



HISTORY OF IDA SMITH WILKINS 1862 – 1952

Ida Smith Wilkins was born in Farmington, Utah on September 15, 1862 and died in Hunter, Utah on February 19, 1952 at age 89 years of age. The following is an overview and her life's journey in mortality.

Pioneer Family From England

- * **Born September 15, 1862 in Farmington, Utah**
- * **Daughter of George W. and Catherine Wooten Smith**
- * **Eighth of eleven children, nine lived to maturity**
- * **Parents married December 21, 1845 in Eaton Bray, England**
- * **First of Smith family to Join the Church in 1848**

Ida was the offspring of Mormon Pioneer parents who were the first members of the Smith family in Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire England converted to the Latter-day Saint faith. This occurred in 1848, four years after the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Ida was the eight child born to George W. and Catherine Wooten Smith and the sixth of the nine who lived to maturity with two dying in infancy in England.

Spirit of Gathering to Zion

- * **Migration to the United States in 1854 with two daughters (daughter and son had died in infancy)**
- * **Crossed the plains in 1855**
- * **Ida's sister, Annie Merintha, born near Devil's Gate**
- * **Arrived in Salt Lake Valley August 4, 1855**
- * **Settled in Farmington by Thomas X Smith family**
- * **Four daughters and two sons added to the family**

The Smith's received the spirit of gathering and migrated to the United States six years after their conversion with their two surviving daughters. While crossing the plains in 1855, mother Catherine gave birth to Ida's sister, Annie Merintha, near Devil's Gate in Wyoming. What amazing faith and courage is exhibited by the pioneer women who gave us a powerful example and heritage! The family arrived in Salt Lake on August 4th and settled in Farmington as neighbors of their family who had previously migrated.

15 Years of Farming and Platting

- * **George and Thomas had limited farming skills learned from their father**
- * **Their profession in England was that of platters or straw hat makers**
- * **The older family members participated in both endeavors.**

George and Thomas became farmers, which was their father's profession, even though they had been in the straw hat making industry in England and had little actual farming background. So they struggled to make a living with the help of the other members of the family including Ida.

1870 Calling to the Muddy Valley

- * **President Brigham Young called the George Smith family to help develop a settlement called the Muddy**
- * **An act of faith and testimony for the Smith family**
- * **Ida was eight years old**
- * **A wagon trek to beyond St. George in Nevada**
- * **The Virgin River crossing stuck in the mud**
- * **The settlement was abandoned just after the Smiths arrived because of a tax dispute**

The Prophet, Brigham Young, had called several families in the Farmington area to develop a settlement across the Virgin River south of St. George called The Muddy. The Thomas Smith family had joined this colony. They had established this successful settlement and the call came for additional colonists to join them. Ida's family accepted the call and they packed their wagon and made the trek. Ida was eight years old and especially remembered their experience when they got stuck crossing the Virgin River and had to be rescued. This was an adventurous diversion in the tedious trip. The family arrived just as the settlement was being

abandoned. The saints thought the settlement was in Arizona and had paid their taxes there when they discovered they were actually in Arizona and that territory demanded the taxes be paid there. With Brigham Young's approval, it was determined to abandon the settlement which is now under water in lake Mead.

1872 Return to Salt Lake

- * **Tough time in St. George**
- * **Return to the Salt Lake Valley**
- * **Developed a farm at 1700 East and 6400 South**
- * **Built an adobe home**

Ida's family retreated to St. George for a brief time and tried to make a living in the straw hat business but gave that up and returned to Salt Lake. They bought a farm at 17th East and 64th South. Where they built an adobe home.

George and Catherine Smith



Here are Grandfather George William Smith and Grandmother Catherine Wooten to whom we owe our membership in the Church and a heritage of great faith and courage.

The Smith Children



Sobrina



Jane



Annie Merintha



Georgiana



George Fred



Ida



Amena



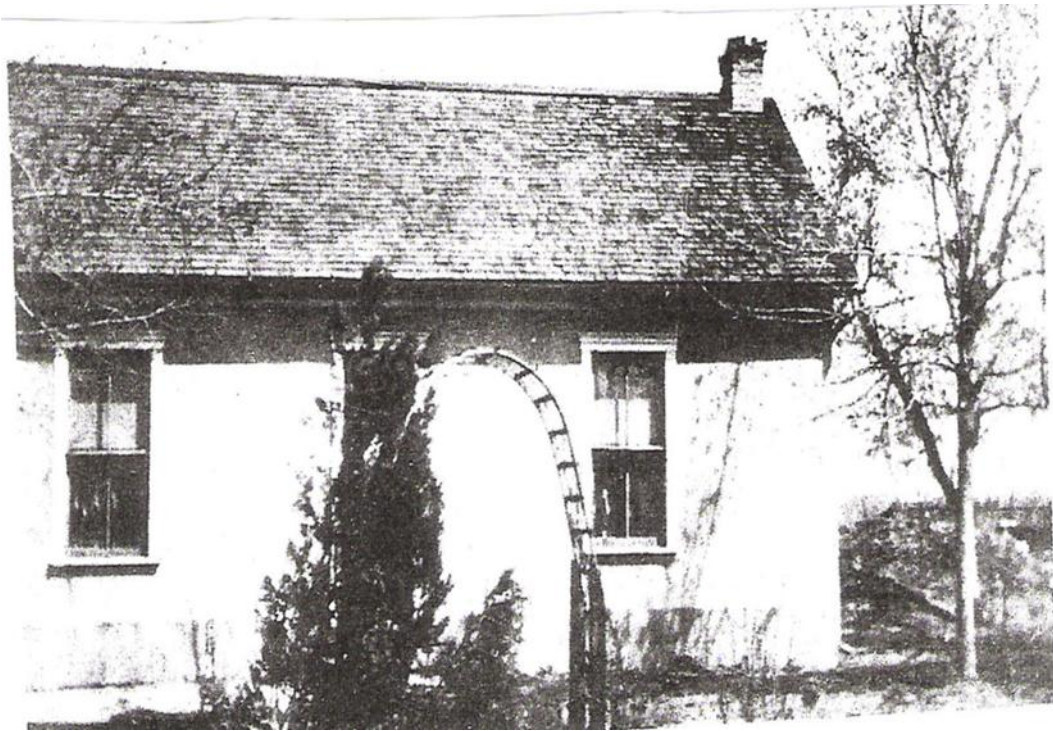
Lucy Evelyn



Monzo Bray

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The Adobe Home – 1700 E 6400 S



This is the adobe farm house.

1874 William Smith Family Farm



The farm has become a housing development of luxury homes that have been built on the farm property.

Sign at the Entrance



The entrance to the development has been memorialized with this stone pillar and monument what you should go and see.

Field of Dreams



The name of the development is “Shenandoah” with the subscript “A Field of Dreams” Little could George and Catherine and their family have dreamt that their farm could have become this gorgeous affluent community.

George and Chatherine Smith Murray City Cemetery



George and Catherine are buried in the Murray City Cemetery in a plot with their son George Fred and his family. The grave remained unmarked until just before Memorial Day 2011 when contributions received from their posterity financed the placement of this headstone.

1881 Ida Marries Bert

- * **Ida met Charles Albert Wilkins at school and in church activities**
- * **They fell in love and married February 16, 1881**
- * **Ida was nineteen and Bert was twenty**
- * **They lived close to family where Etta Bell was born**
- * **Then moved to a lean-to at the Wilkins' home**
where Charles Claude was born
- * **A butting billy goat roamed the yard**

It was at school and Church that Ida became acquainted with Charles Albert Wilkins who was known as "Bert" by Ida his friends and family. This handsome couple were married when she was 19 and he was 20 and they moved into a home close by their families for 1½ years where their first child, Etta Bell was born. Then they moved into a lean-to that had been built on the back of the Wilkin's home. Here, Charles Claude, a son was born. A memorable experience there was a billy goat that ruled the yard that had been encouraged by Bert's brothers to butt small people and send them rolling. Ida became upset when to target of the billy goat was her daughter Etta Belle and she put an end to that game.

1884 The Granger Farm

2800 S 4000 W

- * They bought an 80 acre ranch/farm in Granger**
- * Bert built a log house for the family**
- * Seth, Lenore, Frank and Sadie were born**
- * The farm failed because of the alkaline soil**
- * Bert got into the threshing business**
- * They struggled for ten years but couldn't adequately support the family of eight**

After living in the learn-to, Bert decided to try his hand at ranching and farming, so he bought an 80 acre farm in Granger. There, Bert built a log house for the family while they spent the summer living outdoors without a roof over their heads. When they moved into the cabin, they discovered that the roof leaked when it rained which made Ida's housekeeping duties most challenging. The family expanded with two more boys and two more girls. The alkaline soil made it impossible to develop the farm and the cattle business was not enough to support the family. Bert bought a half interest in a threshing machine and that endeavor helped support the family but after ten years they finally decided they could not support a family of eight souls.

Site of the Granger Farm Now the 9th Hole of the Stone Bridge Golf Course



Today, the Granger Farm is part of the Lake Park Corporate Centre which includes the 9th hole of the Stone Bridge Golf Club.

1894 The Hunter Farm

6400 W 3500 S

- * Bert and Ida bought a fifty acre farm in Hunter
- * Elwood, Ruben, Gladys and Rodney born there
- * Ruben died of pneumonia leaving nine children
- * With the farm, and threshing business they do well
- * Bert played the violin for dances and hoedowns

So Bert and Ida bought a farm in Hunter and moved a house onto the property where they lived the rest of their lives. They added three more boys and a girl to the family. Ruben died of pneumonia as an infant so they raised nine children in their family. They prospered with a productive farm and the thriving threshing business. Ida worked as a cook for the threshing crew one year when the children were older. Bert was a musician and well know as he played the violin in a band for the local dances.

The Hunter Farm Now a Gas Station



Today there is a service station on the corner of the former Wilkin's Hunter farm. It was built a few years after the family sold the farm following the death of Seth Wilkins who never married and lived on the farm until he died.

And Housing Overlooking the Oquirrh Mountains



This is the view of the Oquirrh Mountains from the Hunter farm as it looks now which is a housing development behind the gas station.

Church Activity

- * **Ida and Bert were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple December 22, 1912**
- * **The children were sealed the following day**
- * **Ida was the Primary President for 11 years**
- * **She was a counselor in the Relief Society for 15 years**
- * **Ida was a faithful visiting teacher for 24 years**

An event of eternal significance in the lives of Ida and Bert and their family was as they prepared themselves and went to the Salt Lake Temple to be sealed. This was after almost thirty-two years of marriage. December 22, 1912 was a marvelous day in their lives as was the following day when all of their children were sealed to them. This is a special day in the lives of all of their posterity as the sealing power reaches down through the ages and blesses our lives eternally. Ida was the Lord's faithful servant as the Primary President in the Hunter Ward for 11 years and a counselor in the Relief Society for 15 years. During these years she was also a faithful visiting teacher. Her service blessed the lives of untold children and teachers and the sisters in the ward as her bright personality lifted them.

Sealed Family



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Ida's Personality and Service

- * Ida was small but she was an exceptional homemaker**
- * She laughed a lot and saw the bright side of life**
- * She worked hard and set a high standard for her children to follow**
- * She was famous for her butter and step dancing as she was accompanied by Bert on the fiddle**

Petite Ida was a wonderful homemaker with an engaging personality and presence. She was a hard worker and taught her children to follow her example. She was famous for the wonderful butter she made which was in big demand. Her quick step dancing made her a special companion with Bert who accompanied her on the fiddle.

Anniversaries

- * **Ida and Bert celebrated their Golden Anniversary in the Hunter Ward in 1931**
- * **Neither of them had very much gray hair**
- * **They celebrated their 60th anniversary in 1941**

A special celebration was held at the Hunter Ward to celebrate Ida and Bert's golden anniversary and they seemed quite young as neither of them had much gray hair as you can see in the following picture. They were also together for their 60th anniversary ten years later. Bert died a year later and Ida lived another 10 years.

Bert and Ida at their 50th Wedding Anniversary



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Hunter Ward Site of 50th and 60th Anniversaries



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Poem by Martha Davis

- * You have a wonderful family,
 - * Faithful, loving and true.
 - * You implanted love within their souls,
 - * They're all so proud of you.
-
- * Your kindness radiates your soul,
 - * Your smile is always there.
 - * Your countenance reminds me of
 - * A loving angel's prayer.

Ida's neighbor and close friend, wrote a poem in Ida's honor which contains 16 stanzas two of which are provided here. This poem captures her life in a heart warming way.

A Legacy

- * Ida and Bert left a wonderful legacy of love**
- * They worked hard and set an example of service, dedication and devotion**
- * They blessed the lives of all around them**
- * Their posterity look forward to a marvelous reunion with them in heaven**
- * We are greatly blessed by their lives**

As Ida and Bert's posterity, we are grateful for their lives of love and devotion and look forward to a reunion with them as we step through the veil into their warm embraces. What a blessing it is to reflect on the heritage they have left us and to know that we can belong to them for eternity.

Buried in Murray City Cemetery



Bert died February 6, 1942, a year after their 60th anniversary at age 81 and Ida lived another ten years alternating with her daughters until she died on February 19, 1952 at age 89.