

*A life sketch of*

# Anna Eliza Homer Lemmon

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1843 – 1911

Anna Eliza, the fourth child of Russell King and Eliza Williamson Homer, was born at Middletown, Logan County, Illinois on March 9, 1843. At this time her parents were working their way westward.

Anna, although very young at the time, remembered the trip her parents took from Iowa to Pennsylvania in the year 1852. Anna's father took his family with him to settle the estate of his parents. One of the most vivid recollections of this trip was the adventure her family had on a steamboat, crossing Lake Erie. The traveling was done mostly by team, in a new and open country. On this same trip, she remembers an attempt to ford a stream when the water was very high. Her father left the family on the bank to determine if the stream could be crossed safely. As he drove out into the water, the wagon box floated off downstream. He had to swim to shore, managing to save the horses and the running gear, but the wagon box could not be recovered. His family was left on foot and on the wrong side of the stream. No details were recorded as to how the family managed to cross the stream and reach their destination, but they did and all were well.



After Anna's father began to freight goods across the plains to Utah, she assisted her sister Nancy and her mother in keeping their hotel and general merchandise store at Crescent City, Iowa. Anna was growing into young womanhood, and she participated in many interesting experiences entertaining the missionaries, emigrants, and Indians who stopped at their hotel.

When Anna was 15 years old her family crossed the hot summer plains to Utah. Her father was captain of the company, and as a result his family had to assume many extra

responsibilities. Sometimes when they were short a teamster, Anna drove an ox team to help out. She was always required to be busy at some task, assisting with the work of getting the company to the Salt Lake Valley. There were a number of congenial young people in the group. In the evenings they would gather to have programs and dances by the campfire. They arrived at the Salt Lake Valley, October 8, 1858.

Soon after their arrival at Salt Lake, Anna met and became interested in a young man by the name of Willis Lemmon. Willis lived with his parents on a farm at Mill Creek, just south of Salt Lake City. The next fall, they joined with her sister Nancy and Martin Harris Jr., and another couple, Stephen White and Agnes McGregor, and had a triple wedding. They were all married November 1, 1859, in the old Endowment House at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Anna and Willis spent their first winter in Salt Lake City. Early the next spring, together with Martin and Nancy Harris, they accepted the challenge of helping settle and build Cache Valley. They settled in Smithfield, Utah and built themselves a log house. Soon after, her husband Willis and her brother in law Martin were called by the church to go back to Iowa to assist in bringing a train of emigrants across the plains. This trip took about six months. While their husbands were gone, an Indian uprising occurred and some fighting took place. During the Indian uprising, she and her sister Nancy ran for the fort. In the excitement, Nancy stumbled and dropped her baby in the creek. She recovered the infant, and with the exception of a thorough wetting, the baby was safe. Two of the town boys, the Merrill brothers, were shot and one of them died. All of this excitement was certainly an unforgettable experience for Anna, particularly because of the fact that she was expecting her first child during that time. Her eldest daughter, Anna Eliza, was born before her husband's return.

Anna and Nancy were great company for each other. They had their babies together and cared for each other during those times. They lived the same type of pioneer life as their parents, brothers and sisters. Anna raised a large garden, dried and canned the produce, dipped candles, made their own shoes, milked cows, churned butter, sewed and carded wool.

An experience, which occurred while Anna's family was young, and remained vivid in the family's memory, is as follows:

One evening, Anna and Willis tucked the children into bed, put the light out and went over to visit some neighbors. On their way home, they saw weird flickering lights in the windows of the house causing them to think the house was on fire. They ran as fast as they could, only to find that the children had gotten up and were having a good time. How thankful they were to find their family safe and sound.

Anna followed in the footsteps of her parents and maintained her interest and activity in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She was a charter member of the Smithfield Relief Society, being very active in that organization all of her life. Outside of her religious interests, she was a real home woman, devoting her entire attention and energy to the welfare of her family. She was a kind and helpful neighbor and friend, always ready to help wherever there was sickness or bereavement.

Anna died at Smithfield, Cache County, Utah July 6, 1911 and was buried in the Smithfield City Cemetery.

Anna was the mother of ten children:

Anna Eliza	November 18, 1860
Willis Jr.	September 1, 1863
Julia Caroline	May 30, 1865
Nancy Matilda	October 15, 1867
Eva Alvira	June 25, 1869
Alice	November 12, 1872
John Lee	January 24, 1875
Rosette	January 9, 1878
Nellie May	June 18, 1884
Hyrum Homer	December 9, 1886

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*This Life Sketch of Anna Eliza Homer Lemmon was written by her daughter, Eva Lemmon Sheen. Some additions, namely dates and places, have been made to make the sketch more complete.*