

John Silas Crosby
and
Mary Ann Owens Crosby
By Jeffrey E. Crosby

On 10 June 1872 in Salt Lake City, Daniel H. Wells sealed Samuel Obed Crosby to Hannah Adelia Bunker in the Endowment House. For their marriage, the couple had traveled by wagon from St. George to Salt Lake, chaperoned by Sam's mother.¹ Encouraged by his older brother Jesse, Sam moved with his bride to Panguitch, Utah. Over the next five years three children were born to the couple: Samuel Obed Jr., Elida Emily and Earnest Kendall.

In 1877 Adelia's father, Bishop Edward Bunker of Santa Clara, invited them to join his new settlement in Lincoln County, Nevada, where he intended to establish the United Order. Sam left Adelia and the children in Panguitch and joined the Bunkerville settlement in January of 1877.² After thirty months working to help establish the community, Sam brought Adelia and the children from

¹ Hannah Adelia Bunker Crosby, "Autobiography of Hannah Adelia Bunker Crosby", Typescript of original, 3. It is also reproduced in Josephine B. Walker, ed. *The Bunker Family History*. n.p.: The Edward Bunker Family Association, 1957, 47-49. The page numbers in brackets refer to the reproduction of the autobiography in this volume.

² James G. Bleak records that Sam was not present at the meeting in Santa Clara when the company was organized but that he joined them in route on 2 January 1877. Cited in Juanita Brooks, *Dudley Leavitt: Pioneer to Southern Utah* (n.p., 1942), 81.

Panguitch in the fall or early winter of 1879.³ The couple left their third child, the toddler Earnest, buried in Panguitch.

Adelia described their initial Bunkerville house as a willow shanty that “gave very little protection against the heat.”⁴ In this home, Adelia gave birth to the couple’s third son, John Silas Crosby. He was born 11 April 1880.

Childhood

Bunkerville was prosperous for the Crosbys, but the United Order did not prove successful. Sam engaged in several occupations in Bunkerville, he was a farmer, he made molasses, he operated a store, and he freighted salt to St. George and grain to other settlements.⁵ According to John, Sam also taught school in Bunkerville, although he may not have had a state license.⁶ John declared that his father was his first teacher.⁷

We can only speculate about John’s early years in Bunkerville. In one autobiographical account he wrote: “Though only eight, I remember Bunkerville well. Of course while my Grand Parents lived there Mother insisted on going back

³ This interval from 1877 to 1879 is indicated by the death of Earnest Kendall, who was buried in Panguitch in August of 1879, and the birth of John Silas in Bunkerville during April of 1880. The move had to take place sometime between these two events. According to Sam’s obituary the family moved in May of 1879, but it seems unlikely that they would have returned to Panguitch to bury the infant during the summer heat, *Deseret Evening News*, 2 April 1903, 7.

⁴ Hannah Adelia Bunker Crosby, “Autobiography,” 2 [105].

⁵ U.S. Census, 1880, Bunkerville, Lincoln, Nevada. It seems likely that the store was opened during the winter of 1880-1881. Joseph Ira Earl records working “on the store” in May of 1881. Earl, *Journal*, 24 May 1881. *Diary of Myron Abbott*, 27 April 1882, 3 December 1883., 29 June 1881.

⁶ Martha Cragun Cox, *Face Toward Zion: Pioneer Reminiscences and Journal of Martha Cragun Cox* (n.p., 1985), 129. She notes: “. . . only one Mormon man had ever been allowed to hold a certificate in that state, . . . Samuel O. Crosby and Zera Terry, both good young men I had known, were not even allowed to be present at the school teacher’s examination.”

⁷ John Silas Crosby, “Autobiography”, typescript of original in author’s possession [p. 135].

often. When I was sixteen I spent part of one winter there.”⁸ John’s recollections from Bunkerville were more in the way of impressions. For example, he repeatedly told his sons that his grandfather, Edward Bunker, was the best man with an ax that he had ever seen.⁹ While his memories may have been vivid, they were not descriptive.

We do know the Crosbys were heavily involved in the Church in Bunkerville. John was baptized there, apparently in the big ditch, on 18 April 1888 by Bishop Edward Bunker, Jr, one week after his eighth birthday.¹⁰

The Bunkerville climate was not healthy for the Crosbys. Both Sam and Adelia suffered from the oppressive summer heat. Looking for a means of escaping the heat, Sam would relocate Adelia and the children in a cave south of town in the nearby Bull Valley Mountains. This led to some youthful adventures.¹¹

Because of the hot climate, Sam and Adelia elected to leave Bunkerville in May of 1888. The Crosby family had continued to grow in Bunkerville, and as they left to return to Panguitch, Sam and Adelia had a bustling household with four boys and one daughter.

Returning to Panguitch, Sam bought the J. J. Page home on Main Street. Built of brick, this home was large, with two floors. This purchase allowed Sam to establish a mercantile business in Panguitch. Sam and Adelia later converted the home into a hotel. According to John, the hotel was profitable while his father was

⁹ Recollections of Ellis O. Crosby. (All recollections of John’s sons recorded in this essay come from notes in the author’s possession, recorded by either my father or myself.)

¹⁰ Personal Record and Autobiographical Sketch of John S. Crosby. Original in the possession of Arthur Crosby, Panguitch, Utah.

¹¹ John enjoyed telling the story of how he and Elida walked to town one day. See page 25.

alive.¹² Sam also resumed teaching school in Panguitch and served as assistant principal of the Panguitch Stake Academy.¹³ At least for a time, some classes were held on the upper floor of the Crosby hotel.¹⁴

Sam Crosby's involvement in education clearly made a lasting impression of his son. Destined to become a teacher himself, John could recall the names of his various teachers and detail the places where he attended these classes. Among others, his teachers included, John Miles, Sister James D. Heywood, John C. Swenson, George Dodds, Mahonri M. Steele Jr., Billy Wilson, D. Alvin Buck, and Kate deLong.¹⁵

John seems to have especially respected John Miles.

A very strict man he was, but for me, I probably never had a better teacher. If you were after information, he had it. And if you weren't after information, if you stayed in his school you would get it any way. Because work you must. And disturb you must not. He had a way of making you understand it.¹⁶

Success at school seemed to be important to John. He also had a strong sense of what was fair. He wrote the following about his final year of schooling in Panguitch.

The last year I went to school in Panguitch, was to D. Alvin Buck, in the up stairs of the Garfield Exchange. He was a little man and near sighted. Of that fact some took a little advantage. I with the others. I remember having been informed by one boy that he missed social science one day. That caused me to think of trying it. I missed the class all right, but not unknown to the teacher.

¹² John S. Crosby, "Samuel Obed Crosby", [96].

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ John Silas Crosby, "Autobiography" [135-6].

¹⁶ Ibid.

When I returned he said. "John sit over on that bench." I responded, "I wont do it." He weighed no more than a hundred thirty. I a plump hundred sixty five. His face flushed plenty but he held his head.

I was lucky. There were some very good girl students in the school. They stood for proper behavior. I wished for their good will. They were getting cute. They nodded their heads. Indicating very clearly that they thought I ought to get over on the bench. A thing I did.

In a couple of days I asked Mr. Buck to change my seat. He did. I caused him no more trouble. I may have disturbed a little but after that I was definitely cooperative.¹⁷

Always able to laugh at himself, John wrote the following additional story about that school year.

Toward the close of school Mr. Buck wanted to have a debate. The subject, Resolved that "Improved Machinery is a detriment to the Laboring Man." I was given the affirmative. My father and the editor of the Panguitch Progress, put some reading material in my way. I prepared my talk well. And gave it to the barn six or eight times. And out loud.

When I got up before the boys and girls, I was aware that they weren't the barn. I went almost blind and couldn't say a word. Just why, I have no idea, but I turned a spit on the floor. A thing I tried regularly not to do. The school just roared with laughter. That broke the spell. I proceeded with my argument. My assistant in the debate was unprepared. Neither was the assistant to the opposition prepared. Therefore just two of us carried the debate.

There were two girls and a boy for judges. By the way my opponent was a girl. At the conclusion they got together and gave the decision to my opponent.

The boy came to me after ward and volunteered, "John you won the debate easily. But the girls decided to give it to Ada because she talked longer." Right to day I feel I won that debate hands down.¹⁸

Beyond his educational opportunities, John only made one other comment regarding his youth. He described himself as "a fat roly-polly who caused as much

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid [137].

trouble as most. At least that has been the verdict of some who knew me rather well.”¹⁹

Other brothers and sisters were born in Panguitch, and two more died. The death of Obed, the eldest, in 1889 left John as the oldest son. This undoubtedly placed greater responsibility on John. It is likely that he ran errands and helped around both the store and hotel. Sam also maintained a small farm and some livestock. John almost certainly assisted in the fields and with the animals.

These responsibilities would have increased further in 1894 when his older sister, Elida, got married and his father left on a two-year mission to Great Britain. During his father’s mission, John found himself principally responsible for the family livestock. As a fifteen-year-old, John found himself freighting goods for the store and hotel from Salt Lake City to Panguitch.²⁰ Adelia’s health was also poor during part of Sam’s mission. George H. Crosby, Jr., an older cousin, came for a time and assisted the family with the store.²¹ His father’s mission provided John with the opportunity to demonstrate his reliability and to develop a sense of responsibility. This sense of responsibility, especially toward his mother, remained with him throughout his life.²²

Education

In the fall of 1898 John had the opportunity to leave Panguitch and attend the Beaver Branch of the Brigham Young Academy. A good athlete, John could run

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ This activity was told to John’s boys repeatedly by the father. Like many of the items in this essay, I have heard this mentioned by several of John’s sons at various times.

²¹ George H. Crosby, Jr., “Aunt Dee”.

²² See pages 41-43.

the hundred yard dash in 10.4 seconds. At the beginning, John had hoped to play football, but at that time it was discontinued at the Church schools after being determined to be too dangerous. Instead, John played basketball and participated in track. He wrote that “track was a real event. I wasn’t the fastest man in the state in my time. But I made the Clydes and the Percherons look at my back.”²³

John never outgrew his fondness for athletics, especially track. In his later years he regularly followed the Panguitch High School basketball team, even reporting the results of games in letters to his family.²⁴ John always enjoyed a footrace. As Ellis recalled:

Often times on our way home from school, especially at lunch time, Dad challenged his boys to a foot race. The race was generally fifty yards, marked by two telephone poles located between our front gate and the block corner to our south. We would watch Dad and wait for him to “break.”

It was a great day when you had grown enough to give him a good race or eventually out run him.

He gave you no quarter, but delighted in the day you out ran him.²⁵

While John clearly enjoyed athletics, schooling was even more important. He applied himself during his four years at Beaver, and John felt that he received a good education. In particular he respected Ernest D. Partridge (the principal), Rhinegard Maeser—son of Karl G. Maeser—and Mamie Olarton. Admitting the he received a certain amount of preferential treatment at Beaver, John wrote:

²³ John Silas Crosby, “Autobiography” [138].

²⁴ John S. Crosby to Ellis O. Crosby, 21 January 1952 [190] (See also: John S. Crosby to Ellis Crosby, 9 March 1957 [191]). This interest in basketball was held by most of the family. Some of the boys, including Theron and John, played on the Panguitch High School team. Even John’s wife, Mary, reported basketball scores in her correspondence (See Mary A. Crosby to Dee Crosby, 13 January 1947 [188]).

²⁵ Personal recollections of Ellis Crosby.

As I look back, the four years in Beaver, is the green, profitable strip of my life. I was a school pet, Which athlete is not? I liked a good wholesome time. I did for me a lot of good hard school work.

For four years I was President of my class. I had four opportunities to give the presidents address. I had experience presiding in what Church organization we had. For a year or two I was a Stake Missionary and traveled over most of Beaver Stake. I cannot think how a school could offer a young man more opportunity to grow. I am thinking now, I don't know what I would change if I could.²⁶

John completed his four year course of study and graduated from the Beaver Academy in the spring of 1902.²⁷

In the fall of 1902 John went north to continue his education in Provo at Brigham Young University. Unfortunately, he spent only a short time at school in Provo. During his second semester, in the winter of 1903, John's father became gravely ill after undergoing surgery. The illness was so serious that John was summoned home to Panguitch. John recalled that Sam "died soon after I came home."²⁸ This event interrupted John's education and probably altered the course of his life. He later wrote:

I can't but feel, that was too bad for me. Had he [Sam] lived I am sure I would have gone ahead and secured my degree. I went back to Provo in 1904 and completed a semesters work.²⁹

After his father's death, John stayed in Panguitch during the summer and fall of 1903 to manage the farm and assist his mother. He returned to Provo for the winter semester of 1904. Then in the fall of 1904 John received two offers to teach school, one in Overton, Nevada and the other in Panguitch. The Panguitch offer was \$30.00 and the Overton offer was for \$85.00. Telling the Panguitch board, "I

²⁶ John Silas Crosby, "Autobiography" [138].

²⁷ Personal Record and Autobiographical Sketch of John S. Crosby [p. 141].

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ John Silas Crosby, "Autobiography" [139].

wont take it,” John moved to Nevada and taught in Overton during the 1904-1905 school year.³⁰

Mission to West Virginia

While living in Overton, John received a letter from his Bishop in Panguitch, James Heywood, requesting him to accept a mission call. Deciding to accept the missionary assignment, John returned to Panguitch at the conclusion of the school year and worked, waiting for his call letter from Church headquarters. Signed by President Joseph F. Smith and his counselors, John’s mission call was dated 10 October 1905.³¹

I was called to the Eastern States. My head quarters were New York, N.Y. My labors were in New York City for about six weeks. Then I was transferred to South West Virginia. Here I labored for almost two years. . . . The last year I was out I was President of the South West Virginia Conference.³²

John left Salt Lake City by train on Wednesday, 11 October 1905. He changed trains in Pueblo, Colorado, taking the Rock Island line to Chicago. At Chicago John again changed trains and continued on to Buffalo, New York. At Buffalo he made a final change for the run to New York City. After crossing the Hudson River on the ferry, John took the subway to the Mission Home. He probably arrived on Saturday, 14 October 1905, after four days of travel.³³

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Photocopy of original missionary certificate in the possession of the author.

³² Ibid.

³³ John Silas Crosby, “Autobiography” [139]; John Silas Crosby, “Missionary Journal”, 1 [112]. Original in the possession of Arthur Crosby, Panguitch, Utah. Page numbers are as in the original. Page number in brackets indicates page number in this volume.

On the instructions of his Mission President, John remained in New York City for the next seven weeks. This gave him the opportunity to accustom himself to the regimen of missionary life, learn how to tract, learn how to organize and hold meetings and practice speaking in public.

My first day in tracting was a very peculiar one. I was so scared I hardly knew what to do. It seemed so out of the ordinary, to have to ask people to take things that were only for their own good. and then to be turned away, besides being sent from the house and forbidden to reenter did me for that day.

The next day was not so bad and I meet with some success.

In the next two weeks I had two very interesting talks. One with a woman who had visited Utah, and an other with a very nice old . . . Catholic who gave me some interesting information about his religion. But Catholics are hard to do much with. although some are very fare.³⁴

John also had time for amusements while in New York. He recorded a Halloween party where the Elders were able to relax. “After games and songs we had refreshments in the form of sandwiches, grapes, apples, cake, and rock cider.”³⁵ On Friday, November 17, he visited the Bronx Zoo. John was fascinated to finally see many of the exotic animals he had studied in school.

There I first saw the animals I had heard so much about. The elephant and gariffe were the large ones that were so interesting. But the monkies were the most attractive. they were so nimble in movement. The great reptiles were of considerable interest. Not for their desirableness, but because of their ofensiveness, and the history connected with their condition. There was a multitude of various kinds, the best known to me was the rattlers But there were various spicies of venemous snakes, of course crocodiles and aligators were there. Also the largest land lizard now living. I also saw some of the once noble race of American buffalo.³⁶

³⁴ Crosby, “Missionary Journal”, 1-3 [112].

³⁵ Ibid., 3-4 [112-3].

³⁶ Ibid., 6-7 [113].

John also took the opportunity to expose himself to life in New York. He recorded attending a Hearst campaign meeting. “I did not like it the speaking was well done, but the smook was something awful. I was glad when I got out. I attended no more.”³⁷ He also visited what he described as the “slums of New York” with several sisters. John noted that one sister “took a snap shot of an old lady with grized hair a bunch of small boys, and a fish stand whare a very fat slouchy old lady was selling fish.”³⁸

After six weeks in New York, on Monday, November 27, President McQuarrie took John aside after Priesthood meeting and informed him that he was being assigned to the South West Virginia conference. John was given one week to prepare for his departure. He wrote, “I didso [sic.] by seeing sights.”³⁹

During his final week in New York, John made good on his determination to see the sights. He visited the Central Park Zoo, an Art Museum, and had Thanksgiving dinner with President and Sister McQuarrie. About the dinner he wrote that “it was fine.”⁴⁰ On his last Saturday in New York, December 2, John went to a place he called the Hippodrome.

It is the gratest specticular thing I have ever thing. To me the most wonderful thing was woman in a cage with twelve lions. She made them obey her better than I could make men. The Slack wire performing and the bicycle riding were great stunts. The marching and dancing were very beautiful.

The riding on two horses was exceptionally good, also was the tumbling. The diving of the horses with which the show ended was a beautiful sight.⁴¹

³⁷ Ibid., 4 [113].

³⁸ Ibid., 5 [113].

³⁹ Ibid., 7 [114].

⁴⁰ Ibid., 7-8 [114].

⁴¹ Ibid., 8-9 [114].

John spoke on his final Sunday in New York. He then left by train on Monday, arriving in Washington on the morning of Tuesday, 5 December 1905. He wrote that he “straightway began to make preparations to see the city.”⁴² John seemed particularly interested in the capitol building, where he attended a session of congress. He also visited the White House and the Smithsonian. John seemed impressed with the Washington Monument.

Such a view I never expect to have again unless I get in the monument again. The stones presented by the various states were very interesting, and Utah I thought was a beauty.⁴³

After visiting the national capital, John continued his journey to Charleston, West Virginia. Located in the Alleghenies at an elevation of 620 feet, Charleston is the West Virginia state capitol. In 1906 it was the second largest city in the state.⁴⁴ Charleston was also the headquarters for the South West Virginia Conference of the Eastern States Mission. John would continue to labor in this conference for the remainder of his mission, serving as conference president during his second a year.

⁴² Ibid., 9 [114].

⁴³ Ibid., 10-11 [114-5]; The Washington Monument (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1977). Located between Constitution Gardens on the west and the National Mall on the east, the Washington Monument stands south of the White House. The Monument stands 555 feet and is constructed of Maryland marble. When John visited in 1905, he would have used the newly installed electric elevator. Descent is either by the elevator or an 897 step iron stairway. When visitors descend using the stairs they are able to view the 188 carved stones donated by cities, states and countries. John clearly descended in this fashion as he mentions viewing the stone donated by the people of Utah. John makes no comments about the other sites he visited, except to add that he had seen the skeleton of an eighty foot reptile at the Smithsonian.

⁴⁴ Rand McNally 1996 Commercial Atlas & Marketing Guide (New York: Rand McNally, 1996), 240-42, 559; Leon E. Seltzer (ed.), Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World (New York: Columbia University Press, 1952), 374.

John's first companion was an Elder Roberts.⁴⁵ Commencing on 18 December, these two missionaries headed south-east from Charleston and began traveling among the small communities of south-central West Virginia. Many of these towns and villages were mountain settlements where families subsisted either by working in the mines or by sustaining small farms. Over half of the communities mentioned in John's brief Journal cannot even be identified.

In each town or village, the missionaries would attempt to schedule a meeting at the local church or school. Based on John's records, it seems that frequently they held outdoor meetings, either in groves or alongside creeks. They would do almost anything to attract the attention of the local residents. Near the end of his Journal, John describes visiting the small town of Odd, in the southern corner of Raleigh County.

Down at Odd we met with better success. I did some pole vaulting and got the people in good humor—then preached. They liked the doctrine well. We held four meetings on the creek and went on.⁴⁶

Depending upon the reception they would receive, John and his companion might stay in a town two or three days. On other occasions, especially when the reception was less friendly, they would leave the next day. Finding accommodations would also determine the length of their stay in a village.

The next day we went over to Atkins ville. A Missionary Babtist meeting was just commencing as we came into town. We left our grips at Mr Miller and went to meeting. Mr. Miller went up to the front and told those in charge of the meeting that we were ministers. They came down and were very pleased to see us. And asked us if we would not stay all night. We said we would provided we could get a place to stay all night. Oh! they would fix that all right. There were plenty of

⁴⁵ I have been unable to identify any of John's missionary companions or any of the other Elder's named in his Journal.

⁴⁶ Crosby, "Missionary Journal", 22 [119].

places we could stop. Then Rev. West asked us what denomination we represented. Bro Roberts told him The Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints. They were not half as anxious to take us home after that. Later day Saint doctrine and there's didn't get alone well to gether. The former has too much scripture on its side. And then besides their craft was in danger.⁴⁷

Opposition of this type was common.

We went on up to Flat top and got the promise of the church until we were known to be Mormons and then they had plenty of excuses. So we did no preaching.⁴⁸

Despite sharing common experiences, John and Elder Roberts also had some personal difficulties. While the two missionaries were in a community that John identified as, Sanlick, both men seemed to suffer from discouragement.

This was a hard country to do much in. We could get no place to preach and could hardly get a place to stay all night. There it was Bro. Roberts got to feeling blue and I wasn't feeling the best in the world. Bro. Roberts wanted to write to Pres. Blackburn for some new companion. I told him to write if he wanted to but that I never would. He did not write and we felt better next morning.⁴⁹

John did not record his personal observations regarding the people of West Virginia. However, one colorful story from his missionary experience appeared to be a favorite. Since they regularly traveled without purse or scrip, the missionaries were always willing to accept a good meal. On one occasion, John and his companion made contact with a woman who invited them into her home and offered them a meal. The missionaries enjoyed the food, and according to John, the bread was "particularly good." At a later time, passing through the same community, John again contacted this woman. She invited the missionaries into her

⁴⁷ Ibid., 18-20 [117-8].

⁴⁸ Ibid., 21-22 [118].

⁴⁹ Ibid., 16-17 [117].

kitchen where she was making bread. As they talked, John noticed that the lady was chewing tobacco. As she kneaded the dough, she spat tobacco juice in and continued to knead. John reported that after seeing this the bread didn't taste "nearly so good."⁵⁰

Throughout the remainder of his first year, John's missionary work continued in much the same manner as described above. This changed near the beginning of his second year when he was made President of the Conference. This position gave him the responsibility of assigning missionaries to their areas of labor and visiting both the missionaries and the members. During this second year, over fifty new converts were baptized in the Conference.⁵¹

At the same time that John was laboring in West Virginia, his first cousin, Laurence Snow, was serving as a missionary in Brooklyn, New York. Hannah Elida Baldwin Crosby, their grandmother, had hoped the two young men would be able to travel to Massachusetts together to see her relatives.⁵² Consequently, the two missionaries were in contact with one another, sharing mission experiences and news of the family.

The activities described in Laurence's letters present an interesting contrast to John's missionary experience. Working in New York City, Laurence, spent much of his time holding street meetings and delivering public speeches. He also found the sights and entertainments of New York to be distracting. In one letter Laurence confided to his cousin.

I tell you John, one of the hardest and most difficult things for me is to become humble, prayerful and submissive. There is too much enjoyment here, it

⁵⁰ Personal recollection of Ellis Crosby.

⁵¹ John Silas Crosby, "Autobiography" [140].

⁵² She had even sent John a list of family members and their addresses.

seems, for me to settle down to good honest hard work. I feel that good solid country work where I could meet with the real obstacles would be a fine thing for me. I am not, however dissatisfied; but am enjoying myself immensely. It is my purpose to try a do the best that I can under the circumstances I feel though that as I have stated it would be better for me in the country. . . .

Some of my relatives (the Snows) from Salt Lake City have been visiting in New York for the past two weeks, so have had a nice time. Went to several Theaters and excursions to different places. Last Sunday went to West Point which place is about forty miles up the Hudson through one of the most picturesque countries imaginable. We have, to tell the truth, too many places of pleasure and amusement to go to [7] that our minds are not centered upon our work like they should do. I can not control myself in that regard.⁵³

While on his mission, John corresponded regularly with his family in Panguitch. While none of John's letters home survive, the letters written to him from his mother and sister, Naomi, give some indications of what his missionary experience was like. These letters also record changes occurring at home that would profoundly affect his life.

When writing to John, Adelia was clearly conscious of her audience, attempting to share items of a religious or spiritual nature that would strengthen her missionary son. Her letters were frequently ended with prayerful phrases invoking the Lord's protection. One letter concluded, "Praying the Lord to bless and preserve you from all harm and sin is the constant prayer of your Loving Mother".⁵⁴ On another occasion she described a camp meeting that had recently been held outside of Panguitch.

We have had Presbyterians Ministers holding camp meetings for 2 or 3 weeks in a big tent west of the Cusp. every body nearly has been out to hear them.

⁵³ Laurence C. Snow to John S. Crosby, 5 October 1906.

⁵⁴ Hannah Adelia Crosby to John S. Crosby, 16 December 1905 [158].

Lot's of their talk was fine but they do not preach the Gospel nor have the Spirit of it.⁵⁵

Contrasting with her mother's thoughtful letters, Naomi wrote newsy reports that kept her brother up to date on events in the family and life in Panguitch. In a letter written late in the summer of 1906, the teenaged Naomi recorded a number of unusual Panguitch events with vivid detail.

A week ago friday Sherman Cameron went down to the form to turn the water & was struck with lightning and killed. His parent[s] were gone. And no one here but Sadie. She got worried and tried to get booth Uncle dave & Ben to go & see what was the matter but they said he was just staying with Scott Worthin which he had been usted to doing, he laid there all that night all day Saturday and until Sunday about 10 aclock at night. He was in the born. He hadent turned his water yet people think when it strated to rain he went in the born to wait until it got over raning while theer got killed. His horse stood right by him they dont think it made a move. some folks think it was stunned. . . . Julia hancock, Tom's wife, fell down the well was down about 15 are 20 minutes before they knew any thing about it. The worked with her for over an hour but she was gone before they found her. He was out dich working. She left five children the oldest 12 years the youngest 8 months. . . .⁵⁶

Reporting the same events as Naomi, Adelia was much more restrained in her descriptions. She noted what had happened, but without great detail.

We have had several sad deaths lately suppose you have seen an [account] of them in the Progress. Sherman Cameron killed by lightning. Julia Hancock was found in the well head down, think she must have fainted or died of heart failure and fallen in. . . .⁵⁷

Adelia was much more concerned about items that would affect John or her family. Confiding in John, she regularly described family problems and business

⁵⁵ Hannah Adelia Crosby to John S. Crosby, 7 August 1906 [164].

⁵⁶ Naomi Crosby to John S. Crosby, 17 July 1906 [197].

⁵⁷ Hannah Adelia Crosby to John S. Crosby, 4 August 1906 [163].

matters. In the letter describing the sale of the home, Adelia confides some of her hopes to John. The thoughts expressed here clearly impacted the family, and John's future.

Now John there is nothing I want so much as to get out of debt, and we don't want to be land poor we want all we can do justice to and no more, and I think the best thing we can do is to sell all there patches of land and buy some stock and stay with them and make a Lucern of the farm. And make a success of the children. I tell you I am very anxous about them. Oh if you could come home in Sep to take the responsibility so Eddie and Rowell could go to school. I just feel I can not stand it if they can not get to go this winter. If they do not their schooling is done for. I know that. I would not like to ask for your release but if it is the will of the Lord I hope it will come about right. I am so anxous over them and want to see them make first class Missionaries in due time. And trust the Lord will help them to be Valiant in his cause. They are such good boys but so rough. And dear Stephen needs schooling so bad, is so trashy about his lessons when in school. Would you like a position in the school room here this winter, if so write the Trustees. I believe you would get it easy.

Well I would like to say many more things and think you would like to ask many questions if we could talk, but think of them after the letter is gone.⁵⁸

It was in this same letter that Adelia finally admitted how much her health had deteriorated while John was in the mission field. Interestingly, during this illness, Adelia was nursed by a young woman named Mary Ann Owens.⁵⁹

John was released to return home on 8 November 1907 by John G. McQuarrie, his mission president.⁶⁰ As requested by his grandmother, Hannah Elida Baldwin Crosby, he made a brief trip to Massachusetts to see family members before returning home. He was unable to make this trip with his cousin, Laurence.

⁵⁸ Hannah Adelia Crosby to John S. Crosby, 11 May 1907 [168].

⁵⁹ John Silas Crosby, "Mary Ann Owens Crosby", typescript of original in author's possession.

⁶⁰ Photocopy of original missionary certificate in the possession of the author.

John seems to have considered his missionary experience valuable. When later describing his mission, he wrote:

There are a lot of things I can say about my missionary experience. I guess I had as varied experience as most. I held street meetings, hall meetings and cottage meetings. I pole vaulted, turned hand springs, and hand springs. I sang and preached. I did every thing I knew how to make friends. I payed my way when I had to. If I got to tell them my story, I believe I never had to pay. And didn't think I owed them any pay. If I didn't get to tell my story, I felt it all right to pay. . . .

The year I was conference president in South West Virginia, we baptized fifty three persons, more than twice as many as were baptized in any conference of the Eastern States Mission.⁶¹

Mary Ann Owens

After his mission experience, John returned to Panguitch, not to the hotel that had been his home for fifteen years, but to what Adelia herself described as a “sagebrush farm”.⁶² Events of the following year did much to make Panguitch his permanent home. Within months of his return, John was called as the Panguitch Stake Clerk. He held this position for over nine years, serving from 1908 until 1917.⁶³ It was also at this time that he began to court Mary Ann Owens, his future wife.

Mary Ann Owens was born in Panguitch on 9 November 1884, the third child of William Thomas Owens and his first wife, Margaret Caroline Jones. A polygamist, William had married, as a second wife, Mary Emily Jones, his wife's half sister.

⁶¹ John Silas Crosby, “Autobiography” [139-40].

⁶² Hannah Adelia Bunker Crosby, “Autobiography”, 3 [106].

⁶³ Andrew Jenson, *Encyclopedic History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Publishing, 1941), 635.

William Thomas⁶⁴ moved both of his wives and family to Panguitch in 1877 from Paragonah. In Panguitch, William Thomas farmed, fished, worked at the shingle mill and accepted any other employment that might help him support his two young wives and his growing family. As federal marshals began aggressively pursuing those men known to be practicing plural marriage, William Thomas found it necessary to relocate his second wife, Emily several times. At various times, Emily and her children lived in Paragonah, Escalante, Bellview, and Bunkerville. While Margaret and her children were able to remain in Panguitch, the disruptions caused by federal marshals and William's absence did not contribute to a particularly stable home.⁶⁵ It was in this environment that Mary Ann Owens grew up.

Very little is known of Mary's youth. What we do know comes from a brief sketch written by her husband, John.

As a small girl she spent a large part of her life, especially in the summer on the farm of Jesse W. Crosby Jr. about three miles north of Panguitch, now owned by members of the William H. Tebbs family.

In the winter the family would move to town.

Early in the spring or late in the fall, while there was necessary work to do on the farm, Margaret's children, including Mary would stay with Aunt Emma and go to school.⁶⁶

Mary's father, William Thomas, did record her baptism at Panguitch in November 1893. "Tuesday morning. Bright, clear and cold. Mary Ann Owens, my

⁶⁴ For the purpose of clarity I will refer to William Thomas Owens, Sr. as William Thomas. I will refer to his son, William Thomas Owens, Jr., as Will.

⁶⁵ Melda Owens Beck, comp., *Life History of William Thomas Owens, Sr.* (n.p., 1962), 18-28.

⁶⁶ John Silas Crosby, "Mary Ann Owens Crosby" [143].

daughter was baptized Nov. 5, 1893. Bishop Allen Miller officiating, confirmed by James Dickenson.”⁶⁷

In the summer of 1894, one week after giving birth to a baby daughter, Margaret Owens died at the age of thirty-seven. While the cause is uncertain, William Thomas believed she had probably died of appendicitis.⁶⁸ Mary was three months short of her tenth birthday when she lost her mother. After Margaret’s death, Emily, despite her own poor health and seven children, assumed responsibility for Margaret’s children. For a time, some of the children were sent to Paragonah to live with their grandmother, Mary Jones. Mary Ann was one of these, living in Paragonah until she was thirteen or fourteen.

After returning to Panguitch, the teenaged Mary helped rear her younger brothers and sisters. A closeness was developed at this time with her younger sister Gwen, that was to last throughout Gwen’s life. During these years, Mary hired out to work in various Panguitch houses, including the homes of Mamie Sevy, Maggie Clark and Dr. Steiner. During this time she also had the opportunity to go to Beaver and attend the branch of the Brigham Young Academy. How long she studied at Beaver is unknown, but upon returning to Panguitch, Mary accepted a position clerking at the Garfield Exchange.⁶⁹

While working at the Exchange, Mary came to the attention of John Silas Crosby. According to family tradition, Adelia encouraged John to court Mary. Adelia thought highly of Mary, possibly becoming better acquainted with her when

⁶⁷ Beck, William Thomas Owens, 56. Journal entry for 14 November 1893.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 32.

⁶⁹ John Silas Crosby, “Mary Ann Owens Crosby” [143].

Mary dated John's younger brother Ed in 1906.⁷⁰ John's recounting of their courtship deserves to be quoted in full:

When I came home from my mission to the Eastern States in November of 1907, I had defended polygamy so much that I was very definitely converted to monogamy. I wanted a wife and needed one. I had never really kept company with any girl. There was one that I thought was particularly cute, but she hadn't given me enough encouragement that I felt at all safe. The fact of the matter is, I wasn't at all safe, because when I returned from my mission she was soon married.

I think I am wondering how I came to go down to Owens' to ask for Mary's company to mutual. I believe though, it was because I wanted to.

When I knocked on the door, Non Cameron was there, and thinking some of the children were fooling, said, "Come in if your nose is clean." I felt of my nose, and walked in.

It was a rather awkward situation. The house was full of boys and girls. I can remember distinctly that Joe Owens and Norm Sargent were in the room where Mary was, and in not long it was apparent that they didn't intend to leave. So after nearly twisting my gloves in two I asked Mary to go to mutual with me.

She consented. When I brought her home she told me if I felt like coming back to do so. I felt like going back.⁷¹

The courtship lasted only a few months, and the couple had originally planned to get married in the Salt Lake Temple during the October General Conference of 1908, but Mary's youngest sister, Gwen, developed typhoid fever. The couple delayed their marriage a month so that Mary could care for her sister.⁷² John and Mary were sealed in the Manti Temple on 4 November 1908 by Lewis

⁷⁰ Naomi Crosby to John S. Crosby, 29 December 1906.

⁷¹ John Silas Crosby, "Mary Ann Owens Crosby" [143-4].

⁷² Ibid.

Anderson.⁷³ Upon their return to Panguitch, John and Mary moved into Adelia's home on the Threemile Creek property, where John maintained the ranch.

Teacher, Farmer and Nurse

During the fall of 1908, Adelia determined to move to Beaver so that her younger children could attend school. John assumed responsibility for the farm and livestock.⁷⁴ He continued to maintain cattle and farm parts of this property for the next fifty years, eventually purchasing the Church Field, the Lynn Field and the Sand Wash from the family.⁷⁵ John always considered the farm to be his primary source of income. He continued to work the property until the age of seventy-six, always using a team of horses. He never owned a tractor. John finally sold the farm to his fifth son, Arthur, in 1957.⁷⁶

In the fall of 1909, John began teaching school in Panguitch. He reports that he taught for five years before turning to farming as a full-time occupation.⁷⁷ He farmed without teaching from 1914 until 1923. There is some evidence that during this time, John and Mary struggled financially. In March of 1918 John and Mary signed an interest note for \$60 with the Utah State National Bank. The interest was accumulated annually. It was six years before they were able to fully pay off this

⁷³ John S. Crosby, "Journal and Family Record", 199 [133].

⁷⁴ Hannah Adelia Bunker Crosby, "Autobiography," 2 [105].

⁷⁵ In the personal record book that also contains his missionary journal, John kept numerous financial records over a period of more than thirty-five years. Included in this book are the payment records that he kept regarding the purchase of the family property. See Section II, Document Four. John purchased all of the ranch property except for Threemile Creek. The Threemile Creek property was purchased by Earl and Beulah Allen.

⁷⁶ John Silas Crosby to Ellis Owens Crosby, 9 March 1957 [191].

⁷⁷ John Silas Crosby, "Autobiography" [140].

loan in June of 1924.⁷⁸ As late as 1925 John had two pieces of property—totaling 24 acres—listed on the delinquent tax list.⁷⁹ It is probable that John returned to teaching in an effort to get out of debt. Financial difficulties continued into the 1930s with the depression. Silas remembers John having to remove cattle from the range to pay off a debt in 1932 after the bank went bankrupt. John had to ride up into the Little Valleys to find the necessary cattle and drive them back into town. John was paid two cents per pound for these cattle.⁸⁰

During this period John was serving as County Attorney, and \$10 were withheld for taxes each month from his salary.⁸¹ John had also resumed teaching by this time, and while the income helped, money was scarce and hard to come by. According to Ellis

Dad received no salary from the County School system from November to April of 1932-33. James M. Sargent, Clerk of the School Board hand delivered a pay warrant to him at the Church Field and advised him to, “cash it today, it may not be there tomorrow.” Dad returned to town with Mr. Sargent and cashed the warrant.⁸²

As previously noted, John had resumed teaching in 1923. This return to education certainly did much to enhance the family finances. In 1927 for example, John was paid \$805 in salary by the Panguitch School District.⁸³ According to his

⁷⁹ Garfield County News, 4 December 1925.

⁸⁰ Personal recollections of Silas Crosby.

⁸¹ Garfield County Tax Ledger, 1932.

⁸² Personal recollection of Ellis Crosby, taken from his personal history.

⁸³ Garfield County News, 14 January 1927.

Income Tax statement for 1943, his earnings had increased to \$1,294.68.⁸⁴ He taught continuously from 1923 until 1950 when he retired at the age of seventy. His final school contract was for \$2800. Even at seventy, John retired somewhat reluctantly. At that time, the high school offered him a half-time contract to teach math and counsel students. After considering the offer, John turned it down, stating “I’m not yet half a man.” John Crosby spent a total of thirty-two years as a teacher in Panguitch.⁸⁵ He was a versatile educator, teaching fourth, fifth and seventh grades at various times. He also taught Algebra and Geometry at the high school.

John was a popular teacher, especially famous for his storytelling. He had the ability to make individuals come to life as he stood in front of his students. John had a regular collection of stories that he could present from memory. Many of these stories became student favorites and were requested, and retold, over and over during the school year. Among the most popular stories were Tom Sawyer’s white washing the fence, Tom and Huck swinging the dead cat in the cemetery, the tournament scene in Ivanhoe, the “Ransom of Red Chief,” the chariot race in Ben-Hur, the dogfight from the Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come, and Jack’s trial from the same story.

While John was farming and teaching, Mary supplemented their income by working as a practical nurse and midwife. The nursing started early in their marriage when John and Mary were living on the Threemile Creek farm. Arthur and Dee McAllister were their neighbors, and Dee was pregnant.

“She [Dee McAllister] asked Doctor Bigelow if she could be confined [at their ranch] with the assistance of Mary Crosby. Dr. Bigelow said yes. . . . That started things. For the next number of

⁸⁴ Original tax document in the possession of Arthur Crosby, Panguitch, Utah.

⁸⁵ Garfield County News, 7 January 1965.

years, [Mary's] services were requested in almost every home in town. For a year or two she ran a maternity home in our house. It was very popular. In fact too popular for the best kind of a home. This much is true, no mother or baby ever died there."⁸⁶

County Attorney

While farming and teaching were John's principal occupations, he did make one effort at political office. In 1930 John ran for County Attorney. In an election held on 4 November 1930, John defeated A J. Goulding with a margin of 163 votes. He served one two year term, a remarkable achievement for a Democrat in Garfield County. John lost reelection to Goulding in 1932.⁸⁷ The County Attorney's salary at this time was sixty dollars-per-month. It would have been a welcome addition to the family income. John wrote in his history that during the campaign, "I told the people of Escalante when I ran for County Attorney, if elected, I would qualify and draw the salary."⁸⁸

Two episodes from John's term as County Attorney seemed to be favorites. In 1931 or 1932 John and Sheriff Frank Haycock drove out to Escalante to investigate reports that a Mr. McInelly was illegally brewing malt beer. Arriving at Mr. McInelly's, John and Frank found a still and two kegs of home brew ready to be capped. The two men hauled the kegs outside to Sheriff Haycock's automobile. The sheriff was driving a new Model A Ford. Not wishing to spill the beer inside the new vehicle, John and Frank were discussing how to transport the beer when

⁸⁶ John Silas Crosby, "Mary Ann Owens Crosby" [144-5].

⁸⁷ Garfield County Election Register, Garfield County Clerk's Office, Panguitch, Utah. In the election on 4 November 1930, John S. Crosby received 790 votes and A. J. Goulding received 627 votes. In the election held on 7 November 1932, John S. Crosby received 503 votes and A. J. Goulding received 1125 votes. The official certification of his election victory was signed on 12 November by J. T. Partridge, the County Clerk.

⁸⁸ John Silas Crosby, "Autobiography" [140].

Mr. McInelly slipped up behind them and tipped over the kegs. With the beer gone, Sheriff Haycock turned to John and said, “By golly John there goes our evidence.” The two men then admonished Mr. McInelly to desist making his home brew and returned to Panguitch.

On another occasion, John was called upon to assist the citizens of Henrieville. The principal water supply for Henrieville was a spring fed stream that flowed through town. The early settlers had to haul their culinary water in barrels from the spring. Even in the 1930s, much of the water used in town was drawn from this spring which was located above the town. Local ranchers and farmers were prohibited from watering their livestock above town.

A shepherd [named Graf or Johnson] came through the valley and watered his sheep above the town, infesting the stream. The citizens of Henrieville told him to abandon the practice, but he did it a second time. John received a letter of complaint signed by most of the residents of Henrieville about the shepherd. John made a trip to Henrieville to investigate the complaint. After talking to the citizens of the town, John went out to the shepherd’s camp and told him that he would have to desist from watering his sheep above the town or he would be taken to court by the County Attorney’s office. “But,” John added, “if you do pollute their drinking water again, I’m afraid you wont make it to court. These people in Henrieville may make it unnecessary.”⁸⁹

First Two Decades

As noted above, when first married, John and Mary lived north of town on the farm at Threemile Creek. In the fall of the following year, 1909, the couple

⁸⁹ Recollection of Robert Middleton as told to Arthur Crosby.

moved into Panguitch. This move allowed John to teach school while continuing to work the farm. They lived in an old log house one block east of the Court House, on the south side of the street. John noted, “It wasn’t very good, but about as good as we could afford at the time.”⁹⁰

During these early years, Mary’s youngest sister, Gwen, lived with them. Gwen attended school and helped Mary around the house. It was during this time, that the first of John and Mary’s nine children was born.

In this home Silas was born May 12, 1910. It was a beautiful spring morning when he came. He was very welcome to our home. When Gwen stayed with us he was just big enough to be, we thought, exceptionally cute. When we would ask him to say Gwen, he would open his mouth as wide as he could and never make a sound.⁹¹

That same summer, John and fellow teacher Fred Gardner attended summer school at the University of Utah. The letters he wrote to Mary at that time show the depth of feeling he had for her and his infant son. John wrote home on 6 July. He had attended the Independence Day celebration in Salt Lake and was now feeling lonely for his wife and infant son.

I was looking for a letter yesterday and I hadn't a doubt but I would get one to day, but it didn't come. I guess I can stand it all right but my I would like to get one. I was going to write yesterday but decided to wait until to day, thinking, may be, I would get a letter and then I could answer it.⁹²

He was even willing to admit to homesickness.

⁹⁰ John Silas Crosby, “Mary Ann Owens Crosby” [145].

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² John S. Crosby to Mary Ann Crosby, 6 July 1910 [178].

I still keep a little homesick all the time. I wish this summer school was over and I had the information I am going to get. I want to come home. and I want to come bad.

Love, kisses and lots of each for Mama and Baby⁹³

Apparently John received a letter from Mary the following day in which she reported that baby Silas had developed an illness. He wrote back quickly on 8 July.

I ought to have written to you yesterday but delayed doing it. I got you letter in due time, was pleast to hear from home. I hate to hear of you having such a time with baby. It may be good for him to cry a little; may be it will develop his lungs, but I would if I could have him do less crying and take chances on his lungs. I hope he will get better.⁹⁴

John anticipated their reunion around 24 July.

Then we will have a good hug. My! I haven't had one for so long I am almost dying for one. I guess it is a good thing I don't sleep with any one or I expect I would have my arms around them half the night.⁹⁵ John and Mary were again separated eighteen months later when she traveled to Richfield to nurse her sister Margaret. Maggie, as she was called, had given birth to her first child but was slow in recovering her health. John's letters to his absent wife are full of details regarding cattle prices and Panguitch events. As he had been in Salt Lake, John appears to be lonely, noting on 3 March, "My I will be glad when you get home. I am not up to much keeping house. Then I want to hug you so bad my teeth ache."⁹⁶

⁹³ Ibid., The baby mentioned here would be Silas Owens Crosby, born 12 May 1910.

⁹⁴ John S. Crosby to Mary Ann Crosby, 8 July 1910 [178].

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ John S. Crosby to Mary Ann Crosby, 3 March 1912 [182].

During these years, John and Mary were active in the community. In a somewhat amusing report from the Panguitch Progress, we learn that John was the speaker at the Old Folks Day celebration in 1915.

Mr. John S. Crosby gave a very timely and spicy address giving a well deserved tribute to the past labor of the old people, and a wish for continued happiness. It was nicely short and complete and fine no wind pudding about it.⁹⁷

Ironically, Adelia was not present for the celebration. She was in Salt Lake City visiting Naomi.⁹⁸

Sometime in the 1910s, John built what he described as a small “two by six” home on a lot four blocks north of their log home. It had two rooms.⁹⁹ In this home the family continued to grow. Madge, their only daughter, was born 24 April 1914. She died three days later. Neither John nor Mary ever talked about her loss. After Mary’s death in 1954, John wrote that Madge “died when three days old. A thing I can’t think was quite necessary. Maybe I don’t know.”¹⁰⁰ Their second son, Jay, was born one year later, on 6 May 1915.

In the fall of 1916, Mary took a trip to Salt Lake City, leaving John to tend Silas—then six—and Jay (sixteen months). John’s mother came to stay with him during Mary’s absence. While Mary was gone, both boys became ill. John described their condition in a letter on 9 October.

⁹⁷ Panguitch Progress, 12 March 1915.

⁹⁸ Panguitch Progress, 21 May 1915.

⁹⁹ After the new house was built in 1932, this home briefly became a granary. Afterwards it housed Silas and Nellie, and Ellis and Leila, before becoming the home of Art and Bev. This old home still exists as the back portion of Art and Bev’s home.

¹⁰⁰ John S. Crosby, “Mary Ann Owens Crosby” [147].

Both the boys when ahead and caught a good cold. Silas coughs quite hard at times, but he isn't a bit sick. J's nose runs continuously, and he coughs hard at times. His appetite isn't as good as it generally is. He feretted a little last night and Mother got quite worried, so she called me at 4:30 and I got up but I couldn't see any thing the matter. He was sleeping as nice as he ever did in his life. We woke him up and gave him a drink of milk and he went back to sleep and slept until breakfast was nearly ready. Mother says he has a slight attack of the Grip. I guess she knows. He is around all the time and is no harder than common to tend. He says, "Mama gone". We have given him castor oil every night since you left and gave him some quinine the first night. We have made some more cough medicine and give him that regularly.

If any thing serious develops I will send a telegram, so if you don't get one you may know that every thing is all right. We keep a good fire in both rooms , so that every thing is comfortable but we have plenty of air. Have a good time and stay as long as your ticket lasts.¹⁰¹

Both boys survived the ordeal and the family continued to grow, as six more sons arrived during the next fourteen years. The third son, Dee, was born on 10 December 1917. Ellis followed on 17 May 1920. Arthur arrived 20 September 1922. Tom was born 25 July 1925. Theron was born on 20 July 1928. Mary gave birth to her eighth son, and ninth child, John Gordon, on 6 November 1930.

Raising such a large family presented challenges for John and Mary. Keeping this expanding group of boys busy was never difficult with the farm, chores around the house, and chores for Adelia, but feeding and clothing the family was quite a task. By all accounts Mary Ann Crosby was a remarkable cook and the family never went hungry. Her bread, biscuits, cheese and mincemeat are all fondly remembered. The boys have repeatedly described the need to be at the table when dinner was served as the food only went around the table once, but then with a

¹⁰¹ John S. Crosby to Mary Ann Crosby, 9 October 1916 [184].

smile they admit that if they were late there was usually a plate warming in the kitchen.

Clothing and outfitting eight boys meant hand-me-downs and mending. New clothes were a treat—often purchased from the Sears and Roebuck catalog. At Christmas, each boy would have a chair with his name on it. The chair usually contained a new pair of bib-overalls, a pocket knife, either an apple or an orange, and some hardtack candy.

Changes

As the number of boys continued to increase, the family's need for a larger home became apparent. In his understated way, John wrote:

We got along there [the two room home] fairly well for a year or two, but the boys finally got too abundant. We decided we just had to have a better home. Mother and I went and looked some of the interesting homes over. We finally decided what we wanted and could possibly afford.¹⁰²

In 1931, John and Mary determined to build the brick home which still stands. It was located immediately north-west of the older home. Having previously moved three spruce trees onto the lot, they situated the home between the trees. Because he and the boys would be capable of doing certain parts of the labor, John was able to sign a construction contract that required the payment of \$3,200 dollars.¹⁰³

John and the older boys dug the foundation and cellar. They then hauled rock out of DeeDee Hollow packing it into the frames as the foundation was

¹⁰² John Silas Crosby, "Mary Ann Owens Crosby" [145].

¹⁰³ The original contract is in the possession of Silas Crosby, Salt Lake City, Utah.

poured. Some of this work John contracted out to individuals. For example, Hen Judd hauled some rock and sand to the site and helped work on the cesspool. For \$38.50 worth of work, Judd was paid with a pig, a cow, some oats and \$6.40 in cash.¹⁰⁴

The house was begun in the spring of 1931 and work progressed steadily throughout the summer. The family was able to move during the fall before construction was completed. When they first moved in the weather had turned cold and they needed to keep the stoves burning to prevent the plaster from cracking as it dried. The family was eager to move into the new home. The big new bathtub and the flushing toilet were a “big step up” from the number three tub and the outhouse.¹⁰⁵

Moving into the new home before the holidays, a significant year of changes began for the family. Adelia grew ill during the winter, and died after a protracted illness. John and some of his boys visited her on the night of 12 March 1932. That evening, John asked the Lord to relieve her suffering. Hannah Adelia Crosby died the next day, March 13, 1932. A more joyous event occurred on 26 July as Silas married Nellie Lefevre. Their oldest child, Dan—John and Mary’s first grandchild—was born the following May. Thirty-seven additional grandchildren would follow.

As the boys grew older and could be relied upon to maintain the crops and livestock, John was able to attend summer school periodically. While summer was a difficult time for John to leave the ranch, these courses kept him accredited as a

¹⁰⁴ John S. Crosby Journal and Family Record, 40 [123]. Original in the possession of Arthur Crosby, Panguitch, Utah.

¹⁰⁵ Personal recollections of Ellis Crosby.

teacher and provided for some salary increases. Mary and the boys managed to cope with John's absence.

During the summer of 1935 John was again attending classes at the University of Utah when Mary's youngest brother, Ernest, was hospitalized with a broken leg. Ern had been kicked by a horse, and his leg was broken in two places. Writing to Mary from the hospital, John reported on Ern's condition. He then humorously added, "I am all right. I may go up on the mountain on an excursion to-morrow, but I hardly think I will. I walked here from school. There is a musical at the University to-night. I have two tickets. Let's go."¹⁰⁶

Education had always been a priority with John, and as the opportunity arose for his sons to pursue their training past high school, he and Mary were prepared to sacrifice to help them further their schooling. Ellis was the first to go away to school. He credits his mother with getting him off to college.

After graduating from High School, I had my heart set on attending B.Y.U.

A friend, Chant Lee, also desired to further his education. Being in the same financial bind we decided to haul wood from the nearby mountains, sell it, and hopefully get started the winter quarter.

I put new shoes on the team and we were prepared to go for our first load on Monday.

It is Saturday; the town baseball team is playing the Duck Creek C. C. C. Camp. Frank Richards, a cousin, located me at the game and told me I was wanted at home. "Your mother is packing your suitcase. Uncle Willard is waiting for you."

Upon my arrival home I was greeted by mother with, "Willard's son, James, is enrolled at Snow College and needs a roommate. I have called the Principal of the High School and the

¹⁰⁶ John S. Crosby to Mary Ann Crosby, 29 June 1935 [185].

scholarship at Snow you turned down is still available. Get out of town, there is nothing here for you.”

She not only had my clothes packed, but food boxed and ready to load in the car.

I stayed over night in Richfield with the Powell's, met James and we were delivered at our “flat” Sunday.

School had been in session for two weeks. That first quarter was a rough row to hoe.¹⁰⁷

In the late 1930s, John found that he had more potential students than he had money. Indeed on at least one occasion he had four sons in college at the same time. Despite the fact that all of the boys worked to help support their schooling, there were periods where John and Mary struggled financially to keep their sons in school. In November of 1939 John wrote a letter to the Utah Farm Production Credit Association in Salt Lake City. In this letter he describes his current finances and asks for a loan of \$325.

[My] boy who was working in the printing office lost his job. I wanted awfully bad to send him to college last fall but hardly had the money. He wants to take the winter quarter now and I want him to the wor[s]t kind, but he needs some money. It will take a hundred dollars for him.¹⁰⁸

John needed the money to help Dee because he was already supporting Ellis at school. In a postscript he added

I have one boy going to college now. It is taking all the surplus to keep him going. And then we are not doing it too well. This is why I need to

¹⁰⁷ Personal recollection of Ellis Crosby, taken from his personal history. Charles Willard Powell was married to Margaret Caroline Owens, Mary's older sister.

¹⁰⁸ John S. Crosby to Utah Farm Production Credit Association, 17 November 1939 [220]. Correspondence in the possession of Arthur Crosby, Panguitch, Utah. This letter appears to be the original which was apparently returned to John during the course of his correspondence with the association.

borrow some for this other boy. The boy at home is older than the one in college. I feel he must go now or never.¹⁰⁹

At the time John wrote this letter, Ellis was attending school at Snow College in Ephraim, Utah. After John received the loan, Dee joined Ellis in Ephraim. Jay and Art soon followed. While John and Mary undoubtedly struggled to help their sons at school, they did so without reservation.

However, the advent of the Second World War would put education on hold for most of the boys and bring major changes to the family. During 1940, Silas moved his family to San Diego, California and took employment in the construction industry. By June of 1941, Jay, Dee and Art, at their older brother's urging, had all followed him to Southern California. That same spring, Ellis had returned home from school to help John put in the crops, and then at Mary's instigation, he left in May to work on the new airport being built in Las Vegas.

September of 1941, Mary traveled to Southern California with her brother Will to attend the marriage of her second son, Jay, to Maxine Richards on 7 September. Jay and Maxine remained in San Diego throughout the war, where there two oldest sons, Richard and Norman, were born.

That same month, shortly after her return, Mary's father, William Thomas Owens, Sr. died in Joseph, Utah on 20 September. He was eighty-six. He was buried in Panguitch two days later.

Two months later, Mary traveled to Salt Lake to attend the marriage of Ellis to Leila Rees on 13 November in the Salt Lake Temple. In February of 1942, Ellis and Leila accepted an invitation from Silas and Nellie to move to San Diego, after an apartment fire destroyed their few possessions. Jay and Maxine were able to arrange for Ellis and Leila to rent the other half of the duplex where they were

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

living. Thus by the late winter of 1942, John and Mary's five oldest sons were all living in San Diego.

While John and Mary must have been pleased to see their sons getting married and living in close proximity, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor had brought the United States into the war, and military service would soon follow for many of their sons. During the summer and fall of 1942, first Dee and then Art were drafted into the Army.

That fall Ellis returned to Panguitch to teach school, receiving a deferment on his draft status for one year. Tom graduated from high school in the spring of 1943, and he was the next son drafted, being inducted later that year. Ellis began to teach a second year in Panguitch, expecting to be drafted at any time. However, he was deferred for a second year because of the need for teachers.

This second deferment of Ellis may have led to the drafting of Silas by the Garfield County Draft Board in the spring of 1944. When Silas was drafted, John got angry. Dee, Art and Tom were already in the service, and it was expected that Ellis would soon follow. John went looking for Tom Dodds, the chairman of the Draft Board. Finding Dodds in the pool hall, John walked up, shaking his finger and said, "Tom, you're getting too damn patriotic with my boys. I expected that Dee, Ellis, Arthur and Tom would all be inducted. I didn't expect that Silas, with a wife and three young children would also be inducted."¹¹⁰ Nevertheless, by the end of 1944, both Silas and Ellis were also in the service.

Silas, Ellis and Tom all served in the Navy. Tom spent much of his time in Hawaii. Silas was on the west coast, and Ellis was on the east coast. Dee and Art were drafted into the army. Dee served in the U. S. Seventh Army, seeing combat in France and Germany. He received a field promotion to Lieutenant. Art fought in

¹¹⁰ Personal recollections of Ellis Crosby.

the South Pacific. Remarkably all five men returned home safely at the conclusion of the war. There are very few families who sent five sons into the service during World War II and had all five return.

Subsequently, Theron and Gordon had their opportunities at military service. Theron served in the European occupation forces, and Gordon was sent to Korea. Jay, having lost an eye in an accident as a young child, was not eligible for military service, and consequently the only one of the eight boys not to serve.

With her boys scattered, Mary endeavored to keep track of her family through correspondence. She would write a letter to all the boys, adding personal information in the individual copies. Unfortunately, none of these letters have been preserved, but one letter, written to Dee in 1947, still exists. In this letter, Mary describes many local events relating to the family and friends.

It has been dry and warm . . . during the . . . month until yesterday we have a little snow a inch, but it is still cloudy so we may get more.

We have had an open winter and it should be spring in 6 weeks - Our house is warm We have no trouble with the water freezing we have dripped it a few times just in case. . . .

Silas has started his back porch he and Tom got in a couple of day's last week.

Tom tells me he hopes to be married in less than a month - he has Dorothy down often - she is a nice little girl. He says she will go on to school and graduate this spring. . . .

Ellis, Leila - Dee, Dorothy - Art, Bev - Tom, Dorothy, also Gordon went to Circle vill friday nite for the bal game - we were beatin 4 points - Gordon say's we will beat then on our floor. . . .

Letha and Bill Ellison still . . . having their fight's she bit a good piece out of his lip so she must have won "this round." . . .

Tell us what kind of living quarters you have and also give an idea just what I could send you would enjoy.

Dose the cheese mold or is it O.K. when you get it. . . .

Pa is feeding the cattle straw this month - he is well - I have run down - I may think of more - but will close so I can get this in the mail.¹¹¹

At the same time, Mary valued the letters she received from her boys. Through these letters she was able to instill a strong sense of family in her sons. A good example of this comes from a letter Art wrote from Tokyo, Japan on Thanksgiving Day in 1945.

Thanksgiving and what a day its turning out to be in this section of the world. It started to rain last night about 10:30 P.M. and its still going strong this morning. . . . I don't have any idea as to what kind of a diner we will get today but I'm sure it will not be any thing like what I would get if only home with my feet under Mothers table. However, I'm of the opinion that it won't be to many more months before I can set down to Mothers table and enjoy a good meal. Boy that will be the day.¹¹²

Dee, Art and Tom were all married shortly after the war. With the six oldest boys now married, John and Mary began to see their family expand with the addition of grandchildren. Indeed, by 1950 they had twelve grandchildren. This number eventually reached thirty-eight.

John and Mary took a great deal of pleasure in their family. Both sought to keep family members aware of events through correspondence, writing newsy letters about family and friends. These letters varied, reporting births, special trips, harvests and events in Panguitch. On one occasion, for example, John humorously wrote to Ellis that "Arthur's boy is a girl."¹¹³

¹¹¹ Mary A. Crosby to Dee Crosby, 13 January 1947 [188].

¹¹² Arthur Crosby to John and Mary Crosby, 22 November 1945 [221].

¹¹³ John S. Crosby to Ellis O. Crosby, 3 October 1964 [194]. This apparently is a reference to the birth of Art and Bev's third daughter, Cherie.

The following story recounted by Silas and Nellie's oldest son, Dan, took place shortly after the war. It demonstrates the interest that John took in his grandchildren.

When I was about 13 or 14 I borrowed his horse Fal. No one had ever really given me specific instructions on putting on a saddle and I think grandfather assumed I knew the procedure. I saddled her and went about town with some of my friends having a good time. I had a friend behind me and we went around the corner by Elmer's and the saddle slipped (because it was not cinched tight enough). I actually went under her with my foot caught in the stirrup. My friend jumped off the rear and she spun around causing me to hit my head against Elmer's iron fence which dislodged my foot from the stirrup. Fal was in a panic and went up the street eventually being caught several blocks away by someone who recognized her who returned her home. During this panic trip, she stepped in the stirrups and pretty much destroyed the saddle. He spent a good deal of time repairing the saddle with copper rivets and additional leather and had a difficult time getting Fal to accept the saddle again. He explained that it was important to get the saddle on her right away or she may not ever allow it again. He explained that the same principle applies to humans. If you fail at something, try again immediately or your mind might make it nearly impossible for you to succeed. Grandfather never chastised me for that incident even though his horse was his primary means of transportation to his fields etc.¹¹⁴

Even in his advancing years, John could work. As noted earlier, he continued to teach until 1950, and John worked the ranch well into the 1950s. Dan Crosby recalled one occasion when, as a teenager, he attempted to help his seventy-year-old grandfather.

In 1950 Grandfather Crosby was harvesting his oats that were grown at his 'Sand Wash' field and I volunteered to help him as all of his

¹¹⁴ Personal recollections of Dan S. Crosby, July 1996. Copy in the possession of the author.

boys were gone from home. We started the team of horses down between the rows of grain that had already been cut and bound into shocks and stacked to dry. I was then 17 and feeling like I could take on the world. For the first 1/2 hour or so things went well and we were loading the wagon without any delays. About this time, I started to feel the effects of being inexperienced as well as not used to this much sustained physical activity. Grandfather was 70 at the time and before long was not only loading all the grain on his side of the wagon but was helping me so the horses could keep right on walking. I gained a great deal of respect for his physical abilities at that time even though I had witnessed other things in the past. I think this was the first time I had actually known first hand how hard he had worked all his life.¹¹⁵

Mission to Tennessee

In 1952, Bishop N. O. Henrie asked John and Mary to accept a call to serve a mission. Realizing that Mary's health might limit their ability to fulfill the call, they agreed to serve for a period of six months. Accepting a call to the East Central States Mission, the couple went into the Mission Home in Salt Lake City 1 December 1952. After a brief stay in Salt Lake, they drove to the mission headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky.¹¹⁶ From there, the mission president assigned them to labor in Tennessee.

For their first assignment, John and Mary were sent to Nashville, Tennessee.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer, 1086. Situated on the south bank of the Ohio River, Louisville was the largest city in Kentucky in 1952, with a population of 369,100. This was the headquarters of the East Central States Mission at that time. John and Mary reported here to meet their mission president and receive their area assignment.

¹¹⁷ Ibid., 1287. Nashville is located on the Cumberland River in central Tennessee, 195 miles north-east of Memphis. A commercial and industrial center, Nashville was the second largest city in Tennessee in 1952, with a population of 174,300.

Here we were expected to labor largely with the members of the Church. But a Brother and Sister Jones had done a rather good job with them and a branch of the Church there was in rather good condition. Arrangements were under way to have the acting teachers look after the members, so Mother and I were transferred to Jackson . . .¹¹⁸

Jackson, Tennessee is located in the western half of the state on the South Fork of the Forked Deer River, seventy-five miles north-east of Memphis and 130 miles west of Nashville. Settled in 1819, Jackson became a city in 1845. Later selected as a rail junction, Jackson became an industrial and shipping center for timber and agricultural products. The population in 1952 was 30,200.¹¹⁹ This community became the center of John and Mary's missionary activity during their time in Tennessee.

John wrote that the membership in Jackson was small, unable to even support a Sunday School. They did manage to establish a Sunday School in the adjacent community of Bemis, but Mary's health seems to have limited their activities. "We contacted a lot of people, not as many as we might have done, but I guess about all Mother's health would allow."¹²⁰

Returning home in the spring of 1953, the couple settled back into Panguitch and John resumed his farming. In October Mary made a trip to California to visit with Ellis and Leila, and to see her newest grandson, Jeffrey. Upon seeing the baby for the first time, she turned to Leila and said, "He should have been named John." Leila replied, "Talk to your son."

¹¹⁸ John Silas Crosby, "Mary Ann Owens Crosby" [146].

¹¹⁹ Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer, 863.

¹²⁰ John Silas Crosby, "Mary Ann Owens Crosby" [146].

Mary had suffered from a weak heart for many years. In February of 1954 it failed. She died 3 February 1954 at the age of sixty-nine . The cause of death was described as a coronary occlusion.¹²¹ The funeral was held five days later, on 8 February, in the Panguitch North Ward Chapel. The speakers were Beulah Allen, Ceasar Myers, Cleo Hatch and Stake President Vern Holman. John was pleased with the service. He wrote:

Mary's funeral was very well attended. . . .

The funeral service was all I hoped it to be. I am not sure that I ever attended a better one.

It definitely looks like she has done a good job in life. It is now up to me to do as well.¹²²

On a copy of the funeral program, Naomi Bliss added these comments regarding the events at that time.

I went to Panguitch with Ed in his nice Buick on Friday. Funeral was on Monday. We had a nice visit at Beulahs & Johns & families. Mary looks so happy. Everything was beautiful. Casket etc. was put in a metal volt [sic] as she requested. Nothing was left undone. Surely she couldn't help but feel John granted every request and glad to do so.

Naomi also made comments on the program regarding the talks, noting that Beulah's was "extra good".¹²³

Mary was well thought of in the community. Her obituary in the Garfield County News read in part:

¹²¹ Garfield County News, 11 February 1954.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ Original funeral program in the possession of the author.

Mrs. Mary Ann Owens Crosby, 69, died Wednesday evening of a coronary occlusion.

She was born at Panguitch in 1884, a daughter of William Thomas and Margaret Caroline Jones Owens. She resided here all her life.

On Nov. 4, 1908 she was married to John S. Crosby in the Manti Temple. for many years she was a practical nurse in Garfield County. She served on a mission in the East Central States.¹²⁴

John and Mary had a unique relationship. People have told me that Mary could be distant and seem unaffectionate. Yet, it was a strong marriage, and was perhaps best described in the following words written by John.

Mother gave me a compliment or two along the way. A time or two she said, "I like you". One in a month of her death.

She gave me one compliment when I least deserved it. I went up town and stayed and stayed. I stayed until I was ashamed to go home. Then I stayed on because I was ashamed.

It was so prolonged that the boys mentioned it to her. Not once, but several times. Finally she replied. "When he does come home, he won't be drunk."¹²⁵

In the same sketch, John added.

[W]hen I look at that group of eight boys, and consider their abilities, I have no trouble in making up my mind that I made no mistake when I married Mary Owens.¹²⁶

¹²⁴ Garfield County News, 11 February 1954.

¹²⁵ John Silas Crosby, "Mary Ann Owens Crosby" [147].

¹²⁶ Ibid [144].

St. George Years

John remained in his home and continued to work the farm after Mary's death. At the age of seventy-six he finally reached the stage where he could no longer effectively farm the property, and John sold the farm to Arthur in 1957. In a letter to Ellis he wrote:

I have finally sold the farm cattle, and reserve right to Arthur. I don't know just what I will do. I have felt that I ought to continually have something to do. But to put up the crop alone is beyond me. I don't jump across the ditch as easily as I did. I can maybe do something.

I surely felt good when they let me out of the school that I had the farm and bunch of cattle. It worked fine while I had a couple of boys home. But I can see that I can't do it alone, and Arthur wants something that will give him a little financial security.¹²⁷

Shortly thereafter he was called to serve as an ordinance worker in the St. George Temple. This calling was probably influenced by his friend, James Cameron, who was a counselor in the temple presidency from 1950 to 1960. The two men had served together on the Panguitch Stake High Council.¹²⁸

Within a year after moving to St. George, John found a companion with whom he wished to share his final years. Her name was Louise Poe and they were married for time on 13 January 1959 in the St. George LDS Temple.¹²⁹ Louise Larsen Poe was born 12 January 1896 at Moroni, Utah. Her parents, Anthony and Eliza Arnoldus Larsen were Danish converts to the LDS Church who had immigrated to Utah. Louise was one of twelve children, six boys and six girls.

¹²⁷ John S. Crosby to Ellis O. Crosby, 9 March 1957 [191].

¹²⁸ Janice force DeMille, *The St. George Temple: First 100 Years* (Hurricane, Utah: Homestead Publishing, 1977), 77.

¹²⁹ *Garfield County News*, 7 January 1965.

Growing up on the family farm, Louise had limited opportunities for education, completing the eighth grade. In 1910, when Louise was fourteen, the family moved to Buhl, Idaho.

Shortly after moving to Idaho, when she was fifteen, Louise met G. Perry Poe at a Friday night dance. He proposed while she was still in her teenage years.

One night he asked if I'd marry him and I said I wouldn't until I was 18. So he asked if he waited until then would I marry him and I said yes. He waited for me.

Perry and Louise had four children. When first married, Perry farmed for a living, but he later went to work for one of the railroads. He died from injuries sustained in a railroad yard in 1957.

After Perry's death Louise moved to St. George, Utah where she served as a Temple worker. She owned a small home across the street and one block north of the Temple. While working in the St. George Temple she met John S. Crosby. After their marriage, the couple lived together in Louise's St. George home until John's death. Louise reached her one hundredth birthday in January of 1996.¹³⁰

John and Louise seemed happy during the five years of their marriage. Nevertheless, their relationship took some interesting twists. On one occasion the couple was driving up to Carlin, Nevada to see one of Louise's sons. It was fall and they were taking fruit to her son. Louise was driving her station wagon with John asleep in the back. She fell asleep at the wheel, lost control of the car, and it rolled. John's first words to her were, "What are you trying to do woman, kill me?" Fortunately neither was hurt.

Shortly after their marriage, John and Louise made a trip to Los Gatos, California to see John's son Ellis. During their stay, Ellis drove his father and

¹³⁰ Provo Daily Herald, 31 March 1996, H1

Louise up to Sacramento to visit with John's older sister Elida. Upon meeting Louise, Elida turned to John and said, "If you had wanted a maid you could have hired one. You didn't need to marry her." Louise certainly must have found the Crosby family a challenge.

John and Louise both spent time keeping track of their respective families. In a letter from October 1964, John commented that Louise had been traveling to see her family. He then commented on various members of his family, including mission calls extended to his grandson Norman, and his sister, Beulah, and her husband. He added, "I very definitely do not want my family to pull apart. I have the group picture taken at mothers funeral that I show with a good deal of pride."¹³¹

In this same letter, John did make a comment regarding his health. "I notice or think I notice that my writing is not as good as it once was. My thumb and first two fingers are always a little bit numb. I have had to learn a new way to button my left shirt sleeve. I can get the right one all right."¹³² The numbness was an indication of things to come. Just two months later, during the holidays, John grew seriously ill. He was hospitalized, but his condition worsened. John Crosby died of natural causes 31 December 1964 in a St. George hospital, he was eighty-four.

His obituary from the Garfield County News included the following:

John Silas Crosby, 84 of St. George died of natural causes Dec. 31st in a St. George hospital.

Son of Samuel Obed and Hannah Adelia Bunker Crosby, he was born April 11, 1880 in Bunkerville, Nevada. He married Mary Ann Owens on Nov. 4, 1908 in the Manti LDS Temple; she died in

¹³¹ John S. Crosby to Ellis O. Crosby, 3 October 1964 [194].

¹³² Ibid.

Feb. 1954. He married Louise Poe Jan. 13, 1959 in the St. George LDS Temple.

Mr. Crosby taught school 32 years in Panguitch. He served one term as county attorney, and engaged in the livestock business.

Mr. Crosby had been an ordinance worker in the St. George LDS Temple the past eight years. He served in the Southern States LDS Mission, was a high priest, stake clerk and member of the high council in Panguitch.¹³³

As had been the case at Mary's funeral, the speakers at John's funeral included Stake President Vernon L. Holman and John's lifelong friend, Caesar Myers.

Conclusion

I was ten when grandfather died. Certain images have remained etched in my mind. We were at Lake Tahoe when news that grandfather was dying reached us. There had been a new snowfall, and we reached Reno by following in the tracks of a jeep ahead of us. I remember lying in the back seat while dad drove across the Nevada desert, listening to the radio as midnight ushered in 1965, and then arriving at Uncle Theron's house while it was still dark. I remember the generosity of Dee and Dorothy Houston who put me up at their house while the Crosby family spread throughout Panguitch for the funeral. I remember walking into Uncle Jay's living room to view the body with my father. I remember reaching out and touching grandfather's hand. I remember walking into the packed chapel as an honorary pallbearer, and the drive to the cemetery.

I remember John S. Crosby as a tall, distinguished looking man with white hair. I never remember seeing him smile, but I do not remember him as someone who was unapproachable. I remember an evening car ride in St. George to purchase eggs and milk. "Do you want to come with me boy?" I was asked. On the

¹³³ Garfield County News, 7 January 1965.

drive I remember wondering if grandfather knew what a stop sign was. I remember standing beside him among the redwood trees of California and along a lakeshore on Cedar Mountain.

I did not know my grandfather well and I never knew my grandmother, but they are shadows that stand in my past. Shadows that are ever present in the values and beliefs that they instilled in my father. They are shadows that live in my life through the recollections of my father and his seven brothers. Nothing is more interesting to me than to sit down and listen to John S. Crosby's sons reminisce about growing up in Panguitch. At the center of all these stories are the shadows of John and Mary Crosby.