

Memories of Charles Henry Haderlie and Bertha Schiess Haderlie

As remembered by their daughter Ina Erickson, and granddaughters Hazel H. Leavett,
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Charles Henry Haderlie had a farm and sawmill in Thayne where his second wife, Bertha Schiess, and their thirteen children lived. The boys and hired mill men usually ran the mill and the boys ran the farm with Bertha as an overseer. Because the water to move the logs was from the same stream many farmers used for irrigating their crops and since the crops were upstream, the sawmill couldn't run all the time. The water was there mostly in the fall and winter months.

Charles usually stayed in Freedom with Barbara (Babetta). That's where his mailing address, home, and clothes were. It was where he was: in the bishopric, the constable, road overseer, a school trustee chairman, and where he had a big ranch. He did start a sawmill there too, but later moved it to different canyons to run. It was a portable steam sawmill. Even after Babetta died he still stayed in Freedom. One of his sons (Gilbert and wife Phyllis) lived in his house and took care of him. Bertha wasn't used to having him live with her and she was not in good health, so it was hard for her to take care of herself, without taking care of Charles too.

When Charles did come to Thayne to do some sawing, he liked all the equipment well taken care of. All the tools needed to be hung in place. He always liked nice things and looked out for himself. He had nice clothes, a fancy team of horses and a cutter. He had a special building where he had the boys put the meadow hay to feed his team when he came to Thayne. He did ride a horse sometimes, and then when cars came, he had a little Roundabout. He would sometimes come and take the girls over to church in this. Then he would go back to Freedom. Then sometimes he would come back and get them. Ina never remembered her father attending any of their entertainment or the Thayne church. (This would seem to be verified as in the church picture in 1910 of the members of the Thayne Ward, Bertha and all the kids were there but Fred - he had died, and Wanda - she wasn't born yet. Charles was not in the picture.)

Bertha worked hard to raise her family. She had to cook for all her children plus the hired mill men. Sometimes when Charles was there he would invite any men at the sawmill to come to dinner. Oliver told that he remembered often sitting around watching his dad, hired men and others from the mill eating dinner. (The grown ups ate, then the kids got to eat what was left.) He would watch his father encouraging the men to eat another piece of meat or cake even if it was the last piece. Oliver said the kids never went hungry but often times didn't get to have the "good" things of the dinner. Oliver never complained about the food. He was always glad to get any. He was very patient and never did any mouthing.

The family always had a large garden and chickens (clucks). Ina and Bertha took care of these. They always had plenty of eggs and fryers to eat. The other girls helped do the housework and dishes. The boys worked hard on the farm. They also trapped animals, hunted and got wood

from the canyons to help make ends meet. The boys didn't have any overshoes. When they went to the canyons they would wrap gunnysacks around their shoes and tie them with twin string.

Bertha didn't ever sew for her family. She would knit socks for the boys after they went to bed by the light of the coal oil lamp. She mended, but hired neighbors to sew dresses for her daughters. She would pay them with eggs or chickens. Sometimes the girls would work for the neighbors to pay for the sewing.

For entertainment the children would play, swim, fish, ski, ice skate, play games such as: fifty cents, homemade cards, flinch, outdoors - prisoners' base, kick the can, steal ticks, Ginnie, Mumble peg, Hop scotch, and would make up songs.

Once in the fall of the year Bertha had no food to feed her family. She prayed about it. She was directed to get up early. There, on the roof of her house, roosting between the two chimneys, were four great big sage hens. To her knowledge they had never roosted there before. She got Cliff, who was sharp with the gun. He only had three shots (shells for the shotgun). He did get all four of them. Two of them by shooting between the two hens. They provided food for her family.

The family was very blessed. They didn't have a lot of broken bones. Leo had a broken arm from falling off a horse. The family did however, have their share of childhood diseases. One year because of sick kids, the only contact Bertha had with any women, was when a few of the neighbors would walk to see her. She had really good neighbors. Carl had the whooping cough one summer. He lived outdoors so the rest of the family wouldn't be exposed and get it. In 1920 Oliver got the flu and nearly died from it. Ina was working for a family once and got the whooping cough from them. She brought it home to the rest of the family. Nine of them had it at one time, including Bertha. Wanda and Della nearly died from it. They used pickle barrels for bathrooms since they were all so sick and couldn't get to the outhouse. One February Carl had the mumps. L.H. (Luther) was staying there with them. Carl had a high fever and was very delirious. L.H. administered to him and he got better.

When L.H. came from his mission he stayed in Thayne and helped run the sawmill for a while. Charles Henry was older and had rheumatism bad and a loss of hearing and couldn't help run it. None of the Thayne boys were really interested in running the mill then. Roy did for a while. Later the equipment was sold to Leslie Izatt.

The polygamy life was hard for the children as well as the adults. Their lives could have been a lot different if they had had a mother and father with them all the time. To be a polygamist the Bishop had to recommend the man. They had to go before the stake president and be active in church and able to support two families. Charles didn't court Bertha much. Babbitt was expecting a baby when Charles consented to heed the call of the brethren to become a polygamist. He had Babetta choose from a list of girls who his other wife would be. She chose

her sister, Bertha. He got all dressed up and with a sack of candy as a gift, went down the road to court Bertha. Grandpa and Grandma Schiess liked Charles and encouraged Bertha to marry him. When Hazel was living with Bertha, she said they talked some about her early life and marriage. Bertha told her at the time, she had a boyfriend that she liked a lot, but her folks strongly encouraged her to marry Charles. They thought it would be better for Babetta's sister to be the second wife, rather than have it be a stranger.

Bertha lived in Providence with her father for 12 years after Charles moved his first family to Star Valley, because of the problem over polygamy and because her mother had died. She stayed to take care of her father. She became very close with her brother John K. Schiess who also stayed in Providence and later took over the family house and farm. Charles often came in the fall of the year to get food and fruit for the Star Valley family. The children were used to not having a father around. Once when Charles came down Cliff and Carl ran out the back door wondering what 'that man' was doing in the house with their mother.

When the second family did move to Star Valley in 1900, they lived by the first family in Tin Cup for three years. Then Charles built a saw mill in Thayne. He rented a place just north of Alva Heap's ranch, where the highway is now, for the second family. In about 1905 Charles built them a nice new two story home just east of Salt River - the old homestead - by the saw mill. It had a pump out the kitchen door to the south so they didn't have to carry water from a spring any more. There were three bedrooms upstairs. One big one on the north with three beds in it for the boys. One room on the southeast with one bed for four of the older girls. Two slept at the top, two at the bottom with their feet in each others faces. Another bedroom to the southwest where Bertha and Charles slept when he was there. The rest of the time Wanda slept with her mother. For mattresses they used straw ticks filled with fresh straw every fall.

Bertha's father John Schiess came to Star Valley in the summers to stay with his children after he retired. Charles made a small room for him close to the house in Thayne. Later when the house in Tin Cup burned down it was moved down there for that family to live in until they could build another home. The little shanty looking building up on Star Valley Ranch was once a bedroom on the Haderlie house in Thayne.

One of Bertha's greatest hardship and sorrow was the unfortunate illness, suffering and death of her oldest son, Fred. He got what they called the white swelling. Little chips of the bones in his upper arm would fester and work their way out of the flesh. He was between 14 and 16. He got really, really sick. He would have liked to leave his painful sick body. He was administered to and they demanded he get better. He lived another ten years in enormous pain. He got Bright's disease (kidney) and nearly lost his eye sight. In 1914 he died. He was very smart and learned to play the violin and accordion by himself. Being the oldest he had been the one to really help Bertha and hold the family together. He was like a father to the rest of the

family. Oliver told of him dressing up as Santa Claus. He would ask the kids if they had minded their mother the last year. If Bertha said, "Not all the time," he would give them a whipping. Oliver said he never wanted "Santa Claus" to come.

Charles Henry got \$4000 from his father's estate when he died (1920). He bought a model T Ford for each of his wives. They were about \$500 each. One time Oliver drove Bertha's car to Logan to take Bertha to go to the temple and visit with her family that was still in Providence. She loved to go visit them as often as she could. Leo, Wanda, and Ina went along this time to do baptisms in the temple and also visit. As they were coming back another car forced them off the road into a ditch. They got stuck and had to stay in the car all night waiting for the road to get dry, and someone to help pull them back on.

Charles had several different automobiles. He drove to California. He spent two different winters in California trying to get carpenter work to help support his families. The doctor thought the warmer climate would help his rheumatism too. While there he took two plane rides trying to cure his hearing problem. Back then they thought the abrupt change of altitude would help cure problems with the ears.

After her family was all raised Bertha continued to have chickens and walked to town from the farm with her bucket of eggs to trade for other things she needed. After her son Cliff's first wife died, she moved into his house there in Thayne. She still had chickens to help with her livelihood. She tried to help with Cliff's three children, Eugene, Lamar and Hazel, as much as she could. She would often make large pots of beans and soup and carry over to them. They were living in the back of his car garage. Later after Cliff remarried, Hazel went to live with Bertha. That was really hard for both Hazel and Bertha. Bertha had worked hard, raised her 13 children, and now had another child to raise. When Bertha needed something fixed or built, she would send word down to Charles. He would come up on the mail wagon and fix it or make it for her.

In the latter part of her life Bertha, because of age and some bowel problems, didn't like to get very far from her little house. She didn't attend church meetings but still had a testimony and always paid her tithing. She was especially proud of her son Oliver when he became bishop of the Thayne Ward. She always referred to him as "My Bishop".

After Bertha had her stroke and was in her wheelchair she stayed with her daughters in Utah for a while but wanted to come back home so she lived about three years with Hazel. Most of the time she was bedfast which made her have a cross disposition. Hazel's son Eric helped get her into a chair sometimes and push her out to watch what was going on.

Bertha did a lot of knitting in her life. She knit socks and many, many mittens. At one time she had 40 pair. She displayed them all on her table for a picture.

As a child my (Marilyn) memories of Grandma Haderlie was that of: gathering Yarrow from the hills to take to her to dry and use as a tea; helping dad (Oliver) sack alfalfa leaves to

take for her to feed her chickens; yummy doughnuts hot from her kitchen; needing yarn for a school project and my friends and me going to "Grandma Haderlie" (as she was known by everyone) to get some leftover yarn from her mitten knitting; stopping at her house after church for delicious dinners, usually soup and trimmings.

I remember when she was older and couldn't take care of herself, the family hired a couple ladies to come stay with her at different times. One of them had red hair (grandma never liked red hair) and real thick glasses. She wore a lot of make up. Being real young, I always thought she was real scary, maybe even a witch. I was afraid she would poison my grandmother. Grandma died when I had just turned eight years old.

I don't remember Grandpa Haderlie at all. He died when I was about two. We have a picture of him standing with Mom, Milton and I in front of our truck. There was snow on the ground. This was probably the last picture taken of him before he died (19 November 1943). I remember Mother telling me that he would walk up around our way going to Thayne. If the folks would see him coming, they would go get him. If not, when he got to our place they would take him over to town in our automobile.

The following are VaLoy's memories of Grandma (Bertha) and Grandpa (Charles) Haderlie:

When I was little Grandma would tell mother (Tressa) to come visit her but not to bring VaLoy because she gets into everything. Later when I was older she had me come stay with her on Saturday nights once in a while. I'd help her gather eggs. One time I picked up all the little white plastic eggs she had in the nests to encourage the hens to lay. She had to take them all back out. I remember she'd gather the eggs and put them in her folded up apron. She gave me some money and I'd go to a movie. In the morning she'd always fix me hash brown potatoes, eggs, toast, hot chocolate. It always tasted so good. Then the folks would pick me up to go to church. She'd also give me money to go to Uncle Charles' store and buy some candy.

When we went and ate at her house as a family she'd always fix soup and all other kinds of food. She'd always have her famous doughnuts. The kids got to eat the doughnut holes. After Dad (Oliver) became bishop, she was so proud of him. She'd always say, "This is My Bishop."

When dad killed a pig he would take her the head and she would make head cheese with some of it. I never was brave enough to try it.

When grandma was older she had false teeth and couldn't chew apples very well. She'd take her teeth out, cut the apple in half and take out the seeds. Then she would take a spoon and dig out the pulp of the apple and eat it. She put the peelings in her lap. Once while doing this she forgot her teeth were in her lap and when she emptied the peelings into the stove, she burned up her teeth.

I remember how she made us mittens every winter. She always made dad a pair to wear

inside his leather gloves. Once she made a pair for Marilyn when she was just little. They turned out too small so I used them on my doll. I still have them.

Grandma was 'grandma' to everyone in Thayne. Everyone called her "Grandma Haderlie." I remember some kid once said something about his Grandma Haderlie. I told him she wasn't his grandma she was mine.

Grandma was a very clean person. She always had everything in its place. She had lots of old things to look at. Grandma gave me some Pyrex pie dishes, pillow cases made from flour sacks, and the 1 glass goblet that was left from a set of 8 dad had bought and given her before he got married. She always wore a clean apron over her dress. It was the big kind that covered most of her dress.

I don't remember much about Grandpa Haderlie (Charles) other than he lived in Freedom with one of his sons. When he came up to our house he would have pink peppermint candy in his pocket and would give us one.

These are Sybil's memories of Grandpa and Grandma Haderlie:

Grandpa Haderlie was a tiny man, I think. I remember being as tall as he when I was quite a young girl. Since I grew a whole foot taller from 13 to 17, I assume he must have been really short. I remember him walking up to our house along the road from Freedom, to visit and have dinner with us a few times. He always had all day suckers for us in his pocket. I wish I knew why he never did live with Grandma. I think Aunt Babetta died about the time I was born, so I never knew her, but I do know that our Haderlie grandparents didn't live together from the time my memory began.

Grandma Haderlie was very short also, but kind of plump. She had bunions on her feet that caused her a lot of problems. She knit mittens by the hundreds. I still have a pair of red ones that she made me. She gave me a beautiful pair of pink ones, with green and white stripes, and they were stolen from a pile of my books in a restroom at USU when I was a student there... one of the real regrets of my life! Bertha made lots of doughnuts, and gave them to everyone around. She was quite famous for them. I remember that she went to a Haderlie reunion in Freedom once, but I never remember seeing her in church, not even once. I don't know why it didn't occur to me to ask Daddy why we didn't take her to church with us. Sometimes on Sundays when we'd stop at Uncle Charles' grocery store to buy our weekly groceries (we only went to town in those days once a week - on Sunday most of the time) Grandma would come out and tell us that she had dinner all ready for us. We'd go eat, but I remember that Mama was always uncomfortable about doing it. Grandma would always have lima beans, and a potato dish she called "rooshty" or something like that. It was made of grated potatoes that were fried in fat and turned over all at once, so it was a lovely golden brown. I loved her food.

She lived in that little two room house for all those years and went to an outside toilet. Her hair was a lovely shiny gray. She had a big "bureau" with about six drawers, and sometimes she'd show me what she had inside..... dozens of pairs of beautifully embroidered and crocheted pillow cases which she never used. I wonder who inherited them? She had made some of them, and many of them were gifts to her. She always wore a long apron that hung about as long as her dress. I think she raised a flock of chickens sometimes out in a shed behind her little house. Uncle Charles kept her supplied with food. I don't remember just when she moved into the bigger house (same spot of ground - more rooms added on) so, maybe it was while I was away at college. She died while I was on my first mission so I didn't even go to her funeral.