

## **Edward (Ted) Warburton**

**1849 - 1927**

## **Alice Mirenthia Richins**

**1858 - 1926**

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**compiled by Laural Bushman  
great granddaughter 2002**

### **Edward (Ted) Warburton**

Edward Warburton was born 5 May 1849 in Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, England and named after his father's favorite brother, Edward. His birth certificate gives the following information. Parents, John Warburton and Betty Warburton, formerly Sunderland, residence, Charlestown, Stansfield, father's occupation, laborer. His mother, Betty, signed the document with a 'X' indicating that she was illiterate. (birth certificate) Prior to that time, his parents had both worked in the mills; John as a corder and Betty as a spinner. (marriage certificate)

John and Betty Warburton were both baptized into the Mormon Church in April 1854 after which, they started making plans to emigrate to Zion. In January 1856 the family left Yorkshire and sailed on a cargo ship through the canals of Lancashire and into the Irish Sea. Their plans were to sail to Liverpool and there join with a group of Saints that would then sail to America. Betty was expecting a baby and on their 2<sup>nd</sup> day out, as they were going through 'The Channel', she became ill and passed away from complications of her pregnancy. Because the ship was then far out at sea, she was wrapped in canvas and lowered into the waters. Edward (Teddy) was six years old and never forgot the sight of his mother being buried in the Irish Sea. Before her death, she made John promise that they would continue on to Zion. Teddy and his father did continue on and that story can be found in the paper titled "They Crossed the Plains with a Handcart" by Laural Bushman, 2002.

When the Warburtons reached Salt Lake Valley, President Brigham Young issued John a quarter section of land in the northeast part of Battle Creek (Pleasant Grove), Utah County. The next spring they moved to Battle Creek where John built a little adobe house in the fort. He farmed and worked as a blacksmith and a wheelwright. For the next eight years, until Ted was 15, there were just the two of them. Then, on 24 Jan 1864 John Warburton married Sarah Williams Green who had three children from a previous marriage. She and John had three more. According to family tradition, Sarah was resentful and hard on Ted so, after his father's marriage, he spent much of his time in the homes of friends.

In 1867, a soft rock deposit was discovered on some of John Warburton's land and President Brigham Young called Thomas and John Richins to move to Battle Creek and start a soft rock business. The Richins brothers had both come from southern England where they had learned the trade of excavating and preparing soft rock into building blocks.

When Ted was about 20, he became the owner of the first steam engine used in American Fork Canyon to run a saw mill. Many of the homes that were built of logs and the lumber used in the soft rock and adobe houses came from this mill. When he was 25, his father, John, gave him his quarter section of land.

**\*Note:** Many homes in Utah Valley, still being lived in today, are built of rock from John and Ted's quarry.

### **Alice Mirenta Richins**

Alice Mirenta Richins was born in Salt Lake Settlement on 22 Jan 1858, a year and four months after her parents, Thomas Richins and Harriet Deveraux, had crossed the American Plains in Captain Edmund Ellsworth's Handcart Company. John and Teddy Warburton were in the same group. The story of their crossing the plains is chronicled in the paper titled, 'They Crossed the Plains with a Handcart' by Laural Bushman, 2002.

They lived in a little dugout in the foothills on the 'East Bench' of Salt Lake Valley where her father made a living as a blacksmith and a farmer. She had one older brother named Albert. When she was 2 years old, her mother had a baby girl named Ester who only lived two months.

In 1861, when Alice was 3, President Brigham Young called her parents and her Uncle John and Aunt Charlotte Richins to move their families south and settle in Goshen, Utah County. (South of Utah Lake) The experiences of their move can be found in the paper 'Thomas Richins and Harriet Deveraux', by Laural Bushman, 2002.

The Richins lived in Goshen for six years and while there Thomas again farmed and worked as a blacksmith. Three younger brothers joined their family, Abner, Arthur, and Thomas, so Alice, being the only daughter, was kept very busy helping her mother care for them. There seemed to be nothing she could not do and she was always mature beyond her years.

In 1867 when Alice was nine, President Young called Thomas and John Richins, to move their families again. This time to Battle Creek (Pleasant Grove) where a soft rock deposit had been found on John Warburton's land. The Richins brothers had both come from southern England where they had learned

the trade of excavating and preparing soft rock into building blocks. When they moved, Alice and her brothers, Albert and Abner, walked and drove the stock. It was cold chilly weather and took them three days to make the trip.

Thomas, built a new log house north of the flour mill on the road to the Canyon. The logs for this house were split on the old pit saw in Battle Creek Canyon. In 1868, Alice finally got a baby sister. She was given the name of Harriet Priscilla. Then two more brothers, Oscar and Marcus, joined their family and last was another sister, Nettie Emmaline.

Thomas and John's soft rock business kept them very busy and Harriet never seemed to have an idle moment, caring for the little ones, baking, and sewing. In those days every stitch of clothing had to be made by hand. Alice Mirenta worked along side her mother learning to sew, cook, and to manage a home.

### **Ted and Alice Warburton**

Alice's older brother, Albert Richins, secured a job in American Fork Canyon with a lumber camp and he and his best friend, Ted Warburton, worked as loggers and bunked together. When Albert would go home to one of his mother's home cooked meals, he would invite Ted to go with him. When the cook at the lumber camp quit, Albert persuaded his sister, Alice, to replace her. The men at the camp said the food had never tasted so good.

Ted was very fond of Alice before she went to the camp to cook, but after, it blossomed into love. It was hard to know when he purposed, they just seemed to know. As fall and winter came, Alice, her mother, and all of her friends were busy making her a trousseau. On Valentines Day, 14 Feb 1876, Ted Warburton took Alice Mirenta Richins in his newly painted buckboard to Salt Lake City where they were married for time and eternity in the Endowment House. They were among the first couples that could complete their endowments and sealings at the same time.

Their honeymoon consisted of taking the long way home, by way of Riverton (or Salt Lake river bottoms) and Fort Harmon. They stopped for two days to visit some English friends of Ted's and they were so impressed with the new Mrs. Warburton that they gave them a lovely set of china they had brought from England. It was a gift Ted and Alice always treasured. When they arrived home in Battle Creek, they learned that Ted's father had moved his family to a larger house and fixed up his small adobe one for them.

Ted and Alice's first son, John Edward, was born 9 Nov 1876, the same

year they were married. Less than two years later another son, Rulon Benoni (Benny) was born on 19 Aug 1878. Their happiness was short lived when in 1879 a smallpox epidemic invaded the valley. Both John Edward and Benny contacted the disease and for a time they were afraid they would lose them both. John Edward did live but little Benny passed away 9 Jan 1880.

Many homes were stripped of all their children and the smallpox epidemic had hardly subsided when diphtheria came. The Warburtons, along with all the rest of the town, hardly dared to go outside their homes. Their good friends and neighbors, Anice West, lost four of their children in one night. Many children were left crippled for life. The only thing that seemed to help was to swab their throats with whiskey, but that was very risky because if not used with great care it could strangle them.

In the spring of 1880, Ted had a chance to trade his small adobe house for a larger one four blocks east of where they lived. It was built of the Richins soft rock and they could also secure land for farming and an orchard, a dream of Ted's since very young. They moved into their new home the last week of May and Leland Thomas was born 29 Oct 1880. This darling brown-eyed baby had a way about him that helped to fill the loss of little Benny.

Alice's hopes for a baby girl were finally realized on 4 March 1883 when their only daughter was born. She was given the name Clyde Harriet. Clyde after a dear friend and Harriet after her maternal grandmother. They called her 'Clydie'. Two more boys then came to fill the Warburton home, Wellington Luellian, born 24 May 1885 with dark curly hair and deep brown eyes. Then on 20 Dec 1886 Albert Ezra was born and he was just the opposite to Wellington.

He had light curly hair and blue eyes. Grandmother Richins called them, "Night and Day" and Grandfather Warburton called them, "The Jack of Spades and the King of Hearts". Alice was kept very busy with five young children and Ted was away much of the time with his work in the canyon.

While working in the sawmills in American Fork Canyon, Ted had the misfortune of losing the two center fingers on his right hand. He took a drink of alcohol and three men held him down while Doctor Rodgers, without the aide of anesthetic, trimmed and sewed them up. Before they could completely heal, the government closed down on taking more timber from the canyon. Ted had some money coming to him from the company so they gave him first chance on the steam engine.

Then Ted, with his brother-in-law Oscar Richins, and friends Harry Wadley and Otto Mayhue converted the sawmill steam engine and used it to run the

separator on the first threshing machine in the Valley. The separator was shipped to them in boxes from the East and Ted put it together. He kept the big green machine in a shed that was neat and clean with every tool in it's place on the wall. No one was allowed to use anything without permission. They threshed grain all over the valley and were even called to go up into Wasatch County. They also used the engine to pull the tramway up the face of the 'Little Mountain' when the Tellaroid Company was building a pipe line around the hills and to the top of the mountain where they then built a reservoir.

Granddaughter Eva Mirenthia Warburton Proctor wrote, "Well I remember the threshing days in the fall of the year. Each farmer would have their grain stacked in nice neat stacks, and they would help each other. The wives would also help each other in preparing tasty meals for the threshing crews. Breakfast would be served at 6:00 AM with big round hot cakes, ham, eggs, potatoes, gallons of milk, and coffee. At noon, when the whistle blew, there would be a dinner fit for a king and in the evening the men would be given supper before they went home. The hustle and bustle that went on was almost like Thanksgiving."

"On the remaining ten acres of land he owned, Ted planted a fruit orchard in which he took great pride. The apples, peaches, apricots, and cherries he raised were out of this world. It was so much fun to help wrap the special fruit in blue tissue paper for shipping and the rest we would use for canning. Grandpa took great pains in keeping his orchards neat."

Ted's work shop was always clean and neat and everything was always in it's place. He would often say, "Always give an honest days work for an honest days pay and never get in debt."

In August 1904, Alice wrote a letter to her daughter Clyde who was working in Salt Lake City. The letter is copied as it was written with Alice's spelling and 'missing punctuation'. A question mark has been inserted where the original was undecipherable. This letter paints a visual picture of what their lives were like.

Pleasant Grove August 1904

My Dear Clyde,

I will now sit down to write a line in answer to your most welcome letter we received Sunday Was Pleased to hear from you I hear you are well hope this will find you still the same as it leaves I feel some better than when I wrote before Dear Clyde you say for me to come up there to see you all I do not see how I can nothing to ware and I feel like I have not got no ambhishion left to do anything but maybe I will feel better after it gets cooler then I mite try to come Lenny is here Violittie and them has not come yet When they do I will let you

know then you must come home and see them I got a letter from Bertha this morning they was twelve days going home they want some of us to go out Oscar says maby they will after a while if he does then you can go with them Dear Clyde don't pay -?- dollars for a trunk I saw some nice ones down to the mercantile for three dollars and a half so wait till you come home Clyde I guess you will be suprised to hear that -?- Walker is dead he died at Fort Douglas on Sunday with typhoid pneumonia his Funeral today at three o clock they brought him home last night O my what a sorryfull homecoming Pa said it was awful to see his poor mother Lee (Leland) has been helping to dig his grave he feels awful bad about his old Chum he says he was such a good Boy but the Lords will be done in all things no there have not been any dance here since you left but Well (Wellington) was over to AM fork last Thursday night yes they have started to thresh to weeks ago but broke the engine last Friday not done any since are waiting for a wheel to come from back East Dear Clyde how long Does Mrs Mc D want you to stay I think if you are going to ask for more Wages you had better do it soon before she is through with you Clyde you say you will come home if I need you if I get to feel a little better and they go to work again I will try to do a little longer or let the work go well I think this is all for this time so with our very best love to you I will close hoping to hear from you soon from your most loving Mother & Father & all Love from all x x x x x x x x x Write soon and often

Alice kept her little home spotless and her husband and children clean. Their clothes were always neatly pressed and mended. Her floors were as clean as her shiny dishes and table and they never had floor coverings until about 1915. Her large kitchen shone like a mirror. She would stand and iron their underwear and stockings and she never owned an electric iron until the last four years of her life. I remember her saying, "Ted doesn't like his stockings with wrinkles in them." Grandpa gave her an electric iron for her sixty fourth birthday. They didn't have electricity in their home until about 1910.

Granddaughter Eva Mirenthia Warburton Proctor wrote: "The most wonderful things I remember about Grandma was her big warm hug and her delicious pies. It was great fun when all the family would gather for Grandma and Grandpa's birthdays. The big homemade table seemed to always be covered with food that tasted so good. There was homemade pies and bread and everything you could ask for."

"It was a sad day when Grandma Alice Warburton passed away, at age 68, from Brights disease (kidney disease). She died on 3 Feb 1926 and we all missed her so much; her five children, fifteen grandchildren and one little great granddaughter. But, most of all, it was Grandpa, he was so lost without her."

"Grandpa Ted Warburton was a quiet, honest, and loveable man. We

greatly mourned his death, fifteen months later, on 11 Apr 1927. He was almost 78 years old at the time of his passing. Both are buried in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery.”

Ted and Alice Warburton were 2<sup>nd</sup> generation pioneers that carried on the gospel traditions that their parents had sacrificed, suffered, and left their European homelands for. The names they received clean and honorable were passed on clean and honorable to their posterity. Ted and Alice are a link in our chain of pioneer ancestors that we can be very proud of.

**\*Note:** All of the information in this story, including the direct quotes were taken from family histories written by Ted and Alice’s oldest granddaughter, Eva Mirenta Warburton Proctor. Eva’s father was their oldest son, John Edward. The original of the letter Alice wrote to her daughter is in the possession of Clydie’s daughter, Hazel Carlson Bushman

**\*Additional Notes:** by Hazel Carlson Bushman. They were found on a scrap of paper among her possessions, after she passed away.

\*Clyde’s mother, Alice, worked doing tailoring with her mother, Harriet Richins. They made men’s clothing to earn money. (Harriet Richins had brought her sewing machine from England across the plains.) Clyde also sewed everything her family wore.

\*Hazel’s Grandmother, Alice Richins Warburton, had always ironed her husbands underwear and socks. After she passed away, Clyde would walk two blocks to take care of her father, Edward Warburton, and Hazel ironed her grandfather’s socks and underwear until he passed away.

\*One day as Clyde prepared to go to care for her father, it was raining so she put on Ike’s rubber knee boots and bundled up, laughing at how she looked. As she started up the road she was met by her nephew telling her that Grandpa Warburton had died.

\*Clyde’s brother, Lee Warburton, suffered from ulcers and would drink cream to gain relief. Lee was in the American Fork Hospital dying of cancer when his mother, Alice Warburton, who had previously passed away, came to him and said she would be back the next night to get him and she did. He died the next night.

## Bibliography

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