

Crowder, Dr. David L. Oral History Project

Anna Evert Terry - The Life Story

By Anna Evert Terry

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Box 2 Folder 45

Oral Interview conducted by Anna Marrie T. Andrews

Transcribed by Victor Ukorebi March 2005

Brigham Young University- Idaho

This is February 2, 1977.... Anna Marie Andrews speaking. I am a daughter of Anna Evert Terry; she is going to record from her life story.

Anna Marie T. Andrews (AA): Mother, will you tell me about this certificate on the first page of your book? This is your birth certificate from the church, isn't it? Will you tell me something about this birth certificate...? You didn't have a birth certificate from the state of Utah... so you got this from the church?

Anna Evert Terry (AT): I was born on the 11th day of December, 1885 at Provo, Utah. My father was Nicholas Evert and my mother was Patrina Jensen, Utah Stake, Provo 5th Ward, record of the members 10549, line 153. Before the 31st day of December 1910, this is the earliest record on church records.

AA: This is the earliest recorded entry in Church records and this is signed by Joseph Fielding Smith. This was your mother's sewing machine, wasn't it? Probably about 1869.... When you learned to sew on this machine:

AT: Well, I sure liked this machine. I learned to do so many things on it. I did so many fancy stitches... it was really wonderful what it could do and I thought a lot of that machine. I used to make some fancy tidies to go over the top of the box cover and made many beautiful things like Roman cut work... and Roda said she made quite a few things that she would like to have now that she had made, so she will soon get them and I'll get some of the things also that I have made on it.

AA: What is this picture?

AT: The first teacher I had in school was at the Parker School and her name was Mrs. Pike.... She was married and she was my first school teacher.

AA: She was Miss Clark who married Dr. Pike.... She was your first grade school teacher... wasn't she? On the graduation program of 1901 when Anna Evert graduated from the 8th grade, the class colors were red and silver, the exercises of the graduating class were held at the Opera House, "Thursday evening, November 14, 1901, commencing at 7:30 p.m. All are invited" Annie Evert's name listed with the graduate. Would you say how you felt when you graduated from the eighth grade?

AT: It was a great time in my life, I thought it was wonderful to be able to graduate and oh, I remember the exercises very well and I wish now I had some of the words to the music we had at that time, but I had always learned to live up to the things I heard and Oh, how wonderful it was to graduate.

AA: This is a picture of Anna Evert in her graduation dress in 1901 when she graduated from 8th grade. Would you tell us about it?

AT: I didn't know just when I was going to have my graduation dress made, my mother had never done very much sewing but she did get busy and she made a dress for me. Oh, I was so happy. I remember when I got that dress and it was just what I wanted.

AA: On this dress is a ribbon that says, "Class of 1901," would you tell us about it mother?

AT: The class chose me to make the ribbons. I don't remember how many I made, but it must have been close to 30... anyway, and it was a lot of work, but I just worked at it and finally got them all done.

AA: It took a lot of little stitches, didn't it? Do you remember this picture mother? This is your father, isn't it?

AT: Father was a weaver and he did a lot of fancy work on the looms and he could make many wonderful patterns and his friends also did a lot of fancy work on the machines and he was well liked for his wonderful work.

AA: Mother has just told me that they made shawls. Mother you remember how you felt when you received your patriarchal blessing?

AT: Well, I felt like it was a wonderful occasion and I had a girlfriend who was staying at my home, and she said; let's go have a patriarchal blessing today. And I said, "Yes, I would like to." So, I acted as her scribe and she acted as my scribe, and I wrote hers but there wasn't so very much said on hers, but I found out, I don't know why, she didn't live very long, she just lived a short time, but she was a very wonderful person.

AA: Listed as the scribe on mother's Patriarchal blessing is the name "Willa Hyatt scribe," and, "this Patriarchal blessing was given by Jessie B. Martin on the head of Anna Evert, daughter of Nicholas Evert, born in Provo, on December 11, 1885."

AT: But I've often liked to talk about Patriarchal blessing because it means so much it seems like, for the future. It makes us want to do right and always want to do something to help out.

AA: In December, 1901, Annie worked for two weeks during the Christmas Holidays at the Stardust Candy Factory in Provo. What are some of the things you remember about working in the Candy Factory?

AT: Well... the first thing we did was to make a variety of candies, the colored candies, pink, and light green and all such, and then, in the afternoon, we spent more time making the chocolate candy. Oh, that was interesting, and they were good I'll tell you.

AA: Mother used to tell us that when she worked at the candy factory there was no limit on how much candy the employees could eat and the reason they did this was that they found that they didn't eat anymore. Annie's father taught her the art of weaving at the

Knight Woolen Mills in Provo. She worked there for three years. Mother, did you like working in the Woolen Mills? What was it like?

AT: It was really fascinating work, and I, even now, I would like to go back and work and do some of the fancy work. I remember how interesting it was when there was a broken thread and I wanted to really fix it in a hurry. I would start at the front and find the “hettle (?)” and work from there and then run around the back and finish trying in at the back. Oh, it was a fascinating work.

AA: Mother told me that at one time that when she first went to apply for work at the Woolen Mills they wouldn't hire her because they didn't think she was old enough and so her father came to the Woolen Mills with her to tell them that even though she was a very small person, she was 15 or 16 years of age, mother says that the age requirements for working there was 15 years old. After 1905 Annie and Beatrice Ashworth attended B.Y.U., they said they felt it was necessary to have an education. To support herself Annie did housework half a day for \$3.00 a week. She also worked at a tailor's shop for 50 cents an afternoon. Mother can you tell us how you felt when you first started attending B.Y.U. and how did you manage when you had to work half a day of each school day.

AT: I had to arrange my work so I could do all the things I had to do, but I enjoyed doing them. Well, I really thought it was a great opportunity to go to the B.Y.U. and get instruction in the difference arts and to be interested in doing all the things that we should and my girlfriend was a great help. She was a great worker; she wanted to do things to help out.

AA: Mother's first year at BYU was probably 1906 and she had a picture of her taken at that time. This is a pretty dress that she has on. It looks like there is some handwork there. Mother, it looks like your hair is tied at the back with a ribbon. Could you tell us something about the dress or how you wore your hair?

AT: I know I wanted a pretty design on a yoke and I got busy and made it and I finally got it done and I figured it was all right, just fine, and after that I made a lot of others designs. I did like to do design work. It was original with me. I liked to work it out.

AA: In 1905 Hazel Huff was boarding at the Nicholas Evert home, Annie and Hazel rented a piano and took from B.Y.U. Professor, Charles Johnson. Mother, do you remember about taking piano lessons?

AT: Well, I was so happy to take music lessons because I wanted to learn to play the piano but we never had an instrument in our home. Now we had one brought to our home and we could use it. Always said I was a good student....that I practiced my pieces very well.

AA: Her teacher was the one who told her she was a good student. 'This certifies that Anna Evert has successfully completed the course of study prescribed by this institution,

B.Y.U., in dressmaking and therefore, we award this special certificate, given this 31st day of May, 1907, signed... George Brimhall, President; Lucille Young, Instructor.”
Mother, did you enjoy your dress making class, and what did you Do?

AT: I enjoyed my sewing classes very much, my teacher was very good and she gave me all the help I wanted. It seemed like that I was always ready to get more help. It seemed like I couldn't learn enough. I was just so full of the spirit of doing things and I kept up pretty well with it.

AA: Here are some pictures of mother and some of her friends from B.Y.U. in 1908, here she is with a Duffin girl and here she is with Bretha Bowen. Her friends called her “Boodie”; in 1909 Annie went to Rexburg, to the Ricks Academy to teach sewing. Mother, will you tell us how you happened to go to Rexburg to teach?

AT: Mr. Dalby was very interested in getting a teacher to teach at the Ricks Academy and I liked the conditions up there very well. I remember one of the teachers (Annie Saurey) was supposed to come in to depot to see me but I went on to Ricks College (Editor's note: Annie Saurey had not showed up at the depot) but I went on to Ricks College ... to Ricks Academy where I felt like I was needed and I met Mr. (Inga) he was one of the teachers up there. He was teaching music and he said “well, the faculty members were getting together today to organize and start the college, the institution,” so we had quite a nice time that afternoon. I will never forget how I felt, I felt like it was really an opportunity to be there. I never felt like the work was new, I felt like I was pretty well prepared to teach the students there at the Ricks, they were a nice community, nice people to work with.

AA: Mother has told us that one day at BYU, in her sewing class there was a knock at the door and the teacher went to the door and talked to someone. Presently the teacher came back and told Annie that the President of Ricks Academy wanted to talk to her so Annie went to the door and talked to him. He had asked her teacher who was the most likely student that she had who could come to Ricks Academy to teach sewing and the teacher recommended Annie Evert and this is how she first came to Ricks Academy. She also tells us that the day she first arrived at Rexburg it was in the fall and it was rather crispy cold and there was some snow on the ground. The individual who was to have met her there was not there so she was pretty much alone, but as she told us, she did proceed up to the college and found the other teachers in session, getting ready for the academy to begin and she joined in and really felt right at home from the beginning. Here is a picture of the Jacob Brinton home where mother stayed the two years she taught at Ricks College from 1909 to 1911. Mother, what do you remember about this home?

AT: Well, I know it was very comfortable. They had a piano there and I enjoyed that piano and would often play that, and I remember one tune that I liked to play a lot and that was “Red Wing,” and there were many others I played too. They had a lovely home and it was sure grand. They had a youngster there, they adopted him and he would come and see us, come to our room and talk to us and when he would be there a little while he would stay....

AA: This is side two of the first tape of the life of my mother, Anna Evert Terry... at the end of the tape on the other side she was telling us about her life when we first came to Ricks College and lived in the Jacob Brinton home. She was telling about this lovely home and how... about the little boy who was a child of the Brintons and how sometimes he would come to their room to say, "I'd better go now or my mother will holler me." Your roommate?

AT: Her name was Hazel but I don't remember her last name, a very nice girl, and she used to help me an awful lot. She worked in a Milliner's shop, she was really good. She had a very nice hat there; she wanted me to have it. It had pink roses on it, a Leghorn hat, it was very pretty hat and I bought it.

AA: Mother said she paid \$8.00 for that hat. You were telling about another hat mother, what was it like and did you buy it?

AT: It was a good size hat and I bought it because I was told that they wanted me to have that hat because it looked like me and it was really a nice hat so I bought that, it was a pretty green hat and it had a fancy_____ on it.

AA: Mother said she paid \$16 for that green hat. This picture of the Jacob Brinton home is a two story house and Mother says she rented the north upstairs bedroom the first year she was here, 1909-10 and the 2nd year that she was there, 1910-11, she rented the south upstairs room. This picture was taken in 1950 which would be 41 years later and mother is standing in front of the house when the picture was taken.

AT: They had a really nice set up and a lovely_____. Mr. Brinton built anice place... you know they had a lot of snow up there and it was awfully deep but he planned a platform and he had it high enough so he could climb 4 or 5 steps to get to the top of this and the clothes line was above that, and you used to hang your clothes out there. I thought how interesting that was. That you could go out there and not get wet.

AA: There is Course of study (brochure) offered by the Ricks Academy in 1909-1910. It is their 22nd academic year and this is at Rexburg, Idaho. This little bulletin is put out by the Press of Sugar City Times. It lists as the faculty of Ricks Academy; Ezra Dalby; Arthur Porter; Oliver Dalby; John Spears; Charles Enger; Howard Hale; James Anderson; Eunice Jacobsen; Berta Kerr (Domestic Science); George Cocoran; Howard Sundbert; Annie Evert (sewing); Annie Saurey (Librarian and Assistant in Missionary and Winter Course) Could not hear what type of course); Marcus E. Martin. Through the years I've heard Mother speak of Annie Saurey, Berta Kerr and Ezra Dalby. The general board of Education included, Joseph F. Smith as Chairman. This bulletin states that the Domestic Science Course "has grown to be one of the most popular in the academy. More students were registered last year than ever before and arrangements have been made to take care of a larger number for 1909 -10. Graduates from this department are able to do any kind of Dress Making and needle work as well as housework. This course will also be extended to four years beginning this coming year" The courses offered at Ricks in 1909-

10 were a Four Year Normal; A Four Year General High School; a Four Year Commercial; A Four Year Domestic Science and Arts; A Four Year Mechanic Arts; A Two Year Music Course, A Two Year Commercial Course; A One Year Sunday School Normal Course; A Preparatory Course; A Missionary Course, A Winter Course; and special courses offered in the following: Elocution; Carpentry; and several others. The Domestic Science and Arts Course for the first year required a person to take Theology, Book of Mormon, English Grammar and Classic, Arithmetic and Algebra, Household Science, Sewing and Drawing. The 2nd year it requires Theology (Which was New Testament), English (Which was Rhetoric and Composition), Zoology, and Botany, Household Science and Sewing. In the third year the Domestic Science and Arts course took Theology (which was Old Testament), English (which was Literature and Classics), General History, Art, Household Science and Sewing. The fourth year they were required to take Theology (which was church history), English (Which was theme work and effective speaking), American History and Civics, Household Science, Chemistry, and Sewing and Fancy Work. In the explanation of the course, it says that there is no subject of greater importance to girls than Domestic Science. Kitchen work is often considered a drudgery and a great many prefer clerking or office work. The Academy desires, if possible, to counteract this growing tendency, and to hold up home life as the highest ideal. In the explanation about the Sewing Course, it says it is a set of hand and machine models are made, various kinds of stitches and the use of the machine, study of text, plain sewing, measuring and drafting (drafting is spelled "Draughtin," Dress making, Art needlework. What are some of the things you remember about your teaching up there that first year?

AT: About the first year I remember, it was rather new for me and I didn't know just how to go about the conditions, but I found out that I was able to understand and use some of the things I had learned at school. Lucille Young was very good, she seemed anxious to help me an awful lot and I remember I would sit in class.... I would sit at the table and we would have such a good time together. And we wouldn't really be serious but we would try to let them make things and do the best we could. And I remember that I was always very happy and anxious to do all I could for the students and I learned to love them and to give them all the information I had.

AA: Mother has told me about some of her methods of teaching. She would often make some little articles, some interesting thing that she wanted the students to make and she would just leave it there on her desk and pretty soon the students would notice it and say "Oh, can I make one too, would you show me how?" so she would show them how to do it and they really enjoyed this method of teaching. Mother said she loved her students but they loved her too. During the winter of 1909-10, a young man by the name of Enos Clyde Terry came up Ricks College for the Missionary Course. Clyde had always wanted to have an education. His father has been a school teacher in many small communities in southern Utah. He came to Idaho in 1905-06, but Clyde had never had the opportunity for much school so during this winter he came to Ricks College to attend the Missionary Course. The Missionary Course began Monday, November 1, 1909 and ended March 4, 1910. Taking this information from this same brochure that tells about the Ricks Academy Course of study 1909-10. The course included the following classes; Principles

of the Gospel; Church History; Composition; Book of Mormon; Scripture Reading; Public Speaking; Singing; and Penmanship. In the explanation of the course....“this course is designed for young men who are called from various part of the district of the church to prepare themselves for missions. All students who receive a call to take this course should be present on the day it opens and remain until it closes. They will then receive an honorable release from the authorities of the church and also have full credit on the records of the academy. In the past the class has been retarded in its progresses by students continuing to enter long after the work began and some leaving before it closed. Nothing, but a call to take a mission abroad can honorably excuse a student who has received and accepted a call to take the course, from completing it. In cases of sickness he should immediately communicate with the principal so that he may be excused.” The text books that were necessary for this course were the Bible, D&C, Book of Mormon, Pearl of Great Price, 100 years of Mormonism, Songs of Zion, Graded Lessons in English, and notebooks. In my father’s patriarchal blessing it says he will know the woman who is to be his wife when he first sees her. Mother has told us that one day she was in the sewing room sewing and the door was opened and a young man came by and this was the first time she ever noticed this young man, Clyde Terry. Father had told us that when he looked into the sewing room that day and saw mother sitting there he did not know that she was the young woman who was to be his wife.

Mother would you like to tell us about how you first started having dates with Dad?

AT: Yes. We had been talking quite a little bit in the sewing room about all the good things we can learn and what can be taught and then it came to us that we had been talking for some time and we decided that it was getting kind of late so we walked on and he said, “there is a good show in town tonight and I think we’d like to go..... do you think you would enjoy it?” And I said, “Oh that sounds good.” And so we prepared that evening to go to that show and it was indeed a pleasant experience that we could go and I remember that we went to other shows. He came to other occasions and we had a really nice time always together and on a number of occasions he would come from Lorenzo where he stayed and we told of many wonderful things we could learn while we were up there. On other occasions we went to...there was always something coming up, parties to be given, always ready to go. If there were some good shows we would go to them. I remember I thought he was very nice and I liked him very much and I thought I would learn a lot from him. He was always courteous and kind and always anxious to show me a good time. He had a nice outfit.... A nice buggy and a nice team of horses but I thought they were a little too wild like. I was not too used to many animals and I was almost frightened by horses but he was a good driver and we got along just fine. And on many occasions we went to together to.... We had a lot of very good friends. I had many occasions to meet other good people, but I thought this young man was the best I had seen therefore I was glad to get acquainted with him and all the occasions...

AA: Mother says they have had movies as long as she can remember. Now I was born in 1917 and I remember the first movies that were accompanied by somebody playing the piano and I remember myself as a child when the first talkies came in. While we are on the subject of my father and how he happened to meet my mother at Ricks College, I’d

like to point out some things in the Student Rays The Commencement Number of 1910, and there is a picture of the missionary Class of 1909, and there is a picture of the missionary teaching that first year. She is wearing a beautiful dress. Mother, would you like to tell us about that dress. Did you make it? It looks black and there is a locket on a chain around your neck.

AT: I was interested in sewing a dress and I had in mind the kind of dress I wanted and this seems to be the one....a black dress. I chose the material and I got pattern and it seemed to be just right for me and I went ahead with it and made it up and I never had any trouble making it fit me and I liked to have nice clothes while I was teaching and I made another dress that was plain but this one dress seemed to be just my style. I had a locket and I had a picture in the locket, there was room for two pictures. I had one of myself and I just don't remember who was the other but it was some familiar person.

AA: In mother's things there is a picture of the Domestic Science teacher, Berta Kerr. There is also a picture of Lavinia Parker, a student. She was a native of Hawaii; she was taking a sewing class. This was the following year. There is also a picture of Miss Lambert who was a graduate of Mother's first sewing class.

We have come to the end of this tape and will continue on the next one. Today's date is February 7, 1977. Mother was 91 years old on December 11 and next year she will be 92 and it is really wonderful that she can tell us these things and remember about them.