

Mary Caroline Roper Finlinson

Part II

As told in her 85th year to her daughter Amy F. Faust.

Domestic Activities

Mother gathered rags, dyed, cut and sewed them and wove the first carpet she ever had. She wove this carpet on Addie Van Leuvin's loom. Addie lived in a two-room adobe house on the place where uncle Bert Roper now lives. She also made many kinds of throw rugs.

Early in 1900 she trimmed hats. I can remember when she sent me to the coop for chicken feathers, which she cleaned and used for trimming. She has sewn and made every kind of wearing apparel. She cut and made her own patterns using tape measure, yardstick and newspapers. The styles were chosen in Sears Roebuck, and Montgomery Ward catalogs and she cut the patterns to fit the style chosen.

Besides sewing for her family she sewed for others all the time. She made wedding dresses for Agnes Anderson Lyman, Mary Walker Finlinson, Celia Hartley, Rachel Finlinson Nielson, Ida Roper Nielson, my sister Angie, and her sister Hettie Johnson and others. She helped all her sisters in sewing, as well as Harriet (Brig) Lovell and many others she can't remember.

Mother has crocheted dozens and dozens of beautiful pieces and given away most of it. She made "Queen Ann" tablecloths for Amy, Angie and Martha and finished one for a granddaughter in law, Ruth Faust, whose mother had died before she finished it. Fifty temple aprons were made in her older years besides embroidering many pillowcases and crocheting lace on them as well as shawls.

When Mother's children were young she knit all their stockings, booties, hoods, jackets, sweaters; made coats and many articles of clothing out of the best pieces of worn articles. She also made many quilts. Many of them were made for her grandchildren. She also knit lace for her baby clothes and later pillowcases.

Gardening

As well as feeding her family of eleven there were always extra mouths to feed with hired help and guests. She raised a big garden every year. One time she had raised enough beans to fill a 2 bushel sack after she had trashed them. Before the days of pressure cookers she bottled peas, beets, tomatoes, dried corn, peaches, apples and prunes by the many pounds. Her cellar always had 1,000 quarts of fruit, jelly, preserves and jams and pickles. One year she raised cucumbers and made 125 quarts of pickles. She still likes to do those things now, but on a smaller scale.

Cooking

Mother's cooking was a real art and done on a big scale. For years she made 60 loaves of bread a week. After Esdras' wife Ethel died in 1940 she made all of their bread for seven years. The pies baked numbered from 16 to 20 at a time and of many varieties. Special cakes were dough, spirl and cream cakes and cream cookies. Puddings were mostly rice, bread, custard and tapioca. Her luscious cobblers made with rich biscuit dough over fruit and steamed, served with cream and sugar were a favorite. "Lumpy Dick" or "Rough Richard" as some called it was a special supper for her children. Also in the summer green onions, radishes with cold milk from the iceless refrigerator was a treat. The iceless refrigerator was made by covering a frame box with burlap sacks so the bottoms would be in pans of water. When set in the shade outside the breeze kept the 6 quart

pans of milk inside as cool as milk kept in the refrigerator in 1935. Her boys worked for Parley Roper for the first payment on it. She really enjoyed it as at conferences she would set her big table twice or three times for each meal.

Mother made her own brine-cured hams and bacon; rendered all her lard for cooking. She made sausage, head cheese every winter. All of these things were done on a coal stove and until 1915 all water was hauled from across the street after they moved to the present home. Father always chopped the wood to keep the fires burning, but when he was gone Mother did it.

Washing was an all day job from morning until night. Sometimes our neighbor, William Chestnut, came and turned the hand-washer for 127 times before resting on each batch. All batches of clothes went through the washer twice and all white clothes were boiled in a big copper boiler on the stove. The soap was made from scrap grease and lye in a big brass kettle outside. Finally gasoline washers came and what a relief. Then in 1949 Mother got an electric washer as well as an electric range. Water was piped into the house in 1915 however.

On Oct. 9, 1945, Mother and Father celebrated their golden wedding. A reception was held on the 12th at their home with a program and dance at night in the Oak City Hall. All their children as well as most of their grandchildren were present. It was a highlight of their life.

Trials

Mother's life is an example of faith and she tried to instill that in her family. She has come through many serious sicknesses herself as well as her children. She used holy consecrated oil inwardly and outwardly before doctors were available. Satan has tried to destroy her life but through her faith in the power of the Priesthood in administrations she has been spared. Dr. Broadus told her she had a tumor in her female organs after her miscarriages, also ulcers in her stomach but as yet she has never had a surgeon's knife on her body 3

Ten days after I was born (Mother's first child) she was preparing to get out of bed for the first time and turned over on her side to rest a minute and she lapsed in a semi coma. She felt like she was in another world, yet she knew what was going on. Great grandmother Lyman was with her and she thought Mother was dying. She had developed erysipelas in her breasts. Those attending thought I should keep on nursing her. About five days later, Dr. Beatie from the State Board of Health, came through town. He called and discovered all I was getting was blood from Mother. He prescribed making poultices of one tablespoon carbolic acid to one quart of water instead of bread and milk poultices they had been using. Grandmother Roper learned from Mrs. Greathouse that hot packing with Elderberry bark and lard cooked was effective in drawing our infection. This was done and the infection came out in pimples all in her skin and with all the treatments she recovered, but was never able to nurse her eight other babies on the one breast.

When Lenox was a baby Mother had rheumatic fever, it was called inflammatory rheumatism. She was down for six weeks. Then Mrs. Greathouse of Leamington, a natural nurse, recommended ground rhubarb root with port wine mixed in it. It was taken and Mother began to get better. Her right hand was so painful she couldn't use it for a week and it had lumps on her fingers and wrist Silva Harris had it the same time but was given aspirin and recovered sooner. Mother didn't know about this until later.

In September 1917 Mother had a miscarriage (a little boy) and nearly lost her life, so she wasn't able to go with me to get married. She had four other miscarriages after that which proved to her that she could not get the other child she hoped for to have as many children as her mother.

The summer of 1918 Mother and all the family except Father, Esdras and Angie had diphtheria. Grandmother Roper nursed them in a tent on the front lawn. They were quarantined for three months. Mother felt terrible the way people shunned them when they were out of quarantine. Dr. Broadus gave them antitoxin when they first came down with the disease and released them when they recovered.

In the winter of 1947 Mother fell with a bucket of coal on the icy back step and broke her right wrist, which was a long time healing. She was not in good health from then on. She was hospitalized for her stomach ulcer scars and nervousness, which we think, was caused because of Father's failing mental health for the past three years. From that time on, one of the girls stayed with her until Father passed away on Feb. 8 1955. His funeral was held on Lincoln's birthday on a Saturday.

In May of 1956 Dan and Enid Faust, Esdras, Mother and I went to Seattle to visit my son and wife, Rex and Margaret Faust. We went into Canada, down the coast to Los Angeles. Lee went in the temple there and later at the St. George Temple. We visited Asael and Blaine Lyman and families at Ione, California, on the way to Los Angeles.

Mother's health improved after that and she has traveled considerably since. On July 29, 1956 the day after her 80th birthday (and the Finlinson reunion) she left with Esdras, Angie and myself for the east. We traveled to Council Bluffs, Nebraska, Omaha, Nauvoo, Cannonsburg, Penn., where my son Delano had labored for 10 months as a missionary (but had left for the Pageant at the Hill Cumorah).

From there we went to Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Ithaca, New York. We then went to Fayette where the church was organized, then to Palmyra and the Hill Cumorah. Here we saw the pageant for three nights, staying at the only home at the foot of the hill. We had a spiritual feast in the Sacred Grove, every day listening to the testimonies of the missionaries.

From there we traveled to Kirtland, Ohio, Buffalo, New York, Niagara Falls, Ft. Niagara, Chicago, Independence, Missouri, Adam-ondi-Ahman, Denver, Boulder, Colorado and many, many towns and interesting places enroute. We covered 6,000 miles in three weeks and visited many points of interest.

Temple Work

Mother went to the Salt Lake Temple with Ellen Nielson before she was married to Fred Lyman. They worked several days when there was only one session a day. They took time to eat crackers and cheese while there. Another time she went with aunt Harriet and uncle John Lovell and spent a week at the Manti Temple. When she took her mutual girls on excursions in the summer to Manti and St. George for baptisms, Mother would do endowments. She has recorded in her Family Book over 200 names she has done endowments for, as well as many not recorded. She has the names of 157 children for which she did sealings. She worked actively in the temples up to her 84th year.

Nursing

Mother helped with many births and helped care for the babies and mothers following births. She has assisted in many sicknesses and deaths.

Summary

As of now, January 1961, Mother's latest hobby and project she has worked on for the past year is her Book of Remembrance. She has filled one with pictures, cards, histories and general information and wants to finish another. Her nine children are still living and are: Amy, Esdras, Angie, Martha, Edward, Marvin, Lucy, Lenox and Melva. She has many grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

Mother and Father were always active in the Church. Angie has mentioned some of her activities in Part I of her history. One time, when I was a teenager, I thought she left me to care for the children too much while she did her Church work. I told her what I thought. She gave me the greatest lesson of my life, which I have always remembered. She said, "Young lady, whenever you are asked to take a job in the Church, consider it an

opportunity to develop yourself and render service to our Heavenly Father.” I realize now that the working the Church gave her, as well as all who work in the Church, an avenue of escape from the daily, monotonous home duties. She still enjoys going to Church and Stake Conference.

Mother is very thoughtful of others and has a patient and forgiving spirit. She is loved by everyone who knows her. The Relief Society honored her on her 85th birthday with a surprise program. Her daughter, Lucy, gave a short history of her life and among other things on the program her sisters, Frankie and Twiss, sang her favorite songs. Her oldest son-in-law, my husband, has told many of his friends that his mother-in-law was the finest and couldn't be beat! I am sure all of her sons-in-law have the same feeling toward her. Of course her children feel there could be no greater mother and have the greatest love and respect for her