

**The Edwin and Alice Maria Clifford Family
22 August 1913
Joseph Smith Memorial Farm
South Royalton, VT
Photographer: George Edward Anderson**



Front Row: Mabel Grace, age 7; Edwin Clifford, seated, age 43; Olive Irene, age 3, between his legs; Frank Douglas, age 4; Jack Shorter, 8 months, on his mother's lap; Alice Maria Shorter Clifford, age 41;
Back Row: Edith Dorothy, age 12; Charles William, age 16; Gladys Ellen, age 18; Alfred Edwin, age 19; and Albert Edward, age 11.

Explanation of Photo ±

The Clifford family arrived at the South Royalton, VT train station on Monday, 19 May 1913, to begin their lives at the Joseph Smith Memorial Farm, where Edwin was to be the caretaker. They were fortunate to stay at the Joseph Smith Birthplace and Memorial Farm for over eight years, from May 1913 to July 1917, and October 1919 to June 1923. This photograph was taken just a little over three months after their arrival from England.

The Herald and News of Randolph, VT reported on July 19, 1917, when the family left for the first time that "Edwin Clifford, who came from England four years ago and has since had charge of the Joseph Smith Memorial farm . . . has secured a position in Littleton, Mass., as the caretaker of a large fruit and berry farm and will remove his family there immediately to assume his new duties. Mr.

Clifford is a good citizen, honest and industrious, who will be greatly missed in the community, as will his good wife and large family of children.

The photographer, George Edward Anderson, who was known as Ed, met the family for the first time when he was in England on his mission. He describes in his diary that first meeting in Kennington, Kent, England, at their little rented brick duplex. He records on Sunday, Nov 14th, 1909. "Bro CLIFFORD, Edwin, lives at Kennington, Vicarage Lane. First house to the left, of the main road going thru the village, Daughter made me welcome, and just sitting down to dinner, which I enjoyed very much. A clear Bright well behaved family a pleasure to be with them. Spent the afternoon talking with Bro & Sister Clifford and showing them and children the views pictures, and telling children stories. Mabel & Edith and Albert Edward are 3 older than baby [Frank], a daughter 14 [Gladys] learning dressmaking and the oldest boy carpentry [Alfred]. 7 children, Sister Clifford neat tidy mind [?] and good soul, and very comely."

On May 19, this same Brother Anderson met the family at the South Royalton train station and walked up Dairy Hill with the boys, as the large family could not all fit in the Cadillac belonging to Frank L. Brown, the director of the Joseph Smith Birthplace and Memorial Farm. "Ed" Anderson left Springville, UT for his mission to England in 1907. He spent a year, with the blessing of the Church, taking photographs of important LDS Church sites, including the birthplace in Vermont. He finally arrived in England in 1908 and completed his mission in 1911. He, however, decided to set up a small photographic studio in South Royalton, near the birthplace, and our family is fortunate that he was there to take this incredible family portrait, as he returned to his home in Springville, UT in November 1913.

I was excited and blessed to find a print of this photograph while researching at the LDS Church Archives in 2004. The glass plate negative of this photograph is found at the Church Archives as are a number of other negatives of the historic church sites. The bulk of the George Edward Anderson photograph collection is at the L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Brigham Young University, where approximately 14,000 of his glass plate negatives can be found, including a portrait of Gladys Clifford and another of Charles Clifford, taken on the same day as our family portrait. As descendants of Edwin and Alice Clifford we are blessed that photographer, missionary, and friend, George Edward Anderson, wrote about our family in his diary and that several Clifford family photographs have survived the years and are being preserved in archives. None of the photographs are more spectacular than the one that you see here.

¹ George Edward Anderson Diary, Mss 1477, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, 14 Nov 1909

[±] The explanation of the photo was written by Susan Fales, daughter of Mable Grace Clifford