

History of Nancy Jane Killian Snow

On a farm in Harrison County, Iowa, on the third of June, 1860, a lovely, brown-eyed girl was born to Jacob and Susan Coons Killian. They named her Nancy Jane. When she was just a tiny one, their home burned down, her mother carried her out and laid her in a field while she tried to help save some of their household goods.

When Nancy was five, she with her parents, an older brother and sister, John and Lucy, and a baby brother Henry left to go to Utah. When the men were getting the cattle branded and everything ready, Nancy's big, brown eyes were taking in everything, so one morning while they were breaking camp, the children got the branding iron, heated it in the coals of the camp fire and Nancy branded her baby brother. It caused quite a commotion in camp for it was a brand to last all his life. His mother was quite skilled in caring for injuries so he was soon fine and dandy.

When they reached Utah, they moved to Salem where Jacob and Susan had helped to make a settlement when they were there a few years before. Nancy grew to young womanhood at Salem. She sang in the choir and took part in all activities, although she didn't join the church at that time.

On January 1, 1882, she married Bernard Snow Jr. and moved up east of Salem on Bernard homestead. They worked hard trying to make a home. They bought Salem Canal shares whenever there were any for sale but couldn't get enough water for all the land.

A beautiful, red-headed baby girl, Effie Mae, and a brown-eyed boy Charles Eben, and a lovely girl Edna Verona came to bless their home during this time. Then they sold their homestead and bought a farm in Spanish Fork Canyon near the red narrows. It was a beautiful place but lonely, and as the railroad ran close past the house, she always felt nervous about being left alone.

On several occasions she had to use courage and tact when tramps and escaped criminals came and demanded food. She always kept a good dog and a gun for protection. A few times she found it necessary to order tramps away at the point of the gun. She was always glad she never had to shoot it.

The baby Edna Verona (Nonee) died and soon afterwards another little girl came to comfort them. They named her Ellen Susan. Next came a brown-eyed girl they named Alice Delilah and then a black-eyed girl they named Sadie Leona.

They sold the home and moved to Thistle as the children would have better school. Mother kept boarders and it was through some of them and the members of the Thistle Branch that she, her husband, her eldest daughter Effie and her son Charles were converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Effie's husband Harry Fuller also joined the Church at this time.

Mother did some nursing at this time and belonged to the "1900 Thistle Club," a group of lovely progressive women who were working for the betterment of their town. This was a very busy and happy time in her life.

Soon they moved to La Grande, Oregon, taking all the family except Effie, who remained at Thistle.

Just one month after they reached La Grande, and a few days after they bought a farm, word came her father had suffered a stroke and died. This was a real shock and sorrow because she felt that perhaps he had worried about her and his two sons George and Henry moving so far away (Idaho) had caused his death.

The new farm was located three miles east of LaGrande at Grange Hall. This was a very congenial neighborhood, hardly two families of the same faith, but all met and worked together in almost perfect harmony. Mother always took an active part in all activities, especially the debates and on Thanksgiving when the whole neighborhood met and feasted together at the hall, she invariably returned thanks at the head of the huge table.

She nursed the sick at this time and endeared herself to most.