LOIS BELL GIBSON JENSEN
1879-1954

Lois Bell Gibson was born 3 Sep. 1879, at the home of her grandmother, Sarah Ann Woolf, in Hyde Park, Utah. She was the 3rd child, and the first daughter, of Harriet Woolf and William Moroni Gibson. Since Lois’ father had married 2 sisters, Phoebe (Phebe?) and Harriet Woolf, she was one of 14 children. She had 8 full and 5 half brothers and sisters. She was genuinely devoted to all of her brothers and sisters; their wishes were her concern. In later years at her funeral her brother-in-law, George Daines, was to say that she was the peacemaker of the two families.

Her early life was spent on her father’s 500 acre farm in Cherryville, east of Franklin, Idaho. During those days, Indians were prominent in the area. She often told of the times her mother would gather the children together and hide along the creek behind their home when the Indians were near.

At the age of 8 she was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and continued to gain an unwavering testimony. She received her education in the local schools, and at the early age of ten assumed full responsibility of the family and home, as her mother spent much time knitting and reading. This required a great deal of Lois’ time, but she did it willingly, as she loved children. Her brothers and sisters relate how kind and good she was to them. She was not only thoughtful of her own, but to all that came in contact with her kind, quiet, reserved personality.

Lois’ father was a prosperous rancher and cattleman. With the aid of his sons, he also owned and operated a sawmill in Franklin Basin. At the age of 16, Lois became a familiar sight at the Gibson Sawmill. She spent her summers cleaning and cooking for her father, brothers, and several hired men. She loved Franklin Basin and never tired of telling of the beautiful wild flowers she gathered daily to brighten up the cabin and use for her table at dinner time. She never strayed far from the cabin, as it was common occurrence to see Mountain Lions roaming on the ledges above the sawmill.

Lois was a petite, dark-haired, blue-eyed beauty. At the age of 19 she was awarded a prize for being the most beautiful girl in Franklin. A childhood friend, Edith Allen, related a story of how a sleigh full of young people left Franklin to go to Richmond for a night of entertainment. The sleigh was full and they were covered with blankets and had large hot rocks at their feet to keep them warm. Edith recalls how wrinkled her own dress was when they arrived, but when Lois stepped from the sleigh, she looked as if she had just stepped from a “band box.” She took much pride in her personal appearance. She always kept a pair of fine leather shoes and gloves for special occasions. She appreciated quality in all things.

Spending her summers in Franklin Basin did not keep suitors from her door—one in particular, was Charles Fredrick Jensen. On several occasions he rode his fine pony many miles to see her, and on 18 June 1902, at the age of 23, she became his bride. Their marriage was solemnized in the Logan LDS Temple. She recalled the journey to the temple was made by horse and buggy early in the morning, and “what a beautiful morning it was.” When they reached Richmond, Utah, the sun was just rising over the mountains. When the ceremony was over, they returned the same day to their farm in Mountain Home, east of Franklin.

To this marriage were born 6 children: Harriet Alice, Lois Edna, William Charles, Anthony LeGrand, Lima Bon, and Fred Andrew. She was a good wife and mother as well as an
excellent homemaker. She took pride in her home as well as her children. She taught her children honesty and integrity.

Along with caring for her family and home, she still found time to teach in Sunday School and was an active member of Relief Society.

She spent her last 15 years as a widow, but had a full, faithful and strenuous life. She died 21 Nov. 1954, in the Preston Hospital, and was buried next to her husband in the Franklin Cemetery.

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