

Meet the William Marion and LoAlda Lemmon Johnson Family of Silver City, Utah



LoAlda Lemmon Johnson,
Widow of William M. Johnson



Clarence Orville Johnson,
First born child & oldest son



Esther Olive Johnson,
Second born, oldest daughter



Norman Max Johnson,
Third born, second son



Evelyn Hazel Johnson,
Fourth born, second daughter



Ethel Mae Johnson,
Last born, third daughter

Compiled by Lin Vernon Floyd
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Four generations are shown here: my Grandmother-Alda Johnson seated with my first son Frank Vernon Hatch and (standing l-r) myself-Lin and my Mother-Evelyn in 1966 in Provo, Utah

Preface and Dedication

by Lin Vernon Floyd

This project has been a labor of love and an opportunity to reflect back on days long past and those individuals who helped mold and shape my life and the lives of my mother and other relatives-aunts, uncles and cousins.

The purpose of my writing this history of the William Marion and LoAlda Lemmon Johnson family is to honor my maternal grandmother (who was widowed at an early age and raised five children alone) and to recognize her for all she has contributed to all of our lives. It has been enjoyable as I have talked about her and those days of long ago with her living descendents and researched in order to compile these memories.

There is not a lot said about my grandfather William Marion Johnson in this history because he died long before any of his grandchildren were born and little is known about him. Hopefully a future family history writing project will bring together his life as a child with his parents. Also those individuals who married into the Johnson family are only mentioned briefly in their spouse's history, that too could be a future writing project for other family members to undertake.

I would like to thank all those individuals in the family (and there are many) who helped with the writing, proof reading and gave so freely of their time and precious old photographs to be scanned and put into this story. Special thanks to my mother Evelyn Blomberg, my aunts Ethel Nielson and Gladys Johnson, my uncle Sonny Nielson and my cousins Marion Gustavson and Jody Renstrom for their ideas and support. It has been fun reliving the past and trying to reconstruct what really happened on a day to day basis in the good old days for the William Marion and LoAlda Lemmon Johnson family of Silver City, Utah.

Most of all I would like to thank my son Daniel Hatch who helped me on this project with a Christmas gift several years ago of a computer program that would enable me to better organize my writing and photos more professionally. He has spent unnumbered hours helping me by scanning photos as well as teaching me how to use my computer program better. I greatly appreciate his help given so freely and willingly at any time.

I would challenge each person who reads this family history to take the time to put your early family memories down on paper before they are lost or forgotten. Also interview those older members of your family before their story is taken with them. For it is in remembering the past that our present and future become more meaningful and it all took place within the framework of families. We are all part of many different families as a son or daughter, brother or sister, grand daughter or grandson, cousin, nephew or niece and hopefully one day a spouse, parent, grandmother or grandfather with posterity of our own. What meaning will our life have for them if we don't tell our story?

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*In Honor of LoAlda Lemmon Johnson
(1890-1967)*

Part I

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Grandma Johnson or Mother (or Alda or Aldie as she was called by others) died Feb 16, 1967 before most of her great grandchildren were born. With this in mind, I would like to record some of her life experiences so that she won't be forgotten by her many descendents and can continue to be an inspiration even to her family members who never had the privilege of meeting and feeling of the love of this special lady.

Meet LoAlda Lemmon Johnson

All of her grandchildren remember Grandma with great fondness and love. One of her grand daughters Jody recalls "Grandma was a dear Lady with a grandmotherly figure, a giant of a person inside who affected everyone she met. On her funeral day, a handicapped boy who delivered her paper came and said how much he thought of her. He loved Altie because she had built him up and helped him feel good about himself."

"She was like a girl friend to me and always had time to listen to my problems. She was mostly uneducated but very Christlike with a big heart and genuine unconditional love for all. She had so little but always shared it with others. She was fun to be around and playful but could be firm when needed. Once when I was very little, I was staying at Grandma's and decided to try out my acting ability. One day after a nap, I pretended to still be asleep. My great aunt Dora tried to wake me up but I didn't stir even when shook. Everyone thought I had passed out but I was just waiting for them to say 'Jody time to wake up'. When Grandma found out I was really OK but just playing possum, I got a good spanking from her. Grandma could take charge and be the boss. She had raised a family of five children which included two headstrong boys. She also took care of two adults throughout their lifetimes-her son Clarence disabled by epilepsy who never married and her sister Dora whose husband had abandoned her early in their marriage."

Another granddaughter Marion says "I could always feel love and acceptance from Grandma. She was so much more loving and openly affectionate than my other grandmother. She always made me feel like she was truly glad to see me. My favorite Christmas presents were always the ones that Grandma sent! It was never anything fancy, but she seemed to know instinctively what would please a little girl. I loved to open her presents first because there would be pencils, paper and crayons or some other item that I could use and enjoy."

Marion remembers a trip she made with her parents and Grandma all the way from California to Texas in June 1960 to visit Jody (Marion's sister) and celebrate the first great grandchild Greg's first birthday. "We made the trip in our truck and camper so Grandma could travel laying down. She was having problems with the circulation in her legs and sitting for long periods was difficult. That was a wonderful trip! Grandma was such a trooper. There was never a complaint no matter what the hardship."



Grandma proudly holds her first grandson Albert



Grandma was fun to be around and loved to visit her family. Here she is enjoying Knox Berry farm in California with (l-r) Linda, Grandma, Jody, Esther & Marion in front

"The biggest problem we faced was the heat! Our trip took us across the California deserts, Arizona, New Mexico and a major portion of Texas. Of course we had no air conditioning in the truck or the camper, so by mid-day the heat was terrible. Grandma discovered that by opening the camper windows and placing a very wet washcloth over her head, she could stay quite cool. It did work well, but you can imagine what her hair looked like when we stopped for lunch or dinner! Her perm made her hair frizzy and it stuck out in every direction. Grandma just laughed at the situation. On the return trip we stopped to visit Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. The caves are very deep and the walking tour is several miles long. I was recovering from an appendectomy and Grandma was having leg problems. Mom and Dad were so worried about us not being able to complete the tour that I don't know if they enjoyed it or not. Grandma and I had a blast and didn't even get tired. I have always seen Grandma as a very positive person. That trip confirmed my impressions of her. It was like traveling with a child because Grandma saw the beauty in everything and constantly expressed her joy in life and wonderment at the things she saw. I'm glad that I was old enough at that point to really remember that trip. I loved Grandma's eternal optimism! She was the most positive person I have ever known in spite of the terrible hardships she had to endure in her life. She always said 'If everyone in the world put their troubles into a big pile, you would be more than happy just to have your own troubles back'."

Marion continues... "Grandma was such a wonderful cook. I especially remember her raisin pies!! I loved them to distraction. She would always bake one just for me (at least that's what she would tell me), but it had to be shared with everyone who was there at the time. When we would leave her house to return to California, Grandma always packed a picnic lunch for us and sent a raisin pie for me. I do remember that she always had fresh homemade bread ready when we arrived. Homemade bread was a big treat for this city girl who only had that treat when we visited Utah. Of course, no one made bread like Grandma. She would always ask my Mom (Esther) what she wanted to eat as soon as we arrived. Mom always asked for tea and homemade bread"

Lin (another grand daughter) remembers ..."Grandma was our friend and we never doubted her love for us even when we might be naughty or bad. As an example of this I remember that because Grandma was short and rather plump, my cousins Albert, Billy and I when we were young kids loved to tease her and call her 'Fatty, fatty 2 by 4 can't get through the kitchen door'. She would run after us like she was mad and chasing us and we'd run away laughing. She had a sense of humor even at her own expense and was a very fun loving and adventurous person. She looked forward to family overnight visits or just fixing dinner for us and would volunteer to babysit any and all of us grandchildren if our moms had to work or our parents wanted to go deer hunting or to some other activity."



Grandma in her ever present house dress and apron ready to serve others

"Another fond memory I have of my Grandma was seeing her struggle to get into her very tight corset or girdle before she could get dressed for the day. She wanted to look her best even if it was only around the house working. She always wore a house dress usually covered with an apron and heavy support hose because she had bad varicose veins. How she was able to do so much hard physical work in the heat of summer over a hot wood stove with her legs which got very swollen and sore is a testament to her will power and determination to take care of her family and others first."

"She was a great cook and loved to feed her family when they returned for visits home after they moved away to California and other places. My favorite meal was her dinner

of roast beef and all the trimmings which included her famous white homemade bread and pies cooked on her coal stove. Grandma didn't use recipes to cook with but just used a pinch of that and a dab of this to make great tasting bread and pies. I remember the fun of making tarts with Grandma from the leftover pastry and jam from the refrigerator. She rolled out the leftover pastry and helped me to cut out circles of pastry to make tarts. I thought I was quite the cook then at a young age."

"Years later, when I (Lin) was a newlywed, I asked her to help me make some of her good homemade bread from scratch. She demonstrated to me how to do it with a handful of this and a little of that. It was truly an art for her and I was trying to make it scientific by writing down measurements. How do you write down 'just keep adding flour till it feels right'? When Grandma died I fell heir to some of her loaf tins which I greatly treasure for making bread."

Lin also recalls...."my earliest memories of Grandma are when she was in her 50's and I was just a little girl in the 1940's. As I sit down now to compile this history in 1997, I am in my 50's and Grandma has been dead almost 30 years. But she did live and contributed much to what our family is today. We still remember her and her influence on us. Her life was not easy, although she was not one to complain. She just worked hard and made the best of everything that life brought to her. I would say she fulfilled the saying 'If life hands you a lemon, make lemonade'."

Starting out life as one of a dozen Lemmons

Grandma (Loalda Lemmon) was born the 7th child of 12 children (jokingly referred to as a dozen lemons) to William Smith Lemmon and Ada Mary Lowe on 7 Sep 1890 in Eureka, Utah- a mining town 50 miles southwest of Provo, Utah. Both sides of her family were pioneers, converts from England to the Mormon church who sacrificed much to come to America and journeyed to the west by covered wagons.

Grandma's father William Smith Lemmon had tried farming in Springville and Grass Valley, Utah before the family moved to Eureka in hopes of work in the mines. There was much talk in those days about the money to be made in the mines. He worked for the famous Jesse Knight in the Buckeye mine and later in Diamond and Silver City in the mines and doing odd jobs. (See History of William S. Lemmon and Ada Mary Lowe for more details.) Three of their children died during this time- a son Leland Forest in 1896 at age one and a daughter Leona under one. No details are given but probably from a childhood disease like diphtheria or typhoid. Another son William Richard died also at age 22. Eventually, William the father had to stop working in the mines because of his poor health and find other employment to support his large family.

The family was large and very poor as were most families in the mining towns. Grandma (Alda Lemmon) went to elementary school in Bingham Canyon and lived with Aunt Carrie- her older sister. There were no high schools around the mining camps and the school in Diamond was one room, grades 1-8. They had a water bucket and dipper for drinking. As a child she remembers playing games like: Run Sheep Run, Hopscotch, and Kick the Rock and Run. Everyone played together both the big and little kids. Grandma only completed 6th grade and then came back to Silver City to work in the Paxman Boarding house. Her first job at age 10 was washing dishes. She stood on a box-made \$3/week. She had to work



**Alda (in the back row) with two
of her sisters: (l-r) Carrie and Ada Lemmon**

hard physically all her life. She also worked as a waitress and cook before she married at age 19. Her mom Ada Mary worked as a midwife to help out the family and others.

People took time out during all their hard work to have fun. Dances were very popular and were held in the meeting house. Grandma's dad William played the fiddle and they danced the Quadrille, Cakewalk and Schottische. People were more united then like one big family. A favorite activity was "Surprise House"-neighbors (adults) came to someone's house for a surprise party with food. The men pushed back the carpet and beat the carpet to clean it while the women washed the floor and put the kids to bed. The kids loved to peek out and sample the sandwiches while the adults danced later. Most of the people involved in these celebrations were connected to mining in some way and many were Mormons.



The Johnson Brothers from Spanish Fork: (l-r) Dave, Jack & William Marion

Getting hitched

Grandma told me (Lin) that she met Grandpa-William Marion Johnson when she was 17 at a dance in Mammoth-a small mining town between Eureka and Silver City. She was engaged to Willy Haws at the time and was introduced to Grandpa at the dance by her brother Clarence Lemmon. She danced 3 dances with William and he wanted to come see her. Both boys (William and Willy) came to her house the next night. Willy Haws finally left and William stayed. Grandma broke up with Willy and went with Grandpa and in the Spring they were married when she was 18. Grandpa was 6 years older than her and had been in the service. Grandma said there were more boys than girls in the mining camps and the girls had their pick of the fellows.

Grandma's mother Ada Mary didn't like her choice of suitor (perhaps because he was older than GM and not Mormon). Grandma threatened to run away and get married and when she asked her Ma if she could get married, but her mother didn't answer. Her Dad said, "If you two are satisfied, we are." So the young couple went on the train alone to Salt Lake City and were married April 20, 1909. They stayed with friends in Goshen (Zella Finch) for two nights and then came home to Silver City. Their friends met them at the train. The men made Grandpa buy a keg of beer and the girls kidnapped Grandma till late at night.

William and Alda made their first home in Diamond in the Bachelor quarters as he was a miner. When the mines closed in Diamond, Grandpa went to SLC with a new job. He delivered coal with horses and wagons. They rented a home and lived there. Grandma remembered with fondness going to dances (popular then were the Foxtrot, Waltz and the Big Apple-swing) and picture shows with her husband. The films were silent movies with piano music played during the show. The first moving talking picture show was in Provo and that was greatly enjoyed. Another favorite pastime was going for rides with whoever happened to have a car.

Health became a problem as Grandma (who was pregnant with their first child) caught typhoid fever. She got out of the hospital just before their first child Clarence was born with the help of a midwife. Their son Clarence Orvil was born in Salt Lake City on Feb 22, 1910. Grandpa also suffered from poor health and they moved around because of that as he tried to do farm work instead of working in the mines. They lived in Oasis, Spanish Fork and were trying to buy a farm in Mona at the time of his death but they always seemed to return to Silver City and work at the mines. Their moving about can be followed by the births of their children. Their second child Esther Olive was born in Silver City on 23 Dec 1912, followed

by another son Norman Max born in Spanish Fork on 7 Oct 1914, then two more daughters born in Silver City-Evelyn Hazel on 2 Dec 1917 and Ethel Mae on 17 Jan 1920.

Grandma said, "Grandpa drank a lot and wasn't active in any church" (his family was Lutherans) "but before he died he bore his testimony and stated if he had life to live over he would be active and go to church". Grandma came from a Mormon family and was baptized at age 14. She did go to church off and on as she told me (Lin) that she was a Relief Society visiting teacher and also had her kids baptized in the Mormon faith.

A widow with 5 dependent children

Grandma became a widow at age 30 when Grandpa died 8 Aug 1920 at age 36 of stomach cancer leaving her after 11 years of marriage with 5 children-Clarence-10, Esther-7, Norman 5, Evelyn-2 1/2 and Ethel-6 1/2 months old. After Grandpa's death, Grandma tried to make a go of it farming in Mona but couldn't handle it alone. There was no welfare system in those days to take care of widows, so Grandma had to go to work. After one winter in Mona, she moved the family back to Silver City and worked as a cook for the Tintic Collation mine. She also took in washing and ironing and used an electric washer for the first time. She had to turn everything inside out before washing it. It was quite a process just to heat the water on the coal stove then. Water was heated in a broiler, an oblong vessel that would fit over the firebox on the coal stove. When the water was hot it was dipped out and transferred into the washing machine. Again the broiler pan was filled with water to be heated so that the white bedsheets could be boiled to make them look clean and white. The clothes were hung on the clothes line outside to dry, then everything had to be ironed with a flat iron heated on the wood stove.

Grandma also took in boarders. She had a little cabin with two beds near her house in Silver City and the train crew would stay there when they were in town and she cooked for them. Needless to say she had her hands full taking care of her fatherless brood and working to provide a living for them. But she also looked out for her own family and half the town. Grandma always fed the poor people even though she didn't have much food for her family. People looked out for others in those days. During this time, her sister Dora Rowley also came to live with Grandma and her family. Dora had been abandoned by her husband and her children had been taken away because she was not able to care for them. She was taken into Grandma's home and taken care of until her death many years later.

Esther the eldest daughter took over many of the chores for Grandma while she worked away from home. Ethel called Esther "Mama". Esther had her hands full trying to referee Norman and Clarence's fights. Ethel tells about an experience she remembers when Norman wouldn't mind Esther. He spilled some cocoa and Esther wouldn't let him go into the pantry to get any food. When Grandma got home she was mad at Esther for not feeding Norman and so both kids got in trouble.



The Johnson family: Alda holding baby Esther & Clarence sitting near his father Wm. Marion

Grandma was usually soft spoken but had a real strong constitution when she got mad- she was MAD. Ethel the youngest daughter remembers once when Grandma got really mad at Norman who wouldn't mind her. She gave him a blanket rolled up and a quarter and said "here's your bedroll, you can go". Ethel said she cried and cried but Norman decided not to run away. Norman when he got older took his sisters to dances so he wasn't always in trouble with them or his mom. In fact his nickname was "Sweets".

Once when Grandma was a cook at a boarding house, Esther came home from working in SLC and had bought some material for dresses. She left the material there for Grandma to use. But one day because Ethel was anxious for a dress and didn't want to wait for her Mom to make it. Eve laid Ethel down on the material and cut the dress pieces around her then she sewed the pieces up by hand. (I'm sure these dresses looked very homemade.) The girls also made gingham formals with ruffles and ribbons around the sleeves and a ribbon on the waist. These they also made by themselves.

Evelyn always wanted a piano but that was out of the question so instead she took an orange crate and made keys and tried to learn to play the piano and make music. They learned to do without or make do.

Grandma Morby (Grandpa's mom) would come to visit and bring presents for the family. She ran the Silver Hotel and met Mr. Morby (her second husband) there. At Christmas time, she helped Santa Claus bring aprons, jewelry, beads, dolls, turkey, candy and nuts to the family. Christmas was usually a big disappointment for the kids as there were few toys but Grandma Morby helped out lots. The Christmas tree was not purchased but was chopped down from the nearby hills and decorated with cranberries, popcorn, paper chains and various other decorations.



Chirstmas in Silver City was simple but full of fond family memories

Daily life in Silver City

Grandma would get up first and start the coal stove to warm the house. There was cold running water indoors in Silver City for household use. No kitchen sink at first, just a pipe into the house and no drain. Dirty water had to be carried outside and thrown on the ground. Pots and pans were scoured with ashes or dirt and lots of elbow grease. Baths were taken in a small tub placed on the floor and water was warmed on the nearby stove. The coal stove did have a reservoir of 5-6 gallons to keep water in to heat it. Ethel describes the process thus: "the oldest child was first. After each bath the dirty water was skimmed off and more hot water added. Girls were first then boys who were usually the dirtiest later." Needless to say baths were a once a week event. I (Lin) can remember being bathed this way in the late 40's when we were living with Grandma in Eureka.

Outhouses were common. Little wooden shacks about 3 by 4 feet in size with a seat inside with a hole for sitting. They were located some distance from the house. The seats were scrubbed once a week and wealthier families would put lye inside the hole that was under the outhouse to keep down odor. Needless to say your stay was not lengthy in the outhouse because of the smells and the cold especially during winter weather. Toilet paper was supplied by the outdated Sears catalog which also gave you something to read. Grandma's first real indoor toilet was in a bedroom with a shower curtain around it. Ethel bought it and it was I'm sure considered quite a modern convenience in those days in Silver City.



Grandma in her yard in Silver City surrounded by lilac bushes and flowers

Cooking was hot, hard work all year round. There was coal to haul in to heat up the stove and ashes to haul out all the time. There were no oven regulators or other controls so the cook controlled the temperature by the amount of coal put in and how hot it felt. There were no refrigerators, things were stored in the pantry or outside in cold weather or in a cold storage pit. Many families dug themselves a root cellar to store vegetables and bottled fruit in. Lots of canned evaporated milk was used because it didn't need refrigeration but there was also fresh milk that was delivered. Common foods were oatmeal and germade mush, bottled fruit, potatoes and homemade bread. If anyone borrowed anything they always paid it back whether it was a cup of sugar or a can of milk or an ice cream freezer, etc.

Ethel remembers that sometimes "we would go as a family to gather pinenuts. We'd take a gunny sack to put them in and take turns carrying them home. Then we'd roast them and enjoy our treat. There was lots of clean air and wildflowers in Silver City. Beautiful lavender ladyslippers that grew close to the ground and had a sort of soft grey leaves. Then there were the bright red Indian paintbrush or Redshawl, Sweet Williams, Daisies, Sweet peas, Bluebells or Larkspur, Buttercups, Sego Lilies and even tall Sunflowers."

Grandma's house in Silver City was right next to the school but the High School kids were bused to Eureka. On Mayday the school took a hike for the whole day. Games that were popular with the kids were "No bears out tonight", "Run sheep run" and "Kick the can". The kids had to make their own entertainment. They liked to gather pine nuts and take picnics which consisted of a sandwich and a hike. They also liked to play card games.

In the wintertime, the kids played basketball in the old school house. There were also dances held in the church and the recreation hall. Halloween was a time for lots of tricks such as tipping over outhouses and writing on peoples windows with soap. Other special occasions were when a couple got married, friends would give them a Chivalry -banging pans outside their house till the newlyweds came out and gave them a treat. Shopping was done mostly by catalogs. A big purchase for Grandma was a rug for the living room for 19 dollars bought on time from the Montgomery Ward catalog. A couch was also made from an old cot covered with a blanket.

Favorite meals for the family were fried potatoes and peanut butter sandwiches with good homemade bread or scones. Sunday meals could be a roast, potatoes and gravy, vegetables and homemade pies. These meals were made for the boarders also. One favorite meal that Ethel remembers was pork'n beans, pop, bread and butter brought by J.M.-one of Grandma's admirers.

Houses were built very quickly in those days and mostly out of wood. The only heating was wood or coal stoves which caused many fires. It seems like some house was always burning down accidentally especially during the winter months and there was little that could be done once a structure caught on fire. Fire engines and crews were not as common as now and with no fire hydrants but only buckets and neighbors to help but it was a losing

cause. One night Grandma's house in Silver City caught on fire and burned to the ground. Luckily all the family members were able to get out safely but their belongings were lost. Family members believed it was arson by the owner of the house they were renting who wanted the insurance money but nothing was ever proven. The people in the town made clothes for the kids and Esther who was away at the time working in SLC sent high heels to Grandma for her to wear. Esther was always helping out her mom and her family.

Esther was making \$9/week at that time in SLC working in the laundry and gave her sisters their first permanent, first purse, first pair of slacks, first valentines, and a pair of Queen Ann hose. She was hard working and generous with her family. She bought the 1st radio for the family after she started working. It took forever to warm up but everyone enjoyed listening to music and other programs. Some of the family got a chance to sing on the radio later on KSL's Kangaroo Club with Uncle Ben. Ethel at about age 10 sang "Oh Susanna" and Evelyn about 12 years old sang "Neopolitan night". An experience not to be forgotten.

Grandma's Social Life

Single women were scarce in a mining town and even a widow with five kids like Grandma found she had some suitors. The most notable or best remembered by her kids was J.M. Robinson who had been married previously and was from California and a railroad agent. Esther introduced Grandma and J.M. He really loved Grandma and wanted her to marry him but she didn't marry him because she didn't think anyone could take good care of her kids if they weren't his own. Her son Clarence required constant care as he had seizures as a result of an accident with lightning as a teen.

Uncle Dave Johnson, Grandpa's brother wanted her to marry J.M., but she didn't. She and J.M. dated lots. He would come for Sunday dinner and bring candy for the kids. Then he would take the kids down to Payson in his nice new car to the Park and Zoo to see the bears and monkeys. J.M. even bought GM a house that was for sale for back taxes.

Another admirer she had was Hales Wells. He was a widower and really liked Grandma. It could be that Grandma felt she had her hands full with 5 kids to raise without adding a husband also. She was very independent. Our Grandma was a busy lady besides working to support her family and having a social life she also worked with Dr. Bailey with confinement and pneumonia cases. She helped deliver many babies with Dr. Bailey as a midwife with natural childbirth using only chloroform for anesthetic. Her mother had been a midwife also. Grandma helped deliver Jody her first grandchild -daughter of Esther and Les Berg in her own living room in Silver City. The Doctor's bill was 35 dollars and Les was there at the birth. Grandma delivered a lot of babies and then took care of the baby by bathing it and helped the new mom who had to stay down for 10 days.

In the evenings for entertainment the family would sit at Aunt Sadie's house next door in Silver City and talk and look for car lights and watch where they went. Remember this was before the days of TV. Few people in those days had cars but Norman bought an old car when he left to work in Bingham at the mines. He liked to come home and get Clarence his brother and take him for rides. This opened up a new world for our Grandma as she learned to drive and loved to travel. Grandma's first car years later was a used car she bought for \$97 with 30 dollars down. Norman was upset over the high price. As the years went by Grandma was the happy recipient of Norman's used cars when he bought a new one. One of her favorite activities was to pile the family and friends or go by herself to Provo to visit or shop. She



Our Grandma looks like a flapper. That's her boyfriend JM



Grandma's home in Eureka, Utah on church street with her daughters standing by the front porch (l-r) Ethel, Esther and Evelyn

also was very adventurous and would go visit her children as they relocated in California, Arizona, Montana and Canada. Whether she flew or drove she enjoyed every minute of traveling.

Jody remembers when she was at BYU that Grandma decided they should drive Grandma's car to Jody's home for the holidays in California. So they did just the two of them 1400 miles round trip. She also loved to fly with her son-in-law Stanley Vernon who married her daughter Evelyn. Just mention travel, she was packed and ready at any time.

Moving to Eureka

Grandma was one of the last to move in 1946 from Silver City which was rapidly becoming a ghost town after the mines shut down because of water in them making it too expensive to operate them. She sold her home in Silver City and the house was later moved to Spanish Fork, the old Bell Rooming House in Eureka with the help of her daughter Evelyn who was widowed in 1945 when her husband's plane crashed in Milford, Utah. After his death Evelyn and her daughter

Linda Lee (Lin) had been living in Milford, Utah and later SLC moved in with Grandma in 1946 and lived in an upstairs apartment. Evelyn got a job working at the telephone company in Eureka with her sister Ethel and Grandma babysat Linda, Albert and Billy while their Moms worked.

Grandma's old house needed lots of work and it was fixed up with the help of Sonny Nielson, a son-in-law and husband to Ethel. He did lots of work remodeling the old rooming house, removing many rooms that were unusable and installing in an extra bedroom a toilet and a shower-quite a luxury in those days.

Grandma's house was filled with potted plants. Her granddaughter Marion remembers "how much Grandma loved flowers and how difficult they were to grow in Eureka. The living room seemed to be filled with potted plants (especially geraniums) by the front window of the house whenever we visited. It was the only place warm enough for them to live. Growing up in California, I couldn't imagine why someone would choose to live where flowers couldn't grow year round!"

Grandma had two boarders who lived with her in this house in Eureka: Earl Glover and Zolan. Grandma again cooked for boarders and took in laundry and ironing. Delicious meals were cooked for them and her family on her coal stove- winter and summer. Still living with Grandma at this time was her son Clarence who had never married and Dora her sister who had moved in with her in Silver City. My mom-Evelyn and I (Lin) lived here until 1950 when my mom got transferred to Los Angeles to work with the telephone company there. We lived with her sister Esther and her husband Les and their family in Lawndale, Calif.

Eventually Grandma was left in Eureka with just Dora, Clarence and Zolan until their deaths. She greatly enjoyed the visits of her family at holidays and loved to cook and visit with them whenever they could made it back HOME to EUREKA, UTAH.

She had a great sense of humor which is illustrated by this story shared by Marion. "Every October our family used to drive to Utah for the annual deer hunt. Of course the central meeting place was Grandma Johnson's house in Eureka. One year when we arrived the house was filled to overflowing with relatives. My Dad, Les Berg asked Grandma 'Aldie, how are we all going to sleep?' Grandma replied, 'Well, Lester, with our eyes shut!' There weren't too many people who ranked as high in Les's estimation as she did. He always said Alda was 'the best mother-in-law in the world' and 'one of the finest women who ever lived.'"



Lots of visitors (l-r) back row- Ethel, Sonny, Grandma, Gladys, Evelyn, front row- Albert, Douglas, Linda, Ruth and Dora

Trouble with the Mormon Church and a story of conversion

It was during her years as a single parent that Grandma had a run in with the Mormon church. It seems she was making some money to support her family by cleaning the church. Then the Bishop decided to hire someone else, a man for the job. This made Grandma so mad that she got up in testimony meeting and told off the Bishop and left the church with her family, never to return until 1964-several years before her death and after all her children were raised and gone.

While living in Eureka in the early 1960's Grandma was in the Payson hospital for some ailment and had a vision/dream of one of her deceased brothers. He admonished Grandma to do the genealogy for their family and make sure that the temple work was all done for all her brothers and sisters. He said "You are the only one left on earth, Ken" (a younger brother) "won't do it." Now if you remember earlier Grandma had walked out of the Mormon church after letting them know what she thought of them.

Well, Grandma now in her 74th year decided it was time to make some changes in her life and to everyone's astonishment especially her grown children (most of whom were not active in the Mormon church), she got herself ready to go to the temple. She went to her Bishop and told him she wanted to go to the temple. She started paying tithing and went to church meetings. Jody remembers a phone conversation with Grandma when she told her "I'm going through the temple when Linda gets married." Jody was so surprised that all she could reply was "You, Grandma?" When Linda was married in 1964 in the Salt Lake City LDS Temple, Grandma was there to observe and also be sealed to her deceased husband, her deceased son Clarence and her daughter Ethel. She also made sure her deceased brothers and sisters (the dozen Lemons) were sealed as a family. Three years after this solemn and sacred occasion Grandma died and glorious must have been her reunion with her family.

What caused Grandma to return to the Mormon church? I believe it was the vision/dream she had, but I also know that throughout the years Grandma had a streak of religion inside and was looking for answers. She read lots in positive thinking books. She also had a dear friend-Sadie Hickman, a neighbor in Silver City who was a member of the Christian Science faith and Grandma enjoyed talking with her about her beliefs and reading in the Bible. She

believed quite strongly that prayers could heal better than medicine. She believed that "God works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform." And that "I'm never alone Heavenly Father is with me every minute."

Grandma dies suddenly



**Grandma in her living room in Eureka-
the family gathering place for many
celebrations and holidays year after year**

Grandma was suffering from pneumonia when she had a neighbor take her to the hospital in Nephi. This was unusual because she usually drove herself to the hospital. She didn't tell any of her family she was in the hospital because she didn't want to worry them. She was getting better and going to be released and had written a letter to everyone telling them she was OK then suddenly on Feb 16, 1967 at age 76, Grandma died of a blood clot that broke loose and she was gone.

Some excerpts from letters she wrote to family members show Grandma's great optimism at the end of her life as she lived alone in Eureka.

(Nov 16, 1966) "I had two bottles of grape juice so I made it up in jelly some for you. I'll try to keep busy so I don't have time to think. It gets so lonesome at evenings."

(Jan 30, 1967) "Well, this old winter month will soon come to a close and am I ever glad. We still have piles of snow the last few days its surely melted all over and is just a sheet of ice. Glad I don't need to go outside and its nice and warm everything is so handy. Do I ever enjoy the bath tub and my nice oil heater."

(Feb 3, 1967) "Well, I still have over two feet of snow back of my car and its solid. Oh well, I'm not going anywhere. My car is just one big snowball so I won't be going anywhere."

(Feb 14, 1967) "Well here I am came here yesterday (Nephi Hospital) Rachel bought me. I had a better night last night and I am out of pain. Have no blood clots this time so I don't think I'll be here over a week so glad I came now. Don't you worry. I'm so much better here. Have the very best of care. Its the only place to be when you are sick. So by by all my love as ever Mother."

(Feb 16, 1967) "Dear ones, just a few lines to say. I'm doing fine. I think the Dr. will let me go home Sunday. Gee I hope so, its so noisy in here. You just can't think and it snowed again since I came. And is very cold hope you are both well. Love, Mother"

A few hours after this letter was written, she died. The family was in shock at this sudden happening. Everyone felt great remorse that none of us were with her in her last days or that we hadn't visited with her more often. Family members were spread out at this point in California and Canada. I guess we thought she was invincible and would always be with us. She had many medical problems but had always pulled through them before.

In Honor of LoAlda Lemmon Johnson, 1890-1967



Surviving children (l-r) Norman, Esther, Evelyn & Ethel at Grandma's burial in the Spanish Fork Cemetery

It was with great sadness that the family assembled one last time in the now empty house in Eureka that had been filled on so many other occasions with happy family gatherings. We paid tribute to our dear Grandma, Mother, Aunt, Sister and friend to many at the Mormon church in Eureka. She was buried in the Spanish Fork cemetery next to her husband William Marion Johnson who had died 47 years before her. She left behind 4 living children and 7 grandchildren and many more great grandchildren and great great grandchildren yet to come. Quite a posterity for one little old lady who lived a very quiet and ordinary life in rural Utah.

Grandma greatly loved her family and always told us if there was any way she could come back after her death and see us she would. On one occasion Jody remembers Grandma saying "Jody, when I die, I don't want you to cry. Dying is just like being born. I'll be happy there

and if there is anyway to come back, I'll be back and visit." Many family members after her death in 1967 have felt her spirit very close during important family occasions.

Lin recalls ... "in 1985 when my son Frank Vernon Hatch was going through the Salt Lake temple to receive his endowments, my cousin Jody and I were sitting in the World Room and very distinctly felt Grandma's presence and remembered being with her in this same temple when she received her endowment and I was married in 1964." At times when we (the grand daughters) have been upset or worried as we worked through a divorce or some other problem, we have felt her comforting spirit nearby and know that she continues to watch over us her family. Marion when she was going through her divorce felt Grandma's presence in her living room so strongly that she knew if she turned around she would see Grandma sitting in her rocking chair. Grandma loves her family very much even those she didn't meet here on earth and one day we will all see her again and be together. How great that reunion will be. What a posterity there now is to honor her.

Grandma, we love you and miss you!! Thanks for the foundation of love you gave us and the legacy of faith and endurance through difficulties. We honor you and your memory. In closing, a tribute given to our LoAlda Lemmon Johnson by her son-in-law Les Berg who expressed well our feelings.



Alda was buried next to her husband William Marion Johnson in the Spanish Fork cemetery

A TRIBUTE TO ALDA JOHNSON

By Lester Herman Berg

Our grandmother was a lady
of the very nicest type.
She lived her life in Tintic,
and we never heard her gripe.
She loved her friends and neighbors,
and I know they loved her too
Instead of thinking of herself,
she always thought of you.

To help some other person
was all she cared to do,
Though she had so little
and her luxuries were few.
She'd work and slave to help the sick
and cheer them on to health
She'd bake and cook the finest,
her service was her wealth.

She bore five lovely children,
the main part of her joys,
She had three lovely daughters,
and two fine boys.
She brought them up
through childhood.
They became our parents
and grandparents too.

We thank God a million times
for giving us to them
We loved her smile and tenderness,
the sweetest we ever knew.
Some day we'll meet again,
and hope we'll be free of taint.
We'll have to meet her standards,
cause our Grandma was a saint.



(l-r)Ethel, Sonny, GM with Les, Esther & Marion (in front) visiting from Calif.



GM at Jody & Keith's wedding in St. George, Utah



Four generations: (l-r) Bill,GM, Ethel & baby Sandra in front in Genola

She was always there to help celebrate every special occasion



In Texas (l-r) GM, Esther, Jody and baby Greg



GM At Bill & Cheri's wedding