

HISTORY OF JOHN GOODRICH By Caroline Goodrich Miles

John Goodrich was born 30 May 1891 at Vernal, Uintah, Utah. He was the sixth child of George Albert Goodrich and Rhoda Slade. His mother was the third wife of George Albert. John was a very large baby at birth, weighing ten pounds.

His early childhood days were spent in Naples until he was sixteen years old. He attended school in Naples, Uintah, Utah. His first school teacher was Maggie Bingham. He completed the seventh year of school, the highest grade held at that time. The responsibilities and experiences he had as a young boy gave him the wisdom comparable to many more years of schooling.

His best school friends were Fuller Remington and Caleb Haws. He related many amusing experiences he had with his school chums. One experience he remembered was the day Caleb and he had been fighting at school and his teacher marched them into the school house and made them shake hands and ask for forgiveness even though they didn't much feel like it.

John and his brothers and sisters always hung their stockings at Christmas. They would receive some little inexpensive toy and always got some type of clothes they needed. The year he peeked through the keyhole and watched Santa Clause come was not a very happy one.

The Goodrich places were gathering places for neighbors to come and play ball. All of the neighbors were able to get along well together and John could not recall any fights the three families had. They always got along peaceably. Whenever John wanted something to eat he would go to Aunt Harriet's, his father's second wife and she would say, "Of course you can have some, Johnny." John said many times that Aunt Harriet was a dandy woman. John was always called Johnny when he was a boy and would get mad when called John. He could always tell when his mother was unhappy with him because she would call him Jack and this was not to his liking.

It was Alfred's, Arthur's and John's responsibility to weed the corn patch. One day in particular their dad put Arthur, the youngest in as boss, thinking this would help them to accomplish more than they usually did. As soon as they arrived at the corn patch. Alfred and John said to Arthur, "Come on boss, let's go in swimming," so they headed for the swimming hole in Ashley Creek.

One of the mischievous pranks John and his friends were involved in was the night they investigated a neighbor's watermelon patch and he lost a dollar watch and was too scared to go back and look for it. Another prank they had fun doing was what they called "tic tacking" at peoples' houses. They would tie a string tight against the window, flip the string which created a loud noise and then they would run away so they would not be caught.

All his life John was a hard worker. He felt that work never hurt anyone. He was always able to get a job. As a young boy he helped Sam Herron kill pigs and helped in the bees with Lewis Lind, Alfred Powell, his father and others, working for 50 cents a day. He helped in the hay and helped plow for his dad when he was twelve years old.

John was baptized 31 August 1899 in the Ashley Creek at Naples, Uintah, Utah by Joseph H. Gardiner and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on 13 September 1899 by George H. Slaugh. He was ordained a deacon 16 January 1907 by George L. Goodrich.

In 1906 his mother filed on one hundred sixty acres of land for her boys. It was land that was open to the white people by the government for homesteading in Bluebell, Duchesne, Utah. John and his mother moved to Bluebell first. They lived there a year with his mother traveling back and forth because of some of the children being still in school in Vernal. They lived in a tent until a house could be built. Then his mother and her children Alfred, Gardner, Arthur, Edith, Ruth and John came to the homestead in 1908, bringing one team of horses, a wagon, a walking plow, a few chickens, five cows, and very few household items. John's brother Alfred and Heber Powell built two log cabins while Jimmy Powell and John were chopping posts. The family moved into one of the log cabins, which is still standing today. The log cabins were used for granaries later on.

John was fifteen years old when he went on the Indian Bench to work for Leslie Goodrich and Will Gagon. The summer he was sixteen he worked on a government ditch at White Rocks Canyon and then at Arcadia. Then he went back to Vernal for the winter and came back to Bluebell the next year in the spring. He bought water for their ground at Bluebell from Will Gagon and Leslie Goodrich and was the first man to plow ground and plant alfalfa seed in Bluebell. At that time he put in six acres of hay. When he was seventeen he was the first to put a plow in the Bluebell Canal and helped put water out on their farm.

John was eighteen years old when he took his brother Alfred's place working at the Bonanza Gilsonite Mine running the hoisting outfit, keeping the machines running and digging gilsonite. He worked for one year and six days at the gilsonite mine without a layoff, working Sundays and all. He made \$1.00 a day and thought it was big wages then. Later on he made \$100 a month working the hoist. He stayed six years and sent money home to his mother every month which helped to educate the younger children and meet other expenses. Alfred and Gardner were home working on the ranch, grubbing sage brush etc. while he was working at the mines.

John had always been a great hand to tease. While working at the gilsonite mine he took an old prospector's three burros, a white one and two dark ones and turned them loose into a room where three girls were sleeping. The girls were really frightened but were able to laugh about the incident later on.

John was about twenty-four years old when he came home to stay on the farm. At that time his mother suggested that her sons Gardner, Alfred and John pool all their resources and form a partnership. Through her admonition they did this and performed that which to most people would be impossible, the ability to live together, work together and to be in complete harmony with each other.

The Goodrich Brothers bought their sheep herd and the taking care of them took John away from home on and off for about twenty five years. The brothers took turns herding the sheep with the help of their boys. Permits were bought to run the sheep on the forest in the summer. Sometimes when John was at the sheep camp in the mountains his wife and children would visit him. The family looked forward to these occasions where they could be together enjoying the beautiful mountain scenery and being out-of-doors and eating those delicious sourdough biscuits, mutton steak or mutton stew.

The sheep were also run in the cedars on their ground between Bluebell and Roosevelt and the sheep wintered out on the desert. When John was in his fifties they sold their desert sheep to some people called Moon. They kept some sheep on the farm and had a permit to run cattle on Dry Gulch.

At one time the Goodrich Brothers owned about 1500 head of sheep and owned 4,000 acres of ground. The Goodrich Brothers worked in harmony for approximately fifty years until Gardner's and Fred's health no longer permitted them to work. John continued on as best as he could alone with the farm. Loren his son helped with the farming until the farm was sold in April 1966. After the selling of the farm and their homes John and his wife bought back the home of Gardner and Jennie and resided there until their death. The summer before the farm was sold, John, at age 74 baled 12,000 bales of hay.

When John was twenty seven years old he married Rosezella Hancock in Duchesne, Duchesne, Utah on 31 July 1918. He had known her all of her life and he often mentioned having to raise her as she was only sixteen years of age when he married her. To them were born the following children: Lloyd John, Everett H, Kenneth R., Carma Arlene, Loren Dale, Ardis Emily, Clyde H., and Carolyn LaRae.

Everett was killed in a mine explosion at Bonanza Gilsonite Mine at the age of thirty one on November 5, 1953. His body was recovered four months later and the funeral was held on March 17, 1954. Clyde was killed in an automobile accident on Highway 40 west of Roosevelt, Utah at the age of twenty on November 23, 1956. Four of John's boys served in the armed forces. Everett was wounded and received the Purple Heart. John has six living children, twenty seven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. One of his grandsons, Mark, son of Kenneth is presently serving a mission in the Alaska-British Columbia Mission.

John had seen much progress in his life. He was able to buy his first car in 1929, a Model T Ford. This was quite a change from a horse and buggy.

Everything went well in the community of Bluebell until 1931 when they suffered a drought and depression which caused a big setback. Very few crops were harvested. The alfalfa died out and the Goodrich Brothers had to take their cattle and sheep out and kill them to keep them from starving to death. They had to borrow money from the government for feed. Lambs were sold during this period for one or two dollars a head, good ewes were sold for three dollars a head and cattle sold for twelve dollars. The depression set them back for about twelve years. They were behind in their taxes about \$1,000 which was a lot of money then.

John was always handy with machinery and blacksmithing. He worked for Frank Roberts grinding tools and he sharpened shearing tools for Owen Bennion, Paul S. Hansen, Crystals and others. Owen Bennion always said, "If John Goodrich couldn't run a motor no one else could." John sharpened his own tools and ran the motor for their own sheep shearing and sheared some of their own sheep. He was always big and husky and could easily throw a sheep over the fence. Inasmuch as he was so good with machinery the Gilsonite Mine Company wanted him to work at the mines again, but he was needed to help on the farm.

John was not very active in the Church until about 1954 at the age of sixty three when he was called to work in the Sunday School. Alfred and he were called to serve as counselors to Leslie for about a year. He was then called to serve as superintendent of the MIA in the Bluebell Ward. He served in that position for about nine years from 1955 to 1964.

In 1964 he and his wife celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary at Merkley Park in Vernal with their children and grandchildren. The day was spent playing ball games and picnicking and it was enjoyed by everyone. In 1968 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Bluebell Ward Chapel. Many friends and relatives came and helped them to enjoy that special occasion.

John was desirous of going through the temple to have his family sealed to him. He prepared himself and was ordained a teacher by James Ivan Bird on 26 December 1954. He was ordained a priest by Ulrich Bernard Winkler on 6 February 1955 and was ordained an elder by William N. Brotherson on 13 June 1957. One of the most important and happy days in John's life was 27 June 1969 for that day was the day he, with his wife of fifty-one years were married and sealed in the Salt Lake Temple.

The following year, on 18 August 1970, His wife Rosezella suffered a stroke paralyzing her right side and she later died of congestive heart failure on 4 October 1970.

John had always led a very active life and his general health had been good all his life except for the few minor accidents he had. One time when he was fourteen years old the horse he was riding was spooked by a white horse coming out of a wash, causing him to fall and break his collar bone. In his early twenties he broke a foot when the horse he was riding threw him off. His brother Arthur had his students at high school make him a

pair of crutches at that time. The cast came loose so John took it off and was working on the hoist at the mines two weeks after he broke his foot.

John had an ear for music and always enjoyed it. He loved to sing and play the harmonica and loved to hear anyone harmonize in singing. Many people enjoyed listening and watching him keep rhythm to Yankee Doodle Dandy with a pie tin. He loved to dance the old-time dances such as the Varsouvienne, Schottische, the plain and waltz quadrille, spat waltz, Danish slide, Chicago glide, the Jewel, heel and toe polka and others. John developed an attractive style of penmanship and took great pride in his signature.

He always had a testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and was desirous that his children live the principles of the Gospel. His honesty, sincerity and uprightness were some of his great virtues. In these he set a worthy exemplary pattern. He was greatly respected.

After Gardner and Alfred were no longer able to work and left the farm for him to run alone he split the income from the farm equally with all three families, only paying himself \$1.00 a day for his work. He had always been extremely honest in meeting his obligations. At one point in his life when he was the most ill, he worried about this, making sure he did not owe anyone.

John's left eye was operated on in October 1971 to have a cataract removed. He had not seen out of the left eye for three years. Then in April of 1973 he had the right eye operated on and was fitted with glasses and was able to read with both eyes again, enabling him to spend many of his lonely hours reading Church doctrine, reading the daily newspaper and watching television, thus helping him to keep up with the current world affairs and events.

On 6 April 1972 at the age of eighty, while feeding some sheep he fell and broke two or three vertebrae, causing a lot of pain. He spent some time in the hospital. Loren, his son moved back from Salt Lake City to live with him and take care of him. He fell again and hurt the old injury, leaving him with arthritis in his back. John was in and out of the hospital the last two months of his life and this great man died of cardiac arrest on 4 February 1974 at the age of eighty two.