





Dear Family:

Just before Benjamin was born, my Grandma and Grandpa Johnson passed away. A particularly poignant part of losing them was the thought that my children wouldn't get the opportunity to know them. I was heartbroken that these two people who have been so important in my life would be nothing more than a few pictures on the wall and a name in a family history database somewhere. I wanted my kids to learn from and love the people I have learned from and loved even if those people aren't around anymore. The My Family Storybook was born from that desire.

This is a compilation of stories from our family. I compiled it primarily for my children and so it contains stories from both mine and Teancum's families. Though you won't be directly related to all the people in this book. I hope you enjoy reading their stories and learning from their examples.

The icons at the top of each page give a pared down explanation of our relationship to each family member. If the farthest left figure is blue, the individual is from Teancum's side of the family while the pink figure indicates my ancestors. For example, this set of icons would mean that this story is about Teancum's mother's father.



If there is an icon that is not in a straight line but is offset, it means that the person in the story is not a direct ancestor but is an uncle, aunt, etc.

If you get to the end of this book and find yourself wishing that I had included so and so or such and such story. Please email me. Tell me the story you want to see included. I hope above all that this book inspires a conversation and unearths stories I have never heard before. I want to know the people who have been important to you.

I hope this book becomes a treasure for your family. I wish I could have printed nicely bound copies for everyone. However, I don't intend to stop adding stories so binding them was impractical. There will be more stories sent out to you periodically so you can add them to your books.

I want you all to know that, although most of the people in this book aren't with us physically anymore, they still live on. They are interested in our lives. They weep at our pain and rejoice with us in our triumphs. We are still family and, because of Jesus Christ, we always will be. I know that as we come to learn more about our ancestors, we will feel that they are near and we will feel close to them and our Savior.

For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation...that they without us cannot be made perfect—neither can we without our dead be made bperfect. D&C 128:15

Love Victoria and Teancum Bush  
Christmas 2019



MY FAMILY STORYBOOK  
AnnBushArts.com







# Elijah and Sarah Larkin

1812-1905



Elijah wasn't home late one night. He was out doing rounds with his job as a detective at Scotland yard in England.

While most of the world around her slept peacefully, Sarah sat awake, nursing her new little baby. As she smiled down at his perfect round face, a movement in the corner of the room caught her eye. A man with snowy white hair and light clothing stood smiling at her from the edge of the room.

Sarah thought that she should be afraid, but she wasn't. She felt peaceful in the presence of this calm, grandfatherly figure, whom she had never seen before. He came forward and placed his hand on the baby's head.

"How is he doing?" the man asked in a deep voice.

"He wakes up often but he is sleeping peacefully now." Sarah replied.

The man smiled down at the baby with fondness. Then he looked up into Sarah's eyes.

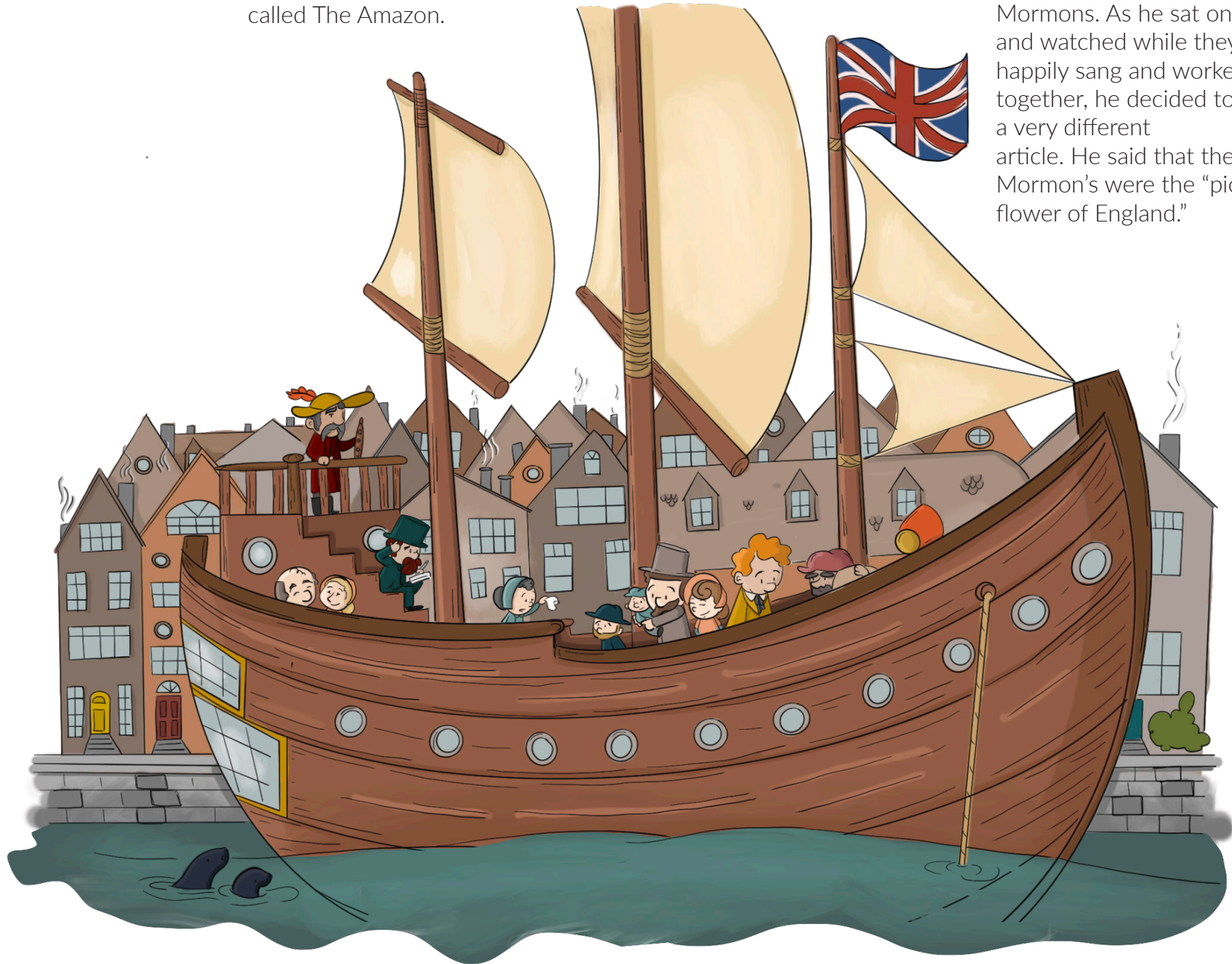
"Sarah," he said, "I am Elijah's father. I need you to tell him that he must go to America, find the temple of the Lord, and do my temple work for me. Please tell him." With one last look of love at his grandson, the man disappeared from the room leaving Sarah in a state of wonder and awe.

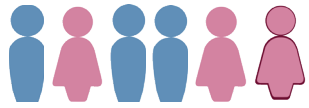




Elijah and his family decided to go to America. They boarded a boat called The Amazon.

Charles Dickens came on board too. He was planning on writing a newspaper article about the weird fanatic Mormons. As he sat on deck and watched while they happily sang and worked together, he decided to write a very different article. He said that the Mormon's were the "pick and flower of England."





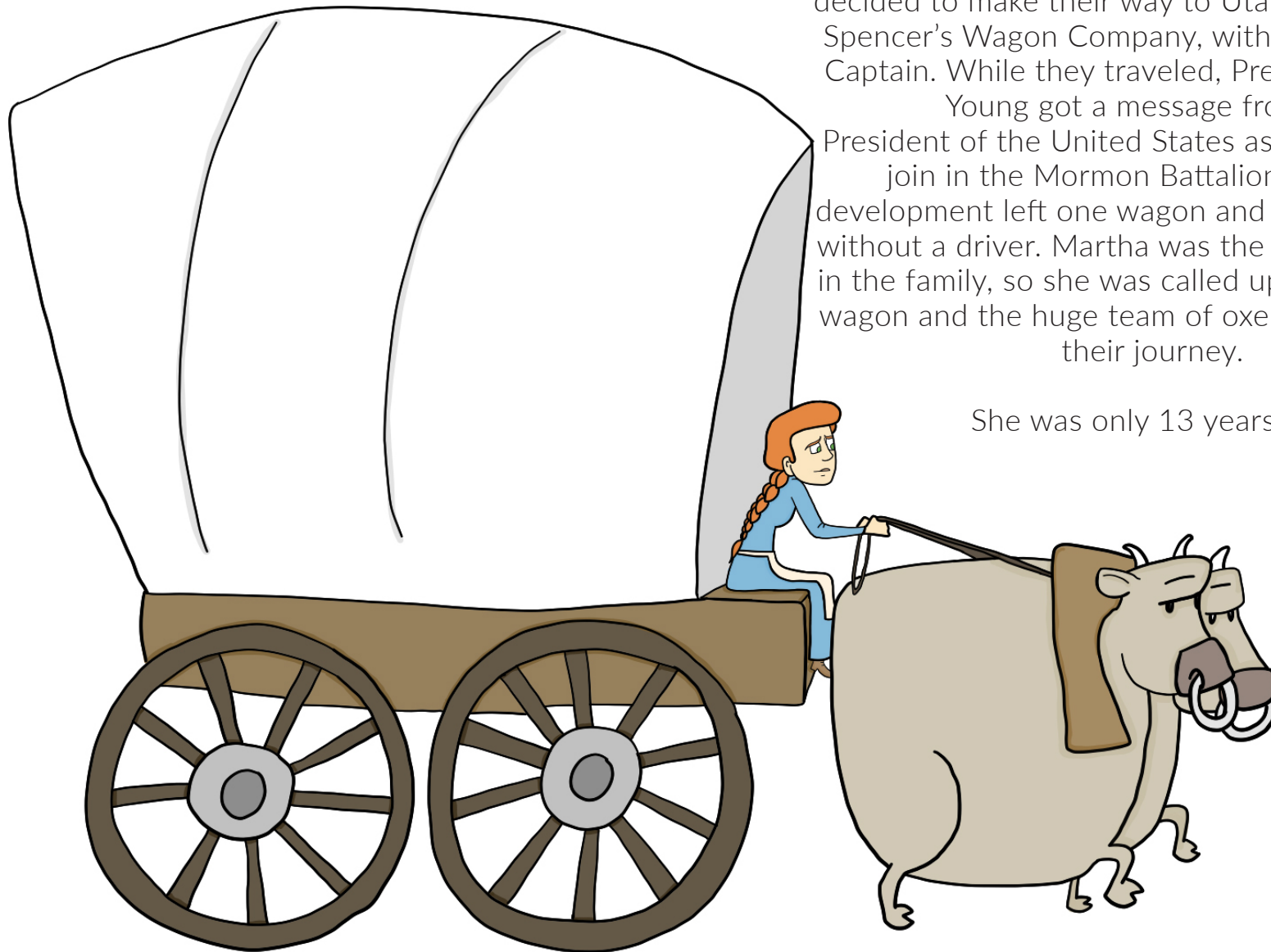
# Martha Ann Bronson

1834-1927

Martha and her family joined the church and decided to make their way to Utah with Daniel H. Spencer's Wagon Company, with Ira Eldredge as Captain. While they traveled, President Brigham

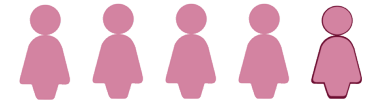
Young got a message from the President of the United States asking for men to join in the Mormon Battalion. This new development left one wagon and 3 yokes of oxen without a driver. Martha was the oldest daughter in the family, so she was called upon to drive the wagon and the huge team of oxen for the rest of their journey.

She was only 13 years old.



# Selie Grace Demille

1898-1987

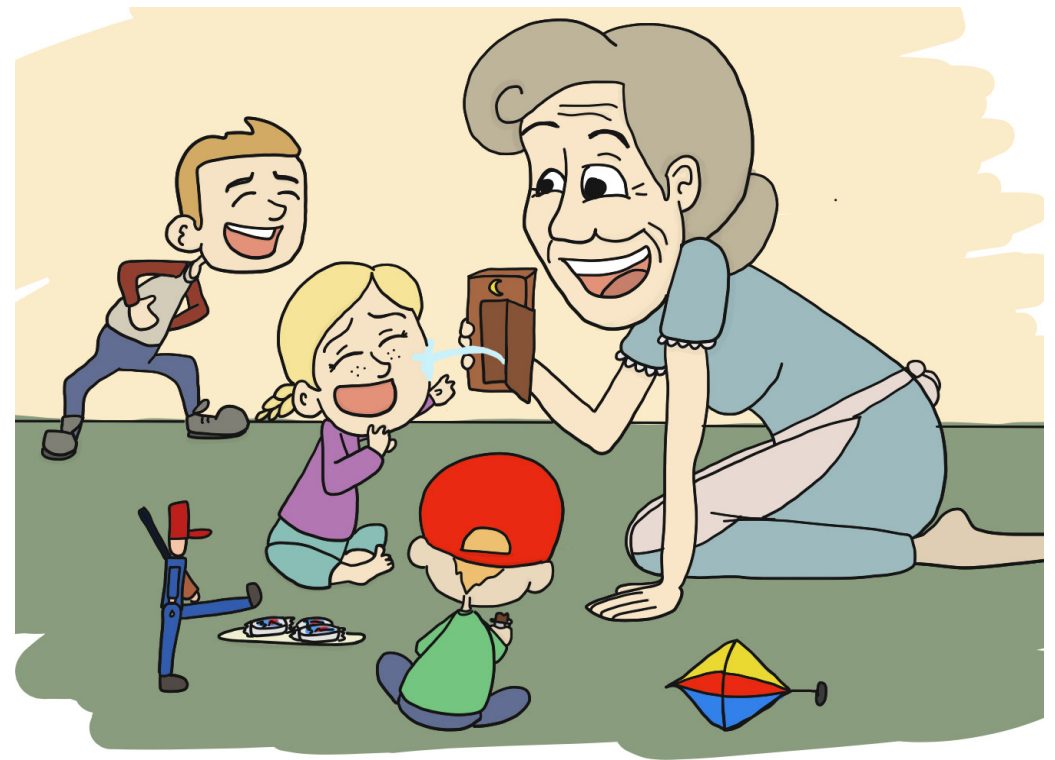


Almost every day after school, Grandma Grace's three Musketeers would jump on their bikes and make their way to her house. The three Musketeers was her nickname for three of her favorite grandchildren. She called them that because they would always have a special treat on hand for them; a mini 3 Musketeers bar.

Who could stay away from chocolate and great toys? And Grandma Grace had great toys. She had spinning tops and toy soldiers, she had little wind-up toys that buzzed, popped, wobbled, and spun. One of her favorite toys was a tiny plastic outhouse with a door that opened and closed. When she opened the door, a little man inside would turn around with a shocked face and water would squirt out like he was peeing.

Grandma loved to laugh and she loved to make others laugh too. She would play pranks and tell jokes and generally fill her house and her grandkids with laughter.

It wasn't just the chocolate and the laughs that brought her 3 Musketeers and others to her door though. No, it was Grandma. She had a way of making everyone feel special and loved. When you were around Grandma Grace, you felt like you were the most important person in the world.





# Laura Kamala Lee

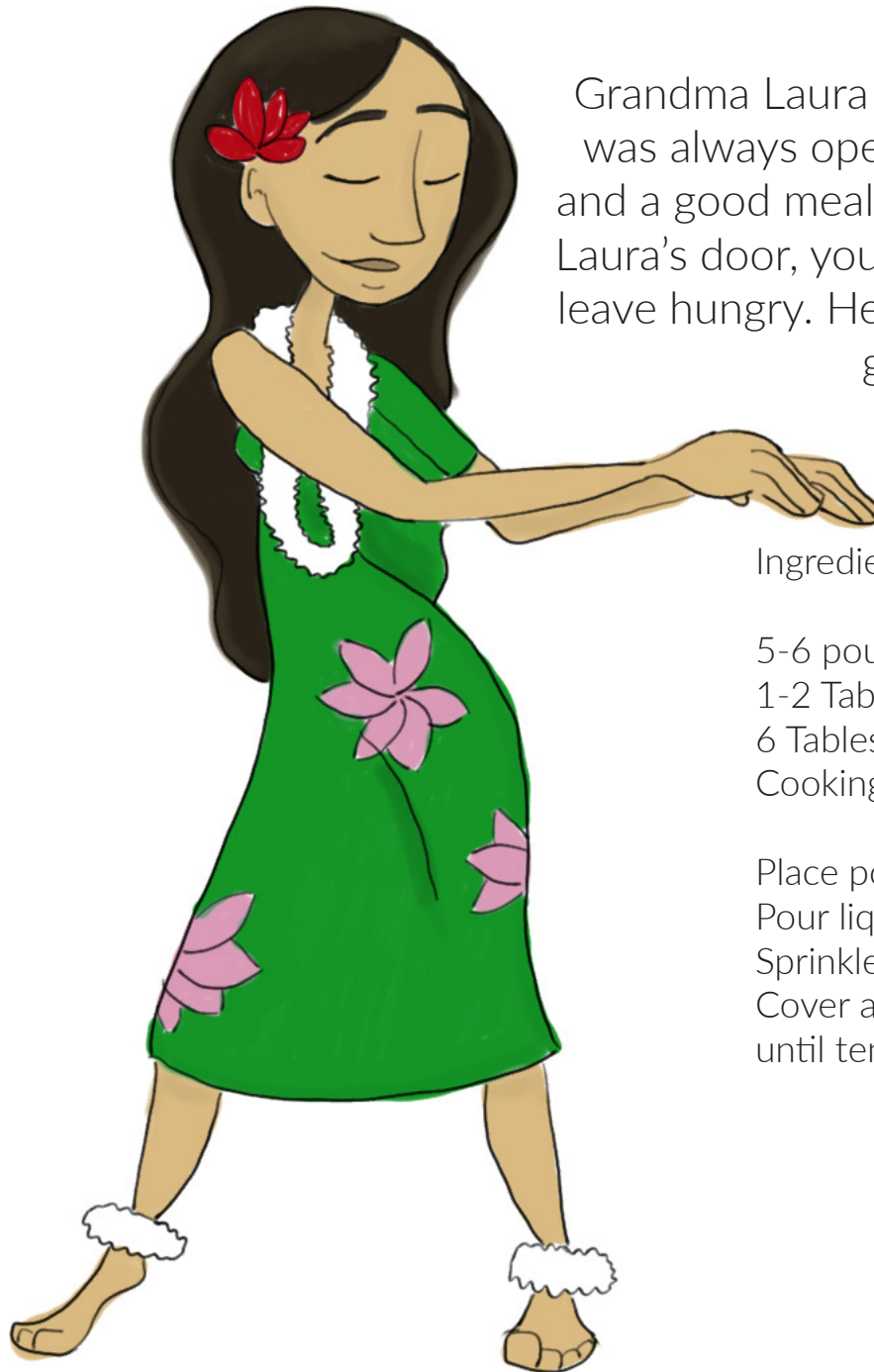


1923-2017

Laura left Hawaii after she married her sweetheart John. After settling in California, Laura had the opportunity to go back to Hawaii to visit her old home. Laura felt uneasy about the trip. As she boarded the boat, her uneasiness lingered.



She stood on the deck and watched her husband and children drive away after dropping her off. She wanted to go home with them, not to Hawaii. Her family and the life that she was building in California was more important. She decided to get off the boat. But it was too late, the boat was sailing away. She climbed up on the railing and dove into the water far below. With strong strokes she reached the shore, climbed onto the bank, and hailed a taxi. She made it back to her house just moments after her family. After a moment of shock, they asked what had happened. She replied that she knew this was where she belonged.



Grandma Laura also lived the Aloha spirit. Her home was always open to those who needed a safe place and a good meal. When you walked through Grandma Laura's door, you became family and she never let you leave hungry. Her house was all about music, dancing, good food, and family.

## Slow Cooker Kalua Pork

### Ingredients

5-6 pound boneless Boston Butt roast  
1-2 Tablespoons coarse sea salt  
6 Tablespoons liquid smoke

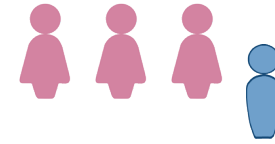
### Cooking Directions

Place pork roast in a 4-6 quart slow cooker.  
Pour liquid smoke over roast.  
Sprinkle with salt.  
Cover and cook on low for about eight hours or until tender.



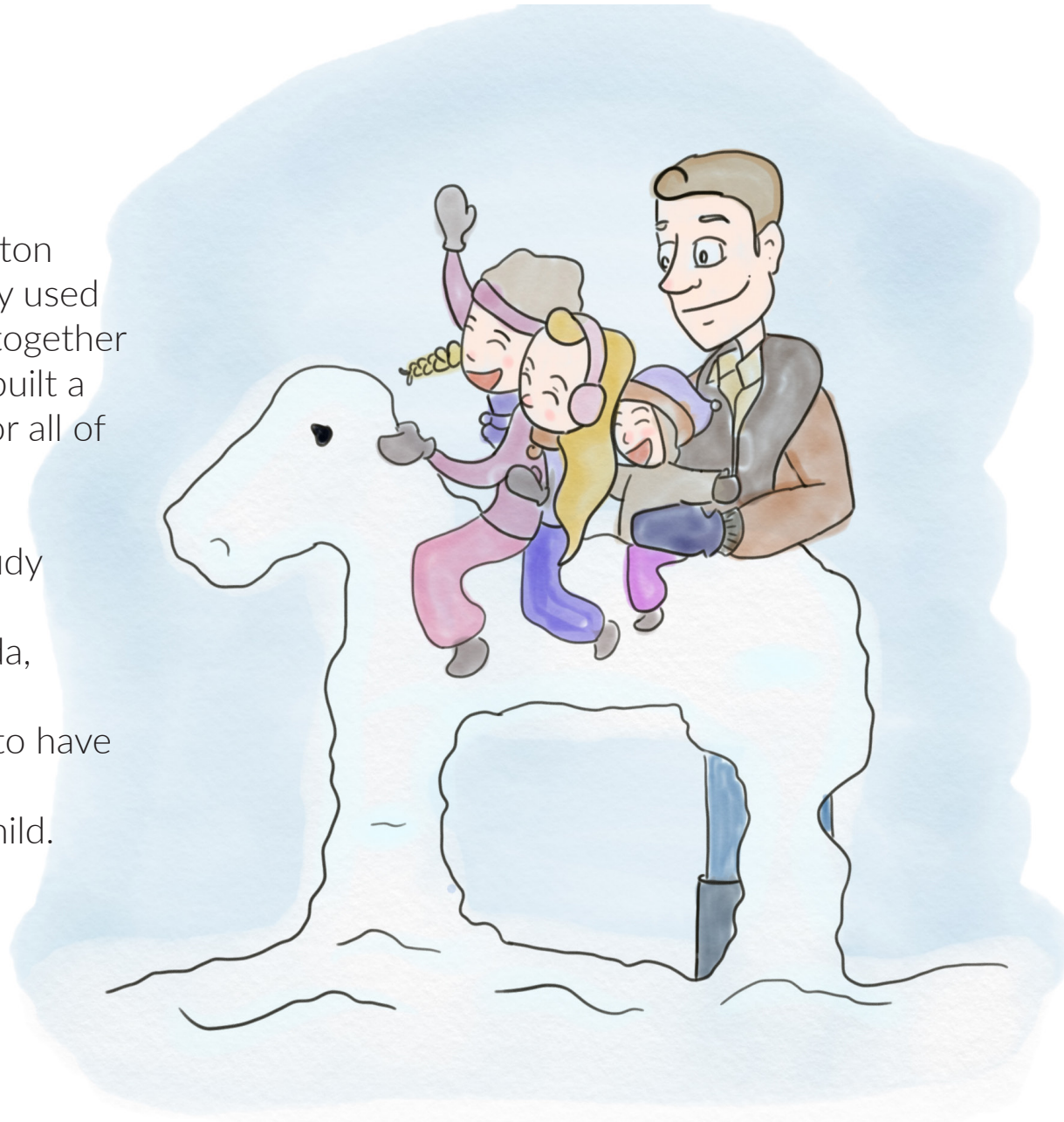


# Daddy Dave



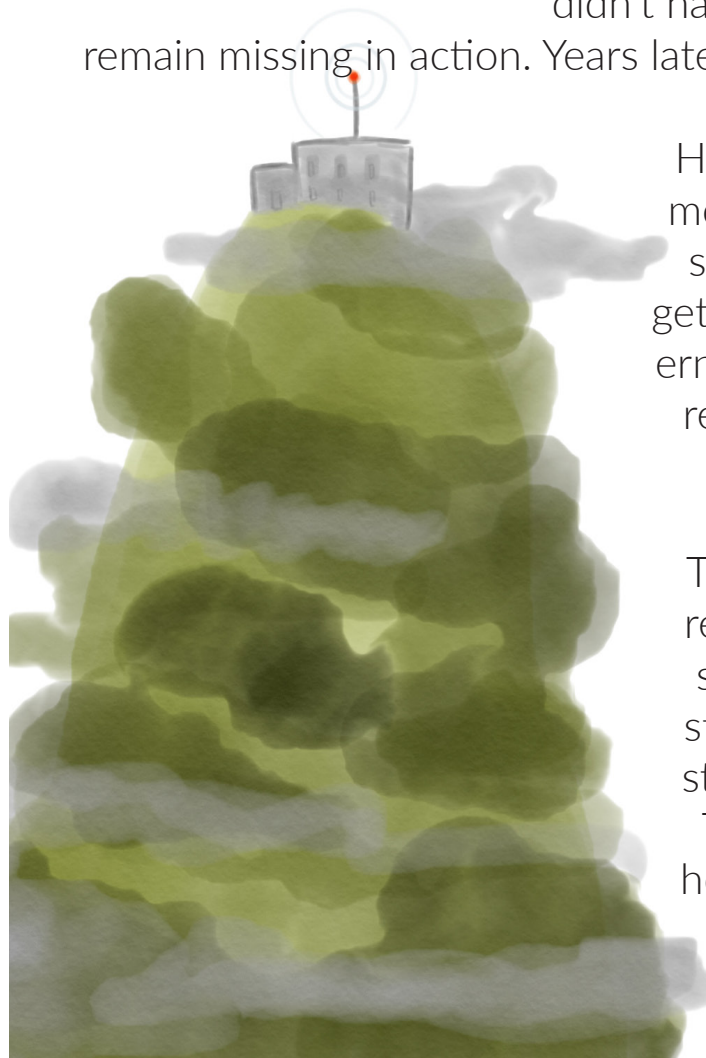
Dave grew up in Washington State with his sisters. They used to build snow sculptures together in the winter. Once they built a snow horse big enough for all of them to sit on.

Later, when he married Judy Johnson and adopted her 3 girls, Brenda, Barbara, and Bonnie, he wanted them to have all the fun and joy he had as a child.



Daddy Dave went off to serve in the Vietnam war. He was assigned to a top secret mission so Judy and the kids didn't know very much about where he was or what he was doing. They used to get letters from him regularly until one day, they got a phone call instead of a letter. The phone call was from a man who worked for the army. He told Judy that Dave was missing in action.

Weeks went by with no word from or about Dave. Finally, a man from the Pentagon visited Judy and told her that Daddy Dave was killed in the war but, because they didn't have his body, he would remain missing in action. Years later, Judy learned what happened to Daddy Dave.



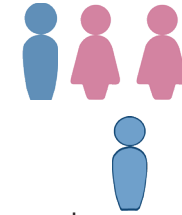
He was serving at a relay station on top of a small mountain in Vietnam. His job was to help relay top secret information. The Vietnamese troops were getting close to the relay station. The American government knew that if the enemy troops reached the relay station, they would learn about secrets that could cause the deaths of many.

They also knew that the men who worked at the relay station would be captured and tortured. Instead of risking the enemy taking over the relay station, the U.S. Army decided to bomb the relay station and kill the men who were working there.

They sent Judy and the children two medals to honor Daddy Dave, his bravery, and sacrifice; the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

# Moke Stephens

1969-2018



Moke Stephens had a deep abiding sense of integrity. Moke, his sister, and some friends decided to visit one of their favorite restaurants. After their meal, Moke got up to go pay the bill. While he was away, two of his friends decided it would be funny to stack the glass cups into a tower so that they would fall over when the busboy came to clean the table. While Moke was paying the bill, he heard a crash behind him. He knew instantly what his friends had done. He marched over to them and hauled them to the front of the restaurant. He made sure they apologized and paid for the broken glasses.



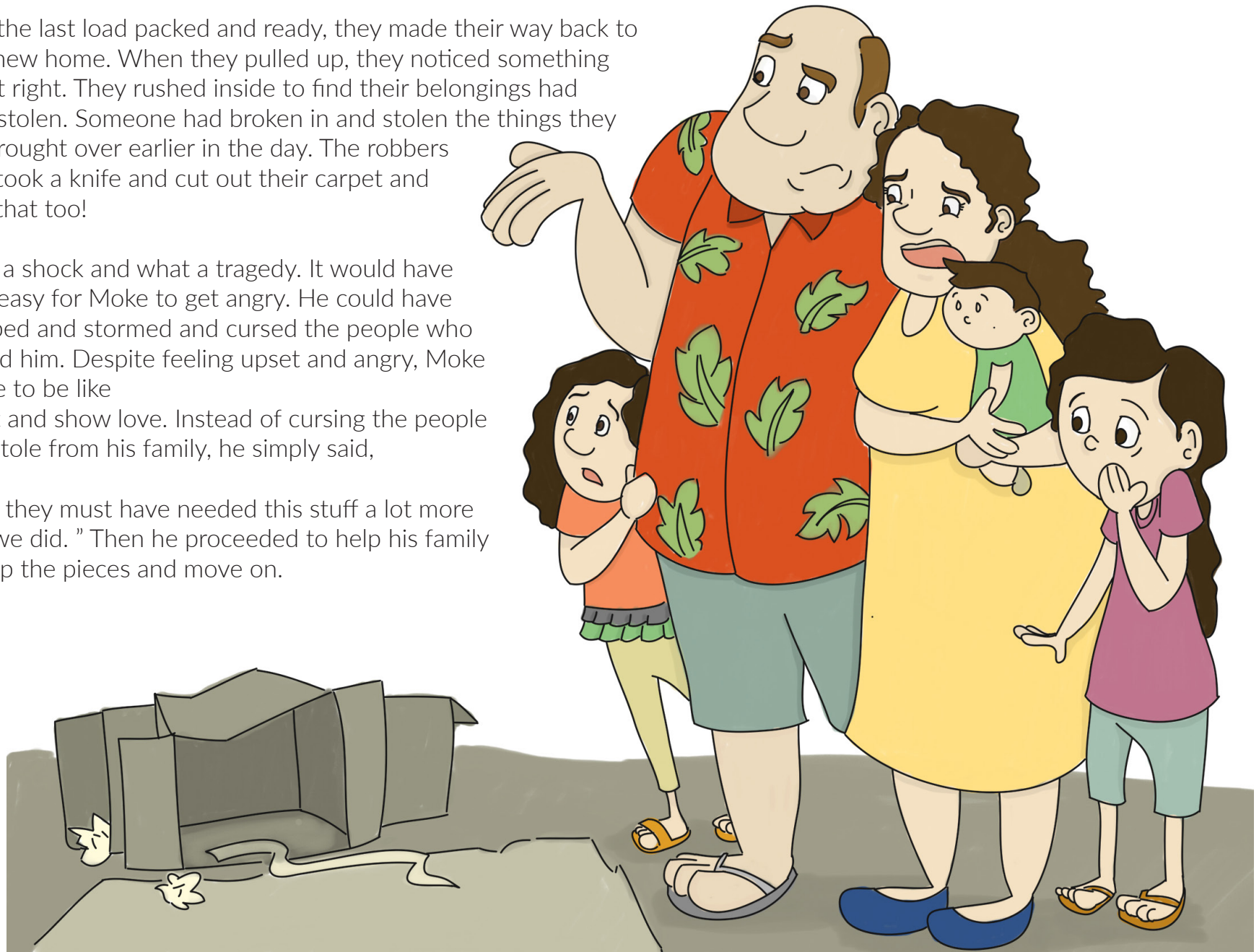


Moke also had a big heart. When it was time for his family to move into a new house, they spent all day going back and forth from old house to new, moving their stuff. When it was time to head back for the very last load, they were all excited to have the project finished and to be able to settle in.

With the last load packed and ready, they made their way back to their new home. When they pulled up, they noticed something wasn't right. They rushed inside to find their belongings had been stolen. Someone had broken in and stolen the things they had brought over earlier in the day. The robbers even took a knife and cut out their carpet and stole that too!

What a shock and what a tragedy. It would have been easy for Moke to get angry. He could have stomped and stormed and cursed the people who robbed him. Despite feeling upset and angry, Moke chose to be like Christ and show love. Instead of cursing the people who stole from his family, he simply said,

"Well, they must have needed this stuff a lot more than we did." Then he proceeded to help his family pick up the pieces and move on.



## Moke and the Stand-Up Bass

"If you can dream it, you can achieve it" -Walt Disney

When Moke was 14 he noticed that his school was having a talent show. Moke overheard some of his friends talking about entering their band in the show but hey just had one problem. The boy who had played bass for the band had moved away over the summer. Now they didn't have anyone to play his instrument. Moke got a big grin on his face, walked over to the boys and told them that he would be happy to play bass for their band.

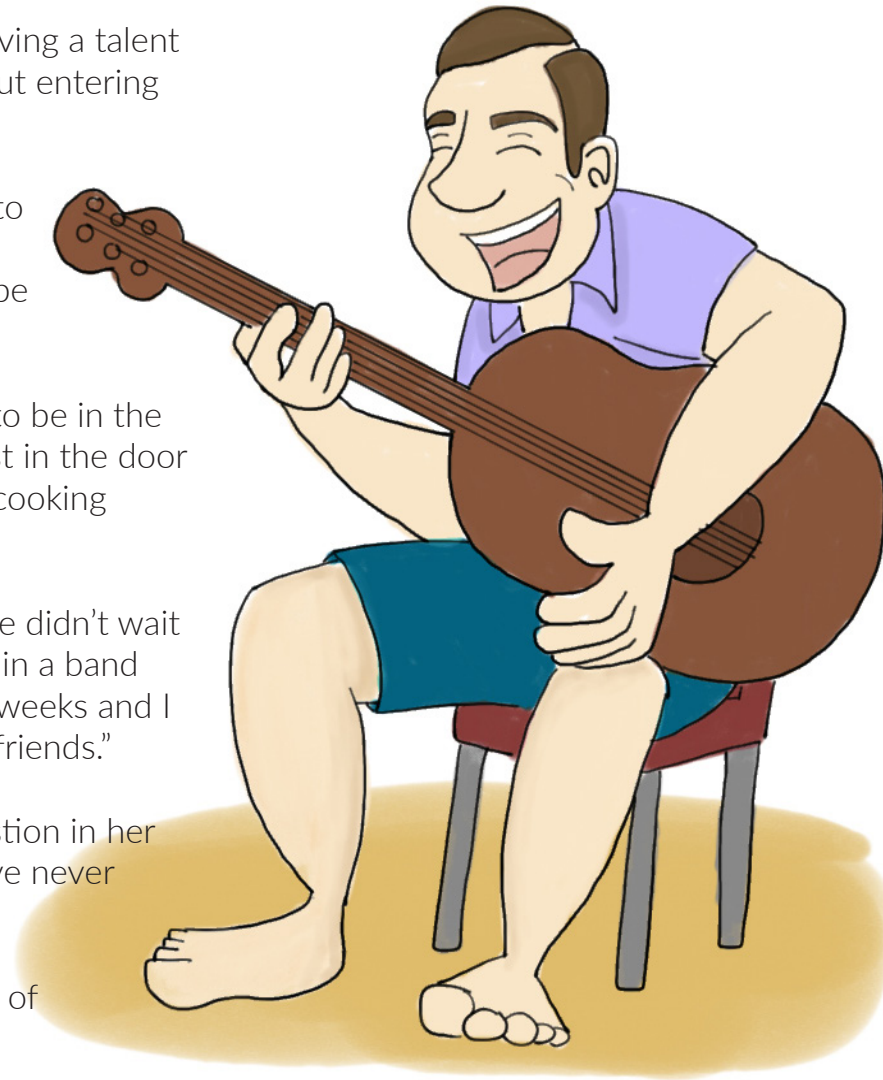
Moke was so excited on his way home. He was going to be in the talent show and he was going to be in a band. He burst in the door and went straight to the kitchen where his mom was cooking dinner.

"Mom!" he said through a wide grin. "Guess what!?!?" He didn't wait for her to respond before plunging in. "I'm going to be in a band mom! Our school is having a talent show in just a few weeks and I am going to play bass in a Jazz band with some of my friends."

His mom, Mona, looked at him with a smile and a question in her eyes. "Why would you want to do that, Moke? You have never played the bass in your life!"

"Mom," he replied, "What I need right now is a little bit of encouragement."

Moke practiced hard and his practice paid off. He was soon good enough with the bass to play in the school talent show with the Jazz band. He has learned to play many instruments since and has used his talents to bring joy to the people around him.



# Moke's Song

C  
I left home to seek adventure  
G7  
When I was 13.  
Built homes up in Frisco  
C  
That was back in '83.  
G7  
Operated equipment 2 years later at 15  
C  
Working in Nevada in a mine.  
Next years found me back in San Diego.  
Got back into building  
working with my dad again.  
That kept me going fairly well the next  
few years  
Met a gal and married at 18.

## CHORUS

F  
I've traveled up and down this highway  
C  
Lord knows how many times.  
G7  
Workin' here and workin' there  
C  
just trying to make a dime.  
F  
In my younger years  
C  
I used to think this was the life  
G7 C  
Now I wish that I was going home.

I still had those itching feet  
that kept us on the move.  
Utah, Arizona, California north and south  
Soon my wife grew weary  
of moving all around.  
She took our child  
and left me on my own.

Now it's been some years  
and I wish to settle down  
Have a family seek some roots  
I think its my time now.  
After all my travels  
I don't have too much to show.  
It was fun but I still don't have a home.

## CHORUS

Amid all of my wanderings  
I landed in Duck Creek.  
There I met the women who would make  
my knees grow weak.  
I won her heart and whisked her off to a  
land beyond the sea.  
We built a life and grew our family.

Adventures, dreams and challenges  
we let them grow our faith  
Working hard to please our God  
we've lived by love and grace.  
Our children are our greatest treasure  
Taught them all we could  
Guiding them to their forever home.

## CHORUS:

I've traveled up and down this high-  
way  
Lord knows how many times  
Learning here and serving there  
I grew through all my strife  
in my older years  
I think i've learned the key to life.  
My Father and my family are my  
home.

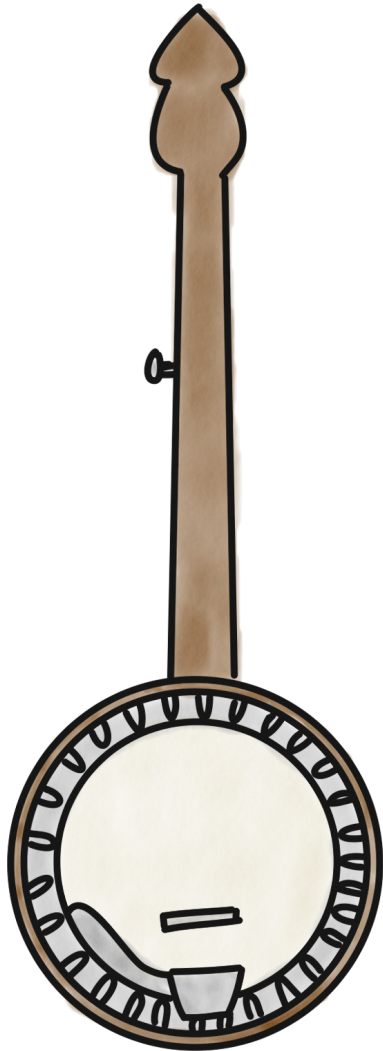
I've been blessed to find what I'd  
been seeking my whole life.  
Joy and love and family, forever with  
my wife.  
And though I'm far away from them,  
although I had to go  
they have been and will always be my  
home.

## CHORUS:

I've traveled up and down this high-  
way  
Lord knows how many times  
Learning here and serving there  
I grew through all my strife  
in my older years  
I think i've learned the key to life.  
My Father and my family are my  
home.

I'll see you all again when you come  
home.

# Onions On Her Grave

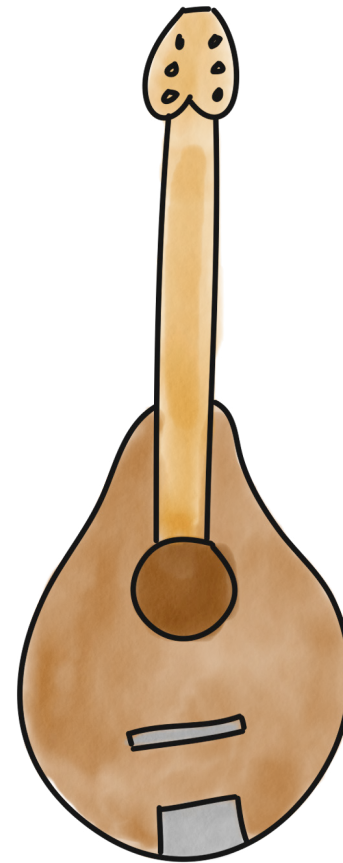


C  
Well she's done and gone away,  
F  
Kicked the bucket yesterday.  
C  
My cross-eyed gal that lived up  
G7  
On the Hill.  
C  
She took strychnine and died  
F  
And I hope she's satisfied, cause  
C G7  
She did the whole darn thing  
C  
Against my will

She said good-bye to me as she  
Sat upon my knee. She said  
She'd meet me on the golden  
Shore. I took it as a joke,  
I didn't think that she would  
Croak 'cause she never died so  
Suddenly before

We suspected her demise by the  
Color of her eyes but our  
Efforts to Revive her were in  
Vain. She looked at me and sighed  
Then turned up her nose and died  
Then sat up and smiled and  
Sneezed and died Again

Now that she has gone to rest  
I'll fulfill her last request  
And plant a bunch of onions on  
Her grave, So that when I'm  
Passing by I can pucker up and cry  
Cause those Dog-gone things  
Simply make me rave.





# The Name Song

Most folks have such a likeness  
For honor and fame.  
They spend all their lives in getting  
A name  
Too much of a name is a terrible thing  
You'll see by the song I am going to sing.

My mother and father were likable folks  
But they each had a weakness  
For practical jokes.  
So when I was born,  
They each of one mind  
Declared I should have all the name they could  
find.

Chorus

'Twas Jonathon, Jacob, Jerimiah, Timonthy,  
Titus, soladire, William, Henry, Walter, Tim, Rubin,  
Rufus, Solomon, Jim, Nathaniel, Daniel, Abraham,  
Roderick, Frederick, Peter, Sam, simon, Timon,  
Nicholas, Pat, Christopher, Dickens, Johasophat.

I was sent to be Christened  
Before I could speak  
So I could not object  
To this terrible feat.  
There were two other children  
That morning as well.  
For these two poor children  
It turned out a sell.  
It took them so long my title to call  
That the other two children got no name at all

Chorus

When I went to be married the case it was bad  
The preacher stared at me as though he were  
mad  
He said "my young man it's a terrible shame,  
your parents deny you a sensible name"  
"And this is I will say without honor and shrine  
you'll have to be married a bit at a time"

Chorus

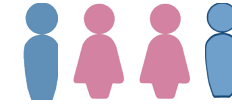


# John Evans

1922-1999



Grandpa Evans loved music, and he loved bringing people together. He learned to play any instrument that fell into his hands and shared those instruments and his love of music with his children, grandchildren, and now, great grandchildren. These are some of the songs he was often heard singing.



## I Don't Work for Livin'

V-1

They say we're all born for a purpose,  
They say we're all born with a gift.  
Some people rise to be famous,  
I suppose it's by hard work and thrift.

There's lots of us fighting and striving  
For a seat in the white house you see,  
But I've got a seat in my trousers,  
And the Mrs. to work for me.

Chorus

I don't work for a livin'  
I get along all right without.  
I don't toil all day,  
I guess its because I'm not built that way.

Some people work for love,  
And say it's all sunshine and gain.  
But if I can't get sunshine  
Without any work,  
I think I'll stay out in the rain.

Chorus

V-2

Now give me a nail and a hammer  
And a picture to hang on the wall.  
give me a strong step ladder  
for you know that I might fall.

Give me a couple of waiters  
And barrel of good ginger ale.  
And I'll be you I'll hang up that picture  
If someone will drive in the nail

V-3

Now I've got a friend I think the world of.  
We'll never agree, this is why,  
He says he's the laziest person,  
That he is more lazy than I.  
So we made a bet to decide it,  
I won without trying you see.  
When he reached for the dough I just whispered  
Put the bet in my pocket for me.

Chorus 2

I don't work for a livin'  
I get along all right without,  
Works not meant for me  
Even though it hurts my dignity,  
My wife does all the work,  
She even puts out the trash can.  
Last night I got sore when  
The neighbors yelled,  
"Why don't you put out your old man?"

# Abdul -Obobo-Amir

G7 C  
The sons of the prophets were brave  
men

And Bold  
F C  
And quite unaccustomed to fear.  
G7 C  
But the bravest of all was a man  
G7  
By the name of Abdul-Obobo-Amir

There were heroes a plenty and well-  
known  
To fame  
In the ranks that were led by the Czar,  
But the best known of all was a man  
By the name of Ivan Skavinski Skavar.

One day this bold russian he shoul-  
dered  
His gun  
And with his most truculent sneer  
Was looking for fun when he happened  
to run  
Upon Abdul-Obobo-Amir

Said Abdul, "young man has your life  
been  
So dull, that you now wish to end your  
career.  
"Vile infidel know, you have trod on the  
toe of Abdul-Obobo-Amir

Said Ivan, "My friend, your remarks in  
the end, will avail you but little I fear.  
For you ne'er will survive to repeat  
Them alive, brave Abdul-Obobo-Amir

They fought all that night  
'Neath the pale mellow moon  
And the din it was heard from afar  
Huge multitudes came, so great was  
the  
Fame of Abdul and Ivan Skavar

The Sultan rode up, the excitement to  
quell  
Expecting the victor to cheer.  
But he only drew nigh, to hear the last  
sigh  
Of Abdul-Obobo-Amir.

Czar Petrovich too, in his uniform blue  
Drove up in his new crested car.  
But he arrived just in time to exchange  
the last line, of Ivan Skavinski Skavar

A tomb rises up where the Danube  
doth roll,  
And inscribed there in letters so clear  
Is, "stranger when passing please pray  
for the name of Abdul-Obobo-Amir"

A moskavite maiden her long vigil  
keeps 'Neath the light of the pale polar  
star.  
And the name that she murmurs so oft  
as she weeps, is Ivan Skavinski Skavar.

# Glue on the Saddle

I always wished that I could be a cowboy  
Ridin' and a ropin' where the wind blows  
free  
But now I wish that I was not a cowboy  
Cause look what gone and happened to  
me

I can't get off of my horse  
All day and night I ride among the cattle  
I can't get off of my horse  
Cause some dirty dog put glue on the  
saddle  
On the saddle, one the saddle  
Some no good, ornery, low down, sneakin,  
thievin, cussing, cattle-rustling, dirty dog  
put glue on the saddle

I used to be a lady killin' dandy  
The ladies loved my huggin and my kissing  
too  
I used to always bring them flowers and  
candy  
I love those gals but what can I do  
Cause...

Chorus

Someday they bury me out on the prairie  
Out there among the sagebrush where the  
skies are blue  
But when they dig a place for me to rest in  
They'd better make it big enough for two  
cause...

Chorus

# Shirley Schmutz

1934-2021



Shirley's dad was a farmer and she spent long days helping him harvest asparagus, pick apricots, take care of their animals, and do all the other chores. There was always something to be done especially during the hot summer days. After a long hot day of helping her dad, Shirley loved nothing better than to run off and go swimming in her uncle's cool pond nestled in the shade of the red cliffs behind her house.



One day, as Shirley was walking home, she noticed she was being followed. A calf had spotted her walking down the road and decided he wanted to be her friend. He followed her all the way home. Shirley was so excited about this newest and most unusual potential pet.

When she got home she turned to her new friend and whispered for him to stand up straight and look as proper a calf as he could. Then she raced in the house to ask her mom if she could keep the calf.

Shirley's mother felt that she shouldn't have been surprised that her daughter brought home such a strange pet. She carefully explained to Shirley that the calf belonged to someone else and that she couldn't keep him. With a heavy heart, Shirley helped her mother find the Calf's home. After seeing the calf reunited with his mother, Shirley felt that she had done the right thing in bringing him home.

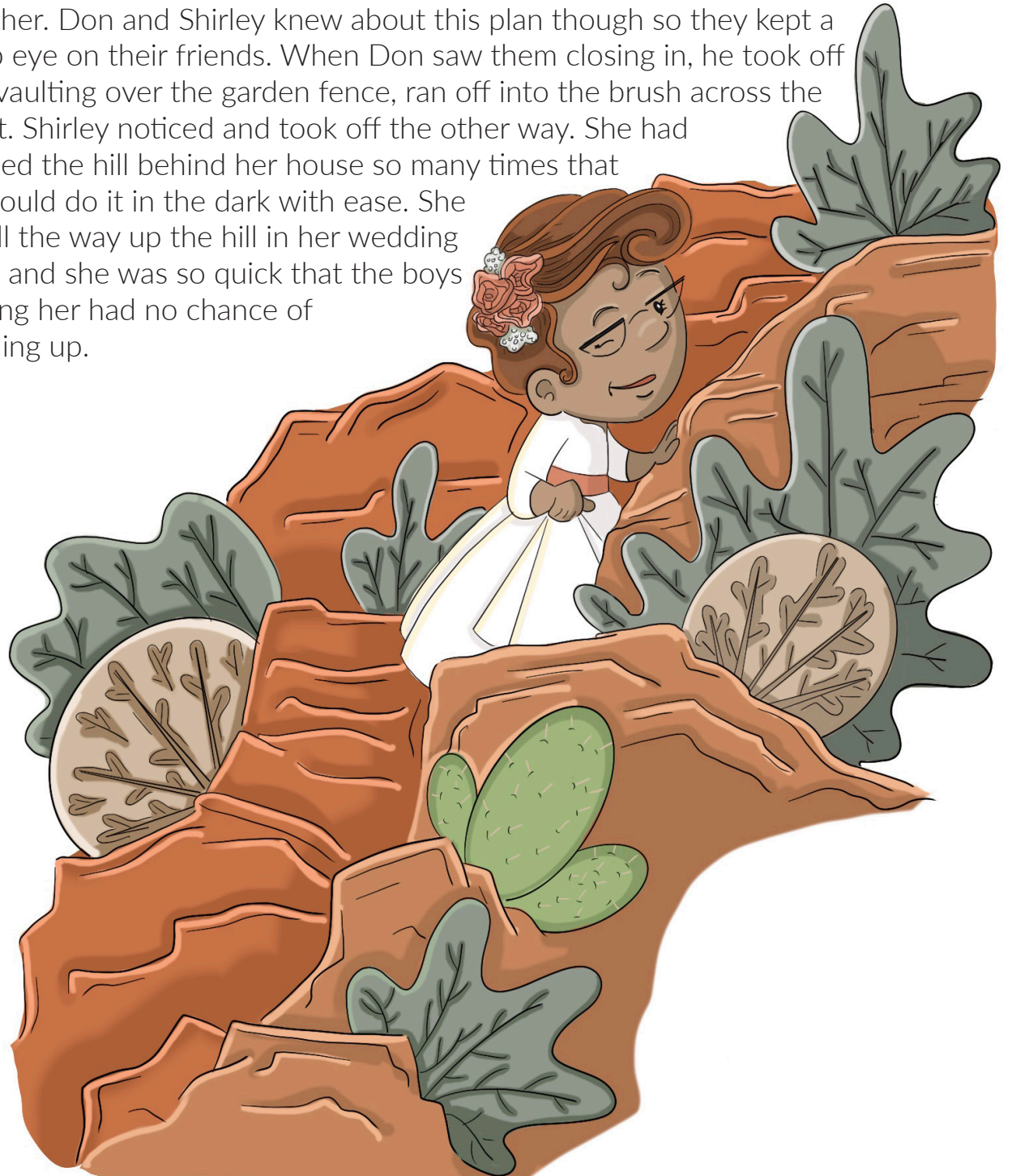




Don and Shirley were in a group of friends that all hung out together as teenagers. After a while, they started to fall for each other, but there was a problem. Don's best friend also had a crush on Shirley. They didn't want to hurt him so they came up with a plan. They planned a trip to the movies and Don invited his best friend while Shirley invited hers. Through some fancy footwork, they managed to get their friends to sit together through the movie. The friends hit it off, fell in love, and got married shortly thereafter.



When Don and Shirley got married their friends had a special tradition. They would kidnap the bride and groom at the reception so they couldn't be together. Don and Shirley knew about this plan though so they kept a sharp eye on their friends. When Don saw them closing in, he took off and, vaulting over the garden fence, ran off into the brush across the street. Shirley noticed and took off the other way. She had climbed the hill behind her house so many times that she could do it in the dark with ease. She ran all the way up the hill in her wedding dress and she was so quick that the boys chasing her had no chance of catching up.

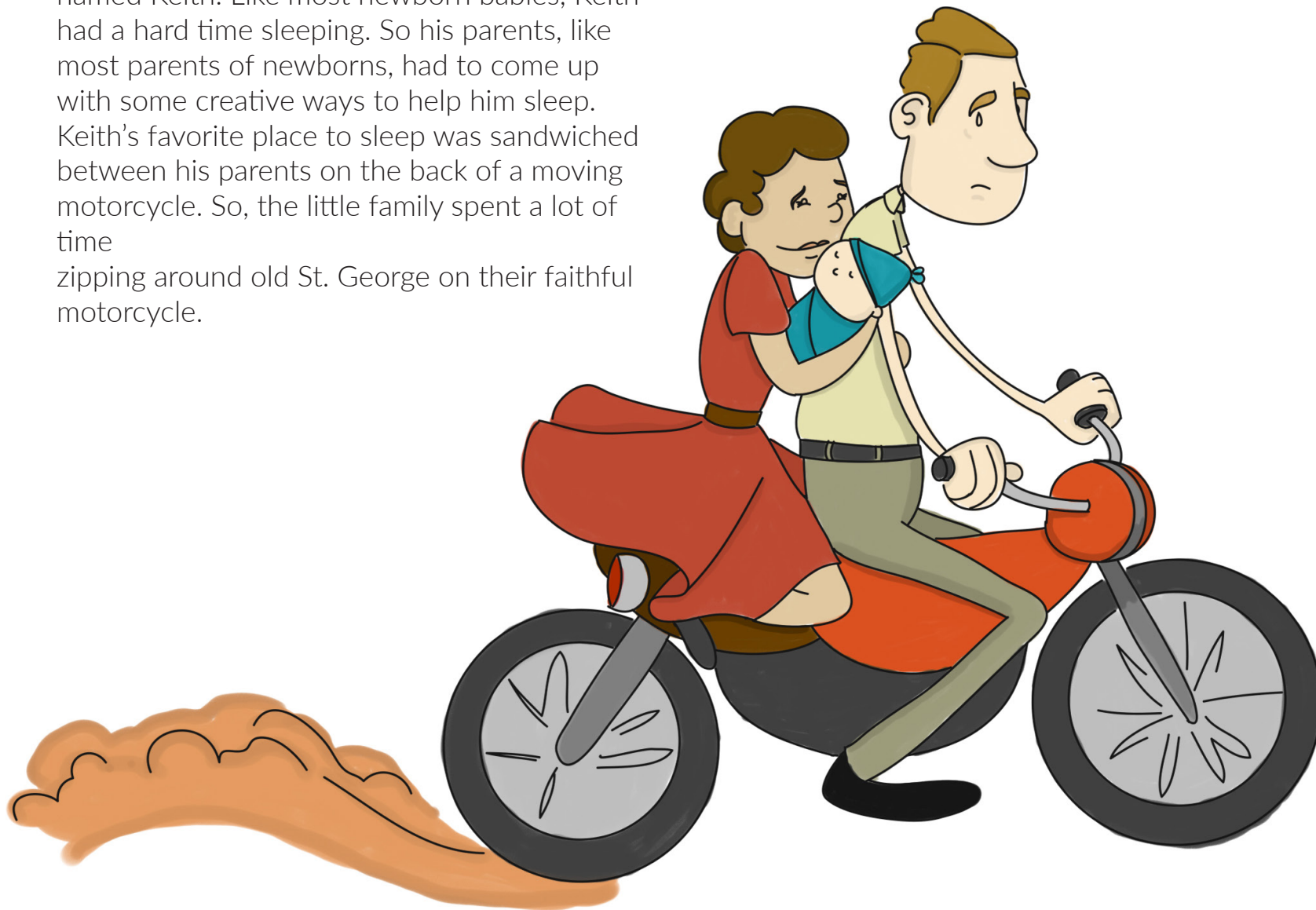


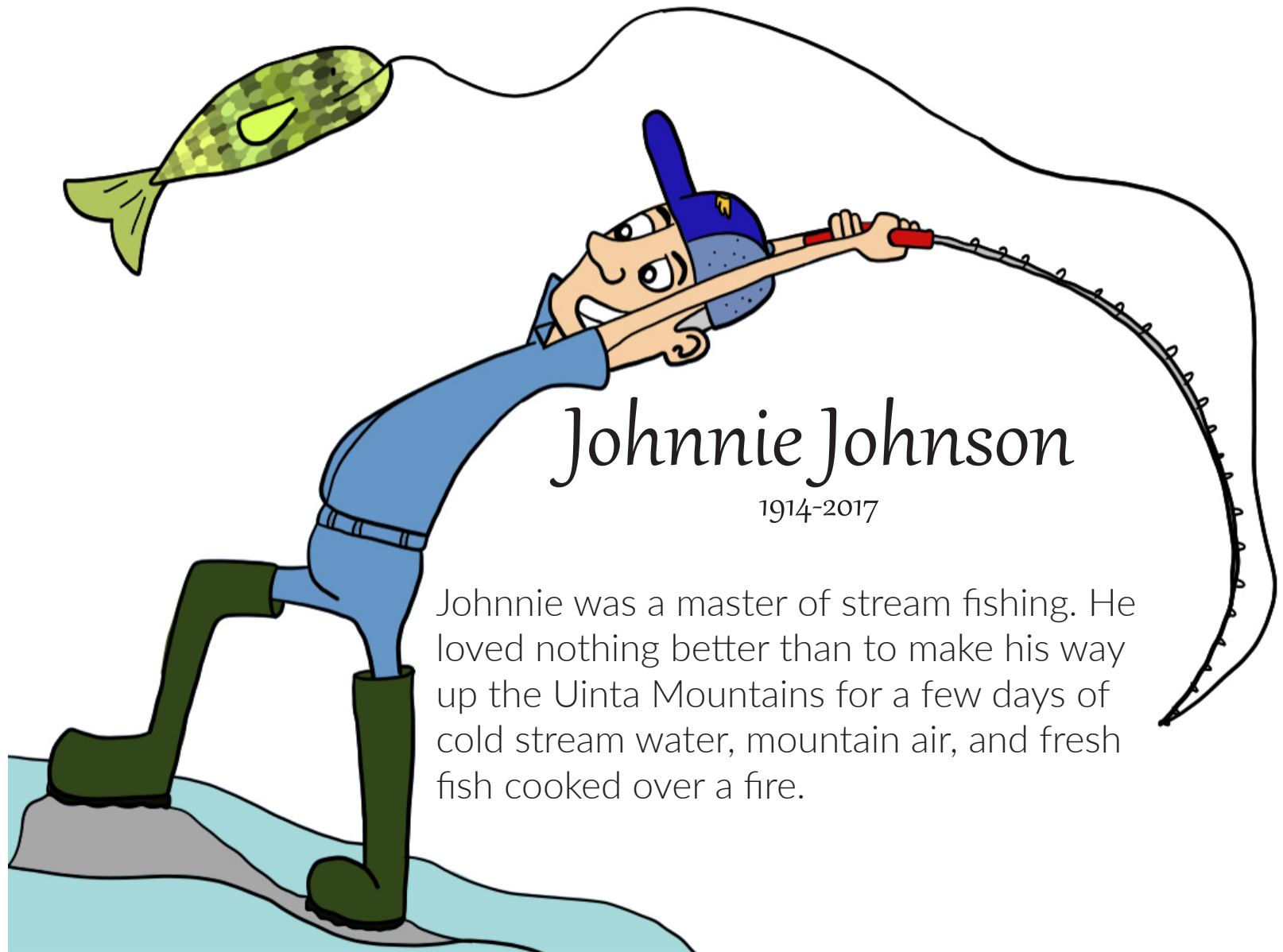
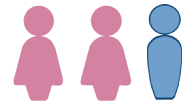


While Shirley was raising her own kids, she started taking in other kids to tend during the day. She always had kids running around her house and backyard. So many kids made their way through Shirley's door and she made each of them feel cared for and watched over.



Shirley's love didn't stop at animals. She went out of her way to care for everyone in her life. Soon after marrying Donald, they had a little boy they named Keith. Like most newborn babies, Keith had a hard time sleeping. So his parents, like most parents of newborns, had to come up with some creative ways to help him sleep. Keith's favorite place to sleep was sandwiched between his parents on the back of a moving motorcycle. So, the little family spent a lot of time zipping around old St. George on their faithful motorcycle.





# Johnnie Johnson

1914-2017

Johnnie was a master of stream fishing. He loved nothing better than to make his way up the Uinta Mountains for a few days of cold stream water, mountain air, and fresh fish cooked over a fire.

Just a few days before he died, Johnnie asked those gathered around him to help him stand up to his bedroom window. He knew that he would be able to see the flag waving out on his flag pole from the window. He wanted to see that flag one last time and pledge his allegiance to it and the country that he loved so much.

As he recited the pledge of allegiance while saluting the flag, everyone in the room could feel of his deep love for his country that came from sacrificing so much for it. He wanted his children and grandchildren to know that he knew it was a privilege to live in a free country and that he loved the flag as a symbol of dedication and liberty.





# Grandpa Johnnie's Requiem

The carpenters met at the heavenly gate,  
This moment planned by more than just fate.  
The Savior's eyes searched His brother's face,  
Then He wrapped him in a tight embrace.

"Johnnie", He said. "I welcome you home."  
My Father has prepared a perfect throne.  
"He has? Johnnie asked. "But I don't belong.  
I have done so many things in my life wrong."

A sad smile spread across the savior's face.  
"That, my brother, is why we have grace.  
Your sins are forgiven, your wrongs washed away,  
There's nothing but blessings here for you today."

"You may have messed up, as everyone does,  
But you do belong here with us because,  
Of the good that you did, and the service you gave,  
You, my dear brother, were a privilege to save."

"You were not taught about me from birth,  
Yet you were a most Christ-like man while on earth.  
You followed my footsteps, you did all you could,  
During your life, you shaped much more than wood."

"The hearts of your family, children and wife,  
Your neighbors, each person you met in your life,  
Your grandkids and friends, even strangers too,  
Were made better simply by knowing you."

"Your life wasn't easy, none of them are,  
But your good outweighed any bad by far.  
You gave to the world all that you had  
And you were the world to those who called you  
Dad."

"Never before has there been such a man  
Who was a better example of my Father's plan.  
You lived your life, you were tested and tried,  
And through it all, I stayed by your side."

"You left to the world a posterity  
Filled with your passion for charity  
Your influence will live on until I come again  
And you will be with all your family then."

Johnnie looked to the Savior with tears  
He had worried so much through all of his years  
He sank to his knees and kissed Jesus' feet.  
With these tender words, his mortal life was complete.

"Come with me." Christ said and offered a hand.  
Johnnie took it and used perfect legs to stand.  
The Savior opened the gates and led him through.  
"Right this way to my Father. He wants to thank  
you."

**Penned by Jessie Larkin**

# The House that Built Us

A Bush Family Adventure



We used to live in Arizona, but in 2008 the economy took a bad turn and my parents decided it was time to move back to Utah.

We packed up everything into our car and headed out for a new adventure.

We were determined to turn a bad situation around. We wanted to set our family up so that we could be independent and that meant building our own house.







We learned to wash out clothes in something other than a laundry room and cook our meals somewhere other than a kitchen. My parents were always very resourceful.

The plan was to go and live on Grandpa Stephens property in the hills outside Cedar City. When we first got there, we lived in tents and prepared to start constructing our house. Our dog Meisha got to sleep in my tent with me!



It didn't take us long to begin building our home. We picked some plans that mom liked and got them approved by the city.

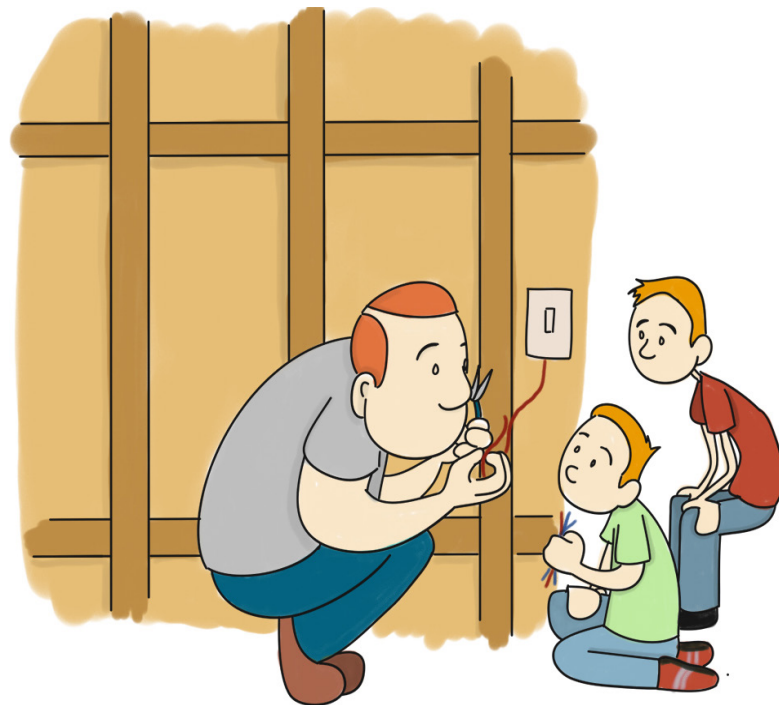
Our house was going to be big, beautiful, and totally our own.

We dug a big hole in the ground and poured in concrete to make a strong foundation. Mom lost the stone from her wedding ring in the foundation. It's still there somewhere in the cement.



Then, up went the walls, up went the doors, up went the windows, and down went the floors.

We put in wires for light, pipes for water, and a whole lot of love.





As the house got taller, we had to hire a man with a big crane to come out and lift the trusses into place. He gave us rides on his crane and lifted us high into the air.

After the crane operator left, the roofing team came in and soon our house had a roof.



We had lots of help from family and friends. Grandpa Stephens and Uncle Jim came to live with us for a while to help out.

The best part was when, at the end of a long day of working on the house, we got to sit around with each other, talk, share stories, and enjoy being together under the stars.



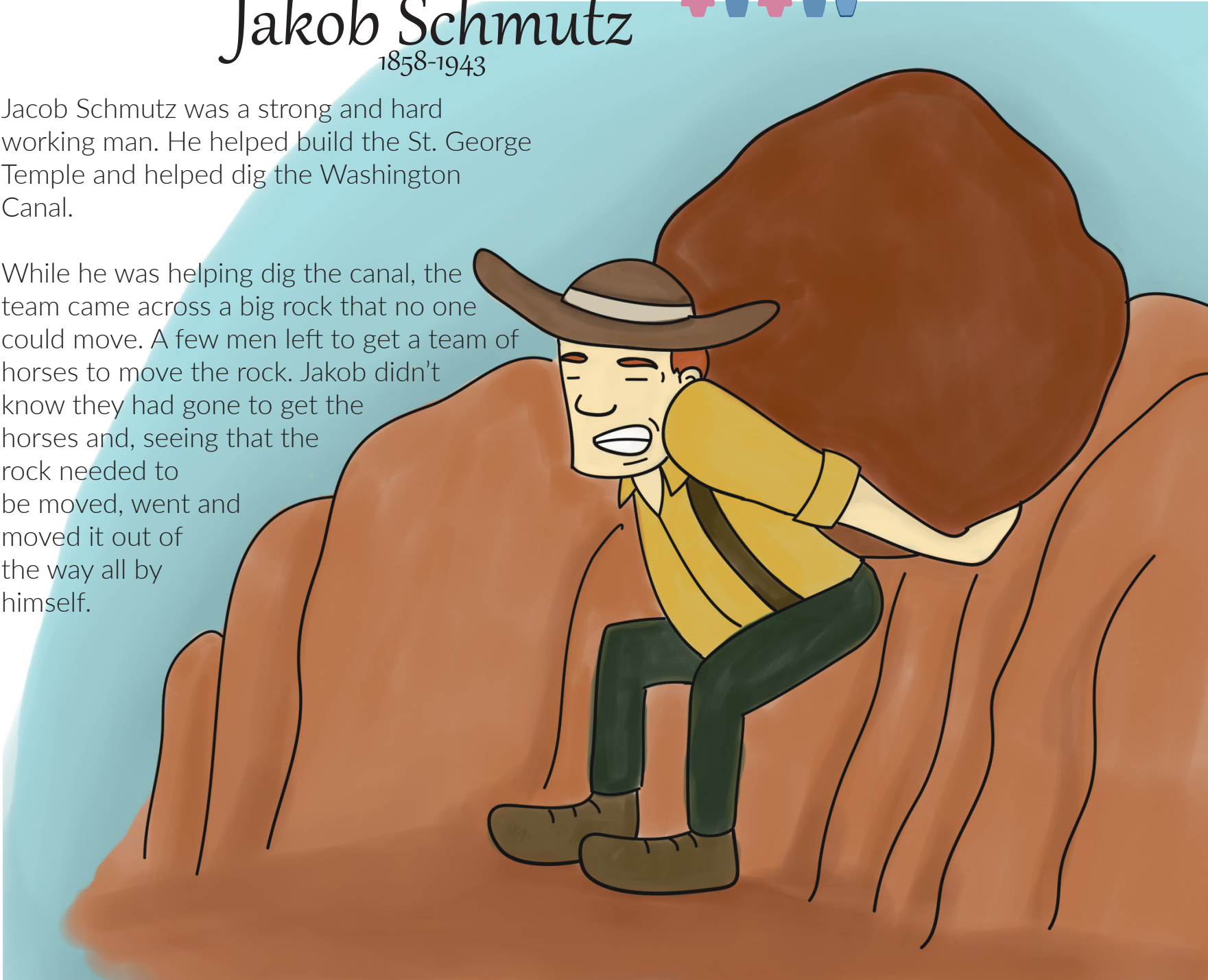
# Jakob Schmutz

1858-1943



Jacob Schmutz was a strong and hard working man. He helped build the St. George Temple and helped dig the Washington Canal.

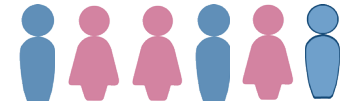
While he was helping dig the canal, the team came across a big rock that no one could move. A few men left to get a team of horses to move the rock. Jakob didn't know they had gone to get the horses and, seeing that the rock needed to be moved, went and moved it out of the way all by himself.





# John Martin Johnson

1864-1932



John found out his parents had joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints while he was away traveling. They persuaded John to get baptized too. On the way home from the baptismal service, John thought to himself that he had made a mistake. He didn't really believe the church was true.

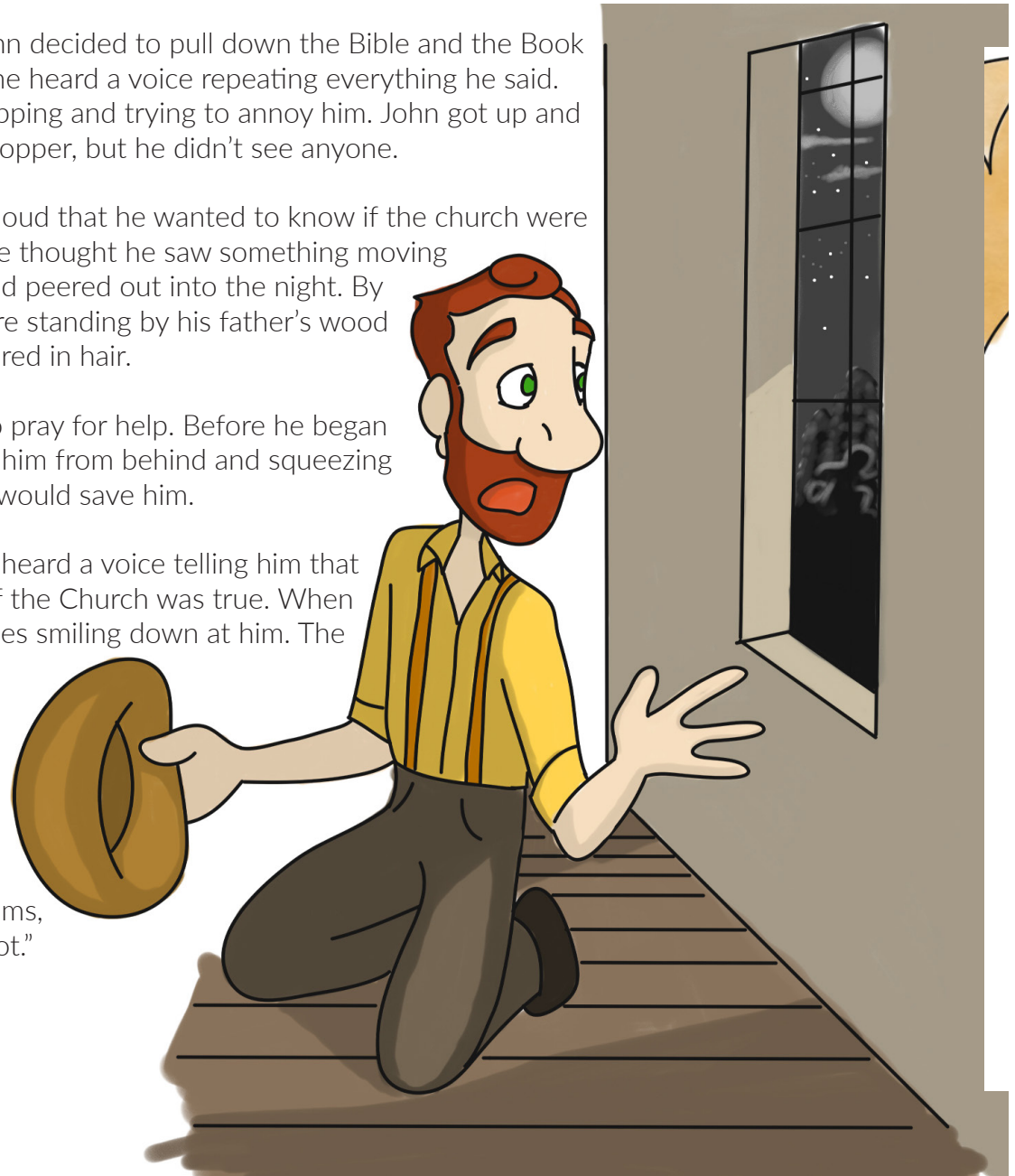
That night was a bright moonlit night and John decided to pull down the Bible and the Book of Mormon and started to read. As he read, he heard a voice repeating everything he said. At first he thought it was someone eavesdropping and trying to annoy him. John got up and walked around the house to find the eavesdropper, but he didn't see anyone.

When he returned to his room, he cried out loud that he wanted to know if the church were true or not. When he looked around again, he thought he saw something moving outside. He stepped closer to the window and peered out into the night. By the light of the full moon he could see a figure standing by his father's wood shed. It was a big, ugly man who was all covered in hair.

John was so scared he knelt down at once to pray for help. Before he began his prayer he felt like someone was grabbing him from behind and squeezing him tightly. He prayed desperately that God would save him.

Slowly, the pressure and fear went away. He heard a voice telling him that God was proud of him for wanting to know if the Church was true. When John looked up, he saw a man dressed in robes smiling down at him. The man told John that God wanted him to go west and that the journey would be hard but that God would be with him.

From that day on, John never doubted that the church was true. When he would retell his story to others he would tell them, "There stands in the bible, that some shall have dreams, and visitations. Some believe and some do not."



# Joseph Knight Sr.

1772-1847



Joseph Knight and his family were devoted to Joseph Smith from the moment they heard the message of the restoration. Joseph Knight made it a point to be at Joseph Smith's house when it was time for Joseph to go and get the plates from the Hill Comorah. Joseph Smith used our ancestors horse and buggy to travel to the hill to recover the plates.

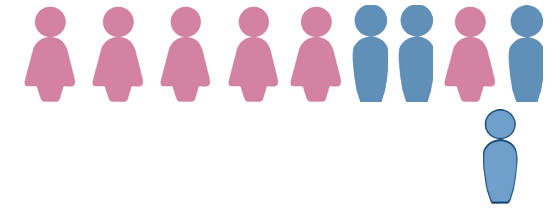
When Joseph Smith returned to the house, Joseph Knight remembers him saying, "Well, I am greatly disappointed. It is ten times better than I ever expected."

Joseph Knight and his family remained friends of Joseph Smith throughout the remainder of his life.

Even when others deserted the prophet, the Knight family never left him.

# Newel Knight

1800-1847



During the trouble in Jackson County Missouri the Mormon Saints got into a gun fight with some of the locals who were harassing Christian Whitmer. During the fight, Philo Dibble was shot so many times that the doctor pronounced that he would not live very long.

Newel Knight quietly slipped into Philo's house and gave him a priesthood blessing. He blessed Philo that he would be healed.

After Newel left the house, Philo said he could feel the healing process. He stood up from his bed and all the bullets fell out of his gun wounds and he was healed. Philo snuck out of his house later that night and ran along the road to find Newel, hug him, and thank him for being a worthy priesthood holder.



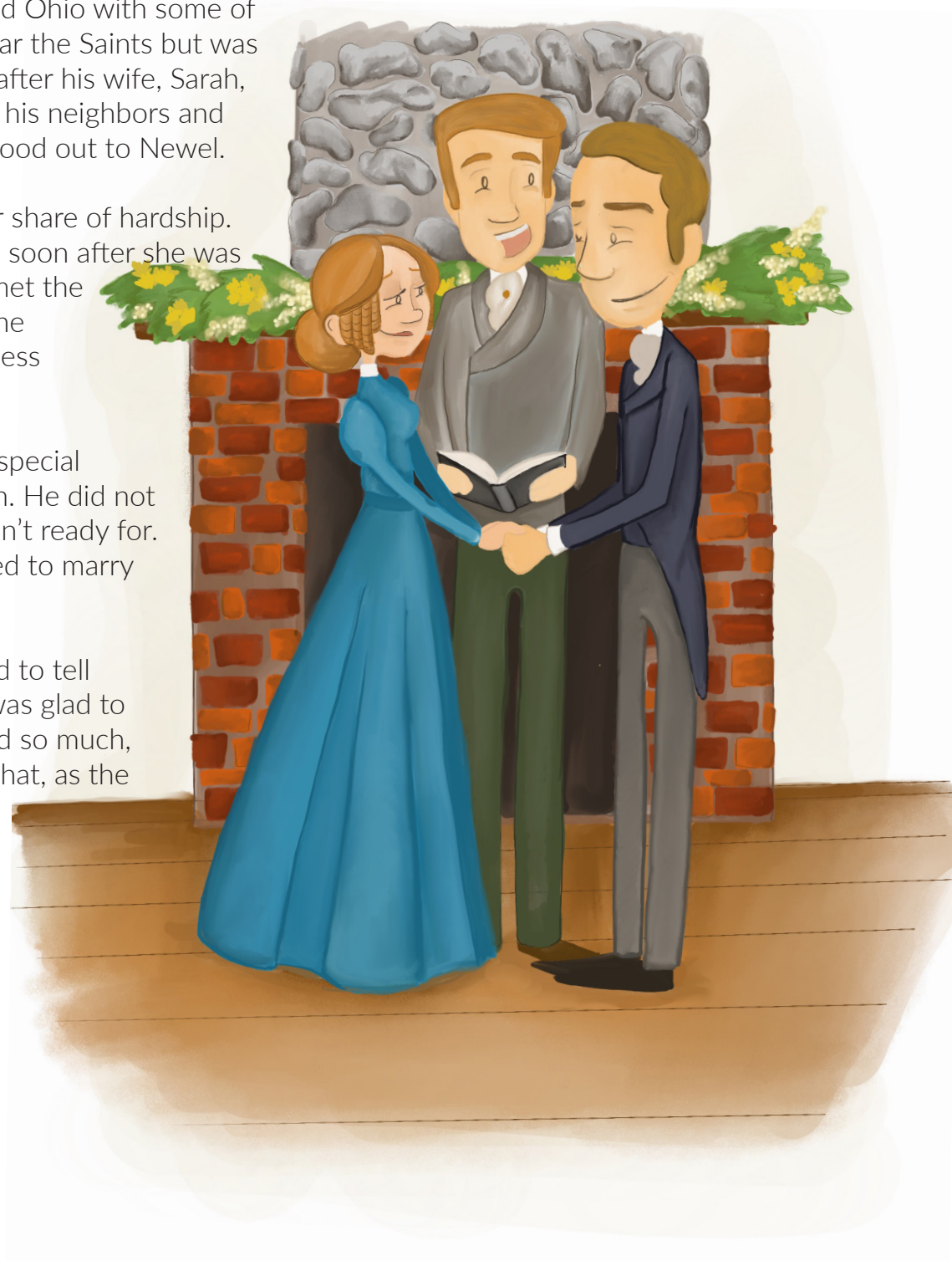


Newel Knight's family moved to Kirtland Ohio with some of the other Saints. Newel loved being near the Saints but was finding it difficult to care for his family after his wife, Sarah, died. He found comfort and support in his neighbors and fellow church members. One person stood out to Newel.

Lydia was a young woman who had her share of hardship. She had lost her husband and child soon after she was married. She had felt so lost until she met the Mormon missionaries. Hearing about the restored church and the plan of happiness brought her hope again.

Newel knew instantly that Lydia was a special woman. He proceeded carefully though. He did not want to rush her into anything she wasn't ready for. But, after a short courtship, Lydia agreed to marry Newel.

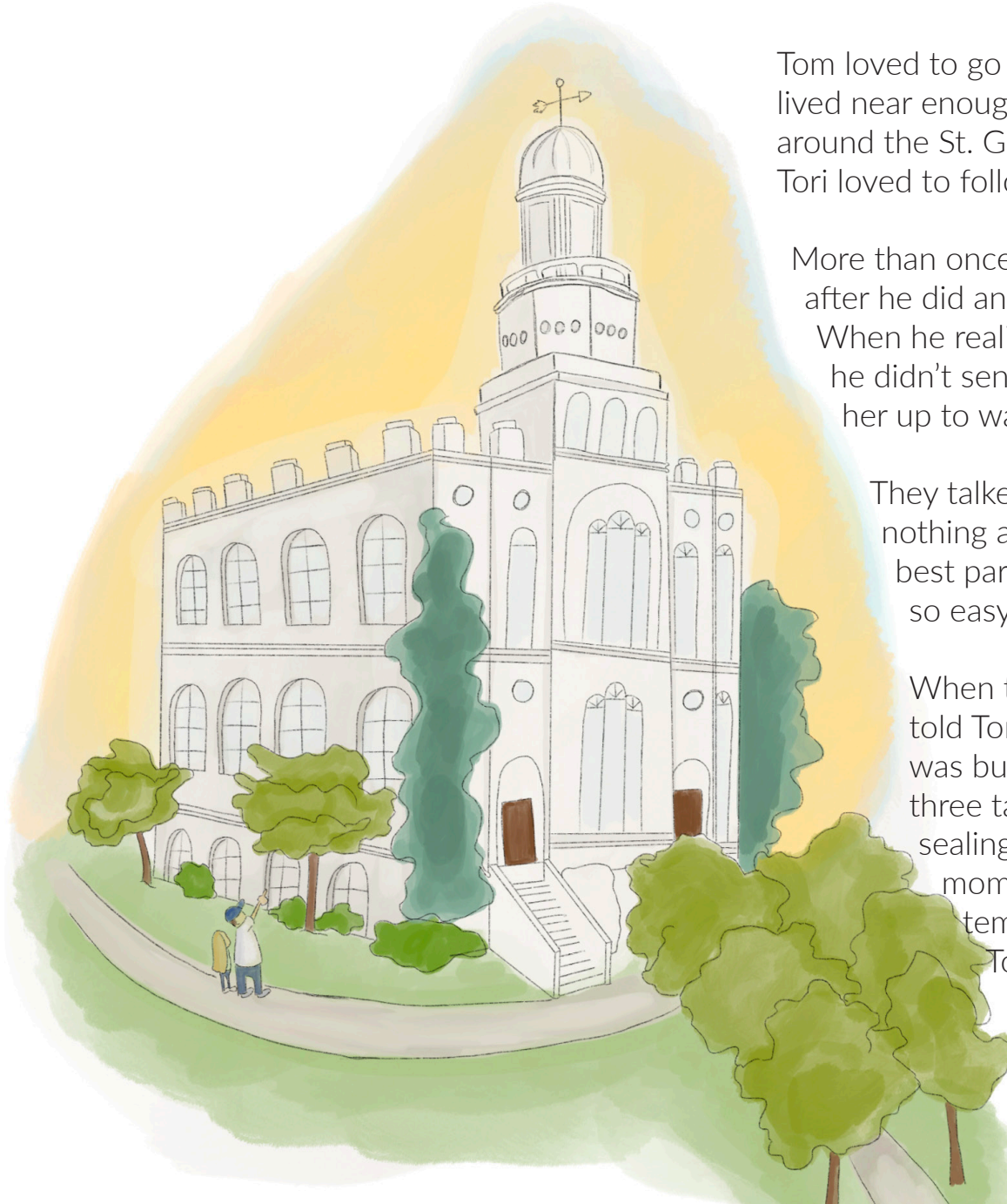
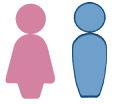
Overjoyed at her answer, Newel rushed to tell his good friend Joseph Smith. Joseph was glad to see these two friends who had endured so much, happy and in love. Joseph announced that, as the head of the newly established Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints he had the authority to marry them and that he would like to perform the service. Newel and Lydia gladly agreed, and they became the first couple that Joseph Smith married.





# Tom Larkin

August 24, 1964



Tom loved to go for long walks. When he lived near enough, he loved walking to and around the St. George Temple. His daughter Tori loved to follow him.

More than once, she left the house soon after he did and walked sneakily behind him. When he realized he was being followed, he didn't send her back. Instead, he called her up to walk alongside him.

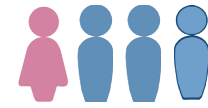
They talked about everything and nothing as they walked. That was the best part of walking with Tom, he was so easy to talk to.

When they got to the temple, he told Tori stories of how the temple was built, the Holy of Holies and the three tall windows that led to the sealing room where he and Tori's mom were sealed. He loved the temple and, through their walks, Tori fell in love with it too.

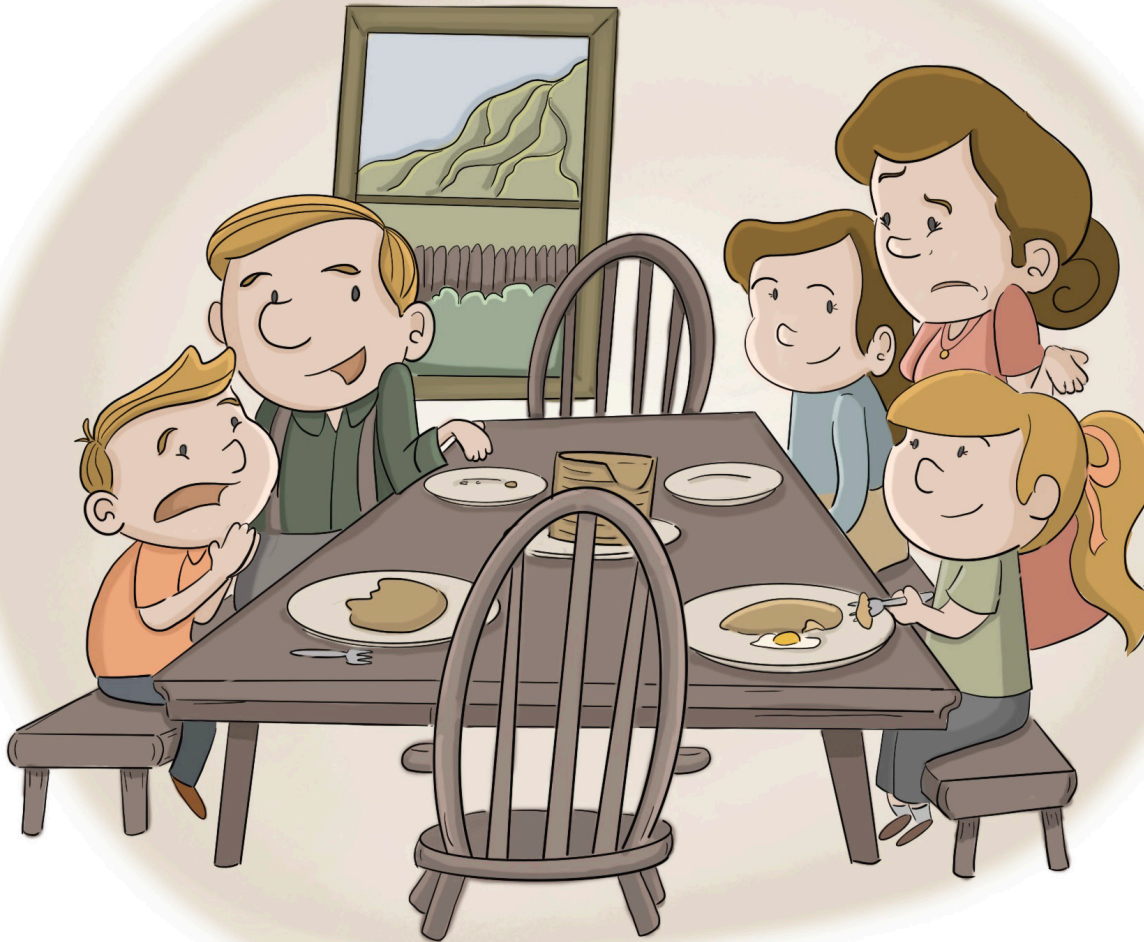
# Conrad's Promise

Conrad Larkin

1915-1948



Dan was doing everything he could to convince his mom to let him go with his older siblings on their campout to Willard Lake. Laura and Rachel went with Conrad every year and Dan wanted a chance to go. Dan's mom was worried he was too young and that he might get hurt. Conrad promised to look after him and get everyone home safely. After Conrad gave his word, their mom agreed to let Dan tag along.



Dan shot out of bed the next morning and practically danced the first mile up the mountain. As the sun grew high, he began to feel tired. His pack was so heavy! Conrad noticed Dan was struggling. He remembered his promise and lifted Dan's pack off his shoulders.

Conrad carried 2 packs and they kept climbing.







The sun started to go down when Conrad noticed Laura was struggling. He remembered his promise and lifted Laura's pack off her shoulders.

Conrad carried 3 packs and they kept climbing.

The sun had nearly set when Conrad noticed Rachel was struggling. He remembered his promise and lifted Laura's pack off her shoulders.

Conrad carried all 4 packs and they kept climbing.







The sun fell behind the mountains, and it got very dark. Conrad knew they must have gotten lost. He felt that they should stop. While everyone rested, Conrad searched for the path. He sound found the right way and they made it safely to the campsite.



The next morning, Dan realized he had left his water bottle at the spot where they had stopped to rest. Conrad volunteered to jog up the path and retrieve it. When he reached the spot where they had stopped, he was shocked to discover an enormous cliff just a few feet from where he felt they should stop. They hadn't noticed it in the dark and would have fallen to their deaths if they hadn't stopped.

Conrad knew then that God had helped him keep his promise to get everyone home safely.



# Mildred Brunker

1914-2009



Mildred Brunker was a strong, determined woman who learned how to work hard growing up in Northern Utah.

Mildred married Conrad Larkin and they had a handful of beautiful boys. While their sons were still young, Conrad died in a plane crash.

Mildred was heartbroken. She didn't know how she was going to raise her boys during the aftermath of the great depression. She didn't know how she would provide for them and she missed her husband terribly.

One day, soon after her husband's death, she found herself walking by a local park. A couple asked her if she knew the story of a statue in the park. She graciously answered the couple's questions. While she spoke with them, she felt two strong hands rest on her shoulders and give them a tight squeeze just the way her husband used to. She looked around, but no one was there.

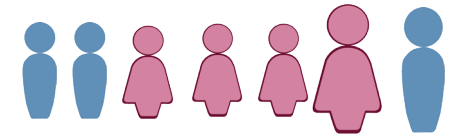


Rather than feeling afraid, Mildred felt a huge wave of love and reassurance from the spirit. She knew then that her husband was not far away and that God would be there to support her and help her raise her boys.



# Jane and Joseph Debridge

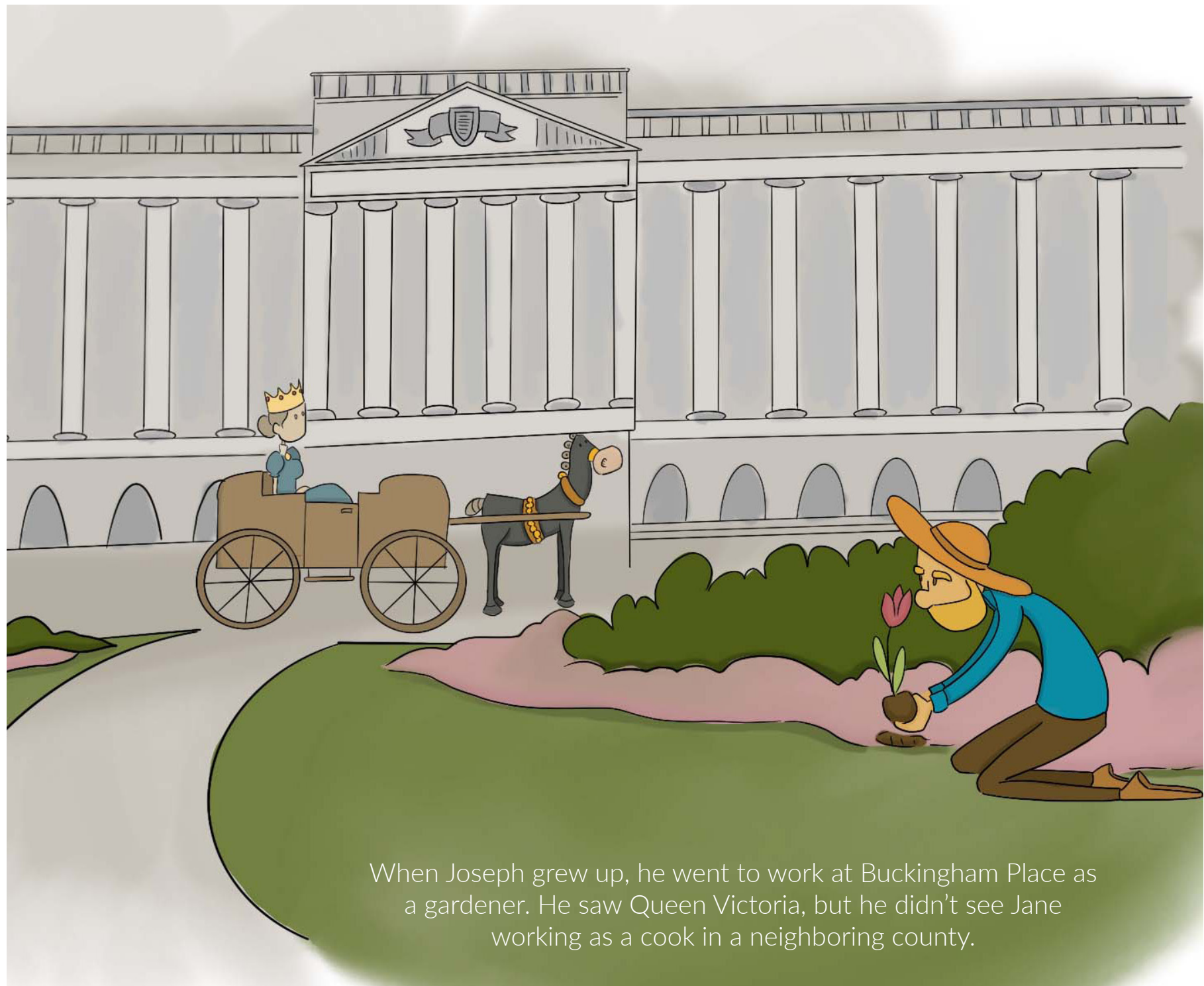
Married December 6, 1866



Jane and Joseph grew up near each other in England. They both saw the missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and accepted the invitation to be baptized, but they didn't see each other.

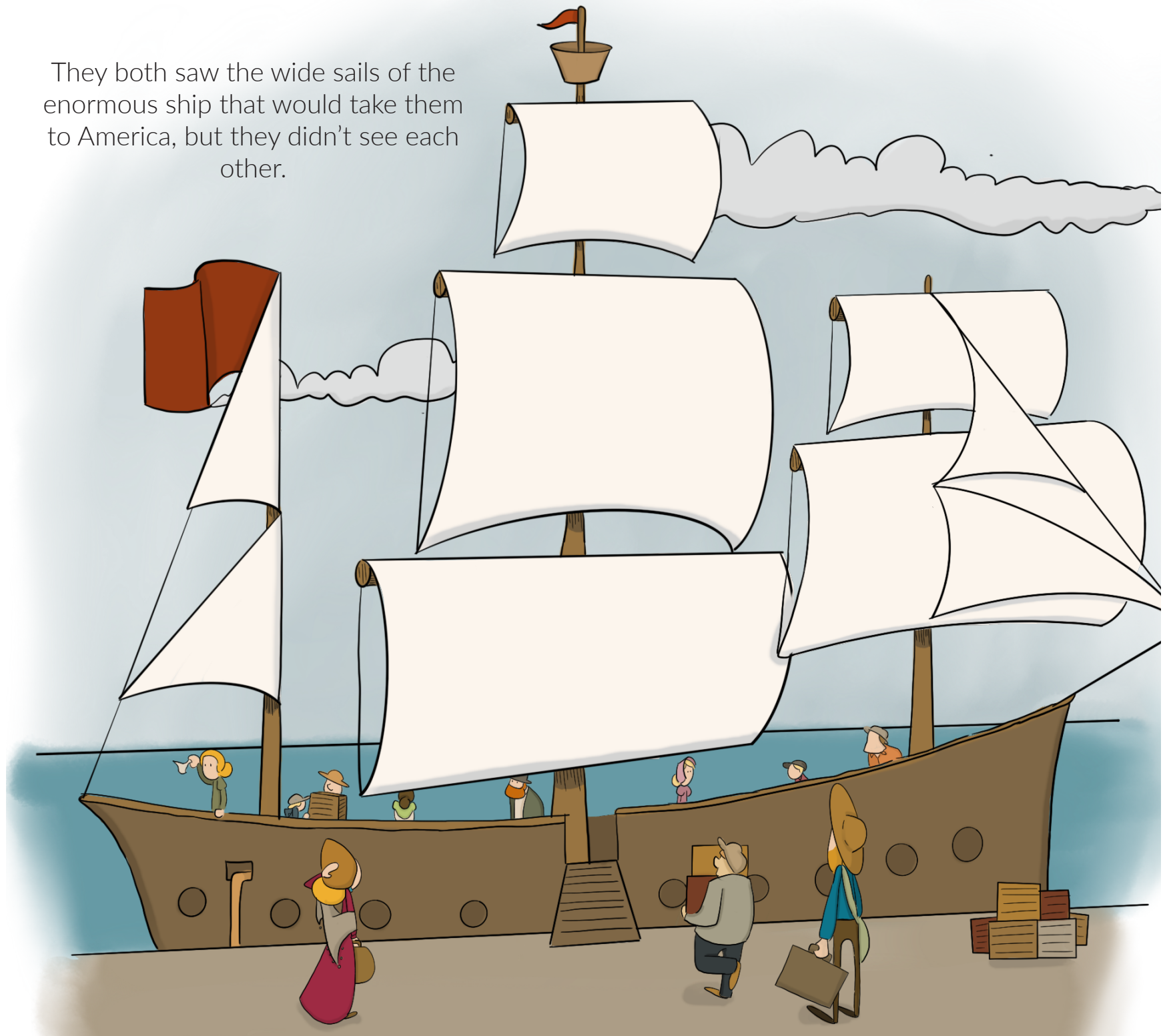






When Joseph grew up, he went to work at Buckingham Place as a gardener. He saw Queen Victoria, but he didn't see Jane working as a cook in a neighboring county.

They both saw the wide sails of the enormous ship that would take them to America, but they didn't see each other.





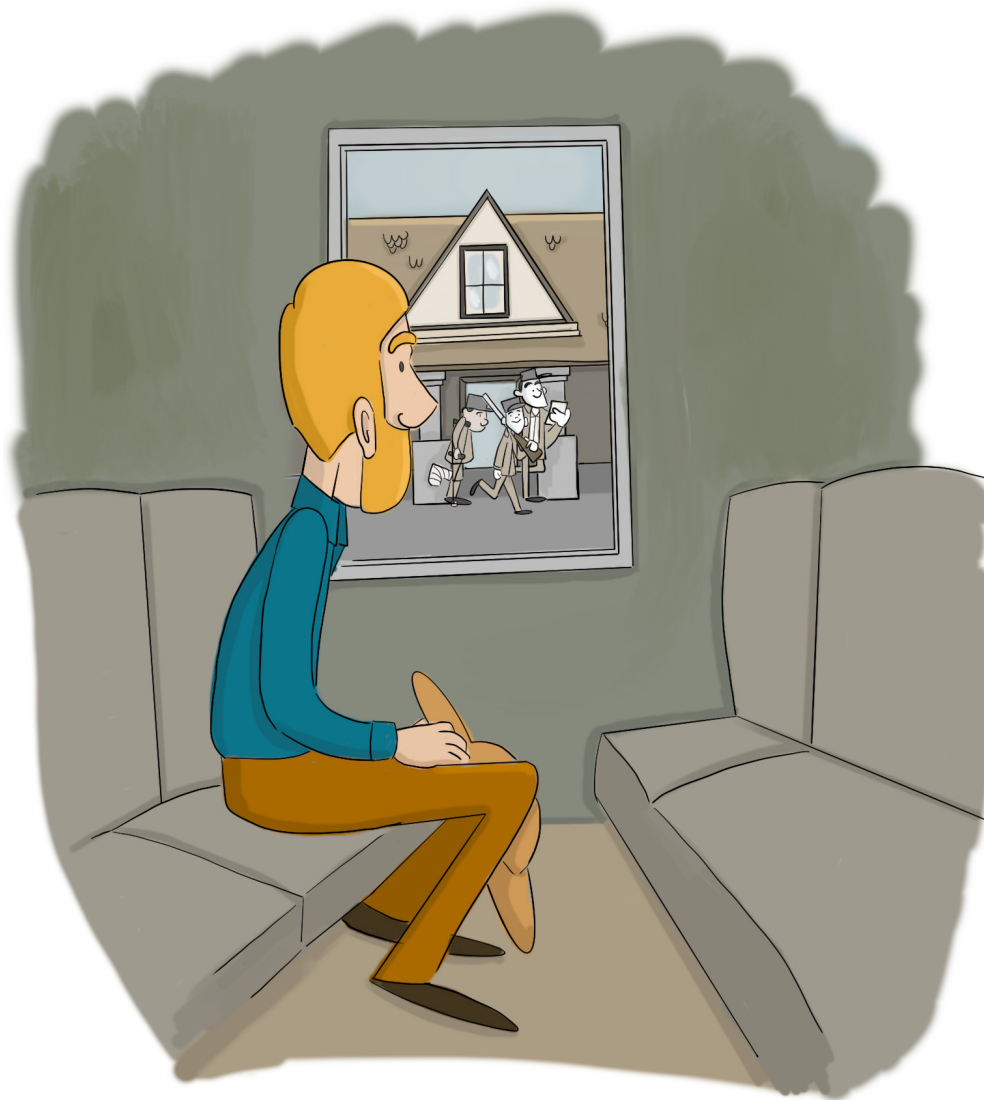
Jane saw the statue of liberty and the shores of New York as the ship pulled into the harbor of their new home, but she didn't see Joseph.



They both saw the long steam train that would take them on the first part of their journey west, but they didn't see each other.





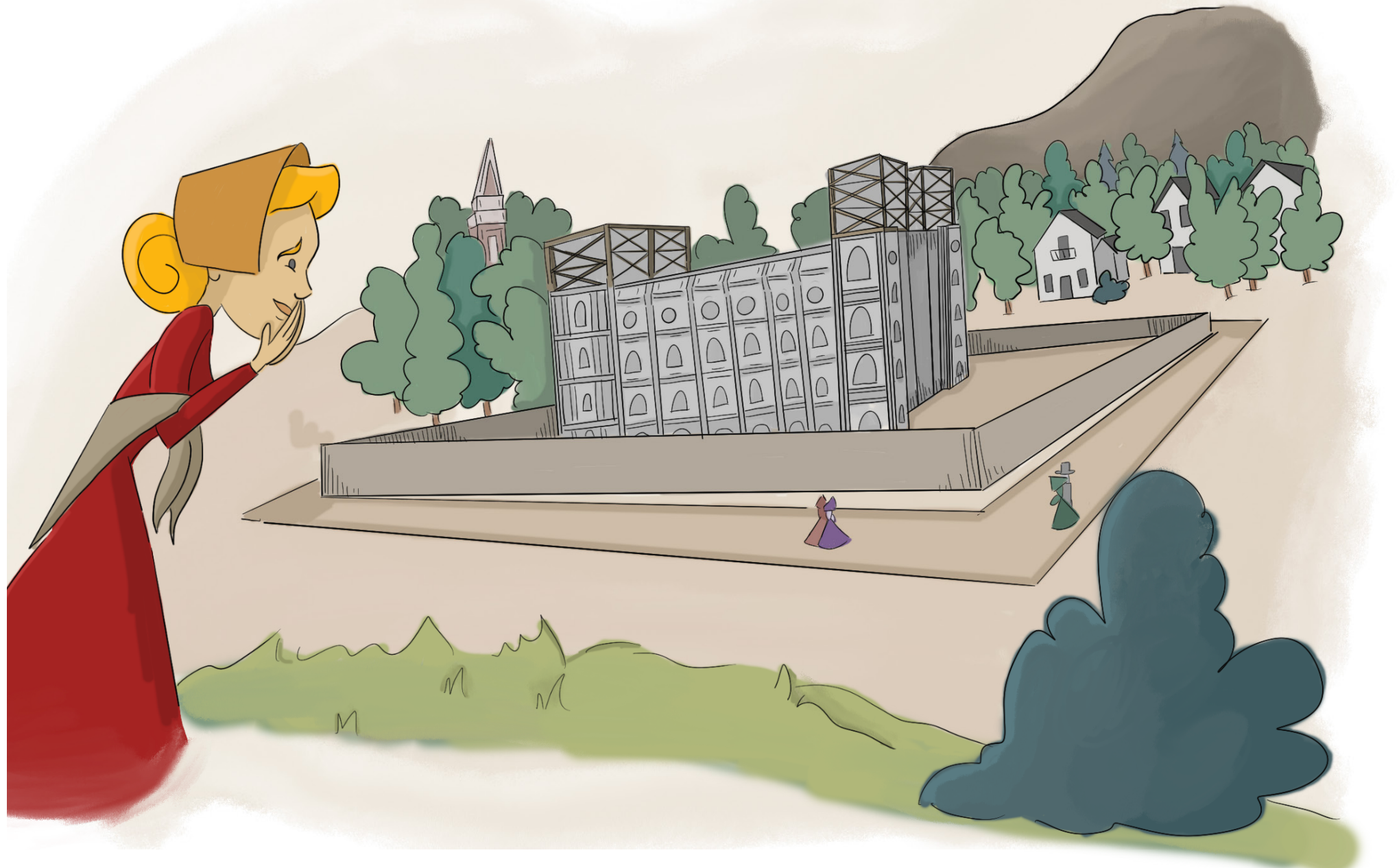


Joseph saw soldiers making their way home  
from The Civil War, but he didn't see Jane.



Jane and Joseph saw the long dusty wagon trail stretching out toward Zion,  
but they didn't see each other.

Jane was so excited to see the Salt Lake Valley and the beautiful temple under construction, but she didn't see Joseph.







Jane became a cook in a house near the temple sight. Joseph became a gardener in the house right next door. After many years and thousands of miles, they finally saw each other.



Jane and Joseph got married and lived and served together in the shadow of the Salt Lake Temple for the rest of their lives.