

November 18, 1994

Grandpa Croft's Hiding Place

Grandpa Edward Croft was from England. He had joined the Church there as a young man and emigrated to the United States with his parents. After being married for a few years in Utah, he was called to enter into polygamy. He married two additional wives and raised three families. Eventually, the Croft family moved to the Shelley, Idaho area where they farmed. All three families lived together. Polygamy was declared illegal in Idaho and the local sheriff was always after Grandpa Croft, harrassing him in an effort to get them to leave the area. The families were therefore always on the lookout for the sheriff and his men. When someone saw them coming, they would yell out, "Here they come!" Grandpa would have to hurry and hide somewhere.

The family decided that they needed to find a good place where Grandpa could hide-out and be safe. They cut a hole in the ceiling and built a little room in the rafters. Then, when they saw the sheriff coming down the road, the three wives would huddle together and Grandpa Croft would climb onto their backs and they would lift him up to the ceiling where he could move the trap door and slip into the hiding place and replace the ceiling board. Sometimes he would have to stay up there for several days because the sheriff would camp-out in the yard.

On one occasion, Grandpa Croft was hiding out away from the farm. He slipped back to the house after dark and found the doors all locked. Not wanting to make a big commotion he went around back and found the bedroom window to Grandma's room open. He put his hands on the window seal and was attempting to climb into the room. Grandma was awake and saw these two hands coming through the window. She jumped out of bed, thinking it was a burgler, and slammed the window shut on them. Grandpa yelled out in pain, "It's me mother! Open the window!" After all was settled down, they had a good laugh about then and evermore when someone would remind them of it.