



## **MARY ANNIE LARSSON WEBSTER 1885-1973**

Mary Annie Larsson Webster was born 24 November 1885, in Shoshone, Idaho. She was the first child of Mary Ellen Geary and Larry Larsson. Her father was a passenger conductor on the Union Pacific Railroad. Less than two years after her birth, the family moved to Pocatello, Idaho, and in 1893 they moved to a ranch in Market Lake, later called Roberts, Idaho. She enjoyed riding around with her father in the railroad yards as the trains were switched around the tracks.

Two of Mary's friends, Pamsy and Grace Lang, whose father also worked on the railroad, lived in a railroad car. They fixed up the inside and painted the outside until it shined. Mary envied the girls home, thinking it would be fun to ride with the train. A family by the name of Mr. and Mrs Samuel Burwell lived in Market Lake, and Mary became good friends with their daughter, Jennie. She often stayed at their house and went to school with Jennie when it was impossible for her mother to take her the five miles they had to go to school. Most of the time, her mother made the five-mile trip twice a day, to take Mary and her brother, Edward, to school and then home again. Eventually, Edward became old enough to drive the large one-horse-cart to school. Mary graduated from the eighth grade after Market Lake became Roberts, and that completed her education. The school had one teacher who taught all eight grades.

Market Lake was a small town until a number of Bohemians colonized in the area. There were no churches in town until the Bohemians built a Catholic Church. The priest held Mass in the school until they built the church. There was also a Methodist minister in town who talked so loud while giving his sermon that he could be heard at the Larsson home, which was quite a distance away. There were a few LDS people living in the town. They held Sunday School for a while, but there were not enough people to keep it going. Mary did not get baptized when she was 8 years old, because her father was not a member of the LDS Church and objected to the teachings.. Her mother attended LDS conference a few times in Louisville. Mary had very little religious training other than her mother's teachings.

A man by the name of Pat Gallagher and Mary had a special relationship. He was much older than her. He owned a large store and told her she could have anything she wanted. She picked out a two-quart measuring cup, a tin funnel, and a large milk pan. He then filled the containers up with candy. On another occasion he took her to a carnival where she had a wonderful time. One of the favorite memories of her youth was to see the littlest people in the world, Tom Thumb and his wife. Her father kept their little ponies and carriage in his stable. She tried to fit into the carriage but could not sit up straight because it was so small and closed in.

Mary's father built three rooms on to their four-room frame house, giving them a large, seven-room home plus clothes closets and a pantry. Her father had 640 acres of land, which he farmed with his partner, O. J. Bell, who also had 640 acres. They farmed the land and raised cattle, hogs, and a few sheep. Bell soon sold his farm to his brother, O.D. Bell. The partnership was dissolved at this time and the Larssons became good neighbors with the new Bell family where Mary had many good experiences and fond memories.

Market Lake was considered to be a wild area when Mary lived there. The Larsson family lived at the edge of the desert on the main road to Burch Creek, Lost River, and the Salmon River country where many outlaws roamed. Many cowboys and outlaws came to the Larsson home. Mary saw one draw his gun on her family's dog. Her mother went to get the dog and he drew the gun on her. After a few seconds of thought, he changed his mind and rode away. Their dog was a big black Newfoundlander that they brought with them from Pocatello. In the winter he pulled the children on the sleigh. He also played hide and seek with them. Their mother would hold the dog while the children would hide, and then he would find them.

Mary Annie moved to Huntington, Utah, in March 1909, and stayed with her mother's brother, Edward Geary. She went to Sunday School and other meetings, and was baptized 29 August 1909 and confirmed 5 September 1909. She taught Sunday School until 1910 when she moved to Harrisville where her parents had relocated. In Harrisville, she taught a Bee Hive class and then served as 1<sup>st</sup> counselor to Geneva Brown in the Primary. She worked in the Primary for 40 years, serving as counselor and president. She also worked in Relief Society as work director. During this time she made many quilts. The Harrisville Ward gave her a quilt to show their appreciation. Mary was well known for her beautiful quilts. She also served as a Relief Society visiting teacher, counselor and president of the Mutual Improvement Association, and a teacher in a religion class. She served as a youth 4-H Club director in the community. She belonged to the Sarah Jane Taylor Camp of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers where she served as secretary and captain.

Mary Annie Larsson married Lemuel Webster of Harrisville on 20 September 1917. They had three children: Ellen Louise, 30 June 1918; Doris, 24 November 1921; Charles Lemuel, 11 May 1924. All three children were born and raised in Harrisville. She also had a son, Joseph Preston Larsson, 21 April 1909.

Mary loved the people of Harrisville, especially the young people with whom she worked for a long time. She was known for giving service to those in need. She was a gentle, gracious, patient lady, loved and respected by everyone in the community and all who knew her.

At the time of her death Mary had 15 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren who all loved her dearly. She died 29 March 1973, a long time resident of Harrisville, and was buried in the South Morgan Cemetery.

**SOURCE:**

Webster, Mary Annie Larsson Webster. *Autobiography by Mary Annie Larsson Webster.*  
(spelled Mary Anne in her obituary)

Bell, O.D.	Larsson, Larry
Bell, O.J.	Larsson, Mary Ellen Geary
Burwell, Jennie	Thumb, Tom
Galligher, Pat	Webster, Charles Lemuel
Lang, Grace	Webster, Doris
Lang, Pamsy	Webster, Ellen Louise
Larsson, Edward	Webster, Lemuel
Larsson, Joseph Preston	