

Taken from online history of Hurricane, Utah

Mary Catherine Redd, a daughter of Benjamin and Clarissa Taylor Redd, was born in New Harmony on July 22, 1871. Mary "Molly" Catherine married Jacob Louis Workman in the St. George Temple on May 16, 1900.

Jacob was born to Andrew Jackson and Sariah Ann Johnson Eager Workman on November 18, 1874 in Virgin, Utah. He was baptized by Bishop Leroy W. Beebe at eight years of age

When Molly was only two and a half years old, her mother passed away, leaving her father with three little girls and one boy. Since it was necessary for her father to work to support the family, he had a hired girl take care of the home. The children were cared for by their grandmother Elizabeth Taylor. Mary recorded:

"She was the only Mother I can remember. She died when I was six or seven years old. That was the first real sorrow I can remember. I loved her as a mother and I felt my little heart would break. The little kindnesses she showed to me are still fresh in my memory. I have never tasted any bread and butter that tasted so sweet and good as Grandmother's did to me. "

After her father's death when she was fifteen, Mary worked at people's homes, housecleaning, washing, hoeing, irrigating in the fields or whatever she could find to do. She had a great desire to get an education and saved a few dollars whenever she could. In 1895 she sent to school at Logan, Utah, taking a heavy course. She made herself one dress for school and one for Sunday; these two dresses made up her entire wardrobe. Most of the time she did not have a much as she wanted to eat. After that one year of schooling, she took the teacher test and passed. "That one year to Logan was the only real schooling I had ever had. I, however, passed the examination and got a school in Virgin, Utah, teaching the first four grades"

She moved to Hurricane on November 19, 1941.

While she was teaching at Virgin, Mary met Jacob Workman, who later became her husband. He also taught there. After teaching for two years, Mary had enough money saved to attend the Branch Normal School in Cedar City. She considered that winter one of the most enjoyable of her life. During the winters of 1899 and 1900, Mary taught school in St. George. Meanwhile, Jacob had gone into the mission field and was corresponding with Mary.

After their marriage in 1900, Jacob taught school in Springdale and she taught in Rockville. They lived in Rockville and Jacob went back and forth every school day. Two baby girls were born to them in the next few years, completing their happiness.

Jacob had blue eyes and light brown hair. He filled two missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-Day Saints in the Central States, from April, 1897 to September, 1899 and from April, 1908 to November, 1908. He was President and teacher in the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, President of the Deacons, a teacher in the Sunday School, and Ward Clerk in Hurricane.

Jacob continued to teach school. He took great interest in social work among the old and the young alike. He was an entertainer and enjoyed performing. His happy disposition and witty personality made him a favorite with all those he taught.

He was the first Post Master of Hurricane. He was also one of the first to build a good home in Hurricane.

Molly served as President and Counselor in the MIA, as a counselor in the Primary, and as a teacher in Sunday School for many years. In 1908 she was made President of the Relief Society in Hurricane.

On March 12, 1911, Jacob Louis died of pneumonia. After his death, Molly struggled to provide for their family. She became Hurricane's Post Mistress, a position she held for many years.

Molly married John Hall on December 17, 1912. His wife had also passed away.

When the Zion Park Stake was organized in 1930, Mary was made Stake Relief Society President. She continued to be the Post Mistress and to serve her community and family which meant so much to her.

Some memories of early days of Hurricane and her family's lives in Hurricane by "Molly's" daughter , Thelma

It was exciting time for five-year-old Thelma Workman when her family moved to Hurricane. She was born in Virgin in 1901, the first daughter of Jacob Louis and Mary Catherine Redd Workman. Then, at the age of five, the family (which included two-year-old Ora) became the third family to settle in the newest town along the Virgin river. Hurricane—as it would come to be known—would be Thelma's home, but it would be much different as the years passed and times changed.

"This town," remembers Thelma, "was just sage brush. There was no chapel, no bowery. Times were pretty hard. A rabbit was about all we had of meat. We'd catch rabbits."

The first public meeting place was the Bowery, made by putting four poles into the ground, putting boards over them, and then covering it with limbs from cottonwood trees. This crude building provided shelter from the sun and gave the town a central place to meet.

"The good 'ole days—the days I like to remember," explained Thelma with twinkling eyes, "were when we could go to a show for 10 cents." She remembers the first old show building. "When the old silent films came, I thought that was something wonderful. It was hard to rake up any money, but we could have ten cents for a week."

Hurricane's dances were a relief to the hard-working pioneers—a chance to relax. To the youth, they

were excitement itself. Thelma recalls, “They used to ring the curfew at 9:00. Our parents came with us. If they didn’t stay with us, the Marshall saw that we got home.”

The bell at the school building rang for the curfew as well as for Relief Society and Church. When it rang, sending its tones throughout the valley, everyone got the message. “We knew we had a half hour to get ready for church. Oh, I just loved that bell. I wish they’d go back to that!” Thelma exclaimed.

To the early Hurricane folk, holidays were times for the entire town to join in celebration. On the night of July 23rd, the whole town camped on the square in the middle of town. (The bowery of yesteryear was located there; now, the elementary school and public buildings stand on the square.) “Once a year we had an orange—on Christmas.” Thelma asserted. “We’d eat the whole thing—seeds, peelings, everything.” Their entire Christmas was purchased and wrapped on Christmas Eve after a year of saving. But this was not an enormous task because each child received one gift.

After Thelma graduated from elementary school, she went to St. George for high school. The Hurricane youths stayed during the week with different families and came home for weekends. They found rides any way they could, getting a ride in someone’s buggy or wagon if they were lucky. Often they went on horseback, forging the river several times.

At 23 Thelma married Rex Stirling and moved to Leeds, Utah. Their first daughter was born two weeks after Rex went on a mission to Colorado, where he served for twenty-six months. Rex and Thelma lived in Leeds until 1941, when her mother died, and moved into the old family home in Hurricane.

All of Thelma’s children—four girls and three boys—were born in that house. Thelma took the children with her when she did her Visiting Teaching. The town was divided into two beats. One set of teachers visited everyone on one side of town and the other set visited the other half. “I took my kids with me, of course. We used to take care of them!”²³

With her children grown and a widow since 1962, Thelma has not been idle. For eleven years she worked as an Officiator in the St. George Temple. Petite, white-haired Thelma is an example of those who came to Hurricane in their youth and shared in the growth of one of Utah’s finest towns.