

**PERSONAL HISTORY
OF
JACK L. CROSBY
RECORDED 1983
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BY JOYE C. CARLSON**

I am very grateful to our leaders for coming up with this project, everybody having to do a little history. I personally think this is one of the best projects that the High Priests have started, have undertaken. I had a few bits and pieces wrote down but I had to add quite a bit. For that I'm grateful.

I would like to talk a little bit about my ancestors. On my mother's side, there were the Ford's and the Buntings. They were early settlers in the Southern Utah and Northern Arizona area. Then on my father side, my great grandfather was Jacob Hamblin. I'm sure a lot of you would know and have read about Jacob Hamblin. My great grandmother was Lucinda Taylor. My great grandfather, Jacob Hamblin, was a convert to the Church. He converted his girlfriend and they were married. They had four children born to them and this happened at the time of the great persecution of the Church back in the New York area. Lucinda wasn't what you would call staunchly connected with the church and, as a result, she felt that all this moving around was unnecessary and so she decided to go back to her parents and she took the four children with her. Later on, sometime, I don't exactly how long but she brought the children back and gave them to Jacob, saying, that, "Here are your brats. You can have them back." Then she went her way, back to her parents, and a few months later, my great grandfather, Jacob Hamblin, married another lady, Rachel Judd, and they immediately started the trek to Utah. When they arrived in Salt Lake City, they hadn't been there but a short time until Brigham Young called Jacob on a mission to go to Southern Utah to be a settler of Southern Utah and to be a peacemaker with the Indians.

He spent the rest of his life fulfilling this calling. He completed his mission by making peace with the Navajos, with the Hopis and with the Piutes. He was able to accomplish this by complete dedication to his calling and through the help of the lord. His rules for dealing with the Indians were: never talk anything but the truth, always listen to them when they wish to tell their grievances, and to never submit to any unjust demands.

I was born July the 29th, 1915 in Kanab, Utah, to Jacob Hamblin and LueElla Ford Crosby. They gave my dad my great Grandfathers' name, Jacob Hamblin Crosby. My father was a rancher and cattleman 11 miles east of Kanab, Utah. Later on, they sold the ranch and moved to Kanab, at which time he became involved in law enforcement, with the last years being spent as Justice of the Peace in Kanab. My parents have both passed away. I have an older brother and sister and I have a younger brother and sister. I am the middle. Both of my sisters have passed away.

The thing that I remember most about my early childhood days was that we had to harness up a horse and hook it to a sled and drag this barrel for about a half a mile up toward the mountain to get our drinking water. It was not an easy task to drag this

sled with 50 gallons of water on it. Another thing I remember: Dad always seen to it that we had nice ponies to ride. My older brother and I spent hours and hours riding these ponies. Travel to Kanab, which was the nearest town, was accomplished by either horse and buggy or by team and wagon. After selling the ranch, we children were able to attend school on a regular basis and I graduated High School in 1933. Some of my schoolmates some of you will know, I'm sure. Like Graham Mc Donald graduated with me. Some of you know Sid Porter. His wife, Alta Haycock graduated with me. Lynn Green. His wife, Madge Swapp, also. These three are living in Cedar City now.

I met my wife, LaRee, at a dance after a basketball game in Hurricane, Utah. LaRee and her girlfriend had a bet on to see who danced with them first. LaRee got me and her girlfriend got another player who later became her husband. We were married August 24th, 1935 in Kanab, Utah. We were working at Grand Canyon at the time and as some of you older people can remember that they used to have programs at the Lodges for the guests for entertainment. Well, after we were married in Kanab in the afternoon, we had to go back to Grand Canyon and they performed a mock marriage ceremony for the guests at the Grand Canyon Lodge. So we were married actually twice in one day.

We have three children: Laura Lee Matheson with 5 children, Joye Carlson with 2, and Jack L. Jr. with 4. We have 11 grandchildren plus one by marriage and we have 10 great grandchildren.

As I mentioned before, I graduated from High School in 1933. I loved math classes and I got along very well with algebra and geometry. My favorite sport was basketball and, as a member of the High School Basketball team, we traveled to Hurricane, at that time: to St George, to Enterprise, to Orderville, Cedar City and to Parowan. That was the league that we played in. This Basketball was a highlight of my High School years.

Through my life I have been able to stay above the average in earnings, through hard work and dedication to the job, except for the last few years. And those that got educations passed me up, just like that. It seemed that I was going backwards.

My first real job was in the CCCs. I was in there for about two months and I hadn't been there but a few days when I contracted pneumonia or became ill with pneumonia. Two months later, I had convinced them that my mother could heal me, make me well, so they released me and I went back home. Mother nursed me to health again and from there, I went out to Grand Canyon to work for the Utah Parks Company. I spent three summers at Grand Canyon. That would be '34, '35 and '36. I got reacquainted with my wife at the Grand Canyon, and, like I mentioned before, we were married in '35. That was the second year I was there and then we returned again in '36 to work for the summer. In the spring of 1937, Mr. Rogers, and a lot of you will know Mr. Rogers, I'm sure, called me to work at the Commissary in Cedar City. The next few summers were spent working at the Commissary in Cedar City and at Sun Valley, Idaho, at the Ski Resort in the wintertime. The years of 1941 to 1951 were intermittently spent working for the Utah Parks Company, United States Steel, Utah Construction and the Goody Garden for Elton Jones, with time out for World War II. I spent a spell in World War II. During this time, we bought our home over on 1050 (1150) right next to Therol McArthur, right next to Paul Stokes, not to far from Keith Bess and Mead Forsyth and we enjoyed that home for some time, 12 or 13 years. At about this same time, they

seen fit to build this church and the church was started at that time. Brother Gentry has talked about that. It was not an easy task to get done. I happened to have a brochure, of that. The little guy right up in the corner is me. If you'd like to take a look at it: right here up in the corner. Here is another picture of me when I'm a little child. This is a picture of my Dad when he was 19 and, when he was 70 years old, he made a notation on the back. He was a cowboy at this time, and he says, "I was about 19 years old and a cowboy. Not boasting but I was a good one." Dad didn't ever boast. Here is a picture of Dad just before he went on a mission. Here is a picture of Dad and Mother just as they were married.

In 1952, I went back to work for Unites States Steel at Iron Mountain. While there, after I was there some time, well, until 1960, I had transferred in from the iron ore part to a Research and Development Department and, in 1960, this department, the whole department, was sent to Provo, Utah. I think at that time there were 7 of us that were transferred up there. A lot of you I think know Clark Mathews, Dick Hunter, Ray Cox, Lloyd Davis. Well, there were 7 of us altogether. It made quite a difference. There were several of us that went out of the Ward at that time. The 1960's was a bad years for US Steel and, as a result, the Department was fazed out; that was in 1967, they fazed out the Research and Development Department of US Steel and I was sent to Yerrington, Nevada, to Supervise a sampling of an iron ore drilling project. Drilling sampling on an iron ore deposit. Five years later, Dec. 31st, 1971, because of lack of funds again, I was placed on a retirement list and, as far as US Steel is concerned, I have been retired since 1971. Then we moved back to Cedar City from Yerrington, Nevada, but eventually, we didn't stay there very long, just a few months, eventually we moved on to Page, Arizona, to manage a Men's and Ladies Department Store for D. Stevens Company. After 7 years in Page, we decided to hang it up. So we moved back to Orem, Utah. This is the place where we love up there before and we thought we would really like to go back there but we were back there for about a year and we decided it was not for us. Everybody's to busy and everybody's going helter skelter and so we decided we would come back to Cedar City, which we did in 1980.

While I've been here in Cedar City, I have driven school bus on a part time basis and let me tell you something. It's a great challenge but it's rewarding.

Most challenging and satisfying job that I ever had was spent with the US Steel in the Research Department. While working here, I was instrumental in developing a process used to upgrade the iron ore at Atlantic City, Wyoming, and to put it into a pellet form for use at Geneva Steel.

Hunting and fishing has found a special place in our lives. LaRee has developed a strong feeling to do the same things that I like to do. She has gone hunting and fishing with me many times. She especially likes to fish and has become the top fisherman in our family, always besting me. We bought our first fishing boat in 1961 in Orem, Utah and have enjoyed boating and fishing very much since then. We sold our fishing boat and bought a larger one out to Page, Arizona, and there have been many trips up the Lake and to Rainbow Bridge with member of our family and friends. We still have the boat that we use for fishing, water skiing and for just plain boating. Our children and grandchildren really like to be on the water with us.

I was born in the church and for the most part have been active for most of the time. We were married in 1935 and then in 1940, we went to the temple to be married

for time and eternity. Bishop Bud Leigh was instrumental in my going to the temple. While progressing through the Aaronic Priesthood, I held offices in all three of the Quorums. In 1952, Bishop Larsen asked me to be a Sunday School Superintendent. This just about threw me for a loop because I'd felt that there were other people that were entitled to be superintendent ahead of me. I chose Sam Gentry and Page Knell to be counselors. Sometime later, Sam was asked to be Elders Quorum President and he chose me as one of his counselors.

After being transferred to Orem, I was asked to work in the scouting program. This was for three years. This is during the time that my boy grew up and went through the eagle classes. After he had made his Eagle, why, I asked to be released and was asked to be Elder's Quorum Secretary, and I handled that for 4 years before moving to Yerrington, Nevada. We had only been in Yerrington, Nevada a short time when I was asked to be Ward Finance Clerk. This was a very rewarding position to hold. I was at this position when the first portion of the automated reporting system was put into operation. While in Yerrington for 5 years, the first faze of a three-faze chapel was built. My wife was very instrumental through the Relief Society in gathering funds to see this project finished.

My next appointment was at Page, Arizona, as Stake Finance clerk. This position carried more responsibility than any duties that I had ever been asked to perform in the church. While in this position at Page, the church went through a transition from white man bishops and Branch Presidents to the assigning of Navajo people to positions of responsibility in the Stake, in the Wards and in the Branches. Under the direction of our then Stake President, J. Ballard Washington, a Regional Representative now, Navajo people were called as Counselors in the Stake Presidency, as Bishops, as Branch Presidents, as Clerks, and as Finance Clerks. It was my responsibility to teach and train the finance clerks. What a job. Navajo people are inclined to act when and if they want to. The hardest part of it was to make them understand that there are deadlines to meet. I have made many trips to Tuba City, to Kiabito, to Kayenta, to Chanto, to Leachee, and to Cedar Ridge, to help them prepare their reports to meet this deadline. It was the happiest day of my life, the month that all reports were in on time. They were not all correct but at least they were all in. This was the most challenging, rewarding, and satisfying position that I have ever held in the Church. Just as the work became easier, we decided to quit and move back to Orem, Utah.

Just a couple of things that I might mention while I was Finance Clerk, some funny things happened. You know Navajo people aren't funny. Like I say, they'll act when they want to act and not if you plead with them. I remember one time; one of the Finance Clerks called up and invited himself and his family into my home, asking first, "do you have a TV." Well, yes, I have a TV. "Well, I'm coming in on Thursday and I'm going to bring my family, 5 children under 5, 4 of them in diapers. He says they can watch TV while you and I make my report!" This was really funny because my wife knew the family and knew the condition and it just about turned her over to think that she was going to have these 5 kids for 2-3 hours in a mobile home. Another Finance Clerk called up one time and said, "I have \$200.00 floating around out here. I don't know what to do with it." Well, as it turned out, I went out and we found what to do with it. Of course, if you've got money, you put it in the bank. But he'd made his receipts and he'd

prepared his Bank deposit and he'd reported it on the report and everything should balance except he still had the \$200 and the report still balanced. "Now, he says, I've got \$200 floating around out here." Another one called up and wanted to make an immediate appointment with me. I was working at the store and it was about 5 o'clock and he says, "Brother Crosby, I've got to see you." I said, what's the matter? He says, "Well, \$389.00 is the matter. And, he says, "Got to see you today." I said, I don't get off work until 6 then I've got to close the store up then by the time I have dinner, it will be 7 o'clock. He says, "you've got to get here before 7 because I'm going to go with my brothers and ride broncos at 8." But anyway, I made an appointment later on in the week to see him. I went out and his \$389.00 had been absconded by somebody. He was the Finance Clerk and he and the Branch President had opened up the envelope and verified that the money matched the tickets then he had taken it home and put it in the cupboard and two days later he gets it out to do his work and it's not there. So he's \$389 out. His only explanation, which was very slim, he says, "well, I have relatives that come into the house a lot and, he says, probably one of them took the money." But anyway, we were able to get Salt Lake to write it off the books and continue on.

After leaving Page and going back to Orem, there I was assigned as Temple Coordinator for the High Priests Quorum. This was a relatively easy position as the Temple was only 10 minutes away and it wasn't any problem at all to talk the High Priests into going to the Temple. So that was an easy job.

We were not happy in Orem and as a result, we decided to make one more move. This was to be the final move so in 1980, we packed it up and came back to Cedar City. Funny thing, back in Cedar City, I have been called as a Counselor in the High Priest Quorum under Sam Gentry. Again, this is an assignment that I am very happy and pleased to have. I had one other assignment before this one. I was called as Stake Clerk with responsibility as Stake Purchasing Agent. This I held for somewhat over a year and this happens to be the only assignment in the Church that I asked to be released from, the reason being: too many bosses. It seems like everybody calling up Jack, I need this, Jack, I'm out of that, Jack, can you do this? Finally one day, it got to me and I said a few cross words to a lady and the next day I went over and resigned. If a job is going to do that to me, somebody else needs to have the job. Right or wrong, I guess I will have to answer to that later on, I guess. But it seemed to me the thing to do because I had become cross with a lady that I shouldn't have become cross with.

I know that the gospel is true; I know that Jesus is the Christ, and I know that under his direction and through our own actions, we have the right and privilege to gain the Celestial glory. And I say this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.