



## **DECEMBER 2017 LESSON, ARTIFACT, AND MUSIC**

### **December 2017 DUP Lesson**

#### **“Told Around the Christmas Tree”**

**Maryann Ruben Jensen**

Memories crowd into our thoughts at Christmas time. Celebrations of previous years fill our minds, making it a holiday of reflection as well as celebration. More than a date on the calendar or a season of the year, Christmas is a state of mind, a warm and friendly feeling when gifts of time, love, and goodwill contribute to the spirit of this warm-hearted holiday. Thoughts turn toward loved ones both near and far.

Christmas means many things to many people. The holiday is celebrated differently, according to culture and tradition, throughout the world. However, regardless of personal ideology, place or time, loving others is at the heart of Christmas. In the words of Roy L. Smith, “He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.” Stories of service extended to the less fortunate at Christmas are especially endearing. Christmas literature is replete with examples of goodwill which enrich both the giver and receiver.

As reminiscing fills hearts at this celebratory time, families gather to hear stories recalling Christmases of the past. Here is one of those stories from the lesson.

### **The Squeaky Bed**

One trick adults played on each other was to be the first to yell the greeting “Christmas gift” on Christmas Day. Sarah Jane B. Hill was two years old when her mother died. She went to live with her grandmother, Jane Ann Bown, whom she called “Ma” who lived next door to her sister Eliza and her husband John Bartholomew. They were affectionately called “Uncle John and Aunt Lizzie.”

Sarah remembered that one Christmas, Uncle John was determined to yell the greeting of “Christmas gift” first on Ma. This was the welcome that was always used in the earlier days. He had boasted to Ma that he was going to put it over for sure this year. *In Sarah’s words:*

Christmas morning came around. Ma kept peeking out of the window to see if she could see Uncle John coming. She said to me, “You, Sarah Jane, sit by the window and keep a good watch.” We didn’t see a sign of Uncle John anywhere. Ma started to prepare breakfast. The cook stove was near the bedroom door. All of a sudden she heard a noise in the bedroom. She opened the door quietly and looked in. There stood Uncle John. She called, “Christmas gift” before he had time to open his mouth. To gain entrance to the bedroom he had stood on a broken chair on the outside, but when he crawled through the window he landed on an old, squeaking bed that made an awful racket.

Ma was laughing when Uncle John finally came into the kitchen. He was out of patience when he said, “Aunt Jane Ann, why don’t you throw that old rattle-trap bed out?” She told him she would, but she wanted it back by next Christmas so she could hear him when he came to pay her his Christmas greeting.

**Lessons pamphlets are available for purchase by contacting the Pioneer Memorial Museum in Salt Lake City at 801-532-6479 ext. 200 or [info@isdup.org](mailto:info@isdup.org)**



[www.google.com/pioneerchristmaspictures](http://www.google.com/pioneerchristmaspictures)  
(accessed July 2017).



Christmas 1897.  
<https://zionsmercantile.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/christmas1897.jpg>  
(accessed July 2017).

## CHRISTMAS LONG AGO

Frosty days and ice-still nights,  
Fir trees trimmed with tiny lights,  
Sound of sleigh bells in the snow,  
That was Christmas long ago.

Tykes on sleds and shouts of glee,  
Icy-window filigree,  
Sugarplums and candle glow,  
Part of Christmas long ago.

Footsteps stealthy on the stair,  
Sweet-voiced carols in the air,  
Stockings hanging in a row,  
Tell of Christmas long ago.

Starry nights so still and blue,  
Good friends calling out to you,  
Life, so fast, will always slow. . .  
For dreams of Christmas long ago.

-Jo Geis-

<http://www.99merrychristmas.com/famous-christmas-poems/>

(accessed 6-29-17)

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## December 2017 DUP Artifact

### “Grandfather Clock”

**Where:** American Fork DUP Relic Hall  
50 South 100 East  
American Fork, UT 84003

**Open:** June through August  
Monday and Friday  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm or by appointment  
Free Admission  
Phone: 801-756-3724

Created by local craftsmen from stone and wood from American Fork Canyon in Utah. This eight foot case holds the clock built especially for the Columbian Exposition (World's Fair) in 1893. Hannah Lapish (9<sup>th</sup> Handcart Company) headed the committee. According to Relief Society minutes of March 15, 1894, filed in the LDS Church Historian's Office, the clock was then placed into the care of American Fork Relief Society (most probably cared for by Hannah Lapish).

Under the date of September 13, 1914, Mrs. Lapish presented the clock to the Alpine Stake President Stephen L. Chipman. The clock was housed in the Alpine Stake Tabernacle until 1960 when it was moved to the newly built American Fork DUP Museum.

Engraved on the clock pendulum are the words: “Sent to the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 through contributions of citizens of American Fork.”





December 2017 DUP Song

## “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

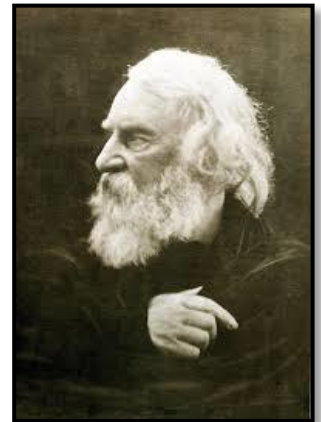
LDS Hymnbook #214

Sung by Ileri Tetelpa on the 2017-2018 Music CD

On Christmas day, 1863, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a 57 year-old widowed father of six children, the oldest of which had been nearly paralyzed as his country fought a war against itself, wrote a poem seeking to capture the dissonance in his own heart and the world he observed around him. He heard the Christmas bells that December day and the singing of "peace on earth", but he observed the world of injustice and violence that seemed to mock the truthfulness of this optimistic outlook. The original poem had seven stanzas. Verses four and five, omitted from LDS Hymns, speak of the despair Longfellow felt. They read:

“Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

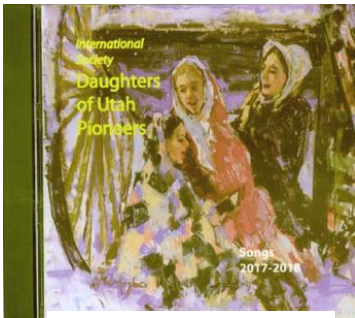
It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!”



Verse three of the original poem has been made the final verse of the version in the LDS Hymnbook. This provides a more positive outlook and a feeling of hope and optimism. Longfellow’s grief was compounded by the tragic loss of his wife in 1861. He passed away surrounded by his family in 1882. John Baptiste Calkin, an English composer and church musician, is given credit for setting Longfellow’s poem to music.



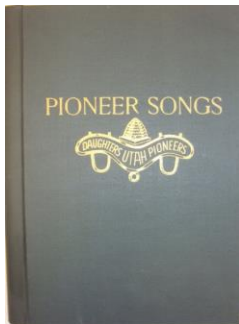
**LeeAnn Nelson, Music Chairperson, ISDUP**  
**Dr. Morris F. Lee, Instrumental Accompaniment**



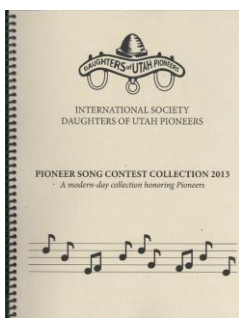
2017-2018 Music CD

**Front cover:** The painting of pioneer women huddled near the handcart is by artist Julie Rogers. She has said, "I paint the stories for people to enjoy. I especially love the women of the trail." Her permission was graciously given to use this picture.

**Songs include:** Oh! Willie We Have Missed You; Rosy Neil; The Vacant Chair; I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day; Oh Dear! What Can The Matter Be?; Grandpapa; The Way We Crossed The Plains; Echo Canyon; Grandmother's Old Arm Chair; Salute To Our Utah Pioneers.



Pioneer Songs music book: compiled by Daughters of Utah Pioneers and arranged by Alfred M. Durham, was first published in 1932. Music for the pioneers served as a source of enjoyment as well as inspiration. The songs have a legacy, each one with a story that could be told about life's trials, hardship, and joy.



Pioneer Song Contest Collection: To commemorate Pioneer Day of July 24, 2013, ISDUP had a song writing contest of modern-day composers and lyricists. They wrote in honor of a rich pioneer legacy of faith, fortitude, courage, freedom and industry.

Eighty-nine entries, representing over eleven-hundred DUP Camps, were divided into six categories for assessment. The songs of all the winners and twenty "close contenders" entries are published in this collection.

This volume represents the first modern-day song collection ever printed in the history of DUP other than the original book of Pioneer Songs published in 1932.

The CD, Pioneer Song Contest Collection, and hardbound Pioneer Songs music book, are available for purchase at the Pioneer Memorial Museum in Salt Lake City or from our online shop at [isdup.org](http://isdup.org).