

Annie Marie Lund Topham

Born at West Jordan, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Born October 21, 1862. Died April 29, 1950; Cedar City, Utah

Married February 17, 1887 to Thomas Amenzo Topham

History written by Bertha Topham Swindlehurst. Date unknown

Submitted by Nina L. Robb, December 16, 1965.

Betsy Topham Camp, Iron County

## Life History of Annie Marie Lund Topham

as told to her daughter Bertha Lund Swindlehurst

I was born at West Jordam, Salt Lake City, Utah; October 21, 1862. I was the second child and eldest daughter in a family of eight. My father was Wilson Lund and my mother Ellen Nielson Lund. I was born early Sunday morning and that same day in the sacramental meeting Wilson Lund, my father received a call from Pres. Brigham Young to go with a company of saints to St. George where he was to assist in the erection of the St. George Tabernacle, Temple and other public buildings. Father was a stone cutter by trade and had cut stone used in building of both the Nauvoo and Salt Lake Temples.

When I was three weeks old the family left Salt Lake City and started on the journey for Dixie. Since it was late in the season the trip was a long cold and arduous one. On Christmas eve the family camped just north of the bridge crossing the Cedar City Creek. The next morning the ground was covered with two feet of snow. Father cleared away the snow and placed a chair near the campfire. Here he left mother, Alfred and me while he went into town to buy flour and other supplies to take on the St. George.

Two brethren, Henry Lunt and John Gower came out to the camp. Brother Gower invited us to come to his home and spend Christmas day. This we did. The following morning we resumed the journey on to St. George, arriving there on New Years Eve. It took just one week to make the trip from Cedar City to St. George, a distance of 63 miles.

The family lived in the wagon box until spring when father moved mother and we small children to a place called Shoal Creek, now known as Enterprise. It was at this ranch where the cattle and sheep owned and operated by the Dixie Coop Herd were taken for summer as well as winter range. Here in this lonely place with no neighbors for miles around we lived for three years. Robert, fathers oldest son, spent some time here with us. Mother and he milked cows. She made butter and cheese to supply the family with food, also sending a portion down to St. George to supply the family of fathers first wife. While out here mother made her first quilt. We helped her gather wool tags from the brush. She cleaned and carded the wool into bats

to go inside the quilt. At the end of the third year Robert was called into Salt Lake to learn telegraphy. He needed new cloths to wear. Mother corded wool and spun the yarn used in making the cloth out of which his pants were made. He later on became Brigham Youngs telegraph operator in St. George.

While living at Shoal Creek the only faces of human beings mother, Alfred and I saw were those of savage Indians who inhabited the mountains. Scarcely a day passed that they did not knock at the door and ask for food. Food supplies were scarce and oftimes mother gave them the last pan of fresh milk to satisfy their demands.

In September of that same year Pres. Erastus Snow came out to that vicinity to visit all the people who were fiving in that scattered and asprcely settled area. He made special mintion of Wilson Lunds family. When told we were living about 6 or 7 miles beyond at Calf Springs he demanded of the brethern that they did not sleep until Ellen and her family were brought back into Shoal Creek. The house into which we were moved had only threer walls and part of a roof. Mother turned the table up to make a door and hung blankets around the windows and yet many mornings we awakened to find our bed covered with several inches of snow. Many were the mornings our good neighbor Bro. Thomas Terry came to the cavin and called "are you all alive? Dress your children and come over to our house for breakfast." Bro. Terry carried Alfred through the snow and mother carried me.

Just before Christmas father was released long enough to come up and move mother and us to St. George. On Jan. 18, 1865 Ida was born.

When the warm and hot days of spring and summer came mother was in such a weakened condition it became necessary for her to be taken some place out of the heat. Father went up to Pine Valley, a place some 20 miles north of St. George where a settlement had been established. Here he purchased a small plot of ground, got out logs and built a small house for the family to live in. During the time our house was being built we lived with a family by the name of Jacobson. This was our home for 7 years. It was here

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Nellie, Wilson and Richard were born. In the spring of the year father came up long enough to plant the crops which consisted of wheat and vegetables. Mother and we children took care of them, milked cows and made butter and cheese. These with a 5 gallon keg of molasses which father brought up from St. George when he came on the fall to help gather the crops furnished us our supply of food. The butter and cheese we divided with the other family who lived in St. George.

It was here in Pine Valley where I had my first experience in school. My first teacher was Mrs Julia Cox. Our school lasted three months out of each year. It was a typical pioneer school.

Another experience which stands out in my memory very vividly was that of assisting my father to quarry sandstone rock out of which he made grinding stones and whet stones. We worked early and late during the short time he was not at work in St. George. These stones he brought to Beaver and Iron county and sold them for flour, shoes and other articles with which to feed and clothe the family.

From Pine Valley we moved to Hebron not far from what is now known as Enterprise. Life here was not so different to that in Pine Valley. The family engaged in farming and stock raising on a small scale. Since Hebron was such a small community it took the united effort of all to carry on church activities and furnish recreational function for all. Church was the central feature. I sang in the choir and assisted in Sunday School and theatrical performances or exhibitions as they were usually called. It was there that I first joined the Y.L.M.I.A.. In those days we had no outlined program to follow so it was necessary for us to make up our programs. Each member wrote articles and contributed them to the officers. These were combined into a paper which was read in turn in our weekly meetings.

One summer an epidemic of the dreaded disease diphtheria broke out. I was one of its victims and it was only through the power of the priesthood that my life was spared. Well do I remember the blessing given me by Bro. Charles Pulsipher. It was from then on that I began to get well. However it was months before I recovered from the effects of the disease. Three

abcesses formed on my neck and mother poulticed them for weeks before they broke. On March 15, 1877 I went to the St. George Temple and was baptized for my health and received my endowments.

While in Hebron I had many proposals to enter onto plural marriage but did not wish to accept any of them. While at Hebron Joseph was born, also Stephen who lived only three days. The family became very dissatisfied here, the water dried up and the crops were a failure .

At the completion of the St. George Temple in 1877 father was released from the public service and given a blessing by Bro. Brigham Young and told to go where he and his family could live and be most comfortable. Father was in very poor health and unable to do scarcely any kind of work as he had contracted a very severe type of asthma caused from the stone dust and steel from the tools he used in his work. Mother too was in very delicate health. She could not stand the hot climate of St. George so she and father decided it best to move farther north. After some deliberation he decided to buy a farm at Paragonah. This would furnish employment for the boys and the climate was better for both he and mother.

Aunt Lund and her family remained in St. George. Aunt had been chosen to be one of the first ordinance workers in the temple. This position she held until her death at the age of 82 years. Mother and father made frequent trips to St. George to visit the family and do temple work.

It was a sad day for me when we left Hebron. My girlhood friends and acquaintances were most dear to me and they were loath to lose me because of my usefulness in the activities and social life of the community.

In February 1885 we left Hebron and moved to Paragonah where we were received by many good and kind hearted people to whom we soon became attached and endeared. Because of the poor health of my mother more of the caring for the family fell to me, "mother Annie" as the younger children called me.

All my life I had been desirous of getting a good education. I welcomed the time when school would begin for I hoped to get some lessons in grammar and geography. School had been in session but two weeks when the teacher of

the school, Mr Zera Terry, asked me to teach the first and second grades. I felt very incompetent yet I could not refuse for I felt it an honor and opportunity. School supplies were scarce. I had to make all my own charts. I received \$30.00 per month. This was not all cash, but I took anything which could be used by the family.

I was also called to teach the New Testament class in Sunday School. Later on I was invited to become a member of the Relief Society. On Aug. 6, 1885 I was chosen and set apart by Bro. Samuel P. Horsley to act as Secretary of the organization. In the fall of that same year I was asked to act as President of the Y.L.M.I.A.. I held this position for two years.

Soon after coming to Paragonah I met Thomas A. Topham, whom I later married on Feb. 17, 1887 in the St. George Temple. Our honeymoon was spent at the ranch in Bear Valley where I cooked for ranch hands, made butter and cheese and supervised indoor activities incident to ranch life.

When I was released from secretary of the Y.L.M.I.A. I was asked to act as a teacher and served in that capacity from 1896 to 1901 at that time I was chosen by Emma B. Robinson to serve as second councilor in the Relief Society. This position I held until 1905 when I was asked to become President. I served as President for eight years from 1905 to 1913. I chose as my councilors Aunt Jane Topham and Mary M. Stones. After being released from presidency I acted as treasurer from 1913 to 1917. During these years the Relief Society gathered and stored wheat. This wheat was loaned out to individuals to tide them over until harvests were gathered. It entailed much work and anxiety for it was sometimes difficult to collect as good a product as we loaned out. On Feb. 4, 1917 Sister Farizine Robinson was chosen President of the Relief Society. She insisted that I act as her first councilor which I did from 1917 until 1925. In addition to carrying on Relief Society activities I was chosen chairman and supervisor of the American Red Cross in Paragonah during World War I. We did enormous amounts of knitting, sewing and made thousands of bandages for our soldier boys. We also collected shoes, old clothing of all kinds, remade them and sent them overseas to our allies.

In 1925 I was chosen and set apart to take care of the dead and supervise the sewing for the same. This I did until the the service of an undertaker became available. ( The day was never too cold nor hot, the night too dark an stormy, the hour too early or late for her to go into any home when called to assist in caring for the sick and when death came helped prepare the loved one properly for burial.)

My church and public activities were not my main center of attraction, my home and family were most important. My husband and I were blessed with five children. Two died in infancy, three grew to maturity. With the death of Carl in 1921 came our first real sorrow. At this time Amenzo was serving as a missionary in the North Western States. Bertha also filled a mission in the central states in 1929 and 30. In February 1925 my beloved husband died.

All my life I have taken part as mother Annie to my brothers and sisters. Joseph lived in my home from 1921 until his death in 1933.

Until the last few years I have spent considerable time working in the temple and have enjoyed doing work for those who could not do it themselves. I have always been a firm believer in the principal of tithing and have always tried to pay an honest tithe, I feel I have received many blessings from the Lord through obedience to that principal. I have also paid my fast offerings and have contributed as generously as possible to all worthy causes both church and civic enterprises.

Since I have been unable to work at the temple I gave spent my time at home here where my many neighbors and friends have helped me pass the time by their frequent visits, also at Beaver with my daughter I have acquired many friends and could look to their visits. I also looked sorward to the daily visit of grandpa and grandma Swindlehurst.

On April 4, 1950 Aunt Annie fell and broke her hip and spent her few remaining days in the Iron County Hospital where she died April 29, 1950 at the age of eighty eight.

Aunt Annie, as she is remembered as a wonderful woman because of her kindness to everyone and her outstanding work in church duties.