

History of Anna Lettie Hicks

By Anna Lettie Hicks

Feb. 1956

I was born in a log cabin Nine miles north of Kokomo Ind on the Seventh day Dec 1881. The second Child of my parents and the only one to ever breathe the breath of life. The others being still born and never being named. The post office address was Galveston Ind. When I was four months old my parents moved to Gehrome Ind in Howard Co and about eighteen miles from where I was born. We lived there until April 1883. We then moved to Scycamore where I lived until I was married to William Henry Coal June 28 1903. My Mother Ann Eliza Childress Hicks died when I was eleven years of age. She passed away on the 10th of April 1893. Just three days before she was thirty. I never remember seeing my Mother when she was well. She was crippled in her right side and had to drag her right foot and leg. Very few times was she ever able to go any place with me. After Mother passed away my Father and I lived alone in our little home by the railroad tracks. I spent many lonely years keeping house and going to school. After I married my Father sold the home and moved to Hemlock Ind with my husband and myself. To this marriage was born three children, namely, Neomi Esther, Mervel Glayde, and Sada Violet. My husband had a son Virgil Everett, born to him and Ida May Murray. I do not know the date of their marriage. She passed away in 1899. Our son died Jan 8th 1906 at the age of eight months four days. He was ill for several months before he died with Tuberculosis. In 1909 on March fourth my husband passed away. He too developed the dreaded Tuberculosis and after a losing battle left me alone with two small daughters and a stepson who was pampered and badly spoiled by his mothers people until it was impossible for me to keep him; and my father. We had traveled to Rocky Ford Colorado some time before my husbands health became so alarming but thirty days before he passed away I took him home to live out his last days. He is buried in Albright Cemetary in Hemlock Ind Our son is buried there too.

On June 19 1909 I returned to Rocky Ford as Esther had developed tuberculosis and after nine weeks there I moved to Burlingame Kansas where, with my Father and two small girls, I bought a farm and attempted to make a living for the four of us. With the help of my father I managed very well. Esthers health improved and she gained in weight and with the fresh air, country food and Gods good help the Dr assured me she would be alright. We only lived on the farm for a little more than two years for my Fathers while working in the field one day was overcome with the heat and was never able to work any more. I sold the farm and bought property in town and went to work to support my children and Father. For two years I sold dressgoods and hosiery and made good but worldwar I came along and people quit buying so I was compelled to find other resources for a livelihood. I took up practical nursing and finally started cooking in a café I finally decided to look for work in another locality and moved to Dodge City Kansas. I worked in one of the largest restaurants in that city and while it paid good wages the hours were long and the work very hard. I managed to save enough to buy a small café in Spearville Kansas. On Oct 30 1918 my oldest daughter married Elmore B Smith. On April 14 1919 my Father died and I sold my café and went to work in the State Soldiers Home in Fort Dodge Kansas. My youngest daughter Violet obtained work there also and we had a very nice little cottage to live in. While there I met John Franklin McBride, the man I later married. Shortly after we decided to marry he left and went to

the National Military Home near Leavenworth and I joined him there. Violet and I both obtained employment and on the 20th of Nov 1920 John and I were married in Independence Mo. Later we moved to Kansas City and it was there that our daughter Enid Faye was born, on the 19th of Nov 1921. We lived there for six years and John's health began to fail. The Drs thought a change would be good for him and we retraced our steps to Ft Dodge. After a few months we stored our furniture and left for Utah. My daughter Esther was living there at that time and we lived with her for several months. John seemed to get better and went to work for the city of Murray. He held this job until shortly before his death. He died on April 15th 1932 of cancer in the throat. I buried him in the Midvale City cemetery. Left alone there since both my oldest daughters had returned to Colorado Faye and I returned to Colorado to be closer to them, but not before we were baptized and confirmed members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints. We were baptized in the Tabernacle and Confirmed in Murray 1st ward. I worked to support Faye and we lived together until Sept 17th 1940 at which time she was married to A Burt Horsley in the Salt Lake Temple. The last job I held was for the City of Colorado Springs. This was from Oct 1 1941 to March 7th 1946. Since that time I have lived a somewhat quiet life. My hobby has been crocheting and I have sent many pieces of my work to the Mormon Handicraft to be sold. I have enjoyed Church and love to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I work Genealogy and feel I am doing something worthwhile when I am engaged in this work. It is the Lord's work and I am Blessed to have this privilege. My life has been a full, busy one and I am grateful to my Heavenly Father for blessing me with health and strength to live these many years on His Good Earth.

History of Anna Lettie Hicks 1958 Version

The House where I was born was a little log cabin in the woods. I was born on a very stormy night, as I have been told, my father rode horseback three miles for the Doctor who attended my mother and me.

My father worked on the farm for my Uncle David Hicks. My mother was just a housewife. I have no brothers or sisters, as I am an only child.

I wasn't too healthy a child as I caught cold very easily and had croup so much.

Had the child diseases same as other children. With the exception of one bad fall which disabled my right arm for several weeks, I don't remember any other accidents.

I played house with the neighbor children and one cousin, Emma Hicks who lived close.

My main amusements were trying to sew and reading the New Testament. The most unusual happening with the children was with three girls. We were perhaps about thirteen years old and we decided to take a stroll in the woods. The woods were dense and dark as I remember. It was autumn and the leaves were beautiful. We played and gathered leaves. The first thing we knew it was time to go home. We next discovered our directions didn't seem right. We wandered around for a while, then I remembered my father had told me the way the Indians kept directions. Moss grew on the north side of the rocks and trees, and if one faced the north, then your left hand was on the west side. So we found our way out of the dense wood and made our way home.

I attended the Methodist Sunday School. Sometimes my father would take me to church. My mother was an invalid and she was never able to go.

My father was a working man. We owned our own home. We always had ample means to live on, but not at all rich.

I always liked my school teachers and like my studies, except Arithmetic. I always liked to play the games they played in those days and liked to play ball best.

My tasks at home were to wash the dishes, set the table, carry in the wood, and to be certain to hang up my clothes and keep my playthings put away.

I didn't know anything about the L. D. S. Church until I was grown, married and had children.

The thing that impressed me most upon learning about the true gospel, was the life story of Joseph Smith.

I had two girl friends, whom I loved and trusted with little secrets, and worked with in Sunday School.

I never took to sports as I was kept busy keeping house for my father. My mother died when I was eleven and it was up to me to keep house. My courtship was about the same as others of that time; we went to church and picnics and sometimes visited our friends.

I was married 28 June 1903 to my first husband, William Henry Coal. My main happiness was the care of my home and working for my husband and children.

My children were about like most other children. There was a difference in regard to eating; one like one kind of food better than the other, and a difference in how they liked to dress.

Some of the new homes I enjoyed a lot and some I wasn't so happy in. I never had what one would call a tragedy. I think the most comical thing that happened in my home was when my father shaved off his mustache, my daughters didn't know him.

During the last depression (1930's) was when the economic problems were the hardest to cope with. I don't have any political activity, I only vote.

My father was quite a Bible student. My mother used to read to me from the Bible about the Baby Jesus. That was the one I liked. I never had many books to read. I read the bible and my Sunday school quarterly.

I liked singing and dancing. Baseball was the game that I liked to see.

I cannot remember the times that I have moved in my life. A rough guess would be perhaps times.

I have not traveled very much. My first trip of any note was in 1909 when I left Indiana and came to Colorado to live at Rocky Ford. I played the organ for the Sunday School in the Methodist Church when I was a young woman, until my marriage to my first husband.

I shall never forget what a wonderful experience preparing and going to the temple is. It is the most wonderful time of my life when I go to the temple.

I am trying with all my might to live today as if it were to be my last day. I have improved the past by working for my beloved dead. My hope for the future is to receive my certificate for this course in genealogy that I am taking. Then perhaps I may visit some small branches and help others to do their genealogy.

My Patriarchal Blessing has helped me very much.

No my family didn't pass through the major and stirring events of early Church History.

1958