PHEBE ELIZABETH WOOLF GIBSON
1851-1926

Phebe Elizabeth Woolf was born 23 Jan. 1851, at Salt Lake City, Utah, the 9th child in a pioneer family of 12. At an early age she began assisting with the housework, & when she was 10, she did most of the washing & ironing for the family–no easy task, as the washing was all done on the washboard.

Phebe had thick, brown hair, brown eyes, & an olive complexion. One of the speakers at her funeral said she & her sister, Harriet, were 2 of the best looking girls in Hyde Park when they were young. Phebe was a sociable type & made friends easily. Some of her outstanding traits of character were her generosity & helpfulness, especially to those in need.

On 8 March 1869, when she was 18, Phebe married William Moroni Gibson in the Endowment House. They lived in Hyde Park for about 4 years. 5 ½ years after their marriage, her husband also married her younger sister, Harriet. The 2 families spent 2 summers in Benson Ward. About 1876, Mr. Gibson moved his 2 families to Cherry Creek in the Canyon above Franklin, Id., where they homesteaded a large tract of land. A sawmill was build on this property & Phebe & her daughter, Sarah, bunched shingles for the mill.

In the fall of 1880, Phebe & her children moved back to Hyde Park & made their home with her parents. Phebe’s brother, Andrew, a bachelor, lived at the old home also & was very kind to Phebe & her children. They all assisted with the outdoor work as well as the housework. They had a large herd of cows & all who were able helped with the milking; butter & cheese were made & sold to the store in Hyde Park. The skim milk was fed to the calves & pigs. Phebe raised turkeys & chickens & was also a very good cook. Friends & neighbors were always welcome to stay & dine with them. She was an intelligent woman & an excellent housekeeper. Her porches were scrubbed clean with lye until they were a pale yellow. She worked in other homes & did nursing among the sick to help support her family.

Phebe was an active Church member, she served as a teacher in the Relief Society, Teacher in the Sunday School for many years, & visiting teacher for 34 years.

At the age of 50, she had smallpox, followed by a stroke & Parkinson’s disease. She gradually lost the use of her limbs, but was never known to complain. She was very patient & kind. The last 10 years of her life were spent in a wheelchair in the homes of her 3 girls, Sarah, Hattie & Tracy. She died at 75 on 8 July 1926.

Typed into computer by Kathleen Jardine Woolf Oct. 2002 Idaho Falls, Idaho
Information from book JOHN ANTHONY WOOLF FAMILY Publ. 1986