

Autobiography of Lydia Jane Tracy Yost born 5 March 1894

I was born 5 March 1894 of goodly parents-David Samuel Tracy and Rebecca Harriet Taylor in a 2 room log house, dirt roof, sixth child in a family of 13 children of 6 boys 7 girls. Two sisters died very young, before I was born. One of them had already died. All the rest of us grew up and married and had families.

We lived in very poor circumstance. It was a terrible blizzard the day I was born and the nurse didn't get there until after I was born so my father had to do what was needed until help came.

At 5 years old I had a very nervous condition and could only sit on chairs with arms on or would fall off. I fell off a teeter totter when small and cracked the bone in one arm, later sprained it. I remember of having only one pair of shoes a year for church and school. I went barefoot in the summer. My first pair of oxfords I had was given me by a miner who stayed in our home. How proud I was.

I went with father and mother a lot because my sister Etta didn't like me home as I was always getting scared of things such as the moon coming up over the barn and the Indians.

Because of poor health I didn't go to school until 7 yrs old. My first teacher was Gertrude Yost who later became my sister-in-law. At 15 I had another nervous condition so missed another year of school but finally finished school but because of health wasn't able to go to high school.

We had prayer in our family at home and were taught to pray and have faith and to keep the Sabbath day holy which I am very thankful for. And I know my prayers were answered many times.

Our food and clothing were very limited but was never really hungry or cold. Only remember of having one doll and one rocking chair. On Christmas many times we were happy to get an orange or doughnut and cookies. We trimmed our trees with popcorn and paper chains which we children made.

I attended school first in the rock school, which was also the church house, with curtains to divide the rooms. Later a new 2 room school house. I walked about a mile in going through the fields. In the winter when snow or freezing we rode horses. We also walked to church and entertainments and also walked to visit cousins. One time in visiting a cousin crossing a ditch of water I fell in and had to be dressed in her clothes until mine dried.

Our first home was a 2 room dirt roof house then another room was added. After the ninth child was born father built a new 3 room house, later added another room.

Yost, Lydia Jane Tracy

We were never hungry although none of the things we had later in life. I worked for other people for 50 cents a day and was happy to get that. We had many good times in dancing and went to other towns to dances in buggies and bob sleighs in winter.

I married Arthur Yost in Yost, Idaho, November 19, 1913, at my sister's home as she lived just across the state line in Idaho. My uncle Ed Yates and Etta Coleman from Park Valley, Utah was married same time and we had a double wedding dance that evening no gifts except from our families.

The first 2 years we lived with Grandma Yost as Arthur took care of the ranch. Our oldest son Leslie was born there. Then we moved in a one room house a short way west from her house where our 2nd son Orlin was then born.

We had a very sad experience that summer as we went on a picnic one Sunday and as we started on our way home my sister Etta, her two children Leona and Virgil, mother-in-law and father-in-law was thrown from the buggy while crossing a ditch and her little girl and her mother-in-law was both hurt and died shortly after they got home. Arthur and I hurried on to get a Dr. but only Leona lived long enough for him to get there but he couldn't save her. I always felt it was our punishment for not keeping the Sabbath as we could. I never forgave myself for going as I had been taught not to go on Sunday.

Just before the birth of our 3rd son Everett we built on another room which made it more comfortable. Then were blessed with 2 more sons Derreld and Kenneth.

My first responsibility in the church was a teacher in Primary. I was called to teach the Zion's boys and girls class later the guides then later I served about a year as second counselor in Primary. I taught the Social Science lesson for one year 1926-27. In Relief Society in Yost Ward then was called as Secretary of Relief Society, which I held for 12 years 1928-40. I taught in Sunday School and Primary Departments about 12 years in Yost.

Before our 6th son Willis was born we built another room onto the two we had which made us three rooms. There two more sons were born Delmer and Delano. A while before our ninth son Marlow was born Leslie had gone to Washington to help move the Cobb family there and had stayed and married their daughter Leeta and made their home there.

Yost, Lydia Jane Tracy

We lived as all pioneers we had the necessary things never was hungry or cold, but had very little luxury. We had to use home remedies for sickness and because the nearest Dr. was about 35 miles away and travel was quite slow. We had to have faith in our Heavenly Father and were blessed many times. Three of our boys had broken arms and other sickness but all recovered from. Everett's life was spared one time while riding in the hills his horse had fallen with him and was on his leg. He remembered only of trying to get her off his leg. Next thing he knew he was way down the canyon on his horse headed for home with no hat or glasses and his face all scratched up. His father and uncle Melvin took him back up to where his horse had fallen and found his hat mashed and glasses unbroken but couldn't understand how he'd gotten through the trees without knowing it. Our Heavenly Father had guided his horse through those trees.

Our main recreation and entertainment was gathering Pine Nuts and visiting and playing games with our relatives and friends in the community. Getting together in the winter evenings playing cards and making homemade ice cream with friends and relatives was one of our main fun times.

We lived in our little 3 room house excepting for about a year when we lived over on Johnson Creek and worked for Mr. Whitbach. Our first trip father and I had alone was when Willis was real small. We went to Salt Lake with Mr. Whitbach and attended General Conference. While living over to Whitbach's the boys took a one horse buggy and rode horses to school as it was about too far to walk.

After the death of Grandma Yost in April of 1938 we moved into her house which was a large house so very comfortable. We missed her very much as she was so dear to us and a very good person. I had worked for her several times in the old home where she lived before she built this one and before I was married. I stayed with her whenever she was sick and was with her when she passed away. She was a grandma to every one and helped many neighbors in sickness and death. Also my own mother helped many people in sickness and death also helping bring many new babies into the world.

It was while we were living in Grandma's home that electricity was brought into the valley and we enjoyed electric lights for the first time. In 1941 when Grandma's estate was all settled we sold our place and bought a 40 acre farm on the Burley project in the Springdale Ward. We built a small 2 bedroom home and moved there in August 1941.

Yost, Lydia Jane Tracy

There were only the 4 younger boys left at home as Everett had married in March 1940 and was living in Burley. Orlin had married in November 1940 and was living in Yost. Derreld had been in the service a short time early in 1941 but was discharged because of being deaf in one ear and he was working down on the Rose ranch by Snowville. Kenneth was over in Park Valley, Utah working. Our 4 younger boys all went to Burley schools and all four filled missions.

In Springdale Ward I taught Sunday School about 12 years in different classes. Was Theology teacher in Relief Society in Springdale Ward for 5 years from September 1941 to November 1946. Then chosen Secretary, also a visiting teacher for many years. Never missed a month in a number of years of teaching.

Derreld was married September 1941 and stayed on Rose Ranch. Kenneth was married in March 1944 and lived over to Park Valley then going in the Army right after the close of World War II late in 1945 returning home in the spring of 1946 and moving over here to Burley to work. Willis served in the Air Force for about a year and a half in 1945-46. Then was called on a mission in 1947. On January 23, 1949 Arthur was baptized by Everett and confirmed by Kenneth which was an answer to my prayers.

In summer of 1949 Everett had rheumatic fever for second time and had a partial stroke, which left him so he couldn't walk or talk very well. On April 12, 1950 we all went to Logan Temple where father and I were sealed and had all our family there and sealed to us excepting Leslie. Willis was married to Melba Bell and Derreld and Edith were sealed and had their two little girls sealed to them. We also did the sealing for Arthur's family excepting for his younger brother Melvin who was still living and wasn't a member. This was a glorious day to remember and an answer to many prayers.

In the years following father and I did a lot of temple work for relatives from both sides of the family and for others which we enjoyed very much.

Sadness came to us on Feb. 27 1951 when Everett died due to bad heart he'd had for years. Then again 7 months later on Sept. 14th when Derreld was killed on the Rose Ranch in a carryall accident. Then 4 months later Derreld's and Edith's 9 month old son Hal died with pneumonia. It certainly was a year of sadness in our family.

In 1950 Delmar was called on a mission but had to come home a little early due to ill health. Delano was called on a mission and when he returned home he was married then spent some time in the service.

Mother came to live with us in May 1954 after the death of my brother David with whom she had been living with for a number of years. Marlow was called in the service and then upon returning home he was called on a mission and both times he spent in the Southern states. Then soon after returning home he was married. So thankful the boys are active in the church and that all are married in the Temple except Leslie.

March 8, 1959 Mother died very suddenly in our home. It was on Sunday evening and she hadn't been feeling very good for about an hour before passing away. Was so thankful for having her with us the past five years. She was so cheerful and active right up to the end. So thankful for her example and teachings.

In spring of 1961 Father took sick with a bad heart caused from high blood pressure so had to rent our farm and wasn't able to go so much. Then he got blood clots in his legs so later in summer got better enough to go more about but on November 22 1961 died suddenly with heart attack. So thankful for the many years of our life together even through hardships as not only a few years we enjoyed a modern house.

Now alone I've visited my family a great deal. I spent one month in Portland. In 1962 Melvin joined the church and we all went to the Idaho Falls Temple with him and Mable May 11 1963 for their sealings also Melba's brother and wife 3 children were sealed and Willis and Melba had Elaine sealed to them.

Sept. 1, 1963 was released as Secretary in the Relief Society after serving almost 17 years. I'm still a visiting teacher. I've lived to see all my sons hold responsible positions in the church. May 20, 1964 Leslie, Leeta and 2 youngest daughters came to Salt Lake Temple to be sealed also he was sealed to our family. Another glorious day as all of the boys and wives were there. I hope someday he will get his family all to the temple.

In year 1965 7 of our family died. A sister, brother, brother-in-law, 2 nieces, 1 nephew, and an aunt within 10 months, 3 of one family.

I have sold the home to Kenneth but still live in the house now in 1966. Another time of sadness Ediths 2nd husband fell and died Nov 4, 1969. She had one son live of theirs for her company. Pamela's husband died of cancer Jan. 30, 1970. Orlin's girl Donnell's husband was killed in car and train wreck March 27, 1970. My last Uncle Charles Yates died of cancer March 6, 1970. My last living sister Etta died Nov. 21 1970. Sister Lizzies only living daughters husband died Nov 27 or 28. Last brother-in-law Melvin Yost died from cancer Jan 8, 1971. Sadness came again on July 4th 1973 when Orlin died of heart attack while boating with Willis and their families.

In fall of 1975 started not feeling very well and having to stay with some of the boys part of the time as I wasn't able to be alone. Oct. 1, 1976 Kenneth took me up to spend the winter at Margie's in Idaho Falls and rented the house for the winter to a young couple just married.