

Life History of Christina Forsyth Macfarlane  
by Maude Macfarlane Judd

Christina Forsyth, daughter of Thomas Forsyth and Mary Browett (Holmes), was born in Salt Lake City in the 15th Ward, December 9, 1858. Her father, Thomas Forsyth, was born September 20, in Roxboro Scotland. He was a wheelwright by trade. Her mother, Mary Browett, was born at Bothsford Leuester, England, June 25, 1823. Marys' father was a Guardsman at the Kings Palace and while on duty was injured in a fire there and died, from the effect, leaving a wife and 12 children.

Mary, at this time, was 9 years old. Her mother put her out as an apprentice in a lace factory but she ran away. Later she was a governess to a gentleman's family in England. At the age of 27 she married George Holmes. Both she and her husband joined the LDS Church and soon after sailed for America. One the way over she gave birth to a premature baby which died and was buried at sea. After reaching St. Louis her husband took with the Cholera and died. She went to work here at St. Louis and learned the art of making gloves. She was offered a job in the Hotel and there was where she worked and made money to take her to Utah.

When she reached Salt Lake she was taken to the square and left there with the rest of the emigrants. While at the square she got a job taking care of a sick lady by the name of Cutbert.

She married Thomas Forsyth, a widower with six children, in the Endowment House August 20, 1853 by President Brigham Young. Of this Union several children were born, one died in infancy. Thomas was called to go to Green River to fish for the community. Men at this time were called in groups to procure food for the Saints. During this time Mary took her Young baby to gather berries nearby. When she returned there were fresh bear tracks which passed the bush where the baby lay.

Thomas and his oldest son helped get the timber out for the Salt Lake Tabernacle, the boy received much praise for his aptness in logging. The tithing beef was butchered at the Tithing Office and when Mary was first married she used to get the fat from the office and make soap on shares.

In the fall of 1861 Thomas was called by Brigham Young to go to Dixie and make shingles, lumber and lath for the community town there. (This call was made when Brigham Young stood up in the October 1861 Conference of the Church and read the names of over 300 men who were called to go to the Cotton Mission. They were instructed to sell everything they had and take their families and go. It was a complete surprise to most of them. It was a heartbreak call since most of them had crossed the plains and had just had time to establish homes and gardens and had fruit trees almost ready to bare. They had to sell their property at give away prices since there was so much property thrown on the market to be sold in just one short month. It was wise of Brigham Young to have them sell everything for that Dixie mission was so terrible that if they had anything to go back to—then surely some of them would have returned. However it was said that those who were called were men and women who had proved their faith in and obedience to their leaders. Many of them had marched with Joseph Smith of the terrible march of Zions camp. Thirty eight were past members of the Mormon Battalion. They (250 of them) sold everything and were on their way in a month. It took a month for them to make the trip and I have a list of those who arrived, with their families, in St. George the first week of December, just two months after the call was made. This



list and their early struggles is printed in a book called "Immortal Pioneers" by Albert Miller who was a former Mayor of St. George (but dead now). Notes by R. Roundy.

In the fall of 1862 he returned to Salt Lake for his family and moved them to Dixie in a covered wagon—bring two horses, two oxen and a cow. He sold his home for \$1,500 in whatever he could get for it. Later his place was sold to the railroad for \$15,000.

Christina was about four years old at the time they moved to Dixie. They camped at Belvue in a tent. Here they lived all winter. When spring came, he moved to Dixie. They settled in Santa Clara. They lived in a little "lean-to" until a small house could be built. Thomas spent the summer up in Ash Creek, later called "Forsyth Canyon", building a Saw Mill. His wife Mary went to Salt Lake City, taking the older girls with her. She made gloves and sold them to get Iron for the Mill and supplies for the family. She bought the first stove, a "Charter Oak" that came to this section of the country. Later she sold it and bought another from the Stephoe Army. When she arrived home and went to set it up she found the stove full of cans of lye.

They lived at Santa Clara one year then they moved to the Forsyth Canyon. By this time Robert was married and Christina stayed at Santa Clara with Robert and his wife. One time Robert and wife went up the Canyon to take a flour bin. Christina hid in the bin so her parents would think they had left her at home.

They spent two winters in the Canyon then moved to Toquerville, living on the lower street in a sawed log house until a house could be built on the upper street. Christina attended her first school at Toquerville. Mahonri Steel was her first teacher. Her pencil was of slate rock made by her father, who made enough for the whole school. The rock was taken from a slate bed down below Toquerville. He broke off a chunk then sawed it into strips from which he made pencils. Christina had a half of a slate, a pencil and a blue backed spelling book the first year. The second year she had a McGuffey reader which she shared with several others. Their school house was a little mud room with a shelf along one end. This was called the "Dunce bench" where unruly children had to sit.

Martin Slack was her next teacher but she only attended when she could be spared at home. He was very exact and precise in everything he did and very prompt—never late for anything. He received produce for his pay, mostly flour and molasses. Every Sunday, Mary would have he and his family to dinner. Tina, as she was called, was baptized in a ditch in front of the church which had been enlarged at his particular place and dammed across for that purpose. She was baptized by Martin Slack and confirmed the same day, April 30, 1866.

She had very little schooling until she was about 17 years old when she went to St. George to a school taught by a Miss Cook. She kept house for her brother and sister and one boarder, Ted Batty. They lived in the little house across the street from Horatio Picketts. (about 58 East 200 South). The second year she attended school under Eugene Shopman and they lived in the little home on Seth Pymms lot. The next year she remained at home to help make gloves.

While they were living in the Canyon there was quite a bit of trouble with the Indians. They used to make raids on their cattle and horses. There was an old Indian named Wapach who was very friendly with the whites



and he used to tell them if there was any trouble brewing among the Indians so they would be prepared. When he grew old and thought he was dying he came to the Forsyth home, at Toquerville and asked if he might die there. They fixed him a good bed in the work shop and took care of him for as long as he lived. When he died he was buried in the old cemetery.

On the account of Indian troubles all the whites living out in the Canyon and ranches were asked to move their families into town so Minnie, who was now 15, took the younger children and moved into Toquerville and Thomas and Mary stayed in the canyon, all summer. Then was when Tina tasted her first apricots. Minnie spun 1 lb of yarn for a dozen apricots which she purchased from Gus E. Dodge who was the first to raise apricots in Toquerville.

In those days each town made their own amusements, they had dancing parties and theatres, using home talent. Sometimes it took nearly every grown person to put on a show. They would take their plays to the nearby settlements and they in turn would bring their plays to their place.

Tina, like other girls had her boy friends, and her first beau was Joe Clawson. He was the first to ever take her out. She went with him for a number of years.

She rode horses when ever she got the chance and became a very good horse woman. She had a very nice sidesaddle with riding habit, gloves, whip, etc. (She used to ride to St. George wearing a beautiful red velvet riding habit and sitting side saddle on her horse with perfect carriage.) Isaac was going with another at this time (after the death of Hephzibah) but Grandmother Macfarlane, Isaac's mother, thought he would make a much better match if he would marry Tina who she said was so refined and educated. Note by Ruth Roundy

She attended the Brigham Young College at Provo under Carl G. Maeser in 1882 and graduated from the Normal course in 1884. While attending school she taught classes there and received a small wage. After graduating Tina came home for the summer. In the fall she was hired by the School board to teach school with her sister Aggie at Salina. She remained there and taught summer school. In the fall she was offered the school at Loa with higher wages so she taught there that winter and thought it the coldest place she was ever in. The following summer she came home on the account of her mother's health so that fall she accepted a position closer at home. So taught at Pinto receiving salary of \$65.00 a month and board. That summer her sister Aggie was married to Jed Woolley leaving Tina the only daughter at home. She taught at Pinto two years then the next year she was offered a position at Cedar City which she took with a raise of \$5.00 a month. The schools were not graded and it was hard teaching, here she had many rough boys to handle--making it doubly hard. While here, Carl Maiser offered her a position in a Church School but about this time they closed many of the Church Schools so it did not materialize. The next year she accepted a position at Orderville at \$75.00 and board. This was an ideal school. She taught just one year at Orderville.

On March 16, 1892, in the St. George Temple, she was married to Isaac C. Macfarlane, a widower with four children. Of this Union three children were born, one dying in infancy.

Note from Ruth Roundy. It was said that Tina absolutely adored



Isaac and doted on him. She watched out for his comfort and supported him in his work and church callings. He was made County Surveyor and quite often was out of town leaving her the responsibility of the home. He was twice Mayor of St. George and she had to take her place in Civic affairs. He was made Bishop of the Ward, not many years after their marriage, and held this position for 18 years. As the Bishop's wife Tina was expected to entertain the visiting authorities in her home and also those who came to town with no place to stay and so expected to be put up at the Bishop's home. One such time ended with disastrous results which my mother told me about. A family from up around Rockville came into town for Church Stake Conference, and presented themselves at the Bishop's home for lodging. They had brought bedrolls for their children to sleep on the floor. After they left Tina found that the room they stayed in was alive with bedbugs. She had a terrible time getting rid of them in that day and age of no insecticides.

Her position as the Bishop's wife made much work for her in her home. She had to cook big meals for those staying at her home and she had to manage often by herself as her husband was busy with his Bishop's work. Nell Frost said she always felt that she was an abused child for her father had time for everyone and every kid in town but her. Tina had severe Migrane headaches which often made life miserable for her. She had an Indian woman who worked for her doing the washing. Back in those days when water had to be heated and washing done on a scrubbing board—this was a backbreaking job. One day she went out to find the wash only partly done and the Indian woman was no where in sight. An hour later the woman appeared from out of the Grape patch— carrying a new born baby. The Indian woman insisted that she was able to finish the washing but Tina sent her home anyway. My mother, Heppy Milne, said that when she was very small her job was to carry the water for the days drinking, cooking, and culinary work. This water she carried from the ditch out front and filled a water barrel which was in a shady spot at the back of the house. She had to get up very early to carry this water before the cows were turned loose at seven in the morning. They were herded down below town to pasture for the day and used the ditch water freely. Don was always close to Heppy and stood up for her when she was in trouble with her parents. He would say, "Don't you care Heppy, when I am big I will build you a house and take care of you."