. Then all of a sudden his hat fell off into the well. After retrieving it from inside the well he was no longer spotless. So he took another bath and cleaned his clothes but by the time he was ready it was too late to attend the picnic.¹²

Throughout his life Eugene would be known for his neat and clean appearance. Cora Ley, Eugene's granddaughter, doesn't remember a lot about her grandfather because she was so young when he died but, "The one



1902: Eugene Smith, Logan, Utah

¹⁰ Funeral Service Obituary of Eugene Smith, Given by Joseph Fredric Smith, 6 Sep 1952.

¹¹ Anderson, Glenice; "History of Eugene Smith."

¹² Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 2

remembrance I do have is Grandpa always seemed to be perfectly groomed. His hair was cut just right and he always looked nice."¹³ And Dora Lee Anderson, a good friend of Eugene's daughter Dwinna recalled that, "Mr Smith was a very handsome man . . . quite a gentleman."¹⁴ When he was a full grown man Eugene measured 5'11.5", he weighed 185 lbs., and his chest size was 40". He had brown eyes and brown hair. The general condition of his health was reported as excellent.

Hyrum and the Christiansens

Mary Ida Christiansen was born on 29 March, 1882 in Hyrum, Utah. Her father, Peter Christiansen was a polygamist and her mother was the last of his three wives, Ane Petrina, Maren, and Ane Maria. Not a great deal is known about her childhood. She was given a baby blessing the month following her birth and was baptized and confirmed when she turned eight. She was raised in a faithful Latter-Day Saint home. Later, when she was a teenager she served as secretary of the Hyrum Ward religion class.

Mary began attending school in Hyrum in the fall of 1888. Education was always stressed to her and her siblings and her father was active on the city school board helping to ensure all the Hyrum children were afforded the best educational opportunities. She grew up living next door her two other "aunts". All three homes were located on the southeast corner of 100 South and Center Street. Mary completed her "Common School" education and graduated on 15 June 1895.



About 1892: Utah Agricultural College, Logan, Utah. Where Mary attended college

¹³ Erikson, Cora Ley Anderson- Email to David Barkdull, 1 June 2010

¹⁴ Thomason, Dora Lee Anderson, Interview with; Smith family friend; conducted by David Barkdull; 22 Sep 2010.

It was very unusual for young women to go on to college after completing their formal education. But Mary had a strong desire to continue because she realized this would afford her many opportunities later in life. Her family did not have a great deal of money but she worked hard and saved all she could. In the fall of 1896, she left home to go to the "big city" of Logan just a few miles away to the north and began her college education at the Utah Agricultural College.

The following story was later written by Ellen Anderson Seedall, Mary Christiansen's grand-daughter. This experience took place in 1899 while Mary was still just a young woman in college. It left an indelible imprint on her for the rest of her life of the importance of having faith and trust in the Lord and the power of prayer. Ellen writes:

"There had been more snow than usual and spring had been slow in coming to Cache Valley, Utah and even though it was mid April, the high Wasatch Mountains that bordered the valley were still thatched with snow.

At the foot of the mountains was the small college town of Logan. Winter had again returned during the night and left several inches of fresh snow which had begun to melt in the warm April sun. It was Sunday and the streets of the town were busy with many church members hurrying to the gray stone stake tabernacle on Main Street.

At the corner, a young 17 year old girl joined the bustling procession and walked unnoticed among the people. She carefully avoided the numerous puddles as on her feet were her only pair of shoes. She was well aware that the soles were getting thinner and thinner with each wearing and that the tops were beginning to look shabby, but they were all her family could afford for her. She had a deep appreciation for her family in nearby Hyrum and for the sacrifices they had made so she could attend college and gain a much desired education. She had also worked hard the previous summer to help with her expenses.

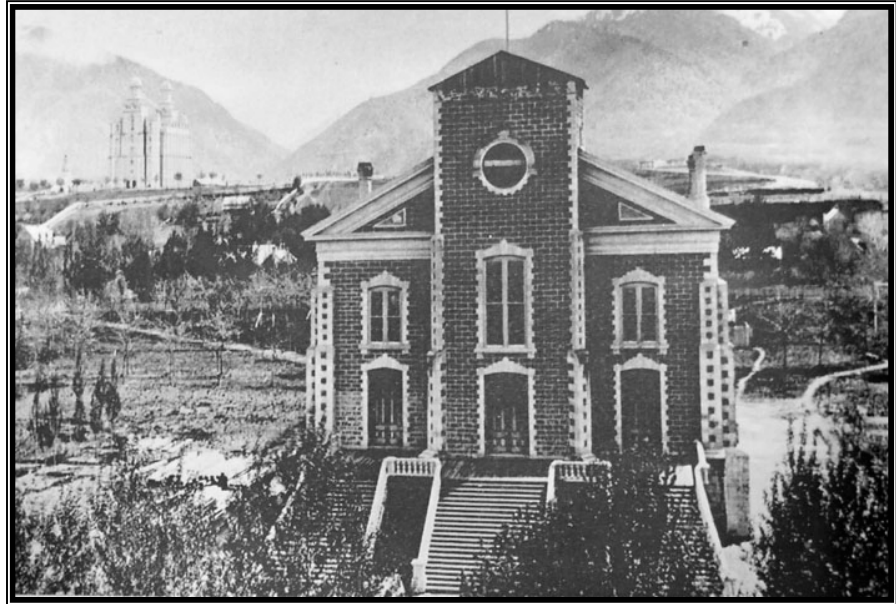
The welfare of her shoes, however, was not the most important subject on her mind that day. The one thing she had been fasting and praying about was foremost in her thoughts, and that was the speech that the Stake President had asked her to give in today's stake conference. He had told her she could choose her own subject and several times during the last few days she had wished he had made it easier for her and had assigned her a specific topic. What would she talk about she had wondered time and time again.



~1898: Mary Ida Christiansen

Many times during her young life, she had seen the power of fasting and prayer. And so, following the example of her righteous parents, she had taken her question to the Lord and with his help she had prepared what she felt was a proper talk.

Being determined to use no notes, she had memorized the speech perfectly. Her heart beat quickly as she neared the tabernacle. Standing by the door was a member of the Stake Presidency who greeted her warmly and escorted her to her seat on the stand.



About 1890: Logan Tabernacle

The meeting commenced with the singing of a favorite hymn, "I Know that My Redeemer Lives", then the opening prayer. All to soon she heard the Stake President announce that the first speaker would be Mary Christiansen, a student from the Utah Agriculture College. She walked uncertain to the pulpit looking very pretty in her blue dress which matched her eyes. In her blond Danish hair, she wore a blue organza flower. She was so tiny, about five foot two, she could hardly see over the top of the pulpit. As she looked out over the sea of faces, she realized she would have to speak loudly enough so that all could hear. One hundred years ago they didn't have an electronic speaker system.

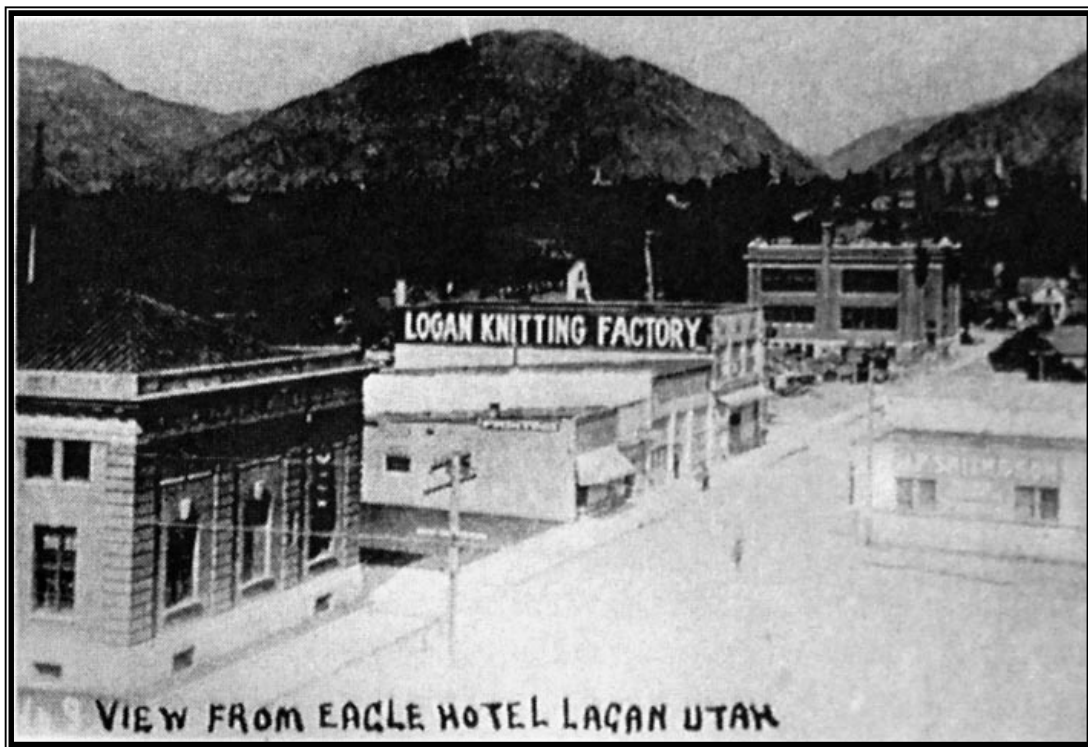
Suddenly her confidence left her and she was struck dumb and could not remember a word of her talk. Then a calming confidence came over her and she remembered the words of the brother who had given the opening prayer. He had asked that the speakers might be able to give their talks pleasingly with respect for the Lord's teachings.

She closed her eyes for a brief moment and offered a short silent prayer to remind the Lord that she had fasted and prayed and that a prayer had been offered in behalf of the speakers and would He please help her to say the things she had prepared.

As she opened her eyes and looked out above the audiences' heads, she saw her entire speech written in letters of gold and she commenced speaking without further trouble. After the meeting, many complimented her on her talk and how well she had done."¹⁵

¹⁵ "The Gold Letters"; By Ellen Anderson Seedall, granddaughter of Mary Ida Christiansen Smith, 1979.

The following year, Mary completed her “Short Commercial Course” degree and graduated on 12 June 1900.¹⁶ Then in the fall of that year she took a job as a stenographer for the Logan Republican Party head; Herschel Bullen followed by another as a book keeper for the Ca. V. Mercantile Company until 1 Jan 1901 when the owner, Serge Balliff sold out.¹⁷ However with the skills she had gained in college she was not without employment opportunities for she was immediately hired as a stenographer and assistant bookkeeper for Logan Knitting Factory located on 81-83 North Main St, Logan.¹⁸

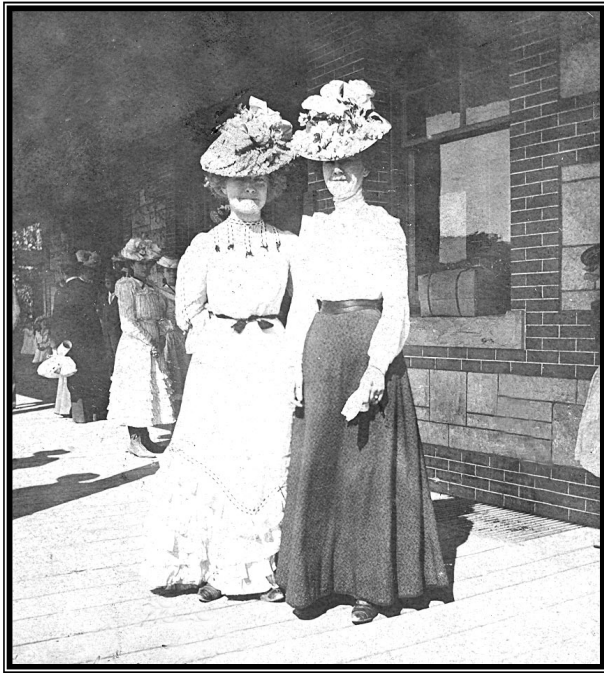


About 1912: Logan Knitting Factory

¹⁶ Christiansen, Mary; UAC Graduation Certificate in possession of David Barkdull and Smith, Mary C.; Hand written notes, after 1913. Possession of David Barkdull

¹⁷ Smith, Mary C.; Hand written notes, after 1913. Possession of David Barkdull

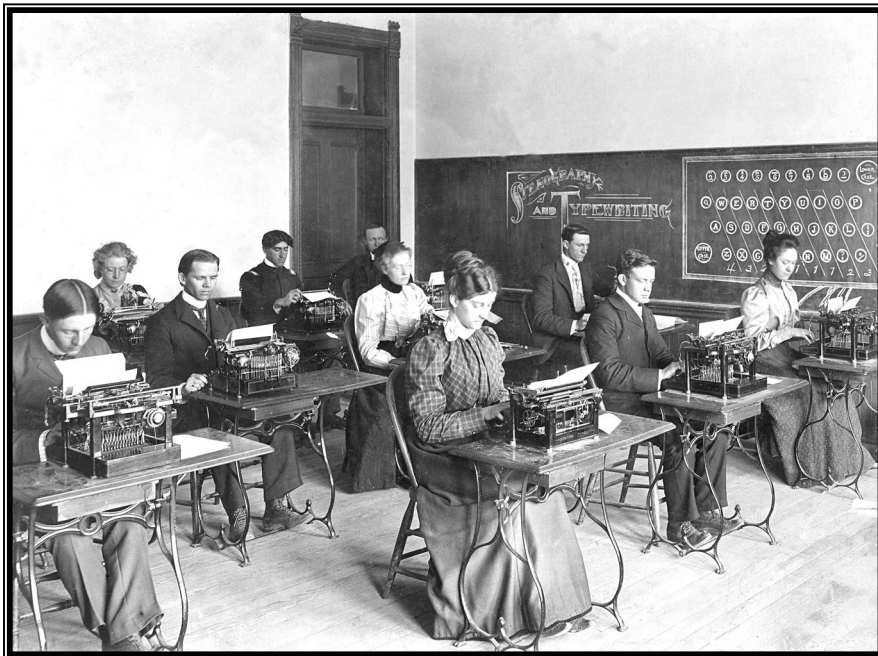
¹⁸ Smith, Mary C.; Hand written notes, after 1913. Possession of David Barkdull



1898: Mary Christiansen and Unidentified Friend,
Logan train station, Utah



~1900: Mary Ida Christiansen



~1900: Mary Ida Christiansen in Typing Class, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah

Chapter 3

North to Idaho and Alaska

1899-1901

"The town [Nome] was "raw" and every known device of gambling was there and many men lost their fortunes in a few minutes. A gun was pulled at the least excuse and killing was common. The dance hall girls and the red light districts flourished. Food was expensive. All the wickedness I saw was almost more than I could stand."

-- Eugene Smith

Idaho Grading Crew

In 1899, Eugene was an ambitious twenty year old young man looking for work and trying to make his way in the world. He had heard there was work to be had up in the rich fertile Snake River valley country which was beginning to be developed. He visited with George Q. Rich, a Logan Attorney who knew him well and asked him to write a letter of introduction and recommendation to help him find a job. This letter is very insightful and is the first record documenting Eugene's reputation for honesty and the character of his family for which he would be known for throughout the rest of his life. (See Appendix A, Document 1, Rich Letter)

8 Nov 1899, Pocatello, ID, "Eugene went to Idaho with a letter of recommendation from George Q. Rich, an attorney in Logan, Utah to T. S. Dietrich of Pocatello saying, "The bearer of this is Eugene Smith, a Logan boy who is honest, trustworthy and industrious . . . he is in quest of a job, would like some kind of shop work and if you can give him a note to some of the railroad men/employers it would no doubt assist him and you will be gratefully remembered by the young man and his family who are of the first rate here, as well as myself."¹

With his letter of recommendation Eugene secured a good job with the Union Pacific Railroad. He was sent north to what was then Eagle Rock, but is now Idaho Falls, to work on the railway bed grading crew that was laying the track north to Rexburg. Growing up on a farm Eugene had become a skilled horseman and could adeptly handle a team of horses. He was consequently put in charge of an earth scraper and a team of horses to pull it. He worked hard to level the land for

¹ Letter dated 8 Nov 1899 from George Q. Rich to T.S. Dietrich. Letter in possession of David Barkdull.

the new railway bed being cut north to the Snake River at Lorenzo, Idaho. He used two teams, and was in charge of feeding and watering them. He always put in a 10 hour work day and earned top wages of \$5.00 a day.² In terms of 2010 this amount would equate to about \$136. a day!³

While working in this new and rugged country, Eugene would often go for horse rides to explore the land up north of Rigby. He would take his horse north and cross over the old wooden

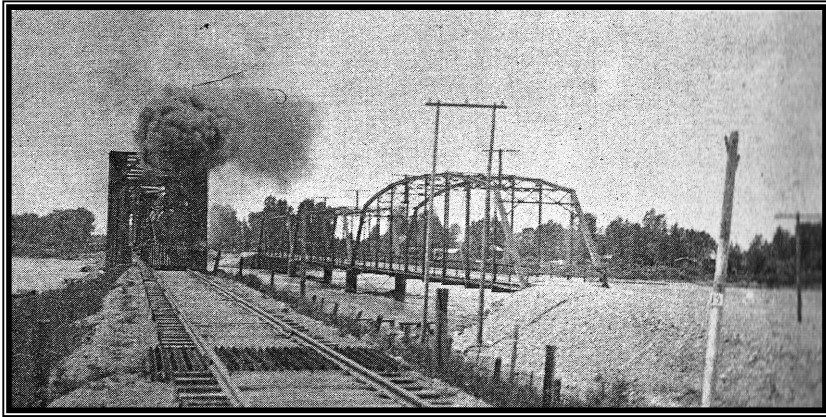


Snake River bridge and on through the little farming communities of Independence and Burton. As he investigated this country he noticed the rich farming soil and probably contemplated settling in this area some day. Sometimes he would travel further on along the quicksand filled roads to

² Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 3.

³ Measuring Worth Website: <http://www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/>

This is based on the Consumer Price Index value which is the cost in the year measured (1899) of a bundle of goods and services purchased by a typical urban consumer compared to the cost of that bundle of goods and services in the current year being compared (2010).



Early 20th Century, Snake River Bridge, Lorenzo, Idaho

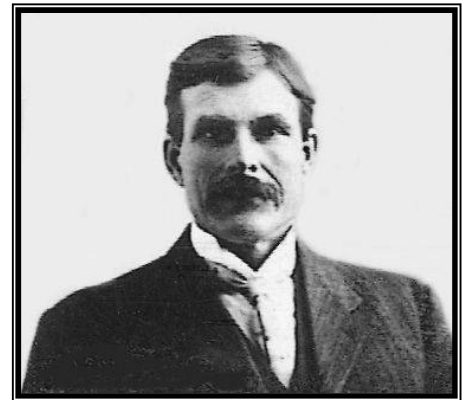
home was across from the northeast corner of Smith Park. Previously Mormon Church President, Lorenzo Snow, had dedicated this land for a temple one day and today the Rexburg temple is only about one mile south from Fred's old home.⁴ Fred and Carrie were the parents of Eugene's nephew and good friend, Fred Smith.

Alaska Gold

While the Smith's were a large family, they were also close and looked out for and helped each other whenever possible. In 1901 Eugene's oldest half brother, Orsen Smith (48) who lived in Logan, asked him if he'd be interested in joining him and his 19 year old son Everett on a quest to Alaska to try their luck with gold mining. Apparently Orson had some kind of interest in some gold claims.⁵ Being single, having thoughts of striking it rich, and the prospects of having a great adventure up north in Alaska seemed far more enticing than what Idaho's Snake River valley could ever offer a young man.

The following are just a few accounts by other contemporary prospectors of what awaited the Smiths when they reached Nome. Before 1898, the only outsiders to set foot on Alaska's Seward Peninsula, a sparsely populated tundra, were whalers, missionaries, traders, and reindeer herders. But, in September 1898, three Scandinavians struck pay dirt on inland from Nome on Anvil Creek. When word of the discovery spread, the stampede was on. Among the first to arrive were

Rexburg to visit his older half brother, Fred Smith and his wife, Carrie. Fred was the son of Thomas X. and Margaret, also Eugene's father, but not his mother. In 1883, Fred and his wife left Logan and joined Thomas E. Ricks' party to help settle Rexburg, Idaho. Their



"Fred" G. Smith, Eugene's half brother who helped settle Rexburg, Idaho.

⁴ "Memories of Cedar Point Independent School District #3", by Glenice Smith Anderson, pg 8.

⁵ Funeral Service Obituary of Eugene Smith, Given by Joseph Fredric Smith, 6 Sep 1952

miners who had already been working in the Klondike fields in southern Alaska. By June 1899 ships from Seattle, San Francisco and beyond were disgorging the masses of fortune seekers. This motley group became the inhabitants of Anvil City, later renamed Nome, a rowdy frontier town that sprang up where the tundra meets the Bering Sea.⁶

Then one day in June 1899, a US Army soldier garrisoned at Nome went to get water near the mouth of the near by Snake River and found gold in the beach sands. Idaho prospector, John Hummel, quickly went to work with a rocker and recovered \$1,200 in 20 days. Frenzied digging on the beaches ensued. One observer noted "Every man in Nome, be he physician or carpenter, lawyer or barkeeper, dropped his usual vocation and went to work with a shovel and rocker." During the summer of 1899, 2,000 men and women recovered \$2 million in gold from the beaches using shovels, rockers, wheelbarrows, and buckets. The U.S. Army continued to police the area, and expelled any inhabitant each autumn that did not have shelter or the resources to pay for one to survive the harsh Artic winter.⁷

As news of the beach gold and its easy recovery spread many more fortune seekers arrived. Nome was easier to reach than the gold fields of interior Alaska and Canada. There were no mountains to separate the determined from the lazy. Advertisements led many to think they could pick nuggets off the beach with little or no work. Nome quickly grew to a city of 10,000 people. Soon gold was being found for dozens of miles along the coast, which spurred the stampede to even newer heights. Additional thousands poured in during the spring of 1900 and 1901 aboard steamships from the ports of Seattle and San Francisco. A tent city sprung up on the beaches and along the treeless coast. Soon hundreds of tents extended for 15 miles along the beach to the west of town. When Elizabeth Robins, a British newspapers correspondent and actress, arrived in the boom town to join her brother, she described the scene on the beach:

"The tents come down to the beaches in some cases within a few feet of where surf is breaking. The space remaining is already piled with freight--food supplies barrels of beer and whiskey, bags of beans and flour higher than my head, lumber, acres of it, extending beyond the tents and up on the tundra, furniture, bedding, pots and pans, engines and boilers, Klondike Thawers, centrifugal pumps, pipe and hose-fittings, gold rockers, sides of bacon, blankets, smart portmanteaux and ancient sea chests--as odd a conglomeration as ever an eye rested on."⁸

⁶ Alaska's Historical and Cultural Studies

<http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=66>

⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nome,_Alaska

⁸ Alaska's Historical and Cultural Studies

Lawlessness and disorder prevailed. The rush of people caused chaos and gangs roamed the streets, buildings were set on fire to provide cover for looters, and claims were jumped and re-jumped.⁹

Brothers Wilfred and Edmund McDonald of San Jose, California arrived in Nome in 1900 to try their luck in this arctic El Dorado. The following is their description of what they found life like in this wild frontier.

"When they arrived from San Francisco on the steamship Senator, they found mile after mile of beach covered with tents and thousands of prospectors mining Nome's beaches. After their 3,000 mile voyage, they did not have to travel far to begin mining -- they pitched a tent eight miles north of Nome and began rocking beach sand. This was their first season of prospecting in Alaska. Soon, though, the brothers built more permanent cabins for shelter. They preferred the comfort and safety afforded by their dwellings and which provided a strong counterpoint to the lawless and dangerous Nome, where the amalgam of prospectors, schemers, confidence men, and riffraff mugged, assaulted, brawled, and otherwise caused mayhem regularly."¹⁰



1900: Mining camps; Nome, Alaska



1900: Water front mining camps; Nome, Alaska

<http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=66>

⁹ Alaska's Historical and Cultural Studies

<http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=66>

¹⁰ California Historical Society; "Alaska Gold: Life on the New Frontier";

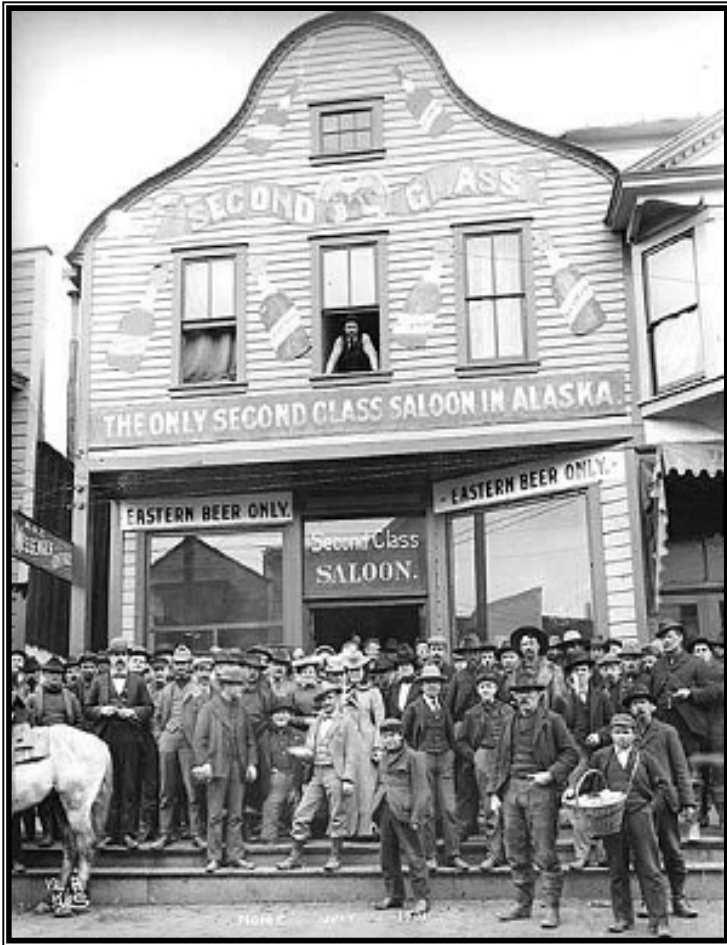
http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/exhibits/past_exhibits/alaska_gold/index.html

Nome's population had exploded, making it the largest and most lawless town in Alaska. Gangs operated freely in the crowded streets -- men sometimes hauled away cabins at night with their owners still in them. Rowdy saloons proliferated along Front Street; in 1900, Nome had fifty saloons, a number that soon doubled. Wilfred wrote in 1900: "We are away from town and glad of it. Don't want to go there. It's full of bums and sure thing men. Lots of men are getting in bad circumstances here. I think the government will have to take them out."¹¹

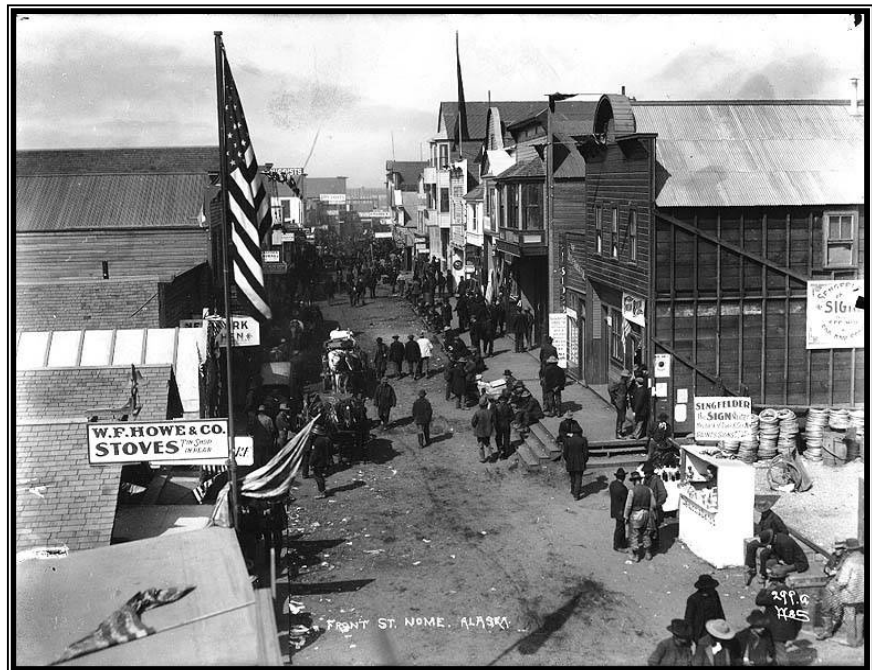


Property of Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries
4 July 1900: Cat Houses, Saloons, Gambling, Bawdy-Town ; Nome, Alaska

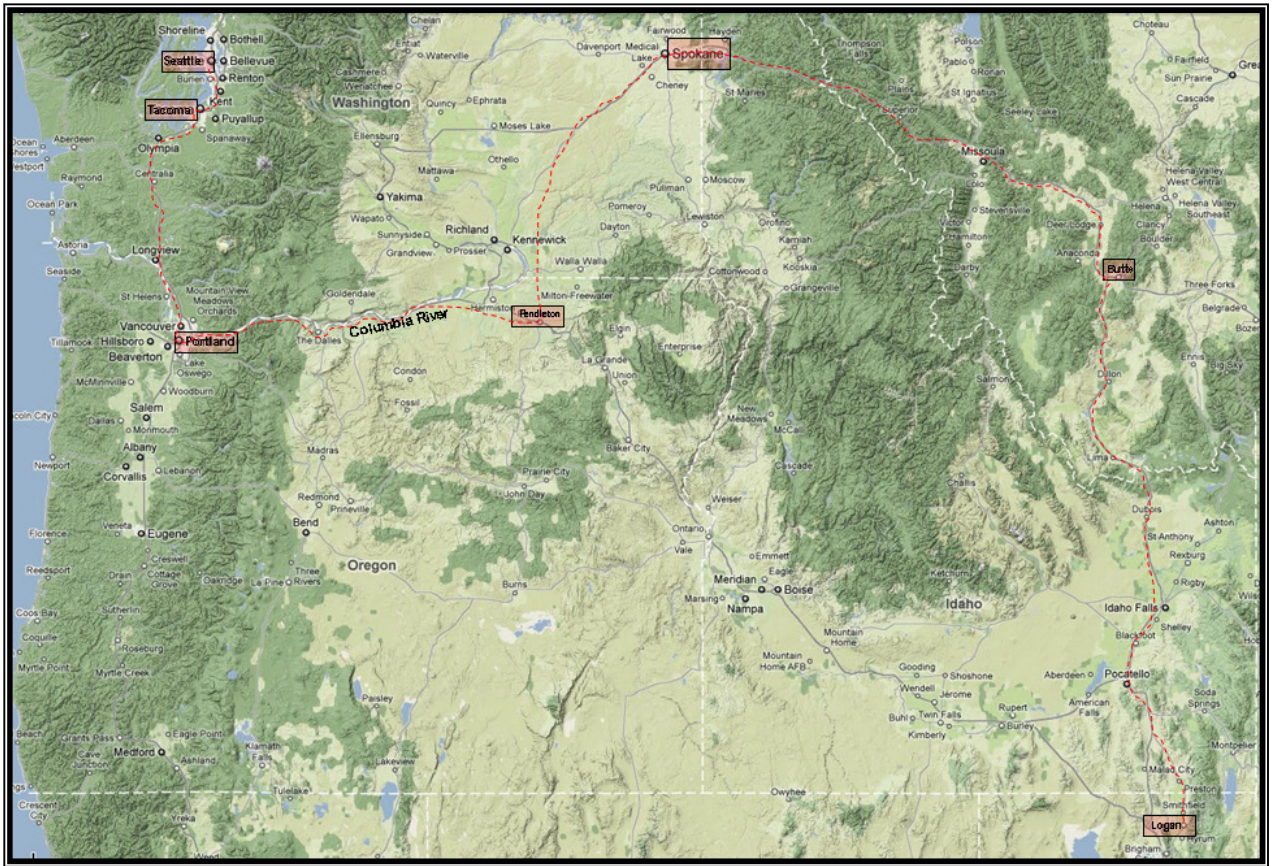
¹¹ McDaniel, Wilfred; The Photographs, Letters & Artifacts of the McDonald Brothers; "Alaska Gold: Life on the New Frontier"; California Historical Society, 2001.
http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/exhibits/past_exhibits/alaska_gold/index.html



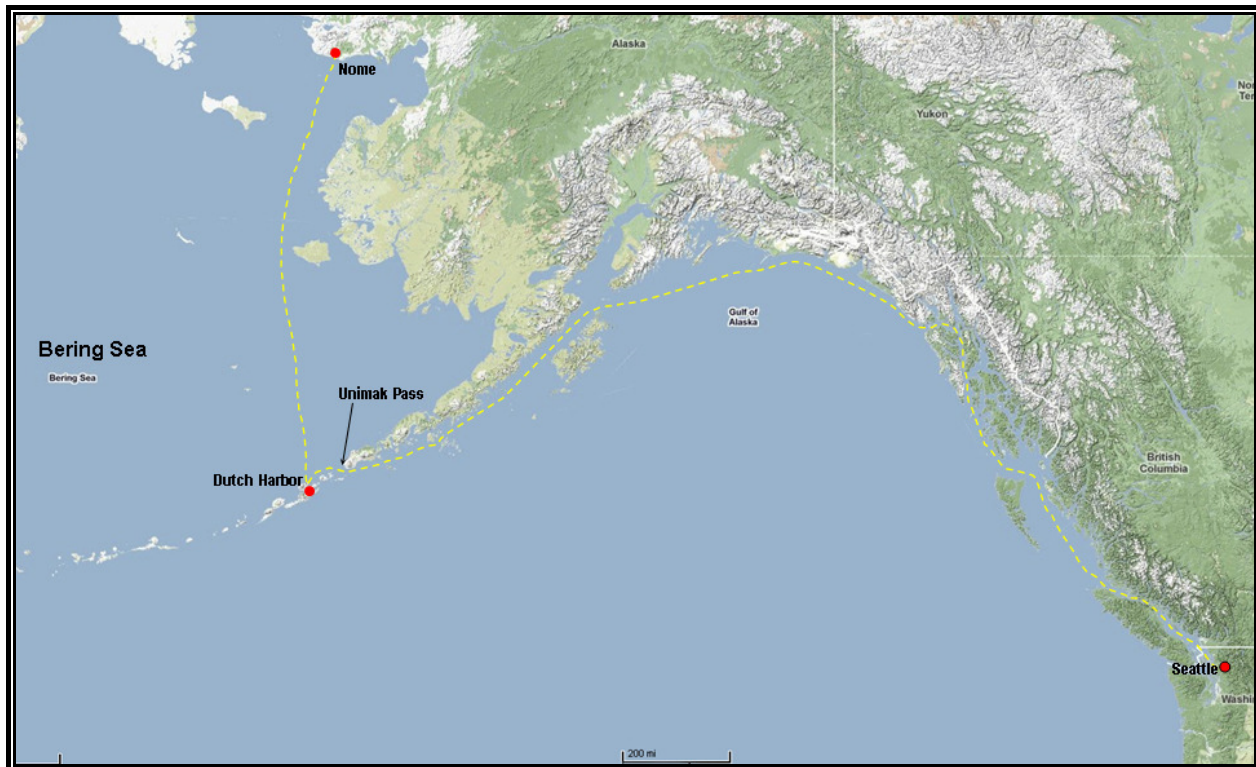
1 July 1901 Bawdy Town Saloons, Nome, Alaska



1900: Front Street, Nome Alaska



1901: Approximate route Smith's took to Nome Alaska during the Gold Rush



So it was into this wild wild west, one of the last great American frontiers, that Orsen, Eugene, and Everett set out for the northern Artic gold fields to seek their fortunes. Of this great adventure, Eugene was to later write:

“On May 31, 1901, I accompanied my brother, Orsen Smith and his son, Everett to Alaska, where my brother was interested in several gold claims. This was to me a great adventure. Always had wished to travel and see new places. The only places I had been before were to American Fork, Utah to see my Grandma and Grandpa Howe and to Idaho. My father was a freighter and hauled goods from Salt Lake City to Butte, Montana. I had accompanied him on one trip.

After leaving Utah we traveled north through Idaho to Dubois, then on to Butte and from there by train to Pendleton, Oregon. The forests were filled with immense trees and were very impressive. Many people from the Cache Valley had gone out and settled in this part of the country. The Stoddards, who were old friends of my parents, had a saw mill business there and so we stopped to see them.

The great grain fields between Pendleton and Portland were like an oasis of green in the tops of the mountains. From there we continued on to Seattle where I saw some very interesting and amusing sites. The Columbia River, with its' immense water wheels for catching fish was a revelation to me. Our trip to Seattle was without any unusual incident with the exception of crossing the Columbia River at Portland, Oregon. A few minutes after our train left the Portland station it stopped. I saw an inn and got off to buy some refreshments. I noticed a large bright light in the distance and being inquisitive asked what it was and was surprised when I was told that it was the city of Van Couver, Washington on the other side of the river. Later I was astonished when a gentleman explained to me "that we were not stopped, but that the train was stopped and a ferry boat was rapidly taking us across the river to Van Couver. Apparently we were floating on the water. I had never before crossed a river on a ferry and was much excited when looking out of the window I could see no land only swirling waters on every side of us. I had not dreamed or heard before of a whole train being taken across a river on a boat. I wondered how it could connect without a huge jolt. How could we keep afloat I wondered? My surprise amused the gentleman very much. But in a short time we were again on rails in the ground going through Tacoma, Washington. Tacoma is built in a beautiful forest of stately pine trees. I enjoyed the beautiful scenery as we continued on our way.

At Seattle we stayed at the Renes Grand hotel. This was another new experience to me. While sitting out side the hotel the next morning I was surprised to hear my name spoken. I looked up and before me was Walt Reese, a home town man who was, I learned, a gambler in Seattle.



The following day, I went up to beautiful Lake Washington one of the beauty spots in a most beautiful mountainous country covered with woods. In the seven miles between the lake and Seattle, we passed only an occasional dwelling house. I wished I had money to invest in lots along the lake that were then selling for between five and six dollars. Now the city has extended over all of the country and the land is almost priceless."¹²

"We remained in Seattle five days. Five glorious days filled with sightseeing in the town which at that time had approximately five thousand people. On the third day we went down to the steamship company docks and secured passage on the "Senator". On the following night we first saw the Senator - at anchor on the docks. The thought came to me "are we going to risk our lives on this frail vessel to travel 7,000 or so miles on the ocean to our destination. We entered the ship and sailed up the Puget Sound and out into the vast ocean. When morning came the land had disappeared. All we could see was waves rolling mountain high. I got a little sea sick the first day out but then went to the middle of the boat and stayed until I got used to the motion of the ship on the water."



June 1901: Steamboat "Senator" at docks in Seattle, WA

¹² Unfinished "Life History of Eugene Smith" by Eugene Smith; written after 1923. Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 3.



1904: Puget Sound waterfront docks Seattle, Washington

Steamship SENATOR: In 1898 the Union Iron Works in San Francisco built the SENATOR for the Pacific Coast Steamship Co. The SENATOR was a single-screw vessel of 2,432 tons, with dimensions 280x38.1x19.6 ft. and driven by a 1,500 horsepower triple-expansion engine. Her cruise speed was 10.8 knots and passenger capacity was 187. She was taken over by the government upon her completion for use with the Army Transport Service and carried 1,004 troops on her first voyage to Manila. Upon her return to the Pacific Coast Steamship Co. she was placed on the San Francisco-Seattle-Tacoma-Cape Nome route. In 1907 the vessel was placed on the Seattle-San Diego route. In 1912 the vessel resumed the Alaska route between Seattle and Nome. In 1916 the SENATOR was sold to East Coast owners. In 1921 she was overhauled and renamed the ADMIRAL FISKE. In 1934 she was sold to Japanese ship breakers for disposal.

SOURCE: Newell, Gordon, ed. "The H.W. McCurdy Marine History of the Pacific Northwest." Seattle: The Superior Company, 1966; pp. 31-32.



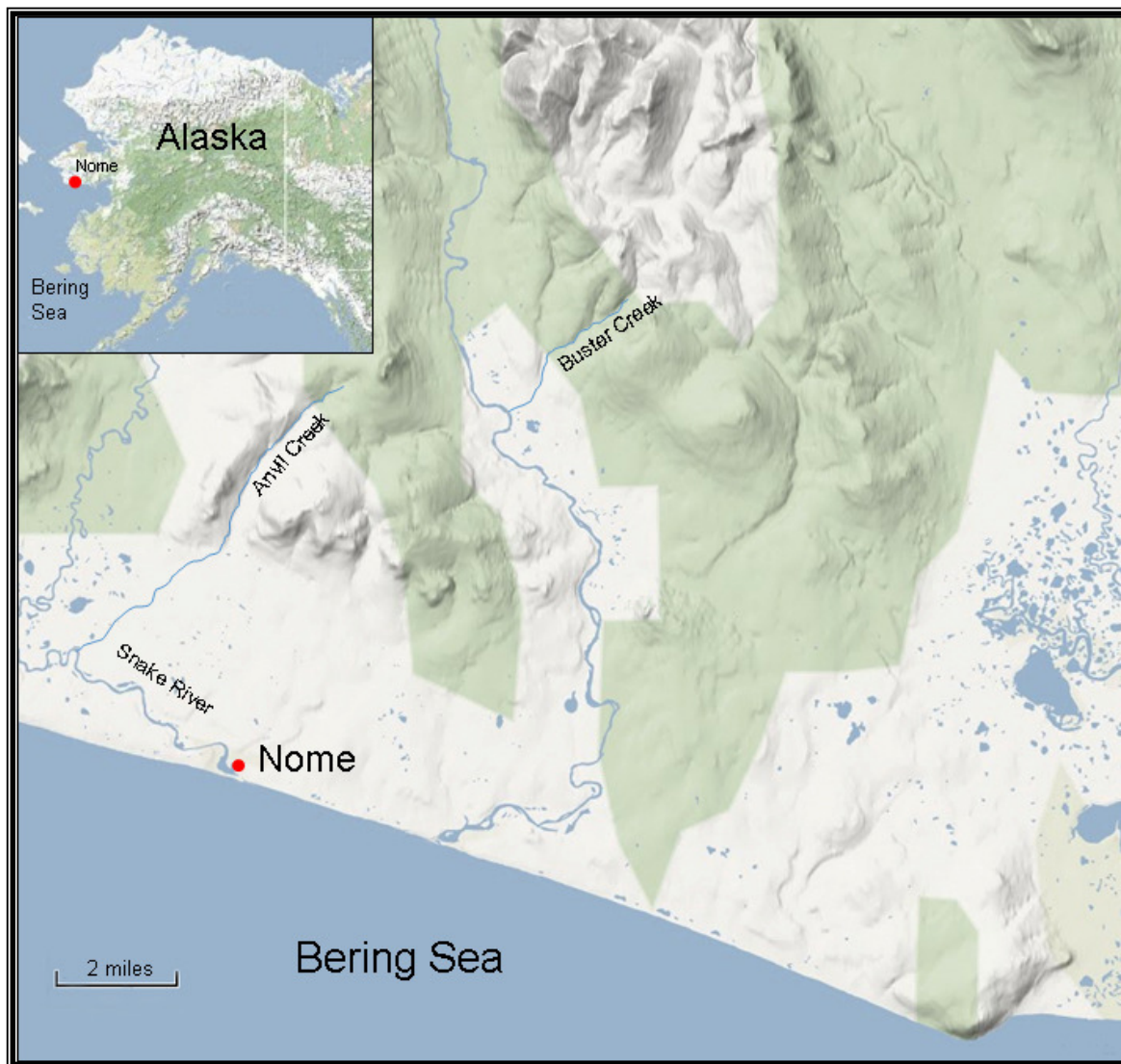
1901: Steamship "Senator" Eugene Smith traveled to Alaska



About 1908: Steamship "Senator" sailing in the Ice Pack

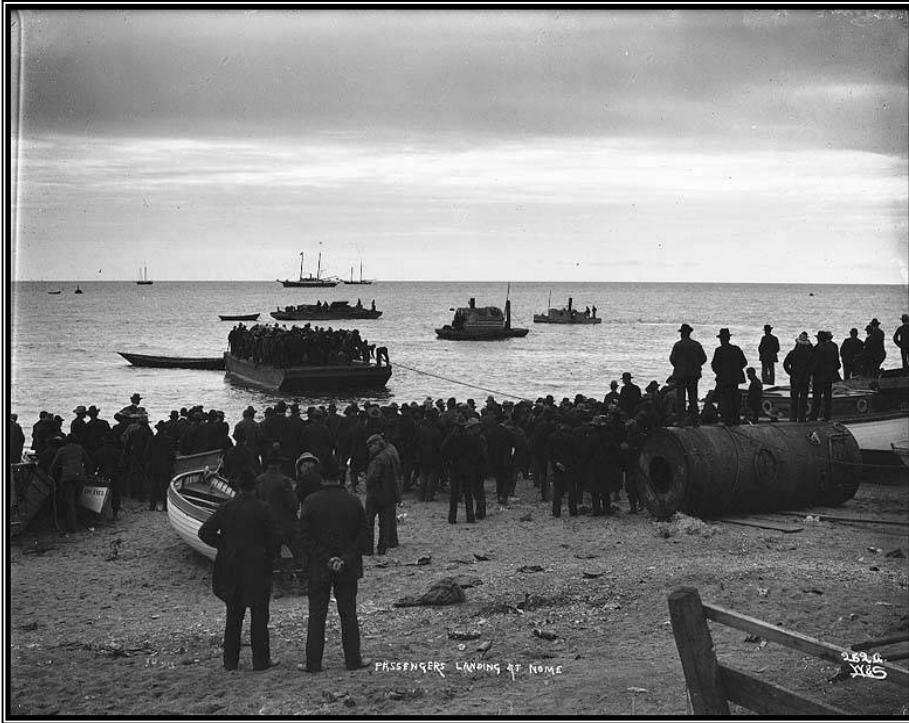


We sailed through Unimak Pass through the Aleutian Islands chain and then to Dutch Harbor into the Bering Sea. They had to wait at Dutch Harbor because of ice in the Bering Sea. About 400 people had stopped there who were also hurrying to the gold fields with every known device to work the fields. The ice finally cleared and we were able to continue on our way north until we docked outside of the boom town of Nome, Alaska."¹³



Nome and Buster Creek, Alaska

¹³ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 3. Eugene Smith; Incomplete "Life History"; hand written notes contained in a spiral notebook; copy in possession of David Barkdull, 2011.



1900: Ship passengers landing at Nome, Alaska

When they arrived in Nome, their passenger ship was unloaded with litters that were dragged through the sea to the beach. Eugene reported that the town was "raw" and every known device of gambling was there and many men lost their fortunes in a few minutes. A gun was pulled at the least excuse and

killing was common. The dance hall girls and the red light districts flourished. Food was expensive. In later years Eugene told his daughter Glenice, that all the wickedness he saw was almost more than he could stand. The Smiths worked beach claims with rockers for a while but then moved inland about 12 miles up to



1906: Eskimo's berry picking, Nome, Alaska

Buster Creek and worked some claims there too. Glenice said, "Daddy told me about the boardwalks, mud, Indians and Eskimos. He also said the scenery of the country was beautiful." Eugene always wanted to go back after the "Rush" was over and things had calmed down."¹⁴

When fall came anyone who did not have sufficient shelter and means had to depart Nome and head south before the Bering Sea froze solid. The Smith's must not have wanted to prolong their stay and experience the harsh winter. So about October



1900: Mining for gold, Buster Creek, Alaska

they returned to Seattle via the Inland Passage. Eugene later recorded that, "men who died on the boat were wrapped in canvas; a few words were said over them and then pushed over the side of the ship into the cold ocean below." On his way home he carried his gold in a money belt around his waist. One night someone took his belt off while he was sleeping and stole all he had. He came home broke. But he said it was a good experience and never again did he want to be associated with people of that caliber. From this expedition, he also developed strong protective feelings towards his family and he always tried to shield his family away from those who were not living as they should. Eugene arrived back home in Logan that fall where he and his sweetheart Mary Christiansen began to "keep company". They soon became engaged sometime late in the year."¹⁵

¹⁴ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 3.

¹⁵ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 3.



1906: Miners searching for gold, Buster Creek; Nome, Alaska



1900: Miners using a Rocker to search for gold; Nome, Alaska

Chapter 4

A Prayer in our Hearts and a Song on our Lips

1901-1903

It was an unforgettable night to see your 160 pound, six foot tall father with his dark brown hair and sparkling brown eyes standing straight and tall beside his very blond five foot one inch 110 pound bride."

- Unidentified niece or nephew

Courtship

Mary Christiansen attended the Utah Agricultural College in Logan, Utah between 1896 and 1900. Though her home town of Hyrum was only a few short miles south of the city she lived there and probably visited her family on the weekends. She lived just west of the campus where her walk to school would take her past Eugene Smith's home. Years later her daughter Dwinna said her parents met while she was attending college. She wrote, "Mary attended school at the Utah Agricultural College in Logan, Utah. On her way to school she unknowingly walked past the Smith family home. One day she caught Eugene's attention." Unable to directly approach her, Eugene asked a mutual friend to formally introduce her to him.¹ This was the beginning of their courtship. Except for one letter Mary wrote him in the fall of 1901, shortly after his return from Alaska, little else is known about this period of their life.

In this particular letter, Mary wrote Eugene from Logan just a few hours after they had parted at her parent's home. Mary had graduated from college and was working in Logan. The tone of her 23 October letter clearly shows a fondness and concern for Eugene. At the time he was staying at her parent's home, apparently recovering from a cold we learn at the end of the letter. How or why he was there and not at his own home is not known. Never-the-less, Mary wrote that she was glad he "stayed in Hyrum and let Mamma doctor it." Then she wrote about

¹ Dwinna Marie Smith Bennett; Early Memories; Written for Wagstaff grandchildren baby book, written early 1960's.

how Mr. Larson, the man who took her back to Logan, tried to pull a practical joke on her. She wrote that he stopped all along the way to admire "each of the numerous large stores, factories, and warehouses that are situated in the town" and "even after we got out of town he stopped the horses and took one farewell look at the beautiful sleeping village [Hyrum]". He explained his enthusiasm to Norman Dahle, another fellow passenger, that he had been doing this to divert Mary's attention and give her time to get over her parting with Eugene. Mary wrote that he "did not realize how much he helped me." She cautiously ended her letter by telling him he was welcome to throw it away if he got too bored with it. She then concluded with "wishing you success and trusting that your cold has left you. I am, with best love, Your true friend, Mary Christiansen." In a final "P.S." she wrote: "remember to write every chance you get and tell me where to address you and if you wish to hear from me, I will write you . . ." ² (See Appendix A, Document 2, Mary's Courtship Letter)

Sixteen years later while Eugene was on his mission in Colorado, Mary tenderly reminisced in a letter to her husband about this day and the similar pangs of separation she was once again feeling. "I got in the car and came to Logan and Norman Dahle stopped up and spoke to me. It made me think of the night we [Mr. Dahle, Mr. Larson and Mary] came to Hyrum to meet you and I was almost as homesick to see you as I was at leaving you that night."

Mary also stopped and visited Eugene's sister Patience in Logan and conveyed an unknown message from Eugene to her. Patience reported that their parents had finished threshing the day before and that the yield of grain was "pretty good" that year.

Marriage

By Christmas 1902, Eugene and Mary were most likely engaged and preparing for their upcoming nuptials the following month. As part of these preparations Eugene, having met with his Bishop, was given the Melchizedek Priesthood and ordained to the office of an Elder on 7 Jan 1902 in Logan by C. V. Hansen.³ Then a week later, on 15 January, Eugene Smith and Mary Ida Christianson were "Endowed" and married in the Utah Logan Temple. Their sealing was

² Letter dated 23 Oct 1901 from Mary Christiansen, Logan, Utah to Eugene Smith, Hyrum, Utah

³ Unfinished "Life History of Eugene Smith" by Eugene Smith; written after 1923.

Melba Ward, Bingham Stake; Record of Ordinations; Salt Lake Family History Library; Film #7242.



1900: Logan Temple, Utah
Eugene & Mary Christiansen Smith were married here on 15 January 1902

officiated by Thomas H. Morgan and was witnessed by Peter Hansen and M. L. Hammont. Thomas Morgan was a close Smith family friend. He had served for years in Eugene's father's bishopric as a counselor in the Logan 4th ward. (See Appendix A, Document 3, Marriage Certificate)

Following their wedding Eugene and Mary

rode the short eight miles by buggy to Hyrum, where a large wedding dinner and reception had been prepared for family and friends. The celebration was hosted by the bride's Danish parents, Peter and Ane Maria Christiansen. Following the dinner there was a dance in their honor at the nearby town hall. Many friends and relatives helped with all the special foods. They received many congratulations and gifts. Eugene's father, Thomas X. Smith, gave them a cow in addition to the team of horses and some chickens Eugene already owned. That first winter following their marriage they lived in a rented room in Logan.

Many years later a nephew or niece of Eugene and Mary's recalled to their daughter Glenice their memory of her parent's wedding that night, "it was an unforgettable night to see



Eugene & Mary Christiansen Smith Wedding photo.

my 160 pound, six foot tall father with his dark brown hair and sparkling brown eyes standing straight and tall beside his very blond five foot one inch 110 pound bride."⁴

Back to Idaho

In March 1902, the newlyweds left Logan and headed north to the Snake River Valley. Both had previous experience living in this new country. Eugene had worked on the railroad grading crew and in 1895, following graduation from school, Mary had gone to live with her older sister Martha Marler and her family in Lorenzo, Idaho to help them out. There was also extended Smith family in the area which they could rely upon if needed. Eugene's half brother, Fredric Smith and his family lived in Rexburg.

So relying on help from their relatives and friends they determined to make a go of it in the area of Fremont County (Madison County in 2011), Idaho. Of their journey to Idaho Eugene wrote, "We came to Idaho with a black team of horses, pulling a black single seated buggy, a prayer in our hearts, a song on our lips, lots of ambition and \$12.00 in our pocket."⁵ Of this adventure Mary said, "I came with my husband to Idaho and visited relatives and traveled with him. He worked as a traveling salesman for the L.K.F." [Logan Knitting Factory]⁶ Eugene worked at various jobs and as usual he was never happier then when he was selling something he liked. He was a natural born salesman and had a knack for talking and getting along with people so he decided to try selling knit goods in this new area they would call home.⁷ However, by fall of 1902, Mary was pregnant and expecting their first baby so they thought it would be best if they returned back to Utah to spend the winter with their "folks".

The Marlers

Before his marriage to Mary's older sister, Martha, in 1890, George Marler had worked for his uncle, Joseph Smith, who was manager of the Z.C.M.I. at Eagle Rock [Idaho Falls], a struggling town in the great sage brush expanse of northeastern Idaho. Then after his marriage to Martha they left and went north to make a new home just north of Rigby Idaho. George remained in the employ of the Z.C.M.I. for another five years, but farming seemed to present

⁴ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4.

⁵ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4.

⁶ Smith, Mary C.; Hand written notes, after 1913. Possession of David Barkdull

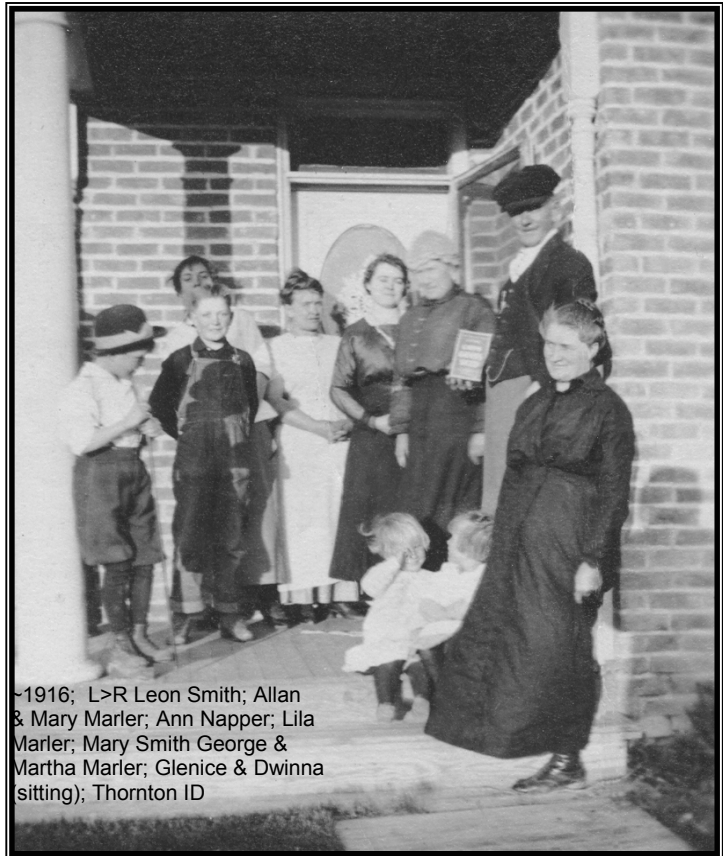
⁷ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4.

greater opportunities than “counter hopping” so he homesteaded a farm on the "Dry Bed", two miles north of Rigby at Lorenzo, on the south side of the Snake River. In order to prove up on the homestead it was necessary to establish an immediate residence on their newly acquired farm. For the latter part of the winter of 1895 George was away from his family for a few months for work leaving Martha, with their two small children and Mary, who had come to help her sister while George was gone.⁸

The Marlers made a valiant go of it on their homestead, but due to the gravelly nature of the dry bed soil, it proved to be not very suitable for agriculture. In 1901 after

securing a buyer for his homestead, George purchased another farm located one mile west of Lorenzo. This farm like the one on the dry bed, required long hours of toil clearing the land of rocks and trees to make it suitable for planting. But with the prevailing low prices for agricultural commodities it entailed a difficult struggle coupled with frugal living to make both ends meet.⁹

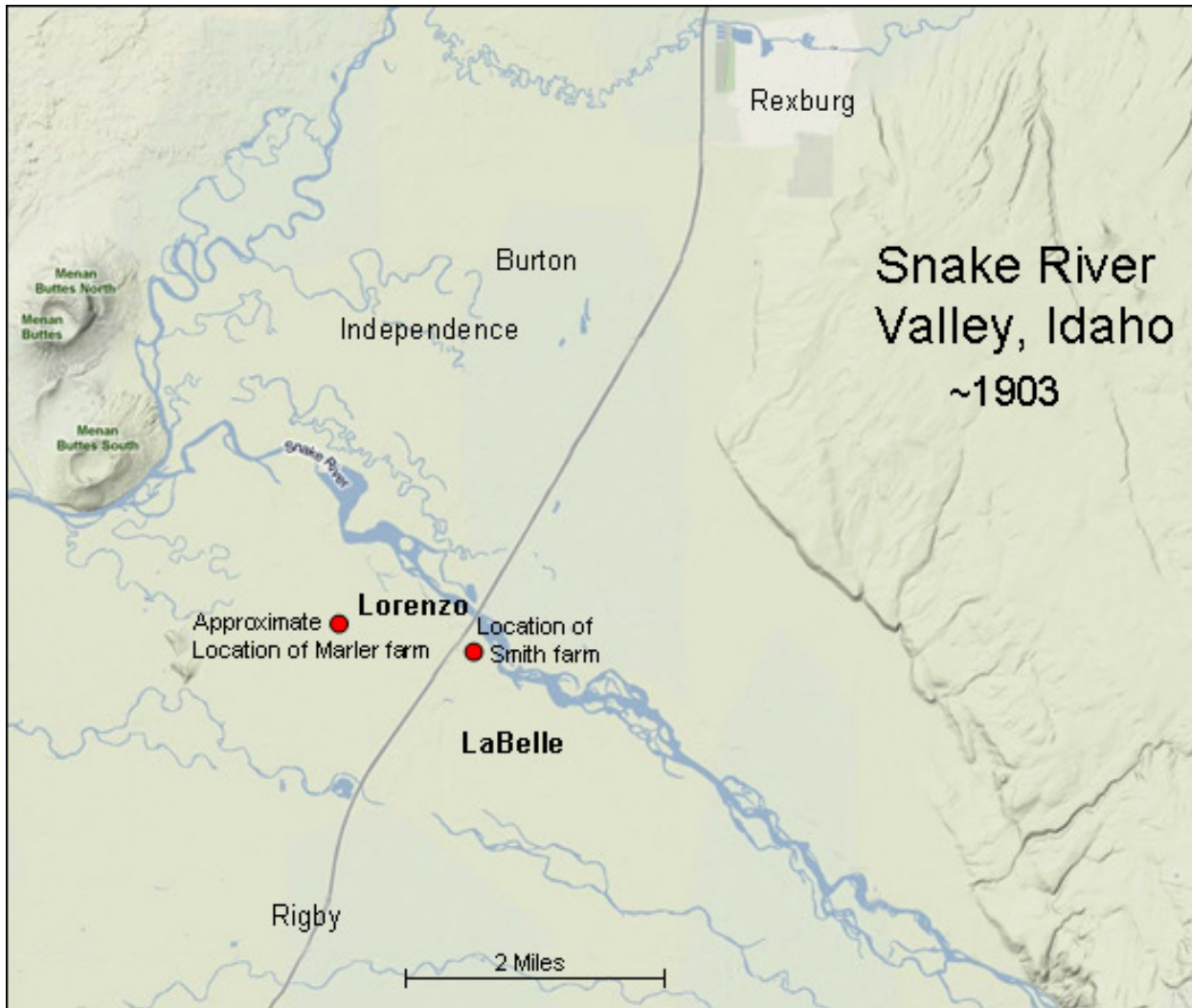
The nearest LDS church in the area of their new home was between the south side of the Snake River to the north and Rigby to the south was the nearby LaBelle Ward which had been organized in 1886. The ward membership clerk recorded receiving Martha Christiansen Marler's LDS church membership records from Eagle Rock Ward, Bingham Stake, Idaho on 7 March 1897. After Eugene and Mary's marriage, these familial bonds of friendship and love between



~1916; L>R Leon Smith; Allan & Mary Marler; Ann Napper; Lila Marler; Mary Smith George & Martha Marler; Glenice & Dwinna (sitting); Thornton ID

⁸ "Brief Biography of George W. Marler Jr.", pg 2.

⁹ "Brief Biography of George W. Marler Jr.", pg 2.



the Smiths and Marlers continued to grow. This closeness was prevalent for the rest of their life's as they always remained neighbors who grew to depend and support each other's families.¹⁰

Back to Hyrum

Eugene Leon C. Smith entered this world on 17 Apr 1903, born to Eugene and Mary C. Smith. "Leon", as he would be known for the rest of his life, was born in the home of his Christiansen grandparents in Hyrum, Utah at 6:30 am. Following his birth, Mary was confined to her bed for two weeks to recuperate from her delivery.¹¹ Mary remained with her family

¹⁰ LaBelle Ward "Certificate of Membership" records, Microfilm 7285, Items 1-3, Book II, page 363.

¹¹ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Eugene Leon Smith", pg 1. Logan 4th Ward; Cache Stake, UT; Record of Members, #10028; Book A3; Film #26081; Salt Lake City Family History Library.

another three months until July. But in May, Eugene went back to Idaho to resume his work and to try and find a home and farm where he could better support his now growing family.

Following Leon's birth he was given a baby blessing by his grandfather, Thomas X. Smith at the Logan Fourth Ward church house on 5 July 1903.¹² Eugene returned to Cache Valley sometime in July probably to attend his son's blessing and then to take his family back to Idaho.¹³



1903: Mary & Leon Eugene C. Smith; Hyrum, Utah

Back to Idaho

The Smith's had only temporarily sought out the refuge of their family's homes back in the Cache Valley. The Snake River Valley offered many opportunities and they were determined to make a go of it in this new country. So in May 1903, "needing to make a living, Eugene returned to Idaho to sell knitted goods once again up and down the Snake River Valley. His work also gave him an opportunity to spy out the countryside to try and locate some good farmland.

In July Eugene found suitable farm land belonging to William L. Galbraith in Lorenzo which he was willing to sell. Church records for the LaBelle Ward (which included Lorenzo) show a William L. Galbraith as a ward member. He also appeared on a list of ward members who had contributed to the Copenhagen Mission home construction fund.¹⁴ On 1 June 1903, Eugene entered into a land transaction with Mr. Galbraith for the purchase of twenty-two and a half acres of land for \$600.00 "gold coin of the United States". The property was situated between Lorenzo and La Belle Idaho near the south side of the Snake River. (See Appendix B, Map 1; Eugene Smith's Lorenzo farm location) The contract stipulated the following conditions:

¹² Logan 4th Ward; Cache Stake, UT; Record of Members, #10028; Book A3; Film #26081; Salt Lake City Family History Library.

¹³ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4.

¹⁴ LaBelle Ward, Record of Members, Microfilm 7284, Items 1-4, LDS Family History Library, SLC, UT

"Three hundred and fifty (\$350.00) Dollars United States Gold Coin on the execution of the contract, and the balance of Two hundred and fifty (\$250.00) Dollars with interest at the rate of ten percent from the date on the first day of August 1905 and the said party of the second part [Eugene Smith] agrees to pay all State and County Taxes or assessments of whatsoever nature which may become due after the year One thousand nine hundred and three, the said second party further agrees to allow the said first party [William Galbraith] a right of way for a water or irrigation ditch sufficient size to carry a good irrigation stream across his land and along fence on County road, also an irrigation ditch down and along said 2nd pasture south line from Canal to West end of said 2nd parties land without charge or hindrance to the party of the first part.

The party of the second part also further agrees to allow the said party of the first part the right of way for a foot path along the South line fence in such a manner as to do the least possible damage consistent with giving a good foot path without charge or hindrance.

It is also further agreed by the party of the 2nd part that all division lines between the said first and 2nd party shall be made by and thro expense of same borne by the two respective parties half and half and shall be made of such material that will turn cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, and poultry before damages can be collected by either party and shall be kept in repair by the said parties half and half there after.

In the event of a failure to comply with the terms here of by the said party of the second part, the said party of the first part shall be released from all obligations in law or equity, to convey said property, and the said party of the second part shall forget all right thereto and the said party of the first part, on recovering such payment at the time and in the manner above mentioned, agrees to execute and deliver to the said party of the second part, or to his assignees, a good and sufficient deed for the conveying and assuring to said party of the Second part, the title to the above described premises free and clear of encumbrances. And it is understood that the stipulations aforesaid and to apply to and bind the heirs, Executors administrators and assignees of the respective parties, and that said party of the 2nd part is to have possession of said premises as soon as said first party gathers crops now growing on said land.

The party of the first part agrees to give an interest (?) such as he owes to the party of the Second part in proportion to the amount of ground to be irrigated by the two respective parties, in a (?) ditch formerly owned by one John Anderson that is the amount of land to be watered from the said ditch."¹⁵ (See Appendix B, Document 1; Galbraith land sale)

The following day, 2 June, Eugene paid Mr. Galbraith \$26.65 towards the balance of his debt for the land he had purchased.¹⁶ Then in a letter dated 11 Jun 1903 and addressed to "Lorenzo, Idaho", Mary wrote to her husband that she had gone to Logan to see their friend,

¹⁵ Copy of original land transaction between William Galbraith and Eugene Smith, possession of David Barkdull

¹⁶ Copy of original receipt by Wm L. Galbraith for payment from Logan Knitting Factory on behalf of Eugene Smith.

Melvin Ballard to make arrangements for the safe transfer of their funds to pay Mr. Galbraith. In 1899, Mr. Ballard assisted in establishing and operating the Logan Knitting Factory, one of the leading factories of the State. Mary asked Mr. Ballard to help them by transferring their funds via a factory check for the purchase of Mr. Galbraith's Idaho farm. Mary continued, "I went to Logan and got you the money and I suppose you have received it. Mr. Ballard said he would send it on the night train. I got the factory to give their personal check for the \$125 and promised them you would sign that debit slip and return it to them before you gave Mr. Galbraith the check. I gave Mr. Cardon (Joint operator with Mr. Ballard of the Logan Knitting Factory) the Bank book and \$3.90 as we only had \$121.09 in the bank. She asked Eugene, "Dearest, have you found us a house to live in yet? I am anxious to move, so as to be with you." And then she concluded with a "P.S."; "Eugene when do you have to pay Mr. Galbraith the balance of the money? I signed a note payable Nov 1st, at 10% interest per annum.

In her letter Mary also reported that their cow was lost and his folks were having a time trying to find her. Their horse, "old Knob", had a colt but it died in two days. She reported that baby Leon was growing fat and sweet as could be. He laughs out loud and tries very hard to talk. Sometimes he even screams trying to talk. "I've made myself an under shirt, a dress, and baby a dress" while she's been at her sister Marie's home in either Hyrum or Wellsville, Utah. She affectionately concludes, "Eugene I long to be with you again . . . Accept our best love and prayers for your success. Your loving wife and baby."¹⁷ (See Appendix A, Document 4, Galbraith purchase letter)

It can be implied that the Galbraith purchase may have just been for land because at the end of the letter Mary asks her husband, "have you found us a house to live in yet?" It also appears the \$125. was for an initial down payment. In order to transfer the funds, Mr. Ballard, who had also employed Mary for a brief period just prior to her marriage, had written a company check which would most likely be more readily accepted by a local bank in Idaho. Mary gave Mr. Ballard the \$121.09 in their savings account and the balance of \$3.90 in cash to make an even \$125. for the down payment on the property.

¹⁷ Copy of Letter dated 11 June 1903 with Logan Knitting Factory logo at the top of the paper; from Mary Smith to Eugene Smith, in possession of David Barkdull

It is not clear where exactly the Smith's lived. In Glenice Smith's history of her father she mixes up some of the facts but refers to a home on 58 acres of land.¹⁸ There is no other information or documents to verify whether or not this was where their home or where it was. Never-the-less, by the end of June, Eugene must have secured some kind of living arrangements for his young family because he felt secure enough in their future to return to Hyrum and bring his family back a short while later.

¹⁸ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4.

Chapter 5

Idaho Homesteaders

1903-1915

"Mary and Eugene had a gift for loving all those around them, particularly Mary."

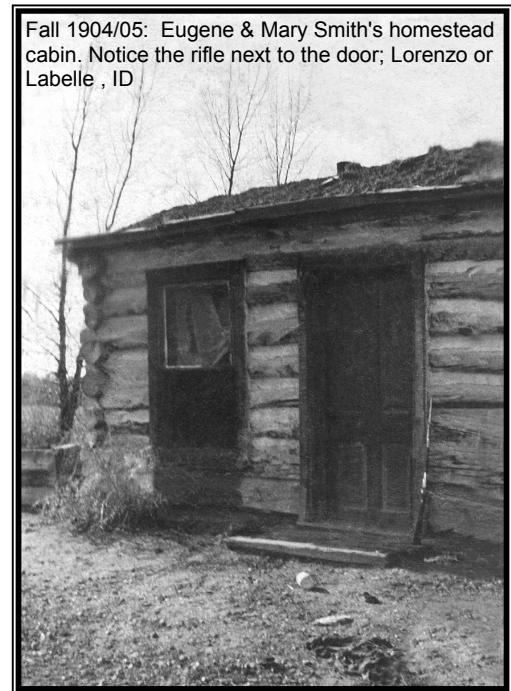
- Glenice Smith Anderson

Lorenzo and LaBelle

Following Leon's baby blessing in Logan, the Smith's returned to Idaho probably by the end of July or August. As previously stated it is not known for certain where Eugene and Mary lived their first few years in the Lorenzo/LaBelle area. One possible clue comes from a post card of their first home upon which years later their daughter Glenice wrote on the back: "Built in the fall of 1904, Eugene Smith at *Lorenzo*, Idaho where Dad and Mother homesteaded"¹

During this period the Smith's lived close to the Marlers who had been trying to homestead about a mile west of Lorenzo. They may have been influenced by his efforts. If Eugene and Mary had decided to try their hand at homesteading they could have been too busy clearing their land to have had sufficient time to build an adequate home for the harsh Idaho winters. Since they arrived so late in the season, they may have lived with the Marlers that first year. Then by the fall of 1904 Eugene could have had sufficient time to have built their log cabin.

In June 1951, Allan Marler spoke of his parent's family and of the Smith's close relationship at his Aunt Mary's funeral. He also talked about the log cabins both families lived in at the time. He said, "our families have been so close together all of our life. We lived on a farm near Lorenzo



¹ Original photograph in possession of David Barkdull, hand writing by daughter Glenice Anderson.

under very adverse circumstances, a log house with a straw and willow roof. Aunt Mary and Uncle Eugene had a home of similar type nearby. We didn't have much but yet we did learn to appreciate the things that we did have and it seems that the thing we had the most of was neighborliness and real affection for one another. We developed affection in those days that doesn't seem to exist in the present time. It seems we were more thoughtful and more kind to our neighbors. We were confined to small areas because we did not have the means of locomotion or communication that we have today and so neighbors, those whom we did know, came to mean much more to us. We shared each other's sorrows and we shared each others joys. Leon, their oldest boy, was just a year younger than I and naturally he and I were constant companions. We grew up together and our friendship that we made in our early youth has endured through our lives and until he was taken a few years ago."²

The Homestead Act of 1862

With the secession of Southern states from the Union and therefore removal of the slavery issue, finally, in 1862, the Homestead Act was passed. The new law established a three-fold acquisition process:

1. Filing an application
2. Meeting the three conditions
3. Filing for deed of title

Any U.S. citizen, who had never borne arms against the Government could apply and claim 160 acres of surveyed Government land. For the next 5 years, the homesteader had to:

1. Live on the land.
2. Improve it by building a 12-by-14 dwelling and grow crops.
3. File for their patent to a local land office.

Because much of the prime low-lying alluvial land along rivers had been homesteaded by the turn of the twentieth century, a major update called the "Enlarged Homestead Act" was passed in 1909. It targeted land suitable for dry farming, increasing the number of acres to 320 to farmers who accepted more marginal lands that could not be irrigated. Only about 40 percent of the applicants who started the process were able to complete it and obtain title to their homestead land. Eventually 1.6 million homesteads were granted and 270,000,000 acres of federal land were privatized between 1862 and 1934, a total of 10% of all lands in the United States.

SOURCE: US National Archives:
<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/homestead-act/>

The Smith's LDS church membership certificates were sent from the Logan 4th Ward, Cache Stake, Utah to the LaBelle ward clerk who recorded them into the ward records on 1 Nov 1903. (See Appendix A, Document 5, LaBelle Ward Membership Record). At that time the LaBelle ward encompassed both the Lorenzo and LaBelle areas. The ward leadership consisted of Bishop John G. Morgan with counselors George H. Romrell and James G. Browning. Ward clerk was David Bloomquist³.




² Marler, Allen talk by, nephew of Eugene and Mary Smith, at Mary Smith's funeral service, 24 Oct 1951, Rexburg LDS 3rd Ward, Idaho, pg 8.

³ LaBelle Ward, Record of Members, Microfilm 7284, Items 1-4, LDS Family History Library, SLC, UT, pg 367 & 385.

A year later in 1904, the Smiths still owned the Galbraith land they purchased in 1903 because on 29 August 1904, Mr. Galbraith "received from Eugene Smith the sum of \$29.15. The same being interest on promissory note dated June 1, 1903 [Original sale of land from William G. to Eugene] up to Aug 1st. 1904. The same is indorsed on said note."⁴



At the beginning of the 20th century, American society had strict views on women and men's roles. A married woman was to be taking care of her family and not working outside her home. It was also quite unusual for someone to have a college degree at that time and particularly for a woman. But LaBelle was a new settlement and the last teacher had quit at the end of the term in the spring of 1904. The school board began to look around for a new replacement. People knew Mary had graduated from college so the school board members approached her about taking over the vacant teaching position with an offer to teach.

Joseph Ray Watkins founded Watkins Incorporated in 1868 from the kitchen of his home in Plainview, Minn. His products were made from camphor (extracted from evergreen trees) and capsicum (from red peppers). Original Liniment offered relief for tired, aching muscles. J.R. Watkins was so confident of his home-manufactured natural product that he introduced the now famous Watkins "Trial Mark" bottle, along with the first-ever money back guarantee. By 1885 the production of Liniment had outgrown his home and the town of Plainview, so he moved the company to the booming lumber town of Winona, Minn. In Winona, J.R. incorporated his company as the J. R. Watkins Medical Company. At the turn of the century, the company's expanded product line included a wide array of natural consumables for everyday living, including Medicinal Salves, Vegetable Oil Soap, Rose Perfume, and many natural spices and extracts. Originating as a rural business, by the 1920's demand was growing beyond farming communities for J.R. Watkins natural concoctions and he expanded his reach into the cities.

SOURCE:
<http://www.jrwatkins.com/jrwatkins/contentF.cfm?Country=Usa&Area=Our%20Story&mainstg=Who%20We%20Are>

Mary was hesitant about taking the job because of her young baby and the fact that the previous teacher had to carry a gun to school to keep order was a bit disconcerting to her. But she discussed the opportunity with her husband. They knew they could surely use the money a job like this would provide. Eugene's earnings selling knit goods and Watkins products could never be counted on for a steady income. Mary also felt a keen sense of responsibility and

⁴ Receipt from Galbraith to Smith acknowledging interest payment, copy in possession of David Barkdull.

also a patriotic duty to help teach the children in their community. Her parents had always stressed the importance of a good education while growing up.⁵



1904: Mary C. Smith

Finally they decided Mary would accept the job. While Mary had a college degree, she didn't have the required teaching certificate. But she studied hard to prepare and on 29 August she went to the county seat and took the examinations, passed, and received her Rural Teacher Certificate, or "Teacher's Second Grade Certificate"⁶ Mary said, "I studied hard and received my first Teacher's certificate, taught at the Rural School at Labelle 1904 and 1905."⁷ (See Appendix A, Document 6, Teaching Certificate)

Next the Smiths found a young girl, Susan Hulse, and hired her to look after Leon. "Aunt Susie", as they soon called her, was a wonderful baby sitter and house keeper. She lived with the Smiths and while Mary taught school, Susie would take care of little Leon. Susie was a big help to Mary during these early years. It was not only hard for Mary to be away from her little boy during the day but she often got quite lonesome when her husband was away selling goods door to door. Susie often taught Leon nursery rhythms and one day she taught him to say "mama" and "papa". Much to his parents delight he surprised them when they came home that day with his new vocabulary.⁸

When Mary began teaching in LaBelle she was just twenty-two years old. She said some of the pupils were older than she because many had not had an opportunity to attend school until later. Some, she said, would come to school with hang-overs occasionally. But her students revered and respected her so she had little trouble with discipline. The only downside that first year was the great deal of noise and distraction in the school house from the construction of an additional room on the west side of the schoolhouse.⁹



~1950: Susie Hulse (Young), When a young girl she babysat the Smith children while Mary taught school

⁵ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Mary C. Smith", pg 4

⁶ Copy of certificate in possession of David Barkdull

⁷ Smith, Mary C.; Hand written notes, after 1913. Possession of David Barkdull
Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Mary C. Smith", pg 4.

⁸ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Leon Smith", pg 1.

Mary's name and photograph appeared in that year's LaBelle school booklet. (See Appendix A, Document 7, School Booklet)

By May 1905, the LaBelle LDS ward had grown quite large and it was decided by the church leadership to split the congregation and create the Lorenzo ward. The Marlers, were the first family in the new ward to have their membership records created and were assigned record numbers 1-7 and 8. A thorough review of these church records turned up no entries for the Smith's as being in the new Lorenzo ward.¹⁰ Nor is there any indication in the LaBelle ward accounts that their records had been transferred to Lorenzo or else where. However, we will see other primary source information

But later, about 1913, Mary recorded some family statistical notes between the years 1895 and 1911. She stated, "ward was divided, called as 1st Counselor of *Lorenzo* Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association (YLMIA) also teacher in Intermediate class at Sunday School, also Principal of [Lorenzo]Rural School"¹¹ Whether they were living in Lorenzo or LaBelle they had established a home in this area and were attending church initially in the LaBelle ward but when it was split they went to the Lorenzo ward at some point prior to 1907.

Lorenzo and another New Baby

On June 1905, the Smiths purchased a "house and acreage in Lorenzo". According to Glenice Smith Anderson in the history of her father which she wrote, "they bought a \$500 home and nine acres of land in *LaBell*. They borrowed from August Zetling \$5, and Mr. Rushton \$30. all of which they paid back at 50 and 25 cents at a time. The largest payment was \$25. Mr. Zetling signed his name after each payment. Their home consisted of a small log cabin in the cottonwoods."¹² Glenice did not cite her source but she inherited much of her parent's papers after they passed away, but again her facts seem a bit muddled and unclear because the records which do exist state they lived in Lorenzo. One of these documents is a partial copy of a receipt which Eugene signed for some kind of loan for a land transaction with a Mr. Zitting. It states,

⁹ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Mary C. Smith", pg 3.

¹⁰ Lorenzo Ward records; Microfilm 7285, Items 1-3, Book II; Salt Lake City Family History Library.

¹¹ Smith, Mary C.; Hand written notes, after 1913. Possession of David Barkdull Lorenzo School, District No 36.; 1907; school card.

¹² Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4.

"Ten months after date, without grace, for value received we order ? of August F. Zitting ? hundred Dollars ? money of the United States, at Ammon, Idaho with interest at the ? percent per annum from Dec 1st 1905 until maturity. And at the rate of ? after maturity. And if suit be instituted for the collection of this note we ? attorney's fee for cost of collection. Maker and endorsers here on consent ? note without notice.

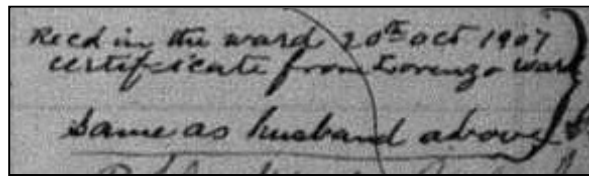
On the back side of the note is a ledger of payments kept by the Smith's beginning with 24 August 1905 and ending 22 January 1908. At the bottom of the ledger someone wrote "Payments for house and acreage in Lorenzo Mary and Eugene Smith". A total of 34 payments amounting to between \$2.00 and \$50.00 for a total of \$371.05 were made during this period.¹³ (See Appendix B, Document 2, Zitting receipt and back side showing Smith payment ledger)

Glenice may have mixed up LaBelle and meant Lorenzo when she was writing her account of this property transaction and where the Smiths were living. Two additional primary sources also state "Lorenzo" as their place of residence. First, in 1907, when the Smiths moved a few miles north across the Snake River to

Independence, Idaho the ward clerk noted in his records: "received in the ward 20 Oct 1907

Certificate from Lorenzo ward."¹⁴ Second, when

the their second son, Kenneth, was born in 1906 the *Lorenzo* Ward records state he was born in *Lorenzo*, Fremont Co, ID.¹⁵



Life in the rural Snake River valley was a daily struggle to make ends meet. Few had many in this new country had many worldly goods but these determined homesteaders stood by each other and were always ready to extend a helping hand to one another. They worked hard but they also played hard enjoying their opportunities to gather together for church functions, dances, rodeos, picnics and celebrations. And it was at these kinds of gatherings that many life-long friendships were made. Some of these family friends included the Thomason's, Moss's, Rush tons, Osmond's, Backs, Madison's, their close neighbors, Bishop John G. Morgan and his family, and many others. (See Appendix C for expanded index of names of some of the Smith's friends)

¹³ Eugene and Mary Smith account ledger, copy in possession of David Barkdull

¹⁴ Independence Ward, Fremont Stake Record of Members; Record #148 &149; Salt Lake Family History Library; Film #007620.

¹⁵ Lorenzo Ward "Record of Children Blessed by Elders or the Church"; Microfilm 7285, Items 1-3, Book II, Family History Library, SLC, UT.



Nov 1991: Mary Christiansen Smith's wedding dress. In possession of grand-daughter, Nancy Wagstaff Bennett

In trying to get ahead these pioneers employed every method of economizing their scanty resources. For several years the only dress Mary had to wear to church was her beautiful white wedding dress. One time she took the stitches out of Eugene's overcoat, washed, and pressed the pieces carefully and re-sewed them with the previously inside now out. He was now able to wear his "new" coat for many more years. Eugene usually wore nice Indian leather work gloves. When they got worn out Mary un-sewed them, put the back to the top and the top to the back and he could wear them twice as long. Mary and Eugene continued to work hard to make a living for their little family. As a traveling salesman, Eugene

would sometimes be gone for two weeks or longer traveling up and down the upper Snake River valley in his horse and buggy selling Watkins products and knit goods.¹⁶

Being new parents was often an adventure in learning new skills taking care of their children. One very warm Sunday in the fall 1905, the Smith's were sitting in church holding their very fussy baby Leon. A woman sitting near by noticed how sweaty he was and leaned over and offered, "Let me take him", to the inexperienced parents. Mary gratefully obliged and her friend proceeded to take off the long flowing floor length white dress, his four petticoats, a shirt, and a pinning blanket - this being the usual way of dressing children at that time. Then the good sister just put only his dress back on. Mary was upset and embarrassed because she had been told and the custom was that babies needed to wear these many layers of clothes. But this seemed to do the trick, Leon settled down and went to sleep. He didn't even catch a cold.

¹⁶ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4.

On another occasion when Leon was a small child he threw his shoes in an old tin bath tub full of water. Mary was quite upset upon discovering what her son had done. They were poor and couldn't afford another pair of shoes. So she went to their good neighbors next door the Morgan's and the resourceful Sister Morgan, made him another new pair.¹⁷

The summer of 1906 was a particularly difficult time for the Smiths. In June, Mary was seven months pregnant with their second child when the entire family came down with the deadly small pox disease. Mary recalled, "my husband, son, and myself were stricken with small pox, after recovery my husband had sun stroke and was still ill and weak when our son was born."¹⁸ On 8 August 1906, the Smith's were blessed with another little baby boy who was born in their home at 10 pm. He had blue eyes and blond hair.¹⁹

While not very close growing up, Eugene and his older brother David had become good friends as they grew into adulthood and shared many similar familial experiences. David was married in 1905 and had just had his first son the year before Kenneth was born. They both would later leave their families to serve missions for the church. When the time came for their new baby to receive a name and a blessing Eugene felt inadequate and asked his older brother, whom he respected and looked up to if he would come and offer the blessing on his behalf. On 2 September, 1906, David took the tiny infant in his arms and gave him his name "Kenneth Smith" and pronounced a blessing upon him.²⁰

Mary taught again for the 1906-07 school year. She was the principle and taught at the rural school for the *Lorenzo* School, district 36. Her brother-in-law, George Marler, was secretary on the School Officer's board. There were four of the Galbraith children and Mary's nieces, Lillian and Lile Marler, who also attended²¹ In the mean time Eugene busied himself with his farm and providing for his family. On 6 Nov 1906, Eugene bought a twelve inch plow from their friend Mr. Rushton for \$12. and a Wayne one seated buggy for \$45. The Smith's kept this buggy in use until after they bought their first car in 1920.²²

In January 1907, a great tragedy befell the Smith family. Their little six month old Kenneth got ill and his throat became infected, swollen, and very sore. Doctor Osborn was

¹⁷ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Kenneth Smith", pg 1.

¹⁸ Smith, Mary C.; Hand written notes, after 1913. Possession of David Barkdull

¹⁹ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Kenneth Smith", pg 1.

²⁰ Lorenzo Ward "Record of Children Blessed by Elders of the Church. Microfilm 7285, Part 3, pg 2.

²¹ "Grammar School" card in possession of David Barkdull

²² Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4.

called and prescribed the baby some medicine but neither did this or any of their home remedies work. Kenneth's condition only got worse and soon he could no longer get any food down. He finally died a few weeks later on 26 January. The family was hearth broken.²³

Following Kenneth's death, a few idle gossipers were heard saying amongst each other, "If she had stayed home, the baby wouldn't have died." This deeply hurt Mary, she loved children and enjoyed being with them whether at school or at home with her own. She was a natural home maker and unconditionally loved all those around her.²⁴

When news of the Kenneth's tragic death reached Eugene's mother, Ane Smith, she took the train from Logan to be with her son and wife at their infant's funeral and to help out despite her own recent personal loss of her husband, Thomas X. just three weeks earlier. Kenneth was laid to rest at the Annis Cemetery a few days after his passing. This was a difficult time for the Smiths as they struggled to get on with life. Mary never completely reconciled herself to her infant son's death. She kept the small three inch brown jug the medicine was in with a wreath of cloth flowers and a metal plate with his name inscribed on it from his grave as a remembrance of him for the rest of her life.²⁵

A Fresh Start in Independence

In the spring of 1907, perhaps to leave the tragedies of the past behind and make a fresh start of it where there were new opportunities, the Smith's moved a few miles north across the Snake River to the rural area of Independence. Independence was very similar to Lorenzo. It was a small close-knit Mormon farming community. The Smith's had found a two room board house on what in 2011 is "Bob Frew Road" or 3800



²³ Lorenzo Ward "Record of Children Blessed by Elders of the Church. Microfilm 7285, Part 3, pg 2.

²⁴ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4.

²⁵ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Kenneth Smith", pg 1.

South. In the years to come this home would be referred to as the "Independence home".²⁶

According to the Warranty Deed record; on 18 Mar 1907 Fred and Luna Klingler sold their Independence home and 50 acres of land to Eugene Smith for \$2,400.²⁷ The warranty deed states: "This conveyance is made subject to one certain first mortgage favor of the Middlesex Banking Company for the principal sum of \$900. which second party [Smiths] herein hereby assumes and agrees to pay when due." (See Appendix B, Document 3, Klingler Sale to Smith Warranty Deed)

Later that fall the Smith family's church membership records were received at their new Independence ward. This ward had been established in April 1902 with a meeting house and was built on what in 2011 is Nelson Road. Their Bishop that first year was A.P. Anderson. Then in 1908, following the death of Bishop Anderson, Charles R. Thomason was made bishop with T. R. Forsyth and Charles P. Anderson as counselors until 1925.²⁸ Coincidentally, Charles Thomason's father, Gustave Thomason had served as a counselor to Eugene's father, Bishop



~1910: Eugene & Mary Smith, back row; 3rd and 4th adults from the left.

²⁶ Smith, Mary C.; Hand written notes, after 1913. Possession of David Barkdull Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Mary C. Smith", pg 4.

Thomas X Smith, in the Logan 4th Ward for many years.

After the Smiths moved to Independence, Eugene procured machinery to farm his land



and it produced well; better than the poor rocky soil of their previous Lorenzo farm. Eugene grew a lot of beets which did well in this rich soil, sometimes the land produced as

much as 28 tons of beets per acre. They also raised cows, chickens, pigs, and horses to sustain their family and farm.

Mary and Eugene were devout church members and always freely gave of what they had to the Lord. In early days they would pay their tithes in produce. One receipt from Logan showed that Eugene gave 190 lbs of oats at 90 cents a pound equating to \$171.00. and 90 lbs corn at 80 cents a pound equating to \$72.00 for a total of \$243.00. These products were either bought by someone or used by the church to help the poor, widows, and needy." (See Appendix A, documents 8: Eugene



²⁷ Warranty Deed; Fremont County, Idaho; Book 24, pg 369.

²⁸ History of the Burton LDS Ward, Idaho; by Eileen Powell.

and Mary's Tithing Receipts)

Not only did they give of their increase but they gave of their time and talents as well. Eugene was an officer in the Mutual Improvement Association (MIA) and worked hard in this responsibility. He paid the last \$20. on a foot pumped organ for their ward which was used until the congregations was merged with the nearby Burton ward and their old church house was torn down in 1953.²⁹ Mary accepted many church callings. She served as the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association President and she also taught in the first and second Intermediate classes in Sunday School.³⁰ Speaking at Mary's funeral about her life of service some forty-four years later, Bishop T. Royce Moss recalled, "I was going through one of the record books recently and I found that Sister Smith served as one of the Presidents of the Young Ladies after our MIA was organized in the Independence Ward in 1907."³¹

By the fall of 1908, life at the Smith home was going well once again. Eugene's farm was producing, Mary was pregnant and expecting another baby, and Leon was starting his first year of school just down the road at the Union school house.³² But adversity struck the family again when Mary

gave birth to a still born son later in 1909. They were heart broken once again over the death of this premature baby. Not much was ever said about this child, its death also weighed



heavily upon their hearts. The baby was quietly and reverently buried there on the family farm and Mary and Eugene both quietly brooded over this second loss for sometime to come.³³

²⁹ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4-5.

³⁰ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Mary C. Smith", pg 4.

³¹ Funeral service for Mary C. Smith, Rexburg 3rd Ward, Comments of Bishop T. Royce Moss.

³² Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Eugene Leon C. Smith", pg 2.

³³ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 5.

Marlers Move Again

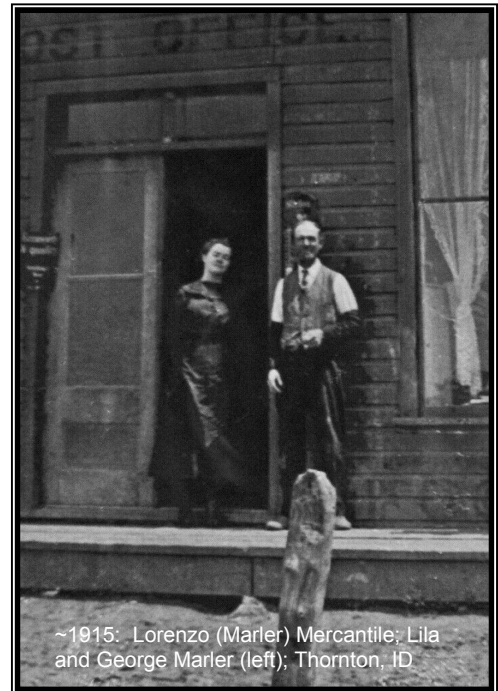
After Mary and Eugene's move to Independence the Smith and Marler families were



~1915: Lorenzo (Marler) Mercantile; Lila and George Marler (left)
Unidentified children; George and Emile Browning (far right); Thornton,

separated by a river and about a two miles distance. But a year later, in 1908, all this was to change. At this junctures of his life, George Marler decided that greater opportunity was afforded to him in the business world than had been realized in tilling the soil. His friend, Albert Beazer, a successful Lorenzo merchant had decided to enlarge his business and he persuaded a number of his friends to

take capital stock in the enterprise including George. So George sold his farm to a brother-in-law, Lorenzo Tibbitts, and purchased stock in Mr. Beazer's newly organized company. The business was known as the Lorenzo Mercantile Company. Opportunity for expansion was afforded the company resulting in the purchase of a store in Thornton a few miles north of Lorenzo and near the Smith family. George was made manager of the newly acquired store. He purchased the Isaac Smith home in Thornton and moved his family there in July 1909. Instead of loading all the family's possessions into a wagon and moving them across the flooding Snake River and the two miles north, George contracted for a freight train car and used it to move their belongings to their new home. Since their home was near the train tracks the car containing their goods was moved off onto the siding for unloading. George spent many happy hours in beautifying his home and improving his property. Despite the sale of his



~1915: Lorenzo (Marler) Mercantile; Lila and George Marler (left); Thornton, ID

Lorenzo farm his continuing agricultural interests resulted in the purchase of a nearby farm which he had his boys operate.³⁴ With his family's relocation the two sisters, Mary and Martha, now just lived a little over a mile from each other's homes - about a twenty minute walk.



1928: Marler Mercantile, Thornton, Idaho

Homesteading on Antelope Flats Dry Farm

In 1909, the US Congress passed the "Enlarged Homestead Act" increasing from 160 acres to 320 acres of land to farmers if they would take more marginal lands that could not be irrigated. Antelope Flats, just over twenty miles southeast of Independence was one such area that was opened up by this new federal law. This kind of farming on land not accessible to irrigation waters was known as "dry farming." Eugene was familiar with the homesteading requirements so he joined many of his friends in the area who traveled the short distance to stake their claims and make a try at dry farming.³⁵ That year, Eugene filed an application for 240 acres of Antelope farm land. Five years later on 14 June 1914, after fulfilling the requirements he returned to the Blackfoot, Idaho government land office to apply for the "deed of title" or the patent; which he did on 4 Jun 1914.



~1912: Mary & Glenice Smith with neighbor Ella & Clive Adamson. Smith dry farm, Antelope Flats, ID

³⁴ "Brief Biography of George W. Marler Jr.", pg 3.

Post-Register; "Memories of Three Communities Reflected at Centennial Reunion", by Cathy Koon, pg A-1.

³⁵ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 5.

(see Appendix B, Map 2, 1914 Antelope Flats Homestead) (see Appendix B, Document 4, 1914 Homestead Patent)

The Smith's usually lived at their dry farm during growing season which meant spring, summer, and early fall then winter back at their home in Independence. They put in long hours each day clearing and preparing the land for planting and then harvesting in the fall. Like the Smith's, most of their neighbors were relatively poor, but honest hard working farmers trying to get a head. But there was a sense of community and a shared closeness as they all worked hard together and supported one another.³⁶

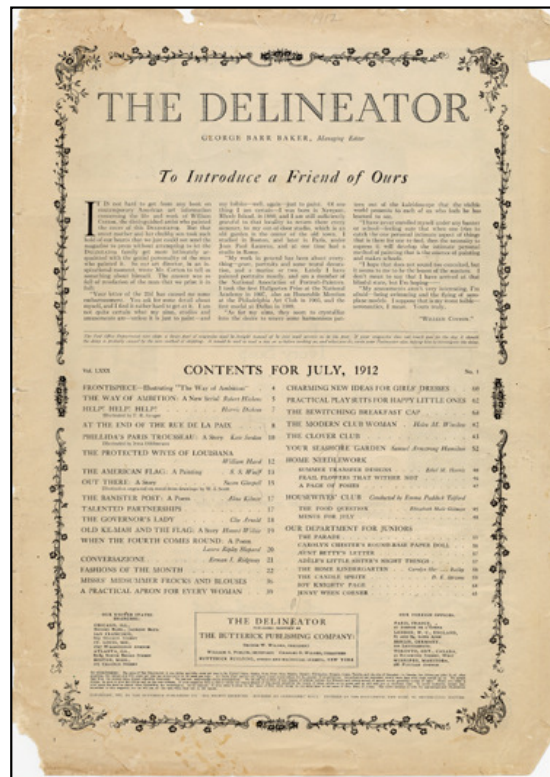
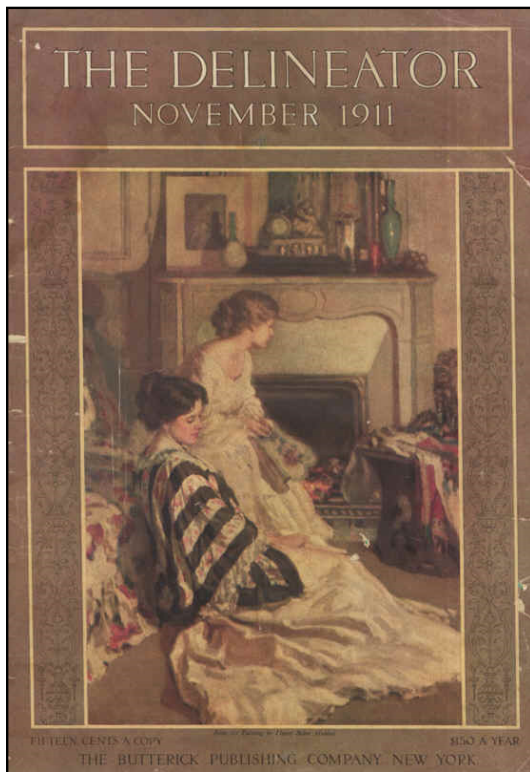
The land which Eugene had decided to homestead on had previously been used as a



³⁶ "My Childhood Memories"; by Dwinna Smith Bennett.

sheep camp and had a crude shack built on it. Glenice remembers that her parents, "bought a sheep camp and this was their first home on the dry farm. In addition to the sheep camp they also bought a horse and named her "Dot" to help with the farm work. They became very fond of her and sadly after she gave birth to her male colt, later to be named "Monarch", she died. With the mare dead it was up to Mary and Leon to take care of it and so they hand fed the colt.³⁷

The primitive two room cabin at the dry farm was clean, but the walls were just one layer of lumber covered with tar paper. To try and improve the stark interior, Mary cut out and affixed stories, poems, and pictures from the "Delineator" magazine all around the walls. Eventually she learned all the stories she had put up by heart. She was a very expressive story teller and



Delineator: a women's fashion magazine published by the Butterick Publishing Company from 1873 to 1937, featured fashion illustrations and sewing patterns for women, children and even dolls. The magazine also included articles on household management, recipes, etiquette, fiction, and more.

entertained many with her recitations. She would also tell her children religious stories and the lessons she prepared to teach in the different church organizations.³⁸

The Smiths moved out to Antelope, about a 25 mile ride but they kept their home and farm in Independence. Their first year at the dry farm they lived in the camp under pretty basic

³⁷ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 5.

³⁸ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Mary C. Smith", pg 4.

conditions. With no natural steady source of water, conditions were pretty dry and arid. But they thought the Antelope country was beautiful with the majestic mountains to the north and all wonderful wild flowers which grew along the mountains and hillsides. Everyone was poor and just starting out but Eugene and Mary both agreed that this was the happiest time of their lives.

Life was not all work and no play. There were numerous diversions throughout the year including the 4th of July and other celebrations, rodeo's, visiting neighbors, and everyone turned out when ever there was a funeral. Glenice remembered one time when "Daddy had won at horse racing. He came home and picked me up and tossed me up in the air and whirled mother around, he was so happy."³⁹

Life at the Antelope sheep camp was hard under the best of circumstances. Food preparations were a labor intensive job. Nothing was ever wasted. In the spring time Mary would throw the potato peels out the north side of their shanty house they lived in. Then after cleaning the dishes she'd toss the dirty dishwater onto them. Later in the summer she would have some "early potatoes". Mary worked just as hard as Eugene who was out in the fields all day. She had to cook for all the hired men over a simple sheep camp stove. For months at a time she wasn't able to go to the nearest town, Ririe, only a few miles to the west. There was however, a small store and post office just down the hill at Melba but that was all. When the time came, the Smiths and all the other dirt poor homesteaders up on Antelope Flats helped to build their church a half mile north of the Smith place and a school next to it. They built roads and slowly the tamed the land. Through it all they knew what it was to be cold and experienced many hardships.

"While living at their dry farm in Antelope, Mary would sometimes take Leon across the road down by the Snake River to gather small flat stones for use in his sling shot. One day while gathering rocks Leon complained of a terrible pain in his left leg. He was sick for several days



Sep 1912: Glenice and Leon Smith;

³⁹Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Mary C. Smith", pg 4.

and finally had to undergo an operation on the heel of his foot and have a portion of the bone removed. He was given a blessing and he fully recovered but the disease left his leg a little shorter than his right leg.



Later, Leon's grandma Ane Smith wrote from Logan saying, "I knew and felt that Leon was very ill so I had his name put on the temple prayer roll. I know he is better, the Lord has told me so." She continued in her letter, "What was the matter with him?" Leon's parents were amazed for there had not been any communications about his illness to anyone. The day Leon started getting better was the day his grandmother had put his name on the temple prayer rolls. Many times through his life he was healed or blessed by the faith of his loved ones and the power of the priesthood.⁴⁰



⁴⁰ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Mary C. Smith", pg 5.

Though Mary was a natural and gifted teacher, she always had to study and prepare her lessons whether they were for church or school. As part of her preparations she would practice giving them out loud to her son Leon. As he became older she would discuss them with him and have him also learn them by heart. This was a family practice that continued with all the children throughout the years. Their children



~1915: L>R Mary Marler, Anne Napper, Martha Marler & Dwinna Smith, George Marler, Mary Smith & Glenice, George Marler. Out on the Smith Homestead dry farm, Antelope Flats, Idaho

gained great gospel insights and understandings as their parents would read to them in the evenings while their mother sewed or prepared her lessons. When Leon was nine years old their bishop observed that Leon, "had a better understanding of the four standard works, than many older men and women."⁴¹

The Smiths were always involved in community activities or civic responsibilities. In the spring of 1910, Mary was appointed to be a Federal Census enumerator for three precincts, Oamas, Independence, and Island Ward. When she went out to interview the people for the census she often had to carry a gun with her to protect herself. And as a side benefit just the sight of her side arm often helped to "grease the skids" and loosen the tongues of some of the reluctant newly arrived immigrants who distrusted any government workers.⁴²

To Independence for a Baby

Mary was pregnant once again by 1911. She was due in July so it was decided that the family would move back to their Independence home early so she could give birth to the baby in a less primitive environment and with better access to a doctor just in case.⁴³

With the Smith family back at their Independence home, Mary gave birth in their two room wood board farm house to a little baby girl on 31 July 1911. Mrs Peterson, a mid-wife,

⁴¹ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Leon Smith", pg 1.

⁴² Department of Commerce Certificate, copy in possession of David Barkdull.

⁴³ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 5.

helped with the delivery. Eugene was anxiously waiting in the kitchen, helping with what ever he could, and assuring his wife that she would not loose this infant as she had the previous two. As soon as the baby was born and it was determined she was alright, Eugene jumped on his saddled horse and rode about a half mile south down to the Texas Slough by the Marlers, to tell Leon and his nephew Allen Marler that the baby had been born and was fine. Then he added, "She has brown hair and looks like a doll!" "Dolly" became Eugene's nickname for her for the rest of her life. But her actual name she was given was Mabel Glenice Smith.⁴⁴ Glenice spent the next four years of her life with her family living at the Antelope dry farm except for the winter time when they would return to Independence.⁴⁵ Following Glenice's birth, the family returned to Antelope once again.

On 5 August, the week his little baby sister was born, Leon was baptized by Bishop Charles Richard Thomason. He was confirmed on the following day a member of the Mormon church by Bishop Thomason's counselor, Thomas Robert Forsyth of the Independence Ward, Fremont Stake, ID.⁴⁶ Then about a month later on 3 September, the newest Smith arrival, Mable Glenice, was given a name and a blessing by Bishop Thomason.⁴⁷ Early the following year, on 20 March 1912, Eugene and Mary received their patriarchal blessings from the Fremont Stake Patriarch, Andrew J. Hansen in Bishop Thomason Independence home. Patriarch Hansen was a life long family friend. (See Appendix A, Document 9, Eugene and Mary C. Smith's Patriarchal Blessings)

Back to the Dry Farm

By 1912 much of the Antelope Flats area where the Smith's were homesteaded had been settled that the Melba Branch of the LDS church was organized. The membership continued to swell with many of the Smith's friends from the Independence area who had done like they had and had established dry farms out in Antelope. In August, the Melba ward was organized.⁴⁸ The Bishop was another good Smith family friend, Thomas H. Clifford. Mary was made President of

⁴⁴ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 5.

⁴⁵ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Mabel Glenice Smith Anderson", pg 1.

⁴⁶ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 1.

Independence Ward, Fremont Stake Record of Members; Salt Lake Family History Library; Film #007620.

⁴⁷ Melba Ward, Rigby Stake; Record of Children; Salt Lake Family History Library; Film #7242; Part III.

Independence Ward, Fremont Stake Record of Members; Salt Lake Family History Library; Film #007620

⁴⁸ Melba Ward, Bingham Stake Record; Salt Lake Family History Library; Film #7242.

the YLMIA, teacher of the intermediate class in Sunday School, and teacher in the Relief Society.

In the spring of 1913 Eugene took his family back out to Antelope once again to start



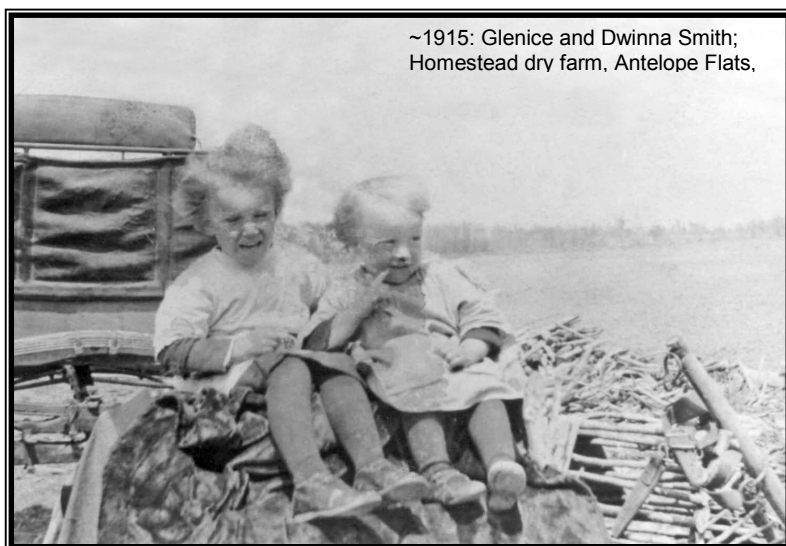
working his homestead. Mary was pregnant for the fifth time and her baby was due in June. On 21 April Leon was ordained to office of Deacon at the age of ten. Both the Melba and Independence wards confirm this ordination at that time. He was ordained by Bishop Clifford of the Melba Ward.⁴⁹

Leon developed a love for horses from his father. His sister Glenice said, "He always had a pony and could do all kinds of bare-back riding tricks you would see circus riders perform. His first pony was raised on a bottle because its mother had died. During the summer of 1912 when he was nine years old he helped his father drive twelve head of horses. They were pulling wagons from Antelope to their

home twenty-five miles away in Independence."⁵⁰

Return to Independence for Another Baby

When it was time for Mary to give birth to her baby she'd been carrying at Antelope they decided it would probably be best to take the family once again and return to their two room home in Independence for the delivery of the baby in case a doctor was needed. On June 12, 1913 Mary gave birth to



⁴⁹ Melba Ward, Bingham Stake Record of Ordinations; Salt Lake Family History Library; Film #7242.

⁵⁰ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Eugene Leon C. Smith", pg 2.

another healthy baby daughter. Mrs Peterson, the midwife, once again assisted with the delivery of the infant.⁵¹ Following the birth of their daughter the family returned back to their Antelope dry farm.

Later in life Dwinna wrote that her mother was not sure what to name her. One day she was looking on a map of Russia and saw the name of a river called "Divina" and liked it. So she changed the spelling slightly and came up with the name "Dwinna". Her middle name, "Marie" was given to her from her maternal grandmother, Anne Marie.⁵² Later as a little girl when someone would ask her what her name was she'd say "Dinna-aree." Once again Bishop Clifford was called upon and on 3 August, he gave the infant girl her name, Dwinna Marie Smith, and pronounced a blessing upon her.⁵³

A Church for Melba and a Mission Call for Eugene

By the spring of 1914 the members of the Melba ward at Antelope Flats decided to build themselves a church house. Eugene sold a one acre section of his homestead claim to Bishop Clifford, who was the "acting agent" for the church. This piece of land was located on the northeast side of his property and about one half mile north of the Smith home. The Melba school was next to it also.⁵⁴ The land records show that on 25 May 1914, Eugene Smith sold to Thomas H. Clifford, Bishop of the Melba Ward, of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, County of Bonneville, State of Idaho a parcel of land for \$25.⁵⁵ (See Appendix B, Document 5, Smith Land Sale for Melba Ward)

The following month on 4 June 1914, Eugene "Filed for Deed of Title" at the Blackfoot, Idaho federal land office for his homestead. This was the final step before taking possession of his "Sheep Camp" dry farm after fulfilling the three requirements. The patent land description: "east half of the southwest quarter and the east half of the northwest quarter of section twenty-

⁵¹ Family Genealogy records in possession of David Barkdull

⁵² Dwinna Marie Smith Bennett; Early Memories; Written for Wagstaff grandchildren baby book, written early 1960's.

⁵³ Melba Ward, Bingham Stake Record of Members; Salt Lake Family History Library; Film #7242.

⁵⁴ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4 & 5.
Melba Ward, Bingham Stake; Salt Lake Family History Library; Film #7242.

⁵⁵ Bonneville County, Idaho; Warranty Deed, Book 9, pg 140

five and the east half of the southwest quarter of Section twenty-four in Township three north of Range forty-one east of the Boise Meridian, Idaho, containing two hundred forty acres.⁵⁶

Sometime in 1914, Bishop Clifford submitted Eugene Smith's name to church headquarters in Salt Lake City to serve a mission. On 28 December 1914 he received a "call" to the Western States Mission. It was issued to "Eugene Smith, Heise, Idaho." He was requested to report to the President's Office, 67 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah; 9 February 1915 to be set apart and was signed Joseph F. Smith. (See Appendix A, Document 10, Mission Call) However he did not report until the following December. The reason for this long delay are not known. However it was common to ask the prospective missionary if the proposed start date was sufficient time to get his affairs in order. Perhaps the Smith's needed more time before they were ready for his departure. The next record pertaining to his mission call was his transportation arrangements by railroad to Salt Lake City on 1 November 1915. (See Appendix A, Document 11, Oregon Short Line letter)



⁵⁶ Copy of Certificate of the Register, Patent #411164, registered at the Blackfoot, Idaho to Eugene Smith.

Farm Life for the Kids

In the late spring of 1915, twelve year old Leon graduated from the 8th grade from the Burton School and was second in his class. During his high school and college years, he boarded out in Rexburg. It was a day of no school buses, not many cars and very poor dirt roads. He told his sister Glenice later in life that he was often very homesick and couldn't wait until Friday night to ride the train from Rexburg home to Thornton.

As Leon grew older and matured, during the summer time he learned to stack hay and would go out with the crews to Klingers to put up hay with the other men and earn some much badly needed money. Although he had a heart murmur he did not let this stop him and he developed a reputation for being a hard worker.⁵⁷

When Leon was about thirteen he was playing ball with a group of friends at the Melba church in Antelope and had an accident. One of the boys threw the ball and hit him in the eye. Soon the injury became infected and he was in danger of losing of his eye sight. Consequently he underwent several operations in the ensuing years and his father and others administered to him giving him priesthood blessings.

After one of his operations in Salt Lake City he returned home and announced to his family the shocking prognosis he had been given, "the doctor told me he could do no more for me and I will be blind in a month in both eyes." This was too much for young Leon and he went out the back door crying. The shocked Smith family quickly followed him out the kitchen door to the back steps. Next he told his family, "I can not even see the corrals" which were about eight rods (120 feet) away. Then his body straightened and exhibiting great conviction he said, "but I won't be blind if Dad and Brother Thomason [the bishop] will administer to me, I will not lose my eyesight." Tears were now in everyone's eyes. Unfortunately Leon's confidence in the healing power of the priesthood was greater than his own father's. So Leon, with his good friend Steve Spaulding, went to Rexburg where their close family friend, Patriarch Hansen and Brother Alma B. Larsen administered to him. Following this blessing he was healed and never had to wear his glasses again. This was an important lesson in faith and the miraculous healing power of the priesthood for the Smith family.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Eugene Leon C. Smith", pg 2.

⁵⁸ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 5. and Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Leon Smith", pg 1.

It seemed none of the Smith children were to escape some kind of health problems. At one point Dwinna had kidney troubles but was able to overcome them. Then they had another close brush with death that year when little one year old Glenice contracted Scarlet Fever and lost her ability to speak for a time. Fortunately she eventually recovered but had to relearn how to talk.⁵⁹ These medical ailments were a great financial strain on the family. Money was scarce, but they had always lived within their means and had avoided debt as much as possible and were thus able to meet their obligations.

Like her father and older brother, Glenice loved animals, particularly horses and she and her little sister Dwinna always admired her how well Leon could ride. One day she walked down the east hillside of their Antelope farm house through the dirt to the willow sheds and log corrals. She climbed up on the grain binder (a machine that was used to cut and tie bundles of grain), then up onto the corral fence and onto the back of an unbroken colt. The horse started up the hill to where her mother, papa and others were. Glenice said she remembered her mother half scared running to get her off the colt but she felt no fear. However she remembered she could sense her mother's alarm and felt bad she had frightened her so much. Glenice learned to ride when she was quite young and loved to do many tricks while riding bare-back. She loved driving a horse and buggy. Early on she learned how to take care of their horses, how to feed and rub them down.⁶⁰

The Smith family was no different than most farm families back then. The children were an important component in the family labor pool each doing their part to provide for the family. "All through his life, Daddy and mother had a large garden and canned and dried much food" recalled Glenice.⁶¹ Children had a lot of responsibilities growing up on a farm and Glenice and her siblings were no exception. She had to haul water for her mother and the animals. At one farm she often had to pump for an hour or more from a deep well to get water into the cement trough or a hollowed out log for the horses, cows and sheep to drink. Then she'd have to carry water to the pigs, chickens and other animals shut in various pens.⁶²

The Smith's taught their children the importance of good grooming habits and manners. Glenice said that her, "Father was always proud of his appearance and always admonished us to

⁵⁹ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Glenice Mabel Smith Anderson", pg 2.

⁶⁰ Letter from Mary to Eugene, dated 27 Nov 1915, copy in possession of David Barkdull

⁶¹ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 2

⁶² Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Glenice Mabel Smith Anderson", pg 1-2.

throw back our shoulders and walk tall and proudly. At meal times, he always encouraged us to use proper manners or we would have to leave the table without finishing our meal and we did not get any food until next time."⁶³ "Grandpa and grandma were always kind to us, but I do remember grandpa getting after us for putting our elbows on the table when we ate" recalled granddaughter Ellen Anderson Seedall.⁶⁴

Harvest Time

Harvest time at the Smith dry farm when the grain had to be brought in was a major undertaking. Glenice remembers that the horses walked around the threshing machine as they were threshing the grain. Often they couldn't get the work done until after the snow came. Then they would stack the sheaths of grain thirty feet high in a round with the bottom of the sheaths outward to wait for the threshers to come. The grain had to be cut with a binder, shocked in sheaths in the field, set to dry, and then hauled by wagons to be stacked. One man would be on top loading and two would have pitchforks putting it on the wagon rack.

At harvest time a big white canvas tent was set outside on the north of the Smith cabin and log tables for the men to eat on were set up inside. Mother and another lady cooked over the



1915: Harvest time on the Smith Homestead dry farm, Antelope Flats, Idaho

hot wood and coal stove enough food for three dozen men three times a day. There were always

⁶³ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 4

⁶⁴ Seedall, Ellen Anderson (granddaughter); Letter dated March 2010 to David Barkdull in response to a questionnaire.

white tablecloths on the table even if they had to be washed by hand on the board between each meal. These men worked hard and ate a lot of food. Sometimes they would eat a whole boiler of fresh corn on the cob and ten to twelve pies at a meal. They would consume twenty to twenty-five pounds of meat and dozens of eggs. These men followed the harvest with the exception of a few neighbors, and would remain on papa's job for one to three weeks. Later as I grew up, I helped and cooked for twenty to twenty-five men three times a day too.

Sometimes, Glenice reported, "I would get to ride the mowing machine that was cutting the hay. It had to be raked and stacked in piles to be hauled in. The only time I hated the haying was when I had to ride or lead the derrick horse back and forth to carry the Jackson forks of hay



up to the top of the hay for the man to put in place at the right pace to get the huge tined hay fork back and from the man on the stack. If you weren't careful enough the horses would sometimes step on your feet."⁶⁵

Often in the twilight of the evening friends would come to visit at the Smith home to discuss gospel topics and to listen to long ago gospel stories from Eugene and Mary which they told or read aloud. These religious discussions strengthened many of their friends and neighbors convictions as they bore testimony of the scriptures.

Over the River and Through the Woods

Mary and Eugene had a gift for loving all those around them, particularly Mary. Glenice relates the following memory of her mother's affection for her and her sister: "It was the fall of

⁶⁵ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Glenice Mabel Smith Anderson", pg 2.



19 Jun 2011: Snake River below (north) Antelope Flats. Country road Smiths traveled along going back and forth between Thornton and their dry farm.

1915 and the Smiths were still living in Melba. Mary had decided to take Dwinna and Glenice and go visit her sister Martha and her family in Thornton. As they climbed up onto their single seated buggy, Mary tucked four year old Glenice on her one side and two year old Dwinna on the other and off they went riding behind their spirited

high-stepping team of bay horses. The girls were filled with excitement and anticipation to be able to see Aunt Martha and their cousins as they left their Antelope farm that early autumn morning. It was a long 25 miles to Thornton but through some of the prettiest country in the Snake River valley. Down the dugway and over the river and through the valley they drove breathing in the wonderful crisp fall air. As the girls rode along securely next to their mother, Mary would spin her wonderful stories to her girls. She would say to them, 'look at the rock banks along the Snake River and see how they look like elephants, camels, and other such animals.' She would

teach them about nature and to appreciate the deer, birds, rabbits, and such as they passed the wondrously beautiful countryside God had blessed them with. After



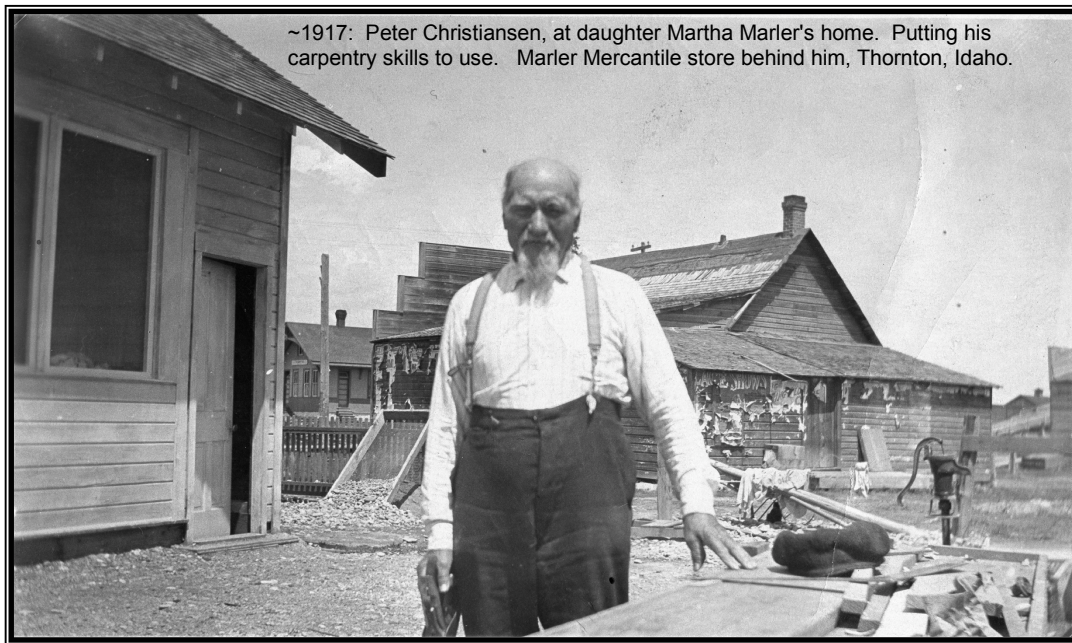
19 Jun 2011: Snake River, west of Antelope Flats near Heise. Country road Smiths traveled along going back and forth between Thornton and their dry farm.

following the river for a number of miles they soon came to the ferry and crossed over at Heise

and continued on the north side road under the shadow of the yellow-leaved Cottonwoods which lined the river bank. By late afternoon the girls would start to feel sleepy from the warm afternoon sun as it fell on their faces. And the buggy would rhythmically continue on its way as it bumped along the dirt road. Mary continued weaving her endless wonderful tales of the world around her as her two little girls listened on. Steadily the western sun would begin to sit low and the late afternoon chill would come on. This is when Mary would open up her big wonderful black coat and wrap Dwinnna and Glenice inside in a snuggling and loving embrace just as a mother hen would gather her chicks closely under her wings. Sitting there in their mother's warm embrace, Glenice remembered, 'we felt very loved and secure'".⁶⁶

That Prayer Didn't even Reach the Ceiling

After the death of his beloved wife in Dec 1916, Mary's father Peter Christiansen grew lonely living by himself in Hyrum, Utah. So he visited and stayed with his daughters and their families in Utah and Idaho. During the summer of 1915 he was in Thornton staying with his



daughter Martha. He was never one to accept charity and did not want to be a burden to his children. He always made good use of his time by helping out with handyman projects around

⁶⁶ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Glenice Mabel Smith Anderson", pg 2.

this children's farms. Peter was a skilled carpenter and blacksmith and since there were always things that needed repairing or built he was glad to do what he could to help.⁶⁷

One time, when Grandpa Christiansen was staying with his daughter Mary in Independence the family had gathered around the evening supper table. Mary had set out a bowl and spoon for each person and placed a shallow fourteen inch gray enamel pan full of milk, cream, and bread on the table for their meal. Before everyone sat down to eat they knelt at their chairs around the table and had family prayer. Thirteen year old Leon was asked to give the blessing. His voice was so soft that when he finished, his eighty year old grandfather slowly shook his head and while looking at him said in his "sing-song" Scandinavian accent, 'grandson, dat prayer didn't even reach da ceiling. Don't you tink you should say it over"? Leon said it over and this time more loudly.'" The whole family had a good long laugh afterwards.⁶⁸

Mission Preparations

Some time between the December 1914 and the fall of 1915 Eugene's mission call date and place were changed. His field of labor was to now be the Eastern States Mission and he was to report by the end of November 1915. In a letter Mary to her husband on 12 Dec 1915 while he was on his mission she wrote; "If the East was not the right place for you, the First Presidency would not have made the change."⁶⁹ Perhaps there was a greater need for him in the east instead of the west. Possibly his mission call was delayed for a year because he needed more time to get his farms and family prepared for his absence. Never the less, by the fall of 1915 Eugene had all his affairs in order. He moved his family back to their more permanent Independence home to live. He had rented out his 240 acre Antelope dry farm to George and Martha Yoe and his 58 acres in Independence farm to Mr. Hill. He contracted with these men to "take care of his land, horses, machinery, etc."⁷⁰ (See Appendix A, Document 12, Yoe Contract)

Glenice wrote that, "The man [Mr. Yoe] did most everything but to live up honestly to the signature on the contract. Leon and Mary did their best and worked hard to save what they could. Leon made many trips to their dry farm and brought back half-starved horses to feed at

⁶⁷ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 6.

⁶⁸ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Glenice Mabel Smith Anderson", pg 5.

⁶⁹ Letter from Mary to Eugene Smith. Dated 12 Dec 1915. Copy in possession of David Barkdull.

⁷⁰ Partial copy (pages 1-5) of original Smith and Yoe contract in possession of David Barkdull

their farm in Independence. He would take them back in the spring to the dry farm."⁷¹ Contrary to what Glenice recalls I did not find the slightest indication in any of the correspondences between Mary and Eugene that he had been miss-handling their Antelope dry farm or didn't honor their contract. On the contrary Mary sent glowing reports of how well he maintained the farm and cared for the animals.

As was the custom for sending off all new missionaries, sometime probably in late October or early November the Melba Ward held a missionary farewell service and reception for Elder Smith just prior to his 10 November departure for the mission field. Mary kept a record of all the ward and family members who contributed to his mission fund. Most gave about \$1. Some a little more and some a little less. Close relatives gave him other kinds of gifts such as a pen, cooked meal, books, and a knife. He received a total of \$86.30. In 2010, this is the approximate equivalent of \$2,000.⁷² (See Appendix A, Document 13, Eugene Mission Fund Contributions)

Sometime around 10 November 1915, Eugene was set apart by Elder Kimball [probably J. Golden Kimball, member of the Quorum of Seventy, General Authority] at Melba, Antelope Flats. Mary was able to write down part of his setting apart and blessing and in a letter dated 4 January 1916 she wrote:



General Authority: J. Golden Kimball

"Elder Eugene Smith in the name of the Lord, we set you apart . . . You are sent forth to carry a message . . . you are the bearer of a message that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph is a true Prophet and that the gospel has been restored. You are one of his servants and the way shall be opened unto you. Ask the Father to give a portion of His Spirit unto you . . ., you will be able to fulfill this mission. The evil one will do all in his power to discourage you and to turn you from your work. We bless you that you will be successful, if you will but seek his Spirit. If you will go forth, we promise you that you shall fill a splendid mission. You shall be warned of danger and all things shall be for your good."

⁷¹ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 5.

⁷² See Measuring Worth Website: <http://www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/>

This is based on the Consumer Price Index value which is the cost in the year measured (1915) of a bundle of goods and services purchased by a typical urban consumer compared to the cost of that bundle of goods and services in the current year being compared (2010).

Mary continued in her letter, "This is all I got of Elder Kimball's prayer when he set you apart. I thought maybe you might like to have it."⁷³ (See Appendix A, Doc 14, Eugene Smith's Minister Certificate)

In making travel arrangements on behalf of Eugene to Salt Lake, a letter was sent to Mr D. E. Burley, GPA, Oregon Short Line requesting train ticket at the "Clergy" rate between Thornton and Salt Lake City for Eugene who will be traveling between 1-9 Nov. Prior to his departure for his mission, Eugene had requested through the church stop over privileges from the Oregon Short line railroad at "Blackfoot, Pocatello, and Cache Junction to visit friends and relatives en route."⁷⁴ Finally the day came, Leon stayed in Independence but Eugene and Mary took the two little girls, Glenice and Dwinna, with them to Utah on the train. They briefly visited with family and friends along the way and in Cache Valley, Utah. They stayed at Mary's folks in Hyrum. Then on 10 November 1915 they left the two girls with their Christiansen grandparents and Mary accompanied her husband on the train as far as Bountiful where they said their good-byes. Of their parting Mary later wrote in a letter to her husband dated 11 Feb 1916, "Altho the parting from you and the coming back alone was almost more than I could endure, I never for a moment regretted your going but in my heart was a song of joy that you could have the great chance to go." Mary returned back to Hyrum and Eugene continued on to Salt Lake City and then to his field of labor in Eastern States Mission, headquartered in New York City.⁷⁵

⁷³ Letter from Mary to Eugene Smith. Dated 4 Jan 1916. Copy in possession of David Barkdull.

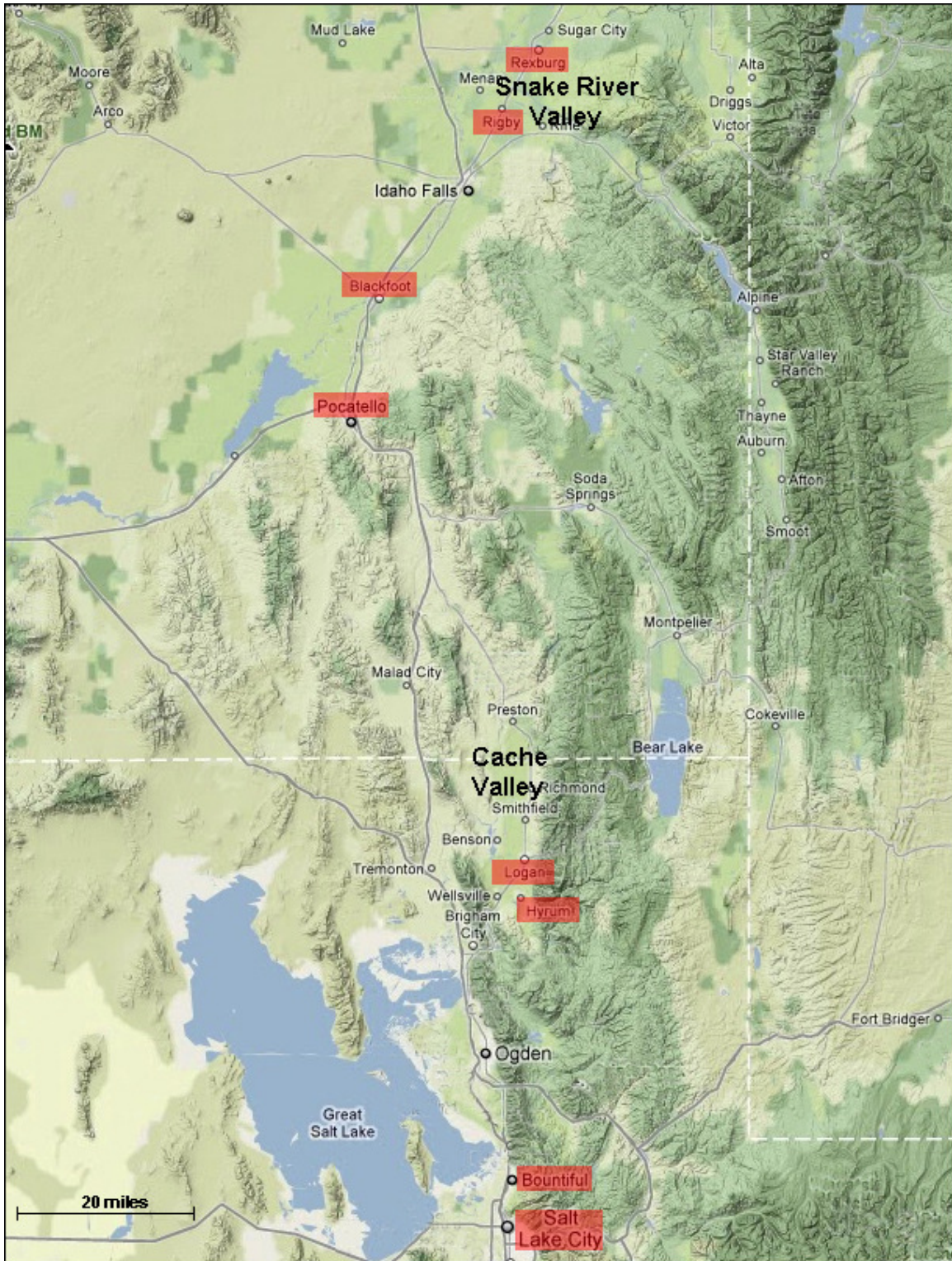
⁷⁴ Copy of letter from LDS church authorities and Mr D. E. Burley, C.P.A. Oregon Short Line; dated 1 Nov 1915, in possession of David Barkdull

⁷⁵ Melba Ward, Rigby Stake; Record of Missionaries Departed and Returned, 1915; Salt Lake Family History Library; Film #7242.

Copy of letter dated 6 Aug 1917, in possession of David Barkdull

Copy of letter dated 11 Nov 1915, in possession of David Barkdull

Map of South East Idaho and Northern Utah



Chapter 6

Called to Serve: Eastern States Mission

Eastern States Mission
(17 November - 26 December 1915)

"He gives nothing but worthless gold who gives for a sense of duty."

- Mabel Smith Bradford

NOTE: It is not known for certain how many letters were written back and forth between family members while Eugene was on his mission. Some recipients were better about saving their letters than others. Eugene wrote not only to Mary but to his mother, sisters, and friends. In their correspondences, there was generally a running dialogue few gaps in these communications. Based on this assessment it appears Mary wrote to Eugene about three times as often as Eugene did to her. Of the letters that have survived, approximately 145 were from Mary to her husband. Eugene seemed to value his wife's words and was good about keeping her letters. In comparison, Eugene wrote Mary 55 times and in the last six months of his mission he either did not write or those letters were lost, probably a combination of these two.

Eugene's mother wrote him 22 times during his mission. His son Leon wrote 14 times. Friends wrote another eight letters to him. His sisters Mabel penned six letters, Marie five, and Fannie and Patience once each. Little Glenice and her sister Dwinna wrote once.

I debated whether to only summarize the letters, or provide a sampling, or include them in their entirety. I decide to include all of the letters I had access to since they contain the very essence of the Smith family and reveal a rich fabric of not just his mission life but that of his friends and family back home. These writings provide a unique glimpse into their thoughts and feelings, concerns and worries, hopes and dreams, their aspirations for life and the troubles of life which weighed them down from time to time. Even the hum-drum monotony of life sometimes expressed such things as the price of various agricultural products give an insightful window into what life was like for not just the Smith's but their friends and neighbors living in rural south eastern Idaho.

After Eugene's departure for the mission field, Mary moved the family from their Antelope Flats dry farm back to their home in Independence. This fact is verified when the Melba ward clerk transferred their membership records back to the Independence ward on 20 Dec 1915.¹

With Eugene gone on his mission Mary and Leon, who was twelve by this time, had to take on the additional responsibilities their husband and father once took care of. They had to be even particularly more vigilant of the many inherent dangers of farm life at their Independence home. One November night shortly after Eugene had left for his mission their wood stable caught fire. Mary and Leon's quick response to the emergency enabled them to get to safety most of their chickens, pigs, cows, and horses, but the structure was a total loss. Quick to respond, a good family friend and neighbor, Niels Jenson, came and rebuilt them a new live stock barn. He finished by mid-Nov and only charged \$10. most likely just to cover the cost of the materials. Niels was a kind and thoughtful man and with his left over scraps of wood he made some small wooden blocks for the children to play with.

There were also other threats to the farm which they had to remain ever vigilant against. On another occasion coyotes tried to raid and make off with some of their animals. But ever watchful, Leon shot one of the prowlers with his rifle when it got in range and the others never came that close again.²

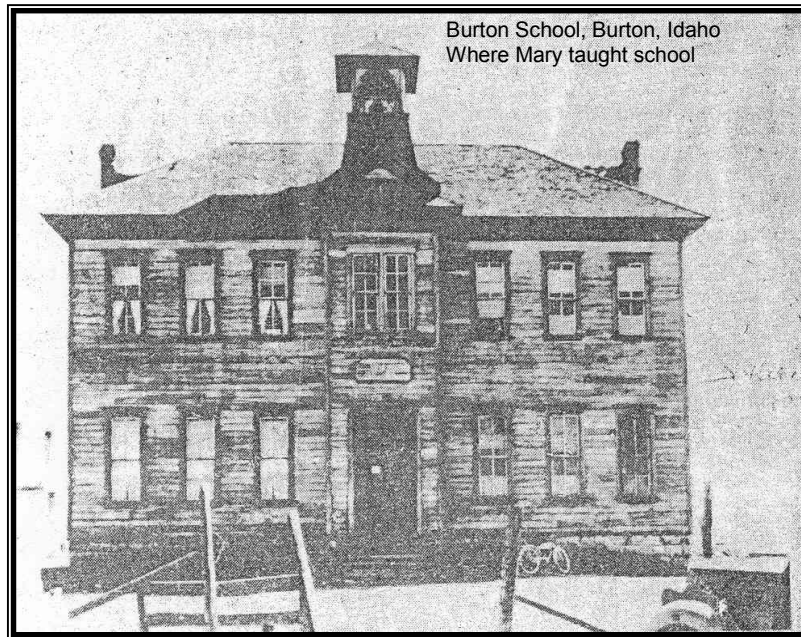
¹ Melba Ward, Bingham Stake Record of Members; Salt Lake Family History Library; Film #7242.

² Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Eugene Leon C. Smith", pg 3

Letters from Mary to Eugene, dated 19 Nov and 9 Dec 1915, from Rexburg, ID to Scranton, PA.

Letter from Leon (son) to his father, Eugene, dated 20 Nov 1915, from Rexburg, ID.

While Eugene was away in the mission field the family's income was reduced. However to help compensate for this loss they rented out their Antelope and Independence farms. Mary had enough land at her Thornton home that she could still grow a garden of sufficient size to meet much of their food and remain self-sufficient.



Additionally, Mary went back to teaching at one of the local schools so that she would have a steady income to help support her husband and the family at home. During the winters of 1915-16 and 1916-17, Mary taught the lower three grades at the Burton school, just a few miles north of their home. Teaching at this school was challenging for a variety of reasons. For example, many of the students were immigrant children and could speak little if any English. During the winter months when school was in session, just getting to and from the school was extremely hazardous and difficult in a horse drawn buggy. Besides the sometimes extreme cold there were always the high snow drifts to contend with. Often by the time Mary got to school in the morning her long dress and petticoats were completely soaked from the waist down. And then got saturated once again on the return trip in the evening. In the winter and spring when it would thaw and the ice and snow would melt the road between Independence and Burton would turn into a quagmire of quicksand and mud. The wheels of her carriage would sink to their hub caps and the poor horse could barely pull it out.³

Other tasks which now fell to Mary and Leon included the following. Water had to be carried every day in buckets from the well which was about 500 feet west of the house. Firewood had to be gathered, chopped, and stacked. The cows had to be milked and taken care of, and there were chickens, pigs, and horses to tend to. Mary canned much of their fruits and vegetables they grew from their garden. She taught her girls how to sew, cook, also to can fruits

³ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Mary C. Smith", pg 5.

and vegetables, and how to keep house. Later, their Aunt Irma, Mary's youngest sister and later in life, Leon's wife, Jane Leatham, also helped taught the young girls a great deal about running a home.

Mary was always very frugal, she had to be. She saved all the money she could from their farm earnings to help support her husband and the family. They used coal to heat and cook and coal oil lamps to light their home. Leon was getting older and better able to help with many of the responsibilities. Mary was always so proud and grateful for his hard work. The younger girls, Dwinna and Glenice, were often taken care of by neighbors or hired girls. Their bishop, church friends and others were also good to them and could always be depended on for assistance. For example their neighbors always made sure they had transportation when they needed to get to church, etc...⁴ Unlike missions today where missionaries are fully dedicated to their work, back then on their day off which was on Saturdays, Eugene could cut hair to help supplement the \$35. he received from home each month.⁵

Early in life Eugene had picked up the habit of chewing tobacco and had not quit when he had entered the mission field. He knew this wasn't right and against God's commandments. After arriving in New York City he realized he had to decide whether to remain on his mission and live up to what the Lord expected of him or be dishonorable released. Knowing the prospect of the second option would dishonor both himself and his family and weigh heavily upon him for the rest of his life, he determined to do what he knew had to be done. So he resolutely walked down to the Hudson River and threw his tobacco as far as he could into the river and never touched it again. Like any addiction it is difficult to overcome. From then on the only thing he chewed was chewing gum. This choice had other consequences or blessings in his life besides just the health and spiritual aspects of it. The self-control he developed resulted in a new sense of confidence and abilities as a missionary. President Monson, his mission president, wrote to Mary and told her about her husband's change and new resolve to never take up the chew again. He told her that he was a "country man" in a large city but he was impressed as to how well he was doing. And he further stated that he had a gift at putting people at ease and talking with them in any situation.⁶

⁴ Anderson, Glenice Smith, "Life History of Eugene Leon C. Smith", pg 3.

⁵ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 5.

⁶ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 5.



Summary of Letters

Mary returned to Bountiful via Ogden and met Eugene's mother and sisters and accompanies them back to Logan. Mary misses her husband, had a dream about him one night but is grateful to be married to a man whom "I trust absolutely and love sacredly". Mary reported that teacher's salaries for the year have been cut but her salary for Burton school will be better than the rest. Eugene sent his first letter to Mary on 17 November and reported he will be assigned to Pennsylvania. He requested the family to fast and pray for him for help from the Lord. He is filled with gratitude for his family's love and support. Mary returned home on the 19th of November. Leon wrote to his father and reported on the horses, the weather, school grades and that his eye was "nearly clear". Mary wrote of how much she continues to miss her husband, but does not regret him being on a mission . . . "go and God bless you". She acknowledged she will feel better once she gets her house clean. Eugene sent a post card home from Philadelphia. Mary and kids spent Thanksgiving at her sister Martha's home in Thornton. Mary wrote about how she has had a difficult time adjusting to the absence of her husband. The children have been sick and upset, probably also missing their father, but Mary has prayed night and day asking for help from the Lord. She reported that she feels better now and "will be my cheery self again soon." They both write of having trouble with the mail. Eugene is not getting all of Mary's letters apparently. He reported he has not been assigned to "labor in the state of New Jersey". He writes to his family and tells them he doesn't "feel well" due to the climate and conditions of the east. Says his head and back ache all the time. He has prayed about it and feels his answer is to be re-assigned to the Western States mission. He has requested a change in his assignment. He received a letter from his sister Fannie, she observed about his experience of leaving his home, "We don't know everything about the world in Utah do we?" Eugene writes to Mary about how much he misses her and the children. He says he hasn't been assigned a companion yet. His assignment has apparently been changed to Scranton, Pennsylvania, a coal mining town. He is engaged in the work tracting door to door on his own. Leon reports to his father on the farm animals and how their friends and neighbors are all treating them "fine". Mary writes, "Wherever you labor, you will find things to try you. Be contented, fight against discontentment and then you will soon feel all right. I almost made myself sick for a couple weeks after I came home by keeping on thinking that I possibly made a mistake." [in letting him go on a mission] City of Scranton is a "wicked city", poverty and alcohol abound, Eugene

reports. Mary writes that the his babies send him a "shower of kisses every evening just at dark through the east window". Eugene quit his tobacco chewing habit and took up chewing gum instead. Mary writes of family Christmas preparations. Eugene is transferred to the Western States Mission as he requested.

11 Nov 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Eugene, It's nearly one o'clock am. I have been with Irma to her "Live Wires" club party ["Toastmasters" public speaking club]. Enjoyed it very much. Miss Linda Liljenquist entertained the girls. I reached Hyrum all right and found all well. The children had not caused a bit of trouble and the folks were charmed by them. I had to stay at Ogden an hour and met your mother, Jennie, Patience and family. They, Patience and family, came home on the same train. I also saw Fred Dabl? and Dr D.C. Budge. I washed today and as soon as the clothes are dry I will start for home. I am very anxious to get there and get our children together where I can care for them. Received a card from Leon. The horses are all right. It's cold and stormy and Leon finds it a long way to school. I'm longing to be home with him. He said all was well. Well enough of my doings. How are you? How have you enjoyed your trip? I hope you are well and enjoying yourself and that you may be blessed with the spirit of the Lord and have a determination to do your duty. All will be well. Remember what Bp McBride said. No one can protect you and help you as God can. No one can take better care of you family than can our Heavenly Father. I do not know whether this letter will reach you or not so I will close and when I receive your address, I'll write again. Our very best love is yours now and forever, our prayers are for you and I know that all will be well and I pray that you may be blessed with health, strength and a contended mind. I am going to be guided by Apostle Smith's advice. Ask my Heavenly Father for what I need in plenty of time. May God bless you and keep you safe for your wife and children.

Mary"

~ Nov 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"[first page of letter missing]. . . The higher we get the more responsibility we have and the greater reward if we fulfill our obligations. Only in moving upward is there progress. I am always so thankful that God gave us light to see and understand the beauties of His Gospel. I hope and pray that I may always be able to learn and to give service. I feel so thankful that you are laboring as you are and learning the principles of the Gospel so well. When you return, it will be I who will be inferior in knowledge but with what joy I will learn from you, my dear husband. I know we will have many good times together, studying, reading, and discussing different subjects. I dreamed of you last night. Oh, how I long for your dear presence this morning. It is a strange experience to want anyone with all your soul and being and still not want them because it would not be right and honorable for them to leave their work to come to you. Our Father's work is above and before all else. When it is completed, then we can have one another and know that God's care will be over us. Well, Eugene, I must close as it is time to get ready for school. Pray for me that I may be blessed in my work. My heart is overflowing with gratitude that I live among a people who expect a man who is pure and holds his honor and virtue above all things. One whom I trust absolutely and love sacredly. The thought is immense, that we shall be as one flesh throughout all ages, from eternity to eternity. You are mine and I am yours and our children are ours together. To keep faith with God and live true to our

covenants seems an easy thing, when we contemplated the great reward we receive and the joys of life together in the eternities.
Your, Mary."

~ Nov 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"[Parts of this letter from Mary to Eugene are missing] . . . a big bluster of rain storm does not penetrate far but the steady insistent rain, slowly but surely inks into the ground and helps that harvest to grow. I am glad that you are one of those who work for the good they can do and not for the glory they expect to receive. Yes, Eugene, God's ways are mysterious but just and good. If we will listen to the promptings of the spirit and the advice of His servants, all will be well for us but if we do not he will reach us in some other way, possibly through sorrow and trials, until we acknowledge Him. I told you in my last letter that I expected to teach 3rd, 4th, 5th grades at Burton this coming winter and receive \$75. per month. All the School Districts around here have cut the teacher's wages this year. Independence only gives \$75. for the teaching of the nine grades, Cedar Point cut their Principal's wages to \$75. other grades \$55. Burton's Principal will get \$85. The children are awake so I must close and hurry so we can all get to "Honey Cool" [Sunday School] as Dwinna calls it. You do not know how much Leon is growing. Last night he measured and I am only two inches taller than he. He feels pretty tickled about it. "Soon", (he said to me) "you won't be able to say my little boy but I can say my little mother." We all love our big Papa with all our hearts and send him all our love and our prayers for his success. Some Elders labor for the love of Christ, truly and diligently, taking no thought of the harvest and willing to give the glory to God. It is enough for them that they know they have given their every effort and that God will give his reward in His own due time and season. To others it may appear that they have failed or at least not done much but after a time their works bear fruit and it is learned that they have fulfilled a great mission. As for instance, some Elders labor diligently and do not make a convert, but some future Elder passing over the same ground, baptizes many who were interested and became converts through the good seed the other had sown. God our Father recognizes. How is Elder Marv? He has not answered my letter. I send my best love to you,
Your true wife, Mary."

17 Nov 1915

New York, NY

Dear Wife and children, It is with great pleasure I write a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. I am getting very anxious to get to work. I will leave New York for Pennsylvania in the morning. It will take five hours to make the trip then I will know how the work is going to be. Dear family, fast and pray for me as often as possible because I know without the Lord's help I won't be able to succeed. I do trust the Lord will bless you with health that you will be able to do your part, because I believe you are the ones that are carrying the heaviest load. I thank the Lord every day of my life that I am permitted to have as good wife and children as I

have got. Mary first think of the great work the Elders will have in this city along. I have thought about it." (rest of letter missing)

Elders' Letter of Appointment

Eastern States Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Elder Eugene Smith,

BELOVED FELLOW-WORKER:

You are hereby appointed to labor in the
Conference of the Eastern States Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints.

It is your duty to preach the Gospel and administer the ordinances thereof which pertain to the office of an Elder, to be obedient to, and assist your President by faithfully performing the duties which he may require of you. You are expected to remain in your appointed field, and with a contented mind, labor for the establishment of Truth and Righteousness upon the earth; therefore, let your eye be single before the Lord always.

Dear Brother, the Lord has said He "will not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance;" therefore, keep your mind and body clean and sweet and pure, remembering the covenants you have made with the Lord. Observe the counsels of those who are placed in authority over you; and be a close associate with your companion. Be humble and prayerful that you may have power to resist temptation and overcome evil, that thereby your influence may be known for good. Be faithful and diligent in your labors—and the Holy Spirit will attend you with power in your administrations—and the power of the Priesthood which you hold will qualify you for every good work. Be strong in testimony and precept and you shall have power to reach the hearts of those who are seeking the truth, and they shall administer to your necessities. You shall also be instrumental in the hands of the Lord in turning many from the errors and follies of the world, and to the knowledge of the true and everlasting Gospel, and many shall rise and call you blessed.

That you may be true and faithful, is the prayer of,

Your brother in the Cause of the Master,

Walter J. Morrison
President of the Eastern States Mission.

New York City, N. Y., November 17, 1915.

13 Dec 1915

Weekly Missionary Work Report Book; Eastern States Mission, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Weekly hours spent Traveling, Tracting, Visiting Saints, Attending Meetings, Gospel Study, Visiting Investigators: 33 hours
 Monday: Day Off

Eastern States Mission

Elder Eugene Smith Nov 27, 1915

No. 1 East Penn. Conference Next Address

Day of Week	HOURS SPENT							TRACTING			LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED							MEETINGS HELD												
	Going to and From Work	Tracting	Visiting Saints	Attending Meetings	Study of Gospel	Visiting Investigators	Total Time Each Day	Homes Visited	Calls Answered	Invitations in Home	No. of Visits to Investigators	Number of Conversations	Books of Mormon	Other Standard Works	Other Books	Pamphlets	Number of Tracts	Liabonas	Deseret News Etc	Liabona Subscriptions	Hall	Cottage	Open Air	Friesthood	Fast Meetings	Total Meetings Each Day	Children Blessed	Baptisms	No. of Persons Personally Met	Daily Expense
SUN.	1	2	7				2				1										2	2		1					25	68
MON.	1	1		2																										50
TUES.	2	2		2			1				1																			40
WED.																														
THUR.	30						5				10																			60
FRI.	14	4	2	1			9	2	4																1					60
SAT.																														
AL																														208

Eastern States Mission

Elder Eugene Smith Nov 20, 1915

No. 1 East Penn. Conference Next Address

Day of Week	HOURS SPENT							TRACTING			LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED							MEETINGS HELD													
	Going to and From Work	Tracting	Visiting Saints	Attending Meetings	Study of Gospel	Visiting Investigators	Total Time Each Day	Homes Visited	Calls Answered	Invitations in Home	No. of Visits to Investigators	Number of Conversations	Books of Mormon	Other Standard Works	Other Books	Pamphlets	Number of Tracts	Liabonas	Deseret News Etc	Liabona Subscriptions	Hall	Cottage	Open Air	Friesthood	Fast Meetings	Total Meetings Each Day	Children Blessed	Baptisms	No. of Persons Personally Met	Daily Expense	
SUN.	1		4																												20
MON.	1	2	1	2			5	2	5								5														33
TUES.																															
WED.	2	1		1																											5
THUR.	1	3					4	2	4		15					10					1	1								36	
FRI.	1	4					4	2	4		28					27									1					36	
SAT.	1	2				2	5	2	12		1																			98	
AL	7	11	2	8	0	2	19	12	17		145					43	28				2	1			1	5				246	



19 Nov 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Husband, I just reached Thornton yesterday and came home today. Found everything just as we had left it [Mary had gone with her husband as far as Bountiful, Utah when he left for his mission, then spent some time in Hyrum, perhaps a few other places before returning home to Independence]. Bro Jensen has almost completed the stable. He ran out of material. I will buy what is lacking as soon as I possible can and he will finish it. Was very pleased to get all your cards and letters. I am very glad that you are having such a splendid time and seeing so many sights. Write us all you can about your experiences. We need all the brushing up we can get and are very anxious to keep in touch with you and your work. It has been intensely cold and stormy since you left. Father and mother and Irma would not hear of our leaving until the weather settled so we stayed until Monday. Aunt Carolina and Lena [Mary's sister Helena] treated us just grand. Sylvia is sick with rheumatism. The doctor says it is impossible to save Virginia's eye. That is Lena's girl. They feel awful blue about it. Lila picked a pimple on her lip and it formed an abscess. She had to have it lanced. I believe it will be all right now. The children are all in bed and I am sleepy. Baby was sick all last night so I did not get much sleep. She has felt pretty well all day. I think besides having a little cold, she was tired out. Well, dear husband, who was never so dear to me as now, we have a work before us. I hope and pray that God may make us strong to perform it. That we may both accomplish good. Our faith, our prayers and our love are yours, now and forever. The babies and Leon talk a great deal about their father, "who is away on a mission" as Glenice says. Did you receive my other letter sent to New York Mission Headquarters, 33 West 126 Street? Well, Eugene, the fire is low and I must close. But remember, I love you. I love you oh so much and I am so proud of the splendid way you have gone forth to perform your great work in the world. May many honest souls be blessed through your labor.

Good night and God bless you is the prayer of your loving wife - Mary."

20 Nov 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"Dear Father, How are you? We are all well. Mamma just got home yesterday. The horses are all fat as seals. The stable was put up last week. It snowed last Wednesday night. In the morning there was about two inches of snow on the ground. My eye is nearly clear. I can see lots better with it now. The cows are looking good. I got my report card last week. I never went below eighty in any subject. Well I must close my letter.

Love From Your Son, Leon Smith."

20 Nov 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"Dearest Husband: Just a line more. We got too late for the mail yesterday so I have opened my letter to send you our love and prayers for your welfare. Look on the bright side. We both will have a fight to do that but with God's help we will succeed and I know God will help for you are

engaged in His work and He will bless you with blessings such as you have not dreamed about. Remember our love, our prayers, our faith and the blessings of your friends are yours. I am going to write to Irma and mother today and I want to go to meeting. May God bless you is the prayer of Your ever loving and faithful wife. Mary"

23 Nov 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

My dear Husband, It is with pleasure I write a few lines this morning and let you know that we are well. We sincerely hope that you are enjoying the same blessing and also enjoying your labors. I suppose by this time that you have initiated in your work. I am going to fix up the bed with the C.W. and M. Co. I called as I came from Utah but Mr. Bolin was away. They paid my fare there and back yesterday and reduced the wire account to \$20. instead of \$23.60 so I settled up in full. That's one worry off my mind. I bought a rug of Bro. Browning, he gave me 40% discount and wished me to extend his regards to you and wish you every success. Monday I went to the Burg and got the rest of the material for the stable. Eugene, I never dreamed that I could miss you as I have. Truly the words of the Bible are true where in they say "and they two shall become one flesh." But if you were back here again and I could choose over again, I would say "go and God bless you". Fulfill your mission and you will be added upon. I know it is the work of the Lord and he will take care of us. We certainly thank you for the beautiful presents you sent us, also the books and cards. But most of all we appreciate your thoughts of us and desire for our welfare. I will send you the \$25. December 1st. Eugene, I must close my letter as I have a great deal to do. I hope to feel better in spirit when my house is cleaned. Then I can settle down and accomplish something. God bless you and keep you safe from every harm. We all send our very best love and dozens of kisses, Glenice throws them to you every night and morning as does also your loving wife,
Mary C. Smith.

P.S. Just received your letter of November 17. Glad you are alright."

24 Nov 1915

Philadelphia, PA

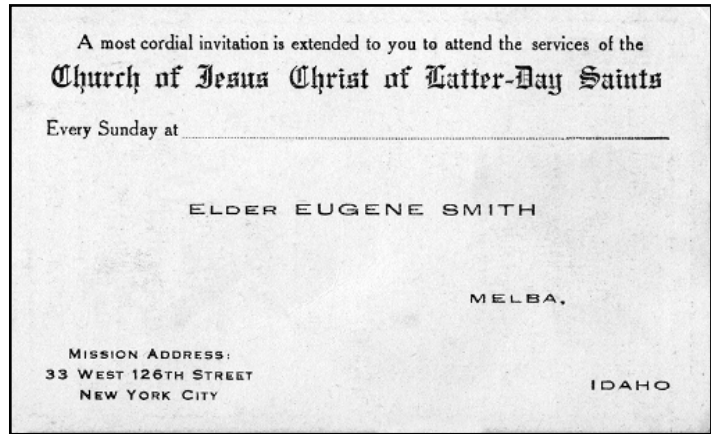
Post card, New York City Public Library: Mrs. Eugene Smith; Dear Wife; I have been away from home two weeks. I have only gotten one short letter from home. Mary, what is the matter are you sick or has anything gone wrong? How is Leon's eye. Write and let me know.
With Love, Eugene."

27 Nov 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Husband; I'm good and tired tonight. But not too tired to write and tell you that all is well with us. We sincerely hope it is with you. How do you like your work? Where are you laboring? Whom is your companion? Tell us all about your labors. We are so interested and

every one inquires about you. Your mother and Dave both have written and asked about you. They are very anxious to hear from you. Yesterday Valdy and Oliver came down and papered the bedroom. Today I have cleaned it up, put down the carpet and the room looks fine. Next week I will try and get the other room papered. I will do that myself and save expense. Leon went to see Dr Scarborough Wednesday. He seemed well pleased with the progress his eye had made.



~1916: Eugene Smith's missionary card.

Thursday we ate Thanksgiving dinner with Martha. We almost had a blizzard. Old man Thornton is dead. He died last Tuesday. Was buried yesterday. George Tibbits and Byron Tibbits paid George what he had spent in paying for doctors and hospital fees for Mrs. Tibbits. Mrs. Marler, George's mother, said you were the best looking Smith thee was. Now don't get conceited! She told George and Martha to wish you all good luck and give you her regards when they wrote you. Martha said that she was beginning to understand that her Grandsons could be wrong. Nov 29: Just received your card saying that you had received only one letter. I don't understand how this is unless they have been delayed somewhere and you have them by now. I have had so much to do, and see about and the children have had colds and been exceedingly cross, that it has been impossible to write as often as I wished to but I will do better. I feel that it has been impossible to write as often as I wished to but I will do better. I feel better than I did. I never dreamed that I could feel so downcast and lonesome as I have. I had a constant fight to keep from giving up. But I prayed night and day and the Lord has blessed me. I feel much better now and will be my cheery self again soon. God bless and keep you and assist you in your labors. Write about yourself, how you feel and some of your experiences. How did you like the mission president? How did he receive you? Where did Bro. Hawas and Sister Benson go to? I received the aluminum ware you sent also the ring. Eugene, you are not one bit complimentary. Did you really think I was large enough to be able to wear the ring? It almost slips over my wedding ring, finger and all. They are all very pretty. Well Eugene, must close as I have forgotten the fire and the room is very cold. I couldn't send this letter today as I had no envelopes but have them now. Everyone is very kind to us but no one comes to see us. Martha, Allen and Mary have been here once for a little while, Hazel Thomason spent an hour here today. May God bless and keep you and we all send our love. Every morning and night the children pray for you and throw kisses through the east window to dear papa. I remain with best love,
Your wife, Mary

P.S. I have a copy of your blessing. Read it carefully and you will get the inspiration I have from it.
Love Mary"

29 Nov 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dearest Husband, Just received your letter. I am very sorry that you have not received more of mine. Dearest Eugene, do no worry, all is well with us. God will surely take care of us until you come home. I thank Him every day for my honest noble husband and children. I never want to be parted from you again. I love you to well. You cannot dream how well I love you and how glad I am that I belong to you for all time and eternity. When we think of that, how small God's sight to help Him in his great work. To be of service to mankind is the noblest aim one can have. I wrote a long letter last night telling you all the news. George Christofferson, Jay Forsythe's uncle who lived down in Burton was buried in Annis today. He died of diabetes. Leon is busy with his books. He helps me a great deal. We're up at six in the morning and the babies go to bed at 6:30 at night. May God bless you and provide for you is the prayer of your loving wife - Mary. I'm glad you sent your address."

3 Dec 1915

Philadelphia, PA

Post card showing High Bridge over the Harlem river at 175th Street, New York, NY: "I have been appointed to labor in the state of New Jersey. Mary, why don't you write me oftener. If you know how I look for a letter from you you would write more often. Kiss the children for me and take one yourself.

Your husband Eugene."

4 Dec 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"Dear Papa, It was with pleasure we read your card. We are all well. How are you by now? The snow is all going off the ground. I have gone skating two or three times. Last week the whole school had a vacation all week so I stayed at home and helped mamma house clean. We're sorry that you are not feeling well. If you stay there a few more days, the climate might agree with you better. Well I regret I must close,
Love From Your Son Leon Smith"

4 Dec 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Husband, I have just time to write a few lines to let you know that all is pretty well with us. I just finished papering the kitchen now I have the cleaning to do and a big ironing and it is Saturday afternoon. It took me one full day till twelve at night to tear off all the old paper and factory and put the building paper on. Then it took me a day to soak the paper off the ceiling and wash it. I never had such a hard job before. It wouldn't hold the paper only in the spots so I am going to leave it until spring then paint it a light color. Then one day to paper the walls and

today clean up. I am sorry to think that you don't feel well but I wouldn't give up so soon and make a change. You have only been there about three weeks and a half and have not had time to get used to the climate yet. Have faith and courage. Never say fail. Keep cheerful and all will be well. Don't make any change without prayer and earnest thought. If you feel you must, then present the whole case to Pres Monsen and be guided by him. It is always best to be guided by the servants of God. I know they are inspired leaders. Personally I do not like the change, now that you are there, unless it is absolutely necessary. I will write you a longer letter tomorrow. May God bless you and help you with His Holy Spirit. If anything goes wrong, I will write Pres Monson as you suggest. But nothing is going to go wrong. You are engaged in God's work and He will take care of us and bless you, so don't fear anything. We all send our very best love to you.

Your loving wife, Mary.

P.S. I have sent \$25. to Pres. Monson for you."

6 Dec 1915

Logan, UT

"Dear Brother, I was alone tonight thought I would write you a few lines. I have looked for a letter from you yet. I hope you are enjoying your mission and that the Lord will bless you with all the blessings you need that your mind will be clear that all that you want to do you will be able to do and that you will make lots of friends where ever you go. I know it will be hard for awhile but when you get used to the work it will be a grand one for you I am sure. Who is your companion, I hope you have got one that you like and I know you will make lots of friends where every you go because we are all praying for you at home that you will enjoy every minute that you are away and will be able to do lots of good. I know that your family will get along all right while you are away because Mary will be with good friends at home. If there is anything I can do for her I will do it. I am going to send a Christmas box. I am getting it ready for her now and you can look for one too. I guess you have seen lots of sights since you left home. We don't know everything about the world in Utah do we? Mother is well and all the girls hope you are the same. Charley [her husband] sends his love to you. Violet and Dean [her children] will write you. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Answer this letter when you get it won't you. God bless you is the wish of your loving sister,
Fannie"

First week of Dec 1915

925 Green Ridge St, Scranton, Pennsylvania

"Dear wife, It is with great pleasure I write you in answer to your letter which I received today. Mary, if you know how much I miss you and children and how I long to get a letter from you and how thankful I am you are the mother of our children. In your letter, you wanted to know how Pres Monson treated me - first fine and also Pres. Stucki. Mary, I have been away from home nearly a month. I haven't gotten a companion yet. I expect one right away then I'll write and let you know his name. Scranton is a town of about 50,000 people. It is about 190 miles north from Philadelphia. There are coal mines all around the town. Before I left home I always

thought the gospel was true. Since coming out into the world going from door to door trying in my weak way to preach to the people and see how they treat we Elders - I know the Gospel is true. I am tracting, going to the home of the people, you go to one home and they probably will treat you fine and the next one will slam the door in your face. I know with the help of the Lord and the prayers of my wife and children, relatives and friends, I will succeed. You wanted to know how my health was . . . (rest of letter missing)"

9 Dec 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"Dear Papa, How are you. We have all got a cold but will soon be over it. Mister Yeo came down with the pigs Wednesday. They are looking pretty good. You wouldn't know Dot's colt if you saw it, it has turned cold black. Queen is getting fat as a real. The cow cut her foot but it is getting better now. The stable was finished Wednesday. He only charged ten dollars to put it all up. Everybody is treating us just fine; they couldn't treat us better. Aunt Martha's blood had coagulated in the vein in her leg. The doctor said that he was afraid she would have to have the veins taken out of both legs. It has been disagreeable weather for the last week. It has been raining and blowing. Well I guess I must close asking the Lord to bless you, from you Son, Leon Smith oxoxoxoxoxox
P.S. Love from all. From Glenice and Dwinna oxoxoxoxo"

9 Dec 1915

925 Green Ridge St, Scranton, Pennsylvania

"It is with great pleasure I answer your kind and welcome letter. I am very sorry to hear that you were having so much trouble in getting the house and stable fixed like you wanted them. Dear Mary put your trust in your Heavenly Father and he will bless you. I could not put it into words to make you know how lonesome I am without out you Mary. You will never know how much I love you and how proud I am to know you are the mother of my children. I took notice of what you said about me changing my mission from here to the Western States. I have prayed about it and the answer is always the same. The Western States is the place for you. One day I am feeling pretty good and the next day I feel just like I have felt for a month. My head and back ache all the time. I have asked for the change and I will know in about a week. It seems like it is impossible for me to stand this climate. Don't you worry about me. . . Pres changed me and put me with Elder Williams and I can tell you Mary he is certainly a fine man. He treats me like I was his brother. He advises me to make the change on account of the way I feel. I am very glad Leon takes an interest in things. And I am thankful to my Heavenly Father that he is so good to you. How is Dolly, Dwinna and Leon getting along. How I would like to see them. I am sending you and the children some presents for Christmas. I am going to write out a check for twenty dollars. I am getting low on money. Tell my friends I think of them quite often. Mary, I like my work just fine. I trust that I will grow in my work. I take my side of the street where we go tracting and one certainly gets an experience meeting so many kinds of people. It makes one get to thinking. But Mary, the world is beginning to base their religion on [mouse ate this part of the letter]. . . and that Joseph Smith . . . From your loving Husband XXXXXX Eugene Smith

925 Green Ridge Street, Scranton, Penn. P.S. Don't send me any more money until I write for it. Has Mr. Yoe brought the pigs home and how are the horses getting along? Write me fast and as often as you can. I would like to take you in my arms tonight. Just you wait till I can then look (mouse ate this part) . . . remember me to George and family and all my friends. From your loving husband.

XXXXXX

Eugene Smith"

10 Dec 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

My dear Husband, Just this morning I sent you a letter addressed to New York but received a letter from Scranton and I thought maybe this card would reach you sooner. Glad you like the change. When you get a companion, you will feel better. All is well here. I trust all is well with you. The babies feel so much better tonight than they have felt. In fact Dwinna is perfectly well again and Glenice has played all day. She talks plainer all the time and uses new words every day. Today I brot in a few little blocks Mr. Jensen had made in building the stable. I built a house and she looked at it a minute then knocked it down and said "You teach me mamma, teach me, then I make baby a house." It is the first time she has said teach and she kept repeating it. Those blocks have kept them busy and happy all day. Leon's school report has two more A's this month than last month.

Best love from all, especially from Mary."

12 Dec 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Husband, I have written eight letters tonight one to each of your sisters and the rest business letters, now I will start one to you. The room is getting cold. As usual, I have forgotten to fire so I will have to go to bed. All's well with us. We get along very nicely. Yesterday Leon took Queen and dragged over several nice drags of dry willows so we have plenty of wood. The children all like it just fine here. Glenice says she no want to go back to the farm. The children come in and Leon has company every Sunday. So they are happy and content. Eugene I trust that you are feeling better now. Don't give way to melancholy feelings. If the East was not the right place for you, the First Presidency would not have made the change. You did not demand a change of fields but just inquired if you might and they readily said "yes". Wherever you labor, you will find things to try you. Be contented, fight against discontentment and then you will soon feel all right. I almost made myself sick for a couple weeks after I came home by keeping on thinking that I possibly made a mistake. Mother, you know wanted me to stay home this winter and after I got here, I just got to thinking I'd made a mistake in not doing so and ought to go back. Well, I was about wild until finally I said to myself, this will never do. I've done just right and I will drive this feeling of unrest from me and will be master of own thoughts. It took effort to finely face the problem and fight it down but I did. Now I know it was best for me to come home and take care of things and I feel happy in being here. Remember Bishop Clifford's talk. "He will try to discourage you in every way. Making things appear what they are not." Oh

my husband, I feel so for you and I know you want to do what is best and right. My constant prayer is "May God guide and direct you and comfort you. Put your faith in Him. Bow your knees and tell Him and He will manifest Himself to you for guidance. Martha is feeling better. I do not know whether I told you she had miscarry at eight weeks or not. It is still stormy. More snow has fallen. Well, Eugene I must close.
We all send heaps of love especially your Mary XOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOX"

Letter from President Monson, 14 Dec 1915 to DAVID Smith, Eugene's brother:

WALT. P. MONSON, President

TELEPHONE 4533 HARLEM

Eastern States Mission
of the
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

33 West 126th St., New York City Dec. 14, 1915.

Mr. David H. Smith,
808 Kearns Building,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Brother:

Your communication of the 11th inst. reached me today, and I am very pleased with the spirit thereof and the counsel which you have given your brother, Elder Eugene Smith. I feel that his is a case of homesickness more than anything. I assigned him to the East Pennsylvania Conference, which holds the record for consistent work in this mission, and I hoped he would become reconciled to his field and develop to a high degree of usefulness. I had designs in sending him there as a likely conference president at the end of one year. I regret to inform you that a letter came from the First Presidency transferring your brother to the Western States Mission to where he was originally called. I am writing his conference president today suggesting that he be relieved of further duty in this mission in order that he might go to the one which he desires. I regret the loss of his association and company, as I feel and know that there is a greater field for development and growth in the Eastern States Mission from an educational point of view, which can not be found in any other mission in the world.

Thanking you kindly for the brother's interest which you have taken in his welfare, I am

Sincerely your Brother in the Gospel,

WLM/P

~~Walt P. Monson~~
Walt P. Monson

15 Dec 1915
925 Green Ridge St, Scranton, Pennsylvania

"Dear wife, It is with pleasure I write you to let you know how I am getting along in my work. I am doing fine so Elder Williams says. We were out tracking for five hours yesterday and it was a bitter cold day. We went from house to house. We would knock at doors and the people came and partly open the door but hardly ever get invited inside. Mary, the way the outside world looks at religion there. The saying in the Bible where it says there will be one of a family and two of a city is sure true. The city of Scranton is one of the worst towns I have ever seen in all my life for wickedness. There are about two thirds of the people who live from hand to mouth. At pay day they first keep enough money on hand to keep them alive the rest then they spend for drink. It is a pitiful sight to see how they do. Sometime in the near future I will send some pictures of the city of Scranton. Mary, you said in your letter that you were glad that the children were small while I was away from home because you know where they are at night. Remember Mary what your blessing says. That your children will never go away from the truth. Mary think of it. It is wonderful. Think of it. I just want to say one word to Leon. You have one of the best mothers that ever lived and some day you will look back on life and say yes father was right in what he said about mother being one of the best mothers in the world. Now my boy, treat your mother the very best you know how to and the Lord will bless you. Mary I don't know of any more news to write at this time. So will close asking our Heavenly Father to bless you and the children just to take you in my arms, tell you how much I miss you and love you. From your loving husband and father,
Eugene Smith.

P.S. Remember me to George and family. Tell all my friends hello. Write me often. How is Dolly and Dwinna?"

15 Dec 1915
Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Eugene, Just rec'd your card and ltr. I am so sorry that you do not feel better. I was in hopes that you would feel better after staying a few weeks. In regard to coming to the Western States, I feel you are doing right in being guided by Pres Monson and those associated with him. Let our Heavenly Father guide you through His servants and all will be well. Today the sun shone. The first day almost since I came from Utah. I am so pleased that you have such a congenial companion. It certainly cheers one to be in good company. I wish I could meet and know your companions. They have so much of your time and society and it is precious to me. Babies went to sleep talking of papa. Tonight old man Beattie of Burton gave his wedding dance. All send our very, very best love and prayers, Mary"

15 Dec 1915
Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Husband, Just a line tonight to tell you that we are all well and that all is well with us. I trust you are feeling better. I was certainly sorry to learn from your letter that your kidneys are

bad again. I do hope you can get something to help you. Write as soon as you get this and let us know just how you are. Dr Scarborough wrote that he would be in town Thursday. So I m going with Leon up there to find out just how he is and will let you know. Better than when you left. Caleb Flamer from down in the brush will be buried in Rexburg, Thursday. He died of paralysis. Rosa Jones has gone to Idaho Falls to be operated on for appendicitis. Do you catch a shower of kisses every evening just at dark? The babies send them through the East window before going to bed. Then they kneel at my knee and ask Heavenly Father to bless papa and be good to him. Our thoughts area always with you. We certainly love the dear papa who is absent from us. May God bless you with His choicest blessings is the prayer of Mary."

**18 Dec 1915
Rexburg (Independence), ID**

"My dear Husband, It is with pleasure I write to you. I hope and pray that you are well and enjoying your labors. I went with Leon to see Dr Scarborough the other day and he seemed pleased with the improvement in his eye. . . It made me feel encouraged. Eugene did you know I sent \$25. to Pres Monson for you the first of the month? The children plan for Christmas every day. The children plan for Christmas everyday. Allen and Leon are going to try and get two Evergreen trees today. So that we can have a tree for the children. The ward is planning for the celebration the Monday following Christmas. They are going to have a tree, program and Santa Claus give presents to the children. Eugene, I feel grateful every day of my life that we were among the favored of the Lord's spirits, who having heard the Gospel were able to understand and appreciate it. It is not given to everyone to know that the Gospel is true. Some cannot comprehend it. We, not alone can understand it but we are also permitted to be of those who "labor in the ministry" so that others may receive this joy and blessing. May God bless and comfort you and may His holy Spirit be with you. We all send our very best love. The children talk about you all the time. I gave Glenice the card where on you had sent her and the baby kisses. She was very tickled and kissed the card over and over again. Then asked if she could put it away so the baby would not tear it. Leon is hurrying me so I will close with very best love from Mary. You will never know how much I too wish that you could take me I in your arms. Never mind, you can squeeze harder when you do.
From Leon oxoxoxoxoxo from Glenice xoxoxoxo "

**20 Dec 1915
Rexburg (Independence), ID**

"My dear Husband, It is with pleasure I write you and let you know that all is well with us. We certainly hope that you feel better both in your physical and in your spiritual being. Everyone is busy preparing for Christmas. The children are going to practice almost every night for the big time Independence Sunday School is going to have. Leon, with other boys, is going to sing. He is at Bro Charles Anderson's to a practice tonight. Christmas is going to be very lonely without you, Eugene. My heart will be with you and in spirit we can commune. Our thoughts can defy the distance that separates us and we can think cheerful encouraging thoughts for one another. Our love is yours. There is joy in knowing that we are united as one for time and eternity. This

parting will make the joy of meeting again grater. My husband, you do not know ho I love. Nor how proud and happy I am to be your wife and to know that you are working in the labor of love for your fellow men. I know that the Lord will accept of our sacrifice and will bless us in our separation and in our labors. I just learned that old man Gallup of LaBelle died very suddenly about six days ago. (I'm so sleepy I'm making a blotch of my letter. I've been washing today.) Bro Gallup took an epileptic fit when he was eating breakfast and they took him down to LaBelle and he died that day. I suppose you have my card telling you that sister Elizabeth is dead. Martha went down to the funeral. I received the parcel you sent and we certainly thank you for the presents. The waist is just beautiful. It is just what I've been wanting. I put the children's things away to give them on Christmas. I sent you a small remembrance Sunday. "Just a pair of gloves - for the man who loves." The handkerchief is from Leon. The candy, etc... from the babies and all. Glenice and Dwinna helped shell the nuts. Glenice got a hammer and cracked them very carefully so that she would not break the kernel for papa. Baby helped by eating all she could reach! I had planned to send you a large fruit cake and make some nice candy but baby was too sick to let me do much but tend her so I just had to change my plans. But I wanted you to have a taste of homemade things so sent you a piece of our apple cake we had baked for dinner a week before. Lots of love and dozens of kisses went with it. Good wishes and Christmas cheer and prayers to our Heavenly Father for your welfare. May you have a merry, merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God bless you and keep you safe from your loving wife, Mary XOXOXOXOX

20 Dec 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

I just received your letter telling of your transfer. I am thankful this uncertainty is over. It has worried me greatly. May God bless in your new field. I rejoice with you in your job. May you find the peace you anticipate in your new field. I am at Bro Anderson's getting Leon and must hurry the children alone. I'll send you a check tomorrow. With best love, Mary.
P.S. There's joy in knowing that you are nearer to us."

Chapter 7

Called to Serve: Western States Mission

Denver, Colorado
26 December 1915 - March 1916

"The question is not where you will receive the most good but where you can do the most good."

-- Mary

"I have learned more about the Gospel since I came out into the world than I ever knew before I left home."

-- Eugene

Eugene's health continued to grow worse while he was back east. He counseled with his



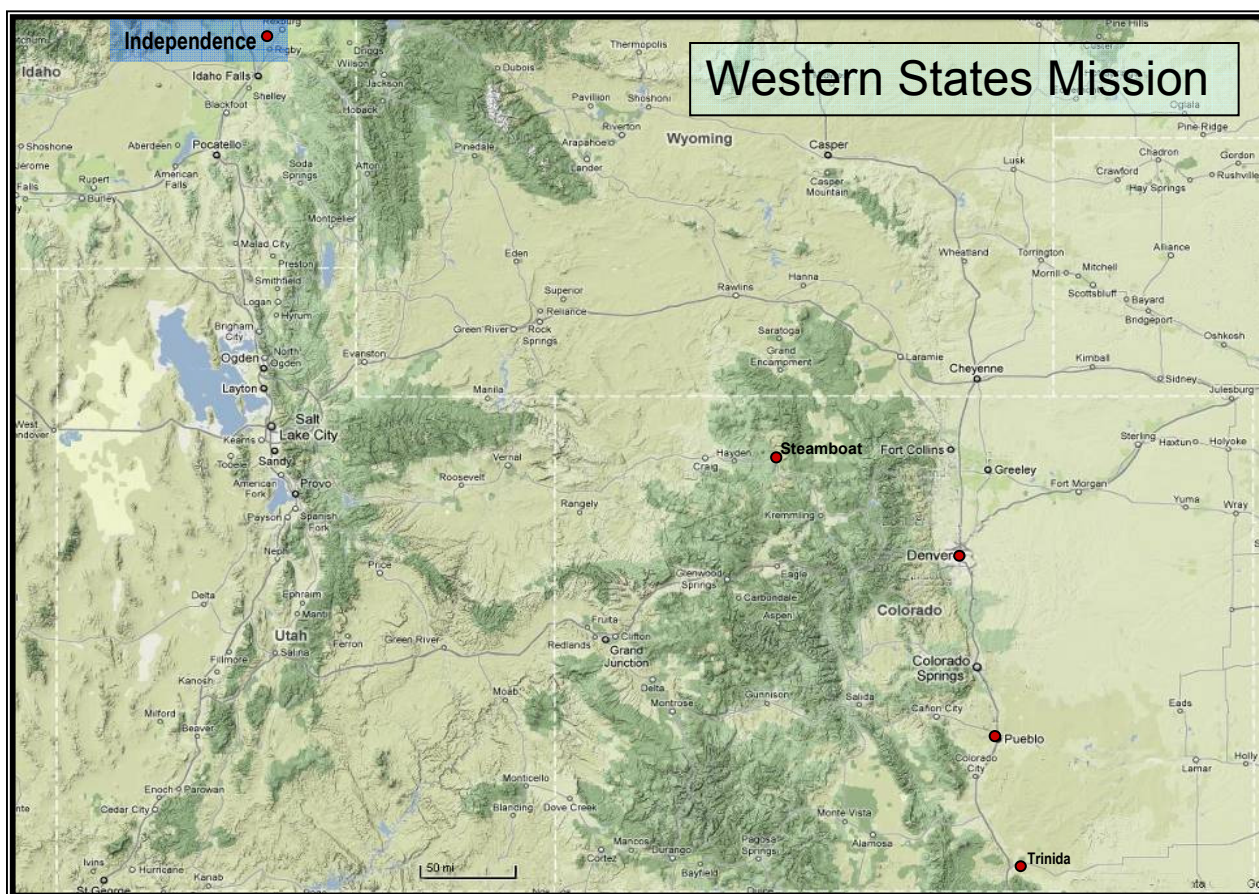
wife via letters and spoke to his companion and mission president, President Monson about this issue. He took his concerns to the Lord in prayer and finally decided he needed to be transferred back to his original assignment, the Western States mission, headquartered in Denver, Colorado. After his transfer his health improved as did his disposition with his new situation. It appears Eugene's original assignment was to the Western States mission based on his comments about it but there is no known documentation of this original calling or why it was changed to the Eastern States.

Eugene was a hard working missionary. He loved music and while in the mission field he requested and received permission from President Monson to take singing lessons. He was thus able to use this talent to help teach the gospel and spread the message of his work. During the course of his mission he gave away many Book of Mormons, walked many miles, and wore out many pairs of shoes. His field of labor in the Western States mission encompassed Denver in the north to Pueblo, Trinidad, and a few forays into northern Arizona and New Mexico.¹

¹ Anderson, Glenice Smith (daughter), "Life History of Eugene Smith", pg 5.

During the winter of 1916, Mary taught school to help support the family and her husband on his mission. Because of her additional responsibilities she sometimes had no one to look after her two young daughters, Glenice (5) and Dwinna (3). When this happened she would have to take them to school with her. The girls were usually pretty well behaved and one of the consequences of attending school with their mother was they learned to read and write at a much earlier age than most other children.

Each year, in order for Mary to continue teaching in the grade schools she had to prepare and study to take the state teacher's examination to renew her teacher's certificate. In January 1916 this requirement was due and she once again studied hard and took the state administered qualification tests. She was very pleased when once again she shortly thereafter received her "Second Grade Certificate" license to teach in Idaho for three additional years. (See Appendix A, Document 15, Mary's 16 January 1916 Teaching Certificate)



Summary of Letters

Mary shared an experience of loosing one of their horses, prays about, it and it is found. Eugene gets a letter from his friend Hyrum T. Moss. His mother wrote and told him that his sister Jennie was living close by to Denver in Cheyenne, Wyoming; she asked him to write to his siblings. Mary's brother Peter V. Christiansen wrote and commented that it had been nine years since he'd seen his sister and her husband. He said he was living in California and worked for the Post Office on the railroad. Mary is at "peace" over Eugene's new assignment to the Western States mission. She wished her husband Merry Christmas. She and the children had dinner at the Marlers. She wrote about the gifts they received. Eugene wrote Mary that he is keeping a journal of his "daily labors". He further said that the greatest surprise he ever had in his life was "tonight when I received the parcels both you and mother sent me for Christmas." Eugene commented that he has "learned more about the Gospel since I came out into the world than I ever knew before I left home." Eugene's sister Jennie and husband visit him in Denver and take him out to dinner. Eugene got a letter from George Rumsey who told him about how good the fishing was that year and who's bought automobiles. Mary counsels her husband about where he is serving his mission: "the question is not where you will receive the most good but where you can do the most good." Eugene's mother commented that "Dave was a little sorry you left the East." She encourages her son to write to his brother. Eugene told Mary it costs \$25-30 a month to be in the mission field. Mary provided an accounting of the cost of his mission thus far. Leon and his cousin Allen Marler went hunting and brought home a rabbit for dinner. Eugene received a letter from his sister Fannie. He writes that he may have to come home a little early due to lack of funds. Mary boldly responded with "where is your faith?" She is confident they can manage just fine. Eugene was told by one of the Elders that they thought he was the best public speaker in the mission. A Smith neighbor hauled a load of coal for Mary, wouldn't take any payment. Told her, "You are welcome to the favor if there is anything due me, give it to Eugene and God bless him." Mary acknowledged their fourteenth wedding anniversary and reaffirmed her love for him. Eugene's sister Patience sent him a short letter. Son Leon writes and reports on his school work. Says everybody "down here treats us just fine" meaning at Independence; reports on the horses. Mary shared a funny experience of her sister Martha getting stuck in a snow drifts. Eugene's mother wrote and reports on her temple activities. Mary wrote that Br Anderson gave her straw for their animals since they had run out, Leon and a

friend are hauled the load to the farm. Mary reported they were getting along fine. Eugene's Christmas gifts caught up to him by 22 January. Bishop got Mary a load of straw for her pigs. Leon went to see the doctor again, eye has improved 10%, much clearer. Mary's reports that her Ward Teacher came to check on the family's welfare and occasionally stops by to help with the farm work. Mary encouraged Eugene in his spelling and gives him a lesson. Reported Melba Sunday service attendance was 70 members. Mary wrote a gospel epistle to her husband and bore her testimony. Glenice sent kisses and Dwinna sent hugs to their father. Sister Mabel sent a brief letter to her brother - all is well. Eugene sends his love and appreciation to his wife for her "good advice" that has helped him a great deal. He reported that a member who admires him calls him "bishop". Eugene confides to his wife that he regrets not "working like you do when I was home." Ward members continue to look after them. Some one brought a load of wood for the family while they were away. Mary revealed a secret desire to her husband about him. She is told how well liked and missed her husband is. Family sent valentines to Eugene. Mary writes about God's love for us, despite ourselves and our mistakes. Mary reveals a secret "dream" she has for what she'd like to do. She wrote: "the problem has begun." Leon had gone to a party where there were kissing games . . . She has a "talk" with him. Eugene asked about Mary's youngest sister Irma and wonders if she should go on a mission. Leon is administered to by Bishop Thomason and Patriarch Hansen for his eye to heal. Eugene hopes he and Mary can one day go on a mission together. He asked her why she is always so sleepy when she writes. Mary responded, "Sorry you didn't get your letter . . . was not feeling well . . . was swamped with work . . . Eugene's work plus Mary's and occasionally a little extra keeps me busy". Mary plays match-maker for one of Eugene's companions. Eugene wrote about his testimony. Mary counsels about providing other opportunities to serve and to be aware of pride. Eugene wrote about his tracting and gospel discussions. Mary wrote of feeling bad about not having a ward calling and helping to organize the "big ward reunion dinner," gives the menu. Mary encouraged Eugene to accept his mission president's plan to make him a branch president. He has his first baptisms and is notified he is being transferred to Pueblo. His friends were sorry that he was leaving. Mary writes of her love for her husband.

20 Dec 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Husband, Enclosed find check for \$20. as per your request. I wrote you a few minutes ago. So you will know all the news. The Lord is certainly good to us. I have been so worried over Dot's colt. It got out of the field the next night after Mr. Yoe brought it down and I had hunted everywhere for it. I thought sure it was gone for good and felt so bad about it. Day before yesterday I felt so blue, I knelt down and asked the Lord to help me find it. When Leon came home from school, he brought it with him. It came to the school grounds during their recess and he recognized it, caught it and brought it home. They are all doing fine. All send our very best love and prayers for your success. With love from, Mary

P.S. Eugene, do you keep an account of what you use? If you do, look it over. It is no where near \$25. a month. I know your traveling around is costing you a good deal and I have faith the Lord will help us that we may be able to get all you need. But remember the words of the Apostle, don't spend anymore than you absolutely have too. Let the other fellow help you and get a blessing for doing so. You will have more of the Spirit of God if you put more in faith in his ability to take care of you don't depend on your money too much. We send you love. I do hope you have received the Christmas things we sent you. May the Lord bless, Mary"

21 Dec 1915

Willow Springs Ranch, Antelope, Idaho

"Elder Eugene Smith, Received your card and pleased to hear from you but sorry indeed to hear you were not enjoying good health but I think the Lord will come to your rescue. There is not much snow here yet, 3 or 4 inches. We are plowing here until 15th of Dec. I guess you heard of Bro Gallup's death from hemorrhage of the brain. I guess you have heard that the automobile fever has struck Melba. Alma, E.C. Terry and myself having got one and a number of other contemplating a purchase of one. John is in Duluth, Minn. Or has been but has gone to St Paul to conference. He talked like he would labor in St Paul this winter. Well I hope and pray that the Lord will bless you with health and strength to fulfill your sacred duty of bringing the gospel to the honest in heart and bless you with his holy spirit which is greatest blessing the Lord can bestow. Bp Clifford and wife are going to Ogden tomorrow to spend the holidays. I shall go down to Salt Lake next Monday and stay until after New Years.

With sincere wishes and success I remain your Bro Hyrum T. Moss

P.S. we all wish you a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year"

25 Dec 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Son, I was very glad to receive your dear letter. A little surprised to know you had been transferred to Denver. I do hope your health will be better there and that you will be more contented. You are quite near Jennie. She is in Cheyenne, Wyo. She has talked of moving to Denver. If she does it will be fine for both of you. Well my dear son Xmas is here. I do hope you will have a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. We sent a large package up to Mary

and children. All kinds of things that are useful. So we thought that would make her happy. We had a letter from Mary, she feels fine only a little lonesome. She is a very brave girl. We sent you a package to New York. I guess it will be forwarded to you. All the girls have sent things. There is one thing sure, it is better for a missionary to go where he is called first. I would like you to send a card to Patience. Address 367 No 2 East. Write all the girls. Sister Stoddard wishes to be remembered to you. Everybody sends love. 'Tis sure lovely to know you are becoming such a good speaker. Keep on my dear son and the Lord will bless you. Love from all,
Loving Mother XXXX
(Address is 191 East 5th North, Logan, UT, Home where Eugene Smith grew up in)

26 Dec 1915
San Gabriel, California

"Mrs Mary Smith, Dear Sister and Family, Received your letter some time back but have not had time to answer before. We have had some busy time this Xmas. I was so tired when I arrived at Ogden on the 23rd that I trembled all day. 24 hours work with 1 ½ hours rest. I worked 372 sacks of papers and we had an extra car of directs for Eastern states. But it is all over and I am home enjoying the sunny weather. This is the time of the year to visit southern Calif. As the roses and some of the flowers are blooming. The oranges are nearly ripe and the citrus trees are certainly beautiful now, but don't get the idea that it is not cold. If you come, fetch your furs. I would like to have seen you and Eugene at Ogden as it is 9 years since I saw you but I hope he has a good mission and that you will prosper while he is away and may you all enjoy the blessings of our Heavenly Father is the wish and prayer of your sister and brother. Tell Eugene to send a card. Sometime we would like to hear from him. Say Allen Tryer is still on the run up there he is on 13 and 14, he went north on the 13, south on the 26 and runs every four days. I see him quite often at Ogden. Will close with love to all as ever. P.V.C. [Peter Victor Christiansen, Mary's brother] If you lose my address again, address it to me R.M.S. United States of America."

26 Dec 1915
Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Eugene, Christmas is past and I do hope you have enjoyed yours. Have you met any friends in Denver to help and cheer you up? I feel so contented to have you where you are. A feeling of peace came to me when I received your letter with letter from Elder Stucki enclosed. Eugene, it pays to follow council. I hope now that your health will be better and that you will fill contented. It does me good to hear you bear such a splendid testimony. That alone to me is worth all our separation. I know that the Gospel is true and that the greatest joy in life is the knowledge that one has performed or is performing their duty in the gospel plan. I know that we are nearer and dearer to one another than we ever were and the greatest joy I can think of will be to hear that the servants of have said "Well done, your labor is accepted and you may return to your loved ones at home." Eugene, there is nothing on earth so precious as a testimony of the Gospel and that Jesus is the Christ and that Joseph Smith was a true Prophet of the Lord. Thank God that we are among those who have intelligence enough to understand and

comprehend this. We have had a nice Christmas. Gladys is with us. It has seemed so good to have her come. She and Marie are both here tonight. We have been to Mutual and giggled all the way home. They are reading while I write to you. We had Christmas dinner with Martha and George and they ate dinner with me today. I wish I could smuggle a piece of chicken to you. A.O. Anderson has been sick for a week and I have been milking for him. I nearly die laughing. Sis Anderson goes out with me and scratches the cow's rump and tail. She says "You know, Sis Smith, if I'd do this, it pleases Bossie and she won't switch you with her tail." The cow enjoys it and so does she. So I laughed and let her do it. We received a great many presents. I dressed the little dolls your mother gave the babies, one in blue silk and one in pink. "Dr" Gladys made new legs and arms and I got heads for the old dolls and Glenice was nearly wild with delight. "Oh I is so happy mamma, so happy," she said. They got aprons, apron cloth, handkerchiefs and candy from your folks, stockings filled with candy, books, cups and saucers, beads from our folks and Marie tells me there is a parcel at the Post Office for us. So you see we had a good Christmas. I do hope you will get the things we sent. Our little tree looked very fine. Marie said it was the prettiest she had seen. Well, Eugene, its 20 min to twelve so I must close and go to bed. Tomorrow night Independence S.S. [Sunday School] will have a big tree. May God bless you in your labors, give you health and strength and keep you safe is our constant prayer, Love Mary."

**After 25 Dec 1915
Rexburg (Independence), ID**

"I send you heaps of love and kisses. Baby and I have been busy stranding the wooden beads Santa brought us. Love from your own little Dolly
Kisses from Dwinna
Hello Papa

**26 Dec 1915
622 West 6th Ave, Denver, Colorado**

Weekly Missionary Activity Report Work Book; Western States Mission, Denver Conference.

Weekly hours spent Traveling, Tracting, Visiting Saints, Attending Meetings, Gospel Study, Visiting Investigators: 31 hours

Monday: Day Off

**27 Dec 1915
Denver, CO**

"Mrs Eugene Smith, Dear Wife, I was so pleased to day to hear from you and to know you are all well at home. Mary I am so glad Leon's eye is getting along so well and that you took him to the Dr. Mary, the Lord certainly has blessed our lives in many ways. With me, some days I go out to work trying to show the people that the Lord has revealed himself again to the children of men

and when they take no notice of what I say to them, it makes one feel bad for them. I have learned more about the Gospel since I came out into the world than I ever knew before I left home. The Gospel is a wonderful thing to study. I thank the Lord every day of my life that He has given me a wife that knows the gospel is true. Maybe some day when the Lord sees fit we will go on a mission together because I want you to get the experience as I know you would make one of the best missionaries that ever went into the field. I also want Leon to go as quick as he gets old enough. I don't want to leave our dear little girls out either. Mary I took notice in what you say about my expenses. I received notice of the \$25. you sent to the Eastern States Mission. I also received the twenty you sent here. I have on hand forty dollars without the twenty you sent to the Western states so I will destroy the check you sent to Denver for \$20. I think I have enough on hand to last me for about two months so don't send me any more until I write for it. Mary, the Lord certainly answered your prayers in regard to Dot's colt. I am so glad Leon looks after things around home like he does and that he is so good to you. Mary, how proud I am of you and how proud I will be when I come home to know e can work side by side in the Lord's work. Love, Eugene"

28 Dec 1915
Denver, CO

"Dear Mary, I am feeling better. Ed and Jennie took me out to supper tonight, they treated me very nice. Mary, how I would like to see you and the children. With love, Eugene
(Sent on postcard with Tunnel #3 of Northwestern and Pacific Railroad on it.)

29 Dec 1915
Antelope, Idaho

Dear Friend, I received your card the 18th and was quite surprised to hear from you but never the less glad to get it and to hear you were well and happy as this leaves us all about the same. The snow is 8" deep and quite cold. Say Jean, you should be hear to go fishing we have had all we can eat and give away. Curley Pearson and I went three nights and I caught 62 lbs and we didn't tip the boat over either. Etsel has moved on top of the hill now so don't see him quite so often but they are well I believe. I suppose someone has written you and told you about old man Gallup they are well I believe. I suppose someone has written you and told you about old man Gallup dying, Mendin's father you know. He was sick only a few hours and died from hemorrhage of the brain. Well, Jean, as news is scarce up here, I guess I'll have to ring off. Oh by the way Tom an Alma both have a car and say Alma certainly is cutting a "Dash" with his. Write me a long letter and let us know how you are and if there is anything I can do for you here. I am at your service as you know. Good bye for this time, Mrs Rumsey sends her regards, as ever your friend, George Rumsey"

29 Dec 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dearest Husband: I send you joyous New Year's Greetings. May the mistake and failures of past be forgotten and the future be filled with joy and loving service to mankind. May peace and prosperity attend you and may the Spirit of God ever be with you. May health be yours be yours and wisdom be multiplied unto you. We send our love, our very best love. The children constantly ask for you. Glenice has me tell her how many more winters before "I go meet a papa", every few days. Dwinna and Glenice talk very plainly now. Eugene, in regard to your change of mission field. I know some of your folks say that you had better opportunities in the East than the West and that you would receive more good. This may be so but I feel that you have dedicated yourself and your time to the work of the Lord and the question is not where you will receive the most good but where you can do the most good. If the Spirit of God prompted you to go to the West, there is where you will have the best success. It is your mission and unto you God will give His spirit to prompt and guide you. Obey its promptings and He will bless you that you will succeed. Our prayers are ever with you. Even Dwinna prays for you morning and night. Be guided by the promptings of the Spirit of God and the advice of those placed over you. Do not worry over anyone else's opinion. Gladys, Hazel Hill, and Lud Thomas have gone to Burton to the dance. Last night Mary Marler, Lyle, Clara, Byron and John Nelson came to see us. They had a jolly time. I do not know why it is I get sleepy every time I write. Dear papa, I wanted to send you a New Years remembrance but I do not ever get away to select anything therefore I can only send you my very best love and prayers for your safety. If you only realize, I hope you do," how near and dear you are to me, you would surely be comforted and happy. Sister Anderson has a friend in Denver, a Mrs Luck who lives at 1040 Inca Street/Ave. She wants you to go and see her and tell her you are a neighbor to Rosena Hoffman Anderson. May God bless you and keep you is the constant prayer of your loving wife, Mary. P.S. I have just written a long letter to Dave. I hope he sends it to you. Good night, peaceful dreams and may God's spirit be with you. You are now where you wish to be, go forth and let nothing discourage you. Yours forever and ever, Mary. P.S.S. Elmer Clifford's wife gave birth to a son recently. Bro Anderson from Menan, the man who surveyed for us lost his wife. She was buried today. The ward gave a very nice Christmas program. Leon was in a song. I am sending you a remembrance from George and Martha. All send their love. Save this pretty box."

30 Dec 1915

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"Dear Papa, How are you feeling since you reached Denver. We are feeling just fine. We were pleased to receive your letter. I guess it seems nice to have your sister with you. I am going to save up and come to Denver and meet you when you are released to come home. I received my shot gun for Xmas and I thank you and mamma for it. I haven't gone hunting yet with it. I went for a little while last night. I wounded a white hare. I didn't like to shoot it at first but now I don't mind to shoot it now. Well I guess I must close as supper is ready. Love from Your Loving Son Leon Smith."

31 Dec 1915
Rexburg (Independence), ID

"Dearest Eugene: The last day of the old year is here. Are you taking inventory of the labors you have accomplished and hoping you can improve in the new year? I am. I mean to study some. It is certainly a beautiful sun shiny day. I trust the new year will be as pleasant for us both. Was delighted to get your letter last night and learn of how contented you are in Denver. I'll bet there were tears of joy shed when Jenny and Ed came to see you. How glad I am that they could come. Bro Anderson will be well enough to do his chores again - that's all the news. Your mother is with Dave. Lee Bradford wrote me yesterday. All are well. Well Eugene, tomorrow will be a royal holiday. I will be all alone and I will write you a New Year's letter. Did you receive the Christmas parcel I sent you? Best love, Mary
P.S. I'll have to study and practice to make your bragging about me good. I'm getting no practice here. I'll begin by bearing my testimony Sunday."

3 Jan 1916
Logan, UT

"My dear Son - Received your card was sure glad to hear from you. I also saw Jennie she told me what a fine time they had with you. I just came from Bountiful where I spent a few days with Jennie. Was sure glad to hear you are more contented where you are now. I do hope Eugene you will be satisfied. There isn't a sickness in the world like home sickness, it makes one feel like they are sick all over. I have passed through that myself. The only way you can overcome sickness is to go to the Lord if necessary several times a day and he will help you. I know Eugene, if you will humble yourself fast and pray the Lord will hear you and you will fill an honorable mission. And I know you will do it. Dave was a little sorry you left the East. But I also know Elders are often not satisfied unless you go where you are first called. Eugene, I want you to continue writing to Dave you know you will never get a better friend than he is. You know Eugene, two years in the mission field is worth six years of college. I know my dear son you will do your best and fill a grand mission. The time will fly after you get used to public speaking. Say, you didn't tell us if you received the fruit cake, a box of candy, a money purse with little money in it. They were all sent to NY, also a necktie. Let us know if you haven't received them, we will have to write. We had a letter from Mary, all are feeling fine. I hope by this time you are real well. Love is your companion. All send best love, may the Lord bless you my dear son, Loving Mother & Mabel Excuse the pencil, I have mislaid the pen."

4 Jan 1916
Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Husband:

"Elder Eugene Smith in the name of the Lord, we set you apart . . . You are sent forth to carry a message . . . , you are the bearer of a message that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph is a true Prophet and that the gospel has been restored. You are one of his servants and the way shall be

opened unto you. Ask the Father to give a portion of His Spirit unto you . . . , you will be able to fulfill this mission. The evil one will do all in his power to discourage you and to turn you from your work. We bless you that you will be successful, if you will but seek his Spirit. If you will go forth, we promise you that you shall fill a splendid mission. You shall be warned of danger and all things shall be for your good."

This is all I got of Elder Kimball's prayer when he set you apart. I thought maybe you might like to have it. Your card today made me feel badly. I cannot understand why you do not receive the letters I send. I sent two to mission hdqts. and a box and some to Denver. I sent several letters and a box at Christmas time to Scranton. I feel very worried about this box as I have not heard from it. Did you make arrangements to have your mail forwarded? Please answer me at once and let me know if you have heard from or received the box. If not, I will start investigation from my end. I wanted, to be so much comfort to you. Eugene, are you keeping a Diary? I hope you are. There are so many things I want to know. How have you spent the Holidays? Were you entertained by anyone else besides Jennie and her husband? What did you receive for Christmas? Where did you go? I ate dinner at Martha's. Went to S.S. [Sunday School] program and entertained Geo, Martha, and family and Gladys Jensen at dinner on the 26th and remained right at home the balance of the time. You say the time goes so rapidly to you. It will soon be past. I'm thankful to hear this. To me it has no end. I am sorry my letters have failed to reach you. I am more sorry than you can know. If you do not get your letters more regular, I will send them to Thornton, instead of posting them on the Rural Route. May God bless you and assist you in your labors may His Spirit be a constant guide and comforter is the prayer of, Your wife, Mary.

P.S. I'm sorry your companion left. Hope you get another good one soon. No we have not had our pictures taken yet. One of the other children has been ailing ever since I came from Utah and the weather has been so severe that I have been unable to have them taken as yet."

6 Jan 1916
622 West 6th Ave, Denver, Colorado

"Dear wife: It is with pleasure I answer your kind and welcome letter that you write me Dec 29. I was pleased to hear you were all well. But was sorry to hear you was so lonesome. Mary, I never was so lonesome in all my life to be at home as I was New Year Day. Elder Jacob was sent to Greeley and they put a young Elder with me. And I can tell you Mary, I never hated to leave a man much worse than I did Elder Jacob. He was a married man and we got along well together. I don't know how long I will be here. I think it will be about two weeks then I don't know where they will send me. I hope it will be Wyoming, so I can get more to do in a public way such as speaking. You wanted to know if I was boarding out and we are boarding at a private place it costs \$4.50 a piece a week. That is another reason why I would like to go to Wyoming. I think I could cut down on expenses. I am trying to live as cheap as I can but it seems like it is going to cost me about \$25. or \$30. a month. If I have to spend that much a month, I don't think that I will be able to stay in the field longer than a year from now. Between now and then I am going to work as fast as I can and accomplish just as much as I can. They are not keeping married men who are in debt longer than 18 or 20 months so you can expect me in Salt Lake for April conference a year from this spring. I wrote you a long letter last night and

told you all the news. I am so pleased Leon is getting along in school so well. Tell Leon [the rest of the letter is missing]."

7 Jan 1916

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Husband: Just wrote you this morning but will write again tonight. I was so worried over your Christmas box and the day was so warm and beautiful, we started to walk over and when we reached Bro Nelson's he was almost ready to go so he invited us in and we rode over with him. I insured the parcel so Lila started investigation and if the parcel is not located; I can recover the value of it. But I feel very disappointed to think our presents did not reach you and everyone else's did. Martha is not at all well. She has a very heavy cold and her lungs are bad. She really ought to be in bed but she won't stay there. Margaret is very sick also. She has a light attack of pneumonia. So Martha and I went up to day and Martha stayed tonight. George brought me home in his car. Allen and Leon have been hunting. They brought home one rabbit. We had it fried for supper. They have planned to start at four in the morning if I'll wake them. I don't think I will though, not that early. Just received a letter from your mother. Jenny is with her and all are well. Mrs Olsen of Archer was struck by a snowball while passing Lyman school house. Her glasses were broken and a blood vessel ruptured in her temple. The doctor does not know whether she will recover or not. If she does, she will in all probability lose her sight. I'll just say God bless you and send best love, Mary."

8 Jan 1916

Logan, UT

"Dear Brother, I guess by now you think I am never going to write to you. We have been all sick. I hope you are well and are enjoying your mission. I had a letter from Mary today. Mother is well and all send their love. I bet you were surprised to see Jennie and Ed they said you were looking fine. Do you like Denver. I am sure you will like it when you get used to it. Dave was here Friday. I think he is looking better than he has for a long time. Well I guess this is all for now. I pray the Lord will bless you is my wish, your sister Fannie."

10 Jan 1916

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dearest Eugene; I just received two letters from you. You say don't get the blues. I haven't got them. I have no reason to have them unless you write again that you expect to be released in less than two years. Why Eugene, we have no debts that the Lord will not help us pay. Whether you stay or return we have to depend on His blessings to prosper us and if He won't and doesn't take care of us when you are away doing His work, well, I assure you he never will if you come home. We have planned our work and our course in life for you to be away at least two years, even longer, don't for one moment think you can't stay that long. You say it costs you \$30. a month, you can stay for a year more. Pooh! Pooh! Don't you think I can get that much for you,

yes, \$35. if you have to have it. Ten thousand dollars and the Lord behind you and yet fear that you can't raise \$30. a month. Where is your faith? Yesterday, a young Elder, who has just returned from his mission came and spoke in meeting and gave his report of his labors. A lady behind me whispered to another, "he's only been away 20 months. His wife got lonesome and thought it was costing too much so they released him." Then they both laughed. I thought to myself, "Thank God, my husband won't come back in 18 or 20 months. He'll stay just as long as he is wanted and is useful. No one will sneer and say he or his wife got cold feet. Why Eugene it is the grandest opportunity that ever came into your life. Judge Donaldson said yesterday, "If you work faithfully in the church doing your duty and seeking to improve, God will make a giant of you. That is an intelligent Giant. May the Lord bless you. Love, Mary"

12 Jan 1916
622 West 6th Ave, Denver, Colorado

"My dear wife, I just received your letter that you wrote and was very pleased to receive same. I am so thankful that you are well and enjoying the Spirit of the Gospel. I am glad you sent the picture. I wish your face was on the picture. Yes Mary, I am looking forward to the time when we can study together. I had a compliment given me the other day. I was told by one of the Elders that I was the best speaker in the mission. What do you know about that? ha, ha! I am sorry Casey Bowen had to return home on account of his crops being so poor. I thought that he was well to do. But you know we can't always tell can we? Before I close I would like to say to Leon again the same as I said to him last summer. We are looking forward to the time when you can take your place in the world, and be a leader. We will do all we can to help you. Leon, pray to Heavenly Father and study hard and I am sure he will help you. From you loving Husband and papa.

P.S. Hello Dolly and Dwinna. Mary, did you get the Christmas present I sent you."

10 Jan 1916
Rexburg (Independence), ID

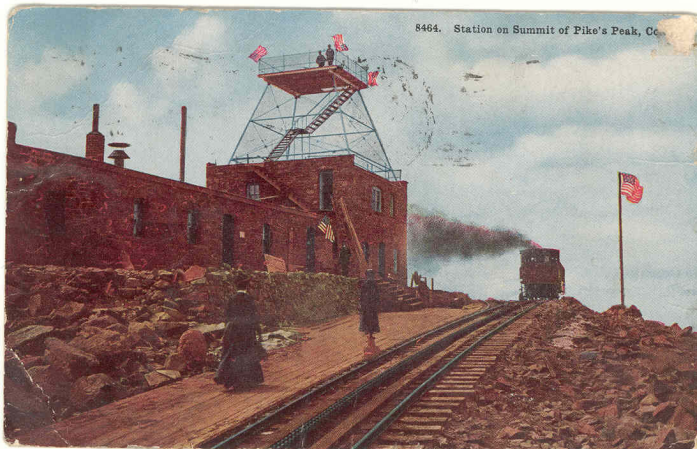
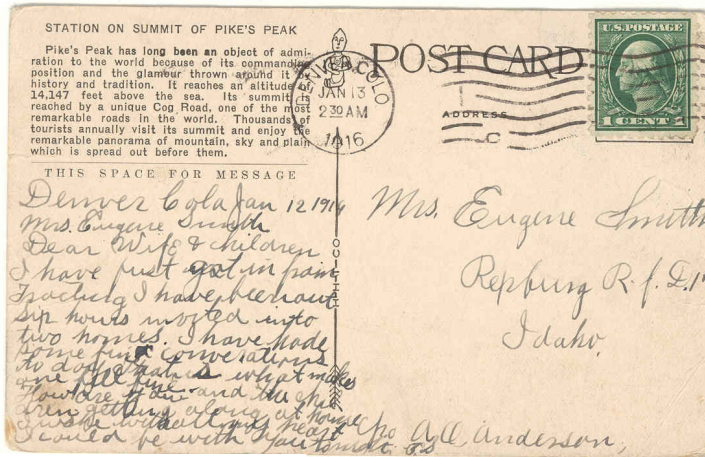
"My dear Husband, I hope you are well and are in better spirits than you were. It must be lonesome to have a dear companion leave you and be alone on a holiday. I do hope that young boy from Ashton did not go home. He will never be satisfied if he did. If he remained, my faith and prayers are his and I hope he succeeds. Not long ago I met one of my boyhood friends. He was called on a mission and for years held back, finally we went. For six months after he reached England about the only thing he accomplished was to cry and make everyone feel gloomy. Then the Pres said he better go home. This roused him to a sense of the glorious blessings and opportunities he was missing. He said am I a weakling, that being found worthy of receiving this golden opportunity, I am going to let my earthly longings prevent me getting the blessing I can earn. Then he began to labor and 22 months afterward, came home to step into his Bishop's place and is now acting as Bishop in Wellsville, Utah. He has been blessed in his financial affairs as he never dreamed of being blessed. Eugene, many men save for years, that they may take a college course. You are in God's school and He is the master teacher. Through His Holy Spirit he can reveal unto you countless stores of knowledge. We are just what we

desire and strive to be. Let us be the best and think no more of the few sacrifices we are making we are making. Yesterday Ariel Fjelstrom hauled me a load of coal. When I wanted to pay him, he said, "You are welcome to the favor if there is anything due me, give it to Eugene and God bless him." Last night the Bishop told me to give you his best regards and wishes. I had a surprise yesterday. About 10 am Ella [Adamson] walked in. She came over on the train and found a chance to Thornton. I enjoyed her visit and took her to Thornton to the 9:33 train. It made me homesick to go back to Melba. All are well and they are having a big time up there. I sent you a small parcel yesterday. Just a little treat in remembrance of a very a happy day. For 14 years you have been a true and loving husband to me and loving father to your children. May we have many more happy anniversaries of the day and as "Little Tim" says, "God bless us every one." From your happy wife, Mary."

13 Jan 1916
Denver, CO

Eugene Smith: Mailed Pikes Peak, Colorado post card from Denver, CO. Addressed to wife at "Rexburg RFDI #1 Idaho". Card dated 12 Jan 1916. Wrote:

"Dear wife and children, I have just got in from tracting. I been out six hours invited into two homes. I have had some fine conversations today. That is what makes one feel fine. Are the children getting along at home. I wish with all my heart I could be with you tonight. E.S.



15 Jan 1916

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear Husband; Just fourteen years since we were joined in marriage. Fourteen years of united labor, filled with pleasure and pain. Which ever it has been you have been a good and loving companion and husband. I am beginning the new year of married life with hope and joy and a wish to do better and be better, a better wife and counselor and a wiser and more patient mother. I trust you received the small box of candy today. We had planned to make a big box of chocolates, but load, coconut loaf, etc. but Ella came to visit that day so I had to send the baked fudge I had already made. How is the weather there in Denver? Allen Marler and Mabel Thomason are both staying the night. It has snowed for three days and cleared and is about 40 degrees below tonight. We all send our love and prayers, Mary"

15 Jan 1916

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"Dear, dear Papa; How are you pappy, we send you many kisses. Mamma is writing this letter for baby and me. Mamma dressed our new dollies and we are keeping them nice till papa comes home. Dwinna's dolly's name is Daisy and mine is Rose. Mamma, Dolly, Baby is all right. Gladys Thomason, when I was asleep last night, made my dolly a black silk dress. She is coming down to make baby's Daisy go too. Santa Claus brot us some "nicey" tin dishes. Baby got a rocking chair and grandpa gave me a chair. Now we went a table. We send you a big, big squeeze and many, many kisses. Love from you won, Dolly and Dwinna (there are lots of child-drawn XOXOXO's at the bottom of the letter.)".

16 Jan 1916

Logan, UT

"My dear brother, I was glad to hear from you and glad you are getting acquainted with your mission and hope the Lord will bless you in your labors and lead you to the doors of those who are waiting to hear the gospel. We got a letter from Mary. She is getting along fine. I am going to write to her. We have had a big snow storm. Mother is quite well but worries about you because you don't write. Do you write Eugene, at least once a week. The temple opened last week so mother is going there now, she said it was beautiful. I do hope the Lord will continue to bless you. There was a meeting in the tabernacle today for the first time since last summer. Well dear brother, I guess I will close for this time, love your sister Patience."

17 Jan 1916

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"O you do not know how very dear and precious to me you are. "And the twain shall become one flesh" is sure true. God is good to give us one another. Man without woman is not perfect, nor is the woman without the man perfect. But when they unite as one, then they are complete.

How glad I am that my other half is you! I am at Martha's. I got so lonesome. I came over this morning and am going back this afternoon. Really I was more worried than lonesome. I heard some boys got your Georgie [Marler's 17 year old son] on a spree yesterday and that he got hurt. So I came to see. It was true. Earl Fuller and Johnnie Hill were with him and they took him to Atwoods. Martha is about wild over it. Idaho is dry but still liquor is shipped here and the officers are willfully blind. Georgie was not hurt badly and has gone back to school today. It will take every decent man and woman in the state to fight liquor before we get it killed entirely. Must close for now, may God bless and keep you safe, Mary"

18 Jan 1916

Rexburg (Independence), ID

Dear Papa, How do you like your new field of labor? Do you feel better since you got a higher altitude? We are all well. It has been snowing for the last week. I am going to have final examination Wednesday, in Geography and Physiology. It turned very cold after the snowstorm. I think that I can pass all right. Ed Scoots baby died the other say. Papa, you will have to excuse the writing for I am getting ready for school. I took the horses to the farm before New Years because we ran out of straw. Mr. Ricks came from the farm last Sunday and mamma saw him. He said that they were all right. Every body down here treats us just fine. About every day Dwinna and Glenice talks about you. Well I guess I must close for this time.
Love from your son, Leon Smith
P.S. I finished this letter 2 or three days after I started it."

21 Jan 1916

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"My dear husband, Many thanks for the nice books and cards you sent. It certainly contains true and beautiful doctrine. Eugene, do I fail to get some of your letters or do you fail to answer my numerous questions. I've only been getting about a letter about every third or fourth day. Did the boy from Ashton go home? What did that woman wish, who sent for you, from South Denver? Tomorrow Leon takes final Eighth Grade Examination in Arithmetic, Physiology and Geography. I do hope he passes. He has worked faithfully. He feels very confident. There are drifts waist deep from the trees to the stable. Martha and Mrs Ruth Moffat Nelson got in one in the cutter today and had a big scare and a big laugh. The cutter is broken and began to splinter. They jumped out and sunk in the snow so they couldn't move. Mollie wouldn't stand and started off. She pulled Martha out of the hole she was in to her stomach and pulled her that way over the drift. Mrs Nelson tried to grab Martha's legs but missed and went over on her head. When she righted herself and saw Martha was all right they laughed until they cried. When they went home, Leon shoveled a way for them. Every time I write at night I get sleepy. So will close with best love, Mary, your loving wife"

21 Jan 1916

Logan, UT

My dear son, Trust you are feeling better and like you work. I think you should buy a bottle of Swamp Root, must be the change of climate that causes your kidneys to be so bad. I am sending you another fruit cake tomorrow I have been to the temple these last two weeks. It has been repaired and surely looks beautiful. We have had a great deal of snow - it will be fine for your dry farm. More snow than we have had for years. The girls have all written you and told you all the news. That was quite a testimony for you when the child was healed. You will see the power of God often in your labors. Seems fine my dear son to know you are doing such a good work. God bless and preserve your life that you may return home in peace and safety. Your loving mother xoxoxoxoxo"

22 Jan 1916

Rexburg (Independence), ID

"Dear Eugene, I am tired tonight. Leon and I chopped down trees for posts and made a pig pen today. Made a small one in the stable for the sow last Saturday. She will soon farrow, I think. Through this storm what little straw we had was completely covered and they began bedding in the hay. I couldn't stand the waste so I looked them up today. They are doing fine now. They hadn't grown one bit while they were at the farm. Brother Anderson kindly offered me straw, said he had lots more than he needed, so Thomas Hill and Leon are hauling up a load to bed horses, cows, and pigs. We're getting along fine. I think we'll be able to sell a few ton. I hope so. Glenice has just come in the house from Primary. She said they stand and motioned, "Hands on shoulders, hands on hips." She gets ready about noon and is very excited until the Thomason children call for her. She likes company as well as ever. We all send our best love. May his Holy Spirit guide and comfort you in all things is our prayer. When are you going to send a postcard with your face on it?
Best love, Mary"

22 Jan 1916

622 West 6th Ave, Denver, Colorado

"Dear Mary, How thankful I am to my Heavenly Father that you are my wife and when I get home there will be nothing to good for you that I can do. Mother sent me a fruit cake, sister Mabel sent me \$1. When I received the things I got so homesick that I could not help but cry to know that the ones I love the best in all the world thought so much of me. You wanted to know if I am keeping a journal of my labors. Yes, every day I put down my experiences. The lady I wrote you about that wanted me to call on her. I was to call at her home two weeks ago but she sent me word not to come before today. Elder Stewart from Logan, is going with me. I will write you about what she wanted. The greatest surprise I ever had in my life was tonight when I received the parcels both you and mother sent me for Christmas. Never did things look so good to me. Tell brother Forsyeth I have labored some with one of his kin a Mr. Snow. Kiss Leon,

Dolly and Dwinna for me and tell them papa loves them, bow I would like to see you all today.
From your loving Husband, Eugene"

23 Jan 1916
Rexburg, Idaho

Dear Eugene:

Last night I received your card and letter of recent date. Was pleased to note by your card that you were in better spirits. I too felt some what dis-spirited when I read your statement but never mind will make it all right. Could it not have been that you advanced that \$20.00 Nov 18th to pay on your suit?

You ask for a statement of money you have had.

Nov 9	for ticket	\$41.80
" 10	You made a check for expenses of journey to New York I think	\$10.00
" 19	Check	\$25.00
" 17	"	\$50.00
Dec 14	"	\$20.00
" 18	"	\$10.00
Dec 5	I sent check to New York office	\$25.00
Jan 19	Sent check to you	\$25.00
	Total	\$206.80

I thought you were boarding out and having your three meals a day. Have you given up your boarding place?

Love from Mary

It seems to me impossible that you could have sent that much and still owe for your suit. Take our your traveling expense \$50.00 expense to New York, \$27.00 expense back to Denver, also \$20. for suit and it leaves \$110.00 spent for board, car fare, ect in 10 weeks. But you find out and if you need the money, let me know and I will get it for you. Eugene keep a daily account of all your expenses and what you receive. Also a private Journal of your labors and anything interesting that may happen.

Very glad to hear that you are getting such confidence in yourself in regard to defending the Gospel. As you study more and labor more, it will come to you naturally and it will be exquisite to preach the Gospel of Christ and hold an audience spellbound listening to your message.

It is seldom I go to the Burg [Rexburg]. Only twice since you left. However when I do go, if I can, I will call on Sister Flamm's mother. I am keeping the Weekly Reports you send me. When I read Elder Ogden's card, a thot came to me. You write to a good many investigators. Would you not like to have your letters as near perfect as possible. A few small words you miss-

spell. You do not notice them but others do. Now, I thot perhaps I could point them out to you and in a short time you would have them correct. Eugene, don't think I do this to criticize your letters. They are to precious to me. I only do it because I want to help you. Now if you approve of the plan you can let me know.

24 Jan 1916
Rexburg, Idaho

Just received your letter of Jan 20th. It certainly filled me with joy. To see how strong your testimony is and how fearlessly you proclaim God's truth. Ariel Fjelstrom spoke in meeting yesterday and he gave me a thought. He asked the question "Why or how the church showed their belief in brotherhood of man. First by love, then faith, then works."

The thought that came to me was Yes it approaches God's love. He so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for men's sins. We who have love for God, receive faith in His plan of salvation and love our fellow men so much that we find pleasure in leaving our loved ones and going into the world that they may received a fullness of joy also. That is true service. Service which uplifts and elevates.

Was very glad to hear that the young Elder remained. Help and encourage him all you can. Show him the attention he misses from his loved ones at home. Sorry you have to be parted from another companion. There is one consolation, you meet and learn to love more of your fellow missionaries.

All the folks write and inquire about you. They all wish to be remembered and have asked for your address. Leon goes to see the Dr again Thursday. I am sending in your Insurance dues for this month.

The horses are at the ranch. Parley said they were doing all right. I have written the Bp and his wife twice but have received no answer. The straw was destroyed while I was away and when the snow came I had to feed them hay. I found we could not afford this and besides I could not buy straw so I let Leon take them up the last of Dec. Mr. Yoe said he would take them over there if the Bp could not take them to water. The fore part of January water was still running in Antelope Creek so I think they are all right.

They have begun to have their Priesthood meetings Monday night now. Leon has joined. Glenice nearly went wild when I read to her that you were going to bring her a big doll. When she prayed she said "Bless papa, he no forget my big Dolly."

Eugene write Leon a letter to him alone, addressed to him. He feels disappointed. When he wrote to you, he did not want me to enclose a message because he knew you would address the reply to me. You know we all like to get letters that are ours alone and not received through someone else. Well I guess you want a little rest today, so I will close. May God bless you and keep you safe for Your loving wife.

Mary

P.S. My very best love is yours and yours alone.