

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF WILLIAM FLINT AND CHARLOTTE IRENE LONG POLL

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Lizzie Poll Berrett & Ida Berrett Poll

Our grandparents, William Flint and Charlotte Irene Long Poll, were married November 2, 1842, at Wymondham, Norfolk, England.

Grandfather was born June 15, 1824 in the quaint old town of Deophan near the old wash in Norfolk. He was the son of Robert Flint and Ann Wilson Poll. His father was a cabinet-maker. Grandfather at the early age of eight began learning his father's trade.

Grandmother was born and reared in Wymondham, a thrifty little town a few miles southwest of Norwich. Her birthday was June 29, 1823. Her parents were John and Elizabeth Minns Long. They kept a public house and butcher shop. Grandmother was a butcher and an efficient meat cutter.

Grandfather and Grandmother made their home in Lowestoft, and old, old town in the northern part of Suffolk near the salt marshes along the eastern coast of England. This town was originally inhabited by the Danes who named it Lowestoft, meaning the low place to the east.

Grandmother liked Lowestoft, and was very happy there until grandfather began drinking too much. "'alf and 'alf" and a bit of rum, but grandmother like the devoted wife she always was, made it a point to meet him each night after work at Bowling Green and walked home with him, thus avoiding the grog shops.

Elizabeth their first child was born and died at Lowestoft, then they moved to Wymondham where William John and Ann Marie were born. Later they moved to Great Ellenford and Fredrick Robert was born there.

About this time Grandfather and Grandmother after thoroughly investigating the principles of Mormonism as taught by the L.D. S. Missionaries, joined the Church and were baptized December 15, 1848. At that time all converts were urged to come to Utah and settle among the saints. Grandfather and Grandmother were very anxious, but because of their financial condition, they were unable to make the journey, so they lived their religion and attended Church services in Norwich.

In the fall of 1852 Granfather's friend Robert T. Neslen, who was very well to do, offered to pay their emigration expenses for the whole Poll family if Grandfather would build for him (Neslen) in Salt Lake City. Grandfather gladly accepted the offer and preparation for the trip were made. Soon after the joyous Yuletide, they said "Goodbye" to their many loved ones and were on their way. At the dock there was some difficulty with the presiding Elder of the Company, Jacob Gates, over Grandfather bringing his chest of tools. They sailed from Liverpool on the ship Golconda, January 23, and arrived in New Orleans on March 26, 1853.

Under the direction of John Brown, Emigration Agent at New Orleans, they transhipped and continued up the Mississippi River to Keokuk, Iowa, a place which had been selected as the outfitting post for the Saints crossing the plains that year. They stayed in Keokuk a few weeks where they obtained oxen and wagons, food supplies

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and equipment necessary for the trip westward which they began in the latter part of May. One day they came to a large stream which they had to cross on a raft. Elder Gates said, "Well, Brother Poll, will you get your tools and help build a raft?" Grandfather was delighted to say, "If you had your way, I would not have had any tools."

Their company suffered all manner of hardships incidental to life on the Great Plains and arrived in Salt Lake City in September. Grandfather soon began work on the house for his friend, Neslen (Nelsen)

Grandfather and Grandmother made their home upon the hill in the 20th Ward. They did not have much of a house and like many other people at that time they used their covered wagon box for a bedroom. On August 4, 1854, Elizabeth Jennette, their third daughter was born. When she was five days old a dreadful rainstorm washed the wagon box with it's occupants down on the 8th Ward square, the block on which the City and County Building now stands, but no further damage was done. Three other daughters, Martha Ann, Mary Ann and Alice Eliza were born while they lived in the 20th Ward.

Grandfather and family were among the families that were called by President Brigham Young to go south and settle the country known as Dixie. This was a five-year mission and Grandfather's duty was to make furniture.

In 1861, the Poll family located on a small acreage in the Grafton Ward near the Virgin River. They lived in one adobe room. Grandfather enclosed the lot with a woven willow fence about 2 1/2 or 3 feet high. Part of the lot near the front of the house was used as a calf pasture. One day the children were playing in this little pasture when Grandmother saw a panther leap over the low fence and take a calf. She was always thankful that it was a calf instead of one of the children.

The people in Utah's Dixie had a bad year in 1865. The Country suffered from a heavy drought. Food stuff was very, very scarce and people in some places suffered from hunger.

On one occasion, when Grandmother had used the last of her flour in making a few precious biscuits which she had baking in a bake oven, a tall distinguished-looking man, exceptionally well dressed in a dark suit of clothes, came to the door and asked for bread. She told him if he would wait until the bread was done she would divide it with him. He waited and when she gave him the bread he blessed her and told her she would never want for bread. He walked down the path as far as the gate. There was nothing to obstruct the view except the low willow fence. Grandmother and the children looked for him but he had completely vanished. She always said he was one of the Three Nephites. About this time Grandfather was awfully worried. He did not know what to do to provide bread for his family, and being



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a man of great faith, he made it a matter of prayer. He was inspired to go down to the Virgin River, cut cottonwood trees and burn them, take the ashes to Toquerville where he would get flour. He followed this inspiration and to his satisfaction he exchanged a sack of ashes for a sack of flour with the people there who were using ashes for making soap in their new soap factory. He returned home with bread stuff for his thankful family. Grandfather and Grandmother were blessed while they lived in Grafton by the arrival of two more children, Harriet and Charles Henry. A great sorrow came into their lives when their daughter Maria, wife of Joseph Gibson, died--leaving him and two children.

Their mission was completed in 1866. Grandfather and his family left the Dixie country and returned to Salt Lake City. They made their home in the 10th Ward. Their house was two large rooms on the corner of 4th South and 10th East. Their son Joseph was born there. In the summer of 1869 they sold this little home and moved into a comfortable adobe house on the corner of 4th South and 9th East.

Grandfather worked a number of years making furniture for the Dinwoodey Furniture Company. Then for some time he worked on the Salt Lake Temple. His wages being partly cash and partly commodities from the Church Tithing Office.

About this time the Poll family was deeply grieved by the death of the eldest son and brother William J., who left a wife Louise Strong Poll and two small children.

Their three elder girls of the family had a hat shop on the corner of Grandfather's lot where they prepared straw, braided it, made hats and sold them. After the girls were married Grandfather used the shop as a carpenter shop. During this time he became very seriously ill and for sometime he was unable to work.

Later on through Grandmothers influence he opened a Meat Market in the old carpenters shop where he and Grandmother worked together. After the children were married grandfather sold the home and Meat Market and moved into a little house just around the corner on 9th East. Like all her homes, Grandmother kept it very cozy and homey, and one of the greatest joys of our lives was to visit there.

The affectionate welcome and hospitable influence of the home was unsurpassed. It was here in the evening of November 3, 1892, that Grandfather and Grandmother celebrated their Golden Wedding.

They were happy and proud to greet such a large gathering of their children and Grandchildren. All enjoyed a lovely dinner and an extemporaneous program. A gold headed cane and a gold headed umbrella with suitable inscriptions engraved therein was presented to the elderly couple who cherished these gifts as long as they lived. Years before Grandfather laid off the liquor and tobacco habits.

He and Grandmother were contented and happy. Their home life was simple and pleasant. They were prosperous in business, active in Church affairs, and sincere in their religious belief. In later life they did some temple work.

Grandfather died November 7, 1895. Funeral services were held Sunday, November 10th in the 10th Ward Chapel and he was buried in the City Cemetery. Dear little brokenhearted Grandmother just could not live in the old home without Grandfather, so she broke up house keeping and lived with one of her daughters for the balance of her life. Another sorrow came into her life when her daughter Jennette passed away leaving her husband Joseph Earl and a large family. Grandmother died February 19, 1903 at the home of her

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daughter Harriet in South Weber. After her funeral services in Salt Lake in the 10th Ward Chapel she was laid to rest by the side of Grandfather. At this time June 15, 1940 there are 303 living descendants.

All credit for this sketch can be given to Lizzie Poll Berrett and Ida Berrett Poll.

