

THE DIARY
OF
IDA ELIZABETH EYRING TURLEY

[1874-1952]

as
Transcribed
by

Richard E. Turley, Sr.

a
Grandson

January 1997

Salt Lake City, Utah

and for this Web Site Edition,

Added Comments and Remembrances
by
Other Grandchildren who knew her.

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FORWARD

A Transcription

This publication is a transcription of the Journal or Diary of Ida Elizabeth Eyring Turley, wife of Edward Franklin Turley. I began this "labor of love" some time ago after referring to my copy of her diary for information which I needed in order to compile a brief history of the lives of Edward & Ida Turley. As I read the journal, the thought came into my mind that all of her progeny ought to have the opportunity to read the diary and thereby benefit from her thoughts and experiences. I was thinking specifically about her great-grandchildren who never knew her. I asked a few of Ida's children and grandchildren if anyone of them had ever transcribed the journal, and to their knowledge that task had not yet been undertaken. So, I began the process of transcribing it, "line upon line." It took me approximately one year.

The word transcribe as here intended means "to type or write out fully as from shorthand or from abbreviated notes." Some of the text which Ida recorded was written in an abbreviated style, sometimes lacking adequate punctuation, and sometimes having excessive punctuation. I am sure that she was capable of using proper punctuation and spelling, however, it seems to me that there were times when Ida thought it better to make entries using her *speed writing* than not to record at all. And, there were entries that were very brief, and I may have left them that way in order for such brevity to stimulate the reader's imagination as to what life was like. For example, her entry for April 19, 1937 consisted of only one word:

19th. Wind. {p. 27, Apr. 1937}

The citations in brackets {} which have been made in this Forward and in the text of the document, such as {p. 23, Jul., Aug., Sep. 1936}, refer to the original pages and dates in Ida's diary.

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Someone once said: "Every translation is an interpretation." This transcription is no exception, however, in instances where I was not certain of the interpretation, I made a special effort to leave the text as it was without modification. Therefore, the reader may find some entries in the text a bit difficult to comprehend; only Ida would be able to interpret exactly what she hurriedly wrote.

I have corrected some misspelled words, both in English and Spanish, but I believe that I would have made many more spelling mistakes than she did, especially if I had not taken the trouble to use a dictionary, and if I had not had a speller on my WordPerfect software! I have restructured some sentences which must have been influenced by her use of the Spanish language where adjectives follow nouns, pronouns precede verbs, etc. Ida used commas frequently in long sentences; I have exchanged semi-colons for commas in many long sentences. Any changes which I may have made have been done to fulfill my purposes in taking the time and making the effort to develop this printed copy.

Ida, a Marvelous Person

Ida was and is a marvelous person. As I read her diary, I came to know her better. Her life revolved around her family and her Church. She was an active contributor to the Church in every way. Her family was most dear to her. In her diary you feel of her love for her family and for the Church, such as in the following statements she recorded:

The Lord has blessed us with good children, and I am very thankful for his blessing, and hope and pray that they may ever live true to the faith and live honorable righteous lives. {p. 15, Aug. 1935}

I am thankful that I feel well and am able to read and enjoy life. I am thankful for my husband and family and for my membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that our children are all striving to be honest and upright and living the Gospel and working in His Church. We little know what the future will bring, but the greatest desire of my heart is that our

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children and our children's children should live to be honest, honorable Latter-day Saints, serving the Lord and keeping His commandments. If we do this, we need not worry about the future.

{p. 17 & 18, Jan. 1936}

Ida's Family Background

Ida grew up in a family environment in which her father, Henry Eyring,

"taught his children to be honest and honorable." {p. 23, Jul. 1936}

Her parents, Henry and Mary Bommeli Eyring, met while crossing the plains; they were both pioneers to Utah and to Mexico. Henry was originally from Germany, and Mary was from Switzerland. They both lived and fostered honesty, integrity, and love in their relationships with others. In her journal Ida quoted her father as having said the following:

Do not do a thing even if it is not counted exactly dishonest; if it is not honorable, then do not do it. {p. 23, Jul. 24, 1936}

Why They Came to Mexico

Ida explains briefly at the beginning of her journal what the driving force was which caused her family and others to move to Mexico. Ida's father, Henry Eyring, was the faithful husband and father of two wives and families. The Mormons' practice of plural marriage had been declared through U.S. federal legislation and court rulings to be against the law, and those practicing it were to be fined and put in jail.

Anti-polygamy legislation was initiated in 1862 through the Morrill Act making "bigamy in a territory a crime punishable by a fine and five years in prison." [Ray Jay Davis, *Antipolygamy Legislation, Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, Vol. 1, Macmillan Publishing Co., N. Y., 1992, p. 52] In 1882 the Edmunds Act was passed making bigamous cohabitation a misdemeanor and as a result of this act

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"over 1,300 Latter-day Saints were jailed as 'cohabers' in the 1880's." [Davis, op.cit] It was in 1887 that the Edmunds-Tucker Act "disincorporated both the Church and the Perpetual Emigration Fund on the ground that they fostered polygamy." [Davis, op.cit.]. I believe that Henry Eyring felt it was better to move to Mexico than abandon either of his families which he would have had to do in order to stay out of jail. The federal marshals were relentless in their pursuit of Mormon brethren who had acted faithfully in carrying out the teachings of plural marriage. It is interesting to me that the marshals then, as now, pay little attention to the irresponsible reprobate men of the world who have "a woman in every port," so to speak; whereas the lawmen hunted down brethren like our great-grandfather, Henry Eyring, who was a man of integrity, a faithful brother who seriously performed his role as a patriarch to bless and sustain his two wives and their children.

Henry Eyring had been a close associate of Elder Erastus Snow in St. George, and, following Elder Snow's recommendation, Henry moved one of his families to Mexico. He had come across the plains with other pioneers; he was confident that he could also pioneer in Mexico. He first took his wife, Deseret, and three of his children, Edward C., Anna M., and Andrew T. They left St. George "on February 10th, 1887, and reached the old camp of Colonia Juarez on April 8." [Henry Eyring, *The Journal of Henry Eyring, 1835-1902*] He built a home for Deseret and her family, and then in July of that year Henry accompanied Erastus Snow and others to Mexico City where Henry was put in charge of the Mexican Mission. While he presided over the Mexican Mission he accomplished many things. First, he demonstrated his gift of languages by learning Spanish and becoming proficient so as to be able to help the colonists with the language throughout the remainder of his lifetime. Secondly, he became familiar with the laws of Mexico. And, thirdly, he became acquainted with many of the leaders of Mexico including Presidente Porfirio Díaz who was president until 1911 when he was deposed by the Madero Revolution. Henry performed his assignment in Mexico City until the fall of 1888 at which time he returned to his family at Colonia Juarez. He opened the mercantile cooperative there on January 1st, 1889 with a "stock of goods of about \$1,500." [Eyring, op.cit.] The cooperative business which Henry established was patterned after the cooperative he managed in St. George. He sold stock and the investors received

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dividends from the profits of the establishment. As we see below, Henry brought his wife, Mary, and the rest of the family to Mexico in 1890.

Impressionable Events for Ida

Four events made an indelible impression upon Ida, and she refers to them often. The first took place on May 1, 1890 when her family left St. George, the home of her wonderful childhood, and moved to Colonia Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. The second and related event was their arrival in Colonia Juarez on May 15th, 1890. In almost every entry dated May 1st and May 15th in her diary she records the anniversary of their leaving St. George and arriving in Colonia Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. For example:

We left St. George on May 1st, 1890, my brother Henry's birthday, and went by team to Milford, then by train to American Fork, and visited Aunt Bertha Greenwood, father's sister, and her family for a day or two, then by train to Deming, New Mexico, where a team and wagon were waiting to bring us to Colonia Juarez, arriving on May 15th, 1890. {p. 1, 1874-1895}

. . . May 15th, Just 45 years since my mother & family arrived in Mexico.
{p. 12, 1935}

. . . May 1st. My brother Henry's birthday and 48 yrs. since we came to Mexico.
{p. 45, Apr. & May 1938}

The third event which she would never forget was their "Exodus" from the Mormon Colonies in 1912. Two of the Exodus entries were as follows:

The Madero Revolution commenced in 1910; and, as conditions grew worse, the Priesthood Authorities felt that it was not safe. So, on July 31, 1912, all of the people of the Colonies were called to leave their homes, and go into the United States for protection. We stayed in El Paso for 26 months.
{p. 2, 1896-1912}

The fourth event was their return to Colonia Juarez in 1914 after living in El Paso for two years. Many of the colonists chose not to return to Mexico, but

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decided to make a fresh start somewhere else; many settled in Arizona, New Mexico, and the El Paso area; others went north back to Utah, Idaho, and even as far as Canada. One of her related journal entries was the following:

September 17th. Just 21 years ago today, we came back to Mexico on the train after the Exodus. We lived in El Paso from July 1912 to Sept 1914. {p. 15, 1935}

They Return to Mexico Where Revolution was Rampant

Ida records many of the details associated with the troubles the Mormons had when they returned to claim their properties and begin anew their life in Mexico. One such entry is as follows:

We thought we had troubles before the Exodus, but it was nothing compared to what we went through since returning to Mexico. During the summer of 1915, after Villa's defeat at San Luis Potosí, he came here with his army of 14,000 men on his way to Sonora. Part of them stayed at Nueva Casas Grandes, and a great number stayed at Dublan; they camped along the roads like a swarm of bees. They demanded that the people give of their substance; they went into the corn fields and picked roasting ears by the hundreds, until the Dublan people were afraid there would be nothing left; but, it seemed as though it was like the story of old when they harvested their crops, they had plenty for their needs. {p. 3, 1914-1915}

As stated above, many of the Mormons suffered losses because of the looting by some bands of Mexican revolutionaries and also many bandits who simply roamed the countryside committing crimes and causing devastation to anyone who would interfere; law and order did not yet exist as we know it today.

It should be mentioned that the Mormons were not the only ones who suffered during the years of revolution in Mexico. The Mexicans undoubtedly suffered the most. In her journal Ida records her thoughts during a train ride from Chihuahua. She writes of an experience that her husband, Ed, had when he took the train from El Paso back to the colonies during the revolution:

We went through Cumbre tunnel, which was burned during the revolution with a train of people in it. Ed came down from El Paso on that train, and he got off at Pearson;

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and, the train went on, bound for Madera, but was burned in the Cumbre Tunnel. It made him feel sad to think of those people that he was with, that they were burned. {p. 70, July 1939}

There were casualties on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border. To give us some idea of the instability in Mexico, I have taken a sampling of news articles which appeared during 1915 and 1916 in the *Iron County Record*, published in Cedar City, Utah. Some residents of Cedar City had relatives in the Mormon Colonies; some had come back to Utah to remain after the Exodus; therefore, this newspaper had readers who were interested in what was taking place in Mexico. Here is a sampling of articles:

ANARCHY REIGNS IN MEXICAN CAPITAL. MANY WOMEN NEAR DEATH FROM TREATMENT AT HANDS OF THE VILLA TROOPS. General Obregon Turns Down Overtures From Gutierrez to Join in His Movement Against Both Old Factions. [Carranza, Zapata, Villa, and others were mentioned.]

[*Iron County Record*, Vol XXII, Friday, Jan. 29, 1915, No. 7

PEOPLE OF MEXICAN CAPITAL STARVING. GENERAL OBREGON REFUSES TO PERMIT MEMBERS OF FOREIGN COLONY TO SUCCOR NEEDY. Many Merchants Imprisoned and People Are Living in Terror of Another Evacuation with Attendant Looting and Pillage.

DEATH TOLL IN MEXICO. Five Thousand Perish in Capital From Pestilence and Starvation. . . . [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXII, Friday, Mar. 12, 1915, No. 13]

ANARCHY REIGNS IN MEXICO CITY. AFFIDAVITS TESTIFYING TO THE ABUSE OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS REACH WASHINGTON. Report Made of Misuse of Foreign Women and the Robbing and Beating of Foreigners by Followers of Mexican Chiefs.

VILLA IS DEFEATED IN RECENT BATTLE. MEXICAN CHIEF LOSES SIX THOUSAND MEN IN FIGHT WITH GENERAL OBREGON. Villa Movement on West Coast is Apparently Collapsing and Carranza's Star is Again in the Ascendancy.

[*Iron County Record*, Vol XXII, Friday, Apr. 23 1915, No. 19]

RESCUE FORCE IS SENT TO MEXICO. THREE CRUISERS SENT TO TOBAR BAY TO RELIEF SETTLERS MENACED BY YAQUIS. Indians Seek to Expel Settlers From Land Which is Said to Have Been Taken From Them by the Diaz Administration. San Diego, Cal. -- Peril of American settlers in the Yaqui valley of Sonora brought orders Thursday for the dispatch of three cruisers for the west coast of Mexico and . . . All three were destined for Tobar bay, near Guaymas, railroad terminus

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and seaport in Sonora. Ninety miles southeast of Guaymas is Esperanza, where an American colony ... [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXII, Friday, June 25, 1915, No. 28]

MEXICAN CAPITAL AGAIN MENACED. GENERAL VILLA'S SOLDIERS ARE THREATENING MEXICO CITY AND BATTLE IS EXPECTED. General Gonzales Heads Troops Which Will Engage Advancing Column, in Endeavor to Keep Followers of Villa Out. Washington -- Mexico City is again threatened with attack and the Carranza forces under General Gonzales, who drove the Zapata army from the capital ten days ago, have marched hurriedly northward to engage an advancing Villa column believed to be planning a junction with the Zapata troops now menacing communications with Vera Cruz. ... [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXII, Friday, July 23, 1915, No. 32]

MEXICAN RAIDERS KILL AMERICANS. PRESIDENT OF LAW AND ORDER LEAGUE AND HIS SON SHOT DOWN BY BANDITS. Mexicans Crossed Border, Ransacked Home of Victims and Then Foully Murdered Men in Their Own Homes. Brownsville, Texas. United States cavalrymen, Texas rangers and posses of citizens are continuing their search for a band of a dozen Mexican ranch raiders, who on Friday, after several weeks of outlawry, raided the small town of Sebastian, thirty seven miles north of Brownsville, and killed A. Austin, president of the Sebastian Law and Order league, and his son, Charles. [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXII, Friday, Aug. 13, 1915, No. 35]

MANY DEAD OF STARVATION. Eight Percent of Deaths in Mexico City Due to Food Shortage. Mexico City. -- Deaths by starvation continue in the city and most conservative estimates them at twenty five a day. ... [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXII, Friday, Aug. 27, 1915, No. 37]

DIAZ AND VILLA THREATEN CAPITAL. REPORT THAT REVOLUTION IS TO BE STARTED AGAINST THE RECOGNIZED GOVERNMENT. Diaz Said to Have Joined the Zapata Forces With Forty Thousand Men While Villa is in Command of Eighteen Thousand. El Paso, Texas. A message, said here to have been received in Juarez on Friday, is quoted as stating that Felix Diaz has joined the Zapata forces and is now at the head of 40,000 men, with whom he is menacing Mexico City. . . . The report said General Mendez with 600 men had occupied Esqueda, Sonora. An unknown number of Villa troops is in possession of Fronteras. General Urbalejo, the Yaqui Indian chief, who occupied Naco, with 800 Yaquis, is believed to be sending a force to capture Anavacachi Pass, which the Carranza garrison from Naco is said to be endeavoring to reach... [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXII, Friday, Oct. 29, 1915, No. 46]

SWEPT BY BANDITS. RURAL DISTRICTS IN SOUTH MEXICO ARE

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RAVAGED. Robberies and Murders of Daily Occurrence, Some of Them Just Outside Vera Cruz City -- Suspects executed on Spot. [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXIII, Friday, April 7, 1916, No. 17]

MEXICAN BANDITS ANNIHILATE GUARD. ATTACK BORDER TOWN AND MURDER MEMBERS OF SMALL BAND OF CAVALRYMEN. Soldiers Take Refuge in Adobe House, But Are Driven Forth When Building is Fired and Shot Down by Bandits. Alpine, Texas.... 70 Villistas against "nine men of Troop A, the Fourteenth cavalry. [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXIII, Friday, May, 12, 1916, No. 22]

VILLISTAS WRECK PASSENGER TRAIN. TWENTY FOUR PERSONS KILLED WHEN TRAIN IS DERAILED BY MEXICAN BANDITS. Thousands of Dollars in New Carranza Currency Taken and the Passengers Robbed. Survivors Being Stripped of Clothing. [This happened in Mexico between Queretaro and Empalme Gonzales.] [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXIII, Friday, May 19, 1916, No. 23]

BANDIT LOPEZ EXECUTED. Chihuahua City, Mexico. -- Pablo Lopez, Villa's chief lieutenant in the raid upon Columbus, N. M., on June 5, paid the penalty for his crimes, facing a firing squad of Constitutionalist soldiers at Santa Rosa, Chihuahua's place of execution. [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXIII, Friday, June 9, 1916, No. 26]

REFUGEES TELL OF TERRORISM. New York. One hundred American refugees who fled from Mexico to escape the reign of terror there arrived here Sunday on the Ward liner Esperanza. They told of the condition of anarchy that is spreading ruin over the land and forcing the cessation of all industry except that dedicated to preparation for war. [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXIII, Friday, June 30, 1916, No. 29]

AMERICANS DRIVEN OUT OF MEXICO. THIRTY MEN AND WOMEN DEPORTED FROM GUANAJUATO BY CARRANZA. Driven From City Amid the Jeers of Mob and Forced to Find Their Way to Border in Vehicles of All Descriptions. [Their homes had been raided and they had been put in jail; then released to get to the border in whatever fashion they could.] [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXIII, Friday, July 7, 1916, No. 30]

MORMON MERCHANTS ROBBED. Mexican Bandits Demand \$10,000 and Threaten Men With Death. El Paso, Texas. It is reported here that a squadron of cavalry has been sent from the field headquarters of the American punitive expedition to Colonia Juarez, eighteen miles from this camp, to protect several hundred American Mormon colonists there, following the robbery of Alonzo and Adelbert Taylor, Mormon merchants, by four Mexicans. Threatening death, the robbers demanded \$10,000 of the Taylors and held one brother prisoner while two of their number took

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the other to the Taylor store and secured several hundred dollars. While these two Mexicans were attempting to secure more money from another wealthy resident of Juarez the prisoner escaped. Learning of this, the robbers took to the hills to avoid capture. [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXIII, Friday, October 20, 1916, No. 45]

BANDITS MURDER MANY PASSENGERS. Men, Women and Children are taken from Train and Ruthlessly Butchered. Military Train Allowed to Pass Without Attack and Then Helpless Ones Killed, the Dead Being Left Beside Tracks. Laredo, Texas . . . attacked by Zapatista followers [in Mexico, south of Laredo]. . [*Iron County Record*, Vol XXIII, Friday, Nov. 17, 1916, No. 49]

Clarence F. Turley, one of Ida's sons, and his wife, Anna Tenney Turley, have compiled and written the book, *History of the Mormon Colonies in Mexico*, which has many of the detailed accounts of what took place in the colonies before and after Ed & Ida returned with their family to Mexico. Their publication is a most valuable reference for anyone wanting to know more about the Mormon colonies in Mexico.

Ida's Flower Garden, a Vision of Loveliness

I am sure that the bands of revolutionaries who came through the Mormon colonies were impressed by the beauty and orderliness of the towns. Ida loved gardening, and I am sure that the beauty of her gardens and flowers had an influence for good even upon the *bandidos*. She often refers to her flower gardens in her journal, as illustrated below:

Where ever we have lived, we have planted fruit trees, flowers, shrubs and roses; it would not be home without flowers. {p. 2, 1896-1912}

Our flower garden is a vision of loveliness; the poppies are in bloom all over the garden, sweet peas, larkspurs and holly hocks are now in bloom also. {p. 12, 1935}

17th. It is summer today; the poppies, pinks and sweet peas are in bloom; how I love flowers; a beautiful flower seems heavenly to me. {p. 28, May 1937}

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The Children Give Their Parents a Radio

Ida enjoyed listening to the radio, and she was especially grateful to receive a new one from her children in 1936:

Dec. 18th. Tonight we heard programs for the first time on our new Zenith Radio that Eyring, Harold, and Vernon sent us for Christmas. It is a very nice present and much appreciated, as it will be very entertaining for us; the radio reception was very plain and clear. {p. 25, Dec. 1936}

Some of her journal entries were prompted by what she heard on the radio, especially when she wanted to quote a statement, idea, or special event that impressed her. For example, she recorded in detail the coronation of King George VI of England beginning with the following entry:

I arose at 3:30 a.m.; kept the electric power on all night as the coronation of King George the VIth was to be on the radio at 4 a.m. I tuned in and heard the man telling all about the procession and coronation. It was wonderful . . . {p. 27& 28, Apr., May 1937}

Ida's Health Challenges

As a result of bad teeth, Ida's whole physical system became infected, resulting in a severe swelling of her knee. Her journal records the treatment she received and some of the suffering she underwent:

Dr. Stevenson put me in a cast from my waist to the toes on my left leg, and to my knee on the right leg. The cast was all around my body. When my leg was solid the pain ceased. I had the cast on for 8 weeks. I had lain on my back for 6 months, and when I could turn on my side for just a minute or two it certainly was a relief. I was in bed almost a year, and it took some time before I could walk, first sliding along on a chair, then crutches, etc. My knee will always be stiff, but I am thankful to be able to get around and work again. {p. 11, 1934-1935}

Although she would have a stiff leg for the rest of her life, her words, "I am thankful to be able to get around and work again," illustrate the attitude with

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which she handled adversity.

She was comforted by poetry, such as the following she recorded in September, 1935:

"The test of the heart is trouble, and it always comes with the years; and the smile that is worth the praise of the earth, is the smile that comes through tears."

-- Ella Wheeler Wilcox

"In everybody's garden a little rain must fall; Or life's fairest, sweetest flowers wouldn't grow and bloom at all. And though clouds hang heavy, so heavy, Oh! My friend, I'm sure that God, who sends the shower, will send the rainbow's end."

{p. 15, Sep. 1935}

Ida liked to be busy, even when she was in bed recuperating. She took advantage of that time to read and work with her hands. She recorded the following:

I have tried to make the most of my time while in bed. The first three months I was unable to read, but since then I have read *Doctrine & Covenants Commentary* through, and I am reading the *Old Testament* and studying along with it the book, *Lands and Leaders of Israel*, a textbook from the Juarez Stake Academy. I have read the *Book of Jasher*, *Proselyte*, magazines, and papers; also, I can mend and darn. {pgs. 12 and 13, 1935}

Ida's Interest in Current Affairs

Although Ida was living in a foreign country, she wrote at times as though she and the other colonists were still living in the United States, keeping up with happenings and celebrations there. The following examples illustrate:

Nov. 28th. We put our dinners together, and ate over at Clarence's & Anna's for Thanksgiving. Edgar & Theresa and children went to Guadalupe to eat Thanksgiving dinner with his folks. {p. 16, Nov. 1935}

Nov. 3rd. Election day in the United States. President Franklin D. Roosevelt won in the election against Alfred Landon. {p. 24, Nov. 1936}

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Sept. 17th. Today is the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. President F. D. Roosevelt addressed a great concourse of people at the Washington Monument in the Capital, denouncing dictatorship in government; we heard his speech over the radio. {p. 35, Sept. & Oct. 1937}

Nov. 11th. Armistice day 1918 has been celebrated since then. Today, President Truman put a wreath on the unknown soldier's grave in Arlington Cemetery. {p. 149, Nov. 1947}

Ida's Enjoyments and Cultural Activities in the Colonies

As you read her journal, you will find that she liked going to the movies. We have to remember that she and others living at the time did not have the benefit of modern television, and people went to picture shows more then than now.

Ida also liked to go to musical shows and operas. What does a person who likes such cultural productions do when living in a somewhat isolated agrarian community? The answer is simple. The people in the Mormon Colonies created their own entertainment, as illustrated by the entries throughout her diary. Examples are as follows:

May 1st. . . . I went to the opera tonight; I got a ride over in Farnsworth's Bus. I enjoyed it. Viva S. Bluth put it on. I think she did very well with the material she had; most of them are very young to take parts in opera, but they did well and the costumes were very colorful and pretty. {p. 65, May 1939}

May 14th. The Academy is having a concert tonight. Conference was held on the 19th & 20th. The opera "Maritana" was held on the night of the 20th. Anna played the part of Maritana; it was very good. {p. 96, May, June, July & Aug. 1942}

July 13th. . . . A number of people here wanted to hear Marilyn sing; so the folks invited a number of them, and she will sing this evening. She will sing songs from the opera, "Il Travatore," that she learned last Spring at Texas Western College.
{p. 245, July 1952}

She also described other activities which took place, and which I assume continue to be a part of life in the colonies:

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September 15th, 1951. They held a celebration at Nueva Casas Grandes today, as the 16th of September is on Sunday. They had horse races, sports, and a baseball game; all of our family went, but me and the maid. It has been a beautiful day. . . . 18th. . . I went over to the racetrack with Pearl; there were several races ran. Our little Marshall rode three races, and Dean rode one. Harold came from the mill in his plane to see the races ... {p. 221, Sep. 1951}

A Wonderful, But Not All-inclusive, Record

Ida was faithful in recording what took place in her life for many years. However, if you look for some memorable event that took place on a particular day, month, or year, she may not have recorded it. I recall once when my younger brother, Corry, and I spent a month with her in Colonia Juarez. We had been fishing in the river and brought home two fish that we had caught, a catfish and a carp. She fixed both of the fish for us, and they were delicious. She also included an apple pie! I still remember having had that very special meal. She did mention that we had gone fishing, but she did not say a word about having cooked our fish for us, nor did she mention the apple pie.

It is amazing how she remembered the birthdays of family members, including but not limited to her children and grandchildren. However, you may, as I did, find that she failed to mention your birthday on one or more occasions.

Ida's Interest in Science and Nature

Ida had an interest in many things including science. The following entry illustrates her broad range of interests:

Aurora Borealis [northern lights] gave a brilliant show; it was beautiful to look at, but it raised absolute "ned" with the nation's communications system and with the weather bureau's very orderly reports printed daily on the little tan cards. Shortly after midnight, it was seen in Salt Lake and much of Utah. They were astonished by the great brilliance in the northern skies. The rare "Northern Lights" gleamed like a giant red curtain of neon tubes in the heavens with the greatest intensity of any borealis seen in the northern tier of states in 35 years. Experts explain that the midnight lights were

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caught by a terrific magnetic storm which somehow or other is linked to sun spots super-activity. {pgs. 45 & 46, May & June 1938}

She saw the handiwork of the Lord in nature. On a trip to Salt Lake City in 1938 she described the view of the Grand Canyon from the South Rim as follows:

We went through Chino Valley, Ashfork, Williams, and up to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. Oh it was grand; so beautiful; a spirit of awe comes over one; the works of nature and the magnitude of those mountains and the great river below make one feel a reverence for their creator. We crossed the high bridge and viewed the river below. {p. 47, June 1938}

Temple Worship was Important to Ida

Ida loved working in the temple. Before leaving St. George as a teen-ager, she was endowed in the St. George Temple at the age of 14! At every opportunity, she went to the temple. On a vacation trip to Salt Lake City, she and her loved ones took time out of their schedule to meet and serve in the Salt Lake Temple:

We all went to the temple and met Eyring & Louise there; so, Aunt Millie and I, Eyring & Louise, Edgar & Theresa, Luther & Beatrice, all did work for the dead that evening. It was 11 p.m. when we got through, as a meeting was held. President Chipman gave a talk on the garment, and then for those of us wishing to see more of the temple, he showed us through the temple rooms. It certainly is a beautiful building. {p. 47, June 1938}

Ida Followed the Events of World War II

Ida kept track of some events that transpired during World War II. I believe that she saw in that War many of the signs of the times, i.e., signs of the "last days." She viewed the persecution of the Jews, for example, as one of those signs. The following excerpt illustrates:

Nazis leaders have ordered all Jews out of Vienna immediately. The poor Jews have suffered distress and peril throughout the ages that have passed. The Jews were to go

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to their native land, to the land of promise for Judah, to the Holy Land; and, they are going, though many of them are going as our fathers came West, willing only because they have to. Even Hitler is used as an instrument in the hands of God of driving them where the Lord wants them. Their hour is drawing near; there is no doubt about it. Apostle Orson Hyde was sent to Palestine in 1841, some years ago, and he dedicated the land for the return of the Jews. We are confident that this blessing will be realized. . . . Russia and Japan are on the verge of war. Oh, how terrible this world is, full of hate and envy; we certainly are living in the last days. {p. 51, July & Aug. 1938}

I believe that if she had known in 1938, when she made that statement, of Hitler's atrocities imposed on the Jews, she most likely would not have classified Hitler as an "instrument in the hands of God!" Several years later she recorded some of the details at the Nuremberg trials where the atrocities of the Nazis were disclosed and judgements made in an international tribunal:

Oct. 1, 1946 report from Nuremberg, Germany. The International Military Tribunal today sentenced 12 of Adolf Hitler's top leaders to death by hanging; imposed life terms on 3; terms of 10 to 20 years on 4 others; and, they acquitted 3, in the world trial of the Nazis regime. Hermann Goering cheated the hangman by committing suicide by poisoning. {p. 135, Oct. 1946}

I am sure that she was dismayed by all of the terrible things that came out of that German regime, especially because of her German lineage.

It was during the month that my brother, Corry, and I were visiting Grandmother Turley in 1945 that the Pacific phase of World War II came to an end. The following two entries illustrate her awareness of what took place with the advent of atomic weaponry, and one of them gives a sampling of her hope that such developments would eventually be used for peaceful purposes:

August 5th, 1945. Burst of atomic bomb brings swift surrender of Japanese. The first bomb fell Aug. 5th on Hiroshima; the second, Aug. 8th on Nagasaki. On Friday, Aug. 10th, the Tokyo radio broadcast an appeal for peace; they wanted Emperor Hiroshima to retain his sovereignty and prerogatives. Aug. 11th. Secretary Byrnes sent note to Tokyo accepting the Jap offer with the stipulation that the Supreme Allied Military Commander, presumably General Douglas McArthur, will rule Japan through the authority of the Emperor. The people of the world, although thrilled by the prospect

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of peace, we were shaken by the new weapon which had brought the surrender about. Even General Carl Spaatz, whose airmen dropped the bomb, said hopefully: "Wouldn't it be an odd thing if these were the only two atomic bombs ever dropped." A terrible explosion that killed and wounded, and all green vegetation perished. {p. 123, July 1945}

Dec. 31st, 1946. The great event of 1945 was the end of World War II. A great event of 1946 will be the start of the harnessing of atomic energy to bring about a new industrial era. {p. 128, Dec. 1945, Jan. 1946}

Ida's Commentaries Bring Out Her Character & Religious Understanding

It is interesting how she interspersed, between the recording of daily happenings, her observations of world events and her commentaries. In one instance, at the outbreak of World War II in Europe, she makes the following observation and commentary which even today might be appropriate for a gathering of politicians and representatives of nations concerning the conflict between two countries, in this case Finland and Russia:

Russia is, of course, justified in seeking some concessions from Finland, as they need an outlet to the sea; but, Russia is not justified in seeking military supremacy over the little state. It is to be hoped that a compromise will be reached between the two countries. Finland's independence should not be menaced, and under the rule of friendship and fair play the little country will grant all that Russia is entitled to. Great nations should prosper by aiding little nations and little nations would thrive by cooperation with great nations. The spirit of brotherhood and unselfish cooperation between all nations would bring the inestimable blessings of peace and prosperity to a troubled world. We enjoyed the Church program on the air. 4th. The Relief Society put on a quilt at Anna's, and I quilted this . . .

{p. 76 & 77, Dec. 1939}

Ida abhorred war, and in her comments prompted by the Korean War, she displayed great wisdom regarding that which is most important in this life:

This terrible war. Our country's most precious possessions are not the vast acres of rich land, nor the flocks and herds, forests, mines, and oil producing wells, nor its fabulous wealth, but our country's greatest resources are our children, our young men and

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women whose characters will largely determine our nation's future. If they could always remember that true joy in life is found, not in physical indulgence and excesses, but in clean living and high thinking; in rendering to others, not inconvenience, injury or pain, but encouragement, cheer and helpfulness. We should follow the Golden Rule, "Do unto others, as you would have others do unto you." The Savior's constant teachings were to implant in the mind of man right thoughts, pure motives and noble ideals. Hate, Jealousy and other evil passions destroy a man's physical vigor and efficiency; they undermine his moral health. {p. 232, Jan. 1952}

In another instance at the beginning of 1952, she inserts a bit of commentary on the ministry of the Prophet Elijah. Ida was a student and teacher of theology. She loved the scriptures and had a very sound understanding of the gospel. She wrote down the following thoughts which might have been hers, or which might have been from someone else:

In regard to the authority Elijah held: When ever the Lord had a special mission for a prophet, that prophet held the Melchizedek Priesthood. But, it was not conferred upon many; it was confined to certain of the prophets whose mission required it. Joseph Smith the Prophet, said: Elijah was the last prophet that held the keys of that priesthood, and who will, before the last dispensation, restore the authority and deliver the keys of the priesthood in order that all of the ordinances may be attended to in righteousness. The keys that Elijah held were the keys of the everlasting priesthood, the keys of the sealing power which the Lord gave unto him, and that is what he came to bestow upon the heads of Peter, James, and John, and that is what he gave to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and that includes a ministry of sealing for the living and the dead; it includes them both. (Doc. & Cov. Sec. 22) Christ is the great High Priest, and Adam is next.

{p. 233 & 234, Jan., Feb. 1952}

Ida knew her theology. She knew that she was living in the "last days" before the "end of the world," as spoken of by ancient as well as latter-day prophets. In 1935, when she was bedridden and recovering from the ordeal which she suffered with her knee, she read and studied the scriptures and various commentaries. One of the commentaries which she read was the Doctrine and Covenants Commentary by Hyrum M. Smith and Janne M. Sjodahl. The following statement within that commentary volume may have impressed Ida as she reflected and meditated on the subject of the "last days" and the events which even she had witnessed in her lifetime:

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End of the World. This expression does not mean, as sometimes supposed, the destruction of the Earth, but the termination of a dispensation by some act of final judgment upon the inhabitants of the Earth. The flood was the "end" of the antediluvian world. The destruction of Jerusalem by Titus was the end of "the world" to which the first Christians were looking forward. The next "end of the world" will be the overthrow of the kingdoms of the world and the establishment of the Millennium.

"The end of the world is the destruction of the wicked; the harvest and the end of the world have an allusion directly to the human family in the last days, instead of the Earth, as many have imagined" (Joseph Smith, History of the Church, Vol. II., p. 271).

Hyrum M. Smith and Janne M. Sjodahl, *Doctrine and Covenants Commentary*, Deseret Book, 1923.

I believe that she was one of those who had been blessed and gifted to recognize the "signs of the times." In her studies she had read the following:

And unto you it shall be given to know the signs of the times, and the signs of the coming of the Son of Man;

(D&C: Section 68:11)

Ida loved the Bible, and I am sure that she was familiar with the Master's teaching on the subject of "signs," as found in the Book of Matthew:

|v1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

|v2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

|v3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

|v4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

(NewT:Matthew 16:1-4)

In the two excerpts that follow, we see (1) that Ida was aware of the uncertainties associated with "the last days," and (2) that she was confident in the presence of adversity and uncertainty relying with faith in the Lord's words: "I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise." (D&C: Section 82:10):

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Nov. 11th, 1937. Armistice Day; 19 years since the World War, but there have been wars in many countries since. Now there is revolution still waging in Spain; that is a Catholic nation. Japan and China are at war. Brazil is setting up a dictatorship, a Fascist government like that of Italy, so we do not know how things are going to be. In the next few years it looks like some terrible things are going to come.

{p. 36, Oct., Nov. 1937}

Jan. 1st, 1940. The dawn of another day and beginning of another year. We little know what this year holds in store for us. We are living in the last days when all kinds of troubles are happening, and we need to try hard to live worthy of our Heavenly Father's protecting care. The Lord tells us if we do as he says, then he is bound to bless us, but if we do not as he says, we have no promise.

{p. 78, Jan. 1940}

As long as we live, we have obstacles to overcome. I pray that the Lord will give me strength to carry on and meet every problem that is required of me, to have wisdom in my words and actions, to set a worthy example, and be able to remain true and faithful till the end of my days. {p. 196, June, July 1950}

Ida's understanding of the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ gave her comfort at the passing of a loved one. Her comprehension is illustrated by the following excerpt regarding the passing of her little granddaughter, Maureen, a daughter of Harold & Ireta Turley, in 1952:

We called by the mortuary, and saw little Maureen; she looked so sweet. We do not know why our strong healthy children are struck down; she was such a beautiful child. Perhaps it was not necessary for her to go through all of the experiences and troubles of this life. {p. 245, July 1952}

Mormon Colony Cuisine

If you were to prepare a dinner for a special occasion, what would you prepare and serve, a roast or a ham? What would you have for dessert? Based on Ida's journal entries, in the Mormon colonies of Mexico, although their diet was most likely similar to ours, their favorite dish seems to have been *enchiladas*, and the preferred dessert may have been homemade ice cream. The following excerpts

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from her diary illustrate this deduction:

19th. Lucile's birthday; we had an enchilada dinner for her and ten other little girls.

20th. The wind is cold like it came off the snow.

{p. 26, Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. 1937}

Clarence & Anna got home from the hike. 10th. I made 3 aprons for myself today.

11th. I went to the Relief Society's quilting session. Today is our 45th wedding anniversary; many changes have come in the world in that length of time. 12th. I went over to Anna's to the School Club, as Anna was hostess this evening; she served enchiladas, etc.

{p. 56, Oct. & Nov. 1938}

The Relief Society here gave an enchilada supper, and games and dancing on the evening of the 20th of Feb. to get means to pay for their piano.

{p. 99, Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June 1943}

14th. The Relief Society sisters are having their bazaar this evening, and having an enchilada supper, 65 cents a ticket. {p. 114, Dec. 1944}

31st. It is Robert's birthday; he had a party with his friends, and his mother served them enchiladas, ice cream & cookies, and lemonade. {p. 219, July, Aug. 1951}

The Necessity of a Second Marriage Ceremony

Ida Elizabeth Eyring and Edward Franklin Turley were married and sealed for time and all eternity in the Salt Lake Temple on October 11, 1893. They were residents of Mexico at that time, and apparently from reading her diary, their temple marriage was not officially recognized by the Mexican government. Thus, towards the end of their years here on earth, it was necessary that they be married under Mexican law in order to simplify legal matters which would ensue upon the death of either of them. Ida records the help given them by their nephew, Gordon Romney:

20th. Gordon Romney was here a week ago and told us that a marriage by law in the U. S. would not be legal in Mexico until it was legalized; and, that it would be a lot of trouble and expense; so, we decided to be married by the law here in Mexico.

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Comisario Nieves Serrano came and married us at 8 p.m.; David E. Johnson and Walter Shupe were witnesses. Ed is still in bed. We are a rather elderly couple to marry: Ha! Ha! We were married in the U.S. by law on October 11, 1893. {p. 80, Feb. 1940}

The above officially administered Mexican marriage occurred about 9 months before her eternal companion, Ed, left her as a widow for the next 12 years. Her description of the last hours she spent with her husband were tenderly recorded:

5th. Ed is growing weaker; for some time I have dressed him in the morning, and with my help he would walk into the front room and sit in his rocker. He would read most of the day, and then I would help him to bed; but, tonight he was so weak he could hardly walk back to bed with my help. He has not been able to read lately. He just sits in his chair with a blanket wrapped around his knees by the fire. He has had some pain in his back and has felt miserable today. 6th. He said he was not able to get up this morning, and has felt bad all day. This evening Clarence & Anna came to stay awhile, and they wanted me to lie down and rest; so, I said I would rest until 11 p.m., and then they could call me. {p. 87, Sept. , Oct. & Nov. 1940}

Anna called me at 10 p.m. and said he was wanting me. Anna went home and Clarence laid down in the other bedroom. I laid down beside Ed and watched him, and wiped his face and head; he had such a cold sweat, it soaked 3 large handkerchiefs. His breathing was heavy, so I called Clarence, and we watched over him; and, he passed away at 2:45 a.m. on the 7th of Nov. It will be very lonely for me to be alone, but I could not wish him back, as he has suffered so long. May the Lord give me strength to carry on. {p. 88, Nov. & Dec. 1940}

Ida's Wise Counsel

I know that it may be hard to believe that I would ever be angry, but on one occasion while I was transcribing Ida's journal, I became upset and angered over some occurrence in my life! I have since forgotten the reason, but the very day that it happened, I transcribed the following statements, which seemed to have been her special message just for me, and it did calm me down and put me into a repentant mood:

"Anger is a wind that blows out the lamp of the mind."

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{p. 101, Jul., Aug., Sep. 1943}

As you read her journal, you will find much in the way of spiritual and wise counsel, some of which might as in my case referred to above, be just right for you. Here are two examples which any of us could apply to our lives:

"There was never a man big enough to hate and reason, at the same time."

{p. 100, June, July 1943}

The Lord gives us strength to accomplish any duty we are called to do if we serve him and keep his commandments. {p. 114, Dec. 1944}

We are commencing the year 1950. May the Lord give us strength to follow his teachings, and keep his commandments; that by doing right we will be free. Those who fall into bad habits are slaves to those habits. We must do right to win the blessings of freedom. {p. 187, Dec. 1949, Jan. 1950}

Our country's most precious possessions are not the vast acres of rich land, nor the flocks and herds, forests, mines, and oil producing wells, nor its fabulous wealth, but our country's greatest resources are our children, our young men and women whose characters will largely determine our nation's future. If they could always remember that true joy in life is found, not in physical indulgence and excesses, but in clean living and high thinking; in rendering to others, not inconvenience, injury or pain, but encouragement, cheer and helpfulness. We should follow the Golden Rule, "Do unto others, as you would have others do unto you." The Savior's constant teachings were to implant in the mind of man right thoughts, pure motives, and noble ideals. Hate, Jealousy and other evil passions destroy a man's physical vigor and efficiency; they undermine his moral health. {p. 232, Jan. 1952}

The following observation and comment about our Mormon pioneer heritage was written over 50 years ago, and yet it applies equally well for us today:

July 24th. 96 years ago today, the pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley. They had completed a long and arduous journey over mountains and plains; they found a resting place, and blazed a trail for the thousands who were to follow. Probably no people at any time have a better appreciation for the value of work. They had no illusions about the government owing them a living. They were honest in their dealings with each other and all men. They were frugal and did not live beyond their means. They saved

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and were careful to avoid waste. They worshipped God in "Spirit and in truth." {p. 100, July 1943}

Ida Was Sensitive to the Need of Others

The following entry shows how Ida was sensitive to the needs of others. Brother Walser most likely had come to serve her, but he ended up being the recipient of her service to him:

29th. Brother John J. Walser, Jr. called to visit, and I read some of the General Conference sermons to him, as he cannot see to read. {p. 220, Aug. 1951}

She may not have even thought of it, but it was the Savior who said, in paraphrased language: "If you do it unto the least of these, you do it unto me."

She records a touching story about how their community pitched in and helped one of the families living in Colonia Juarez, the Shupe family, when they had a fire in their home:

July 8th, 1948. About 4:30 p.m., Walter Shupe's house caught fire; people rushed to help, and got it put out. Their baby got some matches, ran into their clothes closet, and struck them; the folks smelled the smoke, went to look, and found the clothes were on fire and the baby sitting in the corner; Arthur grabbed the baby and shut the door. The fire went up into the roof, but they got it put out. All of Walter's & Genevieve's clothes were in the closet, as well as sheets, etc. People cannot be too careful with matches. The people of the town had a shower for them; and, replaced most of their clothes, and helped fix their house. {p. 164, July 1948}

Ida was Impressed by George Albert Smith's Personal Creed

At the death of LDS Church President George Albert Smith in 1951, Ida was impressed to record what came to be known as President Smith's creed:

"I would be a friend to the friendless and find joy in ministering to the needs of the poor. I would visit the sick and the afflicted, and inspire in them a desire for faith to

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be healed. I would teach the truth to the understanding and blessing of all mankind. I would seek out the erring and try to win him back to a righteous and happy life. I would not seek to force people to live up to my ideals, but rather love them into doing the thing that is right. I would live with the masses and help solve their problems, that their earth life may be happy. I would avoid the publicity of high positions and discourage the flattery of thoughtless friends. I would not knowingly hurt the feelings of any, not even one who may have wronged me, but would seek to do him good and make him my friend. I would overcome the tendency to selfishness and jealousy, and rejoice in the successes of all the children of my Heavenly Father. I would not be an enemy to any living soul. Knowing that the Redeemer of mankind has offered to the world the only plan that will fully develop us and make us really happy here and hereafter. I feel it not only a duty, but a blessed privilege to disseminate this truth." (All can be briefed into one word, "Love.")

{p. 210, 211, Apr. 1951}

I am sure that she tried to internalize the thoughts of President Smith's personal creed. She knew, as the proverb says, that "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." She had marvelous thoughts, many of which she has shared with us.

Ida's Journal - A Record of the Daily Life of a Colonist

Although the life and times of Ida Elizabeth Eyring Turley were the center focus of this document, one can also develop from reading her entries an understanding and insight into the daily life of the Mormon colonists in Mexico. Their livelihoods depended upon their working the soil, fruit growing and marketing, beef cattle and dairy operations, as well as timber & lumber production. In many ways they were self sufficient. Their lives centered around their families, their neighbors, and their Church. They had an excellent education system which carried them through High School; and, many of them went on to college and other training back in the United States. President Marion G. Romney, a native from the Mormon colonies, said in his remarks at the funeral of Beatrice Winsor, Ida's niece, the following:

"There are two kinds of people in the Church, those who are from the Mexican colonies, and those who wish that they were!"

[Richard & Jean Turley took note of this statement at Bea's funeral.]

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Ida's Tribute to Her Sister was Appropriate for Herself

As per my copy of Ida's journal, her last entry was made on October 8, 1952. She died two months later on December 16, 1952. I returned home from my mission to Mexico and Central America in October of that year, and I recall visiting her in the hospital with two of her sons, namely: my father, Vernon, and Uncle Harold. I participated with them as they administered to her. She was suffering; she was 78 years old; she had had her share of pain and discomfort; she had been true and faithful in all things; she would now be with her eternal companion, Ed, and with her two daughters and other family members. The following is a quote from her diary which she wrote on May 18, 1947 about her sister, Millie, and which is so appropriate for her own passing:

May 18th, 1947. ... she has gone to her reward in full faith in the Gospel. She was a thoughtful mother and a loving sister, and how happy we will be to meet one another on the other side. She had her husband, father & mother, and many loved ones waiting for her on the other side. She has done the work for so many of her dead in the temple; so, there will be rejoicing when she comes. She has fought the good fight, and is sure of a great reward. She has left a good posterity, and has left them a good example to follow. {p. 143, May 1947}

Acknowledgements

I appreciate the review given this transcribed document by my wife, Jean, and by our Uncles Clarence and Harold, two of Ida's surviving children. Jean has a talent for editing my work; she reads fast and has an eye for finding mistakes; she can find a four-leaf clover in a bed of grass, or be the first to observe a black panther in the woods of North Africa. Uncles Clarence and Harold have helped greatly with the clarification of names of persons and locations identified in the journal, and their continued encouragement helped me to complete what I believe would be acceptable also to Ida.

The Index

I have tried to make the Index extensive and useful without making it any longer. It took several iterations to come up with the words and names which I have included. If I have missed something that you feel is important, then please let me know.

A Note to Ida's Progeny

As I stated at the beginning of this Forward, this transcription has been a "labor of love." I have become so much better acquainted with Grandmother Ida Elizabeth Eyring Turley. I believe that those of you who read her journal will also gain a greater respect and love for her. If her progeny read it, and ponder over her thoughts, and use them to improve their lives, then that result will be my reward for having spent the time and the effort to produce it.

—Richard E. Turley, Sr.
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