

A LETTER WRITTEN BY MERLIN EASTHAM KEARL  
TELLING ABOUT HER ARRIVAL IN BEAR LAKE  
AND ABOUT HER FIRST CHILDREN.

from Grantsville

The reason I came to Bear Lake was because Aunt Ann had a home and an orchard she was needed to care for her fruit and was expectin a new baby and didn't want to come away from a Dr or help. Fanny was living on the farm and had men to cook for and things to take care of.

I was married the 12th of July and of course hadn't prepared a home of any kind there so came here with my husband the 29th of August. I was the first woman to have a home in Round Valley. The first day we got here we camped at Big Spring. The next day on the 30th of Aug. we went on to look at the country and went as far as St. Charles.

The next day on the 30th of Aug. we went on to look at the country and went as far as St. Charles. We didn't see anything we liked as well as Round Valley so we came back and made our home there. About half way down the road between Earleys and the corner. They set my stove down by the side of the road not a tent or a bit of shelter of any kind. The wind blew and the stove wouldn't bake but that's where I stayed whil the men, my husband, and George Willis, Larry Morton & John Anderson put up a stack of hay and got out some logs and built a shed. I moved into the shed and felt I had a mansion. Then they started building me a log house with two rooms. They chinked it and my cousin from Evanston, Will Wells, came by

They chinked it and my cousin, Will Wells, from Evanston came and I helped him carry the mud to daub the one room while Jim was gone to S. L. for Fanny. He brot back two little square windows. We didn't have a door so I would move my little square table that the presiding Elder Bro. Oldfield gave me when he moved away up to the door opening. One night while we were in a bed a skunk came to visit us and Jim shot it as it was leaving. The smell never entirely left the door step.

Now I must tell about my first babies. I had my first four  
born in Round Valley. Merlin Edyth with Mrs. Green for the Dr.  
Jeanette with Mrs. Morley the Dr.

John Henry with Mrs. Earley for the Dr. George with Fanny for the Dr. Then I moved to Otter Creek. Then Robert was born with Eliza Johnson for the Dr. Then had Willis Ellsworth with a midwife, Mrs. Henry with me. My other four children were born in Lake Town. Morton, Ethel, Jane, Chase, & Grace with help from Mrs. Carolyn Wahlstrom who was a good midwife. There was no Doctors and help of that kind in those days.

Chase was born in Round Valley.

My first bottle of fruit was a 2 quart bottle of wild goosberries picked in birch hollow and put up with out any sugar and I have

never been so thrilled with all the fruit I've canned since as I was with that one bottle and I am sure that the Lord must have been with me and been a help to hundreds of other sisters in the same condition.

Mother