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ARCHIBALD ISON

Archive Record

The great-grandfather of Robert Lee Ison and Isaac Ison was our emigrant ancestor from Virginia to north-eastern Kentucky. "In May, 1779 the Virginia Assembly enacted a law opening Kentucky to general settlement by survey, entry and residence the same year the Grand Assembly passed an act for making and opening a road over the Cumberland Mountains into Kentucky.

This road was opened December 1, 1781, it was through the Clinch settlement by the Cumberland Gap, this was the Wilderness Road over which an unexampled trade of emigrants poured for more than ten years." As early as 1796 some of our Ison kinfolk came from Montgomery County, Virginia to the Cumberland Mountains on a hunting trip and by 1804 George Gideon Ison moved his family to what is now Letcher County.

Archibald Ison was born 1780 in Virginia (from 1850 census of Lawrence County, Kentucky, age 70 year). His home was Stoney Creek, now Scott County. At the time of his birth it would have been Washington County, Virginia. It is about one (1) mile from Fort Blackmore on the Clinch River near Castlewood. I visited Stoney Creek in 1956-all the homes are gone but not the large, smooth stones from the creek, they will remain forever and it was rightly named for there were thousands of these stones completely lined both sides and the bottom of the little clear stream as it trickled its way on and on as rivers flow on forever. It was a pretty place, the ground was covered with grass and large green trees stood every where and a lonely one-room Schoolhouse, weather beaten and deserted was a few feet from the banks of Stoney Creek. I sat on the stump of a large

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tree and reminisced, stories of those long-ago Pioneers raced through my mind.

I brought from the creek one (1) large, smooth stone and from the clump of trees a piece of hard wood, they are souvenirs in my Museum.

Archibald Ison was the son of John Ison and Lucy or Charles Ison and Jane, strange that after all these years of research that we cannot say for sure but, Southern Records cannot be found, due to pioneer conditions, poor schools and the Civil War when so many Courthouses were burned and the records went up in smoke taking away the names and dates we need so badly today.

Family Tradition give his parents as John Ison, Jr and Lucy--son of John Ison, Sr. and Martha Elizabeth Huff, who was the son of Gideon Ison of Shropshire, England.

The Ison family both in Letcher and Lawrence Counties have the same tradition but, the recent finding of a Will in Scott County, Virginia seems to say that Archibalds parents were Charles and Jane-I am putting a copy of Will in here also, papers of settlements of Jane's Property after both her and Charles were dead.

Archibald Ison married Mary (Polly) Gilliam in Virginia about 1801. She was the daughter of Martin Gilliam, Sr. They had nine sons and one daughter, viz: Charles, William, Martin, Ira, Isaac, Byrdine, Doctor, Argualus, Isom and Elizabeth Ison. Their 7th son, Doctor was born February 24, 1818 and this was the year that he, Archibald and his two (2) older boys, Charles and William with his brother Charles, started for Kentucky. They took the Wilderness Road, going thru Cumberland Gap, coming into south-east Kentucky. Here he visited Ison kin who came to the state in 1804. The land was pretty well taken up there so Archibald and his party went to the head of the Kentucky River and drifted down to the

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north-east of the state to what was then Lawrence County. Then, here they cleared a little land, planted some corn and built a small log cabin.

When the corn was ready they harvested it and returned to Virginia for their families. The next spring Archibald and some of their neighbors brought their all to Kentucky. Everyone walked except the Mothers and babies.

Doctor Ison always told how he rode in his Mother's lap and she was horseback, from Old Virginia over the Cumberland Mountains to Kentucky when he was one (1) year old, there were no roads then, only trails which were dangerous in many places, even for the pack animals. They brought apple trees, tied to their pack saddles and when the trees were planted in virgin soil, their growth was wonderful. Some grew to forty (40) feet and the last one blew down in the spring of 1835 being one hundred sixteen (116) years old,

Five (5) settlers came to this part of the state in 1819 their claims were from three (3) to five (5) miles apart. They were: Archibald Ison his land and log cabin was at the forks of the Newcomb River. John Riddle settled on the left-hand fork of Newcomb. William Thompson took up his land on Ryan Creek. James Eldridge settled on right-hand fork of Newcomb River. James Fraley was below the forks of the Newcomb River..

The social gathering place was at the home of Archibald Ison each Saturday afternoon. The menfolk would meet and go hunting. Bear, deer, rabbit, squirrel, coon, opossum, groundhog and pheasants were plentiful and the streams were full of the finest fish, by evening the men would bring in their game. Then, Sunday morning all the families would come and what a day of Social events, all would enjoy together. The ladies doing the cooking and the men had their drinks of whisky and brandy--big dinner,

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music and dancing. Charley Gilliam and Henry Buckner were the best fiddlers in all the country around. Later, William Gilliam was the fiddler and his sister Judith was the best dancer.

The story is told of Archibald going hunting one day and for some reason he did not want his dog to go so, he tied him short and left him at home. Soon, he found and shot a large buck deer, it fell as if dead then jumped up and fiercely attack him. Archibald had no time or distance to fight the deer. So, for protection he took refuge behind a large tree, the deer immediately charged, knocking bark off the trunk then came the game of merry-go-round as he circled its' large trunk, followed at his heels was the angry deer. It was getting mighty dangerous and not at all funny when here came his faithful hunting dog, he had chewed the rope into and now saved the life of his master. Archibald was forever grateful.

The first school was near his home, he gave the land and helped build the log schoolhouse furnished with split log seats and puncheon-floor, large fireplace, completely across one end. The open water well was lined with beautiful cut stones and today (1958) that well still stands being all that is left of the Pioneer Schoolhouse. But, it reminds us that our ancestors were hungry for knowledge and did not want their children to grow up in ignorance but the country was too new to furnish teachers who could teach so the learning was megar. I think all of his children could read enough to get comfort from the Bible and that was about the only book they had for many years. Occasionally a back dated newspaper found its' way into that far away hilly country and how eagerly it's contents were devoured by every family for miles around.. later, the most famous textbooks were McGuffey's Readers, they were

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dearly loved by both teachers and pupils. The old Elementary Blue-backed Spelling book even came before McGuffey's.

Archibald had many large tracts of land in Morgan & Lawrence Counties, the first we find recorded on Land Grant Records in October 26, 1822, then again on September 16, 1827 and another one in 1825 this was signed by Gov. James T. Morehead, he took up 140 acres on December 22, 1865 in Morgan County, on this Grant was placed the State Seal it was made of paper and fastened to the Grant with a red sealing wax. His last tract of land was taken up four (4) years before Elliott County was created from parts of Morgan, Lawrence & Carter Counties under the act as passed by the Legislature, April 1, 1869. As was previously stated, Archibald had nine (9) sons and all came with him to Kentucky. They married there and each one took up large tracts of land and built homes, raised big families. So when Elliott County was formed the Ison family owned almost every foot of land in that county and some in the Old counties of Floyd, Morgan, Carter & Lawrence. Elliott County was named for John M. Elliott, he was then Judge of the Court of Appeals, and had also come from the Clinch River section in Scott County, Virginia.

ARCHIBALD and MARY GILLIAM ISON

DESCENDANTS

Charles Ison-1st son of Archibald and Mary Gilliam Ison born 1802, Scott County, Virginia. Married Lucinda (Lucy) daughter of Archibald Day, he took a Grant of land in what is now Carter County, Kentucky, near Grayson where he built his home and they had eight (8) children-Henry, George, Joshua, Elizabeth, Lucinda, Elsa, Nancy and Annie.

William Ison-2nd son married Hettie Hamilton daughter of Edward Hamilton, his land was on Paint Creek in Morgan County, Kentucky. They had nine (9) children-Issac, Archibald, Ison, Iru, Mary Ann, Hamilton, Elizabeth, Lucinda and William.

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Martin Ison-3rd son, married Nancy Sparks daughter of Robert Sparks. He had land and home on the right fork of the Newcomb River, three miles from the forks, in Elliott County. They had nine (9) children, namely-Charles, William, Joshua, Byrdine, Ruben, Martin, Sidney, Nancy and Grace.

Ira Ison-4th son, married Zina Sparks daughter of Levi Sparks and Sally Lyons. Their land was on the left hand fork of Little Sandy River, just seven (7) miles from Sandy Hook, Elliott County. Their children were ten (10) in number, as follows-Nelson, Argalus, Sarah, Emily, John, Ira, Martin, David, Doctor, and Isaac.

Issac Ison-5th son, Married Annie Hamilton daughter of Edward Hamilton. He took up land on Paint Creek in Morgan County, Kentucky. They raised a family of seven (7) children, viz.--Doctor, Hamilton, Mary Ann, Susan Jane, Archibald, William and Elliott.

Burdine Ison-6th son, married Cynthia Hannah daughter of Joseph Hannah & Nancy Hamilton. Their home and land was on Middle fork of Little Sandy River, about five (5) miles east of Isonville, Elliott County, Kentucky. They had nine (9) children, viz.--Doctor, Burdine, Rilda, Archibald, Sythe, Syntha, Nancy, Martha Jane and Sarah.

Doctor Ison-7th son, married Elizabeth Fraley daughter of Isaac Fraley & Catherine Shoemaker. Their land was one (1) mile north of his fathers place, near the forks of the Newcomb River in Elliott County, Kentucky. They had ten (10) children, as follows-Anderson, Samuel, Briton, Phoebe Jane, Allen, Madison, Aaron, Josephine, Richmond, Hulda and Marion Francis.

Argalus Ison-8th son, of Archibald & Mary, married Mary Hannah, daughter of Joseph Hannah and Nancy Hamilton. His land was east side of his fathers place near forks of the Newcomb in Elliott County, Kentucky.

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His children were seven (7) in number--Isabelle (Ibbie), Sarah, Pauline, Susan, Argalus, John M. and Elizabeth.

Isom Ison-9th son, born April 8, 1823, died June 24, 1880. He married Isabelle Hannah daughter of Joseph Hannah and Nancy Hamilton. Their ten (10) children were--Ebenezer, Nancy, Mary, William, Elizabeth, Spencer, Benjamin, Isabelle, Sarah and Isaac. He had land in Carter County, Kentucky. And his marriage is on the Carter Records, but after the death of his mother, he came to Isonville and lived with his father in the old home place. He cared for his father until he passed away and his father deeded the home and land to him, October 2nd, 1871 this is the Ison Home that still stands in what is now Isonville, Elliott County, Kentucky.

Elizabeth Ison, the 10th child and only daughter of Archibald & Mary born 1835, died 1881. Married 1st, David Waggoner, son of Adam Waggoner & Hannah Carter, they lived near the mouth of Bruen Creek which empties into the Sandy River in Carter County, Kentucky. Children by her first husband were--Isom, Mary, Daniel, Elizabeth and Archibald Waggoner. Elizabeth married 2nd, Elisha Lewis, son of Nathan Lewis & Judy Steadham. They lived on Spruce Branch near the mouth of Newcomb River, in Elliott County. Their children were Judy, Levina, Rena and Milford Lewis.

Pioneer conditions was not the "Primrose Path". The Indians were still trecherous so, with their guns always at their side each member of the family was to work unitedly together to provide the bare necessities of life. Men, women and children worked in the fields together and at that, food stuff was not so big a problem as shoes, clothing and bedding. All went barefooted in the summer and the long tail shirt was practically all the clothing worn by the men and boys in warm weather, each family had a

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small bunch of sheep, they sheared, washed, carded and spun the wool into yarn then knit stockings for winter wear as well as wove woolen and lincey cloth for shirts, dresses, mens suits, blankets and counterpanes or spreads then the flocks of geese and ducks kept them in feather beds and pillows. But, all these took more work than our children of today can imagine or would be willing to do today. They even raised flax, this was cut, dried and run through the flax brake then spun into linen cloth from which they wove the Tow clothes or made them, lucky was the man or boy who could boast of a Tow suit or pair of trousers.

Many times I have looked at the picture of George Washington or the signers of "Declaration of Independence" all were dressed in White Breeches and I wondered how in those early days they could have such nice looking white pants, now I know that they were home-made linen Tow trousers.

The Community Blacksmith shop of those days represented our Garage of today and the Blacksmith set the iron tier to the wheel of the great Prairie Schooner as the workers in the Garage fix our rubber car tires today. Archibald seemed to have done very well financially for about thirty years after he came to Kentucky he and his son Isom built a large new home just east of the first little log cabin where the family had been raised. It was made of yellow, hand hewn, poplar logs, forty-feet long. The house was 40 feet square, two (2) stories high with four (4) large fireplaces, two (2) below and two (2) above with an eight-foot chimney running through the center of the house, there was a twenty-foot porch running across the east end of the house.

This was the home that Mary & Archibald died in, but Mary went away many years before her husband and she was buried in the graveyard of her

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own choosing, a small plot of land on the south side of the hill some forty (40) rods west of their home, it had been her cotton patch and she asked them to bury her there. We know very little about our great-grandmother Mary, but she was large in stature, as many of her kin folk are today. She had blue eyes and must have been a wonderful Mother, to have raised nine (9) stalwart sons and one daughter, who she named Elizabeth, perhaps that was her Mother's name, She must have been a good Doctor and nurse for all her children grew to maturity, married and had large families.

Archibald lived with his youngest son, Isom, for many years after the death of Mary. It was the custom then and still is for the youngest son to care for their parents in their old-age and then the home was always given to them so, Isom raised his family in the large, new Ison Home that stands today (1958) in Isonville, Elliott County, Kentucky.

The town and Post Office was named, years later, for the early pioneer, Archibald Ison, who first settled there in 1818. Many years later Isom's children sold the Old Home to Henry Wheeler in 1907. In 1949 Mr. Wheeler took me through the home I climbed the narrow little stairway, the original one, to the upper two large rooms, saw the great fireplace and eight-foot chimney, the original white poplar poles that showed in portion of wall and he gave me a picture of the Old Home, I shall put a copy of it in this book, as it is sacred to me.

We have no definite death date for Archibald Ison, but on the Deed Record in the Courthouse at Sandy Hook, Elliott County I found a deed signed by Archibald Ison giving to his son, Isom, the land and Home place. This was dated October 2, 1871. So, his death would have been after this date, he is buried by the side of Mary, they have no markers, with dates on them.

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But, large rough stones at each grave. Two other graves are in the little family cemetery a baby named Isaac, son of Isom & Isabelle Hannah Ison. When they were laying the baby away, water run into the grave and Isom said "This is not a fit place to be buried in, but if it is good enough for my Mother, my Father and my child, it is good enough for me". So, Isom was buried there June 25, 1880.

And we come to the close of Archibald Ison's Earth School. He was a good husband, a kind father, a great friend and neighbor and a Wonderful Pioneer--his earthly body lies in an unmarked grave about forty (40) rods west from his home on the south side of the hill, five rods from the State Highway Kentucky No. 32. But his Spirit lives on in his Heavenly Home with Mary and all the children, each of them left here many years ago. And, his last grandchild, Milford Lewis, died June 12, 1946.

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DOCTOR ISON AND ELIZABETH FRALEY ISON

Doctor Ison, our grandfather, was the 7th son of Archibald and Mary Gilliam Ison. He came from Old Virginia to Kentucky in his Mother's lap when he was one (1) year old. There he grew to manhood and married Elizabeth Fraley, May 5, 1845, she was the daughter of Isaac Fraley and Catherine Shoemaker Fraley. When I was researching in Lawrence County, Kentucky. In the County records at the Courthouse, I found a small yellow paper aged and worn, it was in their early marriage records, I made a copy of same and here it is:

TRUE COPY

"Mr. Macher deer sir you may give Doctor Ison a  
par of lisings for him and my Daughter Elezabth Fraley  
and this my name shall be your rect. this 3 day of may 1845."

Isaac Fraley

I was thrilled over the finding of this bit of paper written so many years ago and to see the signature of our direct ancestor, they were happy, hard working Pioneers.

Doctor Ison was reported as being a very kind man to his family, his friends, neighbors and expecially kind and helpful to his wife who had a large family of boys and raised two (2) daughters, their home was made of logs, haveing two (2) large rooms, 18 feet by 18 feet with a hall between the rooms, open at both ends so one could drive through it. But, neither room had a door opening into the hall, there was only one door in each room and they opened outside so to go from room to room one would have to go out doors and walk around, there was no windows in the house, just a small hole cut in the wall by the fireplace with a small wooden door to

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it that Granny could open and shut as she liked. It was her sewing window for remember, she made all the clothing by hand for a family of eleven (11) people and first had to wash, card, and spin the wool then weave it into cloth.

A large dining table, made of hand split logs, was in the center of the west room and two double beds, with great feather ticks, was in the east end and the east room of their home was for company and it had three beds in it and a large fireplace completely across one end. There was another fireplace just like it in the other room, here Granny did all her cooking for she never had a cook stove in her life, her cooking and baking was done in large iron kettles and the old Iron Dutch oven on the large rock hearth with live coals under the oven and on top of the lid.

Doctor was always kind, helpful to Bettie, as he called her, he was handy and made her many Modern Conveniences, of her day and time: The wooden tub, wooden buckets all with handles of wood, the hickory chairs with woven hickory bark bottoms, but the most outstanding of his handy work was "Grannies Fat Trough", made from a hollowed-out white walnut log, it was 6 feet long by 18 inches wide and 14 inches deep, it would hold 200 pounds of lard and it was never empty, it was kept in the smoke house.

Her pot rack was made out of wood with wooden pegs for the iron kettles to hang on, she would say "My pot rack hangs and bears but never blossoms". Before making their home, Doctor built a large brick kiln and burned a lot of red brick. These were the first in the country and were used in making the two large chimneys in their home and also for foundation and although the old home has been rebuilt, those same red brick have been used in the new home and can be seen in good condition today.

Doctor did not live to be an old man he died at 65 and from all descriptions of what took him away, he must have had Cancer of the liver.

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During his life time he was a Peace Maker and the promise of our Saviour in His Sermon on the Mount, could very well be one of Doctors blessings.

"Blessed are the Peace Makers for they shall be called the children of God."

At the time of his passing he requested that clasped hands be cut on his Headstone as a reminder to his children and children's children that their father wished them to always keep on friendly terms with one another and always be willing to give all a brotherly handshake.

I made a pencil copy of his Headstone with the hands that are cut on it when I visited his grave in July 1940 so to show that his dying wish had been granted.

Elizabeth's parents, Isaac & Catherine Shoemaker Fraley, came from Scott County, Virginia in 1818 to the Newcomb Fork of the Little Sandy River in Lawrence County, Kentucky. They had eleven (11) children and Elizabeth is their fourth (4th) child she was born in Kentucky and lived 22 years longer than her husband. Her grandchildren all loved to go spend the night at Grannies. I have oftentimes heard both Robert & Isaac tell what a treat it was how they loved to climb up the ladder to the loft where Grannie kept three (3) beds made down on the floor. She had a stroke seven (7) years before her death and never walked again but spent the rest of her life in a chair. Her son Samuel moved his family to her home, for she did not want to leave her home, and he cared for his Mother the rest of her life.

She died on the 24th of March 1904 and is buried by her husband on the Old Home place in Isonville, Elliott County, Kentucky.

Written by: Louie S. Ison

Wife of Robert & Isaac Ison

## LIFE STORY OF RICHMOND ISON

by

Louie May Savage Ison

Richmond was the sixth child of Doctor and Elizabeth Fraley Ison. He was born 28 February 1859 in what was then called Newcomb (though the post office has now been changed to Isonville) Elliott County, Kentucky. He married Martha Rice, the daughter of George Rice and Ester Hurst, on 13 February 1879. When Richmond married, his father gave him 75 acres of land on Rocky Branch, a tributary of the Newcomb River. His land was about four miles from the old home. That summer he farmed some of his father's cleared land and spent all the time that he could, while not working at his crop of clearing his own land, building a little log cabin which he and Martha moved into that fall. Many nights he worked by the light of burning limbs until well after midnight cutting a felling timber. While he was chopping the timber, Martha did sewing and knitting for everything was done by hand those days. One night when Richmond was returning to his little home from his father's farm he was followed by a panther. The night was dark so all he could see was the two round eyes gleaming at him through the darkness. He could hear the small limbs crash as it leaped from tree to tree and several times it dropped to the ground and he could hear the tread of its feet like great cat paws. He finally secured a large hickory stick with an iron-like knot on the end and when the panther came too close he would face around quickly, wave his club towards it and then the bright eyes would go back into the darkness. In this manner he covered the four miles to his home. When he was within hearing distance he called his own large dog Sheap who came running and drove the panther

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far into the woods. In those days life was a constant struggle for mere existence.

Richmond and Martha were the parents of ten children. Walter was the first baby. He died when only a few hours old and was buried high on the hillside north of their little home, under a small hickory tree. The next child was Robert Lee who was born 9 June 1881. Then came Hulda Jane, but just before her birth, Father Richmond decided to build a larger home of logs for his growing family. This home was on the hillside directly west of the first cabin. It had three lower rooms and two on the upper floor. The family moved into this house the night before their baby Hulda Jane came. The next children were David Franklin, Edward and Lucy who died in infancy and was buried by the side of Walter under the hickory tree. Then came Eva and Janetta.

About the time of Eva's birth a great change came into the Ison family. For several generations their kinfolk had all been staunch Methodists. Richmond was a steward of the church and Martha a very devote member. At this time two missionaries came to town preaching a strange new doctrine. Richmond went with his oldest brother, Adderson to their meeting. They were sent by agreement of the town folk to mob the missionaries. "What right had these two men to come into their peaceful little mountain home and draw away their good church members into a strange doctrine that was ill-spoken of? Better tell them to get out of here and stay out." But there was no mobbing that night for the words that Richmond heard sank deep into his heart, and he went home to think. The words of truth found fertile soil in the heart of an honest man and while "he went to mock, he returned to pray". The words they heard was the Gospel of Christ as taught by the Latter Day Saints.

Soon he and his wife were attending these Mormon meetings regularly, studying their literature and bringing the Elders to their home for entertainment. Richmond, Martha and their older children were baptized by Elders Judson I. Toleman and Mathew Spears on 16 May 1895, into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Yes, they were "in the Gospel net" and with all their kinfolk opposing them very bitterly.

It was hard for this family to live their new religion among their many relatives who felt that they were surely in the wrong, so Richmond began plans for coming West to be with those who believed as he did. But this was not an easy or quick thing to do. He was a poor man with a large family and it was more than two thousand miles to either Utah or Arizona. Sure, he owned 75 acres of hilly farm land in the mountains of north eastern Kentucky. On this he could make a living for his family, but to sell it for cash was a different matter. It took him almost two years to sell the land and get ready to leave, but he was a sincere, faithful Latter Day Saint and during this time he worked as a teacher in the little Branch of the church that was there. Its members were few and very scattered, so to make his ward teaching visits, he had to be gone overnight--his visits taking two days.

At last the home was sold to a neighbor, James Henderson Fraley, and his wife, Sarah J. Rucker. The cows, mules and scanty pieces of household furniture were disposed of. The saddest part of leaving was to go away from the two little graves under the hickory tree on the hillside. Yes, they must leave Walter and Lucy. On 5 November 1898, they said Goodby to their two mothers, who still lived, their Aunts, Uncles and Cousins and started for Thatcher, Arizona. It was a tearful parting, for although ridiculed by their relatives for the religion they defended, still all hated to see them go. It was the first one of the Ison family to leave the old homeland since

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great grandfather, Archibald Ison, walked from Scott County, Virginia to settle on the Newcomb River in Elliott County, Kentucky in 1820. But the Scriptures tell us that "there shall be one of a family and two of a city gathered into the Gospel Net".

Richmond Ison had done and he never saw Kentucky again in this life "All men have the God given right to think and believe as they will and all men have the responsibility to render an accounting sometime, somewhere, for those things which they choose to think and to believe." Richmond had made his choice. To the Ison Family Tree he was a broken branch who had purposely cast himself off to destruction. But who has the power to judge, or who knows that Richmond was not chosen in his pre-existant life to be like Joseph of old, a Savior to his father's family.

Life was't a bed of roses nor was the path easy for the Ison family who came to Arizona. Everything was so different--climate, housing, friends, no relatives and above all, the methods of making a living for a large family. It took courage to stay and build anew. And wasn't this Zion? Where all were your brothers and sisters. Sorry to say, Richmond and Martha found some who were the opposite. In April 1900, just two years after leaving Kentucky, a baby boy came to Richmond's home and they named him Lovall Allen.

At one time Father Ison was a very heavy man. He weighed better than 300 pounds. His health started to fail him a few years after coming West, so the two older boys, Robert and Zebedee went to the nearby mining camps and worked to support the family. Both boys attended the LDS Academy at Thatcher, but neither of them finished their course because they worked away so much. Robert seemed more interested in the principles of the new Gospel than any of the other children. He worked in several of the auxiliary organizations and was a Sunday Schoolteacher for several years.

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Richmond Ison was a very good gardner and on his small tract of five acres, lying just east of Thatcher, Arizona, he raised the best that could be had of sweet potatoes, mellons and all kinds of garden stuff. He had a few choice fruit trees and a good grape arber which supplied their needs. I lived in their home during the month of August 1913 and here I learned to love Grandfather Ison very much. He was so kind. I never heard him say an ill word about anyone. His neighbors loved him. He was honest and would not misrepresent any matter.

Robert and I spent the holiday week of 1916 at his home, coming from Miami, Arizona, by rail, a distance of some eighty miles. Each day while I was there, Richmond would say "Louie have you the time now to write more of my family history?" I wrote all that he could tell me of his kinfolk, how his grandfather Archibald Ison came to settle Kentucky early in the eighteenth century, names of his Uncles and Aunts and who they married and the same for his brothers and sisters and their families. He had no written record, but his memory was wonderful. When we visited Kentucky in 1940, I checked all the names and dates that he gave to me in 1916, finding not one mistake. To Grandfather Richmond goes the honor of giving the first information to begin our Ison Record.

After our visit in 1916, I never saw Richmond again until on his death bed. He soon developed dropsy and in October 1925 we got a letter from Grandmother saying that "father was very ill". Robert and I were living in Woodruff, Arizona then, and we had six children. We had no car but we started for Thatcher in our old truck with five of our children. We left Bob to care for the home and livestock. Highway 60 was not then made, so we went by White and Black Rivers, thru Rice to San Carlos and on to the Gila Valley. It rained alot and made it very uncomfortable for us as the only way we had to keep dry was to crowd into the cab of our truck.

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We arrived at Thatcher after dark on 23rd of October. When Grandfather saw his son he said, "Oh, Robert I'm so glad that you have come." And so were we. Grandpa talked alot to Robert the next day, then the following morning, Thursday, October 25, 1925, about 10 o'clock a.m., while Robert was standing by his bedside, Richmond closed his eyes and folded his arms across his chest and very peacefully went to his Heavenly Home.

His funeral was beautiful. Grandmother and all their children except Hulda, who was too sick to come, were ~~there~~. Hundreds of his friends and neighbors were there too. W. W. Pace, a well known and well liked merchant and a prominent citizen, was the main speaker. Among the fine things that he said of Grandfather was; "There lies AN HONEST MAN." To me this is the very highest recommendation that could have been given to any man. Then Brother Pace appealed to Richmond's five grown sons who were sitting around their father's casket to let honesty be their motto also. It is coincidental that Mr. Pace would give Richmond the title of an honest man, for on the Ison coat of arms granted to John Ison 11 May 1613 at Troutsdale, Yorkshire, England, the motto was: " For all men to be honest is glory." Grandpa never read this motto on the arms, but honesty was in his blood. Grandfather's grave is in the Thatcher cemetery.

Richmond's patriarchal blessing said, "You will do a good work for your Father's family," and he truely did, for had it not been for the data he gave me in 1916, and his insistant urging me to write, we may not have had our Ison book as it is today. Now hundreds of his kin have had their temple work done and death was his mission call to the spirit world where untold kinfolk can be taught the Gospel.

Grandmother Martha lived on in the little home which stood on the five acres near the railroad tracks in Thatcher for a few years and then she sold it to buy a small white frame house on Maine Street.



March 18, 1939 was Grandma's 80th birthday and all the children came home. Robert was the farthest away. We traveled 500 miles to be with her but what a lovely reunion we had.

The first Ison reunion held in Arizona was on 18 March 1939 by the Richmond Ison posterity. It was held at Thatcher, Arizona in the home of Martha Rice Ison in honor of her 80th birthday. There were present her eight children; Robert Lee, Zebedee, Hulda, David, Edward, Eva, Janetta and Lovall Allen. Daughter-in-laws; Louie May, wife of Robert Lee; Cora Valina, wife of Edward; and Emma Nile, Lovall Allen's wife. Son-in-laws present; Johah Nichols, Hulda's husband; Samuel B. Echoles, Eva's husband; and William O. Jennings, husband of Janetta. Grandchildren present; Elizabeth and Marilyn Ison, William and John Edward Jennings, Roy Elis, Ray Allen, Ruby and Eveline Ruth Echols. Great grandchildren present; Lee Allen Echols, Olive Inman Echols, wife of Roy and a girl friend of Ray Allen Echols, making 28 present.

The day was beautiful, Grandma looked so pretty with her white hair curled and a flower pinned on her dress. All of the children remembered her with presents. Dinner was very good and was fixed by Nile and a hired lady. Zebb had worked cleaning the yard, cutting the hedge and trimming the rose bushes for two days before the reunion. After dinner we went in cars to the old Ison home where Grandpa Richmond died. From there we went to the Thatcher cemetery and visited his grave. We visited with Grandma until a late hour, then some stayed over night while others went home to Safford, Pima, Globe and Phoenix. It was a lovely reunion.

Christmas 1941 Granma wrote a nice letter to her R. L. (as she always called him) and sent him a card. Robert treasured both until his death only

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three months later. His mother lived two years longer than her son. The last few years of her life she was very feeble and her daughter Hulda cared for her. At her death the home was given to Aunt Hulda who lives there today. (1959)

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## ISON HISTORY

by Robert Lee Ison

from 1820-1920

Ancharable Ison and his wife Polly Gillam was one of the first families to take up land in Elliot County, Kentucky about 1820. Their birth place and former residence was in Virginia. They had a large family of boys, therefore took a big tract of land with the intention of securing homes for their children. The Indians were real troublesome in those days, but they finally made peace treaties and pushed the Indians farther west. Two of the boys, Doctor and Burdine were given that part of the land on the little river called Newcomb.

Doctor married Elizabetg Ffaley about 1844, ten children were born to the, Samuel, Anderson, Aaron, Phoebee, Allen Richmond, Hulda and Marion Francis. Two of the children died at birth. The family's politics were Democratic. Their occupation was farming and timbering. Doctor died in 1882 of disentary, and Stomach trouble. Marion Francis was killed while floating sawlogs down the river to the sawmill May 16, 1891. He left a wife and one child, the mother gave birth to another child about six months after his death, all the rest of Doctors children had large families.

Richmond was married to Martha Rice February 13, 1879. His father gave him a 75 acre farm on Rockie Branch, a tributary of the Newcomb, about four miles from the old home. He farmed a part of his fathers cleared land the following summer and spend all the spare time he could get, clearing his own land and building a little log cabin, into which he and Martha moved in the fall, they worked hard together clearing the timber from the land, many times working until 11 or 12 at night, by the light of burning bushes, while he was felling the trees, she would sew or knit. They had ten

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children: Walter, who died an infant, Robert Lee, and Zebedee, these three came to the little log cabin just before the arrival of Hilda Jane. Father Ison had built a new home, it was of logs having three rooms on the lower floor and two upper rooms. Later David Frankline, Edward, Lucy, Eva and Janetta were born. About the time of Eva's birth a great change came to the Ison family. For several generations back they had been staunch Methodists. Richmond being a Stewart of the church and Martha a very devoted member.

There was two missionaries came into the country preaching a new doctrine to them. It was the gospel of Christ, as taught by the Latter Day Saints, commonly called Mormons. Father and Mother Ison began making investigations and were soon baptized, altho very much opposed, were their dear kindred.

Their children who were of age were baptized the following summer. And on November 5, 1898 they left their old home in Kentucky and came to Thatcher, Arizona, where they could reside among those who were of the same faith.

The following April 1900 a baby boy came to their home they name him Lovell Allen.

I was 18 years old when we came to Arizona and as there was a large family to keep, all who were old enough had to do their part. So I spent the first few years at job work, helping to support the family. In 1905, I attended the Thatcher Academy, also 1906 and 1907. The following winter and summer I remained at home and farmed.

In the spring of 1909 I received a call to go on a mission, I left Thatcher for Salt Lake City, October 30, 1909, and was set apart for my mission November 2, by Elder George F. Richards. I left Salt Lake City for Chattanooga, Tennessee. In company with twenty-three Elders to Denver,

Colorado. With eight Elders from there to Chattanooga arriving November 7, 1909. Three of us were appointed to South Carolina Conference, there I labored as a missionary for about twenty-seven month, Arriving at my old home in Thatcher about the last of January 1912.

The following July, I left Thatcher for the Northern part of the state in compnay with L. F. Mortenson, to visit a lady friend, and see the country. We had a pleasant trip coming over the mountains arriving at Woodruff July 3rd. We spent the 3rd and a few following days at Bishop L. M. Savage's home. Returning to Thatcher by way of Bush Valley and Clifton. Soon going to Miami, Arizona to engage in carpenter work at the Live Oak Mine. I remained there until May 1913, when I made another trip to Woodruff. Then in company with Miss Louie Savage went to Salt Lake City where we were married in the Temple June 5, 1913. We remained there two weeks doing some temple work and visiting the city.

We then went to Los Angeles spending six weeks there visiting my wife's sister Alvenia Heywood. We returned to Woodruff, we spent two weeks with the folks, then went by team across the White Mountains to Thatcher. We stayed about fourteen days with father and mother where I left Louie while I went to Miami to find employment. I went to work as a carpenter for the Inspiration Company, soon sending for my wife. We rented a small place and began housekeeping, in a short time we bought the place and remained in Miami about five years during this time I worked thirteen months in the Miami Mines as timberman, the remainder of the time I worked on the construction of the Inspection Consentrations. While there, three children were born to our home Robert, Joseph and Ruth.

Thinking that the farm would be a better place to raise our children, we decided to move to a farm. So we sold our home, purchased a team and wagon and came to Woodruff, October 5, 1918, renting Father Savage's farm for two years.

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And as we feel quite contented, we are planning on making our home in Woodruff.

In 1921 we bought the old rock home and eight acre field of Father Savage's in Woodruff. Three of our children were born in Miami, Robert Levi, on April 16, 1914. Joseph Richmond, August 9, 1916. And Ruth Adeline, April 1, 1918. Then Martha was born at Holbrook, Arizona February 1, 1921, and James Lincoln in the old rock home at Woodruff, October 26, 1922. Elizabeth came on November 22, 1924 at Woodruff, then the baby, Marilyn Mathers, came in October 13, 1927 at Woodruff, Arizona.

On May 1936, we are still living in the old rock house at Woodruff, we paid for the home and eight acre feidl in long time payments. It cost us \$1600. We finished our last payment in June 1931. During these years we have made a great many improvements on the old homestead. To begin with, we had a well drilled upon the hill lot south of the house, it is 60 feet deep, 8 inches in diameter and is in solid rock from top to bottom. Then a ditch was made through solid rock down the hill and over to the home where we piped the water into the house, this project cost us \$600. We built the barn on the hill, the garage at the east of the house, put in new floors, a wash room, a bath room, the porch on the east and moved the doors from the north putting in windows in there place. We have had four rooms of the home painted and decorated, both walls and wood work. Now our plans are to finish the front room and plaster the outside of the house.

We reroofed the home and put up a new fence, and purchased the tithing lot at the west also the grainery.