ANNA LAURA MEMMOTT and NIELS AAGARD

Compliled by Gloria Bolette Aagard Salmon (dau)

Anna Laura Memmott was born January 5, 1893 to Thomas William Memmott and Rosa Bell Ivie Memmott. She was the 8th child of twelve. She was born in a humble log home on the west side of Scipio, Millrd , Ut. When she was quite young , her father built a beautiful home on the east side. Laura was named in honor of a little sister of her father, who had died when only 13yrs. while crossing the plains at a place called Mormon Grove.

Anna Laura was always small of stature, just 5' tall. As a child she had very blond hair, large beautiful blue eyes, and exhibited a precocious independence in her ever sunny personality. She felt her father was the ideal of what a man should be . He taught her to work in the fields, mow and pile hay and she loved the fields and sweet smell of hay. When required to work in the house , she didn't care to prolong it. She learned to knead bread when she was so small she had to stand on a stool to reach the mixing pan on the table

Anna Laura's father hired a cleaning lady to come into the home each week to help clean the house and do the family washing in the machine outside in the yard. This laundry lady was very unpredictable and Laura in her childish way teased her, and when the child continued to irk her, she snatched her up and plunged her, feet first , into the extremely hot lye cleaning water. She held the little girl there for a few seconds and Laura screamed in agony , when she pulled her out she was unable to stand for the burning pain. Her father bounded out of the house and removed her shoes and stockings and the skin from her feet came off in them. Needless to say the lady was discharged but Laura suffered painful foot problems all of her life.

Anna Laura attended school in Scipio and graduated from eighth grade and said her school days were filled with happiness. She said she and her sisters were among the most fashionable dressed girls in town. The only time she ever remembered her father speaking gruffly to her mother was when the children wore frayed or too patched clothing.

When Laura was sixteen years old, a handsome, 6'4" young man from Levan, by the name of Niels Aagard, began to court her older sister, Tressie. Laura was not particularly impressed since she was dating the young men from Scipio and was popular. Eventually, Laura's sister Tressie decided to go to Salt Lake to live and sent Niels a "Dear John" letter. He turned to Anna Laura for solace, and the empathetic feeling blossomed into love. Niels traveled the 27 miles between Levan and Scipio as often as he could for the next year to court his petite little charmer. They were married in Filmore, Ut. Oct. 10, 1910. He was 27yrs. and she 17 Years.

Niels was born 12 May 1883 in Levan, Juab, Utah to Niels Jensen and Bolette Aagard. He was a farmer, rancher, and cattleman all of his life, however, he owned very little at the time of his marriage. He had a couple of old work horses, a wagon, and no money. He had access to a little old two room adobe house that had belonged to one of his father's plural wives. The adobe was crumbling away and holes in the walls were large enough for a bird to fly through. The doors were warped and the bitter winter cold seeped through and around the almost two inch openings of the doors and broken windows. There was no water piped into the house or even on the property. Laura carried water in a bucket for a city block to do household needs such as cooking, bathing, and laundry.

Anna Laura and Niels were blessed with six children. Their first child, Lloyd Niels Aagard married Emma Rosequist and had 4 children . Emma passed away in 1986, and Lloyd remarried India, live in West Valley, Utah. Their second child was a handsome, but frail son. Had to be carried on a pillow for the first eighteen months of his life. They named him Wilmer Lamar, He married Norma Mildred William and have four children. and live in Milford, Ut. They named their 3rd child Leo Clayton. He was small in stature and when about 2½ years old accidentally burned his right arm and across his chest. The scars never left him. He was killed in the armed services in 1941. Their fourth child was a daughter and they named her Gloria Bolette. She married Robert James Salmon and has six children. The last two children of Laura were twins born June 4, 1925. William Kenneth and Robert Kieth. William has never married. He lives in Alaska. Robert served in the navy in the South Pacific during WWII. He married Leola Ruchti on Aug. 10, 1946. They had two children but Robert died May 29, 1968. They lived in Clearfield, Utah.

Anna Laura and Niels purchased a large beautiful home after living about thirty years in the adobe one. This one was in the west end of Levan but it was after all their children had grown up. There was much heartache in her life but her indomitable spirit was a powerful lesson in fortitude, courage, faith, endurance, graciousness, and pure love to her children and husband as well as all who knew her. She went prematurely grey at thirty but was self denying that her children might have the necessities of life. The family also lived on a ranch they owned about 7 mi. southwest of Levan. They lived there each summer from '29 to '39, throughout the great depression. The prime crop was wild hay with a large herd of cattle and sheep, with pigs, goats, chickens, geese, milk cows, and horses to care for.

Each year in Aug. , Laura did the cleaning of the Levan schoolhouse to earn money and worked as a midwife in many homes. Due to it being depression time she would often decline any offerring from destitute neighborsshe helped, and often shared her food with them. Many times when her family was asleep, and the snow was knee deep outside, she would awaken one of the boys to take a sack of flour on an old rickety sled to some home and leave it before they came to the door. She didn't want them to feel obligated . Though she had only a meager supply, she firmly believed that the Lord would provide.

It was August of 1941 that Clayton was drafted into the U. S. Army and stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. It would be his 25th birthday in Nov and the family sent him money in leiu of gifts. His fellow companions inthe service persuaded him to go with them to St. Louis for the evening. They hitchhiked and the driver of the car they caught a ride with let them out near the city. There was a light snow falling and roads were slick and the car coming from the opposite direction was blinded by the lights of the car from which they departed and did not see the men and struck Clayton and he was killed on impact. Laura displayed her gold star proudly and sadly for many years. After her young twin sons were drafted she went to work at Arms Supply Depot in Salt Lake City. Her responsibility was to label boxes . She was made a supervisor and worked there until the end of the war. With the money she earned she assisted her family.

The years took a toll on her health and she became anemic and developed diabetes and her eyesight failed. On Aug. 6, 1959, after suffering a massive stroke and diabetic coma, she passed on. This was in the hospital of Nephi, Utah. Her beautiful and indelible influence still lives on in the lives of her children. She had a strong testimony and great faith.