



*Clarence and Maud Post*

**1898 - 1978**

*Southern Arizona Pioneers*

**by Thomas Lee Palmer**

**Copyright 2020**

# *Clarence and Maud Post*

by Thomas Lee Palmer (2020)

*(Special thanks to granddaughters of Clarence and Maud: Suzie East, Gretna Palmer, and Pauline Holgate, who provided photos, memories and histories to help give life to this book)*

*This presentation is an attempt to capture the faithfulness of our pioneer ancestors who helped colonize Southern Arizona under the direction of the Prophet of the Lord and by inspiration leading them to a gathering with the Saints in the San Pedro River Valley. It is hoped that this book will help our children and grandchildren turn their hearts to their fathers as they come to know those who have gone before and that they will come to love the temples of the Lord that resulted from the sacrifice and service of their ancestors.*

**This book is not intended as a scholarly work, but rather to present to our family an overview of the lives of our ancestors. Sources of the information provided herein include:**

- ***Pioneer Pathways, Vol. 11.*** Published in 2008 by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers
- ***Mormon Pioneers of the San Pedro Valley,*** copyright 2003 by St. David Heritage and Cultural Arts Society.
- ***Autobiography of John Clark Post***
- ***Autobiography of John Milton Post***
- ***Billingsley Family in America*** by Harry Alexander Davis (1936); Revised by Eva Billingsley Wakefield (2020)
- Chapter 3, ***Precious Gems*** by Luella Busby Hardt found on familysearch.org
- ***Post Family Stories*** by Laurie Moon via *Mixbook Scrapbooks* [many of these stories are now uploaded on familysearch.org]
- ***Family Search.org*** – *Memories* and stories of ancestors
- Life histories of Maud, Clarence and many of their ancestors
- Photo albums and scrapbooks of family members.

# Clarence and Maud Post

## Southern Arizona Pioneers



Clarence

&

Maud



Father, Rancher, Lawman

Mother, Homemaker, Poet

# *Who are Clarence and Maud to ME?*

This chart should help you decide . . .

Howard Orville POST 1875-1932

Jesse Eugene BILLINGSLEY 1859-1902

Tressie May EVANS Post 1877-1949

Violet Marie BUSBY Billingsley 1870 - 1949

**Clarence Evans Post & Maud Billingsley Post**

1898 – 1978

1900 – 1972

*Children*

Phil Post Ella Post Violet Post Jack Post Billy Post Howard Post Jesse Post

1921-1963

1923-2019

1925-1996

1927-2020

1930-1930

1931-1998

1935-2006

# Photos

Howard Post & Tressie (Evans) Post  
1875 – 1932      1877-1949



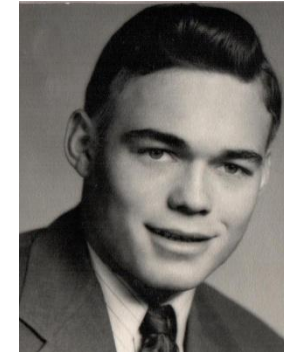
Jesse Billingsley & Violet (Busby) Billingsley  
1859 – 1902      1870 – 1949



Phil



Ella



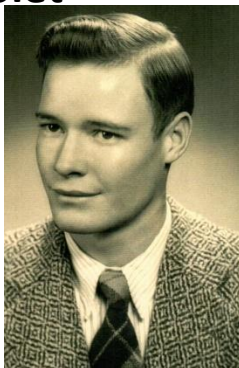
Jack



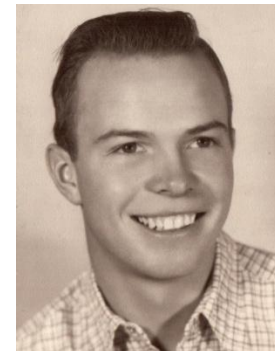
Violet



Clarence & Maud



Howard



Jesse

# Clarence Post & Maud Billingsley

*This book tells the remarkable story of a little boy (Clarence) and a little girl (Maud)*



*who became pioneers in Southern Arizona in the 1900s and left a mark of goodness on all who came in contact with them. They have left us a legacy of love and service.*

## **Part 1 – Ancestral lines of Clarence and Maud**

**Post family**

**Evans family**

Post – Evans merger [Howard **Post** and Tressie May **Evans**]

**Billingsley family**

**Busby family**

Billingsley – Busby merger [Jesse **Billingsley** and Violet Maria **Busby**]

## **Part 2 – The story of Clarence and Maud Post**

# *Ancestral lines of Clarence & Maud*

Howard Orville POST 1875-1932

Tressie May EVANS Post 1877-1949

Clarence Evans Post  
1898 – 1978

Jesse Eugene BILLINGSLEY 1859-1902

Violet Marie BUSBY Billingsley 1870 - 1949

Maud Billingsley Post  
1900 – 1972

## POST FAMILY

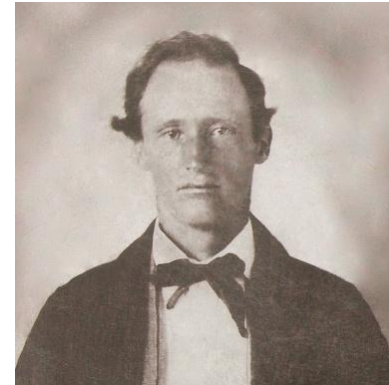
The **POST** family roots go to **England** in the 1400s and 1500s and then to Connecticut in the 1600s, Vermont in the 1800s and Massachusetts in the mid – 1800s. They came to Kansas in about 1872 and then to **Southern Arizona in 1902.**

The first Post ancestor to come to America was Stephen Post, born in Kent, England in 1596 where he became a carpenter. He came to America (then British Colonial America) on the ship “Griffin”, arriving in Boston, Massachusetts in 1633. He served as constable in Hartford, Connecticut in 1642 and is named as one of the founders of Hartford.

## POST FAMILY continued . . .

Stephen's son, **Abraham** (born in 1640), became a lieutenant of those concerned with land surveying and dealing with the Indians (notably, Uncas, Sachem of the Mohegans).

**John Clark Post** (born in 1814) responded to the appeal of General Sam Houston to come to Texas (where John had once lived for 2 years) to help in the war with Mexico. He tried to join with several groups, but all failed to make it in time to be there to fight. He became a minister and served as a missionary to the Indians in Kansas in 1841.



*John Clark Post*

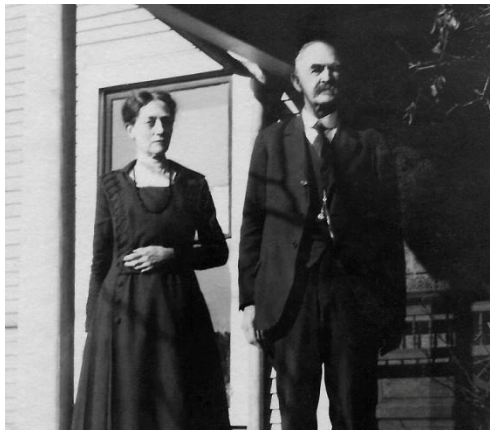
After several years service, he returned to Indiana and became a Baptist minister there and later in Kansas. His obituary notes: "He was a sweet spirited, happy dispositioned, genial soul, whom everyone loved, and he has left an impress on thousands. . . He has preached some during the past year, and died in the harness." His son, **John Milton Post** (Clarence's grandfather), born in 1844, served with the Indiana Volunteers for the Union Army in the Civil War in 1862 and again from 1864 to 1865.

# POST FAMILY continued . . .

John Milton Post signed up to serve his country four different times (he was rejected the first time because he was too small and too young). *His military career is documented in his autobiography – available on Family Search.org*

In 1868, John moved to Kansas and there married Alice L. Parker (Clarence's grandmother) in 1872. Their first son, Howard Orville Post (Clarence's father), was born June 30, 1875. When Howard was only 12, his mother died giving birth to his sister (who also did not live).

In 1890, John Milton married Adelia L. McCollum, who raised Howard and his brother Ernest, and earned their love. Once, after his father disciplined him rather severely, Howard decided to run away. Adelia told him: "If you leave, people will say I was not good to you because I am your stepmother." Howard replied, "Then I won't go. I don't want them to think that."



**Adelia and John Milton Post**

## POST FAMILY continued . . .

John Milton passed away in 1920 and Adelia lived to be 105 and died in 1960 – many years after her stepson, Howard. Ernest died in 1908.

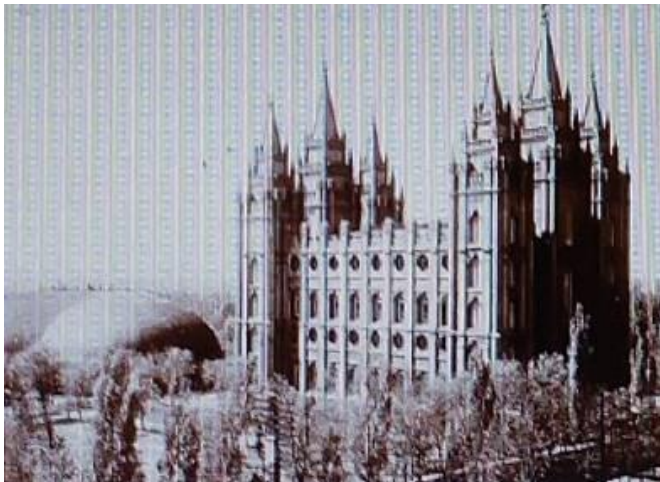
Howard married Tressie May Evans in 1897, after which they moved to a farm about 2 miles south of Mt. Hope, Kansas and later to Harper County. Howard farmed – mainly wheat and oats. While in Kansas, three of their children were born: Clarence (1898), Alice (1900) and Stella (1901).

Tressie May joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints after being invited by Amanda Beeler to a meeting at their home. Howard attended meetings and treated the missionaries cordially, but he was reluctant to join the Church. The Tilton family (who joined the Church about the same time as Tressie May) encouraged Howard and Tressie May to join them in a move to the west. One of the missionaries who taught them, Thomas Kimball, was from Thatcher, Arizona. In 1902, they felt inspired to move to Arizona to join with the Saints there. After a successful harvest they chartered a railroad car and loaded it with their harvest, their livestock (including 12 dozen chickens) and other supplies. Howard rode the railroad car west and Tressie May and the children came later on a passenger train.

Once in Arizona, the Post family settled on the west side of the San Pedro River, near St. David. Howard returned to farming on rented land, and also hauled ore and sold produce to other southern Arizona towns. The family moved to Bisbee for a time, where Howard worked for the mine.

## POST FAMILY continued . . .

Howard was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on May 3, 1903 – a promised blessing of the prayers and faith of Tressie May. The night before, Tressie Mae had knelt in prayer and asked the Lord that the promised blessing (Howard being baptized) would be on the morrow. She was surprised when the men returned to the house after a morning walk to be greeted by Brother Thomas Kimball, who said: “Well Sister Post, here is your boy baptized.” Her joy and gratitude was overflowing. The family [then consisting of Howard and Tressie May and five children [Clarence, Alice, Stella, Lola, and Hazel] traveled to the Salt Lake Temple, where on October 10, 1906 Howard and Tressie May were endowed and sealed and the five children were sealed to them – their remaining children would be “born in the covenant”.



*Salt Lake Temple about 1900*

# POST FAMILY continued . . .

In about 1910, the family bought 20 acres from Francis Goodman and Howard got the contract from the Government to carry the U.S. Mail on the rural route. They remained there for many years. They had a commercial garden – and worked as a family to grow and market vegetables.



Howard with his Mail buggy and horses, Chappo and Blue. Days were long and hard given travel and road conditions. Some of the children helped when needed.

## POST FAMILY continued . . .

In 1926, Howard went to Tucson and bought a franchise to run a bus from downtown to the Veterans' Hospital. The St. David home was sold to their oldest son, Clarence. When the franchise expired, Howard worked construction. When working on the Broadway Subway, he was covered by a cave in – he remembered vividly the picks hitting his legs as they dug him free. He worked many more construction jobs, including one in 1932 in Paulden (near Prescott). On November 21<sup>st</sup>, while trying to release a balky catch on a dump truck he was crushed by a load of dirt. Kelvin had just returned from his mission to Germany and was unable to see his dad before his death. Kelvin and Clarence brought Howard's body home to Tucson. Mildred recalls the peace that settled on the home as they felt his presence. Howard left a legacy of dedication to the gospel and love for his family – his wife, four boys, and seven girls. He was a man known for his integrity – his word was as good as his bond. He was strict in his discipline of the children, but always fair. Tressie May continued her love and care for the family for 17 more years often rising by 5 am to start the daily chores. She was often found in the service of others – she passed away February 14, 1949.



*Tressie May and Howard Post*

# POST FAMILY continued . . .

The names and birth year of Howard and Tressie May Post's 11 children are: Clarence (1898), Alice (1900), Stella (1901), Lola (1904), Hazel (1906), Orville Kelvin (1908), Mildred (1910), Etta Nadine (1912), John Milton (1916), Ernest (1919), and Frances (1922).

Family Photo  
about 1922



Back row: Nadine, Stella, Lola, Tressie May, Mildred, Kelvin, Hazel, Alice, Maud  
Front row: Earl Nelson, John Milton, Howard holding Frances, Ernest, Clarence holding Phil

# *Ancestral Lines of Clarence & Maud*

Howard Orville POST 1875-1932

Tressie May EVANS Post 1877-1949

Clarence Evans Post  
1898 – 1978

Jesse Eugene BILLINGSLEY 1859-1902

Violet Marie BUSBY Billingsley 1870 - 1949

Maud Billingsley Post  
1900 – 1972

## EVANS FAMILY

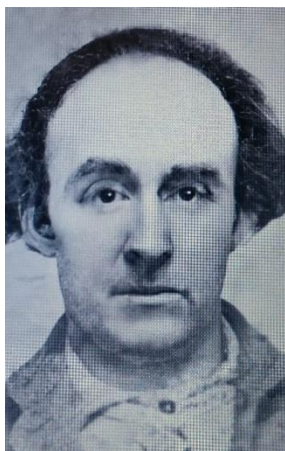
The **EVANS** family roots also go to **England** in the 1700s and 1800s and then to Iowa in the 1800s and Kansas in the late 1800s, then to **Southern Arizona in 1902**.

The first EVANS ancestor to come to America was **John James Evans**, born in Liverpool, England in 1826. John James Evans, then only 14, came to the United States in 1840 with his father. John James is the grandfather of Tressie May Evans Post (Clarence's mother). Tressie May remembers that John James taught music lessons and furnished music on many occasions. He was loved by his neighbors – especially the children. He had black hair, black eyes, and was 5 feet, 5 inches tall.

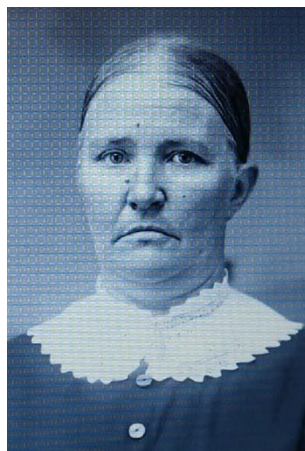
## EVANS FAMILY continued . . .

John James Evans married Cynthia Whitaker in Mahaska County, Iowa on April 13, 1848.

John James Evans



Cynthia Whitaker Evans



John and Cynthia had nine children: **Willis Sumeral** (Clarence's maternal grandfather), Amanda Jane, Robert William, Charles Isaac, Daughter who died at birth, Hanna Madie, Sarah Elizabeth, Effie Annie, and George Perle.

John enlisted in the military in August, 1862 with the Infantry Iowa Volunteers and fought with the Union Army until his discharge in August, 1865. Cynthia was a hard working mother and raised the children in John's absence with very little of the bounties of life.

## EVANS FAMILY continued . . .

John died in 1885 and Cynthia lived another 11 years. During those years Cynthia would often visit her children and their families. Tressie May Evans Post (Clarence's mother) wrote the following in her autobiography:

*“My grandmother was very industrious. After her husband died [she] would take a trip occasionally to visit my father [Willis Sumeral Evans] and family. I loved her so dearly. I thought she was the best grandmother on earth. . . I would go with her to pick blackberries, raspberries, and all kinds of fruit on my father's farm.”*

John's son, **Willis Evans** (Clarence's grandfather) was born in 1849 in Iowa and married Elizabeth Ann Mayberry in 1867. They were blessed with 9 children: Frederick, Charles, James, Ida, Thomas, Hattie, Cynthia, **Tressie Mae** (Clarence's mother), and Ralph.

*Willis Evans*



*Elizabeth Mayberry Evans*

## EVANS FAMILY continued . . .

Tressie May Evans Post reflects on her father, Willis, in her autobiography: *“My father was efficient in many things – a good farmer, a good carpenter, a good blacksmith, a good Christian – was honest in his dealings. He and his sons not only farmed the 218 acres, but they rented other land. He always built his houses and barns, sharpened his own plows, dug his own wells, and killed his own beef and pork”*

Willis taught his family to work, worked along with them, and took them to church on Sunday. He was presiding elder of the Christian church in Andale, Kansas.

Tressie May reflected on her mother, Elizabeth: *“My mother was a very gentle, quiet lady. She had lots of work to do . . . Was a good seamstress, and I can remember some lovely dresses she made for me. She was always very kind to the erring one. . . My parents were very religious – teaching their children to pray and do right.”*

Lessons learned from goodly parents – faith, prayer, and a strong work ethic – prepared Tressie May for her future with Howard Orville Post and their 11 children and the testimony she gained of the restored gospel found in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

# POST AND EVANS lines merge

*Tressie May EVANS*



*Howard Orville POST*

Howard Orville **POST** and Tressie May **EVANS** were married in 1897 bringing together the wonderful values and traits of the Post and Evans families. Both family lines have remarkable traditions and values. Each sought to protect freedom by service to their country – the United States of America – and to their God and His son, Jesus Christ. Each family served and loved their family and their fellowman. These values and traits became part of the heritage of **Clarence Evans Post** – the first child of Howard and Tressie May and future husband of **Maud Billingsley**.

Let's now look at the **ancestry of Maud Billingsley** before we reflect on the lives of Clarence Evans Post and Maud Billingsley Post and their descendants.

# *Ancestral Lines of Clarence & Maud*

Howard Orville POST 1875-1932

Tressie May EVANS Post 1877-1949

Clarence Evans Post  
1898 – 1978

Jesse Eugene BILLINGSLEY 1859-1902

Violet Marie BUSBY Billingsley 1870 - 1949

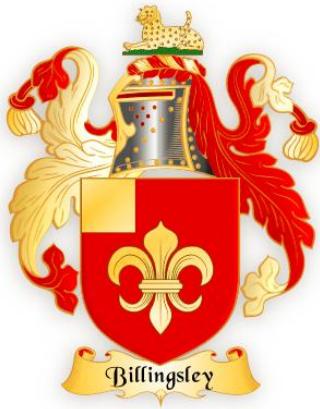
Maud Billingsley Post  
1900 – 1972

## **BILLINGSLEY FAMILY**

The **BILLINGSLEY** family roots also go to **England** as far back as the 1000s and through the 1600s – deep roots going to Kent, England. From England they went to **Holland** in the late 1630s, From Holland they came to Maryland, British Colonial America about 1649, then to North Carolina and Tennessee in the 1800s and on to Utah in the late 1800s. They came to **Southern Arizona** sometime prior to 1887 .

# BILLINGSLEY FAMILY continued . . .

The first Billingsley family member to come to America was Francis Marion Billingsley who was born in County Salop, England in 1620.



*Billingsley Family Crest*

Francis' parents became connected with the Quakers. Quakers suffered persecution in England because their beliefs were inconsistent with the beliefs of the Church of England. Quakers have been a significant part of the movements for the abolition of slavery, to promote rights for women, and peace. Presumably to

avoid persecution in England, Francis' parents, John and Agatha Billingsley took their family to Holland in the late 1630s. Francis then came to Virginia with his brothers, John and James, prior to 1649. He had married his wife, Ann, in about 1647. In Virginia, Francis had a land grant for 200 acres of land. He came to the Province of Maryland in 1652 with his wife and son, John. In 1654 he was made constable.

## **BILLINGSLEY FAMILY continued . . .**

Francis and Ann's son, John, was born in about 1647 and when the family came to America he lived with them in Virginia and later married his first cousin, Sarah. They took over her father's boat business and raised their family in Richmond, Virginia. John was lost at sea in 1693 and never heard of again. John and Sarah's son, William, was born in 1670 in Calvert County, Maryland. He lived in Virginia for a time with his parents, then returned to Calvert County and married Clearanna Bowles in about 1690. Their son, William Billingsley Jr. was born in 1691. Mention of William Jr. is made in the Will of his father: *"I give and bequeath to my son William Billingsley and to my son James Billingsley my two negroes Sambo and Ben. I also desire that my son William make his choice of them by Christmas after my death. I also desire that my son James have a Young Horse named Spark that I promised him for learning his Younger Brothers and Sisters to Read."*

William Jr.'s son, James Billingsley, was born in 1726. James married Elizabeth Crabtree about 1746. They moved to Baltimore County, Maryland about 1758 where they resided to about 1768 then moved to Guilford County, North Carolina.

## **BILLINGSLEY FAMILY continued . . .**

James Billingsley was very active in the American Revolutionary cause, and at least four of his and Elizabeth's sons were in the Continental service. He was continually harassed by the Tories (sympathizers to the crown of England). In 1776 the Tories invaded his home, asked for money, and when told them he had none they took him to a nearby tree and hung him.

James and Elizabeth's oldest son, Samuel, was born in 1747 and married Mary [Griffith] about 1771. Samuel enlisted in the Continental Army in 1781 and in 1787 secured 100 acres of land in Sullivan County, Tennessee. They eventually moved to Bledsoe County, Tennessee, where he became an influential member of the community. Samuel, generally called "Captain", was a charter member of the first Masonic Lodge in the county and was a staunch member of the Missionary Baptist church. He died in his home in 1816.



“Grand Union Flag” – used as the flag of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War

# BILLINGSLEY FAMILY continued . . .

Samuel's son, Jephtha, was born in North Carolina in the early 1780s. Jephtha Billingsley married Miriam Randolph. Their son, Elijah Randolph Billingsley, was born in 1806 in Knox County, Tennessee.

In 1828, Elijah married Emaline Northcott from Rutherford County, Tennessee. They had 11 children. In 1834 Elijah and Emaline with their first four children moved to Mississippi where Elijah raised cotton and became a judge and served in the community – he was known as “Judge Billingsley”.

The family were back and forth from Mississippi to Iowa and Illinois for a few years. Elijah was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1845 in Nauvoo, Illinois by James Cummings and confirmed by Brigham Young. He renounced his judgeship when he joined the Church, declaring: “you could not be a judge and be a good Latter-day Saint”.

They left their big mansion and their slaves in Mississippi – the slaves wept hard to see their master go north as he was so good to them.



Elijah and Emaline Billingsley

# **BILLINGSLEY FAMILY continued . . .**

In 1846 the Saints moved west. Elijah and family went west with the Saints to Mt. Pisgah, Iowa, where they stayed for 4 years. As the Saints moved west it became apparent they would need stopping places where the Saints could rest, restock their supplies, make repairs to wagons, etc. as they moved on toward the Rocky Mountains. When they first arrived, Apostle Parley P. Pratt was struck by the tall grass and groves of trees and christened the place Mount Pisgah (after the biblical height from which Moses surveyed the promised land).



Mount Pisgah, Iowa

Here the Saints built homes and two log meetinghouses on a hillside overlooking a thousand acres of buckwheat, corn, turnips, potatoes, and other food products. There were 2,000 to 3,000 Saints at this site from time-to-time.

# BILLINGSLEY FAMILY continued . . .

In 1850, the Elijah Billingsley family continued on the **Mormon Trail** to Salt Lake City, Utah, where they lived for two years before moving to Provo, UT



In 1856, Elijah married a second wife, Mary Ellen DeGraw. In Provo, Elijah was a counselor in a bishopric and was also a prosecuting attorney.

# BILLINGSLEY FAMILY continued . . .

In 1865, the family moved to the Muddy River Mission in what is now southeastern Nevada.



Muddy River near  
Glendale, Nevada

The call to settle this area invited many challenges as the Saints struggled for several years to build irrigation ditches, homes, and plant crops. Finally in 1871, most of the Saints moved to Long Valley, Utah. Elijah's family established a home in Mt. Carmel. The family participated in the United Order.

*[It is likely that Elijah and family came to know my great great grandfather, Andrew Gibbons, who also was called to serve in the Muddy River Mission from 1865 to 1871 and then relocated in Long Valley – in Glendale, Utah.. They would also have known another of my great great grandfathers, Zemira Palmer, who lived in Orderville and participated in the United Order during this same time period.]*

# BILLINGSLEY FAMILY continued . . .

Elijah and Mary Ellen DeGraw had 7 children born between the years 1859 and 1884. Elijah's first wife, Emaline (with whom he had 11 children) died in 1882.



Elijah and Mary Ellen with children

*Jesse Eugene Billingsley (Maud's father) is the first on the left of 2<sup>nd</sup> row*

# BILLINGSLEY FAMILY continued . . .

Jesse Eugene Billingsley was born in 1859 in Provo, Utah – the first child of Elijah and Mary Ellen. Jesse married Phoebe Ellen Norwood. Jesse was endowed in March, 1879 and sealed to Phoebe in the St. George Temple in December, 1879.



*St. George Temple*

Jesse and Phoebe had two daughters, Mary Elizabeth and Jessie Ellen, and were then divorced. Phoebe raised the two daughters and remained in Orderville for a time.

In 1885 Jesse signed an affidavit relating to his imprisonment in the Utah penitentiary. (I presume he serve his 20 months for refusing to testify against his father who was living the law of plural marriage). He was a trusty and worked on a ranch outside the prison and was treated well in prison. He testified however that many were not treated well or fed well. While in prison, two people came to the prison and said they would secure his release if he would help them in their “running in” of polygamists – Jesse refused. Not long after signing the affidavit he traveled to southern Arizona.

# *Ancestral Lines of Clarence & Maud*

Howard Orville POST 1875-1932

Tressie May EVANS Post 1877-1949

Clarence Evans Post  
1898 – 1978

Jesse Eugene BILLINGSLEY 1859-1902

Violet Marie BUSBY Billingsley 1870 - 1949

Maud Billingsley Post  
1900 – 1972

## **BUSBY FAMILY**

The **BUSBY** family roots also go to **England** as far back as the 1700s and 1800s. They left England in 1859 to join the Saints in Utah and then came to **Southern Arizona** in 1879 with a group of Saints sent by President Brigham Young to help settle the San Pedro River Valley.

## **BUSBY FAMILY continued . . .**

The first of the Busby family to come to America were William Busby and his wife, Mariah Meadows. While they were courting, they heard the Mormon Missionaries on a street corner in England and the message rang true to their ears, and they readily accepted the gospel. William was baptized on the 15th of January 1846, Mariah on the 23rd of February 1847. They were married on the 23rd of October 1846, at Radcliffe, Lancaster, England.

*“William and Mariah had a great desire to come to America. An elderly couple, by the name of Payne who were also members of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, upon hearing of the Busbys wanting to come to Zion, offered to finance the trip if William and Mariah would let the Paynes accompany them, and would agree to care for them and make them comfortable. William and Mariah accepted this kind offer and preparations were made for their trip. William and Mariah left England on the 1st of April 1859, with their two oldest children, Annie Maria and John James (Three of their children died in infancy and are buried in England). They were on the ship Wm. Tapscott from Liverpool to New York. They were six weeks crossing the ocean because of very stormy weather. Arrived April 1859.” [see Precious Gems on memories of William Busby – family search.org]*

# BUSBY FAMILY continued . . .



The *William Tapscott Ship* carried Busbys to America

Upon arriving in America, they traveled to Florence, Nebraska to purchase necessary supplies and equipment to cross the plains to Utah. In June of 1859 they were on their way to Utah in the *European Independent Company*.

*They traveled in a wagon with a double yoke of oxen similar to that pictured to the right*



## BUSBY FAMILY continued . . .

Mariah was expecting their 6<sup>th</sup> child and was treated very kindly by Captain Neslin. When they reached the Sweetwater River in Wyoming on August 13, 1859, Mariah let them know “it was time”.

Sweetwater River, Wyoming



They stopped the wagon train and a half hour later Mary Elizabeth Neslin Busby was born. William and Mariah (remembering their three little ones buried in England) knelt in prayer and asked their Heavenly Father if they might keep and raise her. Anna Maria was now 12 and John James 10. John James was proud to have his new sister named after the kind Captain Neslin, but he couldn't say all of her name so he named her “Lizzie”. The family arrived in Salt Lake City, September 15, 1859.

**John James Busby** (Maud's grandfather) went on his own as a young man and they think he went to Fort Bridger to work some with the army. He returned home one day at age 20 with a wife and daughter – He was married to Rose Hannah Taylor Hodge in October 1869. Rose Hannah had a daughter, Rose Mary, by a previous marriage. John's little family lived at Bear Lake, Utah and while there **Violet Maria** (Maud's mother) was born in 1870. Three additional children joined the family while they lived in various towns in Utah: Charlotte, Annie Elizabeth, and Abraham John.

# BUSBY FAMILY continued . . .

President Brigham Young was anxious to provide settlements in Arizona. In 1876 Saints were sent to settle the Little Colorado River valleys (all four of my ancestral lines – Palmer, Gibbons, Bushman and Westover – were sent to settle this area, settling in Joseph City, St. Johns, and Snowflake/Taylor). About the same time settlements began in the Salt River Valley and later in the Gila River and San Pedro River Valleys of Southeastern Arizona.

## *Settlements of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Arizona*



# BUSBY FAMILY continued . . .

In 1879, **John James Busby** (Maud's grandfather) and family traded horses for oxen and loaded up the wagon and headed for Southern Arizona. They stopped in Show Low, Arizona long enough for their daughter, Arizona, to be born. While at Show Low the family lived on molasses and bran bread. John had to be on guard at all times to guard the stock from the Indians. Violet Maria (Maud's mother), now 9 years old, had fiery red hair and the Indians kept an eye on her and offered horses and other property for her. The family kept in her the wagon as much as possible and covered her head when she had to be out of the wagon.

They arrived in the Gila Valley in time to join in a 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 1879, celebration with the Saints there. The family traveled on to St. David in the San Pedro River Valley and joined with others to establish the Church and the settlement of St. David. Philemon C. Merrill, who had been in this valley with the Mormon Battalion, was sent by President Brigham Young in 1877 to leave Lehi/Mesa area in the Salt River Valley and help establish a settlement in the San Pedro River Valley.

*San Pedro River*



# BUSBY FAMILY continued . . .

In the fall of 1878, Brother Merrill was set apart to preside over the members of the Church in that area. St. David is named after early Church apostle, David Patten, who was killed at the Battle of Crooked River in 1838 in Missouri.



*Near St. David, Arizona*

After arriving in St. David and finding the warmer weather pleasing, John sent word to his parents, William and Mariah Busby, inviting them to join John in the San Pedro River Valley. William and Mariah came to St. David and shortly wrote back to the family still in Utah: *“If you are doing good at all where you are, stay! If you are doing half good – stay! If you are doing nothing, you can do that any place.”*

William homesteaded 160 acres and with John they cleared and cultivated it and established their homes. This land was located where the first chapel in St. David was built. William and Mariah eventually returned to Utah to work in the temple and to be close to their children and families there.

## **BUSBY FAMILY continued . . .**

John James and Rose Hannah and family made St. David their home.



*John James and  
Rose Hannah Busby  
family in Arizona  
(Tall one on back  
row is Violet Maria)*

John served a mission in the Eastern States Mission from 1898 to 1900. He died in 1905 and Rose Hannah in 1916. They were instrumental in establishing the Church and in the settlement of St. David, Arizona.

# **BILLINGSLEY and BUSBY lines merge**

Jesse Eugene Billingsley and Violet Maria Busby were married in Cochise, Arizona Territory in 1888.

*Jesse Eugene BILLINGSLEY*



*Violet Maria BUSBY  
Billingsley*

They were blessed with 5 children:

Jesse James (1890-1890)

Harriet Elizabeth (1891-1964)

Rose Marie (1893-1893)

Burdett Bryan (1897-1921)

**Maud (1900-1972)**

# **BILLINGSLEY and BUSBY lines merge**

Jesse worked in the mine in Bisbee and contracted pneumonia. He died in 1902.

Violet Maria married Hiram Scranton in 1902 and they had two daughters:

Ella (1903 – 1996)

Pearl (1907 – 1989)



Ella married Alma Donald Goodman in 1921 and they had 5 children (Bert, Thomas, Annie, Donald and Joyce). Pearl married John Benjamin Grice in 1924 and they had 4 daughters (Dorothy, Eugenia, Bebe, and Janet). Hiram and Violet raised their children and Hiram became a great dad to all of them.

# BILLINGSLEY and BUSBY lines merge

Maud wrote a nice life sketch of her mother's life. She noted that her mother was a good shot – it was not uncommon for her to take the shotgun out and get a much needed rabbit for the next meal. Violet Maria was described as follows: *“Up to the time of her death she was always filled with good spirits and always had a smile with a witty remark for everyone. . . Her life was a life of service to her fellow men. She was always helping others. Whenever any sickness was in the community you would always find mother. Whenever a new baby arrived in town you would find mother. No wonder her heart went bad. She was loved by all.”*

***Violet Marie***



***Maud*** would be the beneficiary of the merger of the Billingsley and Busby blood lines, capturing the strong work ethic, commitment to God, service to fellowmen, and service to country in preserving freedom.

# *Clarence Post & Maud Billingsley*

*Clarence and Maud bring with them the greatness of those who have gone before.*

## *Beginnings*

### *Clarence*

**Clarence Evans Post** was born on February 14, 1898 in Mt. Hope, Kansas – the first child of Howard Orville Post and Tressie May Evans Post.

### *Maud*

**Maud Billingsley** was born on October 11, 1900 in St. David, Arizona – the fifth child of Jesse Eugene Billingsley and Violet Maria Busby Billingsley.

# *Clarence and Maud came into mortality just in time for . . . .*

***Fly swatter - 1900***

***Airplane – first flight in 1903***

***Banana split – 1904***

***Paper towel – 1907***

***Arizona statehood – February 14, 1912***

***Electric traffic lights – 1912***

***Hamburger bun – 1916***

***In 1900, shoppers could buy a 5-pound bag of flour for 12 cents. Round steak was 13 cents a pound, and bacon was a penny more. Eggs were 21 cents per dozen, milk sold for 14 cents per half gallon and butter cost 26 cents per pound. A 10-pound bag of potatoes was 14 cents, and a 5-pound bag of sugar cost the relatively princely sum of 31 cents***

# Clarence Post & Maud Billingsley

*Growing up years*

*Clarence*

Clarence started early on the back of a horse. This photo shows him as a little one in the saddle with his father, Howard Orville Post.



# Clarence Post & Maud Billingsley

Growing up years  
Clarence



Clarence, 3 years old, with  
his sister, Alice

Clarence was just 4 years old when the family moved to Arizona from Kansas but remembers the family selling what they could in Kansas and his father taking a train with a railroad car full of their livestock and machinery to St. David, Arizona. He remembers coming a couple of weeks later on a passenger train with his mom and his sisters, Alice and Stella. His dad was not at the train station to meet them – Clarence said his mom was upset and crying and might have jumped back on the train if it hadn't already left. His dad showed up soon with a wagon to take them the 8 miles out of town to where they would live for awhile.

# Clarence Post & Maud Billingsley

Growing up years  
*Clarence*

Clarence was on a horse whenever he could be.



*Clarence on the horse with  
Lawrence Lofgreen standing*

With two younger sisters, Alice and Stella, in the family, Clarence admits he was a bit disappointed when the next two children to arrive in the family were both girls – Lola and Hazel. He wasn't disappointed in them, just wanted a little brother.



**Stella, Alice, Clarence  
Hazel and Lola**

# Clarence Post & Maud Billingsley

Growing up years

Clarence

Clarence remembers the arrival of his little brother, Orville Kelvin, *“We called him ‘little Bummer’ – he still goes by the name of ‘Bum Post’. I was so happy to have a brother. Bum and I have been very close all our lives. . . .”*

Being a young lad moving from St. David to Bisbee and back, Clarence remembers he *“had to fight my way into every place we moved to”*. In his words he *“got to be a pretty good rough and tumble fighter.”* One day a bunch of kids were calling a crippled boy with big front teeth “cripple gopher” – Clarence *“took on the whole bunch, got pretty badly beat up but I singled them out one by one when I could and beat hell out of all of them.”*

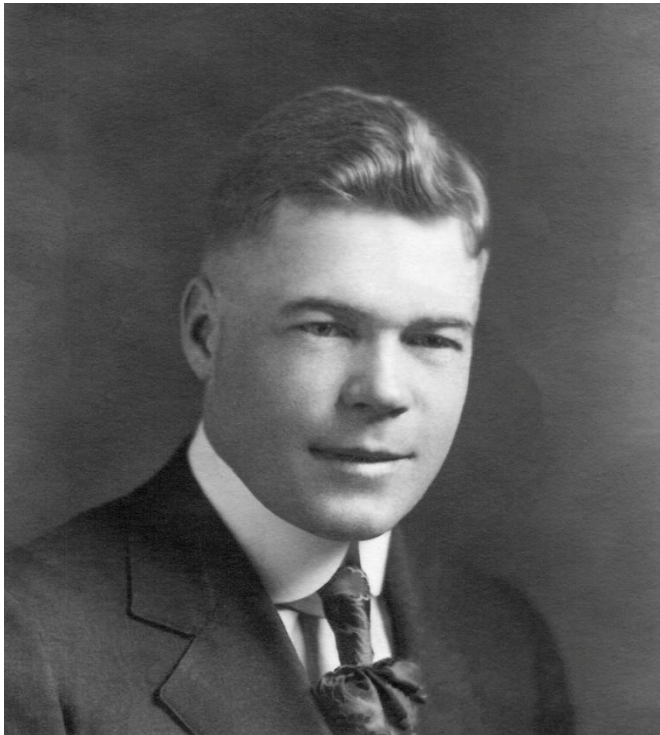
Work was just part of life in these early days. At age 15, Clarence drove a freight team hauling ore for the mines and later helped build telephone lines, work on ranches and they didn't often have a day off. Because of his need to work Clarence was unable to attend high school.

Clarence remembers getting to know Maud when he was 8 or 9 years old and he never forgot her.

# Clarence Post & Maud Billingsley

Growing up years  
Clarence

Clarence was called on a mission to the Northern States Mission, which included Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. In his words, *“Mother got me called on a mission. I didn’t know anything about it. But Mother was so set on my going I consented to go.”*



Clarence tried to enlist to fight in World War I, but they told him to wait for the draft. He left on his mission in May 1918, but was called up to serve his country in September 1918 – he served until the war ended in November 1918 . He returned to the Northern States Mission to complete his mission in 1920.

# Clarence Post & Maud Billingsley

*Growing up years*

*Maud*

Maud was only two years old when her father, Jesse Eugene Billingsley, died of pneumonia. After Jesse's death, Maud's mother, Violet Maria married Hiram Scranton and they had two daughters – Ella (born in 1903) and Pearl (born in 1907). Maud and Ella were only 3 years apart and became the best of friends during their growing up years.



Ella and Maud



# Clarence Post & Maud Billingsley

## Growing up years

### Maud

Maud recalls that the only father she can remember was Hiram Scranton. When Hiram finally joined the Church, Maud was sealed to he and her mother, Violet Maria, in 1932 in the Mesa Arizona Temple. Maud recalls: *“I had a happy childhood. I guess by the standard of living today we were poor, but we didn’t know it. I don’t remember ever going hungry.”*

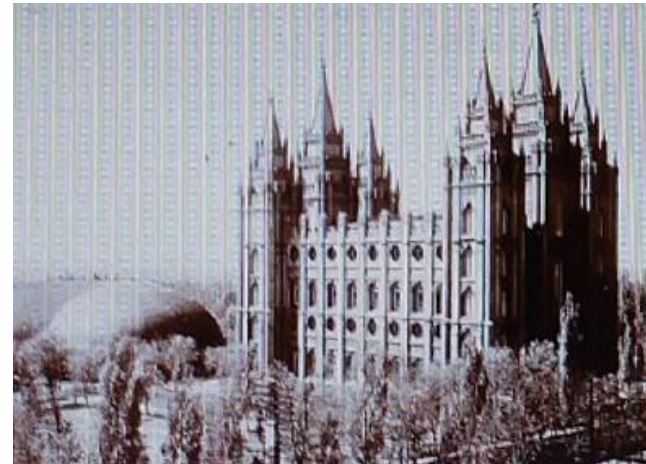
Hiram (“Mack”) and Violet Marie and their family did truck farming, raising animals and lots of fruit and vegetables which Mack would take to Bisbee to sell. Maud recalls, *“I went with him often, I loved working in the garden.”* When they got a nickel to buy a soda, she saved hers for a ribbon.

Maud recalls her first meeting of Clarence. *“It was very romantic. He was 9 and I was seven. . . Our closest neighbors, about a fourth a mile away. Clarence came almost everyday to play with my brother Burdett. As soon as they met they started fighting. One day . . . I got in the way – the dogs knocked me down and were over me fighting. One of the boys looked up and said, ‘Maud’s in trouble’. They stopped . . . long enough to get me ought of the way, then back to their slugging. . . The rest of the play time went very smooth.”*

# Clarence Post & Maud Billingsley

## Getting together

Maud recalls the ending of World War I in November 1918 and going around together with Clarence after the War before he returned to his mission. We wrote during his mission. She remembers, *“I wasn’t too serious. One day [Clarence] said to [Maud’s] mother ‘When Maud and I are married’ . . . Something. I said, ‘O are we going to get married?’ He said, ‘of course we are, when I finish my mission’ . . . Just like that.”* When Clarence returned from his mission they were married on September 20, 1920 and went to the Salt Lake Temple and were sealed for eternity on October 7, 1920.



# *Remembering Clarence & Maud Post*

After their marriage, Clarence went to work for Apache Powder Company – they were just building the plant. He worked there for three years as a carpenter, then went into the butcher business and did real well selling beef in Tombstone, Bisbee and Ft. Huachuca. After three years in that business he returned to carpenter work helping build schools in Benson, Tucson, and St. David.

Early in their marriage, Clarence caught a young mountain lion and raised it to maturity.



*Clarence with his pet lion*

# *Remembering Clarence & Maud Post*

Central to the lives of Clarence and Maud was the family they would build together. They were blessed with seven children:

***Phillip Eugene, born June 28, 1921***

***Ella, born July 4, 1923***

***Violet Mae, born February 24, 1925***

***Jack Richard, born September 17, 1927***

***Billy Evans, born June 8, 1930 (he died in infancy)***

***Howard Orville, born November 18, 1931***

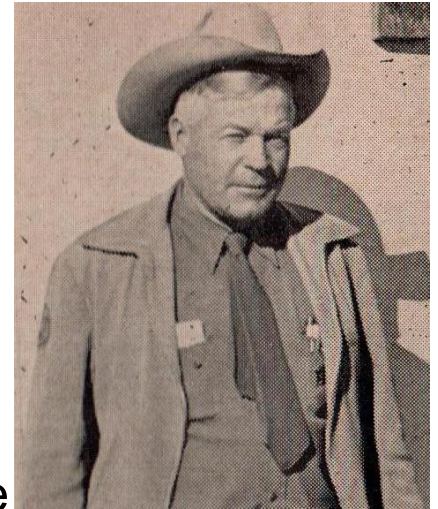
***Jesse Mack, born September 5, 1935***

The 1929 stock market crash and the depression of 1930 – 1933 brought many challenges to families. To provide for his growing family, Clarence sought work wherever it could be found – fence building in the Whetstone and Dragoon mountains, working for cattle companies, and serving as a deputy sheriff. When Sheriff Pruett was elected in 1934, Clarence began working with him as a deputy and did so for about 20 years. In 1953, Clarence made a decision to spend more time with the beautiful ranch they had and never worked for wages thereafter.

# Remembering Clarence & Maud Post

As deputy sheriff for Cochise County, Clarence was recognized for his clear head, ability to resolve disputes, and for his fighting ability when needed to apprehend a wrongdoer. In 1938, the Arizona State Prison Warden sent a letter to Clarence stating: *“I want to personally thank you for your great work in the capture of Columbus Reese . . . who but for your courage and fighting qualities would still be at large.”* Clarence was known for not carrying a gun while serving as deputy sheriff.

As a rancher, Clarence was active in the various cattle grower associations and highly respected by other ranchers. In 1956, the Arizona Stockman magazine wrote a tribute to Clarence and Maud that highlighted their involvement in ranching, in the community and in the Church – both served faithfully to bless others in their family, the community and in the Church. After ranching “part time” for many years, it was a blessing to both Clarence and Maud when he decided to devote “full time” to the ranch.



# Remembering Clarence & Maud

Maud worked hard during these years nurturing their children, growing fruits and vegetables, cooking and laundering clothes and writing and sharing her poetry. In recognizing her contributions in the CowBelles and other organizations, the Arizona Stockman magazine quoted the following poem – it is a tribute to ranch women, wives and mothers, and to all women and demonstrates her talent as a poet.

## *“The Wonderful Life On A Ranch”*

*Did you ever get up in the morning  
With a feeling that as soon as you get  
the chance  
You'll sit right down and write a poem  
Of the wonderful life on a ranch?*

*You'll tell about the azure skies  
And the scenic sunrise view in the  
east,  
But no – you must come down to  
earth  
Such wandering thought must cease.*

*You dash out and feed the chickens,  
And have a row with the old sitting  
hen,  
You find the pet colt has torn a hole  
in the fence  
And let your turkeys all out of their  
pen.*

*You rouse the family out of bed,  
That alone is a good day's work,  
Then you make the biscuits and fry  
the steak  
And cut up some meat to jerk.*

*You churn the butter and mix the  
bread  
And put on a pot of beans,  
Then you hear, “Mom, if you got the  
time today,  
Will you take this shirt up at the  
seams?”*

*You sweep the floor and make the  
beds  
And mend a few pairs of pants,  
Then you feel like cussing awhile  
Because you find ants eating your  
cabbage plants.*

*The next thing you know it's dinner  
time  
And husband brings in a friend,  
They're sure in a great big hurry to  
eat,  
Then you wonder if those tall tales  
will ever end!*

*Before you get turned around it's  
supper time  
Afterwards a few friends drop in,  
You hardly hit the bed before daylight  
comes,  
And the same old routine begins.*

*Of course all days are not the same,  
You find time to wash and iron  
somehow,  
And right at your busiest time you  
hear,  
“Hey, Mom, come help me doctor  
this old cow.”*

*You're always the only extra hand on  
the ranch  
When the darn old windmill breaks  
down,*

*You find yourself at the top of the  
tower  
With your head spinning 'round and  
'round.*

*And then there's a time when you're  
thru  
And for a few hours there'll be a lull,  
When one of the kids decides to ride  
a bronc –  
Gets spilled off and almost cracks his  
skull.*

*Yes, it's a wonderful life all right,  
And few ranch women would ever  
change for any other home  
And some day if ever I find the time,  
I'm still going to write that poem.*

Not only did Maud find time to write the above poem but whenever the church, to which she and Clarence have been so faithful thru the years, needs something for a memorial or anniversary program, Maud is right there with the poem and ready to recite it too in her clever way.

# Remembering Clarence & Maud

*Life on the ranch...*

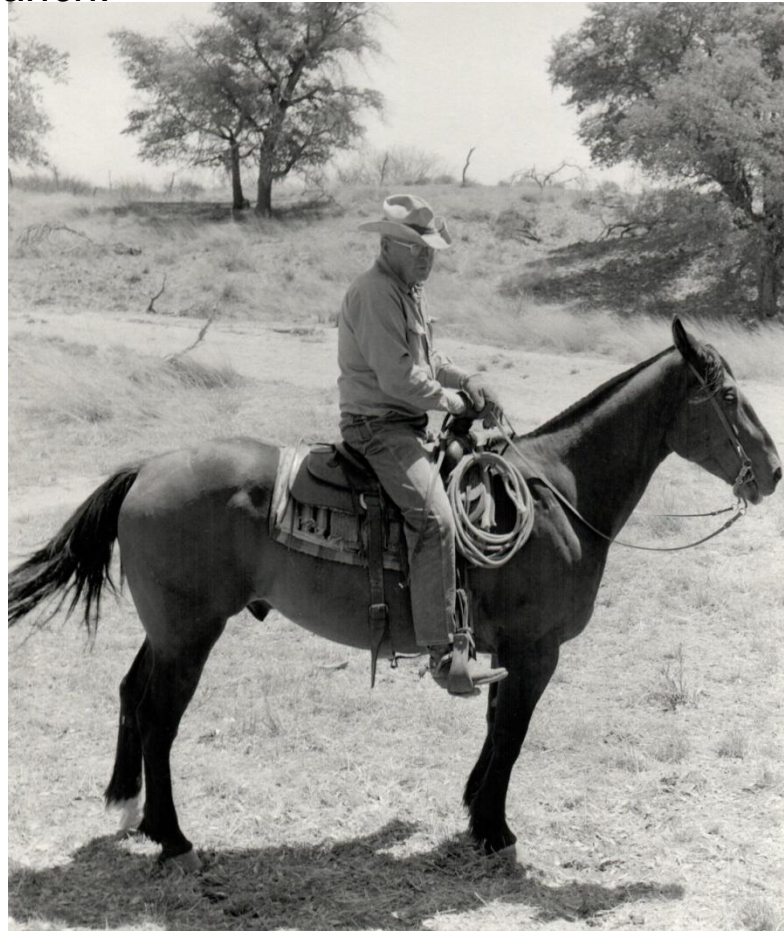


# Remembering Clarence & Maud

*Life in the saddle . . .*

*“Clarence “C.E.” Post, 1898, 2004 **Cowboy Hall of Fame** inductee.”*

Highlights from the induction ceremony were the reading of his life history which included in his own words, *“We had seven children, Phillip, Ella, Violet, Jack, Billie, Howard, and Jesse. How Maud stood me all those years, I don’t know.”* and a tribute from his son, Jack, who said, *“My Dad was a pretty good cowboy, but was a hell of a cowman. Dad’s goal in life was to have his own ranch.”*



*Clarence “C.E.”  
Post*

The Hall of Fame was Instituted in 1983 to celebrate *“ordinary people who made this country great. These old-time cowboys represent a survivalist, independent way of life that still prevails.[They were] ‘real cowboys’ [who] reflect the pride and rich heritage of the cattle business”*

# Remembering Clarence & Maud

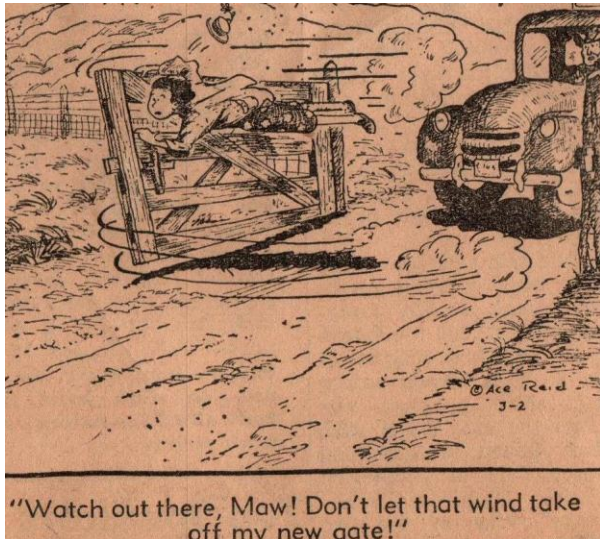
*Life on the ranch . . .*



Clarence and Maud were side-by-side in their ranch life and their family life.



Maud made their house a **“home”** filled with love



“Watch out there, Maw! Don’t let that wind take off my new gate!”

*“Happiness is a virtue,  
A gift that’s well worthwhile  
A joy to pass on to others  
Along with a friendly smile.”*

*Maud B. Post*



With pistol at relief society 😊

# Remembering Clarence & Maud

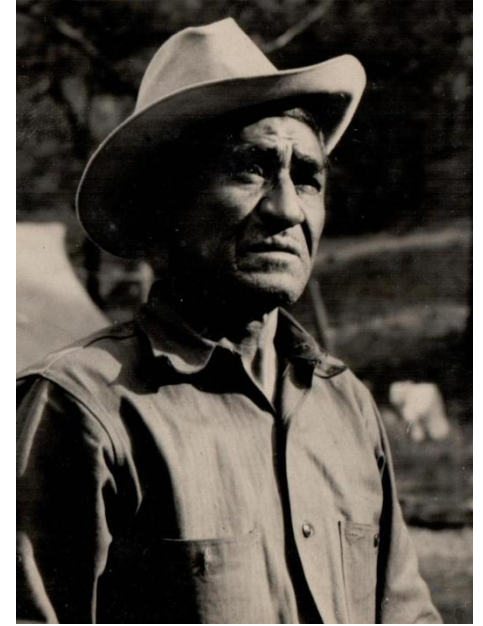
*Running a ranch requires good help . . .*



*Ranching was a "family affair"*

**Front row: Violet, Clarence "C.E.", Maud, and Ella**

**Back row: Phil, Jack, Howard, and Jesse**



*Chief*



**Summer**

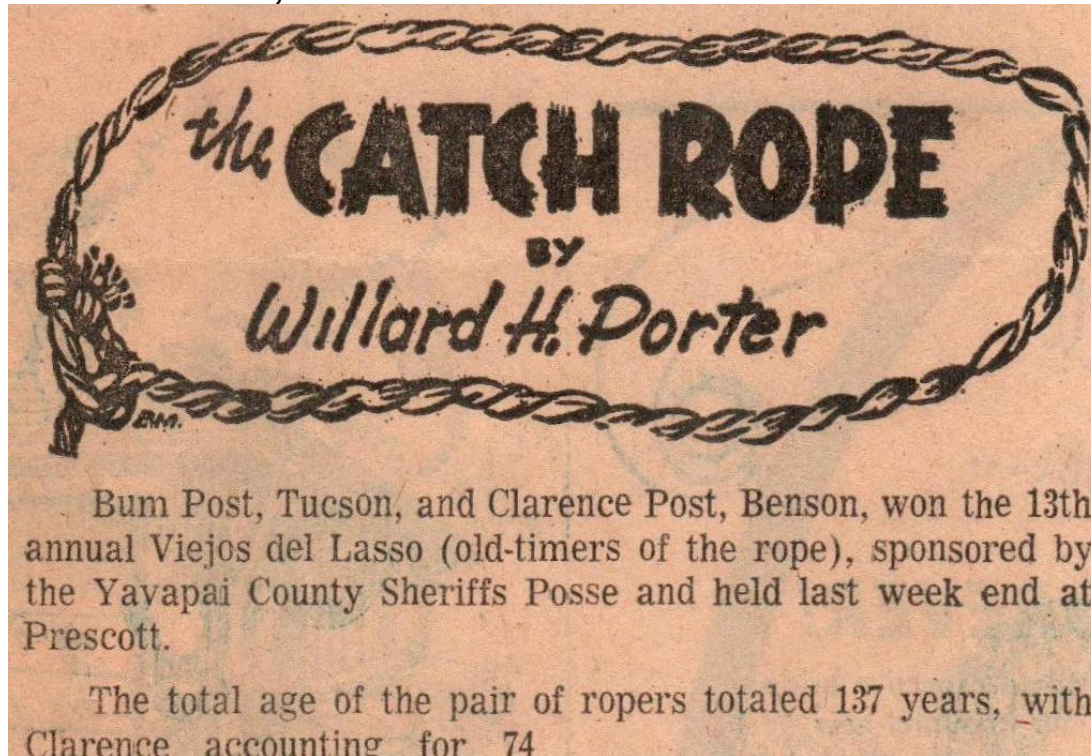


**Winter**

***Ranching didn't wait for  
good weather***

# Remembering Clarence & Maud

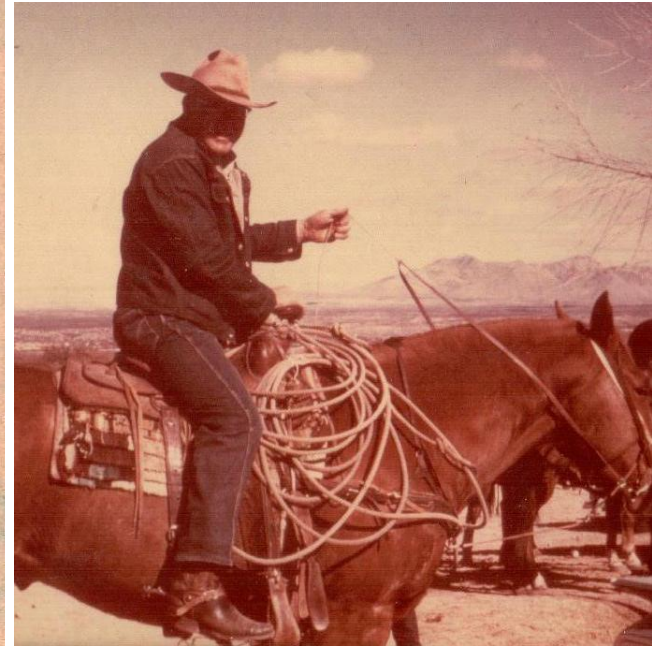
*Ranching and Roping* - Clarence didn't have time for roping competition until a little later in life. *The Arizona Daily Star* newspaper captured a little of this history in an article dated May 28, 1972 highlighting the roping of Clarence and his brother, Bum.



Bum Post, Tucson, and Clarence Post, Benson, won the 13th annual Viejos del Lasso (old-timers of the rope), sponsored by the Yavapai County Sheriffs Posse and held last week end at Prescott.

The total age of the pair of ropers totaled 137 years, with Clarence accounting for 74 years.

Their total time of four head of dally team roping steers was 77 seconds.



**Clarence "C.E." Post**

# Remembering Clarence & Maud

Tributes for service to Community and Family

*from Rotary International*

*from son, Jack*

## IN MEMORIAM

Clarence Evans Post, born on February 14, 1898 in Mt. Hope, Kansas passed away on October 7, 1978, in Tucson. Clarence was one of the real men of the old West. He moved to Benson, Arizona in 1902, where his father rented a farm and raised vegetables to provide for the Post family. Clarence worked in many occupations in life—a carpenter, rancher, farmer, cowboy, butcher and lawman. In all the years that Clarence worked as a lawman he never carried a gun. He helped to build the telephone lines across Arizona and drove a freight team throughout the state.



**CLARENCE E. POST**  
*District 550 Governor 1974-75*

Clarence was an honorary member of the National Cowboy Association. He was still entering and winning in rodeos when he was 74 years old. He was a charter member of the Benson Rotary Club and gave of himself in service to Rotary until his death. His son Howard was president of the Benson Rotary Club in 1976-77. He was also a very devoted and active member of his church.

He had seven children, 23 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren.

We will miss you, Clarence. You were a great American, Rotarian and family man.

*A fellow like him is seldom been found*

*He's man all over from head to the ground*

*He'll fight to the finish to help a friend true*

*If you treat him half right, he's a friend to you*

*He worked many a cattle, flanked many a calf*

*If you call it work he'll look at you and laugh*

*He's a good friend of mine, I know him well*

*I'd stand by his side thru the gates of hell*

*He calls me Son about two thirds of the time*

*'Cause he happens to be that of Dad of mine*

*Original poem written by Jack Post  
around 1941 for Father's Day*

# *The REUNION*

## *Clarence and Maud Post Family*

### *Remembering Phil*



*Philip Eugene Post*

***Phil loved his family, he loved people, and people old and young loved him.***

## ***The Reunion***

***Phil went home to his Father in Heaven in 1963 – he waited 47 years to have his boyhood family surrounding him again. With Jack’s passing earlier this year (2020) all of the original Clarence and Maud Post family, including little Billy, are now together again – how sweet the reunion must be!***

***Phil’s immediate family – wife and children – await their reunion with him – this reunion will be sweet as they each “live for the reunion”.***

*“Do not weep for those you love, whose parting fill your heart with sorrow,  
Just think of the joy that will be yours again, when you meet in that great tomorrow”*

***Maud B. Post***

# *Remembering Clarence & Maud*

**GRATITUDE**

*Maud Billingsley Post  
& Clarence Evans Post*



***As descendants of this amazing couple, we express our deep gratitude for their enduring love, their commitment to God, their examples of faith and sacrifice, their work ethic, their integrity, their love of life, and their sense of humor***

***HOW BLESSED WE ARE TO BE A PART OF THEM!***

# *My Arizona Home*

*by Maud B. Post*

*I'm dreaming tonite of My Arizona Home  
I'm dreaming of her skies so blue -  
I'm dreaming of those dear old mountains high  
And I long, Oh! How I long to be there too.  
I can see in my dream that dear little home  
That nestles right under a hill -  
I can see the cattle milling around  
As they water by the old Wind Mill.  
In the mist of my dream I fancy I see  
The loved ones that make you a home.  
My Arizona Home of you I'm dreaming  
And I pray that my dream will come true -  
For never have I seen stars more bright  
Or ever a sky more blue.  
So in fancy I see you - My Arizona Home - tonite  
And never have I felt so near -  
For no matter what rank or the riches I own  
There'll never be a place more dear.*

# *Because of them . . .*

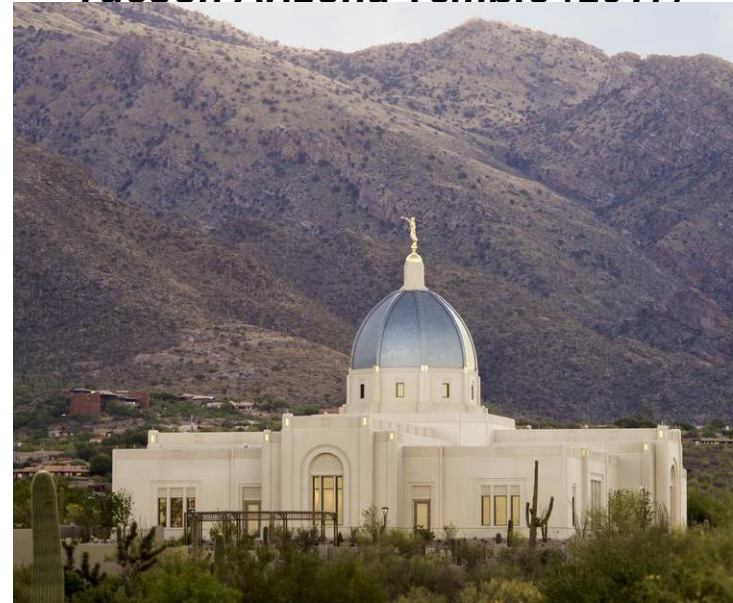
Those who have gone before us to prepare the way with their faith, their love of family, their willingness to endure hardships, their hard work, and their hope for a bright future prepared the way for temples of the Lord, where we have been bound together for time and for all of eternity as a family. A prophet of God expressed such gratitude to God in the dedicatory prayer of the Tucson Arizona Temple

*“We thank Thee for the generations of faithful Saints who have gone before in this sacred work; for their sacrifices, courage, and faith...”*

***The Gila Valley Temple (2010)***



***Tucson Arizona Temple (2017)***



# The End

*A sunset signals the end of a day and gives way to the hope of tomorrow's sunrise.*

*Memories of those who have gone before shines a bright light on the future of those who remain.*

*Huachuca Mountains sunset*



*St. David Sunset*

