

HENRY AND NETTIE BEHRMANN

Written by their daughter, Bessie Behrmann Huffman

When Grandma Behrmann (Ingar Marie) was pregnant with my father, she came down with the measles and the result was, my father was born premature and with the measles. This left him in poor health all his life, along with other problems he had along the way, because in his weak condition he couldn't avoid a lot of things a healthy body wouldn't have taken.

My mother wasn't very well either. When she hadn't been married very long her health was so bad she didn't know if she would live very long or not, but she kept going. Satan knew of her weakened condition and when she would go outside to hang out the clothes he would tell her she wouldn't live to get back in the house, or whatever she was doing she wouldn't live to finish it. This was a very miserable time for her. During this time her grandfather appeared to her and told her she had a great work to do in this life and he had a great work to do on the other side. After that she got better.

Both of my parents loved to do genealogy and they put in a lot of time and travel to find records of their people. After my father died my mother came to Mesa in the winter and worked in the temple for her people who she found the names during the summer. In those days they didn't have the extraction program, so there were not a lot of extra names in the temple, so a person needed to provide their own names if possible.

When my mother was young she had to work in the field the same as her brothers. Grandma Goss wasn't very well, but Grandpa Goss wouldn't let Mama or Aunt Etta (Mama's sister) stay home to help Grandma with her work, so the night before wash day the two girls would slip the cloths out of the house, take them to the creek, where they did their washing, hide them, then the next morning they would start to the field together as usual until they were out of Grandpa's sight, then one would go to the field and try to get as much work done as the two usually did while the other went to the creek, dipped the cloths in the creek to get them wet, soap them good then spread them on a

stump of a tree and beat them with a club until they were clean, then rinse them in the creek and hang them on the bushes to dry.

When my father was on a mission in the Southern States, he had a companion by the name of Morris Wilson. At this time the mobs were trying to run all the Mormon missionaries out of the South, so Papa and the other Elder had quite a time keeping away from them. Sometimes the families they would spend the night with, some of the men would sit up all night on guard for fear a mob would come to get the Elders. One time they did get Papa and Elder Wilson and took them out in the woods and whipped them. Some of the mob mentioned they shouldn't be too close to their mules for fear the noise might make the mules break loose and run home. One man in the mob said, "I wouldn't walk home for all the D-Mormons." Just after they started home his mule fell dead as he was riding it and he had to walk home. In Elder Wilson's journal he said in spite of the severe beating that was given them, the next morning they didn't have a scratch on their bodies.

When Mama was 16 years old, she heard there was going to be some Mormon Elders speak at the schoolhouse that night. She had never heard of the Mormons before, so she was very curious about them and asked someone who they were. The answer was, "Oh, they are a bunch of men who have seven wives." She and Aunt Etta went to hear them preach and Mama said the first song they sang she knew what they were preaching was true. Aunt Etta also had a testimony of the gospel at this time.

Grandpa Goss wouldn't let Mama be baptized, but her testimony kept growing until Aug 1899, when Papa asked Grandpa for Mama and when he gave his consent, Papa asked him if she could be baptized, he said she didn't belong to him anymore and she could do as she pleased. Because Grandpa wouldn't let Mama go with Papa without being married, she was baptized 14 Aug. 1899 and was married that same day but they didn't live as husband and wife until they were married in the temple 6 Sept. 1899.

The first time Papa saw Mama he knew she was to be his wife.

Grandpa Goss never joined the church but he never turned the Elders away form his door...They would stay for days at a time at his home, and they were always welcome.