



*Mary Ann Chapman (1872-1973)*  
 &  
*James Moroni Richey (1848-1930)*



L to R:  
 Top: Forest, Hugh, Lou, Bessie, Forest  
 Middle: Hugh, Leigh, Josephine, Lou  
 Bottom: Leigh, Bessie, Josephine  
 about Jan 1903

- Mary Lucinda
- James Welcome
- Elinor Ruth
- Moroni Forest
- Hugh
- John Montgomery
- Emily Elizabeth
- Leigh Montrose
- Josephine
- Vivian
- Leslie Jay
- Daisy



L to R: Mary Ann, Josephine, Leigh, Bessie,  
 cousin Norman (Lizzie's) about 1904



Rone and Mamie  
 "the dear old house"  
 on the farm at Richville AZ



Forest, Josephine, Bessie,  
 Vivian, Daisy about 1919



Forest, Roy, Jay, Leigh,  
 Rone about 1919



Rone, Mamie, Daisy about 1924



Vivian, Daisy, Jay about 1917



Rone and Mamie abt 1917



Leigh, Vivian, Josephine, Jay, Rone, Mamie, Bessie,  
 Lou, Hugh, Daisy in front  
 New Years Day 1918 - Forest on leave from Camp Kearney



Bessie, Mary Ann, Lou, Vivian,  
front: Josephine, Daisy



Mary Ann at the old house  
in St. Johns



New house in St. Johns (with two rent houses).



It faced the church across the high school football  
field. High school far right. Church faced Main Street.



Lou & Roy Stradling



Forest & May Neilson



Hugh & Nellie Neilson



Bessie & Biness Stradling



Leigh & Luella Knudson



[Josephine & Golden](#)



Vivian & Clarence Rencher



Jay & Mable James



Daisy & Ivan Lewis

**Stories:**

**Mary Ann's Story Part 1 2 3 4 5 6**

**Documents:**

**Mary Ann's letter to her dear ones**

**Letters to Mary Ann**

Mary Ann's letter to her dear ones

## Mary Ann Chapman

Your brothers counsel to  
you all my dears

Teach your children  
that this life is a playtime  
that we are here to fulfill  
a work that is for us & no  
other can do it for us,  
It is our job. we were given  
a chance to come here  
in this life to prepare for  
eternity and to raise families  
& teach them purity &  
the gospel, that it is their  
joy & privilege & duty to  
have children giving a  
chance to the waiting  
spirits to come & get their  
bodies as we have ours  
so that they can have a  
chance to work out their

salvation as we have.  
Teach them obedience  
to you & all who hold  
authority in the Priesthood  
that they will know that  
they must obey the gospel  
Gods plan to get them  
back into his presence  
That we must withstand  
all the evils we meet &  
shun sin in every form  
to keep our selves pure  
& worthy to go back to our  
God who sent us to this  
earth to gain an experience  
as Jacob did & to live up  
to his teachings.

Teach them kindness and  
love for each other to be  
helpful & do all the good  
they can to others.

Show them your love  
for them that they will love  
you & each other, keep them  
close to you that they will  
always bring their troubles  
to you to help them through  
their trials, teach them that  
trials strengthen their faith  
like work strengthens the  
body,

Show them your love  
& sympathy in their  
difficulties & trials don't  
put them off take time to

show them your love  
& sympathy it will keep  
them close to you &  
how they need that love.  
Be faithful in all your  
church duties to set  
an example to them and  
be sure your lives are  
what you want theirs  
to be.

Enforce obedience in  
love & kindness that  
they will love to be  
obedient to you & to all  
the Lords works.

Teach them to be prayer-  
ful that they need the  
Lords help & that he will

help them in all that  
is good for them as you  
do for them.

Keep Purity Truth & Love  
in your lives & service to  
the Lord & each other it will  
bring happiness & eternal  
joy.

By our loving Mother

**Letters of  
Mary Ann Chapman and James Moroni Richey's  
Children**

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Holbrook, Ariz  
December 24, 1922

Dear Mother,

How is everything with you now?

We opened the package today it being Sunday we thought we would prefer our Xmas today. So we opened the things. The letters from you all were the best of all.

Thanks for the socks, Mother mine, for every stitch in them meant love and also sacrifice on the part of you, father and Jay. God bless you and Papa that you may not have to work so hard as you have done in the past.

I am sending you a nice bowl, a can opener and two paring knives to try to show in my weak way how much I love and appreciate my mother.

There is also two pounds of candy. You folks always have home candy but still this will be enjoyed so much I know. I don't suppose you will get these things until New Years but I hope so. I am telling everyone what belongs to them so I guess you can divide all right. Thanks for the candy, whoever sent it.

Your loving son, Leigh

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Dear Mother,

You asked me to write a few things about Papa. I remember how he was always reading, how he would take small children by the hand and dance around with them. (They didn't always like it.) How he would turn a chair down on the floor and put his head on the slanted back of the chair. (I used to think it was very uncomfortable because I tried it.) How his black every-day shirts would get filled with wind and blow out in the back. How glad we were to see him come down to St. Johns in the winter and the milk he always brought.

Proud was the word I always thought of as a child when I would see you and Papa start off for Sunday School at Richville or off for St. Johns in the wagon. I always remember how pleased he was to go to the old folks parties at Alpine UT. You must have missed social life.

How when you were in St. Johns with Lou when her first baby was born he used to get up in the night when he heard me cry with the tooth ache and warm cloths to ease the pain. How he tried to make things easier for me then while school was going on and I had the work to do and was lonely too and I could go on. Better stop though, give someone else a chance. Sure would like to be there. As the time draws nearer the more I would like to come. Jay and Mable's car is just too crowded, it would mean riding 4 in a seat way into the night which is too hard for any driver. (They have asked me and would be uncomfortable for my sake.)

We have all had small-pox vaccination. Some of the children don't feel so very good, not really sick though. All in all I don't feel I should leave. Am sorry to make you feel bad about it so please don't. Would like to see everyone.

Norma started to copy the biography, Mary Jo and I finished just now. I quit writing on it and started this. I still have three dresses to finish. We are all going to Bonnie's for dinner tonight and have a practice tomorrow afternoon at the temple grounds.

All my love,  
Josephine

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St. Johns, Ariz.  
May 1, 1959

Dear Mother,

Today is May Day (to be sure it is in time for Mother's Day) and it makes my thoughts go back to May days in Richville. we had such good times I was going to say that the wild roses were in bloom but that must have been on June Day, Brigham Young's birthday, it was a better day for picnics.

Of course a thousand memories come crowding in. Water Cress, and the spring ditch by the house, The garden, The willow fence, The cottonwood trees, The meadow, with milk cows in it. the river bordered with willows and an occasional cottonwood The lower end springs and canyons, wild grapes, The hills after the rains came.

Do you remember how the cows would go up the trail to go on top of the mesa the next morning after the first rain expecting gramma grass about a week before it had started. and all just because it had rained.

Oh yes, I want to thank you for the willowing you gave me when I sassed you and I mean it too, because I never sassed you again.

I was plowing today and nothing to do but tend the tractor and think, so I thought of Dad. He never told a smutty story, and never took the name of the Lord in vain and never spoke of his Father as the old man, and never told a lie, and never stole anything, and never took advantage of his neighbor or any other man. No wonder I idolized him and tried to be like him.

He told me to stay away from the very appearance of evil and if it comes upon you get out of there and run just as hard as you can, just like your great grandfather Joseph did who was sold into Egypt. Even if you have to leave your coat.

He never stopped studying and never failed to tell of the good things he read. I was truly born of goodly parents.

How I always loved my mother but it took Forest to keep the wood chopped. I am glad that I never saw you chop wood. I remember while we lived across the river of seeing you my mother sitting on the east side of the house in the afternoon shade with Aunt Alice, Maud Barrett, Estella Irwin, and May Sherwood and Aunt Ruth Sherwood and I thought you was the prettiest one of them all, my mother.

With all my love,  
Hugh & Nellie

Marysville, Washington, [from Jay]  
25 June, 1976

Dear Sister Daisy,

The church at Pine Valley [UT] was built by a sea captain. Am told that it is built like a ship and is a real treasure. Would like to have gone to church there once and seen the inside.

Did Papa freight alone to Peoche? I don't know, but he is like Roy and so many other people, he prefers most anyone's company to being alone. At preschool age I went to the ranch with him (in winter) on the way home on a load of loose grass hay. I was no company but he picked up a Mexican and was happy as could be. He had someone to talk with. I curled up in a ball and shivered very hard. The wind was cold.

The Indians were mostly friendly, I think, but were excitable and prone to kill innocent people when provoked by no-good trigger-happy whites. As I see it there were plenty of renegade and unwise people on both sides to keep hell a-boiling all the time.

Papa once told me that as a boy he rode the range with a six gun strapped around his waist. Said he never had any trouble with the Indians though. When I asked him why, he said because he always gave them his lunch.

On the road to Peoche it was the no-good trigger-happy white renegades that robbed the returning wagons of their gold, until Wells Fargo established a bank in Peoche. Yes, this was not too many years before they came to Arizona.

I did not hear Papa say much about his early freighting. What I heard him talk a lot about was

the exploits of "The Great Napoleon." I was raised on the Charge of the Light Brigade, etc. As I see it, in this life our father was a soldier and lawman. For that part of the west to be settled by the Saints, it was expedient that there be men, not with nerves of iron but like our father with nerves of cold grey steel, to strap a 6 gun or two on and stand between his home and dear ones and the lawless element. On one hazardous assignment he had two around his waist and one in each boot. Probably had a rifle also.

Did you know that he is an expert cowboy and the last of the great horsemen of the west. Too often soldiers and other heroes are a little like prophets and sometimes mothers, "Not without honor except in their own country and in their own house."

To my knowledge, Papa did not do a lot of lumber hauling to St. Johns. Some in my time but not a lot. Years before he had a contract to haul the candy for the old AMCI of St. Johns from Navajo or Holbrook. When I was about 5 he got to haul a load of freight for Beckers from Magdolina.

Mama once told me that when they were first married that she and Papa would stay to farm the two places while Uncle Ben took the best teams and hauled freight. Then they would share the money and the crops.

At about 9 I had the privilege of going with Forest with the 4 horse team and 2 wagons, we hauled lumber from Whitings mill at Kitchen Springs to St. Johns. We were gone a week. Made a round trip in about three days. This was to pay for Papa, 'cause he liked to tell of going to settle up and was asked in surprise "Hain't you drawed anything?" (on the store). The answer was yes, a 15 cent can of wagon grease.

Yes, the Little Giant was the only mill near St. Johns at first. It was a fine mill with a well-equipped planer. It made rustic siding, tongue and groove flooring and ceiling and wainscoting, etc.

Don't know if Grandpa ever really claimed any land at Richville. Mother told me that the Richeys bought Richville. (It may have been called Walnut Grove at that time.) They bought from the Smith & Tee Cattle Co. Water was plentiful that year and they paid for the place with grain from their first harvest.

Papa and Uncle Ben then homesteaded their respective places to obtain good titles. All they got from Smith & Tee was squatter's rights.

The southeast room of the old ranch house is Papa's and Mama's original homestead house. For protection from the Apaches and the white renegades they moved it across the river near Uncle Ben's. Across the "Holler" south above the ditch near the Nielson place. They also had a log room (the old granery) and built a rock room. The ruins of the rock room may still be visible and you might take another look at the old log granery at Willy's.

It may be that the Nielson place was not included in the Richey purchase. At some time it seems that the Wilkinsons, Orson's and Earnest's father lived there, he had a group of log houses near the cottonwood trees east of the river and near the south fence. That the old granery was one of these. That they were arranged in a circle like a fort. Brother Earnest Wilkins told me that he was born at Richville.

Uncle John Sherwood got a piece of the middle of Richville and Uncle Arthur Tenney, Aunt Sue's husband had the upper place where Joe Baca's place was.

Richville was originally named San Cosmy [Cosme?]. Leigh once told me the same of the first owner of Papa's place. Sorry, I have forgotten.

An early house on the ranch was built in the nearest field across the river. It was built of sods from the meadow. The Richeys lived in it at first, later it was used as a blacksmith shop.

Papa once told me that when he first came to Richville that he could step across Coyote Wash. That during the drought that they drove their ox teams and wagons up and down the river, using it as a road.

Might ask Leigh or Hugh about the dam at Sinder [Cinder?] Knoll, sometime.

May God bless you and yours.

Love, Jay

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St Johns ariz.

May 1 1959

Dear Mother. <sup>As sure it is in time</sup>  
<sup>but another day</sup>

Today is may day and  
it makes my thoughts go back  
to may day's in Richville

We had such good times  
I was going to say that  
the wild roses were in  
bloom but that must  
have been on June day Brigham  
Youngs birthday it was  
a better day for picnicks.

I also remember our  
Sunday lunch hour picnics.

Of course a thousand  
memories come crowding in.

Water Cress, and the  
spring ditch by the house  
The garden - The willow  
over

penal, The cottonwood  
trees, The meadow, with  
milk cows in it, The river  
bordered with willows  
and an occasional cottonwood  
The lower end springs and  
canyons, Wild grapes, The  
hills after the rains came.

Do you remember how  
the cows would go up the  
trail to go on top of the More  
the next morning after the  
first rain expecting grama  
grass about a week before  
it had started, and all just  
because it had rained.

Oh yes I want to thank  
you for the willowing you  
gave me when I sassed you,  
and I mean it too, because  
I never sassed you again

I was plowing today and  
nothing to do but tend the  
tractas and think as I  
thought of Dad.

He never told a smutty  
story, and never took the  
name of the Lord in vain  
and never spoke of his  
Father as the old man,  
and never told a Lie,  
and never stalk anything,  
and never took advantage of  
his neighbors or any other  
man. No wonder I idolized  
him, and tried to be like him.

He told me to stay away  
from the very appearance  
of evil and if it comes upon  
you get out of there and  
run just as hard as you  
can, just like your —

great grandfather Joseph  
did who was sold into  
egypt. even if you have to  
leave your card. studying  
He never stopped to tell of  
and never failed to tell of  
the good things he read.

I was truly born of goodly  
parents.  
How I always loved my mother  
but it took forest to keep  
the wood chapped. I am glad  
that I never saw you chop  
wood.

I remember while we lived  
across the river of seeing  
you my mother sitting on the  
east side of the house in the  
afternoon shade with aunt  
Alice, Maud Barrett Estella  
Jrwn and May Sherwood  
and aunt Ruth Sherwood and  
I thought you was the  
prettiest one of them all.

my mother  
with all my love  
Hugh & Nellie