

# Joseph H. Dean Journals

## Excerpts relating to Taylors, Walkers, and the early days of Redmesa, Colorado

From the journals of Joseph H. Dean and condensations by Harry Dean, son of Joseph H. Dean

Compiled by Richard Walker in August 2002

Joseph H. Dean moved to Mancos, Colorado, from Utah on October 10, 1898. He soon built and operated a store (Dean and Sons) in town and sold various ranch and farming equipment and supplies. Business was a struggle from the start. Hiram M. Taylor worked in another store in town, George Bauer General Merchandise. Joseph H. Dean and Hiram Taylor were both active in the Church, shared an appreciation for music, and became close friends.

**23 October 1898, Sunday, Mancos, Colorado**

(Reel 4, Journal 28)

"I was called to lead the singing in absence of Bro. Taylor, who is in Durango, I believe."

**8 January 1899, Sunday**

"After meeting, a meeting was called to consider ways and means to build a new meeting house. On my motion, it was voted to let the bishopric assess each family what they thought proper.

"By invitation, we went to Bishop's to dinner with the Browns and Bros. William Halls and H. M. Taylor. The five of us went over to the Hammonds and administered to their little girl."

**19 February 1899, Sunday**

"Bro. Taylor being absent at Bluff to stake conference, I took charge of singing."

**26 February 1899, Sunday**

"Between meeting and Sunday school, the Taylors and Lilly and I practiced a quartette for our coming Sunday school concert."

**5 March 1899, Sunday**

"The afternoon testimony meeting was rather dry and spiritless. The singing was awful!—which accounted for the spiritless meeting. But I will have an opportunity to improve it from now on, for Hiram Taylor has resigned and I was put in his place, both for ward and Sunday school. I have a big job on my hands."

**26 March 1899, Sunday**

"Went to Sunday school this morning and was surprised to see Mamie Burnham, Louis Burnham, and Bro. John Young of Fruitland there. Mamie, an old maid, 31, that I got acquainted with in the temple, is going to get married.

"Bro. Burnham and Young came as home missionaries. We had a good meeting in the afternoon."

### **9 April 1899, Sunday**

"After meeting, H. M. Taylor and his two wives came here to dinner. The original intention was to practice some pieces for our concert that we intend giving in the near future for benefit of the choir fund, but as I couldn't speak, much less sing, we did nothing."

### **23 April 1899, Sunday**

Afternoon meeting: "Peter Brown, S. Hammond Jr., John Smith, and H. M. Taylor were speakers."

### **28 May 1899, Sunday**

"H. M. Taylor and his two wives came down after meeting and took dinner with us. Principle reason was to practice a quartet for our coming concert. At 6:30 we hitched up our carriage and took them up to Bishop Halls, where a rehearsal was to be held for 'The Nights in a Barroom,' a farce which is to be given shortly in Davis Hall for the benefit of our choir. We stayed to the rehearsal. The actors were indeed crude, Bishop Halls and H. M. Taylor being the best."

### **14 June 1899**

"Our concert this evening was a success, taken as a whole. The ladies' chorus was fine. Our male quartet sang 'The Tack' well, but went all out of tune in 'In the Gleaming.' The farce was mediocre and did not take very well. We took in \$51.00, so we did fine."

### **15 February 1900 (traveling to stake conference at Bluff, Utah)**

(Journal 29)

"The Bishop, George Halls and wife, William Devenport and wife, and John Hammond and Sister Smith overtook us about 25 miles from home, and shortly after, H. M. Taylor overtook us. As our team is slow, they soon passed us. Stopped by the roadside and had dinner and rested for an hour. We got here (Burr's Ranch) at 6:00 p.m., 45 miles from home. The other folks beat us by 40 minutes."

### **16 February 1900**

"Left Burr's Ranch this morning at 7:00. Had a terrible day's experience with the sand and wind. Our horse Willie also seemed to be almost given out. We could not keep up with the others so traveled alone all day. We rested two hours at the San Juan River and had dinner. Willie seemed to feel better after the rest. Got here all right at 7:00 p.m., and then our troubles all vanished. We were taken to the house of Brother Joe Nielson, where H. M. Taylor and family were already quartered. Got an egg from sister Nielson and washed my head, dirty from the sand and dust."

### **17 February 1900, Saturday, Bluff, Utah**

Three stake conference meetings were held. In the afternoon meeting Joseph H. Dean, Hiram M. Taylor, Bishop Halls, and Hyrum Perkins sang "School Thy Feelings."

### **18 February 1900, Sunday**

More stake conference meetings were held. Joseph H. Dean, Hiram M. Taylor, Lily Burnham, and Vida Burnham sang "Hark, Hark My Soul," which Joseph said was "much appreciated." In the evening meeting Joseph sang a solo, "Truth Reflects upon Our Senses."

"Sister Amanda Taylor (H. M. Taylor's wife) was taken very sick after the afternoon meeting, and President Halls, Bishop Halls, H. M. Taylor, and I went to administer to her. She was crying with pain, and Vida was crying in sympathy. Bishop offered prayer, and I anointed, and President Halls confirmed. She was instantly healed. I never saw a quicker answer to the ordinance in my life. And I never felt a better influence when administering. She was perfectly easy immediately."

### **19 February 1900, Monday**

Joseph H. Dean's group sang "Scatter Seeds of Kindness."

"At 7:30 we went to the dance and entertainment in the dance hall over the store. During the evening we brethren sang 'School Thy Feelings,' and I recited 'Peter at the Gate' and sang 'Glee as a Bird,' and Lily and I sang 'An Evening Song.' There were other numbers, also, from other members of the company. I danced more than I have done in five years."

### **20 February 1900, Tuesday**

Two more meetings were held, and another dance.

### **9 March 1900, Friday, Dale's Ranch (traveling to Fruitland for church meetings)**

"Left Mancos this morning at 11:15, Bro. Taylor coming down town for us. We are now at Dale's, 28 miles from Mancos. Got here at 6:15, Brother and Sister Taylor and Lydia, Sally, and I in his buggy, President William Halls and May ahead of us. We have spent the evening in the house here singing and chatting."

### **10 March 1900, Saturday, Fruitland, New Mexico**

"The Bishop, President Halls, and I went down to the meeting house at 3:00 to a rehearsal of a play that was performed tonight for the benefit of the Sunday school library.

"I went to Elmer Taylor's, where H. M. Taylor and wife are stopping, had supper there, and at 6:30 we from Mancos met at Sister Young's and practised a couple of pieces—"Scatter Seeds of Kindness," and "School Thy Feelings," which we rendered before the play began.

"The house was crowded, and the performance was good."

### **11 March 1900, Sunday, Fruitland, New Mexico**

"Have spent an enjoyable day! Sunday school in the morning. Things were rather primitive and the officers dull and uneducated, but they are good. I spoke 15 minutes, and H. M. Taylor, about five.

"The afternoon meeting was crowded. We sang 'God Bless Our Mountain Home' and 'Guide One to Thee.' I was the first speaker and talked about one hour and five minutes. It was rather difficult to get their attention at first, and the babies made a good deal of noise, but after

getting their sympathy I had no difficulty. Brother R. T. Thurber and Lou Burnham each occupied five minutes, and we had had a good meeting.

"We went to John Frankland's (Mamie Burnham's husband's) to supper, and at 7:00 met again at the meeting house for the evening meeting. We were to sing 'Hark, Hark My Soul' and another piece, but Sister Thurber did not come, so we couldn't. H. M. Taylor spoke 45 minutes, and President Halls, probably 20. Had a good meeting, and our trip will do a great deal of good, everybody says."

### **21 May 1900, Mancos, Colorado**

"Tonight we have had another social, here at Sally's this time. Brother and Sister White, Brother Brown and wife, and Helen, H. M. Taylor and two wives, Brother Duckforth and wife, Sister Hyde, Della Decker, Lucy Halls, Marsha Smith, Elders Bingham and Stevens, Florence, Roy, Lilly, Sally, Jasper, and I and the little boys spent a pleasant evening singing, reciting, speech making, etc. Had bread and butter, cake, chocolate, and ice cream. Dismissed at 11:30."

### **3 June 1900, Sunday**

"Roy was ordained a priest in meeting today, I being mouth. Also, Thomas Fielding, H. M. Taylor being mouth."

### **14 June 1900**

"The census enumerator is around, and I have been in council with President William Halls and H. M. Taylor this evening, considering whether it is wisdom or not for our plural families to answer the questions and tell who their husband and father of their children is. We decided to make a clean breast of it and hide nothing."

### **17 June 1900, Sunday**

"In the evening, we went down to Devenport's lake and baptized Lawrence. Florence, Stella, and Wilford went down also. After coming back, H. M. Taylor and I confirmed him, I being mouth."

### **1 October 1900**

"I have about made up my mind that the mining business in Mancos is a fizzle. I am not sorry we came to Mancos and did as we have done, but I would now like to get established in Fruitland."

### **5 November 1900**

(Journal 30)

Joseph H. Dean spent November 1 through November 5 in Fruitland organizing a co-op store. Six men were elected directors, with J. B. Ashcroft as president, C. Brimhall as vice president, Elmer F. Taylor as secretary, and Joseph H. Dean as superintendent, treasurer, and manager. The organization was named the Fruitland Cooperative Mercantile Institution. There were about 33 initial subscribed stockholders, among which were Joseph. H. Dean, James. B. Ashcroft, P. Pippin, D. B. Black, C. Brimhall, Luther Burnham, J. W. Burnham, J. E. Wheeler, M. Black, George A. Palmer, H. T. Stolworthy, Elmer F. Taylor, J. K. P. Pippin, John. R. Young, Chris Burnham, I. Hatch, and W. H. Bond.

### **7 November 1900, Mancos, Colorado**

"Left for Cortez this morning at 7:00 in H. M. Taylor's buggy in company with himself and Mr. Huncselin. They are judges of election and were taking their ballot box and returns to Cortez.

"Bro. Taylor and I have spent the time both coming and going talking co-operation and have come to some very important decisions that will greatly influence our future lives, no doubt. He has decided to sell his wagon, team, and stock and put the proceeds into my business, and I have decided to employ him at \$60 a month to take charge of the business so I can get loose to go to Fruitland. We find also that we can get brick for Brother Taylor's wagon, and have decided to put on a small brick addition and carry groceries and dry goods."

### **8 November 1900**

"Spent the day at the store, writing letters and talking co-operation and posting up accounts. It looks now as though the Mancos co-op would be a go. The spirit of it seems to be taking hold of the people. H. M. Taylor, who has been here with us practicing quartet for the coming concert, says everyone he has talked to on the matter is for it, and everyone to whom I have talked to, likewise.

"We have been loading the wagon for Fruitland."

At a meeting called at H. M. Taylor's house in Weber to discuss the matter of co-operation with prospective stockholders, Bishop George Halls discouraged the idea, saying that the people could not afford to put money in a co-op until the new meeting house was finished.

Joseph H. Dean: "If the Mancos Ward here, that is the people, do not co-operate, the ward will get poorer and poorer and gradually loose both means and population; it is my honest belief."

### **9 November 1900**

"Business quiet today—\$7. Have been writing and bookkeeping. Been to choir practice tonight. They made me angry by their laughing and fooling."

### **11 November 1900, Sunday**

"After meeting we all went to H. M. Taylor's to dinner in honor of his 40th birthday. Had a nice dinner and a large gathering."

### **12 November 1900**

"At 1 p.m. I attended a meeting of the Co-op Stock Company we are organizing. William Halls (stake president) and William Devenport were elected directors. It was decided to purchase William Devenport's rights in a section of school land down the Weber for the purpose of raising hay. The subject of purchasing sheep was also referred to the board."

### **26 November 1900**

"[Hiram Taylor and I] have been talking over our future plans in the mercantile line. Have decided not to build as we had previously decided to do, but to close up a part of the store here, from the office east, for groceries and dry goods so as to save expense and start moderately. He

thinks he can turn his wagon into lumber enough to do it with. We have decided to run a partition right across and fix up the whole front, put glass down in the place of the one now in, and carry the tile and granite ware and shelf hardware where it is.

"Very sad and alarming tidings have reached us concerning Pres. Hammand. His horses got tangled in a clothesline or something and ran away, causing a regular smash-up. Pres. Hammond, so the report goes, had his hip crushed and arm broken in two places and was not expected to live. Pres. William Halls, who was with him, was badly shaken up but had not gotten seriously hurt."

### **27 November 1900**

"Word has reached us that Pres. Hammond is dead. He expired this morning at 4 o'clock at Bloomfield, New Mexico."

### **28 November 1900**

"They got here with President Hammond's body at 9:00 this morning. H. M. Taylor and Mary Brown have been decorating the meeting house some."

### **29 November 1900, Thursday**

"Today is Thanksgiving Day and will be memorable from the fact that funeral services were held over the remains of Pres. Hammond. Service was at 2:00 p.m., H. M. Taylor presiding."

### **3 December 1900, Monday**

Hiram Taylor began working for Joseph H. Dean at his store.

"Have spent the whole day with a wholesale grocer, ordering goods for Fruitland and here. We haven't got through yet. It is a big job, and morose from the fact that I am green in the grocery lines. Have occupied Brother Taylor's time also, he having started here this morning. He and Roy have got the stoves and ranges moved, and we are all sixes and sevens."

### **5 December 1900**

Joseph H. Dean continued with ordering goods and remodeling. "Have also given Brother Taylor a lesson in bookkeeping, he not understanding the double entry system. He is studying here tonight so I can further instruct him."

### **9 December 1900**

"Got word today from the people we ordered groceries from that they will not ship without first getting the cash, neither here nor in Fruitland. They have asked Commercial Agency for our rating and find it unsatisfactory. I am glad, after all, that it is so, for I had better first have the money in hand before buying goods."

### **21 December 1900, Fruitland, New Mexico**

Joseph H. Dean and son Wilford left Mancos for Fruitland, not returning until January 12. Luther Burnham and Thomas Stolworthy came up from Fruitland with their teams and wagons and freighted down much of the merchandise Joseph H. Dean had in the Mancos store, which now was converted into a grocery and dry goods store with Hiram Taylor in charge. They will

set up the store for the Fruitland Co-operative Mercantile Institution in a building rented from Mr. Eaton for \$10 a month.

“Stolworthy and Burnham got here with the goods. Drove right up to the store and unloaded our things and then came over to Bishop Ashcroft’s and put up our team.

“After dinner we went back to the store and helped unload the heater and other things Brother Burnham had brought. We got the heater up and the fire started and swept the place out.”

### **25 December 1900 (Christmas Day)**

“We stayed here at the store all morning. This afternoon Elmer Taylor came up about noon and coaxed me to go down town with him. On the way, we went into Kennedy’s store, and Elmer introduced me to him. We soon entered into conversation. I told him that while in reality we were going to set up opposition to him, I did not intend it to be opposition in spirit, and that if I could do anything to accommodate him at any time, I should be pleased to do so. He said that he surely appreciated those sentiments and should be pleased to reciprocate. He suggested that we buy him out, as he had all he can attend to on his ranch. I asked him if he couldn’t put it in stock. He said he might out for one thousand dollars. I told him, if he wanted to talk on the subject, I would listen to him.”

### **6 January 1901**

“This is fast day, but we have had a very dull, dry old time, spiritually. The Sunday school session was fearfully dull and disappointing. The singing was excruciating, and everything seemed to be dried up and spiritually dead. The afternoon meeting was also dry and somewhat of a drag. What this ward needs is some singing and a new spiritual life put into it. But a year ago, things were not much better in Mancos than they are here now. I can make a better choir in Fruitland than I have in Mancos. There is more material here.”

### **14 January 1901, Monday**

“Have spent the whole day with Bro. Taylor and Roy, part of the time unpacking and marking groceries. It is a big job. And from 8:00 to 10:30 Bro. Taylor and I have spent here at the house balancing the last year’s accounts.”

### **19 January 1901, Mancos, Colorado**

“Business today was \$36.00. We feel encouraged in our grocery business venture. It is bringing in quite a lot of business. I am very well pleased with Brother Taylor’s way of taking care of things.”

### **11 February 1901, Fruitland, New Mexico**

“Another nice day’s business—\$37. I feel quite encouraged and feel that this Fruitland venture is a better thing than the Mancos one.”

“Brother Taylor writes from Mancos that business is very quiet.”

### **27 February 1901, Mancos, Colorado**

"Florence was confined this afternoon at 2 p.m. She thought she felt symptoms in the morning when I left, but after waiting a while, they went off. Charlie Brown came down from Weber for me at 12:35, and I rushed right up on Birdie. She had an easy time. No one present but me. We sent for Amanda Taylor to tend the baby. Very thankful that all is well. Am spending the night at Florence's."

### **28 February 1901**

"Brother Taylor is going to start for Fruitland in the morning with a wagon for McCarty and is also taking five plows, three cultivators, two sewing machines, and two Columbia washers and is going to trail a new spring wagon down also. He will have about 12 cwt. beside the spring wagon and is going around by Cortez."

### **1 March 1901**

"Came down early this morning in the buggy from Weber and brought H. M. Taylor's bedding, etc. He followed, riding his horses. He got started for Fruitland at 8:45. He took son Leo with him."

Hiram Taylor returned to Mancos from Fruitland on March 7.

### **30 March 1901, Jackson, New Mexico**

"Sadie Burnham, who lives here at Jackson, wanted to come home, so we brought her, making five of us, which with our luggage made quite a load. We came along all night, though, making 7 ½ miles an hour, and got here before dark. We are stopping at George Burnham's, Sadie's parents."

### **16 April 1901, Mancos, Colorado**

"Bro. Taylor and I have spent a pleasant evening singing together."

### **21 August 1901, Fruitland, New Mexico**

(Journal 31)

"Was much surprised to have John Plattner of Plattner Implement Co. of Denver walk in the store this afternoon. He had come all the way from Mancos to see me, to inquire what we were going to do about settlement of our (Dean and Sons) account—the store in Mancos. We have had a long talk over the matter. We came to no definite understanding, only he was very emphatic in declaring that, in his opinion, we were running at a loss in Mancos, taking into consideration the interest we are paying and depreciation in old goods. He thinks we should sell out the business, even at a sacrifice if needs be, and I guess he is right. Unless something turns up, the quicker we close, the better."

### **16 September 1901**

"The sad news came today that President William McKinley is dead from the effect of two shots fired into him by an Italian anarchist last week.

"Also that Brother George Burnham of Jackson was found dead beside the road at Mancos. No particulars. The Bishop went up Friday, taking Betsy Burnham and Ry up to Mancos, where they will bury him."

### **11 April 1902, Mancos, Colorado**

A meeting was held to discuss a co-op in Mancos. Upon Joseph H. Dean's motion, seven were chosen to investigate the possibilities of organization: George Halls, Hiram Taylor, R. T. Thurber, Charles Brown, Roy Perkins, William Devenport, and Dave Halls.

### **13 April 1902**

"This evening a meeting was held with the people of the ward. There was a very good attendance and interest shown, but for want of a leader, not much was done. Most were favorably impressed, but only about \$1,400 worth of stock was subscribed for, and toward the last the thing kind of petered out. The old feelings of division and distrust seemed to be the stumbling block, and we adjourned at 10:00 in disgust, nothing definite having been decided upon. The Bishop (George Halls) subscribed \$100 but was not at all enthusiastic, and Sam Hammond, the poor imbecile, was passive and glad to see it fizzle. But I predict that the movement will not die and that the people will clamor and talk the matter over until it goes."

### **1 June 1902, Sunday, Fruitland, New Mexico**

Sunday school teachers' meeting—"Thomas R. Young and Sadie Burnham were chosen teachers."

### **7 June 1902, Saturday, Bluff, Utah (stake conference)**

"Found Sally and Bro. Taylor, L. John Nuttall, Henry Peterson, Lou Burnham, and Charlie Brown here, and they got here yesterday. Hiram and Elmer Taylor and Sally and I are staying at Jones'."

### **19 July 1902, Sunday, Fruitland, New Mexico**

"Have had a very busy and interesting Sabbath. Had Sunday school in the morning. The stake Sunday school superintendent was there—H. M. Taylor—and also the stake presidency. We went through our usual exercises, with Brothers Taylor, Lyman, and Halls speaking a few minutes at close. After dismissal, the stake presidency and Bro. Taylor stood in line and we had the classes come in single file and shake hands with them."

### **29 July 1902**

"At 11:30 I went to Sister Lottie Walker's to dinner with Sally, Florence, Amanda, and the little children."

### **3 August 1902, Sunday, Fruitland, New Mexico**

"Have had middling good meetings. Sally, Amanda, and I have been up to Guymon's from 6:00 to 8:30—A little gathering with Bishop and family and Brother and Sister Walker."

### **6 August 1902, Mancos, Colorado**

Joseph H. Dean returned to Mancos from Fruitland to attend to the Mancos store while Hiram Taylor was on an extended trip to Salt Lake City. The store in Mancos was doing a good business, but the Fruitland Co-op was doing poorly at this time.

"Lily and Willis Taylor have been attending to the store, and as business has been upwards of \$50 per day, they have been pretty busy."

**18 August 1902, Monday**

"John Smith got home from Salt Lake City last evening and says Bro. Taylor is in Salt Lake taking in the Elkes Carnival and will be back Wednesday by train."

**19 August 1902, Tuesday**

"Bro. Taylor got home at 2 p.m. Fanny Burnham came with him. So I will leave for home tomorrow."

**13 October 1902, Mancos, Colorado**

During one of Joseph H. Dean's frequent trips to Mancos, he and Hiram Taylor totaled up \$2,600 that was owed to the store, and Hiram went out to try to collect some of it.

"I have decided to go on cash basis here on December 1. All things considered, I think we will do better that way."

**14 February 1903, Saturday, Bluff, Utah (stake conference)** (Journal 32)

"Conference again at 10:00. H. M. Taylor and I were the principal speakers, and we both had the spirit of the occasion and edified the people.

"Meeting again in the afternoon, and this evening a concert by the Bluff choir. Bro. Edwards and I and Bro. Taylor and John Baily sang a quartette, but it did not go very well. Brother Taylor got off key."

**15 February 1903, Sunday**

"Lucy Halls, Vida Burnham, H. M. Taylor, and I sang 'What Shall the Harvest Be?' in the MIA session. It was thought by many to be the gem of the conference, so far."

**30 May 1903, Saturday, Fruitland, New Mexico**

"H. M. Taylor, Clara, Leo, and baby and Bro. Hansen Bayles and wife arrived at noon."

**31 May 1903, Sunday**

Stake Sunday school conference meetings were held.

**1 June 1903, Monday**

"We held a meeting with Bro. Taylor and the bishopric and ward superintendent of Sunday School. Chose Elmer F. Taylor for superintendent.

"We then left for Jewett—H. M. Taylor and wife, L. C. Burnham, myself, W. O. Ashcroft and wife, Lister Lee, and Bro. Bayles and wife. Held a meeting at Howard Duluche's. The object was to organize a Sunday school. Chose William Walker as superintendent, J. E. Wheeler and Amni J. Curtis assistants, Stella Walker secretary and treasurer, and Sister Duluche librarian.

"Had dinner at Walker's and got back at 4:00."

## **2 June 1903, Four Crossings, New Mexico**

"We left Fruitland at 2:00 this afternoon, Charlie and me, with our three horses, and H. M. Taylor and wife and two children."

## **14 July 1903, Tuesday, Jewett, New Mexico**

"Well, today has ben spent in a Sunday school outing to Jewett, and a very pleasant and profitable day it has been. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, and there was not an accident, no unpleasantness, nor unkind word heard or experienced all day, as far as I know.

"We got away at 8:45. There were 15 loads of people and quite a number on horseback. The run down was pleasant, and upon corralling at Jewett we were agreeably surprised to find that the people had a nice bowery built and seated for our accomodation and their own.

"At 10:30 we began our meeting—sang 'In Our Lovely Deseret'; prayer, Elmer Taylor; sang 'God Will Bless the Pure in Heart'; a few remarks by J. H. Dean, followed by W. O. Ashcroft, L. O. Ward, and E. F. Taylor; sang 'Far, Far Away on Judea's Plain'; speeches by [?] L. Guymon, Mary Taylor, William Walker, and Amni J. Curtis; sang 'Sow Seeds of Kindness'; speeches by Mary Shumway, Sister Stolworthy, Peter Shumway, and Howard Duluche; sang 'Come, Come Ye Saints'; and benediction by L. W. Hendrickson. All went off lively and with splendid feeling.

"Then we had a picnic for an hour, which was greatly enjoyed. Then games, races, and contests of different kinds began at 1:00. The games lasted till 3 p.m. Then baseball, Fruitland against Jewett.

"Most of the crowd went from the ball game hence, but several families of us went back to the bowery and ate supper. We had a pleasant trip home.

"Thus ends a red-letter day for this place and Jewett, one that will be remembered for a long time to come."

## **4 August 1903, near Fruitland, New Mexico**

"On Sunday, August 2, John R. Young, Joseph H. Dean, Abbie Young, Elmer F. Taylor, and Charlie Steele were appointed to a committee to name the streets of our new town on the mesa and to take the necessary steps to get the post office at Olio changed to 'Kirtland.' We met this evening at Abbie Young's and decided to name the streets running north and south First, Second, Third, etc. and the main county road east and west Brigham Street, in honor of Apostle Brigham Young Jr.; the next one Hammond, for Stake President Hammond; and the next Lyman, for the present president of the stake. I am to take up the labor with the Post Office Department to get the name changed from 'Olio' to 'Kirtland.'"

## **30 August 1903, Sunday, Mancos, Colorado**

"Have spent rather a melancholy day in Sunday prayer meeting and Sunday school meeting; I felt rather homesick. I was called on to speak in afternoon meeting but had to labor, and finding I hadn't the spirit of it, I soon quit. Hiram Taylor occupied the rest of the time.

"Spent the rest of the day at Hiram Taylor's with Lily and Dave (Dinwoody), Jim and Agnes Slade, Dora Burnham, and Amanda Taylor. Had ice cream, dinner, apples, etc. and spent a pleasant afternoon."

### **27 September 1903, Sunday, Fruitland, New Mexico**

"Have had an interesting Sunday. Splendid prayer meeting in the morning. Bro. H. M. Taylor and Clara and Moselle attended. Bro. Taylor said it was the sweetest meeting he ever attended, the temple not excepted.

"Had good Sunday school also, and afternoon meeting. J. R. Young and Hiram Taylor occupied the time.

"We all went up to Elmer Taylor's to supper. Besides us, the visitors were Bro. and Sister Walker, Lucretia Black, and Jane and Lura Porter."

### **28 September 1903**

"Bro. Taylor and company went home today."

### **19 October 1903**

Harry Dean: The room on the second floor of the co-op store in Fruitland was often rented out for \$7 for dances. Difficulties were caused by "drunks" attending.

"Have had a committee meeting at our home this evening with the bishopric, superindendent of the Sunday school, and presidents of the young men and young ladies associations to devise ways and means to more properly conduct our dances and amusements. E. F. Taylor, B. D. Black, and J. H. Dean were appointed a standing amusement committee. We are going to have invitation cards printed, and no one can attend dances without an invitation."

### **24 October 1903, Mancos, Colorado**

"Spent the shole day in the store. Hiram left for Pueblo at 2:10 p.m. I have succeeded in getting Bascom Rowell to stay in the store till Hiram comes back but have to pay him \$2 per day and feed his team, while he has only gotten 50¢ per day all summer, but now I will be able to go to conference."

### **25 October 1903, Sunday**

"Have spent a pleasant Sunday. Attended prayer meeting in the morning, Sunday school and afternoon meeting, and MIA meeting this evening. I have directed the singing all day. In the afternoon Clara Taylor, Lucy Halls, Frank Busch, and I sang 'What Shall the Harvest Be.' Clara spoiled it by going sharp."

### **4 November 1903, Wednesday, Kirtland, New Mexico**

(Journal 33)

"Got word from Hiram this morning that he got home Monday, so I will not have to leave for Mancos.

"Elmer Taylor has put in the day on our new house. I suppose it will go right up now."

### **19 November 1903**

"This is a red letter day in the history of Fruitland. We were connected with the outside world by telephone. This is a big step forward for us and makes Fruitland a much more

desirable place in which to live. We feel now that we are in touch with the pulsing, throbbing world and can get and give information without the three day's mail delays."

**3 February 1904, Mancos, Colorado**

(Journal 33)

"Have spent the whole day helping Hiram Taylor take inventory. Find stock about \$4500."

"Bauer's Bank has intimated that they will lend us \$800 on Thursday to help bridge us over. That is help from an unexpected quarter."

**9 February 1904, Kirtland, New Mexico**

"Spent the whole day in the store again on my trial balance. Got it OK, but in balancing the accounts for the year, it looks as though we have run behind several hundred dollars. This worries me seriously.

"A report from Hiram Taylor also shows that the Mancos store is also several hundred dollars behind. This merchandising without capital is a very worrying and disagreeable job. Both places are handicapped for want of means and kept down by paying interest."

**13 February 1904**

William G. Black loaned the Fruitland Co-op \$300 for 90 days. Joseph H. Dean found an omission of \$700 he had not included in inventory, and a debt of \$171 was paid by the Coolidge Canal Company, which had been on the books for two years. "This tides us over in a very embarrassing financial situation."

**24 February 1904**

"Attended a ditch meeting tonight in the meeting house for the 'Fruitland and Olio Canal Co,' the new ditch. The only business done was to elect a board of seven: J. B Ashcroft, J. G. Biggs, H. F. Stolworthy, W. O. Ashcroft, J. M. Tanner, J. L. Foutz, and W. A. Walker."

**2 March 1904**

At a Co-op stockholders meeting, the Bishop took over as manager, as suggested by Joseph H. Dean himself. "I suppose this is the beginning of the end of my career in Fruitland."

**5 March 1904**

Ward conference. "Dave Halls and wife Lilly and H. M. Taylor came down from Mancos, Stake President Lyman from Bluff, also President William Halls from Mancos. Brother Taylor and Lilly and Dave stayed at wife Sally's."

**7 March 1904, Monday**

"Attended ward conference in the hall.

"We decided this morning to get up an entertainment for this evening, and I set about getting up the program. It was quite a success, everybody voted it so. We had a dance afterwards."

Among those participating in the program were Hiram M. Taylor, Joseph H. Dean, William Halls, Daphne Roberts, and Sarah Dean.

**10 March 1904**

"I am sending Wilford to Mancos with Dave and Lilly and Brother Taylor, where he can attend school for the next two months. He will also help Brother Taylor in the store mornings and evenings."

**26 March 1904**

"Clifford is down with another lung spell but is better today. We administered to him, and also to Mary Taylor, Elmer's wife."

**27 March 1904, Sunday**

"Mary Taylor attended prayer meeting this morning. She testified that when she was half unconscious in her spells, she saw evil spirits in the room, and their purpose seemed to be to take her life, and that when I entered the room, they seemed to gnash their teeth in rage and left. She knew I was a man of God and felt if I would come and administer to her, she would get well. And she was there at prayer meeting, a living testimony to the power of healing, I being the agent in the Lord's power."

"On our way to Sunday school, I took Brother Hatch, Elmer Taylor, and Brother Hendrickson and L. Guymon in, and we administered to Clifford. Brother Hendrickson offered the prayer, Brother Taylor anointed, and I sealed it."

**May 1904**

Joseph H. Dean traveled to the World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri, for the summer and fall to sell Navajo blankets and rugs, returning to Mancos January 12, 1905.

**28 May 1904, St. Louis, Missouri**

Joseph H. Dean received a letter from Hiram Taylor. "Hiram seems to want to quit. Says he can't see anything permanent in his present job, and it looks like I will have to take it myself after I have finished here, but he will stay until September 1."

**4 July 1904**

(Journal 34)

"Got a letter from Hiram Taylor this morning. He thinks the business is getting into better shape all the time."

**22 July 1904**

"Letter from Hiram Taylor says business is good. He feels quite hopeful."

**23 July 1904**

"Clabe Brimhall of the Fruitland Co-op will give me another year to redeem my capital stock (\$1800 put up as collateral for \$1000 I borrowed), and he told Sally he thought I could get back the managership of the Co-op if I wanted it, that I was too valuable a man to let go if he could do anything to keep me. All of which makes me feel better."

### **19 August 1904**

"Got a blue letter from H. M. Taylor in Mancos today. Business is very dull, and our creditors are threatening us again. He can see only failure ahead of us. It does seem a long and discouraging pull. I doubt that Mancos is the place for me. It seems to be dead, and our interest and taxes and expenses eat up all our profits. But the Lord will overrule all for good. I feel blue and discouraged, however."

### **30 August 1904**

Another letter from Hiram Taylor. "He wants to quit. That is, quit over the struggle in Mancos and quit buying and apply all sales to our debts. He thinks we are getting further in the hole all the time. Of course, our creditors wouldn't let us gradually sell out and let us pay what we can. Someone would enter suit for collection and get judgment against us, then the court would take things out of our hands. I sent him \$60 to help out. It might be the best thing to do, to sell out, but we will need legal advice to know what is the best course."

### **31 August 1904**

Another letter from Hiram Taylor. "He advocates putting in a butcher shop, which I think might be a good idea."

### **3 September 1904**

"I got a letter from Charlie in Fruitland, and he says that Elmer Taylor has got the house up, for which I am very thankful. I hope I may be blessed so I can afford to finish it this fall and winter."

### **7 October 1904**

"Got a letter from H. M. Taylor, saying they are going to start the butcher shop Tuesday."

### **15 November 1904**

"Got a letter from Hiram Taylor today, saying that the deal with George Woods for our home for \$1,700 was a go. He has advanced about \$150 on it."

### **14 January 1905, Mancos, Colorado**

(Journal 35)

After taking inventory at the Mancos store, Joseph H. Dean, son Roy, and Hiram Taylor totaled up \$3,119.61 in merchandise.

### **15 January 1905, Sunday**

"Harry and I walked to Weber to Sunday school this morning. After Sunday school we went to Lilly's to practice some songs with Lucy Halls and Hiram and Clara Taylor for a concert next Wednesday evening."

### **23 January 1905, Kirtland, New Mexico**

"I am so anxious to get the new house covered in. Elmer Taylor and Jasper are topping out the chimneys."

### **6 February 1905**

"This has surely been a miserable day for me. I got a letter from H. M. Taylor in Mancos, giving a statement of the business in Mancos last year, and it shows a loss of \$700."

### **5 March 1905, Sunday**

"We have been to Mutual tonight. It was Dean night. Jasper and Wilford played a piece on their mandolin and guitar; I sang 'The Handwriting on the Wall,' Florence, Mary Evans, and Elmer Taylor helping on the chorus; Florence and I sang a Samoan song 'Sauni Atu Tetou Noi'; and I led all the singing."

### **8 March 1905**

"Got a telephone from Sally tonight. She is all rattled about the business and wants me to hurry up there (to Mancos), as H. M. Taylor has left for Mexico, and she is all alone at the store."

### **12 March 1905, Mancos, Colorado**

"Found the folks well here, but wife Sally nearly frantic with the worry and anxiety on account of the bills that are coming in and no money to pay them with. I am afraid my scheme to have her and my boys run the business while I spend the summer selling Navajo blankets will have to be abandoned. She isn't equal to the load and the responsibility and gets rattled, especially over the bills and duns that have to be satisfied, that I am afraid everything would go to pieces."

### **26 March 1905, Sunday**

"Hiram Taylor came at noon (returning from Mexico) and occupied all the time in afternoon meeting, giving an account of his trip to Mexico. He and I and Lucy Halls and Mary Halls sang 'Jesus, Lover of My Soul' in the meeting."

### **3 April 1905**

"Hiram Taylor has been down here some of the day. He is sure about going Mexico. He wants me to take his place. If I will let him have \$50, I can have time on the balance for years if I want it. He wants something like eight or nine hundred dollars for it."

### **19 May 1905**

"Only \$4.20 cash sales today. There seems to be nothing doing in the town. The business outlook here for me is very gloomy. There are too many merchants here for the trade. What I must get is a farm, a big one where I can utilize all the labor of my boys, with me to work with them. Roy, Jasper, Wilford, Lawrence, Harry, and Charlie would be good as hired men. With me would be six men, and Clifford and Stanley coming on in a few years."

### **25 May 1905**

"Business almost at a standstill. One can look on the street quite often in the daytime and not see a soul. Only \$3.95 cash sales today.

"An important thing has happened, though. I got a telephone message from Brimhall in Fruitland this morning that he would give me \$800 for my four town lots in Kirtland and the

old home and three acres it stands on, and while I hated to part with it at that price, I let it go so as to get my co-op debts paid off. I lose my orchard of 70 trees, which I very much dislike, but 'beggars must not be choosers.'

"I wish now I could either sell out this business here or the place in Fruitland at a good figure and clean up the rest of my debts."

#### **26 May 1905**

"I intend going to Montezuma tomorrow and Sunday to look over the ground to see if I want to get a farm down there and settle. It is a coming place."

#### **29 May 1905**

"I am still anxious about the Montezuma proposition, and I wish I could turn all my property into land down there. I am getting more tired of storekeeping every day."

#### **1 June 1905**

"Business is awfully discouraging. We seem to be almost boycotted in the Gentile town. I wish I could dispose of all my property and put it into real estate in Montezuma Valley. Ranching and stock raising is the ideal life, I am convinced. Merchandising is all right if one has plenty of capital, but in my condition, it is hell."

#### **4 September 1905, Kirkland, New Mexico**

"A great event happened this morning—no less than the burning of the co-op. A total loss. No satisfactory reason or origin can be given for the fire. It was discovered to be burning about 5:00, and no one seems to know how it started. There is a heavy insurance, and so the institution will probably make money by burning down."

#### **8 September 1905**

Elmer F. Taylor's wife, Mary Jane, was killed in an accident in her horse drawn buggy on September 1, 1905. Their baby was also seriously injured.

"We have had a gathering here in honor of, or in sympathy with, Elmer Taylor. We invited those who we thought would be in harmony with him and each other. The people got here at 8:45—Elmer Taylor, W. G. Black, Lucretia Black, Jane Black, Eva Black, Alice Black, Ima Black, J. P. Steele, Sister Steele, Sister Biggs, Pearl Biggs, Dolph Laton, Eva Laton, Ira Hatch, Sister Hatch, Lilia Hatch, Myrtle Hatch, W. A. Walker, Lotta Walker, Maggie Ashcroft, Lizzie Ashcroft, Jamie Washburn, Sister Washburn, Mamie Frankland, Pheobe Guymon, Wall, Guymon, Father Bloomfield, Sister Bloomfield, Dan Christensen, Pearl Willden, Clara Nielson, and our family.

"Brother Washburn asked to be administered to, then Bro. Hatch, Walker, and Sister Lucretia Black. We sure had a glorious time. Brother Taylor spoke twice and testified that he felt comforted and reconciled."

#### **23 September 1905, Dale's Ranch (traveling from Mancos to Kirkland) (Reel 5, Journal 36)**

"This morning, early, I got a telephone message from Elmer Taylor that his baby had died, and wanting to know if I and Hiram, his brother, could come down. As I have a family there

myself to see, I concluded to come down, and I hired a horse at Kelly's and sent Harry up to Hiebler Mill, where Hiram is working."

### **26 September 1905, Kirtland, New Mexico**

"Well, today has sure been an important and exciting one. The Co-op board met last night and deposed Brimhall as manager of the Co-op and chose me as director. They also chose William G. Black, Abbey Young, and me a committee of three to settle up the Co-op business. They wrote the bank that no checks were to be honored unless authorized by said committee. Brimhall left the meeting in anger.

"Hiram Taylor had been through the books and found a startling state of affairs. Instead of the business owing only \$4,500 as the bishop had told me, it owes more than \$9,000. The board was paralyzed and disgusted. Brimhall has carried the idea all along that he was getting the business on good footing and out of debt.

"We had it all arranged also that William G. Black be manager, with the understanding that he vacate in favor of Hiram Taylor if the latter decided to give up going to Old Mexico and accept the Co-op management instead.

"The whole people are pleased and thankful that we stayed and that the Bishop is out of the Co-op. I never saw such a universally hostile feeling against a bishop in my life."

### **27 September 1905, Cherry Creek, Colorado**

"Hiram Taylor and I have left Fruitland today for Mancos. We have been talking over what we have done in Fruitland and feel well pleased. Brother Taylor and I have also decided to settle on the Fort Lewis Mesa if we can get homestead entry and a reservoir site, and he has decided to give up his long talked of move to Old Mexico.

"We have decided to get L. B. Burnham, C. S. Brown, and others, if we can, to locate with us, and I think we are on the road to getting first-class farms by homesteading, which only costs \$16.00 for filing and about \$40 for final entry seven years after filing, and no taxes in the meantime. We are impressed that land on the Mesa is as good as in Montezuma and that the sagebrush would be no harder to plow up and dispose of than the weeds on some of the farms around here that would cost thousands of dollars.

"In two years, if we can get a reservoir site, we would have 160 acres of first-class land for our labor in clearing and fencing it. If a few of us whom the people have confidence in will lead out, I believe our people will flock around us. The Richland (Kline) meeting house is only six miles from where we think we will locate.

"It was dark when we got here (Cherry Creek), so we decided to stop and sleep at Gillespie's granary. We have had no supper but four crackers each, and the Gillespies did not ask us to supper, so we will have nothing more tonight."

### **28 September 1905, Mancos, Colorado**

"Bro. Taylor went home and told his people that he had decided not to go to Old Mexico, and they are tickled to death. He has also decided not to go to Fruitland (and be the manager of the Fruitland Co-op).

"We have decided that after I come back from General Conference on October 15 or earlier that we go over and spend a few days looking over the country and locate our farms."

#### **1 October 1905**

Joseph H. Dean left to travel to Salt Lake City for General Conference, returning October 13.

#### **14 October 1905, Mancos, Colorado**

"Went up to Weber first thing this morning and saw Hiram Taylor and Lou Burnham and got an idea from them where the land they have entered on the Fort Lewis Mesa in situated, and got what other information I could."

#### **15 October 1905, Durango, Colorado**

"Roy and I left Mancos at 7:00 this morning. Got to Greer's on the Mesa at 11:30 and spent four hours tramping over the country. Got a  $\frac{1}{4}$  section picked out for me and Roy and Peter Brown Jr. Then we hitched up and drove in here to Durango, arriving at 10 p.m. We feel much pleased with the land. It seems splendid, and there is no question about what it will be valuable. One of the Greer boys who has a ranch there went with us and helped locate section corners, etc. The law will permit us to enlarge the ditch that Greer and others have already taken out and bring our water in their canal. Our horse Prince stood the journey fine, notwithstanding that we have traveled some 50 miles today. Have put him in the livery stable for the night, and Roy and I have taken rooms in a rooming house by the depot."

#### **16 October 1905**

"We spent the morning in the land office at Durango, making our homestead filing."

#### **24 October 1905, Fort Lewis Mesa, Colorado**

"Left Kirtland this morning at 6:30 and arrived here at 1 p.m. Found Blair Burwell the surveyor and Hiram Taylor, and after a bite to eat we three started out to find our corners. Tramped all afternoon without finding a single corner of the government survey.

"Jasper got here from Kirtland at 8 p.m. with team, wagon, plow, scraper, etc. L. B. Burnham, who was to have come, hasn't shown up yet."

#### **25 October 1905**

"Burwell, Taylor, Jasper, and I started out after breakfast and have tramped all day till dark. Have found some corners at last and have about gotten through setting corners. Burnham got here at noon and has been with us since. We intend on visiting Alkali and Hay Gulch in the morning to hunt out reservoir sites."

#### **26 October 1905, Mancos, Colorado**

"We went and examined Alkali and Hay Gulch reservoir sites and decided Hay Gulch was the better of the two. But there are two ranches there which would have to be bought. The dirt fill for the reservoir will mean something like 55,000 cubic yards and will cost something like \$15,000, but we can take our time to do it and can use each year's water that we dam up, so our work won't be in vain. It is a big undertaking, however, and frightens us. And then there is the

ranch that the water would cover to buy, and I suppose the owners would want a fancy price for it.

“Hiram Taylor and I arrived back in Mancos at 3:30. Jasper went back to Greer’s for the team and will come as far as Cherry Creek tomorrow. The surveyor returned to Durango, and L. B. Burnham went to Richland (Kline).”

### **28 October 1905, Fort Lewis Mesa, Colorado**

“We saw Mr. Burwell in Durango, and he urges us to get the Hay Gulch reservoir secured, if possible. He had found out for us the names of the owners of the two ranches we would have to buy, and we are now stopping at the house of one of them for the night. His name is Lyle Wiltse. We have spent the evening talking to him and have bought his 80 acres and water right for \$850, with two and three years to pay it in at 8% interest, and he says we can get the other farm his uncle owns for \$500, and their land takes in the site of the dam and everything we need. There are 40 acres of good land under cultivation and two good log houses with a stable for two span of horses, and a good cellar and carpenter shop.

“We can let the water run into the La Plata River and take it out below on our land. We can till this 40 acres and use this as a headquarters until we can get established on the Mesa below. And if we never build a reservoir, the water is worth it to us on the Mesa, where we have homesteaded.

“It seems marvelous how things have turned into our hands. We wouldn’t take \$5,000 right now for what we have got for \$1,350. We feel very much elated over our prospects and the results of our labors and feel the Lord has opened up our way marvelously.”

### **2 November 1905**

“(Stake) President Walter Lyman has been here with us. He feels much interested in our Fort Lewis proposition. He and Dave Halls are going to Richland (Kline), and I have decided to go with them.”

### **3 November 1905**

“We drove to Hay Gulch, and as soon as the brethren saw it, they said, ‘Now, this is something like it!’ We stayed there an hour or more. President Lyman said the property and water is worth from five to ten thousand dollars. He thinks we have a splendid proposition. He doesn’t see how we can help but succeed.”

Over the next few weeks, Joseph H. Dean and his sons and Hiram Taylor, Jim Slade, and Willis Taylor spend much time on the Mesa and at the reservoir site, clearing sagebrush, plowing the land, and cutting and hauling wood for fence posts.

### **9 November 1905, Hay Gulch, Colorado**

“Jasper finished plowing the piece he was on this morning while I, with the sorrel, dragged down the cedar posts I had cut to a place where we could load them. We got loaded and started for the homestead on the Mesa. Got down there in two hours. Willis Taylor had already gone, and when we arrived, he and Jim Slade were grubbing brush with those railroad rails they had borrowed of Greers. Jasper and I put in two corner posts and measured land till sundown, then put off for Richland to attend branch conference meeting held by the stake

presidency. We hadn't had any supper and hoped to reach there in time to get something to eat, but did not. Neither did we get washed or combed and went in the meeting just that way. They insisted on my leading the singing. We had a good meeting and came 'home' immediately after getting here at 10:30.

"The brethern brought the interesting news that John T. Nielson has been chosen bishop of Fruitland in place of Clayborn Brimhall, who resigned. W. G. Black and Elmer Taylor are counselors."

#### **7 February 1906, Mancos, Colorado**

"I am awfully anxious to get away from this loafing in the store and get out to work. If I had been on the Mesa this winter, I and the boys could have built a thousand dollar's worth of buildings."

#### **20 February 1906, Fort Lewis Mesa, Colorado**

"This place here is almost ready to work, and the ranches we have taken down on the Mesa will be ready for fencing. We can go to work immediately if the weather keeps fine."

#### **24 February 1906, Kirkland, New Mexico**

"[In April] I will be able to take all the boys over to the Mesa and leave Sally and Lucy together here at the store in Mancos and move Florence and her boys up on the Mesa, and we will get something done."

#### **5 March 1906, Monday, Parker's Mill, Cherry Creek, Colorado**

"Well, here we are on our way back to the Mesa again. Hiram Taylor, with two teams, and Jim Slade were coming today, and I determined to come with them so we could have help up the Cherry Creek Hill if we needed it.

"Taylor and Slade left three hours before we did but stopped at Spanish, three miles above here. They are heavily loaded."

#### **6 March 1906, Alkali, Colorado**

"Well, we have surely had an experience today! We got loaded at Parker's and got away by 9:10 a.m. Starting up the draw from Gillespie's, our wagons mired down and we got stalled, and Taylor had to pull us out. Then up the canyon a ways further, we went down again, and were helped out again, and then a third time. And so we quit till Taylor and Slade got up the hill. Then Taylor came back and put his best team on with our four, and the six took us up. We nooned at the top of the hill.

"We hadn't gotten ten rods from the top of the hill when we mired down again and had to be helped out again. Then a little further down, Jim Slade tipped over. After getting him righted we went along without accident maybe three miles when we found our wagon box was over on the wheel, and investigation showed we had broken our king bolt. This knocked us out, and we had to leave our wagon and the lumber. Taylor loaded our hay, grain, and other things on one of his, and we put Bird and Pete on to help pull and turned Nell and Prince loose.

"But if we hadn't broken down, we would have had to stop anyway, as the roads were awful! By the time we got here my horse was all petered out."

### **7 March 1906, Fort Lewis Mesa, Colorado**

"Taylors and Slades have camped here near us. A Bro. Warren, who has been just north of us here for two years and has a ditch out of the La Plata that will cover all our land, came down to see us, and says he is willing for us to go in on his ditch, but he seems to want money for it, that is he will sell us a share in it."

### **11 March 1906**

"We have spent the whole day going to Richland. We went in our wagon, and Slade and Taylor, in one of theirs. Got to the meeting house just at Sunday school time. They had a very creditable Sunday school. I and Bro. Taylor spoke a few minutes before closing."

### **13 March 1906**

"Willis Taylor, with our spring wagon, went to Dale's for hay today. Got eight bales."

### **24 March 1906, Fort Lewis Mesa, Colorado**

"We started grubbing brush this morning, but were run in by the rain."

"Got a letter from wife Florence in Kirtland this afternoon. Scarlet fever is raging at Fruitland, and she wants to come right up with the children. Lila Hatch and Martha Hunt have each lost a child. So I have decided to send the boys down tomorrow for them."

"We have been over to Taylor's tent for a while tonight."

### **25 March 1906**

"I got Lawrence away with the spring wagon and Peter and Ned about 10:00, and he will go right through to Kirtland, and Jasper left about 1 p.m. with the mares and the big wagon. He will probably stay the night at Paddock's. He will bring up the cows, pigs, and chickens from Kirtland, Charlie to drive his mother and the children up Tuesday and Jasper and Lawrence to come along with the animals, taking two days for it. I borrowed Taylor's little riding pony Nibs for them to drive stock with."

"In the afternoon I daubed up the east end of our cabin with mud. I thought breaking the Sabbath was justified, seeing that my wife and babies are coming and this place is so open and drafty. The weather is still bad, and it has rained a good deal of the day."

### **26 March 1906**

"Spent the morning chinking and daubing the cedar posts on the north side of our hut, and the afternoon making a six-foot lean-to on the west side. Have put tar felt on the roof and then the wagon cover over that. Nailed up an old quilt at one end and carpet at the other. It will do all right for fine weather, but is a poor thing in bad weather, which we have been having plenty of."

Son Harry A. Dean:

"This cedar cabin was used later for a church, and it was where the Redmesa Branch was organized into a ward (in 1908), with Hiram Taylor as bishop."

“Associated with Father in the establishment of Redmesa were H. M. Taylor, James Slade, L. B. Burnham, Frank Roberts, and later, William Devenport, the Haddens, Ben Steele, the Wildens, Pinkertons, and others.

“The work of establishing themselves on ‘The Mesa’ consisted of grubbing the sagebrush, plowing and planting, fencing the land, digging ditches to bring the water from the La Plata River to the fields, going into the forest and bringing out cedar posts used for fencing, and building corrals and fences.”

### **28 March 1906**

“Jasper and Lawrence and the stock got here at noon. All well. We spent the day finishing the chicken coop and making a pig pen, and we are all now here.”

### **13 April 1906, Salt Lake City, Utah**

Joseph H. Dean attended General Conference in Salt Lake City. While there, he asked President Joseph F. Smith about the possibility of the Church loaning them money to help finance the Hay Gulch reservoir.

“The President said the Church had no money to loan, but he thought if I could make a good showing and put up proper security, he thought the bank would loan us the money at 6%, and I was at liberty to use his name as being in favor of the project.

“I went down to Zion’s Savings Bank and stated my case to George M. Cannon, cashier. He didn’t give me any encouragement, but as the executive committee was just going to meet, he introduced me to them. They questioned me on every phase of the subject, and I withdrew. I some way don’t feel depressed about their refusal, for I believe it will be better for us maybe not to run in debt, and go ahead and do it ourselves with what help we can get from the people there.”

### **19 April 1906, Fort Lewis Mesa, Colorado**

(Journal 37)

“Florence and I have been over to Taylor’s this evening. They have just gotten their home done and are proud of it. They have been living in tents and mud ever since they came over (from Mancos).”

### **20 April 1906**

“The boys and I spent the whole day fencing. Have dug 50 post holes and put in 40 posts.”

“Brother Taylor and Brother Slade left with their teams for Mancos today to bring the fruit trees and move Sister Agnes Slade and her luggage over.”

### **22 April 1906**

“We all went to Richland (Kline) today, with the exception of Lawrence and Stanley. We also took Clara Taylor and baby. Attended Sunday school and sacrament meeting, where L. B. Burnham spoke six minutes and I spoke for 45 minutes. I had the undivided attention of the congregation and had considerable freedom. Clara Taylor said she never heard me speak better.”

"The people stayed after the meeting to talk over school election matters. On May 6 next, two trustees are to be elected for this school district. As we are in this district, I expressed myself that I thought we should have one of the two down here, giving them two and us one. They agreed, and I proposed H. M. Taylor, and he was nominated. Brother Butler was the other.

### **23 April 1906, Fort Lewis Mesa, Colorado**

"Have spent the whole day grubbing sagebrush. Started at 6 a.m. and quit at 6 p.m. We have at last got the 13 acres cleared. It has been a long, tedious job. Jasper has plowed all that the horses could stand."

### **24 April 1906**

"Have spent the whole day again grubbing and burning sagebrush. Jasper has been plowing. Taylor and Slades (Jim Slade bringing his family) arrived today. Brother Taylor brought us mail and papers."

### **27 April 1906**

"Brother Taylor goes to Durango tomorrow for wire for himself, Jim Slade, and me."

### **29 April 1906**

"At 4 p.m. H. M. Taylor, Jim Slade, and I started to visit the people in interest of a post office and also to decide on a name to be given our country here. We visited the Halls, Greers, Roberts, and Warrens. Everyone is in favor of the proposition, and I was appointed to write the Post Office Department, asking for a post office.

"We haven't decided positively on a name, but the following names have been suggested: 'Delmar,' 'Greer,' 'Helton,' 'Carmel,' 'Enterprize,' and 'Warren,' Greer, Helton, and Warren being names of settlers here. The majority seem to be in favor of either 'Greer' or 'Delmar.'"

"We are going to organize a Sunday school next Sunday and hold it regularly from then on."

### **6 May 1906, Sunday, Fort Lewis Mesa, Colorado**

"We have made history today. At 10:00 we all met at H. M. Taylor's and organized a Sunday school. I made out a slate and submitted it to Brother Taylor, and he adopted it. He thought I should be superintendent, but as we are to meet in his house and he was authorized by the bishopric and President William Halls to organize it, I thought he should be called to preside. The following were chosen:"

Superintendent: H. M. Taylor  
Assistants: Joseph H. Dean and Frank Roberts  
Secretary: Eva Taylor  
Assistant secretary: Jasper Dean  
Treasurer: James Slade  
Chorister: Joseph H. Dean  
Organist: Daphne Roberts  
Assistant organist: Lydia Taylor

Teachers: Daphne Roberts, Agnes Slade, Florence R. Dean, Clara Taylor, Joseph H. Dean, L. B. Burnham, and Don C. Roberts

"H. M. Taylor called the meeting to order. We sang 'Our Lord, We Raise to Thee.' Prayer by J. H. Dean. Bro. Taylor explained the object of the meeting and presented the above officers, who were sustained by unanimous vote. Sacrament was administered by L. B. Burnham and James Slade. L. B. Burnham, James Slade, and Joseph H. Dean were called upon and spoke in that order. The meeting was then thrown open for testimonies. The following spoke: Florence R. Dean, Agnes Slade, Daphne Roberts, and Clara Taylor. Bro. Taylor made a few closing remarks, and we sang 'Thanks for the Sabbath School.'

"There were 32 souls present at the meeting: Hiram M. Taylor, Clara Taylor, Willis Taylor, Eva Taylor, Lydia Taylor, Leo Taylor, Gladys Taylor, Irma Taylor, Loren Taylor, Joseph H. Dean, Florence R. Dean, Jasper Dean, Wilford Dean, Lawrence Dean, Charlie Dean, Stella Dean, Louise Dean, Stanley Dean, Leah Dean, James Slade, Agnes Slade, Clarence Slade, Vida Slade, Evelyn Slade, L. B. Burnham, Warren Burnham, Omar Warren, Wilbur Warren, Daphne Roberts, Don C. Roberts, Louis Roberts, and Mary Slade.

"There was a splendid spirit with us, and all felt that the Lord was pleased with us."

"Florence and I and Taylor and wife decided to go to Richland to the afternoon meeting. We took Prince and our colt Nell and made the trip in 50 minutes. The colt did fine. We were nearly an hour late, as they took up their fast meeting at 1:00 instead of 2:00. I spoke ten minutes. We came back and Taylors had supper with us."

## **2 August 1906, Mancos, Colorado**

"I have spent most of the day writing signs to stick up on our storefront, advertising our closing out sale. The more I think over this step, the more I think it is the right thing to do. I am offering store, land, and all, and if the Lord should send me a good customer, it will be a great thing for me."

## **8 August 1906**

"Well, we have been blessed today. Sold \$114 cash sales and getting my debts paid off with a rush. Thank the Lord."

## **10 August 1906**

"Another important day. Got Bauer Mercantile Co. to take \$105 of merchandise today, which pays them what I owed them and \$30 over. They took all the wagon spokes and felloes and horseshoes and some pulleys, mineral, ochre, etc.—all unsellable goods, mostly. This puts me out of debt now, except my taxes . . . all of which is simply glorious and is hard to believe."

## **13 August 1906, Fort Lewis Mesa, Colorado**

"Well, we have disposed of one third interest in our reservoir site in Hay Gulch to Frank Roberts, he to pay \$150 cash and give us right-of-way in the Freed ditch. And he is to assume 1/3 of all future obligations. I was not willing to let him in that cheap, but Brother Taylor does not feel equal to carrying half the enterprise, and we are anxious to get the right-of-way for our ditch to carry the Hay Gulch water on our ranches immediately."

## **26 August 1906**

"We tramped around several sites (for the school) and finally decided on the hill east of here about a mile, if we can get the land. Brother Taylor, who is one of the district school board members, told me that at a meeting of the board Friday, \$150 was appropriated to pay a teacher for us. That is a fine start. That will give us four month's school at \$40 a month."

## **27 August 1906**

"I have been to another school meeting. Decided to build 16 x 28 foot, 11-foot ceiling, double rough lumber, with building paper between, if we can get enough means donated."

## **2 September 1906, Mancos, Colorado**

"H. M. Taylor and daughters Eva and Sadie and Bertha Devenport and Lila Burnham came over from the Mesa to enter school here tomorrow. Wilford has come with them and has coaxed me to let him go to school here also. His request was backed up by a letter from his mother. There is so terribly much work to do over there. I don't see how I can spare him. But if I can get him in now, I think I shall let him go."

## **10 September 1906, Fort Lewis Mesa, Colorado**

"In the afternoon Brother Warren came and cut over three acres of our wheat, and I helped the boys shock it. It surely looks fine to me. I hope next year to have at least 70 acres of grain."

## **12 September 1906**

"W. A. Walker is with us again tonight. He has been ever since Friday last to Mancos and Durango and running over the mesa east of us. H didn't get the Brown place. The land commissioner let Peter Brown retain his homestead if he would come right down on it, which he promised to do. So Walker had no land yet."

## **14 September 1906**

"Charlie and I started cutting our beautiful crop of corn, and we will have a nice lot of cow feed."

## **16 September 1906**

"At 4 p.m. Jasper, Florence, and I went down to look at our two lower 40s, with an eye to fencing it. We have to do \$80 worth of work on it by October 28 to fulfill the requirements of the law, and \$1.00 per acre per year on it. Was glad to find we can get posts on the hills nearby."

## **1 October 1906**

"We were surprised to have Sally, Amanda Taylor, Hannah Halls, and Sarah Burnham drive up from Mancos today. They came in Hannah Hall's buggy. They will return Tuesday. We have been over to Taylor's this evening."

### **29 October 1906, Fort Lewis Mesa, Colorado**

"I left Mancos at 12:30 on horse Prince. Came by way of Cherry Creek so I could see about the lumber for our new home and the schoolhouse. The mill promises us the lumber anytime we want it, so I intend on sending our team up immediately."

### **30 October 1906**

"Frank Roberts and Hiram Taylor came here, and we spent a couple of hours studying and perfecting a contract for our reservoir system. We all three will go into Durango tomorrow to pay the note of \$324 and to get our reservoir company incorporated and contract printed."

### **31 October 1906, Durango, Colorado**

"Hiram Taylor, Frank Roberts, and I left home at 7:00 for this place with Taylor's team and Roberts' spring wagon. We got here at 1:00.

"I have been working on our incorporation papers, believing I can do it and save \$35 lawyer's fees.

"Roberts has been working on a loan of \$2,500 he is getting from Colorado State Bank.

"Taylor and I have a nice room for 50¢ a day between us."

### **1 November 1906**

"Brother Taylor came in here expecting that through Roberts' efforts he could get a loan of \$300, but has failed. He feels quite discouraged and offers his share in the reservoir for sale. I have encouraged him to hold on to it and the way will open up, some way. Both he and Roberts want to throw up the incorporation project, and I have had to threaten to pay for the contract in order to get that much done. Roberts and I have each paid our one third of the \$300 note due next October 31—\$116 each.

"It seems we are not going to get started this winter on our reservoir. It is so hard to get anything done without capital, and in order to borrow, we have to give so much security and let the money lender get the cream of everything."

### **2 November 1906, Garland (Redmesa), Colorado**

"We decided to give up the incorporation business and just get the water contracts printed. They charge \$9.95 for 250 copies."

### **11 November 1906**

"At 5 p.m. we went to Taylor's to Brother Taylor's birthday dinner. He is 46. Stayed there till 7:30."

### **13 November 1906**

"We started to build our new house today, and that will be our next big pull. Am going to build a one-story building, 26 x 30 feet.

"Charlie and I have spent the whole day putting in cedar post foundations for our new home."

**16 November 1906, Kirtland, New Mexico**

"Florence, Charlie, and baby Lea and I left Garland (Redmesa) at 7 a.m. with two teams and wagons and 23 hundred pounds of wheat. Got here at 8 p.m. The wind blew a gale, and it has been cold all day, but we did not suffer much. We are putting up at the old home. W. O. Ashcroft, to whom we have rented the place for \$3.50 a month, is living in it, also two of Abby Young's sisters and a Mr. Tice, who is working on the schoolhouse. So our house is full."

"Took our grist to mill the first thing this morning, and Brother Black promises to have it ground into flour so we can get it Monday morning. Hiram Taylor is also down from the Mesa with grist to grind."

**18 November 1906**

"Have had an interesting and profitable Sabbath. Attended prayer meeting in the morning and was called on to lead in prayer. Had a good Sunday school. H. M. Taylor spoke at opening and I closing exercises. In the afternoon meeting, Brother Taylor spoke for 55 minutes, and I for 20. Elmer Taylor, who presided, said it was as good a meeting as he ever attended."

**19 November 1906**

"I went down to Black's mill this morning and got my grist, came back, and finished loading. We are taking back a lot of our fruit jars. Also, eight sacks of apples from Brother Hendrickson, about 550 pounds."

**21 November 1906**

"Brother and Sister Taylor have spent the evening here, and he and I have spent the time correcting the proof of our reservoir contract."

**26 November 1906**

"Brother Taylor and Willis, Mr. Greer, and I have spent the day starting our new schoolhouse. Also had Charlie and the team moving up the lumber from where the boys dumped it when they hauled it. We cleared off the place and spent the time putting in the cedar post foundation."

**27 November 1906**

"Taylor and I have put in the day again on the schoolhouse. No one else out."

**13 December 1906**

"The official bond of Mrs. Hannah J. Greer as postmaster of Garland came yesterday after months of delay."

**1 January 1907**

"We have spent the afternoon at Brother James Slade's, having been invited over to New Year's dinner. Ate at 2:00 and had a nice dinner. Then we had a little childrens' dance. Jasper went over for an hour and played, then Hiram Taylor and Jim Slade played a while. Our first dance in Garland."

**7 January 1907**

"We killed our lamb this morning, as we had run out of meat and were in rather bad straits for food."

**9 January 1907**

"Have had the first of a weekly singing practice for our branch here tonight. Everybody came. Got along pretty well, especially the altos, that is Leo and Lydia Taylor and Stella, whom I chose to learn the part."

**12 January 1907**

"I saw Mr. Freeman about the land and finally sold him 80 acres of Peter Brown's homestead for \$540. I am to take Sally to Durango immediately and make Desert (Federal Desert Act) Entry of the whole thing. He is to meet me in Durango Thursday and consummate the deal. I promised to pay back \$30 of his down payment of \$50 if he changes his mind before February 1st, but I think the deal will go through all right, as they seem anxious to get the land."

"That 80 acres cost me \$160, and I am selling it for \$540, leaving me \$380 less the expense of going to Durango."

**21 January 1907**

"Mrs. Greer's commission as postmaster of our little settlement of Garland here has arrived, so this will be a place with an official name from now on, I suppose."

**23 January 1907**

"Have had our weekly singing practice here tonight. Sisters Taylor and Slade both came with all their children."

**24 January 1907**

"This has been an epoch-making day in our little place here, being the beginning of operations in the Garland Post Office. Leo Taylor has started carrying the mail."

**27 January 1907, Sunday**

"Sister Taylor and Agnes and Fanny Slade were here this evening, and we have been singing with Lucy and Lilly."

"Dave Halls and Jasper went to Richland on horseback this morning to attend that Sunday school. The rest of us stayed at our own Sunday school. At noon Florence and I and Lucy and Lilly, with Lea, went to Richland in Dave's buggy and our mares. The roads were awfully muddy, and it took 1 ½ hours to get there. I had to take charge of the singing. Dave spoke 40 minutes, and Lucy, Lilly, Dave, and I sang 'A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief.' Jeff Slade spoke five minutes, and I, ten. We got back home a little before sundown. We all went to Taylor's to supper and did some singing and chatting this evening."

**12 February 1907**

"Lawrence and I have been treating about 900 lbs. of seed wheat with formaldehyde for smut, and this afternoon I sowed it. I get so tired tramping over the unplowed ground. Charlie went to Kline for supplies, and Jasper went with Taylor for hay. They got four tons at Jackson for \$7.00, payable November 1st."

**14 February 1907**

(Journal 38)

"Roy Burnham and family got here this afternoon to visit a few days with the Taylors and Slades"

**18 February 1907**

"This has been a red-letter day for us. We have moved into our new home. It is very drafty and uncomfortable, as I haven't got the partition doors hung yet. But we will soon be comfortable.

"[Hiram Taylor] got word by mail that his wife Amanda was very sick at Mancos, and he put right off on horseback for that place."

**20 February 1907**

"Have had singing practice this evening. All the Taylors and Slades came."

**24 February 1907**

"Had Sunday school as usual. A Lovely spirit present. Florence, Lawrence, and I went to Richland (Kline) in the afternoon. Hiram Taylor occupied all the time again, except five mins. By Jim Slade."

**28 February 1907**

"Frank H. Roberts came down with J. B. Jones and with me and Brother Taylor had a (Freed) ditch meeting here for two hours in the afternoon. We elected Roberts president, myself secretary and treasurer, Taylor superintendent, D. C. Roberts assistant superintendent. Taylor and I were appointed a committee to draft a constitution and bylaws. I have been over to Taylor's this evening working on them."

**23 March 1907**

"Brother Taylor came over in the morning, and we cut each other's hair."

**13 May 1907**

Joseph H. Dean sold his home in Kirtland for \$2,500 and paid off his debts with the first partial payment.

**19 May 1907, Garland (Redmesa), Colorado**

"The Government has ordered our post office name changed from 'Garland' to 'Redmesa.' There is another 'Garland' in Colorado, and some confusion has occurred in mail matters, so the Government sent for suggestions for a new name, and the Gentiles sent 'Redmesa.' It is so distasteful to us that I got up a protest, and all our Sunday school attendants signed it. We ask

that 'Garland' be retained if possible, but if a change has to be made that we be given 'Delmar' or 'Alton' or 'Enterprise.' Sent it to the Postmaster General."

#### **27 May 1907**

"This rain has done us a great deal of good. My winter wheat has been burning up in places and, I am afraid, would have been a partial failure. The rain, however, will revive it until we can get water on it from the ditch."

"A big stream of waste water from the Hall ranch came down this morning, and Charlie has been watering the alfalfa with it all day."

#### **12 June 1907**

"The four boys and two teams worked on the ditch today, and we thought it was to be the last day, but Brother Taylor foolishly left the headgate open last night, and the river rose, and a large stream entered the canal and washed out two large places on the hillside that will take a day to fill. I went up with the boys in the morning and built a flume across the Greer ditch to bring our water over. Put headgates in my own ditches and spent the rest of the day watering wheat. My spring wheat is suffering badly for water but revives in a few hours after being watered. Have been having a nice stream of waste water from the Greer ditch for two weeks now, or I would have been in a sorry fix."

#### **14 June 1907**

"Waste water dwindled to nothing by noon. Jasper went to work on the ditch this morning and came home at noon and reported that they had turned in a stream and a great place as big as our house slid out and that it will take three days with all hands to mend it. This was awful news, as my wastewater has stopped and six acres of my spring wheat is dying for water. I went up to Halls' to see if I could buy some water. He had none to spare, but thought that Mr. Hoagland was through with their stream and could lend or sell me some, but that being so far south, I didn't care to go down there, when as though he was sent on purpose, here came George Hoagland along the road. He said yes, he was through watering, and I was welcome to their water for a couple of days. So I turned down all our ditch would hold and got it on my thirsty wheat before dark.

"It has been a hot, windy day, just such a one as burns up every bit of vegetation."

#### **18 June 1907**

"When we got up this morning, a good stream of water was running from our own ditch, and we have all the water we could handle all day. I have spent most of the day, from 5 a.m., cleaning out and grading the new ditch. Jasper and Lawrence irrigating, Wilford and Harry digging the cellar, Charlie plowing."

#### **19 June 1907**

"We have had a most glorious rain. It came down last night and today and is at it again tonight. The ground has had a thorough soaking, and incalculable good has been done to the country. We all stayed in the house this morning, of necessity. In the afternoon I made some

more headgates and put them in our ditches and got the boys to work cleaning up around the place."

### **29 June 1907, Saturday**

"In the afternoon I let the boys off work to play baseball in Kline. I promised them every Saturday afternoon off for play if they will quit playing ball on Sunday, and they accepted the proposition."

### **2 July 1907 (Cherry Creek Mill, Colorado)**

"Sally and I and Clifford and Harry left Mancos at 3:30. Got here at 6:30 and have partly loaded up with lumber. H. M. Taylor and wife Amanda and Leo and Enoch Guymon's little boy are also here. Taylor and I are sleeping together. Sister Taylor and Sally in Dolly's bed. Lawrence got here at dark from the Mesa with the mares."

### **3 July 1907**

"Got away from the mill this morning at 7:20. Sister Taylor, Sally, Clifford, and I in buggy. Lawrence with 900 feet of lumber. Taylor with load of furniture and Leo Taylor with load of lumber behind us. Taylor agreed to help Lawrence up the hill if Amanda rode in the buggy so we could come right along."

### **24 July 1907**

"The whole family have spent the day at Richland (Kline), celebrating the 24th. Brother Taylor and I sang a duet, 'God Bless and Guard Our Mountain Home,' Eva Taylor and Jasper helping on the chorus. Spent the afternoon in a children's dance and witnessing sports among the children and a game of baseball between Garland and Richland. Our boys won 11 to 8."

### **25 July 1907**

"William Devenport arrived this evening from Mancos, bringing wife Sally and Stanley, on way to the Fruitland stake conference. Sister Devenport are along, also Sally Halls and Myrtle Devenport. All are sleeping at Taylor's, with exception of Miss Halls, who is staying here. We all start for Fruitland tomorrow, with exception of Wilford and Harry."

### **27 July 1907, Fruitland, New Mexico**

At stake conference the name of the Richland Ward was changed to the Kline Ward.

### **30 July 1907, Garland (Redmesa), Colorado**

"Will Devenport and family are here tonight. It looks like he is going to buy the other 80 acres of Peter Brown's land from me for \$300 and I to take a team and three cows of him. If the Bishop of Mancos is willing, I think the deal will go through. It is very cheap for the land, but they are a desirable family and poor, and I feel like favoring them. Besides, we need their company."

### **11 August 1907, Sunday**

"We had a good meeting this afternoon. I took charge of the singing, and Willis Taylor played the organ.

"We called a long list of choir members and had those that were present meet for choir practice after meeting. Called for suggestions as to how we can raise means to get music. It was voted that each member pay 5¢ a month. \$3.50 was got on the spot, and William Holgate, Dolph Eaton, and L. B. Burnham were appointed a committee to solicit donations. Fanny Slade was chosen secretary. I feel quite hopeful for the musical future of the ward."

### **16 September 1907**

"Well, we are all threshed out, and the outfit has left and threshed out Taylor's grain this evening. We got up at 4:30 this morning and had 12 to breakfast. Got started at 7 and ran steadily all day. Got through at 3:30.

"I am disappointed at the yield of my wheat, but the oats went over what I expected. We got 55 bu. of barley, 105 bu. of winter wheat, 191 bu. of spring wheat, and 420 bu. of oats—total, 771 bushels. It looks very nice in the bins in the new granary we have just built. If we had had water soon enough, we would have had 1000 bushels or more.

"Brother and Sister William Walker of Jewett, Howard Deluche, and Anni J. Curtis arrived here at sundown from Mancos, where they have been attending the convention. The Walkers, who tried so hard a year ago to get a place up here, have got a renewal of the complaint, and it looks as though they are going to take 80 acres of me and move up. I hope they will. They would make a fine addition to our little community.

"Brother and Sister Walker are sleeping in the house."

### **17 September 1907**

"Brother and Sister Walker decided to take my 80 acres of land this morning. I gave them the land for \$350, one third in a year, one third in two years, and one third in three years at 8% interest from date. They were determined to clinch the bargain before they left so they could not back out, so had me make out the notes and get their signatures."

"We now have enough hay to last us without buying, and next year we should have hay to sell. We treated 700 lbs. of winter wheat to plant Friday and Saturday of next week."

### **19 October 1907**

"Walter Walker has worked for me today while his father worked on the school home."

### **20 October 1907, Sunday**

"In the afternoon, Lawrence and I went to Kline to meeting. W. A. Walker, Frank Busch, and I did the speaking.

"Brother Walker came home with us and is staying here tonight."

### **24 October 1907**

"The boys and I have spent the day harvesting potatoes and mangles (beets). Got 3,000 pounds of potatoes in our pit and five wagon boxes full of mangles, and there are as many more loads, including the sugar beets, which, if we can save them, will be a big help for the pigs and cows."

### **25 October 1907, Durango, Colorado**

"Wilford and I, with 33 cwt. of wheat and four horses, left home at 8:10 this morning. Brother Taylor overtook us where we nooned, and we traveled together from there."

### **26 October 1907**

"The benches ordered for our shcool not having arrived, Brother Taylor heard of some second-hand ones at the Pack School that we could get for \$1 each."

### **30 October 1907, Redmesa, Colorado**

"Today is historical in that Redmesa's first day of school began. The scholars were Lawrence, Charlie, Stella, and Stanley Dean, Leo Taylor, Lydia Taylor, Irma Taylor, Vida Slade, Clarence Slade, Evelyn Slade, Olive Steele, Harry Greer, Lucille Greer, Hannah Greer, Grace Miller, and Millie Hamilton."

### **8 November 1907**

"We had a nine-pound baby girl this evening at 7:00. Florence got me up at four this morning, and we sent for Amanda Taylor and expected the affair would soon be over. But she got easier and has kept us on the anxious seat all day. Everything is fine though now at 9:30. All are going to sleep."

### **16 November 1907**

"Brother and Sister Taylor have spent the evening here, and we blessed our new baby. Named her Dorothy and then administered to her."

### **3 December 1907**

(Joseph H. Dean was the president of the stake quorum of seventies.) "Got communication from the First Council of Seventies together with 12 manuals for sale to seventies. I am instructed to visit all wards of the stake and try to fill up the quorum with young elders and to call a council meeting with the presidency of the stake and get them to cooperate."

### **8 December 1907, Sunday**

"At 1 p.m. we had our first branch meeting. 48 souls present. Had a good meeting. Sang 'O Say What Is Truth'; prayer, J. H. Dean; sang 'Do What Is Right'; speakers, H. M. Taylor, L. B. Burnham, and Joseph H. Dean; sang 'Our God We Raise To Thee'; benediction, James Slade. Josephine Walker was chosen as branch clerk, and I, as chorister.

"We voted after meeting to fix up our old cabin which we lived in last year and hold meetings in that, till Sally wants to move over from Mancos in May or June, and set apart next Sunday for our meeting [there]."

### **12 December 1907**

"Frank Bush and family arrived from Mancos in two wagons. Taylor was to have had his granary ready for them, but had not been for lumber to finish it with. They came over to see if they could rent our cabin. There seemed nothing else for them, so I let them have it for \$2.50 a month, and he moves right in tomorrow. We got things and rubbish out as best we could this evening."

### **15 December 1907, Sunday**

"I presided in Sunday school this morning in absence of Brother Taylor in Mancos. As he had appointed no one to preside in afternoon meeting, we didn't know what to do, but decided by vote to have meeting and that I preside. We had a good meeting. Speakers were O. C. Roberts Jr., Mamie Franklin, James Slade, Betsy Burnham, Wilford Dean, May Busch, Lou Roberts, Lawrence Dean, Mary C. Roberts, Florence Dean, Stella Walker, and Frank Busch. All spoke as I called them. I spoke 15 minutes at close. We had a good meeting."

### **16 December 1907**

"Hiram Taylor came home from Mancos this evening, bringing Willis and Eva with him. He has taken them from the Mancos school because of too much basketball and other fooleries, he says."

### **22 December 1907**

"Sunday school meeting as usual. Bishop Butler attended in afternoon meeting and organized a Young Men's and Young Ladies' Association with these officers: L. B. Burnham, president of Young Men's; Willis Taylor, secretary; J. H. Dean, class leader; Clara Taylor, president of Young Ladies'; Josephine Walker, secretary; Mary C. Roberts, class leader."

### **29 December 1907**

"Had Sunday school and afternoon meeting. We also started our Mutual meetings this evening, the Young Ladies meeting in Taylor's house and the Young Men in Frank Busch's (Taylor's granary)."

### **30 December 1907**

"Spent the morning with Brothers Taylor, Slade, and Jimmy Jones, putting floor in our cabin preparatory to using it for a meeting house.

"We had some of our neighbors to dinner at 3:30: H. M. Taylor, Clara, Gladys, and Loren Taylor, James and Agnes Slade, Betsy Burnham, and Willis Taylor. We spent the evening here playing games."

### **31 December 1907**

"Started to dig a cistern for drinking water this morning. Am going to make it 8 x 8 feet square and ten feet deep. Going to plaster on the dirt walls without rocking up at all. Putting two feet of rock at top where the frost affects it."

**1 January 1908**

(Journal 39)

"I spent the day digging in the cistern. At 12:46 we all jumped into the sleigh and put off for W. A. Walker's, where we had been invited to a New Year's dinner. This evening Lawrence and Charlie have gone with the Walker girls to a dance in Kline."

**6 February 1908, Bluff, Utah**

Joseph H. Dean and Hiram Taylor went by buggy and team to stake conference in Bluff, Utah. The first night out they camped with others 30 miles from Fruitland and held an evening meeting around a campfire. The second night they camped 30 miles from Bluff, where another evening meeting was held around the fire: "I spoke for 25 minutes. Never had more freedom and power in my life. After the meeting the crowd flocked around me and wanted me to continue talking. Bishop J. T. Nielson, Clint Burnham, Will Walker, and I talked until 12:00 on the Gospel. That is, I have talked and they have listened. We are having a glorious time."

At one of the conference meetings, Joseph H. Dean, Hiram Taylor, John Evans, and Willis Taylor sang 'School Thy Feelings.' Joseph led the singing in the conference sessions.

On the way back: "We made a fire of cedar logs, and we roast on one side and freeze on the other. Have had races, jumping, wrestling, etc. this evening. I ran a race with Tom Stolworthy and beat him. We ended up with another nice meeting, and Grant Black and Walter Young covenanted that they would quit their tobacco."

**5 March 1908, Redmesa, Colorado**

"Myself, B. B. Warren, and W. A. Walker were chosen a committee to superintend building a meeting house and were voted the authority to assess the people whatever we thought proper, and to decide the size, location, and material."

**8 March 1908**

"After afternoon meeting, we had our first priesthood meeting of the branch, and the teachers reported their labors. The second Sunday of the month will be our priesthood meeting. There were 17 present, including the Deans, Taylors, Slades, Warrens, Walkers, Roberts, and Burnhams.

"Have had a profitable Sunday, as we always do. Our members are increasing all the time. Between Sunday school and meeting, the building committee and Brother Taylor got together and further considered meeting house matters. Decided to enlarge to 26 x 46 feet and rearrange the assessments as follows: the Dean family, \$170.00; the Taylor family, \$143.00; etc.—totaling . . . \$1638.00. The committee chose me as chairman and secretary and treasurer, so I will have it about all to do."

**24 March 1908**

"Brother Taylor and I have spent the evening figuring out how to lay out the townsite—size of blocks, width of streets, etc."

**28 March 1908**

"Got a letter from Sally today. She says Brother Devenport has bought 40 acres of Roy's land for \$300 and will move over to the Mesa immediately. That is good news. With his family of girls, he will be quite an addition. Then he is a fine fellow himself."

**29 March 1908, Sunday**

"We had 53 out to our afternoon meeting in our cabin, and it was quite crowded. We surely need a new meeting house. I called for volunteers to clear a new meeting house block tomorrow and put up a fence. Got seven volunteers and appointed the sisters to furnish dinner for the workers. The spirit of the work is in the hearts of the people, all right."

**30 March 1908**

"We railed and grubbed lots and streets on two sides. We staked off our meeting house, which has now grown to 30 x 50 feet. We put in ten posts and got a fine start, and a good spirit was with us. We feel quite hopeful that we will get it done quickly."

**1 April 1908**

"I went down on the third 40 acres to lay out a building spot for Sally's new house, but as it will likely be the last house she will have, I determined to send for her to come and decide herself where she wants it. Perhaps she would prefer building on the townsite. So at 2 p.m. Charlie put off for Mancos and will return tomorrow."

**2 April 1908**

"At 12:15 Sally and Roy arrived from Mancos. We have spent the afternoon going in the buggy, examining the different building spots, and we have about decided on the corner of the second 40, but we may build down further, opposite Roy's corner."

**3 April 1908**

"William Devenport and his daughter Bertha arrived yesterday from Mancos and are camping temporarily in Roy's cabin."

**5 April 1908, Sunday**

"We have had a very interesting and profitable Sunday. Fast day and testimony. Have had larger crowd than ever. Had a lovely prayer meeting and Sunday school. At Brother Taylor's request, I presided at both. The afternoon meeting was also fine. Our little Louise, nine years old, got up and bore her testimony in afternoon meeting, which touched everybody's heart."

**10 May 1908, Sunday**

"This holding meetings in private homes is an awful annoyance. Prayer circle, three Sunday school classes, and Young Ladies' meeting have been held in our house today. And between times, the house was full of people until we could neither eat, sit down, or do anything else in peace."

### **17 May 1908, Monticello, Utah (stake conference)**

Joseph H. Dean attended stake conference in Monticello, Utah. Francis M. Lyman, President of the Quorum of the Twelve, and Apostle George Albert Smith were the visiting authorities. "Met Apostle Lyman at his request at 7 p.m. at Bishop Jones' residence. He wanted the names and standing of the brethren of the Redmesa Branch, with the view of making us into a ward. They are going to make a tour of the stake and will hold meeting with us on May 27, 1908."

### **24 May 1908, Redmesa, Colorado**

"As Sally is coming over this week and will occupy the cabin, we will not be able to use it anymore for meeting purposes. The brethren have accepted a proposition I made them that we build me an implement shed with corrugated iron roof, 16 x 25 ft., and I will give them credit for the material in their cash meeting house assessment and either repay in cash or in labor on the meeting house."

### **27 May 1908, Wednesday**

"This has been an important day in our history. Stake President Albert R. Lyman and Apostles Francis M. Lyman and George Albert Smith arrived here yesterday. Today they organized us into a full-fledged ward of the Church. Meeting was held in our cabin and began at 8:30 a.m., President Francis M. Lyman presiding. Sang 'Come, Come Ye Saints'; prayer by Bishop H. L. Cutler of the Kline Ward; sang 'Be It My Only Wisdom Here.'

"By vote of the people, it was decided to organize a ward and call it the Redmesa Ward. The dividing line between Redmesa and Kline Wards being the section line running east and west on the north line of Roberts' ranch.

"The brethren then nominated the following officers, who were sustained by the people:

Hiram M Taylor, bishop  
James M. Slade and Don C. Roberts, counselors  
Wilford Dean, ward clerk  
William Devenport, presiding teacher  
Perry Burnham, teacher no. 2

"These were the only officers chosen, the rest being left to the bishopric to choose.

"H. M. Taylor was ordained bishop by Apostle Francis M. Lyman and set apart to preside over the Redmesa Ward. James M. Slade was ordained a high priest and first counselor by Apostle George Albert Smith. Don C. Roberts was ordained a high priest and set apart by Apostle Francis M. Lyman. Wilford M. Dean was set apart by Apostle George Albert Smith. William Devenport was set apart by Francis M. Lyman. Perry Burnham was ordained an elder and set apart by Francis M. Lyman.

"Apostle Francis M. Lyman then gave a discourse on the duties of a bishop. George Albert Smith spoke also. Stake President Walter C. Lyman spoke and said we had been given a ward organization on account of our unity and what we had accomplished.

"There were 86 souls present. Sang 'Where The Voice of Friendship's Heard,' and benediction by Joseph B. Barton. There was a lovely spirit present, and the brethren were full of praise and blessings for us.

"President F. M. Lyman, George Albert Smith, and Walter C. Lyman took a Kodak picture of our cabin, where the meeting was held. Also, of our house.

"Immediately after dinner, we all started for Mancos. President F. M. Lyman going with me in our buggy with Dutch and Brownie. We took Sally along with us. She had been over from Mancos for the organization of the ward. Charlie is coming over with two wagons, and we will move Sally over to Redmesa."

### **28 May 1908, Mancos, Colorado**

"The Apostles left for home this morning on the train."

### **30 May 1908, Redmesa, Colorado**

"I cut my mustache off today."

### **31 May 1908**

"Have had an interesting day, the first Sabbath under our new organization. Had prayer meeting at Slade's and all other meetings at Taylor's, and Sally has moved into our cabin, where meetings have been held and where the ward was organized.

"Sang 'Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire'; prayer, O. C. Roberts; sang 'Jesus Once of Humble Birth'; sacrament administered by William Devenport and Don C. Roberts, assisted by deacons Lawrence Dean and Leo Taylor; speakers, William Devenport and Joseph H. Dean and the Bishopric; closing song, 'Redeemer of Israel'; benediction, William A. Walker.

"Had religion class after meeting and Mutual this evening."

"Yesterday was Primary Annual Day. The Primary gave an entertainment and dance. Sally, Florence, and I attended. There was a crowd of lovely young people and a splendid dance."

### **2 June 1908**

"I spent the day putting up the implement shed with the brethren of the ward. They are helping put it up for the free use of it for meeting purposes for the summer. We got it pretty well done except the roofing, which the Roberts brothers are going to have here tomorrow, they promised."

### **7 June 1908**

"Our five boys have been to Kline this afternoon, playing a game of ball with the Kline nine. Our boys won 8 to 6."

"William Devenport, Mary C. Roberts, and I were appointed a committee of three to get up the Fourth of July celebration."

### **24 June 1908**

"The La Plata River has gone nearly dry to the surprise and concern of everybody. It emphasized the necessity of storing water or running risk of losing our crops. The brethren all see the problem and are anxious to go into the matter of storage seriously."

### **30 June 1908**

"A very serious condition confronts us here in the shape of a water shortage. Our river and ditches are dry and not even any decent drinking water, hardly. It is an unexpected condition, and unless quite a plentiful supply of rain comes in time, we will get only a meager crop. My winter wheat will make it all right but nothing else. It may be just the kind of a scare we need to wake us up to the necessity of a reservoir."

### **2 July 1908**

"We took the brethren to look over the reservoir site. Some of them have never seen it. They were very enthusiastic about it. We have about decided to go to work on it next week as we now have spare time as nothing can be done on the meeting house and little on the farms without water."

### **4 July 1908**

"Our July 4th program is over. We had a grand time, all things considered, and everything went off splendidly. We met at the schoolhouse at 9:30, 24 vehicles in line. Stella Walker was Goddess of Liberty, with 13 little girls in white, and Willis Taylor as Uncle Sam, heading the procession. We went down to the river and had our exercise under the cottonwood grove, which had previously been cleaned out for the occasion.

"We carried out this program: Song, 'America'; prayer, Chaplain William Devenport; 'Star Spangled Banner,' Frank Greer; flag drill, 15 little girls, accompanied with music by Harry Dean and Lydia Taylor on violin and organ (the march music was 'Marching Through Georgia'); music by the string band; recitation, Mabel Greer; the Declaration of Independence, read by Joseph H. Dean; quartet, Jasper, Wilford, Harry, and Joseph H. Dean; oration, Hiram Taylor; music, string band; our country's flag, Frank Roberts; prayer, William Devenport; picnic for one hour; miscellaneous races, games, etc.; basketball at 2 p.m.; baseball at 4 p.m. between the Weber and Redmesa teams (Redmesa won 25 to 8). At 8:30 p.m. a dance was held in our new shed, 34 numbers sold at 25¢ each. We made a barrel of lemonade, and I tended it for two hours. Sally, Sister Roberts, Mamie Franklin, and Brother Taylor helped in turn. We cleared \$3.15 on it. Total expenses for the day, \$16. Total receipts, almost \$25, leaving a nice little balance, which we put in the new meeting house account.

"We are all terribly fagged out. Home full of visitors."

### **5 July 1908, Sunday**

"A special fast from 7:30 last night to 7:30 tonight, and prayers for rain."

### **6 July 1908**

"When we got up this morning, a nice stream of water was running in our ditch. We hastened out and got it on our trees and garden. Got Sally's trees watered and also some of Devenport's and then turned it down on our wheat patch. It seemed a marvelous answer to our prayers. We hear that someone at Kline shut down their ditch for one day to give us a drink. Others say it came from Hay Gulch. But wherever it was from, it was very welcome."

"This evening we have organized the Redmesa Irrigation and Reservoir Company. Everything was harmonious and unanimous. \$2,400 worth of stock subscribed for on the spot.

Joseph H. Dean, H. M. Taylor, Frank H. Roberts, James Slade, and Ben Steele were elected by ballot to the board of directors. Roberts, president; Taylor, superintendent; Dean, secretary and treasurer. We start in the morning to begin work. This is a very important event in the history of this place."

### **7 July 1908**

"Wilford and I and H. M. Taylor and Willis Taylor, with our teams, and Perry Burnham, Clark Roberts, James Slade, and Ben Steele came up here with our teams this morning to begin work on our ditch that is to take water from the river into our reservoir. Taylor, Slade, and I have spent the day surveying and laying out the ditch. It is going to be a bigger job than we thought. We are sleeping here in our camp on the La Plata River under the trees tonight."

### **8 July 1908**

"Spent the day on the ditch again, grubbing the right-of-way, principally. Sally and Sister Taylor, Steele, and Slade went up in John Wilden's spring wagon with supplies, and I came with them back home, as I have four other boys here whose labors don't pan out very profitably unless I am here to direct them.

"Had a nice shower today. It rained on us all the way down from the campsite and has given the ground a nice wetting."

### **11 July 1908**

"I heard water running in the ditch this morning at 3:30 and got up. Found a good, big stream and have spent the whole day irrigating. The stream is from Hay Gulch and has kept up all day. Had a nice rain also this evening."

### **13 July 1908**

"Have spent the whole day tending the water. The big stream still continues. I am 400 bushels of grain better off than I was a week ago because we have nearly got our fine patch of spring grain watered, which insures a good crop. Jasper has tended water also. Wilford has cultivated, Harry and Lawrence hauled rock for Sally's new house, and Charlie shoed horses."

### **18 July 1908**

"Elmer Taylor arrived today from Fruitland, preparatory to start brick making for the Mesa here. He brought his wife along."

### **23 July 1908**

"Most of the folks have gone to Mancos to spend the 24th."

### **24 July 1908**

"I started on Elmer Taylor's brick molds. He wants ten made, each holding three adobes. At 3 p.m. he came along with his span of colts and asked me to take a ride up to Kline with him, as he wanted to find out how many bricks the people up there are going to want. He has tested our river bottom dirt and finds it will make exceptionally fine brick of a deep red color."

**27 July 1908**

"Spent all day on Elmer's brick molds. Got them done. He and W. A. Walker have been moving them and lining them with linseed oil. They took dinner with us."

**29 July 1908**

"Jasper, Harry, and Charlie have been on the brick yard all day. They started today at full speed and turned out 7,000."

**3 August 1908**

"The rain Saturday destroyed some 10,000 adobes of Elmer Taylor's. They tried to make adobes today but could not on account of the wet land."

**10 August 1908**

"Got a letter from Apostle George A. Smith today, enclosing two Kodak pictures of our house and cabin they took when they were here to organize the ward."

**12 August 1908**

"By invitation, we have been down to Devenport's this evening, eating ice cream and crackers. The Bishop and family, Slade and wife, Will Wilden and wife, John Evans, and Josephine Walker were also there."

**19 August 1908**

"Still it rains! My grain that was ripe and ready to cut a week ago is still standing, and no prospects of being able to cut it, because of the rain. Have my hay ready to cut also. The rains the last week have wet the solid ground down to a depth of 7 inches, and everything is mud, mud, mud!"

**20 August 1908**

"Well, we have had quite a disaster strike us in the form of a fearful rain and hail storm. Lightning struck one of Jim Slade's horses and killed it, leaving him almost helpless again. The hail has threshed out our grain crops and cut our corn and vegetables to ribbons. I took Roy's dinner down to him on his place, and it began to sprinkle, but it developed into a flood before it was through. Every little draw became a torrent. To get home, Roy waded through water up to his waist, and I stayed until Harry came for me with a horse. Water poured over our reservoir dam here on our farm like a waterfall, but it was tramped hard by stock and it did not wash away badly. The cabin leaked so that Sally and Dolly and family came over here for supper. It has cleared off this evening."

**21 August 1908**

"For the first time this week, a day has passed without rain, for which we are thankful."

"Elmer Taylor has gone home to stay and given up the brick making, but Mr. Molenix, who has been working with him and who is a professional brick maker, is going to finish the job for us as soon as the weather permits, at \$3.00 a day."

### **24 August 1908**

"We organized the Relief Society this afternoon. Officers chosen were Sarah A. Dean, president; Mary C. Roberts and Lottie Walker, counselors; Pearl Evans, secretary; and Nellie Wilden, treasurer. Brother Taylor was mouth in setting Sally apart."

### **31 August 1908**

"The Improvement Era (Vol. XI, No. 11, September 1908, pg. 833) comes today with two pictures taken of our home here and cabin. The heading remarks, 'REDEEMING THE WASTE PLACES.' Then comes a picture of the house underneath: 'Temporary Meeting Place where the Redmesa Ward was Organized.' Between the pictures it says, 'The Redmesa Ward, San Juan Stake, Colorado, was organized by Elders Francis M. Lyman and George Albert Smith, May 27, 1908, Hyrum M. Taylor, bishop. A new meeting-house will be finished this fall. Photos by George Albert Smith."

### **11 September 1908**

"I expected 700 bushels, but only got 464. So the hail did me more damage than anyone, seemingly. I have had the blues over it all day."

### **12 September 1908**

"Have spent the whole day at Kline witnessing ball games and attending the stake MIA convention. Our boys played the Fruitland boys and beat them 11 to 9. It was surely a battle and caused much excitement. The Fruitlands then played the Kline 'Farmers' five innings and beat them 11 to 5. Then our boys were foolish enough to play Kline's Gentile team, who were fresh and strong while our boys had played without dinner and were exhausted, and so they got beat 11 to 6 in four innings."

### **27 September 1908, Sunday**

"Bishop Taylor thought it advisable to replace Brother Taylor as superintendent of the Sunday school."

Joseph H. Dean, sperintendent  
Frank H. Roberts, first assistant  
William A. Walker, second assistant  
Eva Taylor, secretary and treasurer  
Belle Wilden, assistant secretary  
Lydia Taylor, organist  
Vina Walker, assistant organist

### **11 October 1908**

"Have spent the whole day hauling brick for the meeting house. Had the old white horses, and they did fine. Nine other teams were out hauling also. Harry worked at the kiln, loading the teams. Wilford had plowed. Charlie has worked for A. H. Cofer—\$1.50 a day and board—picking up potatoes. He has no spending money, and I let him go to get a little."

**27 October 1908**

(Journal 40)

"The Bishop has been over tonight and wants me to go to work putting in the basement of the meeting house. I have already done more than my assessment (\$175) and would like to work for myself now. But there is no one else that can do anything in a mechanical line, it seems, so I promised to start Thursday morning."

**29 October 1908**

"Started laying brick in meeting house basement today. Willis Taylor and Jim Slade assisting. Got about 700 laid. The continual stooping over made my back ache, and I am awfully tired tonight."

**1 November 1908, Sunday**

"Have had a pleasant Sabbath as usual. Met for Sunday school in the 16 x 24 tent that we have bought from Roy Cooper and have set it up on Jim Slade's land. At the sacrament meeting, Frank Roberts was set apart as my first assistant in the Sunday school. Don Roberts, Jasper Dean, and Vosco Burnham were chosen to supervise the sports of the ward under auspices of the MIA. Held Mutual in our cabin. Chose Vosco Burnham captain of baseball team by ballot. Vosco got nine votes and Harry Dean six."

**20 November 1908**

"Elmer Taylor came to say that he could not come and that he could not spend enough time to finish the job on account of other jobs he had promised to do before he promised me. So to my great disappointment, our house here will have to lay over for the winter. Sally is all broken up over the failure of her house."

Joseph H. Dean left on November 20 to go sell school supplies and correspondence course books, life insurance, postcards, and souvenirs in many of the towns in the area and throughout Utah and eastern Idaho, returning to Redmesa on April 10, 1909.

**7 January 1909, Ogden, Utah**

"Got a nice, kind letter from Brother Taylor, my bishop in Redmesa. Also a Christmas box from Jasper and Florence, enclosing a tie from Jasper and a silk muffler from Florence. The Bishop says I don't need to worry about my family, as they are doing fine."

**22 January 1909, Salt Lake City, Utah**

"A postal from H. M. Taylor says that his wife Amanda has had to be operated on for enlarged liver. Dora Devenport is apt to die any minute from sugar diabetes."

**25 February 1909, Spanish Fork, Utah**

"Was shocked to hear through Brother Thurber that both Dora Devenport and Amanda Taylor were dead, and buried Dora at Redmesa and Sister Taylor at Mancos."

**10 April 1909, Redmesa, Colorado**

"Got home at 7 p.m. Find all the family well, but nearly all have sores on them. Their blood seems out of order."

### **11 April 1909, Sunday**

"They insisted on me presiding in prayer meeting and Sunday school. I was called on to speak in afternoon meeting, but on account of the noise from the wind and my sore, toothless mouth, I only spoke ten minutes to the disappointment of the people. But I just can't deliver an 'expected' speech."

### **27 May 1909**

"This has been a holiday for the ward, being one year since the ward was organized. We met at the river bottom at 12 noon, and dinner was spread on the ground. We were favored with five loads of people from Kline. We had a nice sociable dinner. At 1:30 we had a meeting where I presided."

Participating in the program were William Devenport, Mary C. Roberts, the Devenport sisters, Eva Taylor, Hiram Taylor, Joseph H. Dean, James Slade, L. B. Burnham, Wilford M. Dean and Bishop Butler and Jeff Slade of the Kline Ward.

There was a basketball game between the Redmesa girls and a baseball game between the married and singles of Redmesa. The singles won six to four. Then they had a basketball game between the Redmesa boys. A dance was given in the new meeting house basement; 30 numbers were sold. "Everybody is delighted with our new meeting house basement, and the day went off with no unpleasantness of any kind."

### **6 June 1909, Sunday**

"H. M. Taylor, Wilford, Myrtle Devenport, and I sang 'Home Sweet Home' in sacrament meeting."

### **11 July 1909**

(Journal 41)

"In Mutual meeting tonight, the young folks debated the question: 'resolved that the *Young Women's Journal* is more valuable than the *Improvement Era*.' Affirmative: Pearl Evans, Daphne Cooper, Warren Burnham; negative: Don C. Roberts, Leo Taylor, Lawrence Dean; judges: Bishop Taylor, Sarah A. Dean, Clara Taylor. The *Young Women's Journal* won."

### **18 July 1909, Sunday**

"In the evening meeting, we had a debate: 'resolved that intemperance has caused more misery than war.' Sally and Harry and Sister Slade were on the war side; and Sister Walker, James Slade, and Perry Burnham were on the intemperance side. The latter side won."

### **24 July 1909**

"Have to milk now night and morning, pulling at five cows and only getting as much as one good cow ought to give. Some changes must be made in our cow arrangements. One good cow would do as much on the feed we can afford for five and save so much herding and milking bother."

### **8 August 1909**

"We had our usually happy Sunday. Prayer meeting in the basement of the meeting house and had such a sweet, spiritual feast. Bertha and Myrtle Devenport, Bishop Taylor, and I sang

'God Is Weighing You, My Brother,' which melted everybody. Also had lovely Sunday school. One feature of the Sunday school was Clifford dismissing the meeting, and he did it fine. In the evening meeting, John Evans and I occupied the time, he talking for five minutes and I for 40. Felt moderately well."

### **15 August 1909, Mancos, Colorado**

At stake conference, Joseph H. Dean led the singing, and Hiram Taylor, Myrtle Devenport, Wilford Dean, and he sang "Home Sweet Home." Joseph recorded that he spoke for 35 minutes "with great freedom," and Bishop Hiram Taylor followed and was also "blessed in his remarks."

In the afternoon meeting, Joseph H. Dean sang "Sometime, Somewhere" with Harry Dean accompanying on the violin and Miss Butler on the piano.

Monday afternoon, MIA sports event were held—basketball, races, etc.

### **24 August 1909, Redmesa, Colorado**

"We went up to our reservoir site with President Lyman, Redd, and Bishop Taylor. They think it is a fine proposition and can heartily recommend to Zion's Savings Bank that they lend us \$5,000 for ten years at 6%. We, on our part, agree to put in \$3 worth of work for every dollar of cash drawn after the purchase price and outstanding obligation are paid, and then deed to them the whole proposition as security. We are to pay back \$800 a year till all is paid off. President Lyman is quite confident that he can get it for us. If so, it seems we will be OK on the water proposition."

### **13 September 1909**

"Have worked like beavers, putting up our hay. Hired Bishop Taylor to help us. Let Lawrence go teaching, but with the consent of the Bishop, I kept Harry and Charlie home to work in the hay. We got it all up but the lower 3 acres."

### **3 October 1909**

"Bishop Taylor, the Devenport girls, and I sang 'God Is Weighing You' in afternoon meeting. It is really wonderful the spiritual feasts we have Sunday after Sunday. I have never known the equal of it anywhere."

### **9 October 1909**

"By invitation, I met with the bishopric, the main topic being the laying out of our graveyard."

### **10 October 1909, Sunday**

"After meeting, Bishop H. M. Taylor, William Devenport, and I went and laid off a few lots in the graveyard so that people can have a burial place when needed."

### **18 October 1909**

"Threshed 721 bushels of wheat and oats."

### **27 October 1909**

The bean crop yielded 300 pounds. "The boys plowed up the carrots and beets and gathered some in. Kept all the Dean children out of school this morning to pick up potatoes. We got about 1,500 lbs. and got them all in the cellar by noon."

### **31 October 1909**

"Had a little unpleasantness with L. B. Burnham today. He kicked at the wages I charge him for the boys, whom he is always coaxing me to have work for him. I was foolish enough to get out of temper and so said some things I ought not. So I intend apologizing to him next time I meet him."

### **18 November 1909**

"Have been trying to teach Harry, Lawrence, Charlie, and Leo Taylor a quartet tonight, but it is an almost impossible job, as all their voices are in the lower range."

### **25 November 1909 (Thanksgiving Day)**

"Lawrence and Harry were invited to dine at the Bishop's with their girls.

"After dinner we took a ride, and at 6:30 we attended a Thanksgiving entertainment."

Included in the program were prayer by William Devenport; missionary experiences, Joseph H. Dean; duet, "As the Dew," Joseph H. Dean and Lucy (Dean) Dinwoodey; song, "A Mormon Boy," Clifford Dean, Stanley Dean, Dean Dinwoodey, and Clinton Dinwoodey; Thanksgiving sentiments, Mary C. Roberts and Sarah A. Dean; quartet, "Zion Prospers," Joseph H. Dean, H. M. Taylor, Lucy Dinwoodey, and Myrtle Devenport; instrumental music, Lucy Dinwoodey and Harry Dean; quartet, H. M. Taylor and family; benediction, Don C. Roberts.

### **18 December 1909**

"Have had a busy day. Clifford and I finished laying the floor (of wife Sally's new house) and Harry, Dean Dinwoodey, and Sally moved down the things from the cabin, and Lucy cleaned up and got things in shape. So Sally and family are in their new home at last, and a splendid and comfortable home, it will be. I am very proud of it and very thankful that I have succeeded in getting it done as far as it is. There is a lot to do yet, but they will be comfortable and warm, and in time we will have things fixed up nicely."

Son Harry A. Dean:

"Florence's lumber home was on the forth 40 acres, and Sally's brick home was one half mile south on the lower 40, bordering Roy's land, which was just east of Sally's new house. Father alternated his lodging, staying one week at wife Sally's and the next week at Florence's."

### **7 January 1910**

"Bishop Taylor sent for me and showed me a letter he had received from Walter C. Lyman, saying that he had just returned from Salt Lake City and had succeeded in getting us the five thousand dollar loan from the Church that we had applied for. And as soon as we can get the description of the land and names of those who are willing to sign the contract, and can get the

papers signed and back to them, we can draw on the fund as fast as we need it. This is glorious news. That will take us out of the hands of the professional money sharks and into the hands of our brethren, who will want to bless us instead of swindle us. The loan will brighten our prospects and put a new complexion on everything."

### **9 January 1910, Sunday**

"After meeting we had a business meeting about the reservoir matters, and the brethren voted unanimously to pledge themselves to stand by us in the \$5,000 loan matters. Later I went over to the Bishop's and took the deeds, etc. necessary to be sent up for them to make out the mortgage and contract from."

### **20 January 1910**

"Ida Devenport came running and crying for me to hurry down to their place and administer to her father, as they were afraid he was dying. I ran down and found him unconscious with pain, with every symptom of appendicitis. I administered to him, and he got immediate relief and insisted that I come home to sleep, though I had gone down prepared to stay all night."

### **February 1910, Salt Lake City, Utah**

Joseph H. Dean was gone from February 1 to February 23 to stake conference in Bluff, Utah, then on to Salt Lake City. In stake conference the leaders advised families in the stake to hold a weekly family meeting at home.

### **? March 1910, Redmesa, Colorado**

By assignment from Bishop Hiram Taylor, Joseph H. Dean built ten benches for the meeting house.

### **24 March 1910**

"This evening we have had a 'family at home.' All the family met here at Florence's for the first of the weekly family meetings. Every member was present. We met at 7:30 and started with a picnic. Had pie, cake, chocolate, and bread and butter. Began by singing 'Our God We Raise to Thee'; prayer by Sarah A. Dean; followed by 'Love at Home'; recitations from Stanley and Clifford; duet, 'Rock-a-By Baby,' Stella and Louise; remarks by Sally, Florence, and myself; dismissal by Lawrence. We had a very pleasant time, and the Spirit of the Lord was present."

### **8 April 1910**

"Have spent the week mostly marking and disking. Clifford and I have marked the 18 acres of wheat on the second 40, and I put in yesterday disking on the lower 80. Harry and Charlie have spent most of the week fencing. They have put in posts a rod apart, where they were first two rods apart on south fence of second 40. We have planted the orchard into oats and got the lower 80 seeded into wheat and oats, nearly 40 acres of grain altogether."

### **11 April 1910**

"Harry and his mother went up to Lew Burnham's in the afternoon and got \$4.55 worth of fruit trees and gooseberry and currant bushes, which we will plant tomorrow. Harry also went

up to Roberts' and bought 100 lbs. of alfalfa seed and 120 lbs. of lime. Lawrence and Clifford have worked on the lower 80, harrowing and marking. Charlie has worked on the Warren ditch."

### **22 April 1910**

"Tonight we have been to a character ball in our meeting house, gotten up by the Young Ladies Mutual Association. It was quite a success. The Dean family made quite an appearance. Harry was dressed as Valentine, Clifford as April Fool, Charlie and Lawrence in sailor suits, and Stella represented music.

"It was also a 'bow ball.' The girls had two bows, one sealed in an envelope and put in a bag and the other pinned on their dress. The boys paid 25¢ for the privilege of drawing a bow. When they opened their envelopes, the boys then hunted the girls with the duplicate bows, and she was their partner for the evening, and she furnished the supper in a basket, and they ate together. Clifford drew Sadie Taylor, Harry drew Evelyn Wilden, Charlie drew Stella Pinkerton, Lawrence drew Lydia Taylor, and Stella drew John Evans. This was the largest crowd I think we have had at a party."

### **2? May? 1910**

"Florence, Sally, and I, with Sister Walker and Josephine, went to Kline in the afternoon to vote for H. M. Taylor for school trustee for the coming three years. He received 66 votes to James Baird's 14."

### **27 May 1910**

On the second anniversary of the organization of the Redmesa Ward, the members celebrated with a program: sang "Our God We Raise to Thee"; prayer, Charlie Wilden; song "All Things Beautiful"; remarks, Mary C. Roberts; remarks, Hiram M. Taylor; vocal solo, Willis Taylor; sentiments by William Devenport and Lottie Walker; quartet, Joseph H. Lawrence, Harry, and Clifford Dean; comic reading, Dora Burnham; remarks on Redmesa's future, B. B. Warren; and selections by the harmonica band. Then they had a picnic at noon and basketball, races, etc., then a dance in the evening.

### **28 May 1910**

"In the afternoon a matched game of basketball was played between the Weber team and our boys. Some 25 people came over from Mancos to play the game and hold a debate under the auspices of the MIA. The basketball line up was—Redmesa: Harry Dean, Willis Taylor, Warren Burnham, Charlie Dean, and Leo Taylor; Weber: J. J. Jensen, Joseph Smith, Platt Hammond, Frank Wheeler, and Frank Fielding. The score was 20 to 6 in favor of Redmesa. The debate was also won by the Redmesa team of Willis Taylor and John Evans against J. J. Jensen and James Smith, debating the subject of 'resolved that city life is more preferable than county life.'"

### **28? May 1910**

"Had an important business meeting today on reservoir matters. We decided to start work there on June 13. Bishop Taylor, general superintendent for \$4.00 a day. Tom Hadden, team boss for \$3.50 a day."

### **9 June 1910, Mancos, Colorado**

Visit with Ernest Broadhead and to the reservoirs in and around Mancos: "Brother Taylor and I came over here to get what information we could that will enable us to intelligently put in our reservoir at Hay Gulch. We think we have gained some valuable information." Joseph H. Dean and Hiram Taylor were impressed by the headgate designed by Ernest Broadhead. "It strikes us as being much superior to anything else on the market, and we think we shall recommend it to our people."

### **13 June 1910, Redmesa, Colorado**

"Have spent the day on reservoir matters. The whole ward turned out with teams and went up to the site in a body. Met there at 11 a.m. on the east shoulder of the dam site. Sang 'Come Come Ye Saints.' The Bishop called on me to dedicate the site to the Lord and to ask his blessings upon the labors of the people. Sang 'How Firm a Foundation.' Don Roberts, Jim Slade, the Bishop, and I made a few remarks, and benediction by Charles Wilden. A spirit of perfect unity prevailed, and those who had never seen the site were very much pleased with it.

"We contracted for \$255 worth of hay at 5 dollars a ton to feed the horses at the dam site. We will go into camp tomorrow night and start work Wednesday morning.

"We then came down to the river and had lunch and spent three hours in games and races. I consider it a very profitable day's work and a splendid move to let the people all know what the reservoir means."

### **28 June 1910**

Mary Ann Dunton, Sarah Devenport's mother, died at 5 p.m.

### **4 July 1910**

"We met at the school house at 9:30 and went in procession to the grove in the river bottom. It consisted of Lloyd Greer, Uncle Sam; Goddess of Liberty, Miss Poyer; 13 girls on horseback, representing the 13 original states; queen of the float was Stella Dean, surrounded by a host of little girls and boys, including Dorothy Dean and Robert Cooper. Then the wagon with the band—Harry Dean, violin; John Evans, guitar; Jim Slade, Morris Wilden, and Warren Burnham, mouth organs. People followed on horseback and in vehicles.

"On the way to the river, the float with the little ones began breaking up. The post of the awning fell over first, then the float began going to pieces, and at the river it got so bad that we had to take all of the children off."

The program at the river consisted of the songs "America" and "The Star Spangled Banner"; prayer by William Rowe; reading of the Declaration of Independence by Frank Roberts; Wilford Dean and Arthur Greer were the clowns; oration, Joseph H. Dean; song by the Greer boys; sentiment to the flag by Eva Taylor; double quartet by Joseph H. Dean and boys.

Races and a basketball game followed in the afternoon after the picnic, and there was a dance in the evening.

### **12 July 1910**

"Frank Roberts and Eva Taylor are to be married soon. He and Eva and Sister Taylor are now in Durango, getting her wardrobe."

### **14 July 1910**

Hiram Taylor had gone to Salt Lake City to complete the application for the reservoir loan of \$5,000. "After work, Sally and I went up to Kline to Hanford Miller, notary public, to sign a trust deed in favor of Zion's Savings Bank for the \$5,000 loan we are getting."

Elmer Taylor came up from Fruitland to lay the conduit to the reservoir.

### **21 July 1910**

"This is Frank Roberts and Eva Taylor's wedding day. They were married by her father, the Bishop, at 10:00 this morning at the Taylor's residence, no one but relatives present. They left here for Durango at 4 p.m. to spend two nights, then they go to the mountains for two weeks. Everybody seems happy and satisfied."

### **7 August 1910**

Sally Dean took the job as cook at the reservoir site, for \$1.00 a day, working there until August 27.

### **15 August 1910**

"Our reservoir money has arrived at last. I got a check for \$3,500, made out to Joseph H. Dean and Sarah A. Dean. They will not charge us interest on the remaining \$1,500 until we draw it.

"I will deposit \$2,500 in the First National Bank and \$1,500 in the La Plata County Bank."

### **11 September 1910**

"Frank Roberts and Eva Taylor gave a free dance tonight in honor of their marriage."

### **17 September 1910**

"Spent the day at Roberts again (doing carpentry work), making 50 days I have worked for them—\$200. And there are many more before things are all done."

### **? September 1910, Durango, Colorado**

"I have had quite a day's experience. I went to Dr. Folson, the chairman of the County Committee, and asked him for a candid statement as to what the general sentiment is concerning my candidacy for the county commissioner. He said it was conceded that I was in every way fit for the place, much more so than any other man seeking the place, but there was a fear the anti-Mormon prejudices would hurt me and the ticket of I ran on it. I then went to other prominent Republicans, and they all expressed the same fear. So under the circumstances, I gave it up.

"The popular Mr. Reister, who is up for reelection to succeed himself on the Democratic ticket, would likely broadcast my family affairs and stir up a good deal of unpleasantness. I

therefore determined to support A. C. Barr of Kline for the county commissioner. Mr. Ballinger was the man slated for the nomination, and our man Barr wouldn't have gotten a decent vote but for me. I took the floor and injected a little (?) into the proceedings. I told them we had been turned down all day in what we had tried for. The Redmesa and Fort Lewis people were not considered. If that sentiment were kept up, the Republican party would lose [what] they needed to win. That my part of the county was tired of this treatment year after year, and I warned them that it was very poor party policy to turn us down, and that we demanded the nomination of Mr. Barr for county commissioner.

"There was quite a sensation, and those who had been turned down all day applauded my remarks, and to my great surprise, Mr. Barr got the nomination."

#### **24 October 1910**

"I am at Florence's. Irma Taylor is sleeping here with Stella."

#### **26 October 1910**

"Don C. Roberts and Claire Poyer were married this evening by Bishop H. M. Taylor. She is going to be baptized right away, however. As Don has had his endowments, the Bishop refused to marry them without the consent of Stake President William Halls. So Don went over there and got his consent. I don't know what the arrangements are, but I have heard that Don would not co-habit with her until they had been to the temple, but I don't know. They have tried to keep the whole thing a secret. Miss Poyer is an unusually intelligent girl, and if she is really converted, she will be quite an acquisition to our ward."

#### **28 October 1910**

"Have spent part of the day making final proof on our Desert Entry. Bishop Taylor and Jim Slade were my witnesses. The total expense of the land deal was \$94.30."

#### **30 October 1910, Sunday**

Claire Poyer Roberts was baptized in the small reservoir on Joseph H. Dean's farm and was confirmed in church by Bishop Hiram M. Taylor.

#### **31 October 1910, Redmesa, Colorado**

Republican political rally. "I was chosen chairman. There were seven candidates from Durango present."

"Harry (Dean) and Lydia Taylor got \$5.00 each for playing for the dance afterward."

#### **1 November 1910**

"There is a Democratic rally at Kline tonight, and Harry (Dean) and Lydia Taylor have gone to play for the dance again—\$5.00 each."

#### **10 November 1910**

The Democrats won all the county offices but one—Mr. Barr, a Republican, won for county commissioner.

### **13 November 1910, Sunday**

Jasper Dean spoke in the church meeting before leaving for a mission. Also speaking were Charlie Dean, Walter Walker, and Willard Call. Joseph H. Dean and Myrtle Devenport sang "Dear To the Heart of the Shepherd," and Jasper sang "Face to Face."

The ward members gave Jasper a farewell program and dance on Monday evening.

### **20 November 1910**

At stake conference in Moab, Utah, President Walter C. Lyman was released and L. H. Redd of Mancos was called as the new president.

### **26 November 1910**

"The brethren have discontinued work on the reservoir and have all come home, bag and baggage, quitting for the winter. They have done a very satisfactory summer's work, which started on June 15, and have worked without ceasing ever since except a few days the weather has been unfavorable."

### **29? November 1910, Mancos, Colorado**

A team from Redmesa played basketball against the Mancos team, in which the Redmesa team lost 36 to 18. On the Redmesa team were Harry Dean, Charlie Dean, Willis Taylor, Leo Taylor, Walter Walker, and Warren Burnham.

### **10 January 1911, Redmesa, Colorado**

"The Sunday school officers and teachers held their faculty meeting at Claire Roberts.' Florence, Sally, Harry, and I went in our buggy. Spent 20 minutes studying our lessons for next Sunday and playing, or hearing, Claire Roberts play on her beautiful piano. Harry had his violin and played a couple of pieces with her. I sang 'Out On the Deep' and 'When the Wind Blows a Gale,' two songs I have learned from her while working there. Myrtle and Bertha Devenport each sang a song. Bishop Taylor gave a comic reading. We had conundrum jokes and problems to solve."

### **11 January 1911**

"The directors of the reservoir decided to apply \$160 of our reservoir money on a note at First National Bank of Durango—money we borrowed to finish our basement of our meeting house."

### **12 January 1911**

"Bishop Taylor came and borrowed \$50 reservoir money tonight, promising to pay it back in a few days."

### **? January 1911**

Joseph H. Dean was hired to paint the new store for \$35.

### **19 January 1911, Bluff, Utah**

Stake conference. "In afternoon meeting Wilford Dean, Lou Roberts, myself, and Bishop Taylor were the speakers."

### **18 March 1911, Redmesa, Utah**

"A large crack is developing in the dam, which is causing us considerable worry and has to be dug to the bottom and fixed."

### **26 March 1911**

"I have sold Dutch and Brownie (horses) to Brother Devenport for \$200 in reservoir stock."

### **29 March 1911**

"We have made a very distressing discovery at the reservoir today. It was so full that we decided to open the headgate and let it lower the water level some. At my suggestion, we opened it full capacity, which let out a very big stream. We were thunderstruck to find a large stream running out of the ground just below the dam, right over the conduit, showing that the conduit is cracked or broken off in that place. The conduit is twice as long as the small dam we now have in, and it is plain to me what happened: the half covered by the dam has made it settle some, and it had to break. When we opened the headgate to full capacity, it caused some pressure in the conduit, and that forced the water up through the crack and out through the dirt. When we partly shut the water off so that there was no pressure, it stopped. It nearly scared us to death but is not so very serious, I suppose. We will have to dig away the dirt all around the conduit and stop the break with cement, and for that purpose, we are going up tomorrow and fix it.

"I also find the spillway too high and will not do any good unless lowered."

### **30 March 1911, Hay Gulch, Colorado**

"Six of the men went up to the reservoir to mend what we thought to be a break in the reservoir conduit. Upon excavating away the dirt, we were paralyzed to find that it was not broke off but that there were big cracks all along the sides where the top half was joined to the bottom half in making it. This is a fearful discovery and means that back under the dam it is apt to be in the same condition but is probably kept from leaking by the pressure of the dirt. This opens up fearful possibilities, and we are uncertain what to do to fix it.

"While we were eating our dinner, a portion of the back of the dam slid off and out, and another crack formed further up the dam. Here was another fearful predicament. It looked as though it would keep caving away and let the dam break through if we didn't get something built up to hold it. So it was decided that Brother Slade and I should rush home after everybody we could possibly get to come up and help. We got a team and man each from Cooper's and Roberts', one at Hadden's, three men and a team at Walker's, and Leo and a team at Taylor's. We went to our homes and got some food and some bedding and rushed back, and all hands have worked until dark and have got the caving down stopped, and as we felt somewhat safer, we decided not to work night shift. Half of the men have gone home for the night, but half of us have remained here at the dam site. We have had a very strenuous day, both physically and mentally, and I am completely fagged out."

### **31 March 1911, Redmesa, Colorado**

"Have spent another nerve-wracking day! Got up this morning at the peep of day and found that the water had raised two inches during the night. I got those who were there to work immediately on the spillway to lower it so we could help draw the water off, and we opened the headgate to its full capacity. Soon afterward, a big slide occurred at the east end of the dam, and an hour later, another slide, making a worse proposition than that we found yesterday in the middle of the dam. The water filtered through the hill at the spillway and wet the dam badly. We got to work cutting trees and hauling them across the dam and rolling them down into the hole where the slide occurred, with the view of building some kind of a foundation to keep the dam from sliding out anymore.

"As I intend starting to Mancos in the morning on the way to Salt Lake, I left the dam at 10:00 to come home and get ready. Harry, who stayed up all day at the dam, says that the trees, rocks, etc. that had been put in the dam all slid out about 3 p.m. So there we are! One encouraging thing, however, is that the water is gradually lowering. And if the snow at the head of Hay Gulch gives out right away, we are saved. If the present stream keeps up, the end is very certain. I feel awfully fagged out with worry about the dam, but I think we will save it."

### **1 April 1911**

"I decided to postpone my leaving for Salt Lake until Monday, as I would feel uneasy if I went away under such uncertainty. I got on Topsy and went up to the dam. When I got to the reservoir, I found the brethren feeling very cheerful. The water was down two inches, and the dam was holding all right. We came away feeling that the worst was over."

### **2 April 1911, Sunday**

"After meeting, Sally, Florence, Charlie, Clifford, Myrtle Devenport, and I went up to the reservoir in our wagon. The water had gone down six inches, and we now feel that the worst is over and that we will have our dam all right."

### **3 April 1911**

"Our new organ is at Hesperus, so I will go up to the train in the morning, and Harry will go along and bring the organ back, and I will go on to Salt Lake."

Joseph H. Dean took the train from Hesperus to Salt Lake City, and Hiram Taylor and a dozen others met the train at Mancos to go to General Conference with him.

### **8 April 1911, Salt Lake City, Utah**

"At 2 p.m. Bishop Taylor and I went to Salt Air to see the flying machines fly. The day was perfect, and we had a fine entertainment. The 'birdmen' sailed around as easily as real birds would do. It soon got monotonous, however, as it was all the same, and after one has seen it, one soon gets tired of it. There was nothing sensational. Curtiss gave us something new, however, in that he went on the lake as well as in the air. He had some kind of boat-like shoes on the bottom and could scoot along on top of the water or rise into the air at will. Two hours was all we could stand of it."

## **9 April 1911**

While in Salt Lake City, Joseph H. Dean and Hiram Taylor hoped to get the Church to accept stock in their reservoir to pay back their \$5,000 loan.

"The Bishop and I and President Redd went to the President's Office at 9:00 and then again at 10:00, and at 11:30 got a few minutes with President Smith. We were rather unsuccessful, as he refused to consider our case until it is reduced to writing, and when he found that President Redd had not even seen the reservoir, he said he wanted him to do so and report the situation. So we came away rather crest-fallen.

"I went to Zion's Savings Bank, however, and represented our situation, how almost impossible it is for us to raise money to pay the interest on the \$5,000 loan except in the fall of the year. And without any ado, he kindly consented that we should pay the interest every November. So that much is accomplished, anyway."

## **23? April 1911, Redmesa, Colorado**

"After meeting, the reservoir board met and organized, with H. M. Taylor, president; James Slade, vice president; and Joseph H. Dean, secretary and treasurer."

## **27 April 1911**

"We have received our seal and our stock book, and we are now an incorporated company."

## **1 May 1911**

"A state engineer has come out here for the purpose of examining our reservoir. It has been reported to him that the dam was in very bad condition. He was very favorably impressed and surprised to see it in such good condition and said he would make a favorable report. They require that the water be kept down 8 feet below the top of the dam, and before we fill it again in another year, that we give the back of the dam the proper slope and make a safe spillway."

## **? May 1911**

"A severe frost came last night, cutting down all our alfalfa that was not wet with irrigation. Our fruit buds were all killed, and also 75 tomato plants Sally set out yesterday and everything else that could be frozen. It is very discouraging. We would have had quite a bit of fruit, had the frost let it alone."

## **13 May 1911**

"The afternoon meeting was occupied by Sally and W? H. Coray on the Bible. This year is the 300th anniversary of its publication (the King James Translation), and the event is being celebrated by the Christian churches. Sally occupied 30 minutes and wasn't through. She accidentally touched a little tap bell on the table with a book, and ringing it, she thought the Bishop was calling 'time,' so she stopped. Brother Coray spoke 20 minutes.

"In afternoon meeting, Florence resigned as president of the Primary Association and was honorably released, and her first counselor Agnes Slade was also released for the same reason, that they couldn't properly attend to it on account of their families. The new presidency are Stella Call, president, and Myrtle Devenport and Ireta Hall, counselors."

### **19 May 1911, Mancos, Colorado**

Stake conference. "Have spent the evening writing out a statement for the stake president concerning our temporal affairs at Redmesa, from which they can base a communication to the First Presidency, asking for financial aid for us.

"I have also written to the state engineer at Denver, asking him to allow us to fill the reservoir within 6 feet of the top of the dam instead of the 8-foot state requirement he ordered."

### **29 May 1911, Monday, Redmesa, Colorado**

"There is quite a sensation here. Charles Pinkerton's father, a man nearly 80 years of age, is here on a visit to his son and is interesting himself very much about my marital relations. He seems to have no particular prejudice against our religion but objects to a man posing as a teacher and exemplar before the people and yet lives in 'adultery,' as he calls it, right before the public. He went over yesterday to see Bishop Taylor, but the Bishop was not home, so he left word that he would like the Bishop to call on him.

"So after afternoon meeting, the Bishop and wife went over. The old man started the subject, said it was praying upon his mind so he could hardly sleep, and he called upon the Bishop to exercise his jurisdiction to have me put away my plural family. The Bishop asked him why he wasn't exercised over the immorality in his own community. He admitted that such things existed, but not under the guise of religion. If I were in the same condition as a lustful man and didn't pretend to be anything else, it would be tolerable, but doing it under a religious cloak was the trouble in his mind.

"The old man reiterated his determination to (swear?) out a complaint, charging me with adultery, and the Bishop thinks he means it and that he is entirely (conscientious?) about it.

"What he will do about it remains to be seen, or whether the officers of the law would take any action or not, which is very doubtful, but there is no telling. I have often imagined myself speaking before a jury in Durango in my own defense on such a charge."

### **15 June 1911**

"William A. Walker just returned from Durango with the news that old man Pinkerton is there badgering the district attorney, who says he may have to move against me against his will. The district attorney had suggested to Walker that I skip out somewhere until after this June session of court is over so that the marshal can come out and not find me, and so dispose of the matter. I have consulted with Bishop Taylor, and we hardly know what to do. The Bishop has strained his back so that he can hardly walk, or, he says, he would go in to Durango and see what is going to be done or what foundation there is for the rumor.

"I have a good mind to go off for a month, canvassing for school supplies. The uncertainty and annoyance worries me, and I wish I knew what the danger is. I surely never expected to have to go on the underground again."

### **18 June 1911, Sunday**

"I was called on to speak in afternoon meeting and gave the people a sermon on plural marriage. My object was to give the young people an understanding of the principle so they

could defend their birth, and to let them know that they were under no shadow if born in that order of marriage. The people were much interested."

### **? June 1911**

Leo Taylor and Harry Dean had been putting up hay on the La Plata, but they got fired because they refused to work on Sunday.

### **13 July 1911**

"The worst storm of the year and one of the heaviest we have ever had came during the night, beginning at 3 a.m. The lightening and thunder were simply terrific. At daylight, when the rain had ceased, our wash was a river and the water ran over the dam of our farm reservoir.

"The Bishop came over, and we decided to go up to the reservoir in Hay Gulch. We were fearful that it would be full and running over. We were surprised to find that it had not been raining there. But we made a frightful discovery. Upon trying to open the headgate wider, [we found] that the pipe that turns the gate open and shut has seemingly become unfastened, so we could neither open it wider or shut it off. What in the world we will do now, I can't imagine. A man can't crawl up the conduit and see what's the matter because the water can't be shut out, and we can't get down in front of the headgate because the reservoir is full. It looks like an awful predicament, and we can't see the solution of it. We came back home feeling awfully blue."

### **16 July 1911**

"We are terribly anxious about our reservoir. Our Stella and Ida Devenport went up there with Leo Taylor for a ride this afternoon and report it nearly full. And now this rain. I don't see how it can escape unless the dam will stand running over the top without washing out."

### **17 July 1911**

"Well, I have a frightful catastrophe to report, that our reservoir went out last night, and I am about \$1,000 poorer than I was yesterday.

"Brother Devenport came up at midnight and awoke me. The fearful roaring of the reservoir waters had awakened him, as his bedroom window faced the north. Upon going out, I could hear the fearful roar. We went over and woke Bishop Taylor and James Slade, and we all decided to go up on horseback. Everything was comparatively quiet when we went up, but upon reaching the mouth of Hay Gulch, we were paralyzed at the sight. The marks of the water went from side to side of the canyon, and the evidence of the fearful volume of rushing water was everywhere, though the flood had passed by and things had assumed their normal condition. Upon reaching the dam site, a fearful sight met our gaze in the moonlight. The entire west half of the dam had gone out, and the channel was cut down to the original creek bed. The cement conduit, headgate, and pipe were gone—we couldn't see where—and the reservoir was completely empty. We waited three hours for daylight, that we could better see what things looked like. We found the headgate about 20 feet below where it was set and the cement conduit washed down the canyon and smashed to pieces.

"We returned home and examined the damage done by the flood, the Wannamaker farm that was immediately in the path of the flood and also Mr. Richardson's place, the next ranch

down. Wannamaker's hay had been washed down, and about one-third of his corn field covered and the corn bent down. It had come up to his house but had not reached or damaged it. But a calf had been washed away.

"Mr. Richardson had not been hurt, except ½ acre of wheat. We met him riding up to see the catastrophe. He seemed terribly worked up, especially toward Bishop Taylor and me. As he rode by us two, we being about 100 yards ahead of Devenport and Slade, he said, 'I wish you two had been drowned in this flood.' We made him no answer and kept riding along.

"We continued on down to Warren's, but no further damage had been done to anyone. We have heard from down the La Plata that no particular damage had been done down there.

"I felt awfully crushed this morning but have regained my spirits tonight, and I am happy to say that I cannot discover any spirit of discouragement among the people."

### **18 July 1911**

"It looks like our hay will be a total loss. It rains every day while the hay is down. The hay in the shocks is going moldy and black, and now this evening another heavy rain has occurred. So our first cutting, which I thought would be enough to last my stock, won't be anything. Our trouble seems to be endless, lately."

### **20 July 1911**

"Answer has at last come from the First Presidency to the appeal of the stake presidency in behalf of the Redmesa Ward that they take up the \$5,000 loan at Zion's Savings Bank and take capital stock in our reservoir payment. They decline to do it on the grounds of lack of funds, but they promise to pay the interest for us if we cannot reach it. And at some future time, they may be able to take up the loan.

"So that anticipated help has fallen down. Everything seems conspiring to put us down. We are now absolutely on our own resources, and we can't imagine what we will do. The sentiment of the reservoir board at our meeting tonight, however, is to not give up."

### **22 July 1911**

"Attended a meeting of the stockholders of the reservoir tonight, called for the purpose of deciding what our policy would be concerning the reservoir. The sentiment was unanimous that we stick with it and put it in again."

### **29? July 1911**

The second cutting of hay was successful, yielding 27 loads for Joseph H. Dean. Joseph H. Dean and Hiram Taylor exchanged help—Harry Dean hauled wheat for Hiram Taylor, and Leo Taylor helped with the hay of Joseph H. Dean.

### **30 July 1911**

"At Mutual tonight I was asked to sing in place of Carl Walker, who was not present, and I sang 'Sometime, Somewhere,' Harry playing on his violin."

### **3 August 1911, Thursday**

“Have decided to go for lumber at the Cherry Creek Mill tomorrow and Saturday and take the children along to pick wild currants.” Those going included Stella, Lea, Stanley, and Clifford Dean and Irma Taylor. They camped near the mill, and the kids played Hide and Seek by the light of the campfire.

### **6 August 1911**

“At a meeting of the stockholders of the reservoir this evening, we decided to go to work on the reservoir again on October 1 and credit the work in capital stock.”

### **12 September 1911, Kirtland, New Mexico (stake conference)**

Joseph H. Dean, Hiram M. Taylor, Leo Taylor, and John Evans sang a quartet *The Teacher's Work Is Done*.

### **21 September 1911, Redmesa, Colorado**

“Going out to my bean patch this morning, I was paralyzed to see that last Tuesday's rain and hail had beaten them out on the ground—I should say, about half of them, and as I have six acres, that means a loss of about \$100. And so it goes. It is enough to make a man cry! Through the elements this year, we have lost so far: hay, \$300; beans, \$100; chickens, \$50; corn, by weeds, \$50; colt, through snake bite, \$100.”

### **24 September 1911**

“Five people arrived from Kirtland this morning, the object being to ‘hoop up’ the church school business (the San Juan Stake Academy)—the two teachers, Newel K. Young and Miss Ballard; Elmer Taylor; and Sisters Tanner and Christensen. The three sisters are staying at Sally's, and the two men at Taylor's.

“They hooped it up pretty well, as the following students enrolled from Redmesa: Harry Dean, Myrtle Devenport, Bertha Devenport, Belle Wilden, Eva Taylor Roberts, Sadie Taylor, Lou Roberts, Lillian Hall, and Ireta Hall.”

### **30 September 1911**

“Willis Taylor and Josephine Walker started for Salt Lake City today to get married.”

### **2 October 1911**

“The children all started to school this morning. Carl Devenport of Mancos is the teacher. They are going to have the advanced pupils go in the morning from 8:00 to 12:00 and the smaller ones, from 1:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon, and school to last for seven months.”

### **4 October 1911**

“It has been raining about six hours now. This settles my hay and beans. I don't believe that I will get a pound off my 6 acres of beans, and they are smelling and sprouting right in the pile. I feel so discouraged. There isn't a dollar to spare to pay my debts and hardly anything to buy our present necessities with. These circumstances are enough to drive one off the farm into the cities and work for wages.”

## **5 October 1911**

"It rained without a minute let up all night, steady now for 20 hours. If we could have such rains in the spring and summer, we would need no irrigation. But at that time of the year, it doesn't rain a drop. And now when our crops are ready to gather, it comes down to waste and spoil all our labors. Our oats, even, are sprouting in the heads, or the shafts, rather."

## **28 October 1911, Mancos, Colorado**

Joseph H. Dean left to go selling school supplies and magazine subscriptions again, returning November 10. Joining him on the road were his son Wilford and Charlie Brown.

## **19 November 1911, Kirtland, New Mexico**

Joseph H. Dean attended stake conference with his family, and then from there he left again to go sell school supplies and Navajo blankets and rugs with his son Wilford and Charlie Brown, spending much of his time in Salt Lake City and returning to Redmesa on May 23, 1912.

## **22 May 1912, Durango, Colorado**

Joseph H. Dean reported that the San Juan Stake had been reorganized by Francis M. Lyman and George Albert Smith, becoming the Young Stake. David Halls was called to be president and Hiram M. Taylor and John H. Hammond, counselors. Also, Bert Halls, stake clerk; Joseph H. Dean, superintendent of the Sunday school; Bertha Devenport, president of the Young Ladies; and Joseph H. Dean, stake chorister. Joseph H. Dean was released as president of the seventy's quorum, ordained a high priest, and called as a high councilor.

He also recorded that "John T. Nielson resigned as bishop of Burnham Ward, and Elmer Taylor was put in his place. But the surprise of the conference is the reorganization of the Redmesa Ward: Leo S. Taylor, bishop; James Slade, 1st counselor; and Wilford M. Dean, 2nd counselor. Leo is not 20 yet, but he will make good, and if Wilford will on account of the calling come home from Salt Lake and settle down and stay, it will be a blessing to him."

## **26 May 1912, Redmesa, Colorado**

Vosco Burnham was called to replace Joseph H. Dean as the ward Sunday school superintendent, with William Devenport and Harry A. Dean as assistants.

L. B. Burnham and William F. Slade were called as counselors to Joseph H. Dean in the stake Sunday school organization, with Lawrence J. Dean as secretary.

## **28 May 1912**

"At 8 p.m. the married people of the ward met here at Sally's at our invitation to an ice cream festival and social gathering. We had a lovely time. The program consisted of music by the Redmesa string and harmonica band; remarks by Lottie Walker, H. M. Taylor, and Josephine Taylor; reading, Lillie Maxfield; song by Nellie Hadden and Lufina Steele; three selections by Claire Roberts and Harry A. Dean; and benediction by William Walker.

"We ate all the ice cream everybody could stuff, two or three of the brethren eating about two quarts apiece. A splendid spirit prevailed, and everybody seemed satisfied.

"The following were present with their wives: H. M. Taylor, T. J. Hadden, James M. Slade, John Evans, Don C. Roberts, Carl Walker, Arthur Zufelt, William Devenport, Willis Taylor, William Walker, Will Wilden, Perry Burnham, B. F. Steele, and Charles Steele. Also, Joseph H. Dean and wives Sarah and Florence, Lawrence Dean, Lillie Maxfield, Grandma (Sarah) Burnham, Harry Dean, Clifford Dean, and Eva Taylor Roberts.

"We dismissed at 10:30 and then served ice cream again to those who wanted some more, and that was everybody."

### **3 June 1912**

"Have spent the day teaching, at the request of the bishopric. Met at 9 a.m. in the meeting house and had an hour's meeting. My companions were Arthur Zufelt and Orva Warren, and our 'beat' was Don C. Roberts, Frank Roberts, Charles Steele, and Arthur Zufelt. We walked all the way, and by the time I got home from evening report meeting at 9 p.m., I had walked ten miles.

"Lawrence and Harry and Charlie have been made priests and are not used anymore in the teacher's quorum, to their great disappointment, so they irrigated all day."

### **5 June 1912**

"We had a gathering here tonight of all the young people of the place, similar to that for the married folks last week. There was a big crowd, and they seemed to enjoy themselves. The following were present: Vina Walker, Jesse Walker, Myrtle Devenport, Ida Devenport, Harry Dean, Wilford Dean, Olive Steele, Eva Steele, Bishop Leo Taylor, Irma Taylor, Lydia Taylor, Sadie Taylor, Lydia Maxfield, Archie Maxfield, Clarence Slade, Vida Slade, Vosco Burnham, Lucill Greer, Harry Greer, Frank Purcill, Clark Roberts, Alice Pinkerton, Georgia Pinkerton, Stella Pinkerton, Alden Hadden, Chloe Hadden, Mamie Hadden, Lily Hall, Ireta Hall, Oscar Willden, Belle Willden, Ernest Willden, Milton Steele, Jennie Steele, Lawrence Dean, Charlie Dean, Stella Dean, Louise Dean, Stanley Dean, Lea Dean, J. H. Dean, and Florence Dean. Dismissed at 11:30."

### **13 June 1912**

"This evening I have attended a party given in my honor at the meeting house. Sunday school teachers' meeting at 7:00 was called so I could give them instructions. Had a good meeting. The evening's program began at 8:00 sharp, Bishop Leo Taylor presiding, and for two hours a very interesting program was given. Then we had a picnic, after which the room was cleared and dancing indulged in till 12 o'clock.

"There was a splendid spirit present. Florence's reading of some of my poetry melted nearly everyone to tears, as they were pieces written in the penitentiary and breathed of the gloom of the circumstances under which they were composed. Everyone voted the affair a grand success."

### **15 June 1912**

"Brother and Sister Taylor got back from Salt Lake, where they have been to get their second anointings. He is thinking of going back July 1 and joining us in selling Navajo [blankets].

"While in Salt Lake City, Brother Taylor went and saw the First Presidency about our \$5,000 loan at the bank, and they refuse to help us out any. They expect us to meet our own obligations."

### **17 June 1912, Durango, Colorado**

Joseph H. Dean made final entry and proved up on his Redmesa land he had filed on through the Desert Act. "I also deeded to Sally the 40 acres her home is on and to Florence the 40 acres her home is on."

### **15 July 1912, Idaho Falls, Idaho**

Joseph H. Dean received a letter from his daughter Louise. "Hiram Taylor went to Chicago with Charlie Brown (to sell Navajo rugs), which is quite a surprise."

### **17 July 1912**

"Wilford says that F. H. Hammond, who came through Chicago on his return from his mission in England, says that neither Brown, Redd, or Taylor had sold any rugs in Chicago and that Redd and Taylor had returned in disgust. I feel sorry for Hiram. He will be another \$100 further in debt."

### **19 July 1912**

"Got a letter from Sally in Redmesa that Jim Slade and Ben Steele had started out selling Navajos also and were headed for Idaho. If they succeed, I miss my guess."

### **27 July 1912**

"Got a letter from Sally. Jim Slade and Bro. Steele are in Grand Junction and doing very little. Bro. Taylor didn't sell any rugs in Chicago but got rid of all he had on the road back and is coming to Salt Lake."

### **30 July 1912**

"Our people are having a terrible time in Old Mexico. Have been disarmed by the rebels and given the alternative of quitting the country or fighting against the government, and they are choosing the former alternative, and they are arriving in El Paso by the hundreds."

### **1 August 1912**

"I was surprised this morning to get a card from H. M. Taylor saying that he is in Pocatello with Navajo blankets and intends to work up in this part of the country. Now if Bro. Slade and Steele and Wilford also get up this way, we ought to fix Idaho. This will change my program, as I intended working Pocatello and then going on to Boise."

### **11 August 1912, Blackfoot, Idaho**

"Bro. H. M. Taylor came up from Pocatello this morning, and we spent the day together. Attended afternoon meeting in Blackfoot 2nd Ward. Bro. Taylor spoke ten minutes.

"Bro. Taylor went back on the 7 o'clock train. He is doing pretty well, having done about half what I have."

**14 August 1912**

"Sally says in a letter I got from her today that Bros. Slade and Steele had returned penniless."

**18 August 1912**

"H. M. Taylor has been doing well at Pocatello—averaged \$10 a day earnings."

**18 September 1912, Butte, Montana**

"A letter from Lawrence says they have four large stacks of grain and expect more than we ever had before, and everything is well at home."

**21 September 1912**

"Got a letter from H. M. Taylor (in Pocatello) this morning enclosing \$25 of the \$52.75 he owed me. He hadn't been doing very well. He is going to Salt Lake to conference and has sent for his wife to come up and meet him."

**1 October 1912, Salt Lake City, Utah**

"Spent the rest of the day talking Navajos and taking dinner at the Mission Cafeteria with Hiram and Clara and Loren and Elmer Taylor and wife and Harry. Cost me \$3, but as I pay in Navajo rugs, only about \$1.25."

**8 October 1912**

"Hiram Taylor came in and said Leo had made up his mind to get married within the next year and that he wanted Stella if he can get her and wanted to know if I had any objections to his trying to get her. I told him no, but I objected to Stella's getting married before she was 18 any way."

**4 November 1912, Butte, Montana**

"Got letters from Sally, Florence, Sister Anderson, and H. M. Taylor. All well. Brother Taylor had only sold six rugs since he went to Boise three weeks ago. I have been blue because I have only sold 14. And he has a wife and kiddie to keep. And now (his son) Willis has come out to sell Navajos. Brother Taylor was going to pull out of Boise in another week and go to Portland or Spokane."

**11 November 1912, Dillon, Montana**

"Bro. Taylor says Willis had gone to Nampa and sold \$110 worth of blankets the first day."

**14 December 1912, Ogden, Utah**

"Got a letter from Florence, Stella, Lea, and Charlie. Alice Pinkerton and Ezra Walker married. The Kline meeting home burned down."

**16 December 1912**

"Got a letter from H. M. Taylor. He is in Portland, Oregon. Had only made \$150 in four weeks. Clara starts home today. Willis was in Salem, Oregon."

**23 December 1912, Salt Lake City, Utah**

"Florence writes that Charlie and Myrtle Devenport are engaged. And Charlie isn't 20 yet, but that's all right."

**7 January 1913**

"Leo Taylor has started keeping company with Stella."

**11 January 1913**

"Lou Roberts got here today from southern California on his way to the southern states on a mission, and Wilford and he have been together all day. Willis Taylor also stopped off for a couple of hours on his way home from Oregon. He says he wants no more Navajo selling for him."

**3 February 1913, Helena, Montana**

"Got a letter from H. M. Taylor. He had moved Saturday last from Walla Walla, Washington, to Spokane. Had only sold \$88 in 17 days and had made no profits at all during January. That is quite a contrast to my \$595 profit. He is disheartened and is about ready to give up and go home."

**8 February 1913**

"Dorothy had had a bad spell with her kidneys, and water had gone over her body and bloated her before her mother knew anything was the matter, but with cockleburr tea and sweet niter, however, she had got her much better again."

**14 February 1913**

"Got a letter from Brother Taylor, saying he intends staying in Spokane until April Conference and then go to Conference and then home."

**11 March 1913**

"Got word from Brother Taylor, saying he will wait for me and we will go home together after April Conference. So I ought to be home in another 30 days. Now that it is decided on, I am getting impatient to be off."

**25 March 1913, Butte, Montana**

"I got some gratifying news in the mail from Florence that all is well at home and that Bishop Leo S. Taylor and Stella are engaged. That will be a splendid match. Neither of them know the taste of coffee, tea, liquor, nor tobacco. I suppose they will want to get married this fall. Stella will be only 17, but she is a big, stout, well-developed girl, and I guess it will be all right."

"I got a letter from H. M. Taylor that he will leave Pocatello April 22. I think I shall join him. He also states that he is \$4,000 in debt, paying \$400 a year, or \$33 a month interest, and that he doesn't see how he can ever pay out without selling his home. I am much surprised. Can't imagine what he has done with it all."

**2 April 1913, Salt Lake City, Utah**

"Got to Pocatello at 11:00. Bro. Taylor was there, and we came down together. One of our car wheels broke at just about the line between Idaho and Utah, and we were delayed two hours. Bro. Taylor has gone to Phemia Jane Burnham's."

**7 April 1913**

"Dave Halls and Warren Burnham and wife went home today, and H. M. Taylor goes tomorrow morning."

**18 April 1913, Redmesa, Colorado**

"Instead of getting off at Durango as we expected, we got off at Hesperus. The change was made so we could attend an entertainment gotten up for us by H. M. Taylor in the meeting house. There was an awful crowd and a good program and picnic and games afterward."

**27 April 1913, Sunday**

"Will Walker, Lucy Burnham, Mamie Taylor, and Wilma Stolworthy from Burnham Ward were at prayer meeting at Sunday school but went to Kline in the afternoon and back to Mutual in the evening."

**28 April 1913**

"Been to the adjourned meeting of the townsite matter. Could do nothing as the people are too poor to buy anything. Only 11 lots were subscribed for out of 25. H. M. Taylor is going to make a personal canvass of the ward to see what can be done."

**19 May 1913**

"The Dean family have been to Taylor's to supper at 6:00 and spent an hour singing and playing. Harry took his violin and played some, and Jasper and Myrtle Devenport sang. Got home at 10:30."

**21 May 1913**

"This evening the adult part of the family have been up to Reed Hall's to a social in honor of H. M. Taylor and myself, as we leave next Friday for the rest of the year. Had a pleasant evening."

**22 May 1913**

"At Sunday school faculty meeting tonight, Bertha and Myrtle Devenport, Willis Taylor, and I sang 'God Is Weighing You.' Myself and Hiram Taylor were the speakers. Rather a tame affair."

**24 May 1913, Mancos, Colorado**

Stake conference in Mancos.

**25 May 1913, Telluride, Colorado**

"We got down to the depot at 10:45. A lot of the girls were down to see us off. Stella cried and cried, and so did nearly everyone else. Florence came down with the Taylor's. Our company consists of Apostle Richards, Jos. W. McMurrin, H. M. Taylor, J. H. Dean, Jasper H. Dean, and Florence Stella Dean."

**5 June 1913, Salt Lake City, Utah**

(Reel 6, Journal 45)

"H. M. Taylor got here today. He has been in Grand Junction for the eight days since we left him there but did next to no business. He intends staying here till Monday next, I believe, and then going on to Pocatello."

**7 June 1913**

"H. M. Taylor was ordained a patriarch today by Apostle George F. Richards."

**16 June 1913**

Joseph H. Dean went in partnership with John W. Taylor (no relation to Hiram Taylor) to sell stepladders.

**22 June 1913**

"[Hiram Taylor] arrived from Pocatello this afternoon at my invitation to come and take an agency to sell the ladders. He is quite enthusiastic about it and wants to go right to work. He thinks he wants Idaho but may change to Colorado."

**23 June 1913**

"H. M. Taylor is anxiously waiting, and so are several others, for the deal to be closed so they can start canvassing, and we are all nervous for fear the whole thing will fall through, but I think it will be all arranged and will be all right.

"H. M. Taylor and I went to the picture show tonight."

**28 June 1913**

"[Hiram Taylor] left for Grand Junction at 2:45 p.m., and I am to send his sample ladder to him there."

**30 June 1913**

"I expressed two ladders to Joseph Taylor of Provo this morning and one to Hiram Taylor in Grand Junction."

**2 July 1913**

"Got a discouraging letter from H. M. Taylor in Grand Junction. He says prices of the ladders are too high. He says the fruit growers there would close deal for our ladders 20% below list price, we pay the freight, and he asks if he should close the deal. As there are so many factors entering into the case and one is we must have cash on delivery, I wired him that I couldn't sell without knowing particulars and for him to write me. But it augers well for our ladder, and if they would adopt it, it would be a good advertisement."

### **3 July 1913**

"I have been full of doubts and fears all day about this ladder business. It is going to take quite a sum of money to swing it, and I do so dread going into debt again."

### **11 July 1913**

"Got encouraging letter from Hiram Taylor in Grand Junction. He had placed a sub-agency for the ladders with Montrose Fruit and Produce Co., and they have ordered one 8-foot and one 12-foot, for which they will pay cash. He leaves for home today."

### **14 July 1913**

"We are having all kinds of trouble with the iron works people. They are in financial difficulties, I think, and can't get the means to get the materials. Have been trying for four days to get the irons for five twelve-foot ladders and haven't got them yet. I suppose these difficulties are inevitable in the start and that they will gradually be overcome. I am filled with anxiety and worry, however, which I can't shake off."

### **23 July 1913**

"This business has assumed the character of a nightmare."

### **24 July 1913, Thursday**

"H. M. Taylor arrived this afternoon. Left home last Monday. The folks are well, and Donald, he thinks, is as well as anybody—looks better than he ever saw him before. Hiram feels OK on the ladder business, he says."

### **27 July 1913**

"Brother H. M. Taylor and I went to the picture show tonight."

### **29 July 1913**

Joseph H. Dean and Hiram Taylor resumed selling Navajo rugs and blankets along with the ladders.

"I had to loan Hiram Taylor ten dollars to get to Pocatello with, as he is dead broke."

"Elmer Taylor reached Salt Lake last night and was at my room this morning before I left for Brigham City. He has bought and is selling a patent headgate and spillway and is going on to Idaho with it."

### **3 August 1913, Idaho Falls, Idaho**

"We stopped in Pocatello 30 minutes and spent the time with H. M. Taylor, who was there to meet us. He hasn't sold a ladder nor placed an agency for it nor sold a Navajo and is awfully discouraged."

### **5 August 1913, Blackfoot, Idaho**

"Sally says all is well there but Clifford. He can't go near hay without going blind and choking up with hay fever. No rain, and the crops are burning up. Poor Jim Slade will have no

grain. We have better crops than anyone else, as our grain was winter wheat instead of spring wheat."

"Letter from Brother Taylor. He has made no sales and placed no agency and can't get out of Pocatello because he is dead broke. He is down and out in his feelings, poor fellow. I know how to sympathize with him. I have been the same for five weeks but think I will finally work it off, especially if I can do some business, and I feel that I can."

### **7 August 1913**

Joseph H. Dean placed an agency in Blackfoot, Idaho, for six ladders, and he got a letter from Hiram Taylor in Twin Falls, Idaho, that he had closed an agency for 12 ladders.

### **8 August 1913**

"Letter from Hiram Taylor (in Twin Falls) that he has about decided to get him a place in the Twin Falls country if he can, and I think that would be a sensible thing for me to do also. I am going to keep my eye open for a place. There is no use staying in Redmesa and always being behind. The poor people there now are mowing down their burnt-up grain for hay—everything burned to death.

"Down there we have to go off to get means to pay for the necessities of life, while up here the people are all well-to-do, especially the farmers. There we get from nothing to 20 bushels of grain per acre. Here they get from 20 to 70. There we have no market. Here, a good one. With my boys up here, everybody says we could soon be well off. I don't think there is any sense in struggling along, as we are there from a sentimental feeling that it is our duty. There is just as much work in a church line to do here as there and just as much opportunity to do good."

### **10 August 1913**

"Got a letter from H. M. Taylor that he has decided to leave our country in Redmesa, if he can get an honorable release, and move right up here, and urging me to come to the Great Falls country and look it over. If we should all come up here and take our chances, we could do better than down home. Men are in demand all the time for \$2.50 a day. There are five unmarried boys. That would be \$12.50 a day.

"But I do so dread moving again, and for the Deans and the Taylors to leave Redmesa, it means breaking the place up, and one doesn't know what is the right thing to do. Then, the winters here are so long and cold here, and we would have to make a new start with nothing to start with.

### **13 August 1913, Idaho Falls, Idaho**

"Letter from H. M. Taylor. He has written Apostle Richards, asking to be released from the stake presidency so he can move up here. So he means business."

Joseph H. Dean looked for a home in the Idaho Falls area and sent for his wife to come there with the younger children. An old mission companion offered Joseph H. Dean and his family work at his sugar factory in Lincoln, Idaho.

### **21 August 1913**

"Florence awfully blue; everything burned up on the farm; nothing but alkali water to drink; nothing to sell; and a bushel of wants. She says she will not spend another summer there if she can get out."

"Brother Taylor is going to try and sell some more [ladders] at Buhl and some other places. He is having fine business in Navajos at Buhl and feels quite elated. He thinks maybe he will have Clara his wife come up with Florence."

### **27 August 1913**

"[John W.] Taylor told Jasper that the Two-Step Ladder manufacturers were threatening to sue him for noncompliance with contract, which shows that Taylor is broke financially and that the ladder business is in a very precarious condition, because if he is not going to keep his end up, then we have nothing to stand on. . . . It is quite evident to me that Taylor is not going to do anything in the ladder business and that if we quit, everything will fall through."

### **5 September 1913**

"I got an interesting letter from H. M. Taylor. The First Presidency advise him and Leo to stay at Redmesa. It is evident from his letter that he is sorely put out about it, and it is quite a knockdown to us, especially on Stella's account. I suppose she will go back to Redmesa now instead of living in Idaho."

"Also got a letter from Dave Halls (stake president) saying they hoped I would soon get rich and come home, that they need me down there to help build up that stake of Zion."

### **7 September 1913, Sunday**

"Got a phone call from H. M. Taylor this morning, that he was on the way up to visit me, as he had about sold out his merchandise at Oakley and had to wait for more goods. He arrived at 5:00, and we have spent the afternoon and evening together. He doesn't think he will go home till spring.

"As time goes by, the less I feel like moving away from Redmesa. The breaking up of that community is a greater calamity than our always being hard up, and yet I am afraid it will break up anyway.

"Stella seems to be in favor of getting married right away (to Leo Taylor)".

### **11 September 1913**

"Bro. Taylor left for Pocatello this morning at 11:45."

### **6 October 1913, Lincoln, Idaho**

"Got a letter from Charlie that he and Myrtle got married Friday after all. Stella and Leo went through for the dead the same day but did not get married."

### **8 October 1913**

"H. M. Taylor was to conference and says he is going home and stay after January 1 next."

**22 October 1913, Dillon, Montana**

"Got a letter from H. M. Taylor. He has only sold \$9 merchandise in 10 days and feels awfully blue."

**29 October 1913, Butte, Montana**

"Got a letter today from H. M. Taylor. Bro. Taylor says he has taken agency for a combination chair and table for La Plata Co. and is going home with Leo and Stella December 1 and stay there.

"Brings the sad news that Bro. William Walker's house and all its contents burned up, leaving them without a thing in the world."

**1 November 1913**

"Sally writes that Frank Roberts' home has burned down now. \$2,500 insurance. No one but Eva and Lydia were there at the time. It looks like Redmesa is going to be destroyed by fire."

**10 November 1913**

"Got a letter from Charlie tonight. He and wife are living in Florence's house, so I suppose the Walkers have moved out."

**22 December 1913, Lincoln, Idaho**

"Stella got a letter from Leo with the following news items: Sister Hannah Halls died December 15. Charlie Dean was chosen superintendent of the Redmesa Sunday school December 15. Wilford was to leave for Salt Lake December 17. Leo thinks prospects for the reservoir are more encouraging than ever before. Prospects for water next year are fine. Frank H. Roberts and wife (Eva Taylor Roberts) and Grandma (Sarah) Burnham are living in Sally's home."

**24 December 1913**

"Got a letter from H. M. Taylor. People almost starving at Redmesa, and he thinks he will have to come out again in the spring as his creditors are all pressing him hard."

**1 March 1914, Shelley, Idaho**

"H. M. Taylor is coming to Idaho again after April Conference. The authorities didn't consent to him leaving Redmesa permanently."

**15 May 1914, Shelley, Idaho**

"Sally writes (from Colorado) that H. M. Taylor has gone into bankruptcy and will meet at Montrose May 25 with his creditors and have a hearing before the court. So he will soon have his debts 'paid' and be free. I should like to be 'free,' but don't want to get there that way. But when one is hopelessly involved, it is the best way."

**1916**

Joseph H. Dean served another mission to the Samoan and Hawaiian Islands, returning in 1918 to Shelley, Idaho.

**16 February 1921, Shelley, Idaho**

(Reel 7, Journal 53)

"[I received] a card from Clara Taylor informing us that Stella was confined last week. Another boy—her fifth without a girl. The Taylor family ought to hold her in high regard, for she is about the only Taylor that is producing stock to perpetuate the family. Both Stella and baby doing well."

**26 November 1921**

(Journal 54)

"Got an interesting letter from Lawrence today (from Redmesa). Elmer Taylor is 1st counselor in the stake presidency in his brother Hiram's place.

"A railroad from Gallup to Durango is a 'sure thing' at last. Lawrence and Charlie have taken \$1,200 stock in it."

**9 April 1922, Salt Lake City, Utah (General Conference)**

"After afternoon meeting we met Wilford at the hotel lobby. Also Lucy, Dean, and Clinton, H. M. Taylor, wife Clara, daughter Gladys, and Bertha Devenport Roberts. I was surprised to find that Clara Taylor had brought Stella's little boy up with her from Redmesa, and that he was at their home on 21st South Street, so I got Wilford to drive us down there to see him. Brother Taylor has bought a nice home there for \$4,000 and so has left Redmesa for good."

**17 December 1923, Shelley, Idaho**

(Journal 55)

"Got a letter from Stella today (from Redmesa) bringing the interesting news that Leo had been honorably released as bishop of Redmesa Ward and our son Charles E. Dean put in as bishop in his place. This happened Saturday, December 8. I think Leo has been in 12 years, starting when he was 19. This is the first Dean to be bishop."

**11 October 1924, Shelley, Idaho**

(Journal 56)

"Stella received word from Leo at last that he is not coming up at all, and Stella and the children are to return to Redmesa. Now, whether he will send Walter Walker up with his truck for them or money for them to go on the train, she doesn't know. It's a great old mix-up."

**26 October 1924**

(Journal 57)

"Louise and all the Roberts have moved to Vernal, Utah, for keeps, I guess."

**15 July 1926, Redmesa, Colorado**

(Journal 59)

Joseph H. Dean visited Redmesa, 13 years after leaving the town and 20 years since he helped found it. "I have a tender place in my heart for this place. Charlie had his mother's house that I built moved down on his farm 3/4 of a mile nearer school and church than it was. I can sit here in the house and imagine myself back 20 years here with my family."

"I got up early and tramped over the old place, going up to where Florence's house and sheds and granary used to be. Was surprised to see the immense crop Charlie has and how splendid it looks. Don't see how he can tend so much. There is work for five men on his place.

"We went also into Sally's former home, made entirely by our own hands, brick masonry, painting, plastering, and all, now occupied by Clarence Slade and family. It is by far the best home in the ward."

**24 September 1926, Shelley, Idaho**

"I see in the news that Clara Taylor died last Wednesday. Funeral Sunday. I wish I could go."