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# Louisa Obray Gibbs

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Louisa O Bray Gibbs was born in Ogden, Utah, December 8, 1855, the daughter of Thomas L. and Martha S. O Bray. The family made their home in Paradise, Cache Valley where early in life Louisa was taught to care for younger children. She was married to John Henry Gibbs who was killed in Tennessee while serving as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Left to rear their three small children Louisa chose the art of midwifery as a source of income. She studied under the two Dr. Shippes and received a certificate in obstetrics. In 1890 she entered Columbia Hospital in Washington, D. C. where she studied and received her diploma in nursing.

During the years she practiced as a nurse and midwife Louisa delivered eight hundred babies. Her charge was \$3.00 for each maternity case, which included a visit to the home for nine days to care for the mother and bathe the infant. The last five years of her practice she raised the fee to \$5.00. With her faithful old horse, Dolly, she drove her buggy over hundreds of miles of country in the heat of summer or the dead of winter. Sometimes she had to cross streams swollen by spring floods.

“Aunt Louisa” was always equal to any emergency. She came home one day to find Joseph O Bray waiting to tell her not to unhitch the horse as his wife was in labor with her first child. She had already been in attendance on other mothers for twenty-four hours. Just then her daughter, Boston, ran out of the house begging her not to leave as she was about to give birth to her first child. Louisa looked at her daughter and said, “be at ease—you will be all right.”

After seventy-two hours without sleep Louisa returned home just in time to bring her grandchild into the world.

Tall, straight as an arrow, dignified and queenly in her bearing, all who knew Louisa spoke of the quiet feeling of contentment and peace that her presence brought to any room she entered. In addition to rearing her family, she was always active in the Church. She labored in the Relief Society organization of Paradise Ward for many years. At one time she was president of the Primary organization and also served in the Mutual Improvement Association. Louisa’s wise counsel was often sought by members of her community and many came to her for help with their personal problems. God in His wisdom saw fit to call “Aunt Louisa” home, December 27, 1927.