

**A History of
Susan Trimble Finlinson**
1843--1917



At a nice little home surrounded by beautiful lawns and gardens, in both front and back, was born 27 November 1843, a baby girl named Susan Trimble. She was the third child in a family of eight children, to be born to Edward and Elizabeth Lennox Trimble. All eight of the children were born at Thursby, Cumberland, England. Four of these children never reached maturity. Mary, born 29 October 1839, lived one and 1/2 years. William, born 3 October 1841, lived less than two years and Robinson, born 8 March 1849, lived two years. Mary Elizabeth, born 28 October 1856, succumbed at nearly the age of nine years to Black Small Pox while crossing the plains with her parents and family in 1865 and is buried near Omaha, Nebraska. The fourth child, John, was born 31 May 1846. He married Emma Lock who was also an English

convert. Jefferson, was born 28 October 1851, and married Margaret Fortie. Joseph, born 5 June 1854, was married to Melissa Davies. The children were all sealed to their parents 4 June 1879, in the St. George Temple.

Edward Trimble was a tailor by trade. He was quick tempered. At times he preached on the street corners in England. One evening he was preaching and quoted, "But whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Some fellow stepped up and slapped him on the cheek. Edward popped him one back and said, "Begock, it didn't say that you can't hit him back." He enjoyed boxing as a pastime and was very good at it. He gave his oldest grandson, George, many pointers. Edward's oldest brother, Joseph, kept an Inn in Carlisle. He had dances and theaters and hired girls who sold liquors and played the piano. One of his daughters married Dennis McCalley. Another daughter Isabella didn't like John Trimble because he was a Mormon. They sometimes went to visit a cousin, Jane Trimble, who lived in London. When they called on her they would say, "I have come to see me cousin." The Trimbles could walk just a few miles and look into Scotland.

The ancestors of Elizabeth Lennox Trimble originally came from Scotland. They were of the Royal blood. Elizabeth was a dressmaker. Many times Susan told her grandchildren, "Me father was a tailor and me mother a dressmaker and they made me proud." Sister Flora Nielson who remembered the day the Trimbles came to Fillmore said, "Sister Trimble was mild, calm and gave you a soothing feeling to associate with her." Mary C. Finlinson said, "Grandma Trimble was a wonderful person; there are not many like her."

Susan's parents joined the Mormon Church and were baptized 19 September 1855. Her grandparents, Robinson and Mary Jefferson Trimble were baptized in 1857. John Trimble said he remembered seeing his grandparents baptized. Susan's Grandmother Elizabeth Sanderson Lennox was baptized in September of 1858. Elizabeth's husband, William Lennox, had died in 1831 at the age of 43. Susan was nearly fourteen years of age when she joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She was baptized in September of 1857 by her father Edward Trimble, according to the British records. After she joined the church she helped the missionaries with their singing at their meetings.

Susan did house work for a Mr. Feld at Wigton, a town five miles away. She was taught to use a wing of a fowl to dust off the cook stove the first thing in the morning, a practice she continued when she had a home of her own. There was a chicken wing kept near her kitchen stove at all times for this purpose.

Her education was not neglected. She would tell her children and grandchildren, "Me father was a fiddler and took me to dancin' school." At the family gatherings which were held on Thanksgiving Day, she would hold her skirts and do a "Jig" dance, which resembled some of "Tap" dancing. Her birthday often fell on Thanksgiving Day.

The Trimble family, consisting of the parents, three sons and two daughters, left England 29 April 1865, to join the saints in Utah. They left in a sailing vessel named Belle Wood and were blown over the ocean. At one time in the middle of the ocean, the wind stopped blowing and they floated around for several days until

there was sufficient wind to blow them on again. They began to think they would never see land but in about six weeks they landed in New York. They traveled as independent emigrants. Before leaving England they had supplied themselves with plenty of nice clothing, but while traveling through the states in cattle cars, their clothing was stolen. The Civil War was just over. Uncle John said there was manure in the cars in which they traveled, and as they went along people would point their fingers and say, "Brigham Young has you."

In Missouri they spent some time preparing for their journey across the plains. There they purchased a wagon, oxen and supplies. John left ahead of the rest of the family, a freighting company known as "Kimball and Lawrence", offered him \$50 a month to drive oxen to Salt Lake. When he arrived in Salt Lake, a month ahead of the family, he was a sorry sight with nothing but an old patched pair of overalls. The company didn't pay him his wages nor would they give him any better clothes. He was then 19 years of age.

The family was three months crossing the plains, and as has been stated that little nine-year-old, Mary Elizabeth, died and had to be left along the way, according to the book *Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah*, the Trimbles arrived in Utah in October of 1865. It could easily be possible that it took them around six months to make the trip. When they arrived in Salt Lake, the oxen were so tired it took them two weeks to get to Fillmore, a distance of 150 miles. They were met in Scipio by George Finlinson who accompanied them to Fillmore, which took two days.

Their first home in Fillmore, Utah, was a half dugout with a dirt floor. Grandmother Trimble kept the home nice, neat and inviting. Her "tin-ware" was always polished and kept on the mantle. Her home was humble and everyone was made welcome. She was liked by all who knew her. No one was allowed to back-bite in her home. The ward teachers were "called down" for making a slighting remark about someone and were told, "That was not the order of her home".



Susan went to work for Lucretia Owens after arriving in Fillmore. A year later, in 1866 she was married to George Finlinson, either at the Owen's home or at Allen Russell's where George worked. Sister Flora Nielson remembered the day they were married because she saw Susan walking from home and someone made the remark, "There goes Susan to get married. I should think George would come for her." Susan continued to work after she was married. Before Joshua was born, Susan asked Sister Flora Nielson, who was then married, if she would work for her. Grandma Trimble reassured Flora that, "It is no disgrace to work after you are married; our Susan did." Soon after they were married, George went back to Missouri to help emigrants across the plains.

George and Susan lived with her folks while George was building a one-room adobe house. Their first child Elizabeth was born at the Trimble home 18 June 1867. George Edward, their first boy, was born 18 August 1869.

John Trimble and his wife were asked what they had to eat in those days and they laughingly said, "Most of the time, a greased dish rag and made a meal of it." They cooked almost entirely in a bake skillet. Potatoes were put in the skillet and covered with water. Dumplings were cooked on top of the potatoes. Preserves were made of native currants and carrots, using molasses instead of sugar.

In the spring of 1871 George and Susan were called along with others to help settle Oak Creek, later named Oak City. They had quite a struggle at first and were in very poor circumstances for quite a while. They couldn't afford butter and had plain molasses on their toast. Susan went back to Fillmore when her third child, William Jefferson, was born 29 September 1871. He was the last of the children to be born in Fillmore. The other six were born in Oak City. Margaret Ann was born 18 October, 1873; Joseph Trimble, 8 March, 1876; Joshua, 17 March, 1878; Rachel, 28 August, 1880; Leo, 2 November, 1883; and "Me Baby" Ray, was born 4 September, 1887. Sister Flora Nielson worked for Susan off and on for six years. She was with Susan when Joe and Mag were born. She received \$1.50 a week and was paid with "due-bills". Eggs were taken to the store and were given "due-bills" in exchange.

Grandmother Trimble came from Fillmore for the blessed event of the new arrivals. One time she asked

Sister Nielson to go to the kitchen and get a "duble". Sister Flora Nielson looked everywhere for something that might be a "duble". Finally, Grandma Trimble went for it and it was a diaper (double). Susan was a good manager. When expecting a new arrival, everything was ready beforehand. She made up a lot of butter and two gallons of yeast so the hired girl wouldn't have to bother. That was the only place Sister Nielson worked that preparations were made ahead of time.

About twice a year Susan went to Fillmore to have her sewing done. She took the boy's mending, made new dresses for the girls and perhaps a baby dress needed shortening. The baby was ready for more activity and needed to cast off the long dresses it had worn from birth, boys and girls alike, and start wearing dresses at ankle length. Susan had five baby dresses she had brought from England that her mother's youngest sister, Jane, had worn. As time went on and circumstances improved, she kept a hired girl. Winnie Wasden from Scipio and Flossie Nixon from Holden were two of them. She always had a few chickens and one year she sold \$30 worth of turkeys. She also kept the travelers that came to town.

Susan was a "homebody" and didn't leave home much except to attend to her meetings. George was a great hand to think that women should stay at home with their families. She was active in the church, singing in the choir and was for many years counselor to Caroline Ely Partridge Lyman in Relief Society. In the minutes of the Relief Society held 2 July 1874, two months after the Relief Society was organized in Oak City, she and Adelia Lyman, wife of Bishop Platte D. Lyman, were appointed appraisers. Susan liked to go to dances as well as anyone and was very fond of music. She was a "Ministering Angel". Folks went to her when in trouble and she would help them out no matter what time of day or night she was needed. She was very charitable, and took little dainties to the sick and gave a dollar here and there to be sent to the missionaries. Everyone liked her as a neighbor.

Grandmother Finlinson was a great lover of flowers and pretty things. She had a nice big lawn, with lots and lots of "Mother of Thousands" in it, a red honeysuckle and a snowball tree. And her parlor ---- well, I deemed it a privilege to get a peek into it. She had an organ, a carpet sweeper and a feather duster, which were really luxuries in those days.

In the spring of the year, the children were steeped in sagebrush tea to purify their blood. It had a lasting effect for in 1918-1919 when the Spanish Influenza was raging, not one of the six boys had it though their families were stricken. I stayed nights with Grandmother when Grandfather was not at home. He spent most nights in Leamington when he was carrying the mail. If I let out one "hack" I was given a teaspoon of molasses. Molasses was good for everything that ailed you.

She trained her girls to be excellent cooks and housekeepers and said she would teach her children what was right. She insisted that they go to Primary and Sunday School. At one time she overheard a drummer (salesman) swearing when trying to catch a horse. She told him in no uncertain terms, "You have a lot to learn. I'm raising a bunch of boys and won't stand for that kind of talk around here. You had better pack your bags and leave." Whenever she heard anything of good report she would say, "That's Mormonism". She had another saying she repeated many times, "Talk's cheap but it takes money to pay the fiddler."

In her later years, cataracts grew on her eyes but she was so sensitive about it, she didn't tell anyone until she was nearly blind. Her son Joseph took her to Salt Lake City and her eyes were operated on. The one was so bad it couldn't be saved and she had to wear a glass eye. The operation on the other was fairly successful and with the aid of strong glasses she was able to see quite well.

Grandfather died 12 April 1909. She lived at her home a year or two and then the boys built two rooms adjoining her daughter Rachel's home. There she could have her belongings and be close to Aunt Rach. Aunt Rach died soon after she moved there, and then Grandmother went to live with her son George and family. It was a great trial for Grandmother to have her three daughters taken in death and she be left and not able to care for herself. Maggie was the first to go, at age of 37 years, leaving her husband and three children, the youngest one eight days old. Rachel was 33 years old and left her husband and four little girls, the youngest was 17 days old. Libbie was age 49 and left her husband and nine children; none of them were married and her youngest was two years of age. The three girls died within five years.

Grandmother was always willing to help and do her share so she wouldn't be a burden to anyone. Lenox was the baby when she came to live with us and she tended him all day long and sang to him by the hour. As a result, he could sing the tune to "Old Black Joe" and "Dixie" before he could talk or walk. When she couldn't amuse him any longer, she would give him to one of us and say, "He's hungry and wet and tired and sleepy."

Through all of Grandmother's trials she never complained and was always cheerful. She looked on the "bright side of life". She went from the depths of poverty to plenty and was a great factor in helping her husband accumulate, what he did. She was immaculate in her personal appearance and took pride in being nicely dressed. Her hair was thin and fine and she used a hair tonic all the time, which was called "Hair Vigor".

The last few years of her life her memory failed her but her mind was always clear about her girlhood and young womanhood experiences. I was her bed partner the four years that she lived in our home and I have always felt very close to her. Martha Lennox, her cousin, who was at that time living in Salt Lake City, came to help take care of her in her last sickness.

She died at her son George's home in Oak City, Millard Co., Utah, on February 10, 1917. Twenty-eight years later, Grandmother appeared to me in a dream at my home in Lyman, Wyoming. She stood at the foot of my bed and she was crying. I received the impression that she was crying because we were not doing what we should in Genealogy. Since that time, I have felt a great responsibility in doing research and temple work for her people.

She did what she knew to be right and her example and teachings have had their effect on her posterity, which in May 1974 numbers over 1200. There are few if any of her posterity who are not honorable and upright citizens in the communities where they reside. Most all are active in the church that she embraced in England. Blessed be her memory.

Angie Finlinson Lyman

Note: In the emigration records, John Trimble is listed as a returning missionary 2 July 1892. Sailed on the "S. S. Nevada" from Liverpool, England. Destination: Salt Lake City.



First row- Jeff, Josh, George
Rachel, Leo on Susan's arms
Top row- Joe, Libbie, George E,
Called little Geo I was very
upset because he couldn't
make his hair stay the way
he wished, Maggie Ann,