

the Welsh tongue.

After a pleasant visit at home I soon entered the coal mines to work. My brothers soon returned from Salt Lake City and the whole family were united together again at Scofield. So many were the happy days spent in this mining town of Winter Quarters, Utah. There were assembled there many Welsh, English and Scotch people from the Old Countries and their families. Many talented in the art of music, both instrumental and vocal and also in the art of drama.

However, soon after I reached home I entered the mines to work, and I want to say that work at the mines at that time was hazardous and heavy for a boy of my age only 16 years old, but with all of that, many were the happy years spent at Winter Quarters, as the town was teeming with beautiful singers and instrumental musicians, [9] bands, and orchestras, and many good dramatists, so the time was spent in self-produced entertainments and good choirs, a happy bunch of good people, mostly emigrants having come there for the Gospel's sake.

My Brother Goes on a Mission to Wales

When [I was] about 17 years of age the family got a letter from Box B, missionary headquarters at Salt Lake City, calling my brother Taliesin on a mission to Wales, he was somewhat past 19 years of age, so for the next two years we were kept busy providing for him in the mission field, he remained two years and performed an excellent mission, being a wonderful singer and just a youngster, you may say he fell into the hearts of the saints and the people, notwithstanding he and other missionaries were mobbed three different times as the spirit of opposition to the Mormon church was rampant at that time in Great Britain, following the lies scattered by an apostate from our church by the name of Jarman, who had scattered lies about the people here in Utah. Taliesin was on a mission during the time that Thomas B. Evans, of Ogden was presiding over the Welsh mission. So after a successful mission he returned home, and we were all very proud of this accomplishment.

Busy With Our Talents In Music and Drama

Under the direction of my brother David T. Evans the Evans family became quite outstanding in Music and drama, and David T. Evans having had considerable work of the stage, we often put on dramas, in which David T. made himself famous as a comedian, and assisted by his brothers and others the Dramatic art became outstanding in the mining town. Among the plays were "Jack Long of Texas" "Waiting for the Verdict" "East Llynn" "The Girl From Klondike" "The Dumb Boy of Manchester" in the last named play my brother Harry having seen the play in Wales took the part of the dumb boy with outstanding results. I remember my first venture on the stage was in the part of the Negro shoe shine named Hector my namesake, and it was a rich comedy part and wanting to

make a hit of course, I studied the lines and made them perfect and made such a hit that I later became proficient in leading parts, so here was my start in the dramatic art, after which I managed many of the plays placed on the boards later. I became very interested in church work and in the Aaronic Priesthood, choir and Sunday School, and was installed a teacher in the Sunday School. Among other things that interest me was I put a contest in my class for good attendance and lesson preparation and offered three [or two?] prizes: a dressed doll, pin cushion very artistically made and the prizes were won by Helen Donaldson and Rose Litster, and those girls have never forgot the occasion and reminded me of the contest quite occasionally. [10]

I Meet My Sweetheart -- True Prediction

In about the year 1892 a friend of the family, Mr. William Powell, a bachelor, a leading blacksmith at the mining camp, went back to Ohio, and married a widow, who he had known, previously, and came back to Winter Quarters with her and the family [of] five beautiful children. One day soon after this family arrived, I was at the home of my brother Richard T. Evans, and his wife Martha said to me that Mr. Powell had arrived from Ohio, with a new wife and five children, and among the children was a pretty girl about 16 years old. "Oh is that so" I remarked, "Well, she is going to be my wife" so my sister-in-law laughed, but never forgot the remarks I made, and often called my attention to my prediction, because it became true, for I later married her. The little girl was Miss Catherine Davies, a golden haired damsel. Our engagement came about this way! I was busy at the church painting and arranging scenery for a drama we were staging, when Catherine came in to the church with Miss Emily Whimpey, who later married my Brother Taliesin Evans, and jocularly they asked me to paint their faces and make them look like real actresses. Of course this was my first meeting with Catherine, so I immediately [became] infatuated with her and soon after we became engaged. She was a talented girl in education and did considerable public reading, and soon became interested through Miss Whimpey and being of a religious temperament and had been a good Sunday School student back in Justice, Ohio, winning several prizes from the results of good attendance, she became affiliated with the Mutual Improvement Association of the Pleasant Valley ward and while we were courting each other she asked for baptism into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was made a member of the church in the year 1893. She was the daughter of John Davies and Mary Palmer Davies. She was born in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorganshire, Wales, Great Britain, on April 11, 1876, when but a child her parents emigrated to America and settled in the village of Pidgeon Run, Stark County, Ohio, a coal mining region, where she grew up and attended school, and where [when she was] at the age of 13 years, her father died on July 20, 1887, leaving her mother a widow with five children, two girls and three boys, and soon later Arthur was born making four boys in the family. She remained a widow until 1892, when William Powell, a friend of the family, married Mrs. Powell, and the family moved in 1892 to Winter Quarters, near Scofield, Utah, where [when she was] at the age of 16, I met Catherine and two years later married her. Her mother Mrs. Mary Davies Powell,

after losing her husband went through many hardships in rearing the children, she being a very frugal and saving woman was able to rear the children to become a wonderful family. But in [the] year 1900, on the first of May she was again called to go through a very trying ordeal in losing her two sons John Newborn and William Osborn Davies in the terrible Scofield explosion, where over 200 miners lost their lives, when soon after the family moved to Evanston where they resided until the death of Mr. and Mrs. Powell. [11]

Evans Orchestra Makes A Reputation

Previous to my parents moving from Winter Quarters to Castle Dale, Utah, the Seven Evans brothers with two of the Thomas Cox sons went over to Emery County, with the intent to file on some homestead and move out of the mining camps. They all being good instrumentalists formed an orchestra, which was well balanced as in the way of instrumentation, so they could play at dances and also out on the streets as a band, they started at Castle Gate and down along the way to Price and thence as far down in Emery County as the town of Emery staging dances in each town along the journey, and they practically set the people wild with enthusiasm, as up to that time they had not had such an organization of good musicians visit them, (as the orchestra was equipped to play the high class street marches as well as all the prevailing dance music of the times,) being very versatile in the latter respect, and I Hector T. as a young boy studied the art of professional dance calling, the lancers, waltz, quadrilles, Virginia reels, etc, so we so satisfied the public that each town along the way threw inducements for us to locate in their respective towns. So we accepted the invitation of the people at Castle Dale, where we were able to file on the sections of native soil of that place, where later we made of the barren lands -- farms to live on. For years after until the orchestra became scattered we remained the prevailing musicians of the valley. The Cox brothers also took up homestead, where their parents lived until they died at Castle Dale, Utah.

Happily Married

Being just a young lad I made most of my stay at the mining camp to procure money to help the settlement of the land, and traveled greatly by horseback between Scofield and Castle Dale, riding the little grey mare through Huntington Canyon, for I was then courting my sweetheart Catherine Davies. After a courtship of two years we were married at the Salt Lake Temple on the 19th of December, 1894, where we returned and resided at Winter Quarters, Carbon County, I having employment at the coal mines there.

Panic Strikes Us

We were married around the Grover Cleveland panic that has been so much heralded, but was of short duration. However for a short time after our marriage, I had

very little employment, and was in the red for about six months. However, through the aid of my wife's parents Mr. and Mrs. William Powell, we purchased a small home in Winter Quarters, and I and my wife, being energetic, frugal and ambitious for a home, we were soon able to pay for the same, also procuring a cow and some chickens, we were able, although on meager wages, to procure a home. So [12] we were very happy, having supplied our cellar with plenty of bottled fruits, stored vegetables and good things to eat, had furnished the home and were prosperous and were busy workers in the church and were very happy.

On January 23, 1896, there was born to us a beautiful baby boy, who we named Oliver Austin, and he grew to be a beautiful child, of one year of age, when death snatched him away from us on the 18th day of January 1897. This was a terrible shock to my wife and I, for we cherished the child dearer than life. So we buried the little one at Scofield, Utah.

Death Again Strikes -- A Home Broken

Sadness and sore grief seemingly was to be my lot, when on the 5th day of September, 1897, death snatched away from me my beloved wife and her newborn child, whom was named Leonard, although with the aid of two physicians and a midwife, blood poison had snatched her life away as also the child's leaving me forlorn and broken hearted. Sad was the following years without this companionship, so forlorn that I sold the home, gave most of my belongings away as it were and moved away to castle Dale, Utah, where my parents resided and where I had many friends, where I received condolence which helped to assuage my loneliness. Much comfort was given to me through a Patriarchal Blessing pronounced upon my head by Patriarch Alexander Jameson on September 26th, 1897:

PATRIARCHAL BLESSING OF HECTOR THOMAS EVANS

PATRIARCHAL BLESSING

GIVEN BY ALEXANDER JAMESON, PATRIARCH OF THE EMERY

STAKE SEPTEMBER 26, 1897, at Castle Dale, Utah

Upon the head of Hector T. Evans, son of Isaac and Catherine (Thomas) Evans. He was born 4th of May, 1874 in Wales, Great Britain

Brother Hector Evans, as a Patriarch, I lay my hands upon thy head and seal and confirm upon thee at this time a Patriarchal and Father's blessing. I say unto thee, thou art of the House of Joseph, and shall be blessed through that lineage. Notwithstanding thou has been called to pass through some very trying and sad experiences; yet hast the Lord not forgotten thee, for those sorrows and trials shall be returned upon thee with blessings. The Lord desires that His people shall be tried. But thou art young and if thou wilt hearken unto the Spirit of the Lord, and follow the course which the Lord shall point out

to thee, through this and other blessings, which you may receive, thou shalt be able to gain Eternal Life in the Kingdom of God. Therefore, I say unto thee, be of good cheer, live a pure life, keep the commandments [13] of God, and all the covenants sacred which thou hast made, and thou shalt have joy yet in this life, even in thy family; for thou shalt have sons and daughters to whom thou shalt be able to teach the Gospel, and they in turn shall comfort and bless thee. Thou art fruitful and shall have a posterity that shall be an honor to thee, and a comfort in this life; and with those that have departed, shall be as pearls in thy crown in the Eternal Worlds. Thou shalt be privileged to travel and preach the simple principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that many who are now in darkness, shall be led from the error of their ways and embrace the truth, for the Lord desires that thou shalt become useful and an active worker in the spread of truth. Therefore I say unto thee, be faithful in all of thy covenants which thou hast made with the Lord, and the desires thy heart, which have gone up before the Lord, shall be given unto thee. And much power shall be given unto thee through the channel of the Holy Priesthood. I seal these blessings upon thy head, together with all the rights and blessings pertaining to the New and Everlasting Covenant, and seal thee up unto Eternal life, to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection, even so, Amen.

This blessing is recorded in Book A., page 185 --
No. 197. Millicent Jameson, scribe.

Also a Blessing I had previously received from my Father, Isaac Robert Evans:

FATHER'S BLESSING TO HIS SON
HECTOR EVANS
BY HIS
FATHER, ELDER ISAAC ROBERT EVANS, AT CASTLE DALE, UTAH
ON HIS SON'S MARRIAGE TO SISTER CATHERINE DAVIS
DEC. 1894 WRITTEN AT CASTLE DALE, UTAH
BY ELDER ISAAC EVANS AND SENT TO
HIS SON AT SCOFIELD, UTAH.

My youngest son, Hector: as circumstances will not allow me to be with you to have my hands lay on your head, to give you my blessing orally; I write it as if it was so, under the whisperings of the Holy Spirit.

My dear son, you will be blessed for what you are going to do, that is, through the course of your marriage life. You will see better days, and also your partner in life; because you have not sought worldly wealth, until you have fulfilled the work that God wants you to do first. And for Honoring your father and mother in your young days, you will live a happy and long life.

The whisperings of the spirit tells me that you will be a comfort unto us also in the future, and that will be united together with the Spirit of Charity to give unto the Lord his due, and also thy good offerings unto the poor. For this, the blessings of [14] God will be resting upon your household in this mortal life, and you will be blessed also

spiritually, when you will be rearing your children, your table will be full, with the smiles of Heaven surrounding them; free from every thralldom and sin. This I seal, in my writing to you, in the authority of the Eternal Priesthood, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

As time went on during my stay at the home of my parents, I became associated among some very fine young people in Emery County, which helped to assuage the sorrow in my heart. I spent many happy moments with my parents and brothers, becoming active in church affairs and playing in the dances with my brothers, in the Evans Orchestra. However I decided to return to the mines at Winter Quarters, Carbon having the desire to take my father and mother to the temple at Salt Lake to be sealed to each other and to their parents, so I worked to that end at the mines. When two years had passed away since I buried my wife I thought that it was wise to marry again, as I was only 24 years of age at this time, having married when I was only 20 years of age.

I Meet Another Sweetheart

I had become acquainted with several young ladies in Castle Dale, and in Emery County, but had not thought of marriage up to this time. I became very busy at the mining camp making preparations to take father and mother to the temple. One evening in company with a chum of mine Samuel Richards, son of Hyrum Richards of Winter Quarters, we went to a delightful party at Scofield which was being sponsored by the Scofield Ward, and we were introduced to some very fine young ladies, among them a very beautiful young girl who had but recently come from New England, Pennsylvania coming to Utah with her parents, having some time before [becoming] members of the Mormon Church. Miss Hannah Braddock, the charming daughter of William Lees Braddock and Mary Noble Braddock. However before our introduction to her, we had difficulty in being introduced to this very popular girl, as the boys there were very jealous of us, but through the kindness of Johnny Davis, who we were well acquainted we managed to meet her. My friend Sammy insisted he was going to escort her home, when I told him she already had an escort. So he persisted but was turned down flat. So he came to me and broke the news, so in a kidding way I told him that I was the guy who had engaged her, so he was angry at me. So when it was time to go home I said "Sam let's go home" he said "Oh No, two is company and three is none, so you take your lady home." So when I confessed to him I was [15] only kidding him, we wended our way home. However that sweet little girl never went out of my mind, as if she was the one whom I should marry. For it entered my mind that God had brought her there for me.

Soon after this first introduction to her, my brother David T was staging a drama entitled the "Cuban Spy" and incident of the Cuban War, and I was placed in the leading role, in the part Carson the American Hero of the play, so we staged the play at Winter

Quarters and later at Scofield. While performing there, Miss Braddock had come to the theatre with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Reese in whose home she was employed as a maid, and Jack being one of the musicians in the orchestra, then the hero part being such a telling part it seems to have impressed Miss Braddock that I was quite an actor.

That evening I was thrilled by her appearance at the close of the Drama, as I thought she was very beautiful, and I picked up nerve enough to ask her if I could escort her home, where I was introduced to her parents, who I found were wonderful people. So we became infatuated with each other, although she had had a casual suitor previously. Our love grew to the point that I asked her hand in marriage. However, it was to be a sacrifice for her as her parents had decided to move back to Pennsylvania, and she had close neighbors that tried to discourage the union, but her parents became very fond of me so I had the best half of the battle on my side, especially when I also had my sweetheart on my side. However, she was very young, although matured in mind and body. So we came to the conclusion that it would be impossible for us to lose each other, so we set the date of marriage and on the 23rd of August, 1899, we were happily married and sealed to each other for time and all eternity at the Salt Lake Temple. And we have loved each other dearly ever since. It was quite a sacrifice on her part for her parents not long after departed for Pennsylvania. However, according to the promise made to my parents, I had previously taken them to the temple in July previous to this time of marriage, the same year 1899, and had them sealed together for time and eternity. So I was very happy in my accomplishments and I thank my Heavenly Father that he brought to me such a beautiful, good faithful lady as Miss Hannah Braddock Evans, who has never for a moment failed to be a faithful wife and a lovely mother to her children. May God bless her forever and forever. I pray. [16]