

MARY ANN HALL JOHNSON WHITING AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Springville March 17 1872

Mary A. H. J. Whiting member of the Relief Society

In the winter of 1842 on the 20th of December, I, Mary Ann Hall, was born in Des Moines, Lee County, Iowa. My Father's name was Edward Hall, and my Mother's name was Nancy Ellenor Ballinger. When I was seven years of age, I removed with my parents to Utah in the fall of 1850. We settled in Provo the first winter, and in the spring of 1851, we moved on to Springville. We saw some pretty hard times as all new settlers are accustomed to. The Indians were bad and we had to live in the Forts a great deal of the time. I was baptized when 10 years of age by Stephen Perry. I was married to Lorenzo Johnson on the 1st of March in 1857 in Salt Lake City, Utah. I was the mother of five children, three girls and two boys, by Lorenzo names as follows: 1st Nancy Rheuama, born 1st August, 1860; 2nd: Edward Alonzo, born 25th August, 1862; 3rd: Sara Elizabeth, born 4th October, 1864; 4th: Elanora Jane, born 15th November, 1866; 5th: Jesse Stephen, born 2nd October, 1869. In the fall of 1868, my husband was called on a mission to West Point to settle a new country in southern Utah. I went with him. My youngest son Jesse was born while we were there. We lived there one year when we removed again to Springville. I joined the Relief Society when it was first organized in Springville and have been a member ever since I am a teacher at present and have been for a good many years. I was left a widow in the spring of 1872 when I was 29 years of age with five children. I worked to support them for eight years. When I was married a second time to William Whiting and was blessed with two sons, the oldest, John Hall, was born on 7th August 1881. James William was born 18th October, 1882. We spent many happy hours together. In the summer of 1888, I was again called on to part with my husband. The most of my time at present is spent with the sick and dressing the dead. And now my dear children, I bare my testimony to the truth of this work that I am engaged in, for I know that it is the church and kingdom of God, set up in these the last days, never more to be thrown down, and I write this as a testimony to my children and grandchildren, to future generations, that it may strengthen your faith and build you up that you may go forth and perform a great and mighty work in helping to roll on the Kingdom of God. Ever praying that we may all live to become heirs in the Celestial Kingdom of God is the constant prayer of your loving Mother and Grandmother.

(Signed) Mary A.H.J. Whiting

I address this to my youngest child living in case that none of my children are living when this is opened then to the oldest grandchild and so on.

(Signed) Mary A.H.J. Whiting

Note: This is a copy of an original document written by Mary Ann Hall Johnson Whiting. This document was written as a project of the Relief Society, placed with many other such letters in a wooden box. The box was sealed air-tight and placed in a safe and kept by the members of the Relief Society. At the end of the fifty year period, it was opened and the letters were distributed to the persons to whom they were addressed, or as nearly so as possible. The original document was again sealed and placed in safe-keeping for another fifty years. The original letter was very interesting. (Note by original transcriber)

This copy is retyped from an earlier transcription, 15 January 2013 by James W. Whiting, Springville, Utah. Punctuation and spelling are original.

Attached to this transcription is the photocopy of the original document, written in a beautiful hand script and also signed by Mary Ann Hall Johnson Whiting. This is not the best copy. I have compared the transcribed copy with the handwritten and have made some corrections and additions to agree better with the spelling and punctuation of the original. The reader is free to make their comparison.

Springville March 17-1892

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