

John Ernest Thompson-Life Sketch by Clarence E. Barrett

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John Ernest Thompson worked for Orson Sanders on the E.Y Ranch near Almo, Idaho. When he returned to Murray, Utah, he told William Barrett and Dick Barrett that there were many acres of land at Reed Springs which could be homesteaded. William was working for the railroad. William and Dick came to Reed Springs and homesteaded 160 acres each by John E. Thompson's land. William and John E would leave Reed Springs early in the morning and walk to Albion which was the county seat, to do their business concerning their land, nearly once a month returning carrying groceries by hand including a sack of flour.

When Nina, William's wife, was due to have twins she went to live with the Thompsons. After a month and a half stay the twins were born. I was named Clarence and was born first. I was premature. I was very small and had no fingernails, toenails, or eyelashes. I owe my life to John Ernest Thompson. He carried me in a shoe box and fed me every hour with an eye-dropper. All of the Thompson family took turns tending Clarence and me. Because Grandpa Thompson was the only grandpa I ever knew, I felt very close to him. My grandparents died soon after I was born. My parents named me "Ernest" after John Ernest Thompson. And so Ernest is my middle name. Clarence Ernest Barrett.

I am proud of being named after Grandpa Thompson and pleased to have a son and 2 grandsons named Ernest.

When the Raft River Stake was moved to Malta, Grandpa Thompson would walk to Malta to Stake Priesthood meeting which was held early in the morning. It is a distance of about 45 miles from where he lived.

Then Grandpa Thompson moved on to the property where Bryce Tracy now lives in Malta. While there he built bricks and blocks, which were put in the J. Henry Thompson home in Malta. Then he moved to the

homestead one mile north of Malta where S. N. Smith now lives. It was then a log house. He owned the McLendon Place in the foothills. He dug a ditch from there to his home to water his ground. He built a reservoir for the spring at McLendon Place along with its fruit trees and rattlesnakes.

He loved goats and always had some around. He used to milk them and also used them for meat.

When Grandma Thompson was bedfast my mother would go down and clean her house, because she felt she owed her something for being midwife to the twins. When people would come to help her, she would say: "Don't do anything! Nina will be here soon and she knows where everything should be."

Grandpa was very faithful in taking care of his wife. She died early in the evening and he was so tired that he lay down to sleep and didn't get up until 9:00AM to tell his son, J. Henry.

Grandpa was a faithful church member. He and his wife loved to sing in the choir. They taught many genealogy classes.

Velda and I spent many days with the Thompsons and loved to hear him sing. We love the Thompson family. They have meant a lot in our lives.

Clarence E. Barrett

15 June 1992