

# Esther Mary Tobler Sullivan 26 September 1904

By Brooke Sullivan

Utah Sons of the Pioneers Essay

March 7, 2011

The person I chose to write about is Esther Mary Tobler Sullivan. She was born on September 26, 1904. If she were alive today I figured she would be 106 years old. She died when she was 86 years old. She lived in Washington, Utah, when she was a little girl. She had a big family and was the third oldest of ten children. She spent most of her life, when she was young, working around the house and on the farm. While she was still too young to go to school she had to wash all the breakfast dishes every day. While she was doing this her mom washed the laundry out in the yard. She had a red stool that she would stand on so she could reach the sink, but if the baby started to cry she would have to stop and rock the cradle till the baby fell asleep again.

When she was little they moved around a lot because her father did farming and was always looking for different work. Her family did not have very much money when she was growing up. She remembered when she was little that she only got rag dolls for Christmas. The little kids were the only ones who got a Christmas present and when they were too old for a doll they didn't get anything. Since they were so poor they mostly ate bread and milk for dinner and ate fruits and vegetables from their farm.

Esther was a big tease and always playing jokes on people. One of her jokes is a story about her Dad. Her Dad always ate his bread and milk in his big bowl. One day they could not find his bowl so they gave him a regular one. When it was time to eat he came to the table and wondered why he didn't have his big bowl. He asked them why they didn't just give him a thimble because that bowl was so small. So the next night she played a trick on him. She thought it would be funny to give him a thimble with a little bit of milk in it instead of a bowl. When he came to the table he asked them where his bowl was and they told him it was right there. He didn't see the little thimble. They all thought it was really funny.

She was a very spiritual person and prayed often. When she was little she learned how important prayer was. Because of that she prayed daily. One time when she was little her mother sent her to the store to get some food. On her way home she accidentally dropped the change and couldn't find it in the leaves. There was a church nearby and she went behind it and she prayed that she would find the money. After she was done she walked over to the sidewalk and right then she found it. She always kept this experience with her and she knew that she could pray whenever she needed help.

Another story about how important prayer was to her is a story that happened on the day after she got married. She asked her husband, Lenzi, if it was okay if they prayed every day and night. He told her that was fine if she did all the praying. She prayed that morning and then Lenzi decided that would pray that night. After that they took turns and prayed every day. I decided to write about Esther because my Dad's cousin made a book about her and her husband, Lenzi. It has been sitting on a little table by our couch for several years, and nobody has ever looked at it. Because of this assignment we decided to read some of it and write about her. My Mom and I have gotten really interested in the book about them and we are going to keep reading about her. I have really liked learning about her personality and hearing stories about the jokes that she has played in her life. Through this experience I have decided that it is really interesting to learn about somebody I am related to that lived a long time ago.

It is amazing to see how the years between her life and mine are so different. I cannot imagine being as poor as her family was. It would be really sad to not get anything for Christmas I am glad I picked Esther for my essay.

