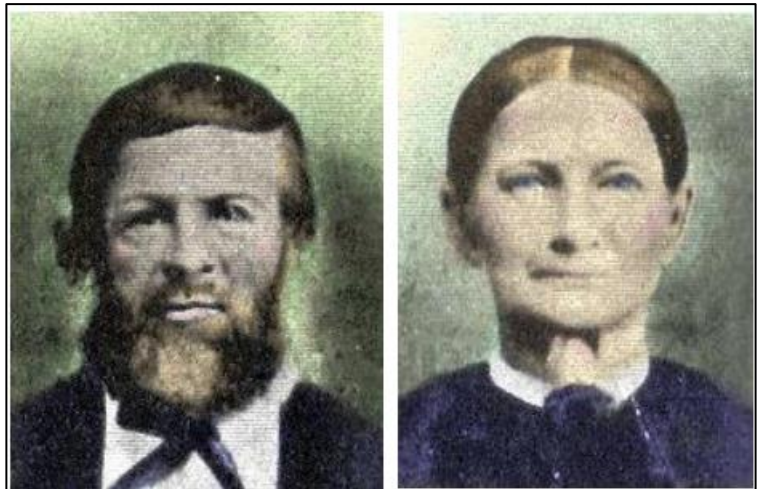


Johannes and Maria Ursula Muller Gubler Family

- Anna Mary Gubler
- Louisa Gubler
- John Gubler
- Herman Gubler

Johannes (John) Gubler was born in Mullheim, Switzerland, 29 November 1818, the third son born to Hans Heinrich and Anna Margaretha Dinckel Gubler.

Maria (Mary) Ursula Muller was born at Eilhart, Switzerland, 10 January 1823. Johannes and Maria were married 29 March 1849 at Mullheim, Switzerland where they were living when they were converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They were parents of seven children, three of whom died in infancy. The four who grew to maturity were Anna Mary, Louisa, John and Herman.



Johannes Gubler and Maria Ursula Muller

In Switzerland they had a comfortable home and a small piece of land and a small store. Johannes was a salesman. He would take the goods and go to different towns nearby and sell them while Maria, his wife, took care of the vegetable garden and her family. The family had heard rumors about the Mormon missionaries but hadn't met any of them. As Grandmother was greatly opposed to the missionaries from the stories she had heard, Grandfather, after meeting them, attended some of their meetings without her knowing about it. He took a liking to them and believed what they preached. One day, he told her that some missionaries were going to hold a meeting at a nearby town and asked if she and the children would like to go

with him and hear them. She consented to go and take the children, not knowing what church the missionaries represented. Grandmother liked the meeting and the doctrine taught very much so they went often and it wasn't long until she and Grandfather were converted and baptized.

They were anxious to immigrate to America so they could live their religion and worship as they wanted to without being persecuted and shunned by their friends. They sold everything they had for what they could get and left Switzerland in August 1859. They sailed from Liverpool, England on a ship called the Emerald Isle with other Swiss converts. They were six weeks crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Liverpool to New York. Anna Mary was eight years old and she became very ill while crossing the ocean so they had to remain at Williamsburg, a small town near New York, for two months until she was well enough to go on their journey by train to Florence, Nebraska where the rest of the company were.

That was as far as the train went. The company stopped there and got their outfits ready to go on to Salt Lake City. They still had 1,000 miles to go with wagons pulled by oxen. The men worked day and night making wagons and getting their outfits ready for their long journey.

They joined the Jesse Murphy Wagon Company, and departed from Florence on 19 June, 1860. It was a long, tiresome trip across the plains, but they arrived safely with no losses of people or property. They arrived in Salt Lake City on 30 August 1860. They settled in Ogden, and got work of different kinds to earn money to support themselves.

Grandfather was given a piece of land on which to raise some crops. The family lived there one year and were getting along quite nicely when, at the general conference of the Church in October 1861, President Brigham Young called a company of 309 missionaries to go to Southern Utah. Included in the number was what was designated as the Swiss Company. They all joined and formed a company with Daniel Bonelli of Salt Lake City as their leader.

He could speak both the Swiss and English language. Teams were provided by the Church to take them south. The route they followed was practically that of

the state highway of today. As they had had experience in grape culture, they were told to go to Santa Clara and raise grapes and cotton, both of which had been grown there successfully prior to that time. An Indian mission had been established at Santa Clara a few years previously and approximately twenty families were living at the fort called Fort Clara. The company arrived November 28, 1861. They drove to the fort where they camped for about three weeks. Then it was decided to make a permanent town site below the point of the hill on the bend of the river where homes would be safer from the flood waters of the creek. Preliminary arrangements had been made with the original settlers to relinquish their claims in favor of those recently arrived. This was carried out and Santa Clara had a new beginning.

A survey of the new town site was made in December. The people assembled on December 22 for the dedication at which Elder Daniel Bonelli offered the dedicatory prayer. Lots and vineyards were laid out and the settlers drew for their plots of ground. During the month a dam in the creek and a ditch to the new town site had been built. This was completed by December 25 at a cost of one thousand and thirty dollars. Men were given two dollars credit per day for their labor. The very day this dam was completed rain began falling and it continued to rain for a prolonged period of time. On New Year's Day a terrific flood swept away the Fort and other buildings of the original town site and destroyed the dam and canal just completed. They then had to begin anew to build the town and all pertaining to it. They set to their task with vigor so that by March 16 they had again completed the construction of the dam and a canal to the town site.

After the lots and vineyards had been plotted, corresponding numbers were written on sheets of paper and placed in a hat. Brother Bonelli drew the numbers from the hat and allotted them to the various families. The land was nothing but sagebrush and grease woods so they set to work to clear it and make ditches.

By spring their food supply was so low they had to gather pig weeds to cook, which served as their food with a scanty bit of bread for many weeks. They were three weeks without any white bread and had just a bit of cornbread. In

those days they would save a small dab of dough to start the next batch of bread. One day father (Herman) found a piece of this sour dough which Grandmother had saved. It was dried and hard as a rock but he ate it eagerly. When Grandmother saw him, it made her cry to think her young boy had to go so hungry.

The first year their main crop was corn. Since better bread could be made with part wheat to go with the corn, Grandmother and all the children except Louisa went north with many other people to glean wheat for their winter bread. Grandfather stayed home to run the farm and Louisa stayed to cook and help him. This went on for several years. The last year they went north to glean wheat, John, the oldest son, became very sick with malaria. Then Mary and Herman contacted it so they had to return home.

At about this time they received a \$150 they still had coming from the sale of their home in Switzerland. With this they bought some land across the creek, known as the south fields. There were three rows of peach trees on the land just beginning to bear. The land was purchased from some English people who lived at the old fort. They dried the peaches and raised cane which they made into molasses. In the fall Grandfather went up north with the dried peaches and molasses and traded them for flour and potatoes. In this way they got along much better during the winters. Grandfather couldn't speak English very well so he took one of the boys along with him to interpret, and they made many life-long friends with whom they were able to stop overnight while on these trips.

In those first years there weren't any doctors or nurses so the women cared for each other when they had their babies. Grandmother acted as nurse to many women during their confinement.

After things were a little better, Grandfather bought a team of mules. Father told of the trip his mother and father took to Salt Lake City with a load of dried peaches. They took him along to help drive as Grandfather didn't know much about driving or handling a team. In fact, he never had had any experience with horses or mules, and he was quite nervous.

When they got to Cove Fort, one of their wheels was about to give way so the man living there told them if they would stop over a day, he would make them a new wheel. In those days they made the wheels from all wood. After the wheel was made, they went on their way and got along nicely until they were driving down Main Street in Salt Lake City. The Pony Express that carried the mail came along and frightened the mules. It caused them to run and tip the wagon over, and the dried peaches were scattered all over the streets. People came from every direction to help gather up the peaches. Grandfather was so excited about his load he hadn't noticed Grandmother was hurt. He was told that she had been taken to the hospital. He was very excited and found she was badly injured, but the doctor told him she would be all right. She was in the hospital for three weeks before she could go home.

In those days grass grew along the sides of the roads. As there wasn't much hay, people turned their animals out at night to eat the grass. Sometimes they would stray off and the men would have to hunt them next morning. This happened on their way home, and they spent all day looking for the mules but couldn't find them. That night they prayed to our Father in Heaven that they might find them. The next morning the mules were found next to where they were camped, and they went on their way rejoicing and thanking their Heavenly Father for helping them.

They lived in their dugouts until they could make a house of adobes. This they lived in for many years. Then Grandfather and the boys went up on the Pine Valley Mountain and worked to earn lumber to build a two-room frame house. Later they built a larger home which consisted of three large rooms and two porches.

Grandfather and Grandmother were always ready and willing to help do their part in building up the town and community. Grandfather helped build the first public building on the square which was made of adobes. This served as church house, school house, and amusement hall for many years. Grandfather also assisted in the construction of the St. George Temple. He and the boys hauled lumber from the Pine Valley Mountain and Mount Trumble. In all their hardships and struggles they both stayed true and firm in their belief.

Grandfather's health was quite poor in his later years, but he was only bedfast a few days before his death. He died 2 January 1897, being 79 years old. Grandmother only lived four years after Grandfather's death. Suffering a stroke which left her paralyzed on her right side she was nevertheless cheerful, happy, and uncomplaining as she was lovingly cared for by her children. She passed away on September 20, 1901 and was buried by the side of her husband in the Santa Clara cemetery.

Life of Anna Mary Gubler Wittwer

Told by her daughters Josephine Wittwer Hughes, and Mary Wittwer Tobler

Anna Mary Gubler was born in Mullheim, Thurgau Switzerland, December 26, 1851. She was the daughter of Maria Ursula Muller and John Gubler. Her mother and father lived in a large two story house; part of the house was made into a store. Grandmother took care of the store, selling dry goods, and materials, and grandfather took samples of material and goods from the store going from door to door to sell. He was called a drummer or peddler.



Anna Mary Gubler

One day while he was out selling he heard about the Mormon missionaries; later he was invited to go to one of their meetings. He was very impressed with what he heard, but he didn't tell grandmother because he was afraid she would not approve.

While grandfather was on one of his selling trips, grandmother heard about the Mormon missionaries and attended a cottage meeting: She too was very impressed with the message they had.

When Grandfather came home she told him where she had been. They invited the missionaries to their home to teach them the Gospel. Grandfather snuffed tobacco; he didn't know this was wrong until the Mormon missionaries told him about the Word of Wisdom. He had a

bad running sore on his leg that would not heal. The missionaries told him if he would leave his tobacco alone his leg would be made well. He did as he was advised and his leg became well and strong again. This was indeed a testimony to him.

Grandmother's father, Urich Muller, was a baker, and taught grandmother while very young how to cook. Many of the things she learned to make have been handed down to her children and grandchildren such as: noodles, flittets bread, dinella, apple cakes, egg bread and many others.

In August 1859, the family took the train to the sea coast. There they boarded a boat and were on the ocean for forty days. Each family supplied their own beds; grandmother had enough feather beds for her family. They sailed on a sail boat and at times the wind blew them the wrong way. While on the ocean, mother took very sick. She would often hear them say: "Mary can't last until morning, she is so very sick,"but through their faith and prayers she was healed and was able to complete the long trip. At this time she was nine years old. There were four children in the family: mother, (Anna Mary) Loisia, John and Harmon.

Florence, New York was the starting point for their western migration. Here they bought two cows and two oxen. The cows were always bought for their milk, but it was arranged that the cows didn't have any calves, at the time. They also bought a big Shettler wagon and tools. One tool was a drawing knife for smoothing lumber. The cattle had to be trained to pull the wagons. Ropes were fastened around their horns to guide them but sometimes the cows would run away and upset the wagons. Usually the company averaged about 10 to 12 miles a day by foot. Some of the cows were baucky and wouldn't pull and it usually took two men to drive a yolk of oxen. Most of the time only two meals a day were eaten.

The first winter in the U.S. was spent in Williamsburg, New York. The children picked up lumps of coal along the railroad tracks for free to

keep warm. On the trip westward they stopped at Scottsburg, Nebraska. From Nebraska to Ogden, Utah they had many trials and experiences.

When the company arrived at Ogden, Utah, they were given land to plant a garden. No charge was made for the use of this land but the land had to be cleared first. They sold much of the surplus and gave away what was left. Grandmother was somewhat experienced in gardening as she had had a garden in Switzerland.

The later part of November 1861, they were advised to move to the southern part of Utah by President Brigham Young. When the family arrived in Santa Clara they, lived in a 12 X 12 dugout, using poles for supporting the roof. They had one window in the gable end. Later a sod house was built.

It took grandtather and the boys two years to clean and prepare two acres of land for cultivation. Grandmother and grandfather raised cane which was made into molasses and raised different kinds of fruit.

In the fall of each year he went north with his produce to trade for grain, flour and other things the family would use. Grandfather could not speak the English language very well, so mother, being oldest child, went with him for company and to interpret the Swiss language into English. In those days while traveling north and returning again, they often met hostile savages, and it looked as if they meant to do harm. But when they would meet the savages, grandfather would pray in silent to his Father in Heaven that they would not be harmed by the Indians. They knew their prayers were answered, because they always returned home unmolested.

Mary Wittwer Tobler tells the following story from her mother:

Once when grandfather and mother were going to Parowan with grist to make into flour, they saw a large cloud of dust. As they approached the dust they could tell that it was a band of Indians. Grandfather and mother prayed, then grandfather put mother out of sight. As the Indians came closer they could see that they were on the war path. Their faces were painted, and as they approached us they lined up on both sides of

us. Grandfather was impressed to make his horses go as fast as he could. The Indians just stood there. They were still standing when we got out of sight. We went on our way and returned home in safety with our grist, flour and bran several days later.

Anna Mary grew up knowing hardships, hunger, hard work and sacrifice. She and her mother and brothers gleaned what in New Harmony and Cedar City for their winter's supply of flour. They dried peaches and took them north to sell. They often had problems with the Indians. Anna Mary's father bought a loom while he peddled in Beaver. Anna Mary and her sister and two brothers gathered wool from the bushes after sheep had passed by and their mother used the wool to make thread. They raised cotton, picked it and pulled it from the seed and made it into cloth. When Anna Mary was older she learned from her mother how to card, spin, and weave and make cloth for clothes, sheets and blankets. She spun the yarn and knit stockings and later taught her children how to knit. When mother, Anna Wild roots of various kinds were used to color the woven articles.

Anna Mary loved music and taught her children to sing and encouraged them to play the organ, piano, guitar and mandolin. She taught her children how to sew and make clothing for their families. She loved flowers and had a flower garden along with her vegetable garden. For amusement, they enjoyed quilting bees, corn husking, and rag bees. They danced bare footed in log buildings and boweries.

When she was nineteen years old she married Samuel Wittwer in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, November 22, 1869. Twelve children were born to this union: John Samuel, Harmon, Mary Magdalena, Joseph, Anna Rosella, John Hyrum, Henry, Theodore and George. Two of these children died in infancy, Henry and Theodore.

At this time a revelation pertaining to plural marriage had been received by the authorities of the church and the saints were asked to live the law termed the celestial law. Father and mother had abiding faith in the authority of the priesthood and regarded the law as divine. As a result father married a second wife Bertha Tobler in the Saint George Temple

November 1, 1881. Three months after his second marriage, and when mother's oldest child was fourteen years old, father was called on a mission. He was to go to the North Eastern States. Here he labored for about two years without purse or script, as all missionaries did in those days. At this time there were seven children left home from Anna Mary his first wife. Six months after he was on his mission Albert was born to the second wife Bertha. During the time father was on his mission both wives and their families lived in the same house. Mother being the first wife and the senior, had a great responsibility. She always acknowledged the hand of the Lord in all her work and because of her great faith, she with the help of her older children, the second wife Bertha, and her father and mother was able to carry on successfully while father filled his mission. When he returned they all gave thanks for the protecting care that they had received while father was away.

As the years passed, three more children were born to them: Josephine, Alice

and Julius Clarence, making it a total of twelve children, ten living. All of the ten children were married in an L.D.S. temple.

The latter part of November in 1927, Anna Mary had a stroke. She was helpless for over eight months. She died 16 June 1928.

Louisa Gubler

Louisa, the next living daughter, came to America with her parents in 1860 when she was eight years old. She was mentally challenged, but was able to help with household chores, She never married, and died on 14 December 1930.



Louisa Gubler

John Gubler

John, son of Johannes (John) and Mary Ursula Gubler, was born on 10 December 1853 in Mullheim, Thurgau, Switzerland. His parents joined the Church in Switzerland in about 1857 and sailed for America on 20 August 1859 on the “Emerald Isle.” John was only six years old at the time, his sisters, Anna Mary and Louisa, were a little older, and brother Herman was younger. As a young man, John worked on both the St. George and Manti temples hauling lumber and rock and doing other work. He worked along with his father to make a living and to help build up the community.



John Gubler

He married Anna Meier, a little Swiss convert, on 19 December 1889, and they were the parents of nine children: Hyrum Paul, Helen Anna, Louis John, Walter Paulus, and Emil Richard, who died two weeks after birth, Ernest Vernon, Emma Louise, Laura and Rosella. Before his marriage, he had bought a two room home (built by Henry Hug) and two other lots in the center of town. He farmed and accumulated a few cattle, raised and peddled fruits and vegetables, and hauled wood to make a living, also helping to support his father’s family.

John took pride in his appearance, was kind and patient, and had a testimony of the Gospel. He worked in the St. George Temple in his later years. He died of a stroke on 6 June 1935 at age 82.

Life History of John Gubler

Written by a granddaughter, Amber Mae Gubler Terry

December 1986

My Grandfather, John Gubler died 6 June 1935 at age 82. I was only eight years old and because we lived in Logandale, Nevada and he in Santa Clara, Utah some one hundred plus miles apart I only saw him once or twice a year and my memories of him are limited so most of what I am going to write comes from what my father, Ernest Gubler and two aunts, Laura Gubler and Emma Lockwood have told me.

John was the fourth child of Maria (Mary) Ursula Muller and Johannes Gubler. He was born September 10, 1853 in Mullheim, Switzerland. His parents joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints about 1856. In August 1859, the family who consisted of the parents and four children, Anna Mary, Louisa, John and Harmon sailed for America. Three other children, Ulrich, Elizabeth and Abraham died in infancy before they left Switzerland. Their trip lasted forty days. They landed in the state of New York. The first winter in the United States was spent in Williamsburg, New York. The children picked up lumps of coal along the railroad tracks for fuel that winter. They traveled by train to Florence, Nebraska and after purchasing a big settler's wagon, some tools, and two oxen they started their westward migration, walking most of the way. The company stopped at Scottsbluff, Nebraska for a while. After an exhausting trip they arrived in Ogden, Utah, people and animals happy to be at last in Zion. They were given approximately one acre of land like all the pioneers, but about a year later, President Brigham Young called them with a company of many others to go to Southern Utah's Dixie to settle there. They were to raise mostly cotton and grapes. Grapes were used to make wine and was shipped to Salt Lake for Sacrament purposes. Grandpa was a good wine maker and drank some, but he never got drunk. Drinking a small glass of wine was a custom the Swiss and German people did with their meals. He liked to dip his bread in a little wine and eat it that way.

Their first homes were dugouts located at what is known as the Santa Clara Fort, around the point of the hill west of Santa Clara. Later Homes were made of sod and cotton wood logs. They had to work hard to clear the land for cultivation and planted grapevines, fruit trees, cotton and vegetables.

Grandpa was handy with tools and learned carpentry trade from Lyman Hamblin, a son of Jacob Hamblin. He worked on both the St. George and Manti Temples. He was musically talented, learned to play the violin and harmonica and often danced a jig, would sometimes play for dances in some of the surrounding towns.

In 1879 when he was twenty-six year old he bought the family home in Santa Clara from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hug who were moving to Oregon for \$400.00.

During this time the Silver Reef Mine was active and he raised and hauled hay on a wagon to Silver Reef. Hay was piled loose and tied onto the wagon with ropes. The trip usually took about three days. This was the way he paid for his home and farm.

He was very good to his parents and provided considerable time and money to help them. It was said he was the favorite of his parents. The story was told that his mother got mad at his father and left and came to live with Grandpa a whole two blocks away for a month.

Grandpa was a bachelor thirty-six years old when he married on December 19, 1889 Anna Meier, a convert to the Church of Jesus Christ who had just arrived in America from Herisau, Switzerland. She was born October 2, 1862. The only one of her family to come or to join the Church. She was converted to the Church by Elder John S. Stucki in Switzerland. Grandpa's uncle, Heinrich Gubler, an old bachelor 73 years old made an agreement with Elder Stucki that he would pay the way of this young lady convert of his over to America if she would marry him. What they told Grandma about him we don't know except he was an old man and she was only a young girl and naturally she was very disappointed and wouldn't go through with the marriage and ended up marrying Grandpa. Nine children were born to this couple. They are: Hyrum Paul born 24 February 1891, Anna Helen born 18 March 1893, Louis John born 30 November 1894, Paulus Walter born 5 April 1897, Emil Richard born 16 January 1899, and Ernest Vernon born 10 Jan 1900, Emma Louise born 9 January 1902, Laura born 10 April 1904 and Rosella born 6 February 1906.

Life was difficult and hard for these pioneers but they made the best of what they had and felt blessed to live in such a special community as Santa Clara. It was the home of a lot of Swiss Immigrants and was nicknamed, "Dutch Town", because of the Swiss and German people...

The original home only consisted of two rooms downstairs and two upstairs and a one- room cellar. As the family grew Grandpa added a large kitchen with a fireplace in it, which is now the front room, then in 1924 a large kitchen and bathroom was added. He also planted several locust trees in the yard. They had walnut, apple and pear trees and current bushes up the lot as they called

it. Peppermint grew along the ditch banks and that fragrance always brings back memories to me of Grandpa and Grandma's place. Santa Clara seemed to be just the right climate for growing fruit and Grandpa raised a lot of Alberta peaches, plums, pears and grapes and like many others they would go to the surrounding areas and peddle their fruit and vegetables. The children would have to help pick and pack the fruit and load the wagon for these trips. Each peach was wrapped separately in a sheet of Sears and Roebuck catalog paper to keep it from being bruised. The peddling trips took them to Pioche, Delemer, Nevada and many other mining towns plus surrounding towns in Southern Utah. The trips would take about two weeks and the older boys would take turns going to help. Grandma would always pack a big grub b ox. A lard bucket full of pan cakes was a must.

Hauling wheat over to the Washington Mill, just east of St. George to be ground into flour was a trip that Grandpa always took one of the girls with him. They would stay overnight with a family by the name of Schmutz and visit a cousin, Mary Wittwer Tobler. Eating dinner with them was a highlight of the trip. Weeding the garden, picking peaches, apples, cherries, etc. in the Liston Lot and Santa Clara field orchard and cutting apples and peaches up and putting them on top of the barn to dry and to stomp the hay were jobs all three girls, Emma, Laura and Rosella dreaded. Raising chickens and pigs was something every family did and Grandpa cured and smoked port to perfection. I always remember that my Dad would head for the cellar as soon as we got to Santa Clara and cut off a piece of smoked ham that would be hanging from the ceiling rafters.

Grandpa was a very methodical, particular person and was slow. He was very conscientious and thorough however and always wanted things done right. He was very quiet and didn't have much to say. He had a habit of twitching the ends of his moustache with his fingers that especially irritated Grandma. He liked clothes and took good care of them. Each Sunday after Church he would change his Sunday suit and put it into a trunk until the next Sunday. After he started peddling out to Pioche, he would take his shirts and have the Chinese laundry out there starch and do them up for him. He was very particular and a good dresser.

The Swiss language was spoken in the home and prayers were always said in Swiss night and morning on their knees with chair backs turned towards the kitchen table and Grandpa always said the prayers except when he and Grandma had words and then he wouldn't pray, so the children always know when Grandma prayed they better step lightly.

Grandpa was a meat eater and he loved pancakes and noodle soup with nutmeg in it, and would always call for the nutmeg even before there was anything else on the table.

The boys usually got their hair cut by Ernest Reber and Grandpa was disturbed by this as he thought they should learn to cut each other's hair.

He didn't like the boys to participate in sports. Thought it was foolishness and a waste of time. Their home was next door to the school house and Dad told me he would watch the boys play basketball and at night would sneak out and go play ball with them. He didn't like the girls to wear face powder, high heels or cut their hair. Even threaten them about cutting their hair. After Aunt Emma went away to school she had her hair cut and was afraid to come home, but Grandpa told her after she came that she looked pretty.

He liked to see construction and progress. He never learned to read, but could write his name. Grandma was well educated and taught herself to read and write the English language. She often helped at the Temple to spell or pronounce German and Swiss names. Grandpa was very patriotic and always voted. He was a religious, good man. An honest tithe payer. Bishop Frei once said, "If everybody lived as good as Brother Gubler, we would have no need to fear." He liked people and was especially good to strangers.

His sister, Louisa was mentally retarded and he and Grandma along with his older sister Mary and brother Harmon took turns caring for her after their parents passed away.

All nine children were born in the family home which still stands and Aunt Laura still lives there. Grandpa was a very reserved and quiet man and didn't talk much and it's too late to ask many questions we wish we could about him and his life. But hopefully this story can help his posterity to know and

appreciate him a little more.

Herman Gubler

Herman Gubler Herman was born on 11 December 1856 in Mullheim, Thurgau, Switzerland to Johannes (John) and Maria (Mary) Ursula Muller Gubler. Herman wasn't quite three when the family left Switzerland for America. Herman's family came to Santa Clara with the Swiss Saints in 1861.



Herman Gubler

He grew up experiencing the hardships of his parents and the Swiss Company as they pioneered in building up the country. They had to work hard clearing the land and digging canals and ditches to get the water on to the land. They also had trouble with the Indians who came into their homes and helped themselves to anything they could find, even to the last bit of bread if the men folk were not there.

For several years they lived in dugouts. One spring it had been raining and there was grass all around. They had staked out their milk cow and she got loose and walked on top of the roof of their dugout to eat the grass growing there. The family all ran out to see their cow with her foot stuck in the roof.

At first they couldn't raise wheat, but raised quite a bit of corn which they used to make bread. The children went around after the corn harvest and gleaned what corn was left and sold it to travelers going to California to feed their teams.

When Herman was fifteen, he and his brother, John, went on to Pine Valley Mountain to help his father, John, get out lumber to build the St. George Temple. They also helped haul rock for the foundation. At age sixteen, Herman worked on the Pine Valley Mountain for Fred Blake. For his pay he received a shirt, a pair of trousers and a hat.

While helping to build a dam on the Virgin River, he and his companions received thirty-five cents a day and paid their own board.

Herman's schooling was very limited, going only through the third grade, but he was very good in arithmetic. He did learn the times tables which helped him throughout his life.

When Herman was twenty-three years old, he married Selina Gubler in the St. George Temple on 11 December 1879. She was the daughter of Casper and Anna Katherina Gubler Gubler and was born 11 June 1862 in Santa Clara; the first girl born at the present town site in the Swiss Company. By this time he had earned a team and wagon and a lot with a two-room adobe house on it. When their first baby was three weeks old, Herman was away from home and Selina had taken the baby to see a friend. While she was gone, their home burned to the ground.

They rebuilt their home which still stands at 1480 Chapel St. Here they raised their eleven children. Herman was a hard worker and was away from home a great deal, peddling in the summer and freighting in the winter. It took eight or nine days to make the trip out to Delamar and Pioche by team and wagon. Herman was athletic, and was one of the main baseball players on the team playing against St. George.

He took a great deal of pride in a beautiful team of horses and owned one of the best saddle and work horses. He homesteaded a cattle ranch south of the Pine Valley Mountain where he raised cattle and horses, vegetables, wheat, potatoes and winter apples. He built an ice house at the Pine Valley Ranch and when the ponds froze over, he and his sons cut the ice into large blocks and stored it in the ice house. In the summer they packed the ice in sawdust and hauled it to St. George to sell.

He had farms in Santa Clara and he and some of his sons also homesteaded what is now Snow Canyon and part of Ivins.

Herman owned the first "white top" buggy in Santa Clara, and he brought the first Model T. Ford automobile to Santa Clara about 1918.

He also had the first “indoor plumbing” in Santa Clara. He built a tower on the northwest corner of his house and put a large barrel on top and piped the water indoors. He had a “cistern” well by his house and he had pumped the water up to the barrel every morning and it “gravity flowed” into his home.

Herman was active in his Church duties. He served as president of the Elder’s Quorum, as Ward Teacher and Sunday School teacher. They sent their two oldest sons on missions for the Church. Harmon went to Switzerland and John to the Eastern States Mission. Herman and Selina were the parents of eleven children: Harmon, John, Selina Rosena, George Henry, Jacob Martin, Eunice, Edmund, Mata, Jetta, Dora and June who all grew to maturity and had large families.

They had seventy two grandchildren and a numerous posterity. Selina died on 26 October 1929 after suffering many years with diabetes. Herman was very lonely and three years later he married Mrs. Maria Ray. They were happy together for eight years until they both had poor health and were unable to care for each other. Maria went to live with her children and Herman lived with his. He had several falls from which he never fully recovered. He was bedfast only seven days after his last fall and died on 7 March 1941, at age 85.

In an interview with a Mrs. Webb in 1835, Herman gave a detailed account of the trip from Salt Lake City to Santa Clara. “When we started for Dixie we had two oxen and two cows to pull the wagon that carry our luggage. Father had a hired man to help drive the oxen and cows. As the oxen were still quite wild, father would have to stand on one side of the wagon and the hired man on the other side in order to keep them guided. Ropes were tied around the oxen and then held by father and the hired man. It took us a month to make the trip from Ogden to Santa Clara. Our cattle were quite fat, but by the time we reached Dixie, they were quite poor.

We were able to cover about ten or twelve miles a day. The main thing we had to look for was water. We would try to arrange to camp somewhere that there was water. "The worst part of the road we had to travel over was from Kanarra to Dixie. The sand was up to the wagon hub. The main traveled road from Washington followed the Virgin River. There was one place where you had to keep crossing the river in order to make any headway. They later built a road over the Black Ridge. We had to travel up through the St. George Fields and up towards the Santa Clara Creek in order to reach Santa Clara. The road was on the South side of the creek and turned north just below the Fort.

"When we reached Santa Clara there was nothing but sage brush and grease wood. One part of the valley was covered with timber. The first thing we thought about was a home."

My father and others built cellars, but in those days we called them dugouts. We would cut timber and cover the dugouts over the top in the shape of roofs so that the rain could not get in so easily. Many were the times we had to dip water out of our homes by the bucketsful because the roofs did not keep the rain out.

"After about twelve or fifteen years, father was able to get some lumber from Pine Valley to build a home. His first load was about five hundred feet of lumber. It took two loads to build our house. He paid for it with food stuff. We had to bring the lumber down by way of the Santa Clara Canyon. The roads were very rough."

The house Herman and Selina built in the 1880s still stands today, but looks quite different from the original house. The house stayed in family hands until 1976, when Thelma Whipple Gubler, the widow of Herman's and Selina's youngest son June, sold the home.