



John



Adele

*John Lycurgus Westover
Maren Adele Bushman Westover
Northern Arizona Pioneers
Born, raised and buried in Joseph City, Arizona*

**by Thomas Lee Palmer
Copyright 2022**

Photos

Edwin Lycurgus Westover 1845 - 1847

Joanna Matilda Erickson 1954 - 1929



John Bushman 1843 - 1926

Mary Ann Petersen 1857 - 1885



**John Lycurgus Westover 1880 - 1971
& Maren Adele Bushman 1881 - 1969**



**Elwyn Gus Palmer 1919 - 2013 &
Ruth Westover Palmer 1919 - 2011**



Robert 1942 Thomas 1943 Melvin 1945 Marena 1948

John Lycurgus Westover & Maren Adele Bushman Westover

by grandson, Thomas Lee Palmer (2022)

Answering a call from the Lord through the Prophet, Brigham Young, 4 companies of saints came in 1876 to the Little Colorado River basin and established settlements. The Allen Company established St. Joseph (later named Joseph City). Four years after their arrival John Lycurgus Westover was born and a year later Maren Adele Bushman was born. John and Adele later married and raised their family in Joseph City – their home for life.

It is hoped that this book will help our children and grandchildren “turn their hearts to their fathers” as they come to know their ancestors who have gone before – who have prepared the way for temples of the Lord to be in Northern Arizona.

Sources for the information found in this presentation include:

- ***John L. and Adele B. Westover, a Family History*** by Mary W. Carroll, Ruth W. Palmer, M. Russell Westover (1989)
- ***A Brief History of Joseph City*** by Adele B. Westover and J. Morris Richards (1951)
- ***Unflinching Courage 2nd Ed.*** by Adele B. Westover, V. Robert Westover, J. Morris Richards (2021)
- ***Pioneer Pathways***, Volume 11, International Society Daughters of Utah Pioneers (2008)
- ***Colonization on the Little Colorado***, Tanner and Richards (1977)
- ***Faith Promoting Bedtime Stories from the family of John & Adele Westover***, Joyce Mabey
- ***Memories of Mary Ann Petersen Bushman*** by V. Robert and Lynda B. Westover (2022)
- ***John Bushman*** by John Kay Carmack (2014)
- ***Memories and photos from family members on Family Search.org***
- **Photo albums, scrapbooks and memories of family members.**

Aren't we all immigrants?

Our Father in Heaven's Plan provided for the creation of this beautiful earth that we might all experience mortality – thus, each of us have immigrated to earth from the home of our heavenly parents. America, established by divine power, provided a welcome invitation to all seekers of truth, religious freedom, and adventure - the Statue of Liberty, a universal symbol of freedom and democracy, bears these words on its pedestal:

***"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"***



Adele's mother, Mary Ann Petersen, came to America from Denmark with her family as a 5 year-old in 1862, and John's mother, Joanna Erickson, came to America with her family as a 10 year-old from Sweden in 1864.

Ancestral Roots of John and Adele

Ruth's ancestors (Westover, Bushman, Erickson, Petersen, Despain) came primarily from the British Isles (England, Scotland and Ireland), Denmark, Germany and Sweden. Initially they came to the northeast part of the United States and eventually to Nauvoo, Salt Lake Valley and to northeast Arizona in the late 1800s.

[Additional ancestors – including a lot of royalty – come from France, Norway, and other countries]

Salt Lake Valley

Nauvoo



1876 to Joseph City



Northeast United States



*England, Scotland, Ireland
Wales, Denmark, Germany, Sweden*

Ancestral Roots of John and Adele

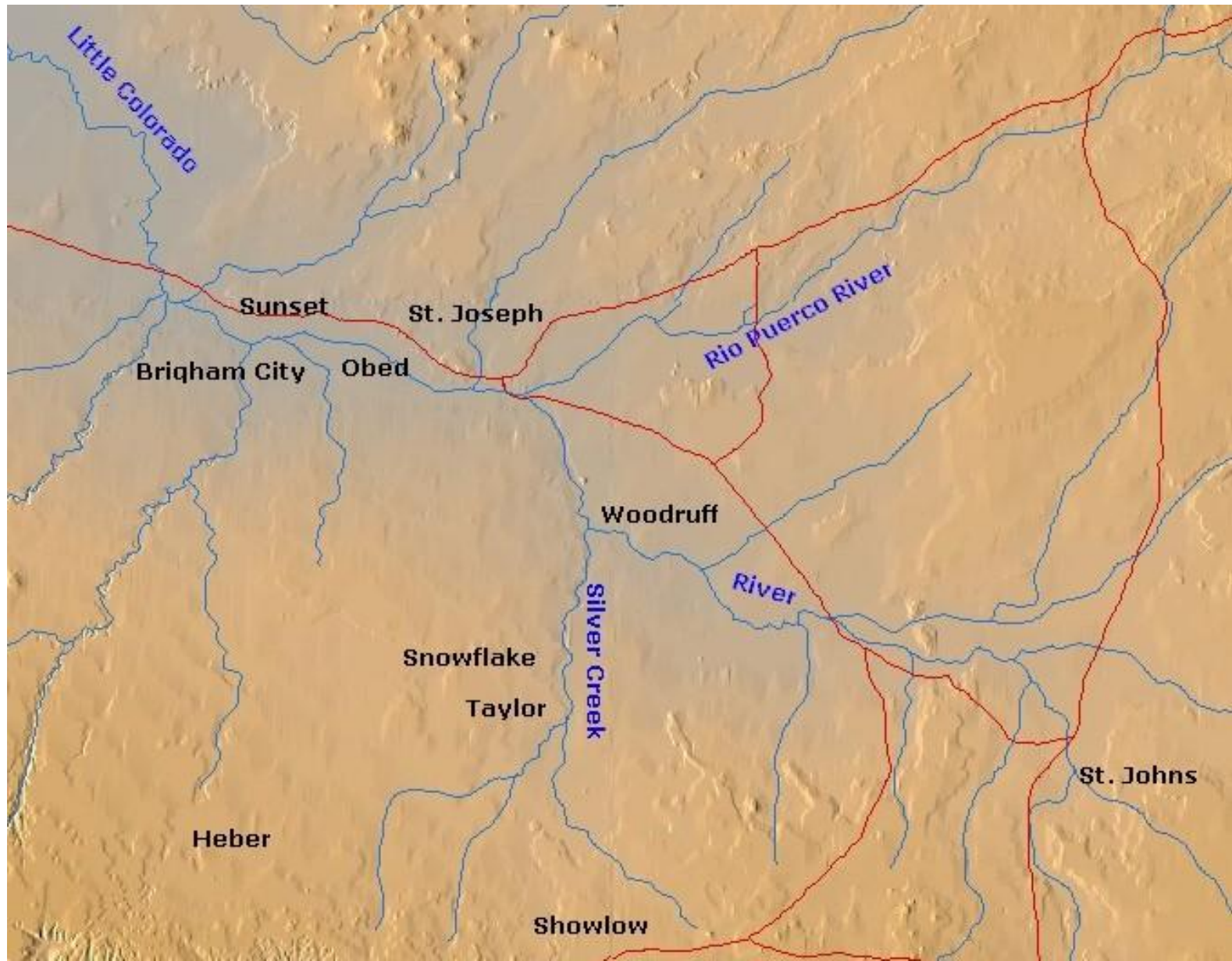
COMING TO AMERICA

- **WESTOVER** – **Jonah Westover** from Taunton, **England** to Connecticut (abt. 1628)
- **ERICKSON** – **Swen Erickson** from Goteborg, **Sweden** to Grantsville, Utah (1864)
- **DESPAIN** – **Samuel Despain** from Kent, **England** to Virginia (abt. 1738)
- **BUSHMAN** – **Johann Heinrich Bushman** from **Germany** to Pennsylvania (1753)
- **PETERSEN** – **Mary Ann Petersen** from **Denmark** to Lehi, Utah (1862)

COMING TO ARIZONA

- **WESTOVER** – **Edwin Lycurgus Westover** was called by the Prophet to go to northern Arizona to help settle the Little Colorado River area. He was with the Allen company that left for Arizona in January 1876 and arrived in spring 1876 with his family.
- **ERICKSON** – **Joanna Erickson** met Edwin Lycurgus Westover in Grantsville, Utah. They were married for eternity in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, then came together by call from the Prophet to settle Arizona along the Little Colorado River, arriving in spring 1876
- **DESPAIN** – **Henry Waters Despain** and family also came to Arizona with the Allen Company arriving at the Little Colorado River settlements in the spring of 1876. At the request of Edwin Lycurgus Westover before his death, Henry Waters Despain married Joanna Westover and all of their 7 children bear the Westover name as they were born in the covenant to Edwin Lycurgus and Joanna Westover.
- **BUSHMAN** – **John Bushman** came from Lehi, Utah in 1876 by call from the Prophet to help settle northern Arizona. They arrived in the spring of 1876 and were part of the Allen Company. John returned to Lehi to get his family and due to his wife Lois' poor health he and Lois agreed that he should marry Mary Ann Petersen to accompany him on the rugged mission to the Little Colorado. Lois and Mary Ann had a remarkable relationship as plural wives of John.
- **PETERSEN** – **Mary Ann Petersen**, from Lehi, Utah married John Bushman in the St. George temple and accompanied by Lois' daughter they traveled to Allen's camp in 1877.

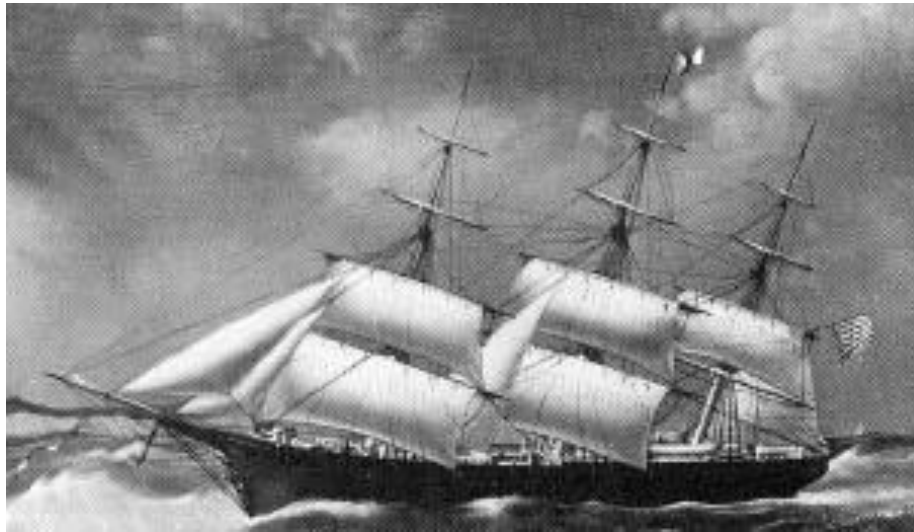
*Ancestors called by God to be Arizona Pioneers
Westover & Bushman to St. Joseph/Joseph City (1876)*



Ancestry of Adele

Adele's father, John Bushman, was among those called by President Brigham Young to help colonize the Little Colorado River basin. He was in the Allen Company – one of four companies that left Utah in 1876 and arrived in the spring of 1876 to help settle the city of St. Joseph, which later became Joseph City, Arizona. His ancestor, Johann Heinrich Bushman, came to America from Germany in 1753.

Adele's mother, Mary Ann Petersen, was born in Denmark on May 24, 1857 to Jens Petersen and Maren Sorensen Frost Petersen, who were taught the gospel by missionaries in Denmark and baptized on February 3, 1859. Mary Ann joined with her parents in 1862 to come to America with 413 Saints from Denmark on the ship "*Franklin*", one of several Scandinavian emigration ships like the one shown below.



Mary Ann Petersen

Mary Ann Petersen was only 4 years old when the family left Denmark on the ship “*Franklin*”. Mid-ocean the ship was stopped for several days due to lack of wind to fill the sails. They were short on food and their drinking water became stagnant. Measles broke out and took the lives of several, including Mary Ann’s younger brother, Jens Anton – 3 years of age. After nine weeks at sea, the ship finally arrived in New York a few days after Mary Ann turned 5. 18 weeks later the family arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on October 5, 1862. On the trip across the plains, Mary Ann’s older sister, Mette, died in Florence, Nebraska. The family then settled in Lehi, Utah.

In the book, *Memories of Mary Ann Petersen Bushman*, we read: “*Mary Ann shared in the hardships of pioneer life. She had little chance for education, only a few months in the winters. She was a faithful attendant in Sabbath School and at the age of 16 was a member of her ward choir.*” The Petersen family worked hard to sustain their growing family and Mary Ann soon found employment to help the family. She worked for many families, including the John and Lois Bushman family, helping with housekeeping chores and caring for young children.

Becoming a plural wife

John Bushman returned to Lehi, Utah in the fall of 1876 after helping settle Allen's Camp (later St. Joseph and then Joseph City) on the Little Colorado River . He returned to make arrangements to move his family to Arizona. Lois' health was failing and with their five living children a move to Arizona would not be wise for Lois. John and his wife, Lois, mutually agreed after prayer and consultation with church authorities that John should marry a second wife. *"It seemed to them that Mary Ann, the girl that had worked in their home, could be what they would desire in a plural wife."* After obtaining Mary Ann's permission and her parents permission, plans were made for their marriage over the next few months.

John, Mary Ann, and John's and Lois' daughter, Lois Evelyn, traveled to St. George with other companies, going the final distance with the John Hunt company. On 2 March 1877 John Bushman and Mary Ann Petersen were married in the St. George Temple by Apostle Erastus Snow.

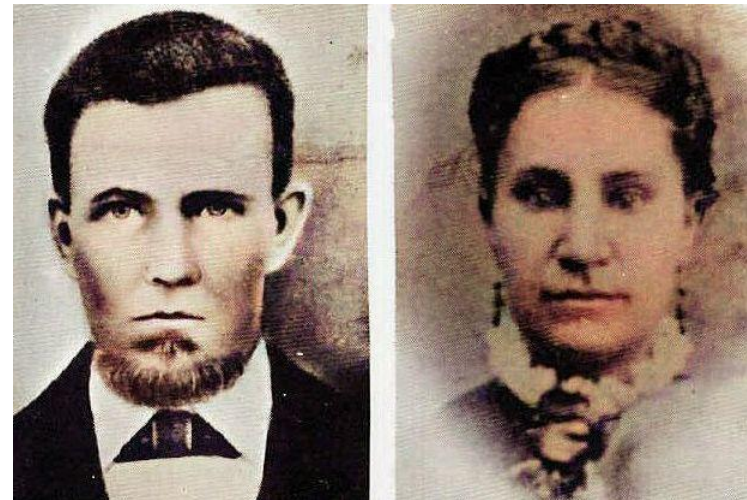


John Bushman and Mary Ann Petersen Bushman

Ancestry of John

John's father, Edwin Lycurgus Westover, was among those called by President Brigham Young to help colonize the Little Colorado River basin. He was in the Allen Company – one of four companies that left Utah in 1876 and arrived in the spring of 1876 to help settle the city of St. Joseph, which later became Joseph City, Arizona. His father, Edwin Ruthven Westover, and his mother, Sarah Sophia Darrow Westover, lived in Ohio where Edwin Lycurgus Westover was born on April 2, 1845. Three months after his birth, his mother died. His father married Sarah Jane Burwell. Their family joined the Church in Ohio and when Edwin Lycurgus was a young boy they joined the Saints' movement westward and arrived in Salt Lake Valley in 1848. The family eventually moved to St. George area where he was raised for several years.

In 1869, Edwin Lycurgus went to Grantsville and took care of the farm of Aaron Sceva while Brother Sceva went on a mission. Edwin Lycurgus stayed there for a few years. Here he met Joanna Matilda Erickson who had come from Sweden with her parents and family when she was a child. She had a beautiful voice and he knew she was the one he wanted to marry. They were married 27 April 1874 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. They traveled to Arizona in the spring of 1876.



Edwin Lycurgus and Joanna Matilda Westover

Ancestry of John

John's mother, Joanna Matilda Erickson, was born in Sweden on June 4, 1854. Joanna didn't attend school, but her mother taught her to read. She was the oldest of seven children and had dark hair with blue-gray eyes. Her sister Emma died when she was a little more than a year old and her brother Erik when he was just 2 months old. Her father, Swen Erickson, and her mother, Maria Kristina Bengston Erickson, listened to the missionaries and were touched by the doctrine that little children did not need to be baptized to be saved. They were baptized in 1863. In 1864 the family made the decision to sell their property and go to America with the Saints. They sailed through the North Sea to Liverpool, England and joined with saints to sail on the "Monarch of the Sea" for America. There were 974 saints on the ship with John Smith as their leader. It took 6 or 7 weeks to reach New York harbor.



Joining with the Saints in Utah and marrying Edwin Lycurgus Westover

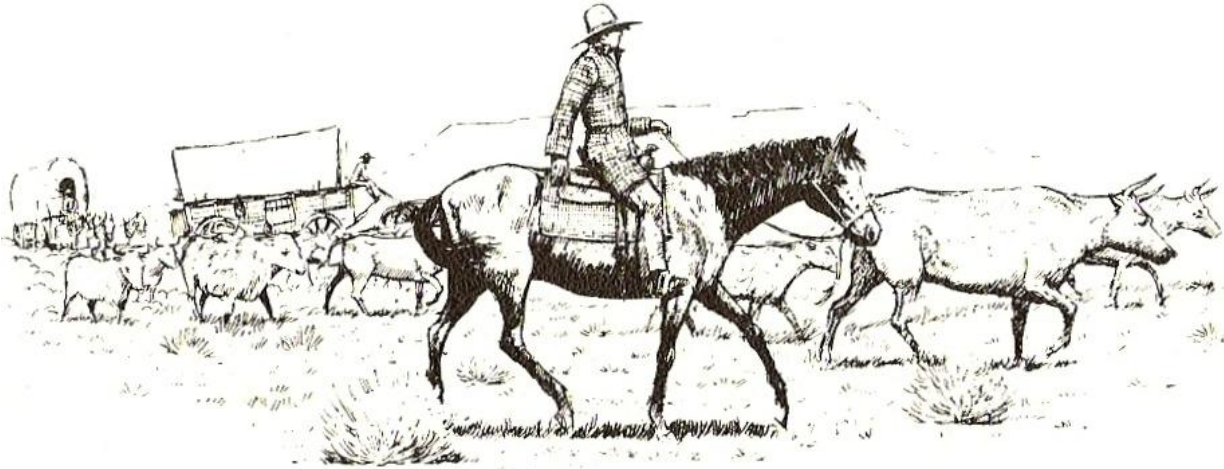
Joanna Matilda was 10 years old for the journey west. Their journey west took 3 or 4 months – they walked all the way! They arrived in Salt Lake City on October 5, 1844 and then went on west 40 miles to Grantsville, Utah where they had friends residing. After a harsh winter living in a lean-to with a dirt floor and little to eat, Joanna and her sister, Annie, hired out for about 50 cents per week doing household work, sewing and washing. Their father found carpentry work and built the family a home. Some years after their arrival in Utah, their father, Swen Erickson, was called to serve a mission in Sweden and returned to his homeland to fulfill his call. Later in his life he was called by President Brigham Young to go with John McLaws from Tooele to St. George to use their carpentry skills to help build the temple there.

In Joanna's life history compiled by Mary Westover Carroll (my mother's oldest sister), her connection to her future husband, Edwin Lycurgus Westover, is explained: *"Joanna had a beautiful soprano voice and was a member of the ward choir. Her brother John said she was the 'sweetest singer' in Grantsville. One night the choir gave a concert. Joanna sang a song entitled 'Only a little flower and she wore it in her hair.'* Edwin Lycurgus Westover was there and fell in love with her." They were married for time and eternity on 27 April 1844 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City.

Edwin Lycurgus and Joanna were called by President Young to help settle the Little Colorado River basin and left in February 1846 on their mission.

Bushmans back to Utah to get family - return to Little Colorado in 1878

In the spring of 1878 John Bushman, Mary Ann, little Lois and their new baby, Elsie May, returned to Lehi, Utah, to get Lois and the children. John's mother, Elizabeth, was quite ill and passed away on 21 May 1878 at 76 years of age. In the fall John and family (Lois and Mary and their children) made the 600 mile trek back to Arizona – they had 5 span of horses, 3 wagons loaded with provisions, clothing, farm tools, home-making supplies, one riding pony and 21 head of cattle. They arrived home on 7 December – a long, cold, tiring journey – but all did well.



John Bushman moved his young family to the new settlement in Arizona.

Lois and Mary Ann were amazing in their relationship as plural wives. They loved each other and loved and cared for each other's children. Mary once asked Lois for *“tolerance because she was so young, sometimes foolish and you are so wise.”* Lois assured Mary Ann, *“as for you, Mary, I have never doubted but you would take as good care of Lola [Lois' daughter] as I possibly could, that ought to be a proof to you, that I have all confidence and faith in you to place a child of mine under your care.”*

Westovers - back to Utah and return to Arizona

Near the end of 1876, Joanna and Edwin Lycurgus left St. Joseph and made a trip to southern Utah where some of his people lived and where Joanna's father was working on the St. George temple. Here, at Hamblin, their son Edwin Swen was born 20 Jan 1877. When he was three weeks old they started back to Arizona bringing a lot of loose horses with them. When they tried to cross the Colorado River at Pearce's Ferry, Lycurgus swam the horses across, but nearly got swept away with the stream.

Pearce Ferry



Joanna's father, Swen Erickson, went from St. George with them to Arizona. While there he made a milk cupboard, a table, a bureau and the 'green box', which were so welcome in their pioneer home. Her father returned to Utah in a few weeks.

“Blossom where planted”

Early exploration of the Little Colorado River area by a company sent by President Brigham Young in 1873 brought back negative reports, such as “. . . *no fit place for a human to dwell upon*” and the Little Colorado was described as “*a Small amount of Salty Mineral water and quicksand and mineral bottom. . .*” and “*We see nothing better ahead of us. . . the hills are red and bare, we have had heavy winds nearly every day.*” Another member of the company made a faith-filled statement, “*I do not know whether it makes any difference whether the country is barren or fruitful, if the Lord has a work to do in it.*” In late November 1875, President Young sent another group of men under the direction of James S. Brown, giving Brown permission “*to choose those who would go with him, but warning him not to choose any ‘babies’*”. Included in this exploration company were Andrew S. Gibbons and William H. Gibbons, my great-great grandfather and my great grandfather on my father’s line (both of whom settled later in St. Johns). The report of Brown’s company was very different from the first report and much more favorable. His report to President Young arrived on January 14, 1876. Whether President Young waited for the report before completing his plans to send 200 families to colonize the Little Colorado River valley is not known, but it is clear that the Lord wanted to settle this area and that President Young knew it. In the book, *Colonization on the Little Colorado*, we read: “*The families who were called considered themselves missionaries to colonize the Little Colorado, and went in obedience to the wishes of the prophet whose words to them were those of the voice of God.*” The Westover and Bushman families were included in these faith-filled missionaries.

Through His prophet, the Lord “planted” saints in the Little Colorado River valley and they truly “blossomed” where they were planted and to this day many of the descendants of these saints still live and blossom in Joseph City, Arizona – a tribute to the faith-filled saints who sacrificed so much.

Taming the Little Colorado River

One of the great challenges of establishing the Mormon Settlements on the Little Colorado River was the River itself. In August and September every year when the rains came the river would rise high and wash out the dams. Many became discouraged and left to plant their roots elsewhere – if it had not been for the United Order and the cooperative effort of the Allen's Camp saints (Joseph City saints) they might have all abandoned the settlements. Year after year they rebuilt dams. The one shown at the right was the 8th dam at St. Joseph and took 3 years to construct – finally finished in 1894.



The 8th earth-fill diversion dam built on the Little Colorado River by Mormon pioneers of St. Joseph, Ariz. It was begun in March, 1891 and is shown after completion on 10 March 1894. The natural rock spillway is at the left.

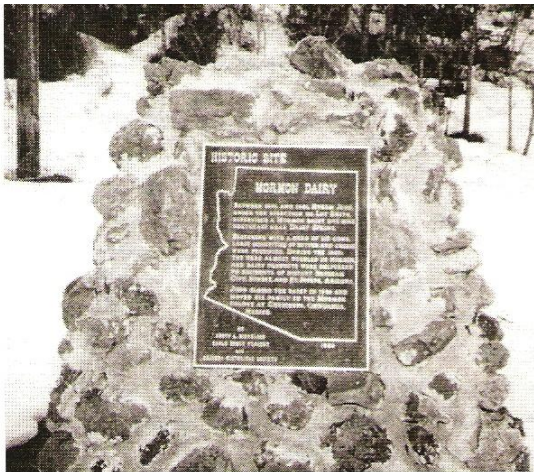
Using all of their resources

The four settlements all worked together to establish a sugar cane mill, a saw mill, a tannery and a dairy and many other enterprises. The dairy was established in 1878 at Pleasant Valley (50 miles southwest of Joseph City – now called Mormon Lake) and provided milk, cheese, butter, and from the beef cattle much needed meat. John Bushman and Lot Smith were regulars in helping maintain this enterprise – in years to come this would be the center of the Lot Smith family holdings.

The mountain climate provided cool summer weather and much needed forage for the animals. In the 1980s Scott Mickelson (for his Eagle Scout Project) established a monument at Mormon Dairy to remember the saints who were blessed by this beautiful area.



Mormon Lake Valley
[Called “Pleasant Valley” in 1878]



Monument at Mormon Dairy - Scott Mickelson Eagle Project

Growing the Bushman family

The saints worked together to establish their home in St. Joseph (Joseph City). In his diary at year end 1880, John Bushman wrote that he was thankful to Heavenly Father for the health of his family and the comfortable circumstances in which they lived and served. Many new children came to the family in these years. The children of each wife are as shown below:

Lois(1844 -1921)

John Albert Bushman 1866-1866
Homer Frederick Bushman 1868-1936
Maria Elizabeth Bushman 1869-1953
Martin Lester Bushman 1871-1871
Lois Evelyn Bushman 1872-1949
Wickliffe Benjamin Bushman 1874-1897
Preston Ammaron Bushman 1875-1949
June Augusta Bushman 1879-1950
Jesse Smith Bushman 1881-1956
Florence Cordelia Bushman 1884-1888
Alonzo Ewing Bushman 1885-1967
Jacob Virgil Bushman 1889-1950

Mary Ann (1857 -1885)

Elsie May Bushman 1878-1880
Lillian Ann Bushman 1879-1964

Maren Adele Bushman 1881-1969

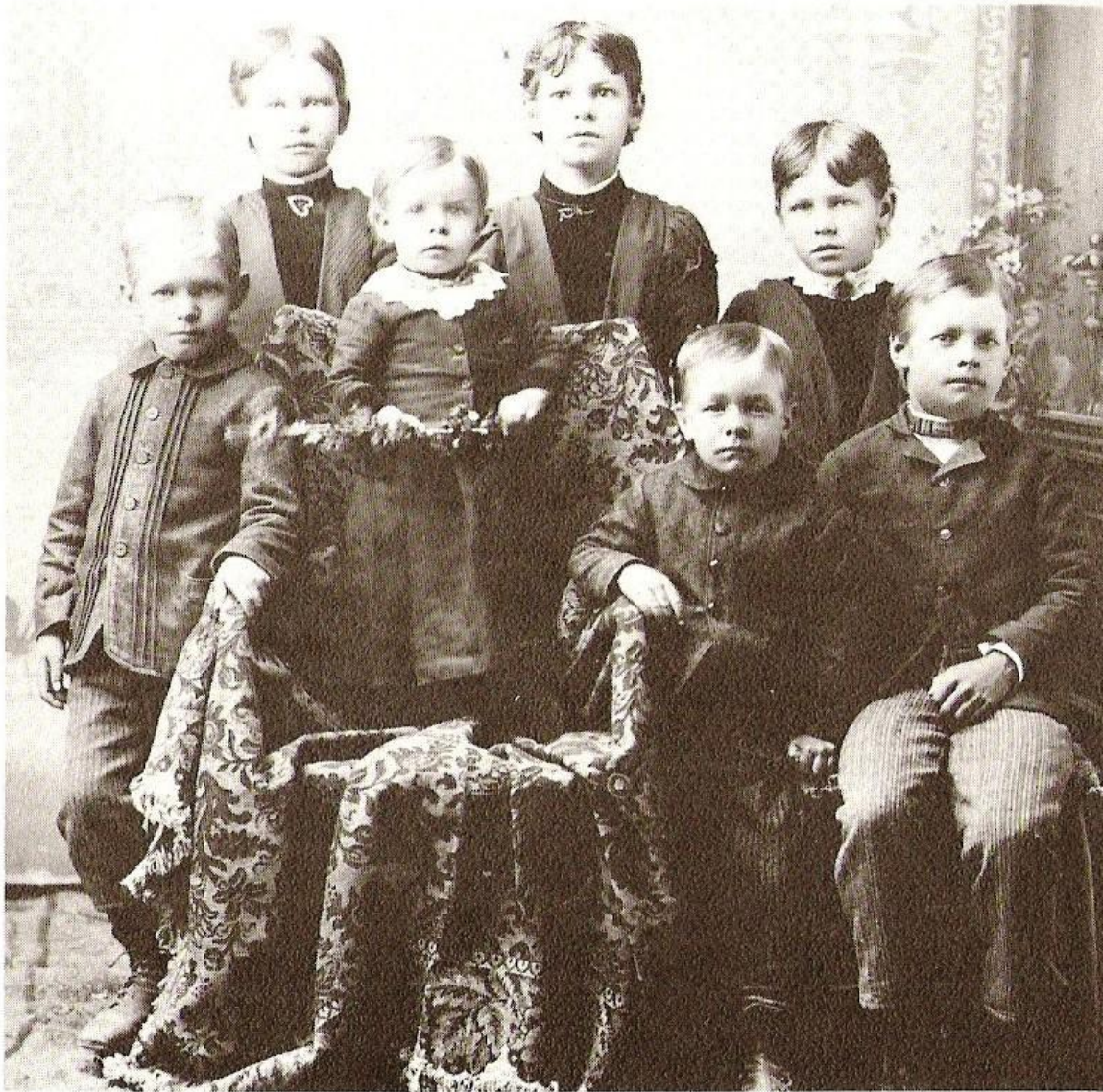
John Lehi Bushman 1883-1967



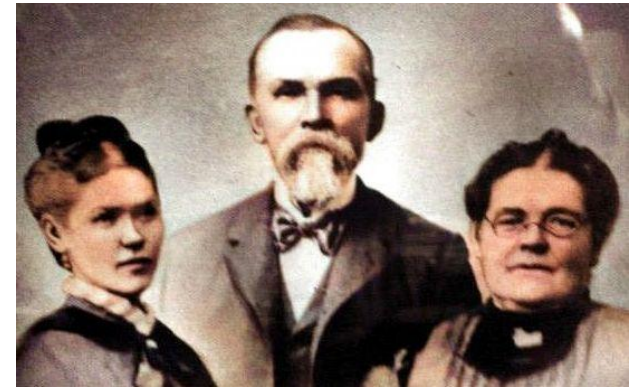
*Mary Ann Petersen Bushman
passed away at the
young age of 28 finishing
her earthly mission*

Lois and Mary Ann worked together to care for their children, their household and their husband until Mary Ann died on July 5, 1885 (she had suffered for some time with a tumor under her left arm and despite many attempts to take care of the tumor medically her body weakened and she passed away). My grandmother, Adele, was only 4 years old when her mother, Mary Ann, died. The only mother she really remembers is Lois and she always spoke highly of her.

Growing the Bushman family in St. Joseph



Bushman children born in St. Joseph, Arizona. *First row:* John L., J. Virgil, Alonzo E., Jesse S. *Second row:* Lillian Ann, June A., Maren Adele.



Mary Ann, John Bushman, Lois

Growing the Westover family

Edwin Lycurgus Westover and Joanna Erickson Westover were blessed with two children before Edwin Lycurgus passed away on November 2, 1877 from difficulties with chronic asthma he had suffered for many years:

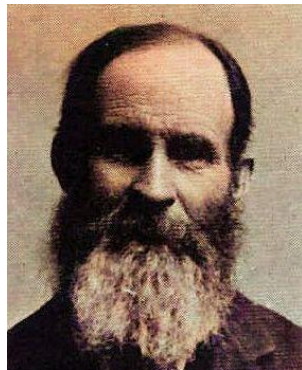
Laura Matilda Westover, born February 9, 1875

Edwin Swen Westover, born January 20, 1877

In the History of Edwin Lycurgus Westover by Mary Westover Carroll, we learn of the pact he made with his hunting friend, Henry Waters Despain: *“One day while hunting with his old friend from South Cottonwood, Henry Despain, he told him of his concern for his family and told him that he felt he wouldn’t live long. At this time he also asked his friend if he would assume the leadership of his family and raise more children for him.”* Joanna learned of this after Edwin Lycurgus’ death, but did not want to comply with it. She returned to Grantsville, Utah to be with her parents and after prayer and a dream showing her the way she must go, she agreed to marry Henry. They were married 27 May 1879, in Salt Lake City. With Henry she had three sons and four daughters – all are “Westover” children as they were “born in the covenant” to Edwin Lycurgus and Joanna.



Joanna



Henry Waters Despain

John Lycurgus Westover, born October 4, 1880

Mary Sophia Westover, born October 8, 1882

Amelia Christena Westover, born June 29, 1885

Electa Drucilla Westover, born October 8, 1887

Emma Octavia Westover, born October 12, 1889

Albert Oscar Westover, born October 9, 1893

Franz Henry Westover, born July 10, 1896

Growing the Westover family

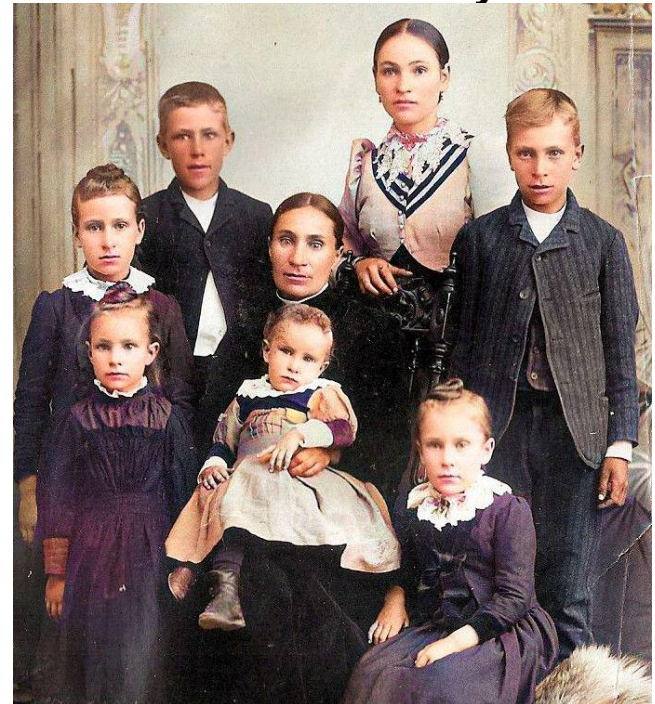
Joanna lived on her own with her children as Henry Despain had 13 children with his first wife. Mary Westover Carroll notes in Joanna's life history, "Joanna was both mother and father to her children, providing for their physical as well as their spiritual needs. Bishop Bushman said he didn't know how she raised her children, except it was by faith. The children didn't realize that their home life was unusual, although they did wish they had someone like Brother Hansen or Brother Bushman who stayed home and gave them a living. They had a happy home life. Joanna had a great sense of humor, and the children really didn't know the difference between their poverty and the life of other families. For many years they didn't know what money was."

Joanna was a hard worker, always trying to do her work without the help of others.

"She taught her children modesty and that she would rather see them buried than lose their virtue. And she taught them honesty. . . She seldom spanked, just looked stern out of her eyes, which was worse than spanking. . .

Joanna loved music—loved to hear Franz on his clarinet and saxophone."

Joanna with her children in 1890: front row: Electra, Emma, Amelia; back row: Mary Sophia, Edwin, Laura, and John



John & Adele - early years

John Lycurgus Westover (my grandfather) and Maren Adele Bushman (my grandmother) were both born in the Allen's Camp fort built in 1876.



Adele - early years

Adele grew up in the old Fort for the first five years of her life and enjoyed association with many other young girls who were born in the fort during that time: Alice McLaws, Ella Shelley, Anna Despain, Mary Hansen, Ruth Heward, and Anna Belle Richards.

The spring before Adele's mother passed away, her

father, John Bushman, had started the building of a home in the town site which was about a mile west of the Fort. The frame building was finished in 1886 and the brick facing was completed in 1890. Adele remembers carrying bricks to help with the brick facing. This



Adele and John Lehi



Adele



John Bushman Brick Home

brick home was the first house built in St. Joseph and is still remembered by descendants, as are the orchard, garden, milk house, barn, and swing. Some of Adele's children noted: "The home was also home management, learning to cook and sew, to accept responsibility and learn the gospel."

Adele - early years

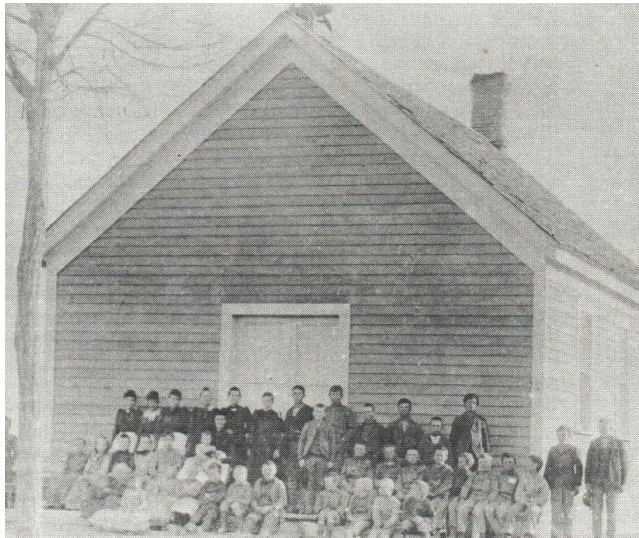
Adele and her three siblings born to John Bushman and Mary Ann enjoyed a wonderful sibling relationship throughout their lives with all of the children born to John Bushman and Lois. Adele and her siblings enjoyed making molasses from sugar cane, making molasses candy, playing games, singing, horseback riding, ice skating, dancing and other activities.

Adele was baptized when eight years old. In 1886, her father bought an organ and Adele learned to play and accompanied singing in meetings.

Adele attended her first school at the Fort in homes and later at a building built in 1887 that served as a church meetinghouse, school and public gatherings. Adele later attended school in Snowflake.



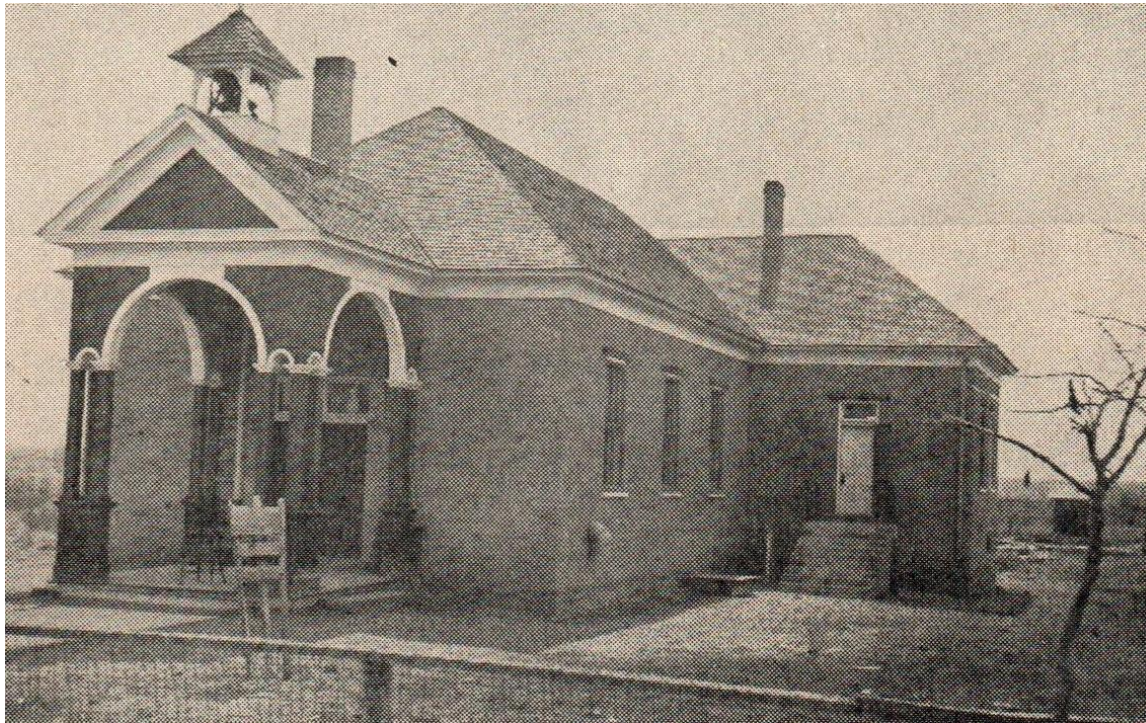
organ



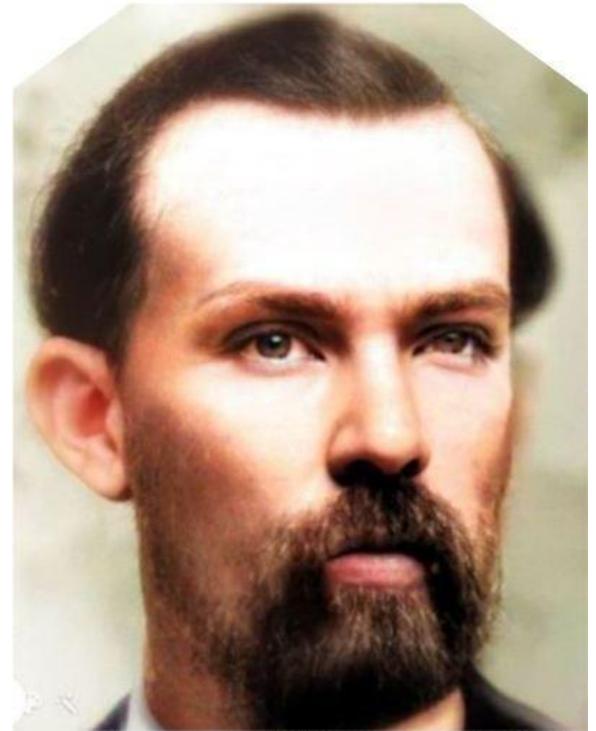
Community Center

Adele - early years

The family, supported by the Church, was a focal point of growing up in Joseph City and Adele felt the blessing of both family and Church in her life. A new brick church building and school house was dedicated in 1909. The first stake created in Arizona was the Little Colorado Stake (1878) – Adele's father, John Bushman, served as a counselor to Lot Smith in that stake (Andrew Gibbons was presiding elder in Moenkopi and was on the high council). In 1887, when the Snowflake Stake was created, John Bushman was called as bishop of the St. Joseph Ward where he served for 28+ years.



Brick Church and School House – dedicated 1909



John Bushman

Serving the Lord

Adele learned the arts of homemaking – washing wool and cording it into mats, making quilts, mattresses, sheets and pillow cases, making her own clothes, including her wedding dress. For her marriage she made a pair of pillow shams with the following words embroidered on them:

***“I slept and dreamed that life was Beauty,
I awoke and found that life was Duty”***

Adele served as a Primary teacher and a Sunday School teacher in her youth and at 18 was called as secretary to the Relief Society in the ward. Serving in the youth organization – YLMIA – from 1897 through 1901 provided a good opportunity for her and John Westover (her future husband) to know each other well as he was serving in the YMMIA.

John - early years

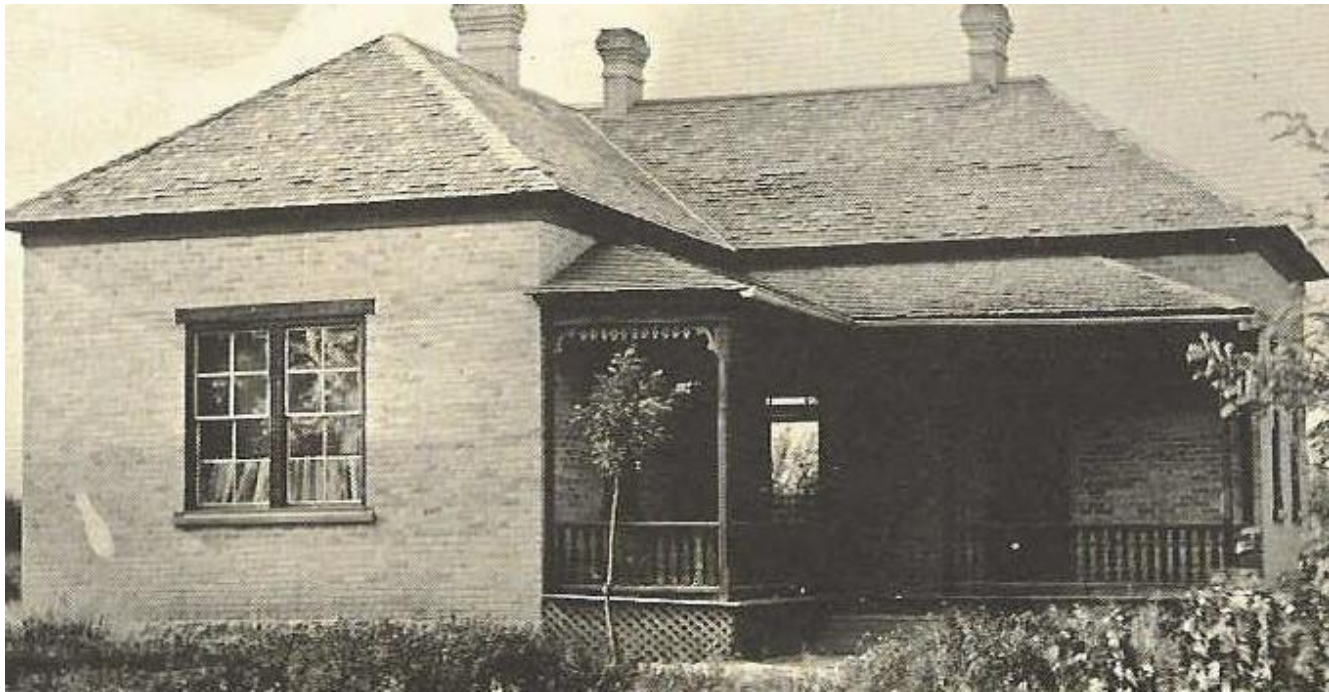
John recorded, ***“I was born 4 October 1880 at the Fort. . . [I] had two fathers; by birth, Henry Waters Despain, and by sealing, Edwin Lycurgus Westover.”*** John was the first of seven children born to Joanna Erickson Westover Despain and Henry Waters Despain. John remembers: ***“My mother always lived by herself, not living with [Henry’s other wife]. Mother was a good manager and provided for her own [family], with the help of neighbors. We continued to live in the Fort until early 1890, when I was nine. We lived in different quarters in the Fort. When I was around seven or eight years of age, I spent some of the summers in the mountains at Heber taking . . . some horses up Black Canyon on the left hand fork to water them in some water holes in the creek bed.”***



Black Canyon Lake

John - early years

John and his older brother, Eddie Despain, built a home for his mother (Joanna) so they were able to leave the Fort about 1900. John also remembers, *“Mother always had a garden. We all helped with it. The first peas of spring were so welcome. We raised corn. . . We raised rabbits sometimes. . . We gleaned beans out of the field. After the farmers had picked beans, some of them would be ripe and fall off. . . We stripped cane for molasses.”* Joanna was a faithful tithe payer. She was often called *“Widow Westover”* because she was independent and faithfully cared for her family. John remembers, *“I matured early in life and I helped with the family wants by working for neighbors and working on the farm of Bro. J.C. Hansen.”*



Joanna Erickson Westover Home

John - early years

John recalls a trip they made to Utah in 1890 when he was just 10. They went to Grantsville and spent a couple of years living with his Swedish grandparents, Swen and Maria Erickson. John recorded some of his feelings: *“While at my Erickson grandparents’, I learned many lessons of life. One was to be prompt. If you had an errand to run, run both ways and have it over with. Grandfather taught me to take proper care of horses and other animals. I learned a lot while with them for those two years. . . I attended school some, first in the old school house by the wash, the next winter [in] the basement of the New Academy there.”*

John’s children noted the following about his education: *“This schooling John obtained in Grantsville was the basis for all of his limited education from schools. He attended in Arizona some, but was so busy helping his mother in caring for the family. John loved to read, became a good speller, liked to draw. . . He absorbed knowledge from all experiences of life and his surrounding and became well educated in the things that really prepares one for life.”*

On the return trip home from Utah to St. Joseph, the company camped at Grand Falls and John carved his name into the rocks there as others were doing. In 1971 John’s name was still there with the date “1892”.



Grand Falls on the Little Colorado River

John - a provider for the family

At age 14, John drove a team and wagon for Brother Hansen to Pinedale to get lumber – he went by way of Woodruff and Snowflake.

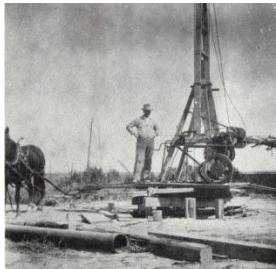
When 15, John worked at Penzance, about five miles east and on the railroad. He came home on Saturday nights for Sunday at home. He walked the 5 miles down the railroad tracks. One time in March the winds blew hard and the dust reduced the visibility so bad John could not see and he couldn't hear the noise of the train. The engineer could not see him either. John felt prompted to move off the tracks and did so just in time as the train went by moments later.

When he was near sixteen, one of his horses ran off and went back on his range. John borrowed a horse and was looking for his horse until it was nearly sundown. He remembers: *“Having been taught to pray, I prayed to the Lord to lead me to find the horse. I then got up off my knees and rode a mile or two and found my horse with a group of others.”*

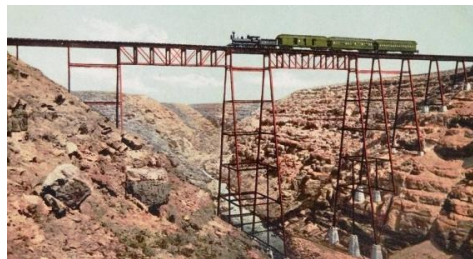
John



When John reached 16 he was eligible to drive mail and used a buckboard to take mail from Holbrook to Heber. He worked for several years for A.B. Lantery & Co., contractors. John furnished a team and wagon and worked 10 hours a day for \$2 and board and feed for the horse. Later he worked for \$1.75 for a day of ten hours, paying 75 cents for a place to live in board shacks. He recalls, *“The time I should have been in school was thus spent at the quarry.”* A.B. Lantery Company moved to Canyon Diablo (“Sunshine”) and John remembers working there until August of 1902 when he quit to prepare for his trip to Salt Lake to be married. While at Canyon Diablo, John and some other boys walked seven miles to the Meteor Crater and hiked in and out of it.



John drilling well on the ranch



The Canyon Diablo bridge was first built in 1882



Meteor Crater

John - home life

John's mother, Joanna Erickson Westover, always taught the children to uphold Church authorities as they were inspired. She lived by that principal. When she would take the family to Utah to see her parents, her father would encourage her to remain in Utah and he would build a nice home for them. Her response was *"No, Father. President Brigham Young called me on a mission to Arizona and my mission won't be complete until I die."*

John's sister, Electa, remembers, *"Mother was always singing. She had a beautiful voice. She knit all of our stockings. . . For a treat she would serve a Swedish fruit dessert made of all kinds of dried fruit thickened with rice. We never had sugar, didn't know what it was. We used molasses for our sweetener."*

In the winter John and the other boys, who were great skaters, would put the younger girls on chairs and skate them around the pond. John would sometimes skate on the river from Joseph City to Holbrook and back.

Electa recalls, *"We didn't know we were poor, not having money and luxuries. But we had love and security. We didn't miss anything else. We had love, faith and a sense of humor. . . We always looked to John for support of the family. He was seven years older than I was. Sometimes John did special things for us."*

John remembers, *"Mother was the optimistic type of person. She never brooded over her misfortunes. If things went wrong she could see the silver lining among the clouds. Because Mother was always cheerful, we, too, were happy. . . The stake president asked her bishop how Widow Westover raised her family, or what she raised them on. The bishop replied, 'On faith, I guess, as that is all she has.'"*

John was baptized when 8 years of age, and ordained a deacon in 1893. He was ordained a Priest on 4 December 1898 and an Elder by Jesse N. Smith on 24 August 1902. He served as a counselor in the YMMIA from 1899-1902. When he was 17 he was given a certificate to teach Religion Classes in the St. Joseph Ward – the certificate was signed by Wilford Woodruff, George Reynolds, and Karl G. Maeser. Religion classes were held before and after school. Many of his posterity would later teach in the Church Education System.

John & Adele - courtship

John Lycurgus Westover (my grandfather) and Maren Adele Bushman (my grandmother) were childhood friends and each showed interest and admiration of the other. John was very bashful and would often just ask Adele to play more on her guitar when he made visits to their home. In the fall of 1900 Adele went to Snowflake and remained there attending what was the beginning of the Snowflake Stake Academy. John wrote asking for the privilege of corresponding with her. She responded that it would be alright with her. They did write until she returned home some months later. In one of his letters John had expressed concern that Adele had been used to more of the material things of life than he had experienced in the Widow Westover home where he in his youth was the primary provider for the family. Adele replied, *“Your truth, virtue, your uprightness and love are far more to me than all this world’s riches. Your unselfish labors for your mother and family will be rewarded in the due time of the Lord; so do not despair. . . You can be assured my love for you is as strong as ever and let us trust in the Lord for the results.”*

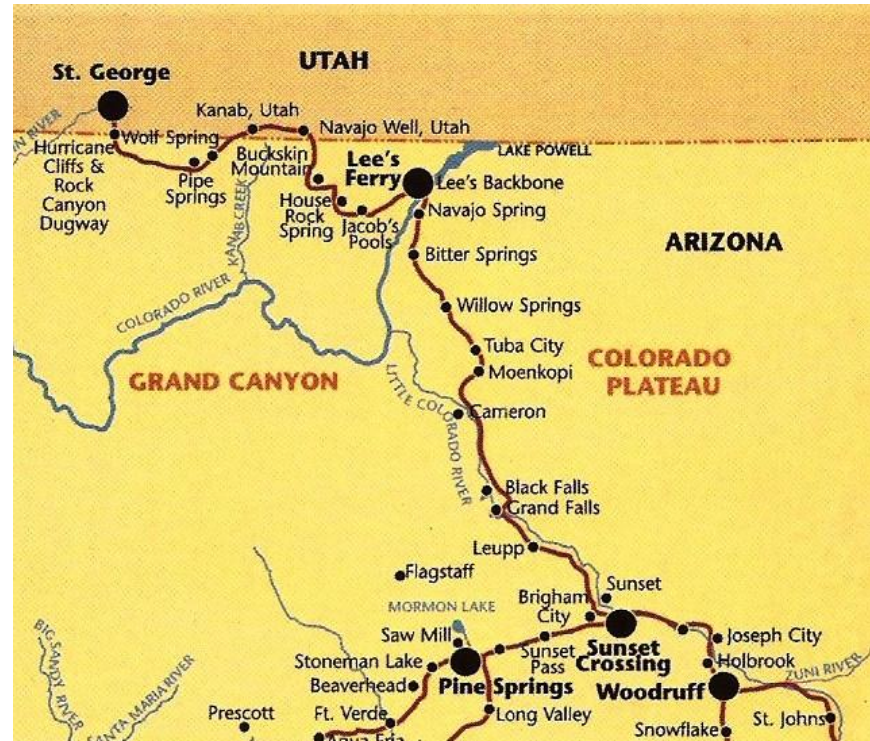
Adele’s father, Bishop John Bushman, had great respect for John and often referred to him as “son”. Knowing of John’s concern that he had little of the things of this world, Bishop Bushman told him that he felt it *“best for a young couple to start out together and make a home – not one possessing all. Then they could say ‘ours’ and not ‘mine’.*”

John’s mother, Joanna Erickson Westover, likewise had great love and respect for Adele. In her own words, she said, “I love Adele as much as I do one of my own.”

John & Adele - St. Joseph to Salt Lake City

John wrote, "After quitting my work at Sunshine in August 1902, I went home to prepare to make the trip to Salt Lake Temple to be married to my boyhood sweetheart, Adele Bushman. . . Wishing to have company I talked her brother Preston into making the trip with us and he talked a fine girl, Anna Smith of Snowflake, to be his bride. We left St. Joseph 3 Sept, with my Mother, Joanna Westover, and my kid brother Franz, as chaperone." They stayed at Moenkopi Wash, then Willow Springs (where photo on next page was taken), then to Lee's Ferry following the Honeymoon Trail. The Heward family drove over from Tuba City to bring them tubs of fruit, grapes, etc. Going over the mountain north of Kanab John records, "we saw a beautiful buck deer and Preston said, 'Let's shoot him.' I said, 'No, it's out of season and I propose to go to the temple, not to jail.'" The trip to Salt Lake took 3 weeks.

Honeymoon Trail



John & Adele - St. Joseph to Salt Lake City

Wedding Couples



**John & Adele
Westover**

**Anna & Preston
Bushman**



Preston A. Bushman and Anna Smith, with John L. Westover and Adele Bushman, are on their way by team and wagon to Salt Lake City to be married in the temple. They stopped and visited the Heward family at the Willow Springs Trading Post near Tuba City, Arizona.

Shown are John L. Westover (standing, left), little Vernon Heward, Mother Susan Heward, Mother Johanna Westover, little Frantz Westover, Father Lehi Heward (standing, center), un-named Heward daughter, Little Cecil Allen, un-named Heward daughter, brides Adele Bushman and Anna Smith, and Preston Bushman (standing, right). The Hewards gave the two couples a tub of fruit (center) to take with them on their journey.

John & Adele - married for eternity *Salt Lake Temple*

John Lycurgus Westover and Maren Adele Bushman were married in the Salt Lake Temple on October 1, 1902 by John R. Winder with Preston and Anna as witnesses and John and Adele witnessed their marriage.



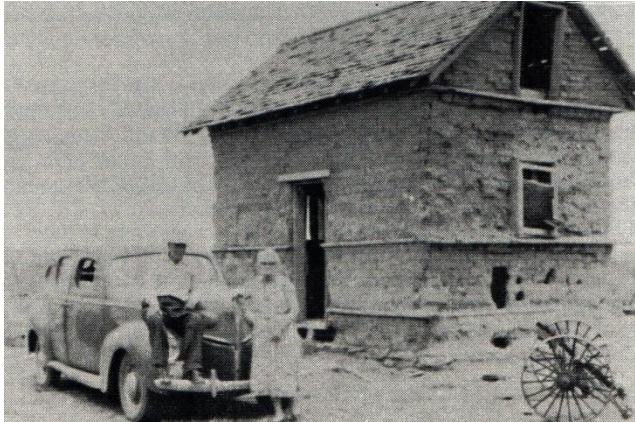
Adele and John



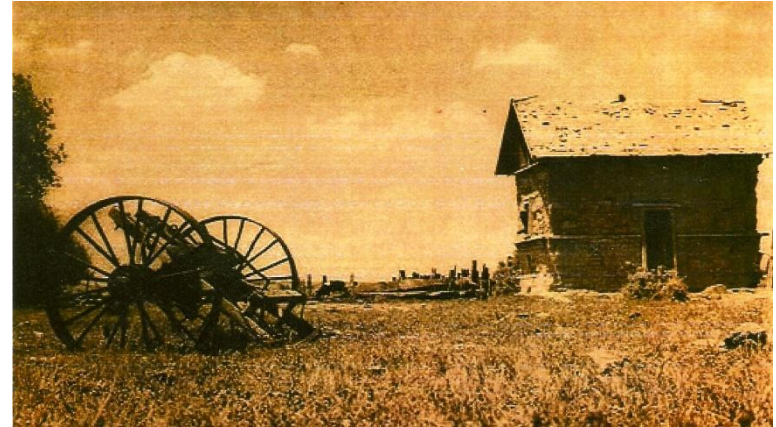
Salt Lake Temple

John & Adele - homes

Their first home . . . “The Homestead”



John & Adele

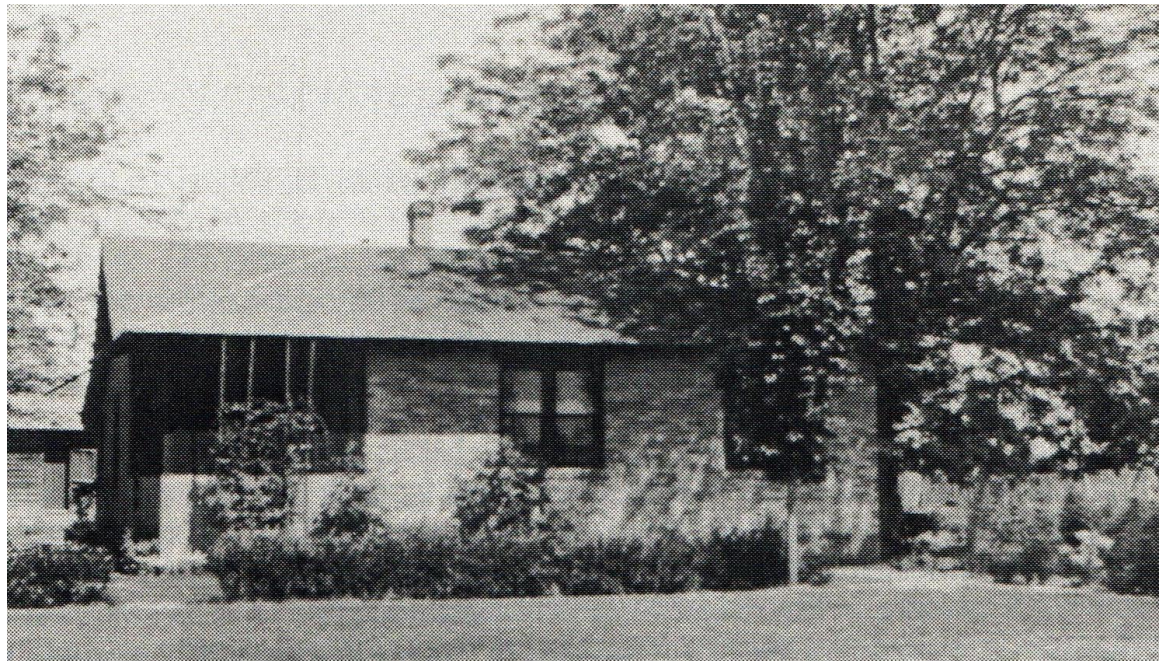


The Homestead later became the site for the Cholla power plant

“Home on Westover Street”

**This house provided a home
in which to build their
eternal family, love and teach
their children and grandchildren,
and as a couple serve the
the Lord as genealogists and
church leaders**

It was home until their passing



John & Adele - providing for the family

The summer before their marriage John filed a homestead claim about three miles east of St. Joseph. John and Adele lived in their “homestead” home in the summer and with John’s mother in the winter when John had to be away for employment. Work was difficult to find, but John got a job hauling grain and hay to a trading post on the Navajo reservation north of St. Joseph.

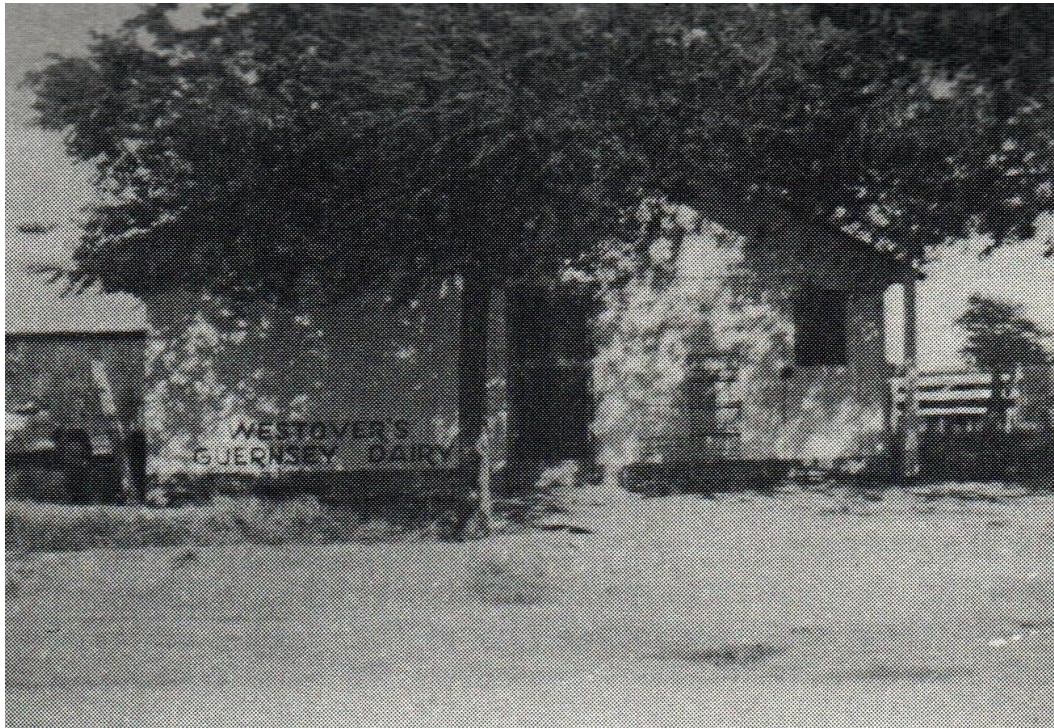
Wagon and team may have been similar to this 1925 rig



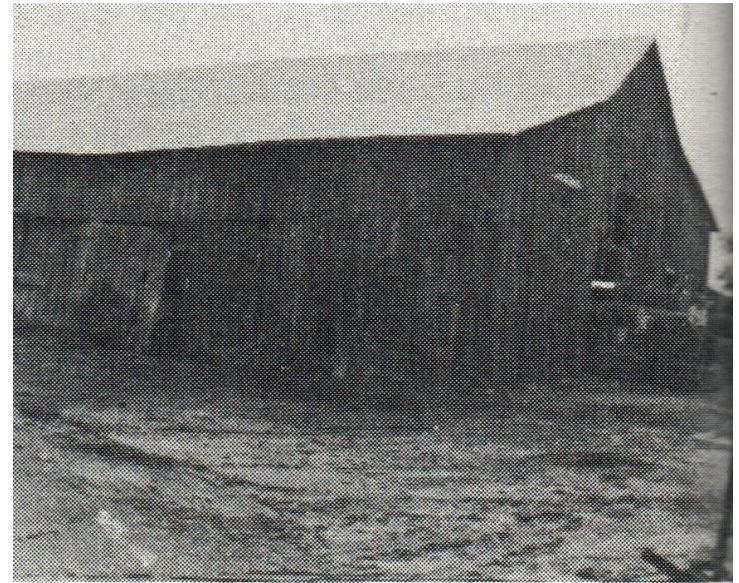
John used his team and scraper to earn more money and when the telephone lines were put through Holbrook he helped with digging the holes for posts. Work on irrigation ditches claimed much of his time and he helped with the building of the Church meetinghouse. John continued to take great responsibility for his mother’s family as he had when growing up. Adele always enjoyed canning the fruit and vegetables they raised and when they had beef or chicken she bottled that as well – these were bottled by the hundreds of quarts each year to be sure there was food for the ‘years supply’. Many remember the cool storage cellar below their home. Her canning skills were referred to as a work of art – a great blessing to their need to provide for the family. John later did much work on the railroad and building roads and bridges. Later he got a mail contract to deliver mail and some of the boys were able to help with this run from Joseph City to Cedar Springs to Dilkon.

John & Adele - Westover Guernsey Dairy

In 1929 John bought a dairy in Woodruff that included 20 head of milk cows. He spoke with Melvin J. Ballard, apostle, about going into debt to buy the dairy and he advised them to do so. The year they purchased the dairy it rained and rained and the grass was high for which they were very grateful. The depression hit in 1929, but they held onto the dairy and it was a blessing to their family in providing work for the whole family.



Milk House



Hay Barn John built 1910

John & Adele - building a forever family

Three of their children were born at John's mother's home

Earl Bushman Westover born September 18, 1903

Donald Erickson Westover born March 25, 1906

Mary Lois Westover born February 18, 1908

The following 8 children were born in their family home on Westover Street

Victor Elmo Westover born December 25, 1909

Wallace Lamar Westover born December 2, 1911

Pearl Adele Westover born February 13, 1914

Martin Russell Westover born February 23, 1916

Ruth Westover born January 3, 1919

Velma Joanna Westover born February 11, 1921

Mabel June born March 23, 1923

Ross Wendell Westover born February 20, 1928



John & Adele Westover Family 1922

Front Row: Wallace, Russell, Ruth, Velma, Pearl

Back Row: Wallace, Don, Mary, Earl, Victor



June



Ross

John & Adele - Church service

John's father-in-law, John Bushman, served as bishop of the St. Joseph Ward from 1887 to 1916. On April 30, 1916, John L. Westover was sustained as bishop of the Joseph City Ward. He served as bishop for 23+ years until his release on November 19, 1939. Adele served as Ward Relief Society President from May 20, 1919 to January 1943. Thus, much of their adult life was devoted to serving the Lord and the wonderful saints of Joseph City. In their history, we read, *"As a team John and Adele worked together when he was Bishop and she was Relief Society President in caring for temporal as well as spiritual needs of ward members. . . They never complained, nor heard little complaint from their children who probably benefitted from the added work that came their way. . . One other great opportunity for mother, father and children was to entertain many visiting general authorities who came to visit or were on their way to appointments in Snowflake or St. Johns."*



*Growing older
and more in love
serving the Lord
"together"*



John's Mission Call

In the fall of 1929 John was called by the Lord to fulfill a six-month mission in the Eastern States Mission (October 1929 thru March 1930). As noted in the book on his life, *“They were in a depression, their daughter Pearl was very sick and they had just purchased a dairy, and they had a contract for hauling mail – what should he do?”* The Lord called and he responded with the full support of Adele and their 11 children. He served as a missionary while still the bishop of the ward. He served in Pennsylvania and while there learned much of his Westover ancestry in America finding records of the Westovers presence in the very earliest period of the settlement of Massachusetts. He shared the gospel with several Westover families on his mission. He served in Pittsburgh and other cities in Pennsylvania.



Pearl Adele Westover

Shortly after John left for his mission, Pearl's illness became worse. Pearl was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix and when they could do no more for her she was brought back home with Don taking Adele to get her daughter. *"Her condition was demanding for her mother and a great ordeal for her father so far away."*

Pearl was a delight to all who knew her.

My mother, Ruth, wrote of Pearl, *"Pearl. . . had the dreaded diphtheria at age three. . .*

When she was five years old she had scarlet fever, the disease which maimed her for life. . . She occupied her time with drawing and other art work. She played the piano by note and ear. . . In her last years she danced, such as the Charleston, and did

well. Everyone loved Pearl; she was described as a beautiful, happy girl. If Pearl wasn't drawing or doing embroidery she was reading or playing the piano. She never seemed to feel sorry for herself, and all of her brothers and sisters felt she was a real example to them and they loved her very much. She was always so appreciative of things done for her, whether by her parents, family, friends or anyone."



Pearl



drawing by Pearl at age 14

Pearl Adele Westover

John's call to serve a mission at a time when Pearl was not doing well, weighed heavily on him and on Adele – Adele and the children encouraged him to accept the call. John's prayer was that the Lord would let Pearl live to greet him when he returned.

Pearl wrote a letter to her father on October 6, 1929 shortly after he left on his mission and included in the letter was the following: *"We are all well so far. I am feeling better I think I sleep better at nights. . . Ross [not yet 2 years old] sure misses you. The first two or three days after you left he would go to the doors every little bit and say Da! Da! Like he was expecting you. Now he says Da Da all gone and points somewhere. . . Loads of love from all, Your loving Daughter. Pearl "*

Adele kept John posted on Pearl's condition and her health weighed heavily on John's mind for his entire mission. On January 13, 1930 he received a special delivery letter from his daughter, Mary, letting him know that Adele, Don and Pearl were on their way home from the doctor in Phoenix. John recorded the following in his missionary journal, *"Then in the evening a wire phoned over . . . telling of her dying condition and wanting a reply. I wired at 6 p.m. 'Be brave. The Lord's will be done'".* When he got home he turned on the radio to hear the Salt Lake temple choir and the two numbers they sang were, *Home Sweet Home* and *Oh, My Father*. *"I had to go to my room and bed as I went all to pieces and had no control of my emotions. . . I hope I will never lose control of my emotions like that again. It is too heart rending an experience. I thought of the Lord's agony in Gethsemane."* John really wanted to be at home with his Adele and Pearl, but Adele continued to encourage him to finish his mission.

In answer to many prayers, Pearl's condition improved and when John returned from his mission she was much better and so happy to be up again for part of most days. At age 16, Pearl passed away on June 22, 1930 after 10 years of patient suffering. In the history of John and Adele we read, *"Throughout her illness she maintained a beautiful and cheerful disposition and was a joy to all who knew and cared for her. She was patient with her infirmities, never complaining, but always expressed joy and thankfulness at being privileged to do simple little things that most of us never think of as a blessing."*

The following words are on her gravestone:

"A fairer bud of promise never bloomed"



Adele - a remarkable wife and mother

Adele's nephew, John C. Smith, reflected on the rough pioneer environment in which Adele managed the family and household, *"It was not unusual to hear coyotes each evening. Their living generally was certainly of the rough pioneer tempo; there was chopping wood and wood stoves to cook on, carrying domestic water, washing the old way, oil lamps, no social life to speak of, just good books and each other. How faithfully they kept their love. How sacred were the covenants they had made with each other and the Lord."*

In the history of John and Adele the pioneer way was further described, *"The more modern conveniences of bathroom, electric lights, telephone and gas for their home came many years after they were married. Their outdoor toilets had been scrubbed and cleaned daily, with ashes added to the waste and it was most sanitary. Toilet paper was Sears and other catalogs. When they did get the indoor bathroom, about 1934, it was a little hard for them to get used to; but soon it did become a real asset and much appreciated. . . Adele made all her own bread, mostly whole wheat, and made butter most of her life."*

Adele's role as mother, was a marvel to all who knew her – teaching and raising 11 children. Her son Russell's poem expresses it well:

MOTHER

Eighty years have passed since then,
When Mother's life on earth began
From that day on, each passing year
To us she has become more dear.

Her life was never one of ease.
She managed always us to please.
Through tears of joy and tears of pain
She always managed to be the same.

She loves the beautiful things of life,
Her joy was in being a wonderful wife.
A wonderful Mother with a wonderful soul
To be worthy of her should be our goal.

She lives and works for her fellow man
Doing everything she possibly can
To make it possible for you and I
To be one family in the bye and bye

She has taught us well the
truth of life
How to overcome thru toil
and strife
Let us promise her here
today
We'll never stray from the
narrow way.

Russell Westover

John - a father and husband of integrity

John's daughter, Ruth, shared some memories of her father, He had "a great sense of humor, an interest in reading and things happening in the progress in the world, a sense of responsibility and dependability, always honoring his priesthood . . . faithful in our family prayers and home evenings, strict in observance of the Sabbath. . . He always said, 'an idle mind and hands are the devil's workshop' and 'if you weren't 10 minutes early, you were late.'" She remembered, "He was a farmer and dairyman most of his life, he loved horses and always spoke fondly of them, he was active in politics . . . and served 6 years in the Arizona State Legislature, he took great pride in his town and country, he loved many sports, but baseball was his favorite, he loved rodeos and went to one the July before he died."

John was known to have a remarkable sense of humor and was also "an awful tease". Ruth remembers, "As he would read the Arizona Republic he would turn to the Obituaries to see if his name was listed there. In reply to the question asked of him 'how come you live so long' he said 'I have defective hearing so when my name was called up yonder I failed to hear it and am waiting to see if they call my name again.'"

John's son, Wallace Westover captures the wonder of John as a father and husband:

Thanks, Dad For the life you live

For always being ready to give

To give of your unselfish love

A gift it seems came from above.

Thanks, Dad For your unusual sense of humor

Known and loved by all who know you

Rarely found in life these days

You have brightened our lives in many ways

Thanks, Dad For your living testimony beaming

That life does have real meaning

You have hungered and thirsted

after knowledge

Learned in life's hard-knocks

Thanks, Dad For setting the right example

Your light has been more than ample

Our hope is we can live to be true

And appreciate the example set by you

John & Adele - "Turning the hearts"

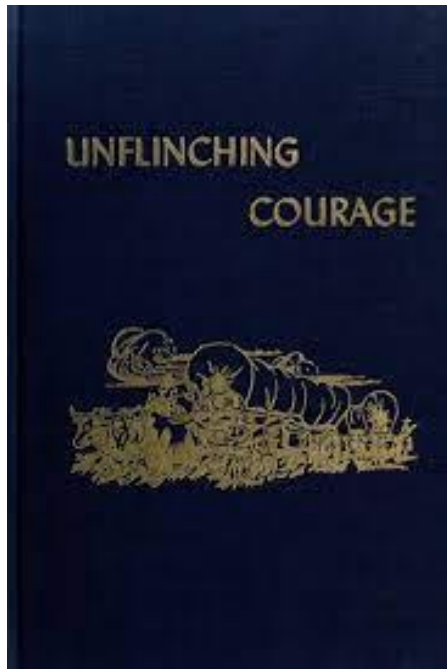
Both John and Adele were amazing in their efforts to identify ancestors and take family history lines back as far as possible. As recorded in their history, *"For over twenty-five years Adele and John spent sometimes three months each year in Salt Lake City, at the Genealogy Library, extending both their pedigrees extensively. . . They stimulated many people to be involved in this work. . . Prophecies given in their patriarchal blessings have been fulfilled. . . John: 'thou are called of this great work to be associated with . . . the redemption of the departed dead. For this purpose thou has come here upon the earth. . . to become a savior upon Mount Zion.'* and Adele: *'You entered into covenant and obligation in the spirit world to come here and pass through difficulties and trials that you might become a savior in the redemption of your kindred.'*"

In a history of Adele prepared by her daughters Mary and Ruth, they confirm that Adele had a mission to perform, *"More than twenty-five years before her death, she was told that she had glaucoma and probably would lose her sight. She had a special blessing for this condition. When she was examined again, there was no trace of the disease found. Since then she has done the bulk of her genealogy findings."*

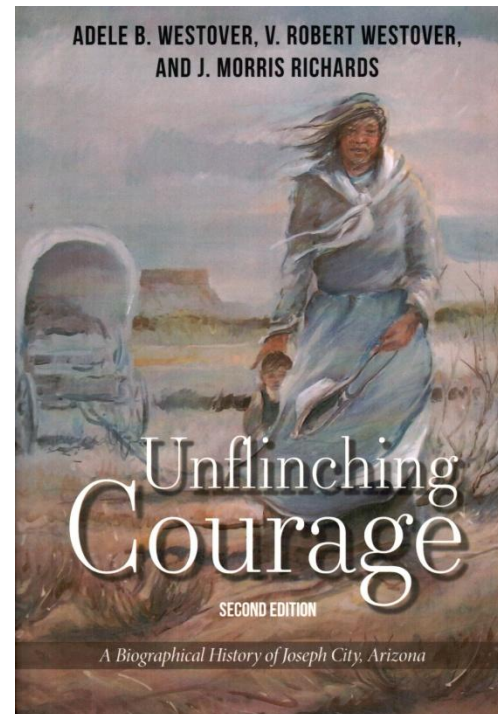
The family history work of John and Adele has inspired many of their children and grandchildren to engage in this great work – many have experienced the Spirit of Elijah and continue efforts in family history research, writing and temple service.

John & Adele - "Turning the hearts"

In the preface to the book, *Unflinching Courage*, 2nd Edition, Bob Westover honors his grandparents, John and Adele, "Adele . . . the primary author of the 1st Edition. . . Made this project a labor of love for her community and her Joseph City pioneer parents. . . As a child and as a young woman, she knew all of the original settlers of Joseph City. It was her desire to preserve their inspiring histories of pioneering, sacrifice, and obedience. She and my grandfather John L. Westover passed this love and admiration for their heritage on to me." Bob lived with his grandparents, John and Adele, during part of his teenage years and visited them frequently until they passed away. Bob and his wife, Lynda, provided their own "labor of love" in their tireless efforts to prepare *Unflinching Courage*, 2nd Edition.



Unflinching Courage, 1st Edition (1963)



Unflinching Courage, 2nd Edition (2021)

John & Adele - "Turning the hearts"

John and Adele Westover literally dedicated their lives to their families and to their "mission" of tireless family history research and writing – researching, typing on manual typewriters, extending their ancestral lines, 25 years of trips to Salt Lake City to do research, and helping bind their families together with reunions, news letters and publications like "Adele's Corner" in the John Bushman Roundup publication, and holding Joseph City pioneers together with "Founders Day" celebrations.



Adele doing family history at home



Adele and John at Family History Center in SLC

John and Adele - "Turning the hearts"

John was for 15+ years the reporter to the "John Bushman Roundup" – a family newspaper published for around 50 years. A compilation of extracts of his reporting notes: *"His reports using humor and kidding made his "Adele's Corner" the most popular part of the paper. The younger generation will have to take what he says, with his teasing nature in mind, and not accept all he says as fact."*

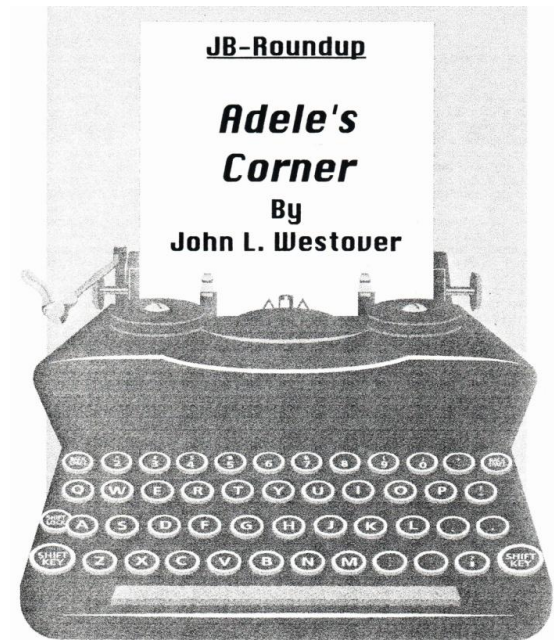
A taste of John's humor expressed in "Adele's Corner":

"I am a self-made man, but I think if I had to do it again, I'd call in someone else."

He once blacked out and fell – he noted in "Adele's Corner", *"There is one advantage of being light in the upper story, gravity doesn't play much of a part when one is a feather weight mentally. So I received no bruises on the head from the fall."* and, *"They say a 'dog is man's best friend', but my wife is my best friend. With all my teasing*

she hasn't bit my hand once." Once John reported in 'Adele's Corner' that Adele had to go to Mesa for a 'physical check up' and that she took him for a 'mental check up'. *"She knows he couldn't pass an IQ examination that would put him above the foot of the class. Since he lost his hearing she sometimes wonders if he has any sense at all. When he goes to church he asks the ushers where are the deaf and dumb seats."*

John tells of the time he and Adele were sitting on the porch and he was trying to compliment her, but because neither could hear well she could not understand him. He finally shouted *"I'm proud of you"*. She replied, *"Yes and I'm tired of you too."*



John & Adele Family



Earl B. & Madge W. Westover



JOHN L. & ADELE B. WESTOVER
with their children & partners



Lewis N. & Velma W. Tenney



Donald E. & Louise S. Westover



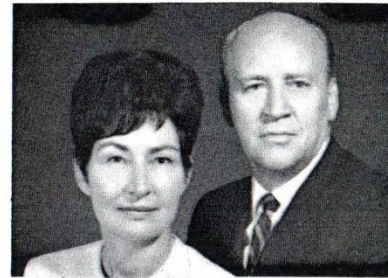
Victor E. Westover



Alta C.



Reva W.



Wallace L. & Merna A. Westover



Clinton L. & June W. Duncan



Wayne E. & Mary W. Carroll



Pearl Adele
Westover



M. Russell & Merle G. Westover



E. Gus & Ruth W. Palmer



Ross W. & Ora Mae T. Westover

John & Adele - Family Reunions

John and Adele enjoyed gathering their family together for family reunions.

Westover Family Reunion

Gus and Ruth Palmer home in Flagstaff – about 1957



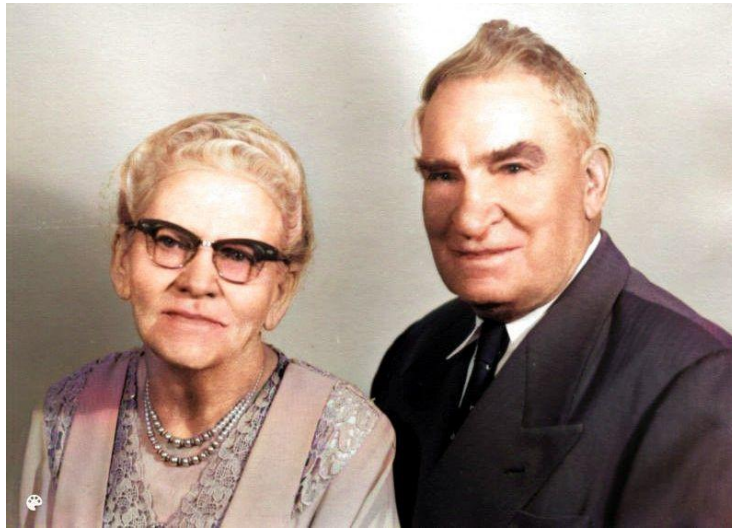
John & Adele - Lessons learned, advice to share

In their history, John admonished his descendants:

“Remember, you will always be indebted to your ancestors for their sacrifices so you could be born in the best part of the world and for the only true church on the earth. Never disappoint your parents, or other ancestors, by doing anything that would bring disgrace to their name or to the church.”

“If our parents could get a leave of absence from behind the ‘curtain’ and come see what their posterity is doing, I wonder if they would feel that we are honoring their names. Let us continue to keep in mind we have a great heritage, and they who bequeathed it to us expect us to make the best of it.”

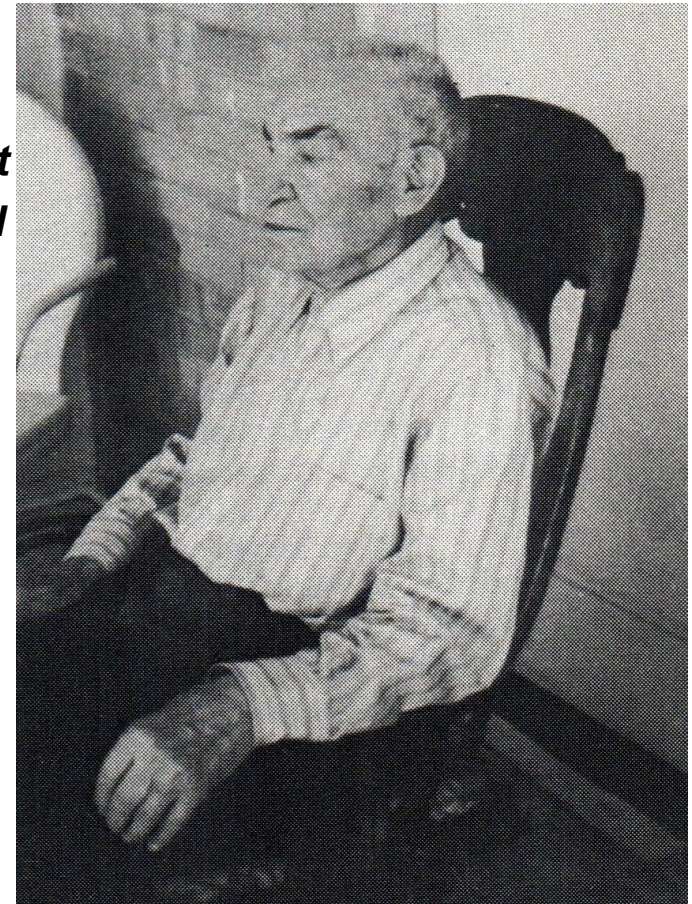
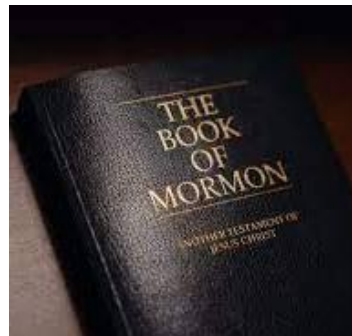
Adele: “I feel very grateful for my heritage and for the many advantages I have received through the training my parents gave me. It has always been my desire to rear a family that would be an honor to my father and mother.



Adele passing to the other side

Adele passed away on January 14, 1969. After her passing John was anxious to join her as soon as possible. He spent time alone in his favorite chair, but retained his quick humor and love of his family. One evening in about 1969 Tom and Gretna stopped by to see him. It was late in the evening, but a light was on so they knocked on the door. As they entered the Westover home, John looked up from his place in his chair where he was reading his favorite book – The Book of Mormon.

From John's history, *“John, ninety years after he began his mission on the earth. His ADELE had been released. They had learned and lived their Father's Plan, and taught it to their posterity and to all around them that would lend a listening ear. They suffered much. They loved and served all. Although he became anxious to return to their heavenly Father, John still enjoyed his family and neighbors, at births, at baptisms, marriages, reunions and life in general, until his call Home. They left their children with inherited character traits like theirs, now at the head of their own kingdoms.”*



John - preparing to go home

John passed away on December 8, 1971, but retained his sense of humor to the very end. In the October 1970 issue of the JB Roundup, he recorded the following in his report of “Adele’s Corner”:

“It may not be long before those who take the Arizona Republic paper will read on the Obituary Page: John Lycurgus Westover died in his old home in Joseph City, Arizona. He never attend any college, only the University of Hard Knocks. . . He leaves a large posterity, having ten living children and fifty grandchildren and sixty-six great grandchildren. The funeral will be held in the Joseph City Chapel. The program will be a short one, made up principally of music. The three speakers say they can’t think of much good to say about him. . . The body will be layed in the Joseph City cemetery under a shady tree beside his life’s companion of 66 years, with a petrified log over the grave to hold him down till he is resurrected.”

By the time of his passing he had seventy four great grandchildren and he had outlined his own funeral services with speakers, the songs, prayers, etc. and they were carried out completely.

Why not go home?

John and Adele's son, Russell Westover, wrote a poem teaching us of the wonder of passing to the other side of the veil:

Why?

**Why do we cling so much to life
and fear the great unknown?**

**Why do we cherish this toil and strife
when Heaven could be our own?**

**Why should we wish to tarry here
when our call has come to go?**

**Why not go home to a happier sphere
and leave all our cares below?**

**Why would a loving Father above
end life's blessings rare
if greater blessings of joy and love
were not awaiting us there?**

Russell Westover

WHY?

Some may wonder **WHY** so many suffered, sacrificed and labored to establish settlements in what many viewed as desolate wild country.

The **Lord** answered the question by providing to the saints in 2002 a beautiful temple of the Lord in response to the establishment of the Church from Page to Moenkopi to St. Johns and from Flagstaff to Eagar. The Snowflake Arizona Temple was dedicated on 3 March 2002.



The Snowflake Arizona Temple stands as a symbol of gratitude for those who went before. In the dedicatory prayer for the temple, President Gordon B. Hinckley expressed: ***“We are thankful for those who laid the foundations of this and other nearby communities. They struggled so desperately for so long against adversities of many kinds. Now their posterity enjoy the sweet fruits of their efforts, and crowning all is this magnificent and beautiful temple.”***



“Come . . . let us go up to . . . the house of . . . God; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.”

Isaiah 2:3,5

John and Adele Westover “walked in the light of the Lord”, may we honor their lives by doing as they did.

Snowflake Arizona Temple

A second temple in Northern Arizona - the Flagstaff Arizona Temple was announced by the Prophet on April 6, 2025