



IVA MAY BINGHAM COSTLEY 1886 - 1970

John Bingham and Mary Elizabeth Walker Bingham homesteaded 160 acres of land in Cache Valley and started their family in 1883. Their daughter, Iva May Bingham was born in Trenton, Cache, Utah on 30 April 1886 in a log house. Her father had cut the logs for the house in Logan Canyon and hauled them on wagons to Trenton. He built two large rooms. He put white plaster, called chink, between the logs, and put on a shingled roof. A six foot deep milk cellar, with hard walls and a dirt floor, was built under the two rooms. There were windows in the north and south, and shelves were built half way through the cellar, not quite in the center. A work table was placed on the west side of the room. On the shelves were rows of milk cans full of milk. The cream was skimmed off with a tablespoon and kept in large crocks until time to churn it. At first, the family had a dash churn, then later a big barrel churn that held more cream so they didn't have to churn as often. They made 40 pounds of butter a week. On the east side of the cellar was a high large shelf where Iva's mother kept her cheese, which she formed into three different sizes. It was good cheese. Iva often went with her father and mother to Logan, 18 miles from Trenton, to the co-op store to trade their cheese, butter, and eggs for things they needed. Mr. and Mrs. Hayball ran the store. They were good folks that everyone liked.

A few years after building the log house, Iva's father bought a home from a neighbor who was moving. It only had one large room, but her father bought the house and moved it onto the west side of their log house so that the west door of log house opened into the newly purchased house. This large room they used for their kitchen. This room also had a small lean-to built on the north side that met the door to their cellar.

The family's beds had straw ticks which were emptied every spring and fall. In the fall, after the threshing was done, they filled the beds with new straw. The children always had fun on the newly filled ticks. They raised geese, ducks, and chickens, and the feathers from these animals were kept and used for feather-ticks and pillows. As soon as their mother had enough feathers she made feather-ticks for all of the beds. The floor of their house was made from white pine, which they had to scrub. But it wasn't too long before they were able to cover the floor with rag carpet. During the spring and fall housecleaning, they took the carpets up and beat the dust out of them. They scrubbed the floor, and when it was dry they scattered clean straw on the floor, then stretched the carpet tight and tacked it down again. It was springy to walk on for awhile. At one time, the east end of the kitchen, where they had their kitchen table, chairs, and cupboard, was covered with a rag carpet. At the other end was the stove, the work table, flour bin, sink, and a pump by the sink that was put in later.

The family also had a few sheep for meat and wool. Iva's father and mother could both card wool and weave cloth which was made into dresses and other items. Iva had a linsey dress, knitted stockings, and mittens made from the wool. For many years her mother hand-made their clothing, but eventually obtained a sewing machine. She also made soap in the summer, standing over a large hot kettle.

Her father also had a well drilled, which turned out to be natural gas. They piped the gas into the house for heat and lights. There was a perforated pipe laying on the grate of the cook stove and heating stoves. Rocks were placed in the stoves, and when the gas was turned on the rocks became red hot. Their home was warm day and night in the winter. They kept a fire in the cook stove all the time so there would be hot water if needed.

Iva's father had a beautiful vegetable garden and he also kept bee hives. When neighbors came in for the evening, they made honey candy and parched corn. They also had quilting and rag-bee parties with the neighbors.

Iva was the fourth of nine children. When her mother's health failed, she took on the responsibility of the family with the help of their father and brother Charles. She learned to cook, wash, iron, mend, knit stockings, and care for her younger brothers and sisters. She became very close to her mother at this time, as she taught her these skills. She learned nursing skills from both of her parents. Neighbors also came to help the family in times of sickness.

Iva attended school in a large, one-room red brick school. There was one teacher for eight grades, and fifteen minutes for each class. She walked two and a half miles to school in good weather. The rest of the time they went by horseback, buggy, or bobsled. During the winter the snow was over the tops of the fences and crusted until it would hold up the horses and bobs. They could take a short cut wherever they went as long as the snow was crusted.

Church was held in the school house, and when Iva was 12 years old, she was asked to teach a class in Sunday School. When the Primary was organized in Trenton, she became the secretary and treasurer. Ward gatherings were held in Trenton for Thanksgiving and Christmas, which usually included a program and dinner. After dinner tables were cleared away and the children danced. In the evening, the older people danced - the dance sometimes lasting until 2:00 am. They celebrated the 4th and 24th of July from morning until after the fireworks were over at night.

Iva took her first trip to San Francisco with her sister Pearl, brother Manning, and her Aunt Polly Walker. She got fleas, which she described as being "awful."

The family moved to Plain City, Weber, in 1905. Iva taught Sunday School, Primary, and Religion Class. She held these positions until she got married. She loved the people of Plain City.

On 8 June 1909, Iva married William H. Costley at her father's home in Plain City. Bishop Henry Garner performed the ceremony. In July the couple traveled by train to the World's Fair in Seattle, Washington. They also went to Vancouver, and then to Raymond, Alberta, Canada where they stayed with William's brother, James D. Costley and his wife Emma until fall.

Soon after they returned home they bought a home from Jerome Miller in Harrisville. Two of their children were born in Harrisville; William Sycivell, 3 May 1910, and Virgil Ryon, 24 September 1911. Aunt Laura Taylor was her nurse for Sycivell, and Mrs. McFall for Virgil. They sold their home to Iva's father in 1914, and moved to Plain City, where they bought the Jens Christensen farm. Elwood Daniel was born in Plain City, 24 February 1915. The night of his birth was so cold that a turkey froze to death in their barn. Darwin Sanford was born in Pocatello, Idaho, at her sister, Pearl Watson's, home 23 June 1917. Paul Delbert was born 19 Dec 1919 in Plain City.

William became a member of the LDS Church 3 September 1922, and on 13 June 1923, they were sealed together as a family. Riley E. and Bessie Taylor, Bishop R.R.D. Brown and his wife, and Iva's sister-in-law, Lettie Bingham accompanied them to the temple.

In 1938-1939, the family began to sense threatening clouds of war, and on 7 December 1941, they heard of the attack on Pearl Harbor. World War II would affect their family for the next few years. Their son, Darwin enlisted in the Navy as a flyer, and went overseas to Japan. He served five years and was released 6 April 1946. Elwood was drafted in the Army and served in France and Germany. He was released 8 January 1946. Paul served in the Navy, spending most of his time in the Philippines. He returned home 6 February 1946. When the war ended, the family was thankful for the protection of their sons, who all returned safely without loss of life or limb.

In 1947, William and Iva took a bus trip with a square dancing group of 20 people from Ogden and Harrisville. They saw many of the LDS Church sites and stayed with LDS church members or in LDS chapels. When they visited Nauvoo, they danced in the street. Some of the people of Nauvoo danced with them. They said no Mormon had danced in Nauvoo since the saints were driven out. There was only one member of the LDS Church in the town - Joan Tracy, who worked in a cafe. The residents of Nauvoo were very kind and offered to put the group up in their homes for the night. The group had wonderful experiences everywhere they went. They had prayer together every morning, and became very close friends. They were gone about two weeks, and traveled over 3,350 miles.

24 July 1947, William and Iva moved into a home in Harrisville (775 North Harrisville Rd.), which they remodeled, adding red brick veneer. William was called to the stake Quorum of Seventies, as first counselor to George Davis. He held this position for many years. Their

oldest son, Sycivell Costley was ordained as Bishop of the Harrisville Ward in February 1946. He was released 19 February 1950. He and his family then moved to North Ogden.

Iva held many church positions throughout her life. She taught in Primary and Sunday School, She was first counselor in YWMIA and chairman of the Junior Genealogy work, She was called as the Relief Society president in the Harrisville Ward in 1942, but because of health problems, was released in January 1945. In 1942, while serving as Relief Society President, Iva was the director of a nursing program in Harrisville to help the war effort. In December 1945 she taught Sunday School until 1951 when she was once again released because of poor health

She was also a member of the Daughters of .Utah Pioneers. She belonged to the Sarah Jane Taylor Camp in Harrisville. She served as Historian, Vice Captain, and Captain, and enjoyed the friendships she had in this organization.

Iva loved to sew and do handwork. She made most of her own clothes, and sewed for her grandchildren and neighbors. She also enjoyed knitting and crocheting.

In June 1959, Iva and William celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They had a wonderful life together, with their children and grandchildren.

Iva May Bingham Costley died 3 June 1970 in Harrisville, Utah, at the age of 84. She was buried in the Aultorest Memorial Park in Ogden, Utah.

SOURCE:

Harrisville Ward Relief Society Scrapbook. “Autobiography of Ivay May Bingham Costley.”

Edwards, Shanna C, Joyce J. Larsson, and Joanne F. Christensen. *Harrisville Horizons.* Harrisville, Utah: Harrisville City, 2004, p. 232.

Ogden Standard Examiner. “Obituary of Iva May Bingham Costley.” June 1970.

Bingham, Charles	Costley, William H.
Bingham, John	Costley, William Sycivell
Bingham, Lettie	Davis, George
Bingham, Manning	Garner, Bishop Henry

Bingham, Mary Elizabeth Walker Bingham, Pearl Brown, Bishop R.R.D. Christensen, Jens Costley, Darwin Sanford Costley, Elwood Daniel Costley, Emma Costley, James D. Costley, Paul Delbert Costley, Virgil Ryon	Hayball, Mr. And Mrs McFall, Mrs Miller, Jerome Taylor, Bessie Taylor, Laura Taylor, Riley E. Walker, Mary Elizabeth Walker, Polly Watson Pearl
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