

HISTORY OF MARIA CELESTIA HUNTSMAN COX - FERRON, UTAH
(AS TOLD BY THE LATE VELMA PETERSEN, HER DAUGHTER)

MARIA WAS BORN OCTOBER 3, 1887 IN THURBER, UTAH TO HYRUM R. HUNTSMAN, II AND OLIVE CELESTIA BULLARD HUNTSMAN.

MARIA'S GREAT GRANDMOTHER CAME TO UTAH WITH THE HANDCART COMPANY IN 1848. GREAT GRANDMOTHER BURGESS REMEMBERS WALKING MOST OF THE WAY. SHE WAS A WONDERFUL STORY TELLER AND SPENT MANY HOURS TELLING MARIA OF HER EXPERIENCES CROSSING THE PLAINS AND FINALLY SETTLING IN PINE VALLEY AT THE FOOT OF THE PINE VALLEY MOUNTAINS. HERE MARIA'S GRANDMOTHER WAS BORN. OLIVE CELESTIA BULLARD, WHO BECAME A VERY ACTIVE GIRL. IN HER EARLY TEENS SHE BECAME VERY ILL AND BECAUSE HER PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED, SHE VOWED THAT SHE WOULD DEDICATE HER LIFE TO HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN NEED OF MEDICAL HELP. FOR AS LONG AS SHE LIVED SHE NEVER REFUSED TO HELP THE SICK AND SUFFERING. SHE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE BEST MIDWIVES IN THAT AREA. BECAUSE SHE ALWAYS CARRIED HER BLACK MEDICAL BAG WHEN SHE CAME TO VISIT, MARIA THOUGHT SHE HAD A BABY IN THE BAG AND WONDERED WHEN IT WOULD BE BORN...

ONE NIGHT A MAN CAME TO HER HOME IN THE EARLY EVENING. HE WANTED GRANDMOTHER BULLARD TO GO HELP WITH HIS WIFE WHO WAS HAVING A BABY. SHE GOT IN HIS BUGGY AND THEY STARTED UP TO HIS FARM. THE ROADS WERE VERY ROUGH AND THE MAN, BEING IN A HURRY, USED HIS WHIP ON THE HORSE. THE HORSE WENT OVER A LARGE ROCK, KNOCKING A WHEEL OFF THE BUGGY. GRANDMOTHER WAS THROWN FROM THE WAGON ALONG WITH THE MAN. SHE CUT A LARGE GASH ON HER FACE AND THE MAN'S LEG WAS HURT, BUT HE HELPED GRANDMOTHER ON TO THE HORSE AND BEGGED HER TO GO ON AND HELP HIS WIFE. THIS SHE DID, LEAVING THE MAN TO STAY WITH THE BUGGY UNTIL HELP COULD BE SENT. SHE GOT TO THE HOME IN TIME TO DELIVER THE NEW BABY AND CARE FOR THE MOTHER.

ONE OF THE EARLY TRAITS SO CHARACTERISTIC OF EARLY MORMON FAMILIES WAS THAT THE WHOLE FAMILY LIVED AND WORKED CLOSELY TOGETHER.

ONE AFTERNOON MARIA'S FATHER WENT TO TOWN FOR SUPPLIES, LEAVING HER MOTHER HOME ALONE WITH THREE SMALL CHILDREN. AN OLD INDIAN CALLED GRAY BEARD CAME TO THE HOUSE. THIS INDIAN WAS GREATLY FEARED BECAUSE HE BELONGED TO A BAND OF RENEGADE INDIANS THAT WERE VERY MEAN AND ALWAYS CAUSING PROBLEMS WITH THE SETTLERS. HE CAME INTO THE HOUSE WITHOUT KNOCKING AND DEMANDED FOOD AND SOCKS.

MOTHER WENT INTO THE OTHER ROOM TO FIND THE FOOD AND SOCKS, BUT WHEN SHE CAME BACK THE OLD INDIAN HAD CORNERED 5 YEAR OLD MARIA AND SHE HAD STARTED TO CRY. MOTHER CAME BACK TO HIM AND TOLD HIM SHE WOULD NOT GIVE HIM THE FOOD AND SOCKS UNLESS HE LEFT HER CHILDREN ALONE. HE STOOD UP AND STARTED TO JABBER SOMETHING IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE TO HER. SHE WAS SO AFRAID OF HIM THAT WHEN HE PUT HIS DIRTY OLD FACE CLOSE TO HER, SHE SLAPPED HIM RIGHT IN THE FACE. HE GRABBED A KNIFE FROM HIS BELT AND STARTED FOR HER AS SHE RAN FROM THE ROOM TO THE OPEN PORCH BY THE DOOR. BY THE SIDE OF THE DOOR WAS AN OLD GUN BELONGING TO HER HUSBAND. SHE PICKED IT UP AND POINTED IT AT HIM, TREATENING TO SHOOT. HE BACKED OFF THE PORCH AND STARTED TO RUN THROUGH THE FIELD. AT THIS TIME, A FARMER FROM POTATO VALLEY DROVE INTO THE PLACE WITH A BIG LOAD OF POTATOES. HE SAW THE OLD INDIAN RUNNING AND HEARD MOTHER CRYING. HE JUMPED FROM HIS WAGON AND STARTED AFTER GRAY BEAR. THE INDIAN OUT DISTANCED HIM AND HE RETURNED TO TEND TO MOTHER. HE SAID THAT IF HE HAD CAUGHT HIM HE WOULD HAVE BEATEN HIM SEVERELY. WHEN FATHER RETURNED LATER, HE TOLD HIS WIFE THAT THE GUN WASN'T EVEN LOADED AND PROBLBLY WOULDN'T HAVE SHOT.

THE FAMILY MOVED TO CAINVILLE WHICH WAS JUST A FEW MILES FROM THURBER. MARIA MADE A JOKE OF LIVING IN CAINVILLE AND "RAISING CANE", WHICH WAS HOW THEY MADE THEIR LIVING. THE HUNTSMAN FAMILY HAD A SMALL STORE ON THE BACK OF THEIR HOME AND MARIA AND THE OTHER CHILDREN HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF FILLING A BIG VAT WITH SUGAR CANE THAT WOULD LATER BE MADE INTO MOLASSES CANDY. THE CANDY WAS THEN PULLED INTO LONG WHITE STIPS WHICH WOULD BE CUT INTO MANAGEABLE PIECES TO EAT. A PRIZE WAS GIVEN TO THE TEAM OF TWO PULLERS THAT COULD MAKE THE WHITEST CANDY. EVERYONE WOULD EAT UNTIL THEY COULD HARDLY MOVE. THE CANDY PULL WAS ONE OF THE FUN THINGS THAT EVERYONE ENJOYED EVERY FALL. CANDY AND GUM WERE NOT FOR THE FAMILY TO ENJOY AT THEIR DESIRE. "BOUGHTEN" CANDY AND GUM, AS IT WAS CALLED, WERE JUST FOR A REAL SPECIAL TREAT. A STICK OF GUM WAS KEPT FOR DAYS AND WAS A RARE TREAT TO BE PASSED AROUND FOR SEVERAL TO ENJOY UNTIL THE FLAVOR WAS GONE.

AS MARIA GREW INTO HER TEENS, SHE WAS SENT TO EPHRIAM TO ATTEND THE ACADEMY THERE. DURING THIS TIME MARIA STAYED WITH A FAMILY FROM PLEASANT GROVE BY THE NAME OF BOUNDS. SHE WOULD HELP WITH THE MILKING, CLEANING, ETC., TO PAY FOR HER BOARD AND ROOM.

ONE EARLY EVENING MARIA WENT TO BRING IN THE MILK COW FOR MILKING WHEN SHE SAW A LOT OF DUST IN THE DISTANCE. SHE RAN TO THE HOUSE TO TELL MRS. BOUNDS SOMEONE WAS COMING. THEY LOOKED OUT THE

WINDOW AND SAW A LARGE BAND OF INDIANS COMING UP THE ROAD. BY THE TIME MRS. BOUNDS TOOK HER BABY IN HER ARMS THEY WERE AT THE DOOR AND SHOVING THEIR WAY INTO THE HOUSE. THIRTY OF THEM WITH THREE SQUAWS. THEY HELPED THEMSELVES TO THE FOOD ON THE TABLE AND ASKED FOR MORE. MRS. BOUNDS JUST GAVE THEM WHATEVER THEY WANTED. THEY WANTED BEDDING AND HAY FOR THEIR HORSES. SHE TOOK THE QUILTS RIGHT OFF HER BED AND GAVE THEM TO THE INDIANS. AFTER THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY LEFT THE HOUSE AND MADE CAMP ABOUT A HUNDRED FEET FROM IT. THEY MADE A BIG FIRE AND PREPARED FOR THE NIGHT. THE INDIANS HAD NO PROBLEM SLEEPING, BUT THE TWO FRIGHTENED WOMEN IN THE HOUSE NEVER CLOSED THEIR EYES. MORNING CAME AND THE INDIANS WERE IN NO HURRY TO MOVE ON. THEY PREPARED FOOD AT THEIR FIRE AND FINALLY WERE ON THE MOVE. THEY BROUGHT BACK THE QUILTS, THROWING THEM IN THE DOOR. MRS. BOUNDS TOOK THOSE QUILTS RIGHT OUT AND BOILED THEM THOROUGHLY BEFORE PUTTING THEM BACK ON HER BED.

BECAUSE OF FLOODING IN CAINVILLE IN 1906, THE HUNTSMAN FAMILY DECIDED TO MOVE TO ROCHESTER IN EMERY COUNTY. THE TRIP TOOK SIX LONG DAYS. GRANDFATER HUNTSMAN FILED FOR A HOMESTEAD OF 120 ACRES. THE SOIL WAS SOFT AND BEAUTIFUL AND A VERY CHOICE PLACE TO RAISE GARDENS AND GRAINS OF ALL KINDS. THIS LAND HAD BEEN FILED ON BEFORE AS A HOMESTEAD BUT THE FILER HAD NOT LIVED UP TO THE AGREEMENT OF A HOMESTEADER. THE LAW STATED THAT THE LAND MUST BE LIVED ON AND BUILDINGS, INCLUDING A HOME, MUST BE ERECTED. IN ORDER TO BREAK THE FORMER HOMESTEADER'S AGREEMENT, THE NEW HOMESTEADER HAD TO GO TO SALT LAKE CITY AND FILE FOR IT, PAYING A \$250.00 FILING FEE.

ON JULY 30, 1907, MARIA MARRIED FREDRICK LESLIE COX IN THE SALT LAKE TEMPLE.

MARIA & LES STARTED MARRIED LIFE IN A TWO ROOM LOG CABIN IN ROCHESTER WORKING ON THE FAMILY HOMESTEAD.

ROCHESTER BECAME A THRIVING LITTLE COMMUNITY. THE CANALS THAT HAD BEEN BUILT TO SUPPLY WATER FOR EMERY AND ROCHESTER WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GOOD FARMING YEARS. A SCHOOL HOUSE MADE OF BRICK SERVED A DUAL PURPOSE AS IT WAS USED FOR BOTH SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

THE NAME ROCHESTER WAS GIVEN THE TOWN BY REQUEST OF M.B. WHITNEY BECASUE HE CAME FROM ROCHESTER, NEW YORK. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE LANG COMPANY AND ALSO THE FINANCIER OF THE COMPANY. HE LOST MONEY IN THE COMPANY. WHEN EMERY COUNTY LAND AND WATER COMPANY

HAD A FEW SET-BACKS DUE TO VARIOUS SHADY DEALS THAT INVOLVED FINANCE, HE WAS REPLACED BY A NEW MANAGER, L. C. MOORE. THOSE OF YOU FROM THAT EARLY ERA WOULD REMEMBER MR. MOORE AND HIS WIFE ELISE. MR. MOORE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR LAYING OUT THE TOWNSITE.

TIMES STARTED TO CHANGE WHEN LEWIS PETERSON MOVED A BUILDING ONTO THE TOWNSITE IN FERRON, AND OPENED A STORE WITH LEON P. RALPHS.

SLOWLY THE HARD LIFE IN ROCHESTER TOOK IT'S TOLE ON THE YOUNG FAMILIES WHO WERE CONCERNED WITH GETTING CHILDREN BACK AND FORTH TO SCHOOL IN FERRON AND THERE WAS A SLOW MIGRATION TO MOVE INTO TOWN. SO AS FERRON GOT LARGER, ROCHESTER GOT SMALLER.

CHANGE IS IMMINENT IN ALL THINGS AND NOW ROCHESTER OR "MOORE" AS WE KNOW IT TODAY IS A RURAL FARMING SUBURB OF FERRON AND EMERY.