

To My Grandchildren From Clifford H. Edwards Excerpts From Your Ancestry:

That are Part of Your Pioneer Heritage

William Comish your Great Great Great Grandfather was taught the gospel and baptized by John Taylor, the Third President of the Church, when he was on his first mission for the Church in Europe as an Apostle. William came from the Isle of Man off the coast of England. He came to America with his oldest Daughter, Jane, and worked in St. Louis, Missouri to earn enough money to send for the rest of his family. After the family arrived they traveled to Utah in 1855 in one of the pioneer companies and at first settled in Kaysville. William's son John Comish at the age of 18 went out to help rescue the people in the Willy and Martin Handcart Companies who were stranded in the snow and unable to get to the Salt Lake Valley without help.

John made 7 trips across the plains as a scout for the Church and to lead pioneer companies to Utah. During this time Brigham Young called him into his office and told him that it was time for him to find a wife. On one of his trips to bring immigrating Saints across the plains he saw a young woman named Esther Stanford from England. After dancing with her one night he asked her to marry him. When she said yes, he bend down and kissed her. She consequently slapped him in the face. She obviously thought him a bit forward. He was 6 feet tall and she was 5 feet 2 inches. Esther was one of the young women who were called Buffalo Girls. Their job was to collect enough buffalo chips to use for fires as they crossed the plains. John and Esther were married in the Endowment House by Apostle Wilford Woodruff who became the Fourth President of the Church.

The Comish family eventually were called by Brigham Young to settle in the northern part of Utah. Being mistaken regarding the boundary line between Idaho and Utah they first went into what is now called Franklin. The company thus settled the first town in the State of Idaho. They got there on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 1860 at 9:00 at night. Later they moved a short distance south to settle in Cove, Utah. They were among the six families requested to make that settlement. John was among those who went to the Salmon River area in Idaho to fight against the Indians who were attacking a Church settlement there. He also was part of the Echo Canyon War. John also helped in the construction of the Logan Temple and was involved in the construction of the first railroad in Idaho. On one occasion John looked through Orin Porter Rockwell's telescope at the Snake River Indian Massacre just to the north of Preston, Idaho. Chief Sagewick one of the prominent chiefs was shot in the hand as he tried to swim across the river to get away from the soldiers who were led by Captain Conner. Later he came to the home of his friend John Comish to get his hand treated. It had become infected. He made at least two trips to get John's help.

John's daughter Ellen Francis Comish, my Grandmother, married Almartin Martin Larsen. They lived in Cove for a while and then moved to Mapleton, Idaho and then to an area called Egypt east of Preston. That is where your Great Grandmother Thelma Comish Larsen Edwards Inglet was born. The family later moved to Whitney and after a while moved into Preston, Idaho.