

FAMILY HISTORY
or
PERSONAL HISTORY OF THOMAS RAY GLEDHILL.

*written Aug
1915*

August 27, 1915.

I (Thomas Ray Gledhill) was born in Mt. Pleasant, San Pete Co., Utah, February 13, 1883. My Father, Thomas Gledhill was born in England and came to Utah when he was 12 years old. My Mother Lillie Belle Ivie was born at Mt. Pleasant, Utah. When I was one year old My parents moved to Vermilion, Sevier Co., Utah, and here I lived on a farm until the year 1900. (17)

Here on the banks of the dear old Sevier river, I spent the days of my childhood, no spot of ground is more dear or Sacred to me now. Here I first learned to pray, first learned of God, and where the principles of the Gospel were made know to me, and where I first learned to love them. Here I was Baptized and received the Lesser Priesthood, (A Deacon and a Priest). I remember with pride different ways that I magnified this Priesthood and learned my first lessons. At 15 years of age I went to school at Richfield, Utah for 4 years (6th, 7th, 8th, grades and 1 year in High School) during this time I spent 1 winter as Chore boy for Dr. H. K. Neill. At the end of the last year at school, half of the boys quit school and before it was out I quit and went out on the Desert to herd sheep for A. K. Hansen, quite discouraged. Two incidents happened that helped me to decide to get an education and to live my religion. While in the West Milford Desert I got lost and nearly choaked to death for water and if ever I prayed in earnest it was here in the Desert. I promised God to quit all bad habits and serve him if he would spare my life. Latter in that Summer, I went to Clear Creek Coal mines to work. I was placed to work in one end of a box car with an Italian (DayGo) in the other end to shoveling coal. He could not speak English except swear. This caused me to think and pray a great deal. I felt that there was something more worthy in life for me to do than to spend my life in a dirty car with a man with a colored skin. I went into the woods on different occasions and prayed with all my heart for God to open up the way for me to get an education and it was here I resolved to go on to school, with Gods help.

(1901) - For the next four years I went to the L.D.S.U. and God blessed me every hour. I finished school with almost as much money as I had when I started after paying my tuition, \$40.00 I had left. When I graduated in 1905 from the L.D.S. I was President of the Student body of the school and Janitor (the highest and lowest positions in school at the same time). By this time I had made up my mind to study medicine, Two professors tried hard to discourage me, for they feared I would lose my testimony of the Gospel if I studied Medicine. I was willing to give up my ambition rather than loose my faith. To satisfy myself I called at Pres. Joseph F. Smith's office for advice and he sent me to Pres. Lund, who told me to go ahead and study medicine if I felt that was best fore me. To do my duty and I would not loose my faith.

The following summer my dearest friend Joe Harris and I went to Preston to work and intended to go on to Yellowstone National Park, At Preston we worked for D.C. Eames, where I met this daughter,

Rebecca May, who two years latter became my wife. We didn't go to the "Park, but often went to a farm, two miles ~~North~~ of Preston. That Summer and the next two Christmas Holidays form the most romantic and the sweetest days of my life. I was married to the girl that I had loved for two years in the Logan Temple on July 18, 1907. After a short visit at Vermilion and at Preston, We left together for Chicago where I completed my medical course and where our daughter Ora was born on June 17, 1908. Just before she was born Ora's grandma came from Preston and stayed with us for a month or two. Proud indeed was I when on June 14, 1909, I received my "Sheep skin" Diploma entitling me to practice medicine. My Parents had come to Chicago to witness to graduation exercises. After passing the Utah State Board, We located in Richfield, Utah on July 23, 1909. *Delivered first baby Aug 9, 1909 (She was Helen Isbell)*

Soon after we were located May was chosen as first councilor in the Primary Stake Board. She has served as class leader of the mutuals and Kindergarten class leader in the Sunday school. I have served as 1st assistant Superintendant in the Sunday School since coming to Richfield, also as a ward Teacher. I was also chosen as one of the Seven Presidents of the 36th Quorum of Seventy in this Stake, and I am in charge of the Seventies in our ward at the present time (Aug 26, 1915.)

Soon after we arrived in Richfield May (Mrs. Gledhill) took sick and for nearly two years she was ill most of the time, she had three minor operations and had been to the hospital with no relief. Pres. William H. Seegmiller, gave her a Patriarical Blessing in which he promised her she should get well and be the mother of additional children. Latter she was operated on and a tumor of the uterus was found, which was the most fatal of all Cancers, and the Doctors advised and insisted on removing her uterus. To this I objected because of her blessing we knew she should live and be a mother. The tumor alone was removed, and as the Doctors predicted it returned and was removed the second time. About two years later we went to the Temple and here she was blessed and annointed that she would conceive and become a mother. In about nine months from this date God gave us as he had promised a 10 pound son, and we named him Preston Ray. We acknowledge Gods gift to us and have written it up for the Faith Promoting Series as a testimony to the world. See Faith Promoting Stories.