The following stories were recorded by Lloyd Niels Aagard about his Aunt Mary Anderson (Angel of Mercy) & about Levan, Utah. The information is being typed as was tape-recorded.`

The following are stories told to me by my dad and Aunt Mary. It seems as though a fellow by the name of Knute Brown from Nephi was on a mission to Denmark, he brought Grandma Boletta & Great Grandma Rasmussen back here. He felt it was his duty to find a place for these women to stay, so there was an old widow Chris Madsen?, Chris lived in Levan, Grandma Rasmussen stayed with her until she died then Grandma Rasmussen inherited this place. Later on she was able to sale this place and moved down where she lived with Uncle Chris Rasmussen. She stayed there until she died. Uncle came over here when he was 14 years old. And as I said some of the tales and stories about polygamist life, as near as I can re-call, I could be wrong in some instances, but it is to the best of my recollection.

After Grandpa Niels Jensen Aagard have been married to "Mott" as we knew her, for 17 years, the church told him to take a younger woman and have some posterity.(since their marriage had been childless) But, of course they had to have "Mott's:" permission, her being the first wife so they could marry. The only way she would give her permission is if they would give her the first two children, the first child born was a little girl by the name of Serena, after "Mott", but, Serena died when she was five months old. So then Mott didn't want to count her as one

When Niels and Mary were living with Mott, Mott used to willow them quite bad at times. One day Grandma Rasmussen came to Mott and told her she wanted her to quit beating the kids like that. Mott who was quite strong grabbed Great Grandma Rasmussen and threw her over her knee and blistered her quite good. Mott had quite a bit of fear built up in some of them.

One time in the spring Grandpa was at Boletta's in the front yard playing with the children and running around with them. When it came time to leave he bent down and kissed Grandma and all the kids and he went back across the road and they heard a Crash and a Bang! They looked and seen Grandpa jumping through one of the windows, he ran down to the barn and started to climb up the ladder, she came after him with a big oak stick, he told her to get down or he would push the ladder over. When he came back over to Grandma's he told them that That Mott had seen him playing with the children and kissing them and it sent Mott into a rage. As soon as Grandpa had got into the house, she locked the door and started to beat him with an oak stick and the only way he could get out was to jump through the window.

I remember them telling me that one time when the law was after polygamists, Boletta hid out in the tithing granary for five months. When it came time in the fall to put grain into the granary Grandpa had to move her about a mile north of town and a half a mile east in a little log house. Grandma would have to walk into town in the middle of the night and they would get Grandpa and load up with water and groceries and what ever she needed and they would go unload and be back before dawn.

Later on Grandma went to Mendon on the train where Uncle Sonny was born.

It was at this time of hiding out that they were watched very close and there were those around who were always ready to do a little stooling, there was a fellow in town by the name of Hans Morganson, they called him "Snooper-Hans" that meant sneaky Hans. Him and another fellow; the Post Master they used to get letters, when Grandma was up to Mendon, that she'd write to Grandpa and he's write to her then they'd turn these into the Federal Officers. They found out that Grandpa hadn't give Grandma up completely by these letters and so that's how they got a hold of him and he finally had to serve his time in jail. He served fifty days and paid $50.00. He came out of jail the later part of January. He died the 4th of February 1892.

There was a fellow that used to come through Levan and would bed his stock up over night and stay at Grandpa's, and h e told Grandpa that he was getting a job as a Warden at the jail and that he would see that if Grandpa ever had to go to jail that he would see that he would never have to shave his beard or wear stripes. So when Grandpa went to serve his time he was never required to wear a stripped prisoners outfit nor did he have to shave his beard!

At the time of Grandpa's death they couldn't get Mott to give up any of her property since she was the only legal wife and inherited the property when Grandpa died. So Grandma Boletta went to an Attorney in Nephi by the name of A.C. BRYANT, he took the case to court and the only way he could

get anything for Boletta was on account of the children, she received One-Third of Grandpa's property. (Way to go Boletta!)

Aunt Mary and Dad lived with Mott, they got a fairly good education for them days. They went to school in Levan then they went to Provo for a couple of years, to the Brigham Young Academy. But Uncle Sonny and Uncle Jim told me, that Uncle Jim only had a 3rd Grade Education and Sonny had a 4th. They both did pretty well in life I know they read all the books they could get a hold of, they read the bible, the Book of Mormon, The Pearl of Great Price and many more.. You would have thought that when you talked to them that they had had a good education, they were self-educated men.

Aunt Mary got married in 1899, she lived there with Mott, all these years until 1927, that's when Mott died, Aunt Mary got Mott's property, which she earned thousands of times over. Because Mott was a big woman, and at the time they didn't have indoor plumbing. She would have to move Moot to and from the toilet and bath her in a long metal tub and it was quite a struggle for Mary because Mott was such a heavy woman. It seemed like Mott used to take a personal delight in hollering around Mary. "Mary come and do this and that", if someone else was a sleep she wouldn't want to wake them, but if Mary was a sleep it was a different story. She would call and wake Mary up to come and do some little thing.

But, in the years I knew Mott, I myself would have to say nothing but the best about her for the simple reason that she always treated me alright, she'd take her coffee and pour it in a saucer and put a lump of sugar in it and give it to us kids and

that was quite a treat! Because we didn't get many sweets of candy in them days. I can remember her sitting and rocking Mary's babies when they were little and she would sit and darn sox's, she would sew a patch upon top of patch. She would always sing tunes, she would sing in English sometimes and in Danish at other times, she could carry a tune pretty good, she would sing "Come, Come Ye Saints" in Danish.

In the later part of June 1927 I was driving a camp wagon, or a Commissary,
A couple of work horses, a side Mule and a couple of Saddle Horses, (Dad was 15 years old) one time when going through Levan I stopped to see my folks and Aunt Mary, I went into Mott's bedroom and she was lying in bed sick. I can remember her saying "Lloyd, you come over and kiss me before you leave because I won't be alive when you come home" and she wasn't. I didn't get home until October and think Mott died in the first part of September in 1927.

Aunt Mary, all her life has really been an angel of mercy, if I must say it myself, I remember on at least four occasions, when I was a kid she would come to our place, on Christmas morning to supposedly see what we got, and we wouldn't have a thing. She would say "Oh, Santa Claus was so tired when he got to our place I feed him Utacogs & Coffee and he left some presents there for you. She would go across the road and like I say would bring us a handkerchief, a pair of sox's, some books, crayons, candy, nuts, oranges, and bring those back, this happened quite a few times and us kids began to think that the last place Santa Clause went on his route was Aunt Mary's and he would always be so tired that he would have coffee and utacogs there and wouldn't go to any other places. We thought that for quite a while.

Aunt Mary, I remember, has gave thousands of meals away, I remember when Hobos used to come there on their way to California and she would give all of them something to eat, she could not turn any hungry person down.

I remember one time when I was older during the early part of the Depression, there was a couple there who had a crying baby, so she went and talked to them and they said they were trying to get to California and they didn't have any money. She asked them why the baby was crying and they told her they didn't have any milk and they held up this baby bottle and it was about one-fourth full of solid clabber. So Aunt Mary took the baby and the bottle and took them in the house and bathed that baby, it had awfully dirty clothes on, she put some of the grandkids clothes on, sterilized the bottle, filled it with fresh milk and took the baby back out to the parents, I will never forget, she took some Melbas?, or sandwiches as we now know them, and some Utacogs . The couple said "Oh, look at our baby, she's smiling", they both broke down and cried. They wanted Aunt Mary to take that baby, they wanted to give the baby to her, and Aunt Mary, said no I can't take this baby, they said you are the kindest person we have ever met in out life. If we got to give our baby up we would like to give her to you, because we know she would be taken care of. Aunt Mary told them she couldn't take the baby but she would pray for them.

I can remember one Halloween night we went out "Trick or Treating", mostly Trick, we always had to come back and tell Aunt Mary what we had done, she didn't mind a little mischievousness, but she didn't like us to do mean things, so we had been gone three or four hours on Halloween night, and come back and was telling Aunt Mary what things we had done and she was laying in bed and she pulled back the covers and said look what the ghosts and goblins have brought me a BABY! And that was her son Elden. We suspected she was going to have a baby, there was me and Lewis and Lee, Frank Ballow, Lamar Dalby, she'd had this baby while were out tipping over out-houses.

Aunt Mary was the towns "Angel of Mercy" where ever there was sickness she was there, I can remember when my sister, Gloria was born it was in the day time, Myself, Wilmer and Clayton were told to hang out on Aunt Mary's lawn, while the birth was going on, Aunt Mary would run back and forth taking things that were necessary and on one trip she said "You boys have got a baby sister"!

I can remember some people named Rawlings, lived about a block away, they had a couple or three babies while they lived in Levan and Aunt Mary was sewing night gowns and knitting booties, because they were so poor. She would always get up early in the morning and fill her apron with stuff to eat and take over to their place and she also helped the doctor deliver all of the babies.

I remember another family moved into Levan and their mother was a Spanish lady, raised in Mexico, a wonderful woman, it was the Ballow family, I can remember when their youngest child Mikey was born and Aunt Mary was there with the Doctor doing all that she could. When ever there was sickness in this family, they lived about a block away from Aunt Mary and she'd be over there helping, doing something for the kids, and doing this and that. She would take her home remedies and mentholated and doctor the kids. I remember Frank was sick one time and as Mary was leaving the mother would look at Mary and say "L n Tel" "L n Tel", and after I had heard her say this a few times I ask Frank what does that mean? Frank said that means "The Angel".

Uncle Jim, Aunt Mary's husband, was a fine man and he raised a fine family. They had 8 children and 7 of them had college educations. I can remember how Uncle Jim would go herd sheep all winter long and some summers. He was an accessor of the sheep he would do what he had to support his family. He would be at the herd month after month, a lonely, sad life and would send his pay home for his family. I don't know if his kids knew how hard it was for him to stay at the lonely herd month after month

Now, Chris Rasmussen, was a fine old fellow, I used to work for him. Tromping hay and riding Derek horses, he was quite a kind old Gentlemen, he would not ever kill a living thing. I remember one time I picked up some hay and there was a bunch of mice, and I began to kill them and he really got mad at me. He said don't you bother them, they were put on earth for a reason, and don't you kill them. He gathered up what was left of the mice and made them a nice nest and said, "you just stay there and your Momma will be back". He was one of the most honest men I think I have ever met in my life.

My Uncle Sonny Aagard, was a fine man, if ever there was a man on this earth that was tested, it was him. I remember back in 1923 when they first returned to Levan, one morning getting up to do some chores I seen this small boy and girl coming up the road, and they turned into Aunt Mary's and it wasn't very long until things started to pop, it was Lee and Zola. Aunt Shara died in Wyoming and they shipped her down to Levan on the train. They were living in a little 10x10 shack, out west of Levan, about 3 miles, and it was colder than all get out! Uncle Sonny had sent Zola and Lee to Aunt Mary's while he stayed with his wife's body. They went down and loaded the coffin and all the kids up and brought them back to town and had the funeral. They lived with Aunt Mary for 5 or 6 months. At one time we counted 23 were they're living at Aunt Mary's. Then Uncle Sonny and his children moved in with Uncle Chris Rasmussen. Which was a good thing for him and Uncle both.

Uncle Sonny was a mighty hard worker and a contentious man. He gave his family everything that he could possibly earn. All he ever knew in his life was hard work. He never had many of the pleasures of life, but he made the best of it. And he was always happy. Then Uncle Sonny married another lady, she had 3 children, they then moved to Midvale. They had one child together. Then this wife died. Her children went to live with her relatives

and Uncle Sonny raised their son "Bob", he was a mighty fine man. My dad had a son named Bob and so did Uncle Jim in Wyoming.

Then Uncle Sonny married Aunt Kate Mortenson, they worked very hard together to try and save a farm. It wasn't many years and she died.

Then he married a Mrs. Beard, he lived with her some years then she died.

The things that happened to Uncle Sonny, no sane person would wish on the devil.

I know that the Lord has a special place for Sonny and he deserves it.

He raised a good family, it is very seldom that you see a family that large turn out as good as Uncle Sonny's. Wonderful people, and they always treat us good when we go to see them. And I just wouldn't ask for better friends of relatives than Uncle Sonny's children.

Uncle Sonny was very kind to me and has gave me many a "Pat on the Back"
Which really helped me on my way.

(The tape on the cassette broke at this point, I will try to type the last three stories by memory/Pat Aagard Richins, Lloyd's daughter)

Uncle Jim and Aunt Annie lived in the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming. And you have never seen harder workers. They raised a big family and I always enjoyed going there and visiting with all the Burlington Aagards. Jim & Annie had a fine large family, they were all good people.

Aunt Annie had passed away and Uncle Jim was living with Janeva, one moring Grandpa Jim went over to his old home and was starting a fire in the kitchen range, he poured some type of flammable liquid on the fire and it exploded and burned down the house. Uncle Jim made it out alive, but died a few months later.

There was a Big Movie that came to town it was called "THE WAGON MASTER", it cost twice as much as all the other shows that came to town, This one was .20C, which was a lot especially if you didn't have it. Aunt Mary Knew we most likely wouldn't get to go to the show, so she got a gunny sack and filled it with wheat and sewed it shut at the top of the bag, she then took the sack to a local store, which usually paid in script, but, this time she asked for cash, 79C, which got myself, Wilmer & Clayton into the show with 5C to buy us each a treat! Thank you, Aunt Mary.

At one time someone had dropped by Boletta's cabin and she was brushing her hair, they said they never seen such beautiful hair, it was the longest hair they had ever seen, she could actually sit on it.

of the children she was to have, so she took Mary and My Dad Niels.

It was told that when Grandpa and Boletta went to Salt Lake to get married that Mott went with them. They went in a freight wagon, that was taking a load of freight up to Salt Lake and then they were married in the endowment house. Then on the way home, it may have taken two or three nights, Mott slept between them, that's a little different than the honeymoons of today.

When my dad was three days old Mott came across the road, one day when Grandpa was out in the field, she grabbed Grandma Boletta out of the bed and stomped on her arm and broke it in two or three places. Then she refused to let Boletta go get her arm set, she said. " Oh, there is nothing wrong with your arm".

Mott lived across the road from Grandma Boletta. Boletta lived in a little two room log cabin. Aunt Mary told me it was one of the first cabins built in Levan. This cabin is where I was born.

On another occasion Mutt came over to Boletta's in the middle of the night and choked her. For a few months after Boletta slept with a knife under her bed.

Mott was a husky woman and a lot stronger than Boletta, and Boletta came to fear her. Mott was jealous, and had quite a temper and would take her spite out on Grandma and the kids.