

The following is copied from xeroxed handwritten pages of Rebecca Hewitt sent to Carol Minson by Mrs. Connie Isaacks 10513 E. 35th, Independence, MO 64052 in 1985. I have tried to keep spelling and grammar the same as written. Some words are hard to make out and a few missing from torn pages. I will indicate missing words or words I could not make out by If I guess at the word it will be in parentheses. David Minson 28 Jun 1992

I will write a sketch of my life hoping there may be some good done especially that the young who have parrents and homes that they may more fully apreciate home and parrents and do not let your youthful days pass away without trying to do some good. There may be a life of usefulness before you and there may be tryals you little think of for you but one thing sure time past by cannot be retraised and today if your hear is the accepted time if you harden not your hearts and as the poet has truly said

In vain we strive
In vain we fondly roam
But true content is only found at home
For our own hearts the happy godesst lies
And freely grants her favors to the wi.. (wise)

how many have left home and romed away to be laid in a silent grave. how vain have been there bright anisif.... when had they had a contented mind it would of bee differant and a ... the cald sayine is a is a contin.....

Life of Rebecca M. Hewitt

I was Borne in Fountain Co Ind Nov 2 1840. My Parrents were members of the L D Saints Church. My Mothers Maden name was Jerusha Parker. she was Borne in the year 1800 at Trenton N. J. mooved with her parrents to Ohio when she was six years oald My Father was Borne in K. Y. was Babtised by Orson Hyde and at the time of the masacree of the two Prophets we lived on Chaney creek about 10 mi from Nauvoo and sold out his farm there to follow the church but Father did not go verry far before before he stoped and declaired Brigham Young to be fals yet it was no easy task to give up the association of the saints who had the knowledge of the restored gospal But not the lest bit shaken in the faith he went from Iowa to Texas and with all he found fo the saints he told them never to follow Brigham for the rightful heir was young joseph while we were camped on the Bottom near the Missippie River and over because it was said .. the members gon to look after the horses and followed my older sister who with several other

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girls had set on the Bank of a deep slue or Back watter from the river and I thought I could do so as well as they it being mudy I set down on the bank but the watter was to far down for me to reach and I tumbled over head first in to the slew the other

girls had gon on and left me and had it not bin that Mother was just a short distance below and herd the splash they would not of known by the time she got there I had floated out to the middle of the pond and was sinking she could not swim and there being a long pole she could not reach me or the bottom but in the mean time the alarm was given and a man ran a quarter of a mile he being a good swimmer he plunged in after me and caught me as I was gowing down the 3rd time and las tim I was unconcious and after being rooled on a table was brought to life it always seems to me that I could see myself lying and floating on the watter I was only 5 years oald Mother was more than willing to put the new cotten dress on me that I had cried for in the morning and I was delighted with my new homespun

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I will now relate a circumstance .. happened while we was travling with the Companey one of Mr. Youngs wagons got stuck in the mud up to the axle and ours was close behind when he Brigham drove up in his carage and said Bro Hewitt get out and help get that wagon out of the mire Father said you are a younger man than I get out and put your sholder to the whell and I will asist you it is your wagon not mine was Fathers reply I think there was sevrul hundred dollars worth of provision that my Father had put in the Comisary that we never got a cent of there was quite a no of famileys stoped to winter up the Mo river it was called the ...can (Princan) Nation I cannot Locate the place but we was some distance from any settlements and the snow detained the teams that was sent after provisions and I do not remember how long we lived on rations Brand bread or but one peice at a meal Mother was confined to her bead with Rhumatism for sevrul weeks there was quite a bit

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of logg house put up and some were more fortunate than we was they had laid by crackers and other provision I well remember one girl would come in our house with crackers in her hand and would sometimes give me a crumb and I fancy my self there now setting in my little chair with my eyes and mouth open for a bite of cracker but that if nothing more it learned me to never eat any thing before a child with out dividing with them

In the spring we started for Texas but when we got to Telaquah Cherokee Nation Father rented a Farm and we stayed in the nation over a year. While we were there my half Brother Buckner Hewitt come to us. he had been out west and built a house but we did not go to occupy we then went to Texas and lived one year on Cedar creek not far from Bairstrop The Next year we lived 10 miles above Aston The next year we located on the lampaces river 5 miles from Bel.. Texas was verry drouthy and Father did not like the climate while in Texas he visited Lyman Wite but could

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not agree with him as being in sound doctrin Father was an Elder and would often preach sometimes at our house and while we lived

near the Lampacis River there was several families of saints one by the name of Hatfield who went to Bever Island I was now 10 years old and was baptised by my Father

About this time my oldest sister went to stay with Bro John Taylors family who lived about 20 miles or more away she had been gone some time when one day a stranger came to our house and introduced himself as Stephen Maloney he was dressed in uniform and Brass Buttons with US on them showing he was a soldier in the regular army this was nothing new for we had seen soldiers before but his business was to ask the consent of Father and Mother for their Daughter to be his wife Also to take my sister Ann back with him Father was not at home at the time and Mother said she is of age she can choose for her self but there was one who could not get their eyes to look any other way but at the soldier that was to be called Brother in law and to think Ann would go and see them married and I stay at home

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It was the first real trouble I had ever seen she had made my dresses took me with her and taught me how to walk to dance and to sing and now I must give her up she was eleven years older than I was so at her marriage was about 22 years old I do not recall in all my childhood days such trouble as this Mother could not say words to comfort me so I crawled under the bed and sobbed and cried and at times would kick the wall but after my first grief was over I do not remember of grieving so much. when Father came home he was very angry and was fixing to leave Texas Jane wrote for us to come by and see them but Father did not go by which was very hard for Mother to bear but some one had persuaded Father against him by saying he drank which was not so and Father wrote and acknowledged he had done wrong. We went from Texas to Cherokee Nation and the first year Father hay and we lived near Teaquah About this time one of George Millers sons came touse on there

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he started out in the morning to hunt the horses just North of Telaquah are hills and mountains where there was no one lived and when he did not return by noon we began to be uneasy but supposed he would soon come in about three o'clock. Father went to town and raised the alarm and about 30 men came out to our house to start on the hunt of the lost child it was now about five o'clock and about the time they had laid out the course for each man to look here come my Brother riding up when asked if he had been lost he said No I kept in sight of the white mission house which could be seen for a distance and could be seen plain from the mountains he was interested in finding his horse for one of the lost was his and would come at his call the other two was a fine mare and year old colt While living in Telaquah Mother sent me on an errand to the house she being at the spring washing I had to pass by the court house

and an Indian girl asked me to come and see what there was in the house she said she had something to show me she was much older than I was and I went in she got me in a closet and fastened the

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door and went out Mother feeling like something had happened started after me and heard my cries and come to my rescue I was almost smothered this was the first time we lived at Telaquah when I was but seven years old who can say that my mother was not led to my rescue.

About this time Brother John Taylor moved from Texas and he and Father moved to a saw mill and got out timber in the spring of 1853 we moved to McCoy's Prairie rented a place and kept transit hotel and a corral for cattle Father doing some freighting for there was always plenty of work for him to do as all the natives liked him and called him the honest White Man this spring there was one Brother Towel and John Harrington come to our house they advocated the gospel and believed Joseph would be his Father's successor and I do not remember that he and my Father disagreed on any points of doctrine only father would say I will wait and see about August while Father was teaming he got in a pond of cold spring water while he was very warm I think a yoke of oxen ran in to it which gave Father

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a severe cold from which he took the fever we lived 15 miles from Telaquah and the doctor did not seem to understand the nature of the disease he was taken to the sulphur spring but only lived a short period ten days after he left home but was sick about 4 weeks while he was sick he had many dreams and visions and told us to get out of that country that it would be torn up by war he also said that he saw Jesus Christ and many of the saints and he often warned Bro Taylor never to go to salt lake I was now twelve years old past and fatherless with one Bro 3 years younger and a sister five years younger than myself one sister three years older and a brother six years older we had some property in horses and cows but no home of our own Father died in September and about the first of Nov we received a letter from sister Jane for some of us to come to Texas after her she was then at Hamilton's valley about 5 or 6 hundred miles away her husband had been called to Mexico and there was no way of transportation in those days in mean time Mother had took a trip up in Benton

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Co Arks and bought a farm near where the town of Gravit now stands but had not got moved on the place the anxiety she had to send for gave and to see her and her babe was very great and in our grief for Father we felt her lonely condition there was a young man by the name of Dockery that proposed to assist Mother in moving and myself and Brother was fitted out with a three horse

team and about the tenth of Nove we started to texas with a load of apples he being 19 years oald in Aug and I would be 13 the 22 day of November only think of two children undertaking such a journey through the creek Nation chickasaw and chactaw Nations but this was the only way we could reach our sister and Mother said she would send me for protection as my Brother might be killed or robbed but I feared no danger all my thoughts were to see my sister and her Babe I did not think of danger no not so much as I now would to start on the Train and truly there was no danger we fell in with moovers and had company most of the way and after three weeks travil we landed at my sisters and it seemed that my joy was complete a eight month oald babe to love on our return home one of the horses gave out and I had to lead it sevril miles the wagon

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had gon on to find a place to camp and the horse would nip evry bunch of grass he found by the side of the road and I could not budge it I was dredfully afraid and did not no other I would ever see mother or not but my sister come to my rescue and I never was so glad in my life to be relieved of such a task and dont remember as we had to lead it any more but I do remember of being a horseback a head of the wagon and looking back and talking when the horse stumbled and threw me over its head I seemed to lite on my nose and it hurt so bat that I felt it for sometime but we soon was with Mother after an absence of two months Dear reader do you think of the confidence in God and the prayrs of the Mother was not rewarded we lived in Ark over two years and in the spring of 1856 we mooved to Kansas Near Atchison or rather between Alchison and Leavensworth My Mother found a sister who lived near Iotan Mo who she had not seen for years her Name was W...erson (Wilkenson?) and she had a Daughter by the same name of my but three years oalder whos name was Rebecca B.(Baldwin written in the margin) of which I may speak later. My sister Ann was Married to Harrison Dockery before we left Arkansas so I was now the oldest