

# **A STORY OF THE LIFE OF MY MOTHER, JOSEPHINE CHRISTINA ERICKSON STONE**

*By her daughter, Kattie Louise Stone Gittins*

Mother was born in Logan, Utah, 5 April 1870. She was the daughter of Ludwig Erickson and Trena Hanson. She had two sisters and one brother. Also two half sisters and four half brothers that lived to maturity on her dad's side. Her brother died when he was a baby. I don't know how many of the rest died as babies. She had a half brother on her mother's side that lived to be quite old. (Chris Ayling). Mother's father later moved to Weston, Idaho.

I do not know how long Mother lived in Logan as most of her life was spent in Newton, Utah. She went to school in a log building and sat upon a log for a chair. Because it was before they had paper, she wrote on a slate.

All the cows in town were herded in the town square and Mother's half brother, Chris Ayling, was the herder. Mother sometimes helped him. He had a bell he rang and everyone brought their cows out to the road to go to the square where he watched them all day and then returned them to their homes at night.

Mother had to go bare footed a lot. She helped gather sego lily roots to cook for food. Mother helped, also, with the farming as in those days, it was done by hand. They threshed the grain with sticks on canvas by hitting and pounding it. Clothes were also made by hand. The cloth was made on a spinning wheel.

She was married at 18 years of age to Heber George Stone. A year or two after they were married, they lived in Logan, Utah. Later they moved back to Newton, Utah. They had fourteen (14) children. Their second child died at birth. They were living at Logan at this time. Mother was very sick at that time; but through faith and prayers, she lived many years longer.

Mother was a Relief Society Visiting Teacher for several years. I shall always remember our home as a happy one. We had a lot of fun together. I was the sixth child. One day Mother and some of her small children were home alone. She saw a snake in the yard. She did not want it to get by the children so she killed it herself. When Dad came home, he told her it was a large rattler.