

Wife of Walter Eldredge Grant

## Life Story of Ellen Wright Smith Grant

Voted Davis County Mother of the Year - 1967 - 1968, Served in the Y.W.M.I.A. (Young Women's) Stake and Ward Presidencies 1908 - 1932, Graduate of Brigham Young College 1907, Ordinance Worker for the Salt Lake Temple - 1932 - 1958, First Vice-Captain of the John Pack Camp for the Daughters of Utah Pioneers - 1922 - 1927, D.U.P. State Parliamentarian - 1932, Charter member of the Jessamine Literary Club - 1923, Awarded Honorary Golden Gleaner Award - 1963, President & life-long member of the Ladies Betterment Society, Esteemed Mother of 7, Grandmother of 34 and Great-Grandmother of 50.

born: April 27, 1885, died: November 18, 1975 - at age 90

Baptism date: May 9, 1893, in the Logan Temple, Utah

Marriage: September 2, 1908, in the Logan Temple, Utah

Ellen Wright Smith Grant or "Grandma Ellen," was the measure of womanhood ... and it's possibilities. Her daughters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and countless women, viewed her as a beacon of example. She was the measure of perfection that all of us should attain to.

Ellen's motto was: "A thing shouldn't be done, unless it's done right."

Whether it was her hand-crocheted handkerchiefs with delicate cutout work, a crocheted linen pillowcase for a newlywed in the ward, perfectly put-up fruit and vegetables in her pantry or singing in her beautiful soprano voice for an event ... Ellen gave her all.

Ellen had a **wondrous** connection to Nature, too. With her renowned green thumb, she always grew flowers and opulent roses from just starts. She loved trees and surrounded herself with majestic ones that she had coaxed from mere seeds. She taught her daughters the social graces and rug-making under those trees. Like the shade their lofty, dependable branches gave, and the breeze their rustling leaves offered, Ellen's sage wisdom and advice gave hope to the many who came to her door for her comfort and strength.



Ellen Wright Smith Grant  
~ our "Grandma Ellen"



Ellen's handkerchiefs



Beech tree  
leaves in  
sunlight.

*(middle right): When Helen Grant Barton or "our Nana," was grown, Ellen asked her what she would like for her birthday. Nana asked for one of her mother's beautiful hand-crocheted handkerchiefs. Ellen gave her a handkerchief every year for her birthday after that. Nana proudly wore one of her handkerchiefs at her wrist from then on.*



Ellen was born in northern Utah, in an Eden-like place called Paradise. She was the eldest of ten children born to 32-year-old Orson Gurney Smith and 19-year-old Mary Ellen Wright in 1885.

Ellen’s mother, Mary Ellen, met her future husband when he moved from Logan down to Paradise to be the young Bishop of the area and to build a meetinghouse. Mary Ellen’s father owned property as far as you could see in Paradise. He helped Orson a great deal. (1)



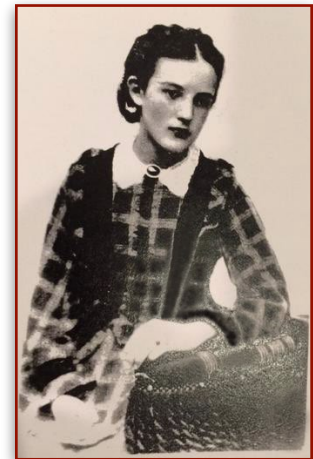
*Ellen’s mother, Mary Ellen Wright Smith (30)*

As a young woman, Mary Ellen would often see Orson at her father’s house, attaching their oxen team to his sleigh to haul stone down from the mountain. Orson left behind a new home he had recently built in Logan and his plans to attend college for this new calling. He brought his new bride to Paradise with him. Her name was Caroline Maria Carpenter but she went by “Carrie.”

In light of Orson's calling as bishop, the brethren then asked him to live the law of plural marriage. It wasn't something he sought after in his heart but he acquiesced, after first obtaining permission from his wife, Carrie. She graciously responded saying, *“Yes, I will share my husband with some good women and I will go with him to court them.”* (2)



*Ellen’s father, Orson Gurney Smith, (30)*

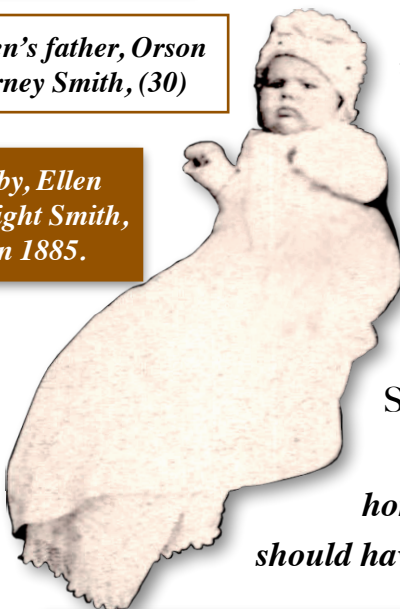


*“Carrie” Mariah Carpenter, Orson Gurney Smith’s remarkable first wife from Putnam, Connecticut.*

AMAZINGLY, Carrie had received a firm conviction of plural marriage long before she and Orson were married. At age fourteen, while studying books left by her uncle, as well as the Book of Mormon, she deeply pondered the revelation of Celestial Marriage and it’s possibilities. She writes,

*“I could not see why one woman should be favored with a home and a good husband, and another equally good woman should have to live single if she could not find one.”* (3)

*baby, Ellen Wright Smith, in 1885.*



*Ellen or “Grandma Ellen,” was born to Orson Gurney Smith & his third wife, Mary Ellen Wright Smith. So, Grandma Ellen experienced living under polygamy firsthand.*

Grandma Ellen's father and his wives had great faith. They entered into the covenant of plural Celestial Marriage **"BECAUSE THEY WERE WILLING TO DO THEIR PART TO FURTHER THE WORK OF THE LORD AS IT WAS CALLED OF THEM."** (4)

A special few in leadership positions were called upon to live this added-upon law of plural Celestial Marriage, fulfilling the restoration of all things. (5) Through tests of sacrifice, charity, love, and the keeping of covenants, they felt these marriages yielded blessings to themselves and their posterity on earth and throughout eternity.

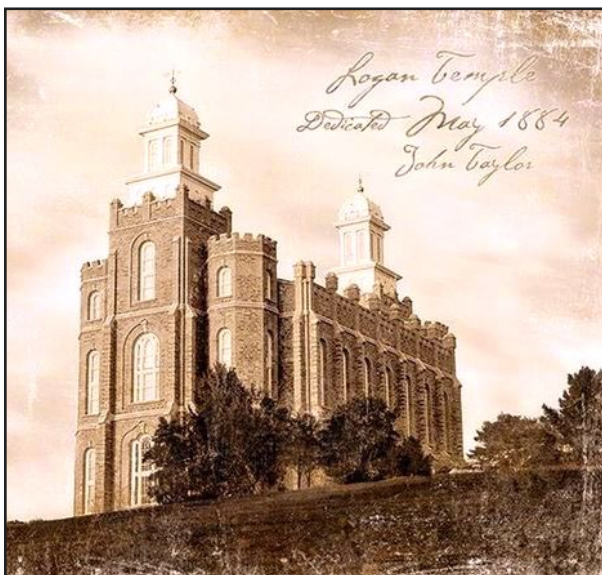


*(above): Sarah Ann Obray Smith, Orson Gurney Smith's second wife. (photo circa 1940) (5)*

In the Paradise Ward, first wife, Carrie, was the Young Women's President, where she became close to Grandma Ellen's mother, Mary Ellen. Another dedicated young woman named "Annie" Obray, was Carrie's counselor. The two loved each other like sisters, so Annie became Orson's second wife in Celestial Marriage.

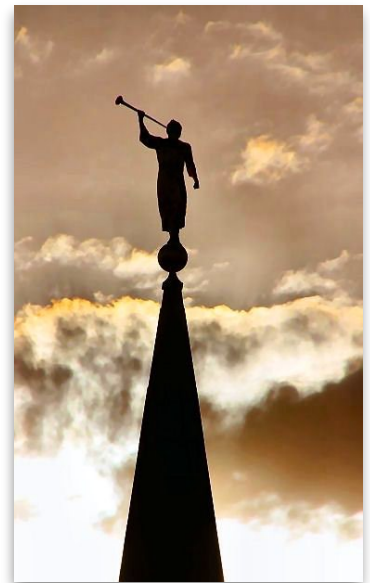
Mary Ellen's conversion to the covenant of plural Celestial Marriage occurred at the Brigham Young College in Logan, Utah or the "B.Y.C." Her theology class professor had masterfully taught the principle, inspiring her class. She journals, **"I was converted ... a goodly number of that class was impressed."** (6)

Reluctant at first, Mary Ellen waited until a firm conviction filled her heart. On July 4, 1884, she married Orson Gurney Smith in the Logan Temple. It was just after the temple had been dedicated and also, Orson's birthday.



Carrie, (27), and Annie, (25), welcomed 19-year-old Mary Ellen into their harmonious home. It would be remarked upon by future generations, how these wives and their families conducted themselves with such kindness for each other. This was an ideal that our Grandma Ellen espoused her entire life and instilled in her own home. (7)

*(left): The Logan Temple, dedicated May 1884 by President John Taylor. As Mary Ellen's posterity, we have been blessed in ways we might not yet realize. Through keeping our temple covenants, unimagined blessings, even more wondrous, lie ahead of us in the eternities.*



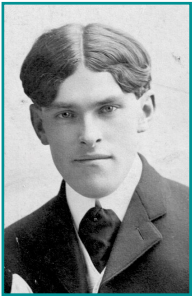
*Mary Ellen Wright Smith: (above), (Grandma Ellen's mother, at age 20, in 1885).*



*(above): The Paradise Chapel. Orson oversaw it's construction. Well-built, it was one of the oldest chapels in Utah. It stood from 1877 to 2018.*

When Ellen was born on April 27, 1885, she was already a sister to ten half-siblings, through Orson's other wives. Annie, whom the kids all called "Auntie," had just given birth to a boy named Lyman, 3 weeks before Ellen's birth. That made for many built-in friends. In total, there would be 27 children from these three families. (8)

***One remarkable feature for Ellen in growing up in this household, was that there was no differentiation between mothers and the children. All were loved equally and raised alike. (9)***



*One of Ellen's half-brothers ~ Ezra Obrey Smith. He was Annie's eldest, five-years older than Ellen.*

In 1879, the Supreme Court had ruled that the First Amendment didn't protect the practice of polygamy. The penalty was a \$500 fine and up to five years imprisonment. In 1882 and 1887, Congress passed severe laws against polygamy, inflamed by slander written against the Church.

***These laws barred polygamists from holding office and voting, ~revoked the woman's right to vote, ~induced a wife to testify against her husband, ~allowed hearsay into hearings & ~took away the Church's territorial charter. This would allow the Government to confiscate all Church property including the temples. (10)***



*(above seated): Mary Ellen Wright Smith with her grandfather, George Duggan Gibbs & mother, Martha Duggan Gibbs Wright. Mary Ellen is holding Ellen Wright Smith ~ our Grandma Ellen. (taken 1885).*

When Ellen was just three-weeks-old, Federal Agents came to the home of her grandparents, John Fish Wright and Martha Duggan Gibbs Wright, in Paradise, Utah. They had papers to search the premises for baby Ellen, her mother or her father. Shrewdly, Grandpa and Grandma Wright's homestead had been built at the end of a long lane. This gave them plenty of time to hide baby Ellen and her mother, whenever they spotted authorities coming from far off on the horizon. (11)

Grandpa Wright had built a small room under the kitchen floor with a trap door for just such occasions. On the floor was an armful of straw with a linsey quilt and a step stool to step down on. It had been used to hide Ellen's mother before Ellen was born. They would place a large washtub filled with water over the trap door to fool the authorities. (12)



(above): 1800's Linsey woolsey quilt, (a coarse wool woven with linen or cotton warp which made it more durable).

Grandma Wright played a pivotal role in these searches. She would fix dinner for the agents and entertain them socially while her wards hid. It took its toll however, she lost the child she was carrying. On one occasion, when agents found Baby Ellen, they questioned the baby's parentage. She simply lifted Ellen into her arms and nursed her in front of them with tears rolling down her face. Even though she didn't remember the event, Ellen always said that she shared a special bond with her Grandmother Wright.



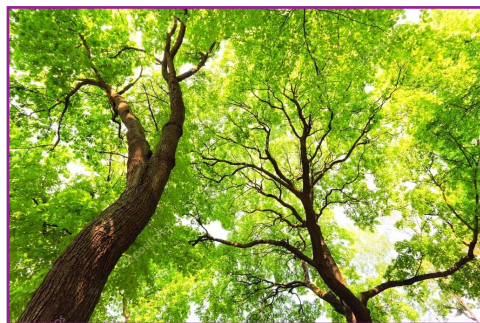
**Martha Duggan Gibbs Wright**

Ellen's father, Orson had left the state to evade capture and to support his families. He sent for Mary Ellen and the baby, to join him in Great Falls, Montana. Orson had won a contract to gut out a bank's rock interior with explosives and pickaxes, yet keep the windows intact.



**Dynamite detonator**

Ellen's first memories were looking up at the big reaching trees that her family camped out under on the shore of the Missouri River. In a wagon box and tent, they gave food and board to the single men that they had hired. Ellen's mom had a 2-hole



sheet-iron stove and made ample meals of boiled meat and dumplings. She sold her popular suet pudding to the miners. After settling up with the meat and milk wagon, she found she had cleared \$200.00 and Orson had made around \$800.00. It was more than they could make in one year on a farm. (13)



**1800's dutch oven suet pot.**

Being so far north, three-year-old Ellen and her mother had acquired Canadian accents. When they moved south from Montana to Smithfield, Utah by train, her mother was mistaken for a Canadian. It was terrifying for Mary Ellen. She clung to her daughter while wearing thick veils over her hat, to evade the authorities on their way. They lived in Smithfield, Utah for three months where Ellen's little sister, Martha, was born. \*(date below)

**Ellen lived in Helena, Montana for over two years. It was 407 miles from Smithfield, Utah. In 1888, that would take 16 1/2 hours by train, plus waiting time for the train, or 29 days traveling by covered wagon. Ellen's sister, Martha, was born March 20, 1888.**





*Ellen Wright Smith, age 3 to 4-years-old in an elaborate hand-sewn & crocheted dress made by her mother. ( Taken in 1888 or 1889), Logan, Utah*

Ellen was given an underground name that she didn't particularly care for. She became known as "NELLIE POST."

Staying with people in the underground, that they didn't know, Mary Ellen went by the name of "Mrs. Wilson." One day, Ellen came home crying because some children had gotten her name mixed up and called her, "Nellie Slab."

**Ellen said, "My name is Post, eh Mama?"**

Soon, deputies were active in the area where they were. Mary Ellen readied her new baby and Ellen to return to Paradise, to see her parents. On one leg of the trip, friends put her baby in a clothes basket under soiled aprons as if taking the clothes to be washed. Mary Ellen crept along behind, disguised as an old woman, never letting them out of her sight.



After hiding for three months in an old house on the edge of her parent's property, Ellen's father, Orson, sent for them. He and a partner, had just taken a contract in Spokane, Washington. What

an adventure for Ellen. She got to see the blue Snake River at 150 feet elevation from the iron bridge her train was crossing. The 673-mile trip took about 33 hours. e



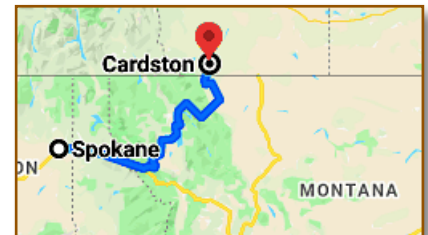
Three-year-old Ellen and her family lived in Spokane for five months, sleeping in a wagon box with a tent. Even though the weather was agreeable, Ellen's sister, Martha, was ill with colic. Mary Ellen would wake up at 4 a.m. every morning, warming the baby's feet over the campfire oven, then give her catnip tea or camphor oil tincture to get her settled by 8 a.m.

A colony of families like Ellen's were settling in Canada, so they decided to go there to build a house. They set off with a few others, traveling on treacherous, wooden bridges through Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. In Montana, they met a couple of desperados on the lonely trail who took a gun from one of the families.

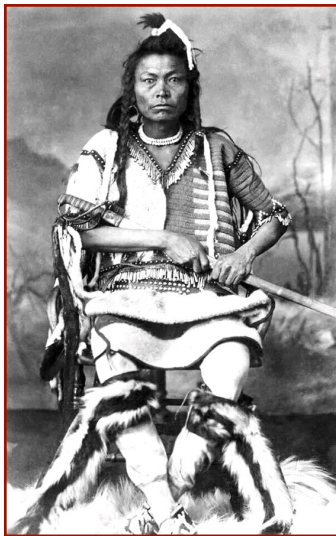


Covered wagon box

Snow was falling when they finally reached Lee's Creek in Alberta, Canada, so they stayed with Aunt Zina Card for awhile. *(Aunt Zina was Mary Ellen's sister-in-law's aunt.)* The area became Cardston, named after Aunt Zina's husband, Charles Orson Card. Ellen's father, Orson, served with Bro. Card in the Stake Presidency, then years later, Orson served as Stake President. The Cache Valley Stake was a vast area, reaching all the way from Logan, Utah up to over the border into southern Canada, requiring ongoing supervisory travel.



Orson built a home that was between two Native American reservations. The Kainai Nation - Blood Tribe on one side and the Peigan Blackfeet Tribe on the other. Both tribes spoke Algonquian and were all related under the Blackfoot nation. They often visited each other, going back and forth. (14)



Member of Kainai Nation & the Blood Tribe

Ellen's father was often away. If the door wasn't properly bolted, Blackfoot braves with scalping knives about their waist, would barge in, looking for food or a spot behind the kitchen stove to keep warm. Squaws would often stop at their house to beg for food or milk. Ellen's mother learned to hide necessary essentials and to have other food to give them.



Member of Peigan Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfoot Nation.

Ellen and her mother, learned to have ready food in gunny sacks, on hand for their visitors. (right): Dutch oven sourdough bread.





Taken circa 1893 in Logan, Utah

*(left to right): 8-yr-old Ellen Wright Smith, (Nellie) & her sisters, 2 or 3-yr-old Harriet Wright Smith, & 5-yr-old Martha Wright Smith. Harriet Smith was born on December 23, 1890.*

In 1890, two years after moving to Canada, another little sister joined Ellen's family. She was named Harriet Wright Smith, (NICKNAMED "HATTIE").

One day, some Native Americans came by while Ellen was babysitting. A squaw saw Harriet with her golden-blond hair, playing out on the front steps. She put what she deemed a sufficient amount of beads on the ground next to the child and around Harriet's neck. She then, snatched her up and ran towards the reservation.

Ellen chased the squaw, screaming loudly, clinging to her long skirts as she was dragged along. Her quick actions attracted attention and help came in time. The little girl was rescued because of her courageous older sister.

Safe at home again, Harriet seemed to enjoy the whole experience. She played often with the brightly-colored beads and kept a strand of them until she passed away. (15)



BECAUSE OF ELLEN'S COURAGE, HARRIET WAS RESCUED. THE SQUAW RETURNED LATER WITH FISH, TO TRY AGAIN, TO TRADE FOR THE CHILD.



*(above middle): Female Blackfoot with her 'travois' or drag sled for her provisions. (above): Blackfoot child in beaded finery.*

In those days, it was a luxury to have new gingham. Ellen's mother had just enough fabric to make herself a new dress.

The first time she proudly wore it, a squaw from the Peigan tribe came to the door. You can guess what happened.

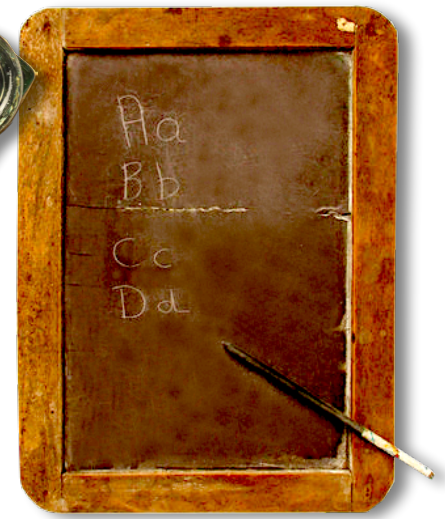
The squaw tugged at her dress ... so Mary Ellen pulled it off and gave it to her.







Ellen received an early education , likely assisting her mother who was the new schoolteacher. Her mother was a stickler for constantly improving one's mind and must have home-schooled her younger children as well. (16)

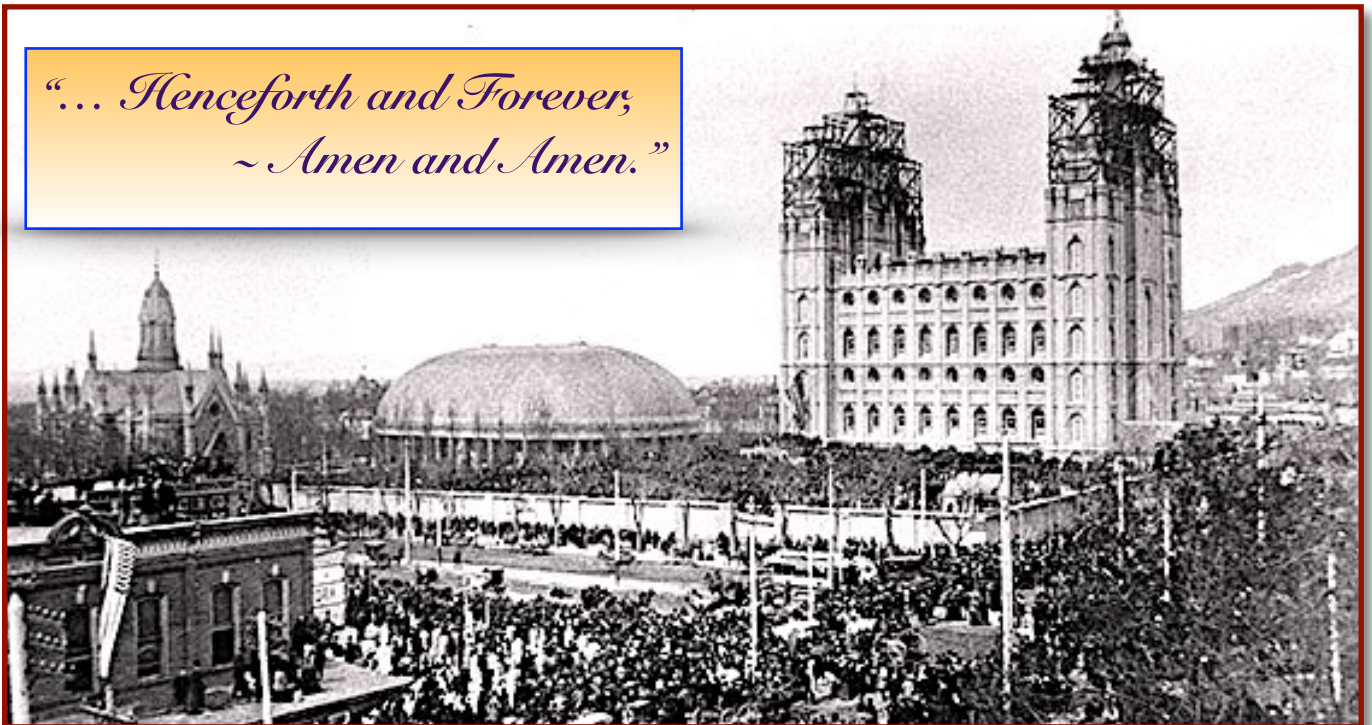


Because Mary Ellen was a counselor in the Young Women's to Aunt Zina Card, she took her little family and traveled with a large group of church leaders down to Salt Lake City, Utah for a momentous occasion. It was the April 6, 1892 capstone dedication of the Salt Lake Temple.

What an exciting event for young Ellen. Forty to fifty-thousand people crowded the temple block and surrounding streets to witness the moving of the large, granite cornerstone into place which would support the ten-foot Angel Moroni.

*(above) Before chalk sticks, Ellen wrote on her slate with slate pencils. (It was like scraping a dark rock with a lighter rock.) The term, "Wipe the slate clean," comes from this. Paper was rare then but Ellen learned to write with homemade quill pens dipped in ink wells.*

*"... Henceforth and Forever,  
~ Amen and Amen."*



*(above) Thousands thronged Temple Square and the surrounding streets for the capstone dedication. It was during this 1892 ceremony that Apostle Lorenzo Snow introduced the tradition of waving a handkerchief & instructed Saints as to the cadence of the Hosanna shout: **"Hosannah, Hosannah, Hosannah ... To God and the Lamb ..."** (repeat three times, then) ... **"Amen, Amen and Amen."** At temple dedications since, the Hosannah Shout has been given, then the hymn, "The Spirit of God," or "Hosannah Anthem," is sung afterwards. Translated from the original Hebrew scripture, **"HOSANNAH" means, "SAVE US ... (NOW), WE BESEECH THEE."** ~ Psalms 118:25. (16b)*



Ellen and her family were in Canada when the Prophet Wilford Woodruff issued the proclamation known as “*The Manifesto*.” It was through divine revelation that the Church officially ended the sanction and practice of polygamy. The Prophet had fervently petitioned the Lord for answers amidst each persecution and now, the federal government was poised to confiscate the Church's land and temples. (17)

*Just like the commandment to introduce plural marriage had come through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the one to end it came through the Prophet Wilford Woodruff.*

**“...WE ARE NOT TEACHING POLYGAMY OR PLURAL MARRIAGE, NOR (OFFICIALLY) PERMITTING ANY PERSON TO ENTER INTO IT’S PRACTICE.” from *The Manifesto*, in 1890**



The Savior’s answer showed His mercy for the Prophet and the Saints. He had accepted their sacrifice. Families like Orson Gurney Smith’s had "raised up righteous posterity to the Lord" through great trial and faith. Now the work could go forth. (18)

**“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it.”**  
*3 Nephi 12:2 & Isaiah 2:2-3*

On November 1, 1892, a baby boy, Owen Wright Smith, joined Ellen’s family. When he was three-months-old, Ellen’s mother moved her children to a little, old house in Logan, Utah.



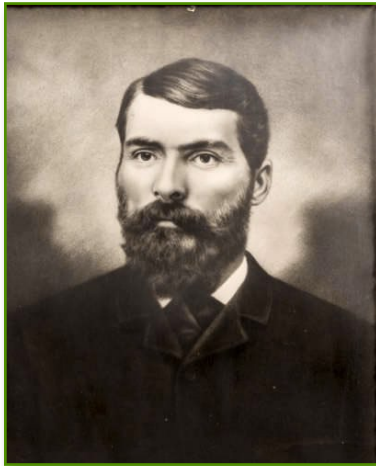
During this time, 1893 - 1894, a miracle happened. Democratic, U.S. President Benjamin Harrison, and his Republican successor, Pres. Grover Cleveland, pardoned and granted amnesty to members of the Church who had formerly practiced polygamy.

***Our Salt Lake Temple - the diamond in Zion’s crown that represents the faith of her Saints to the world.***

However, the continued practice of polygamy was now a felony with fines up to \$800.00 and five years in prison. So, Orson and his wives had to exercise caution in their living arrangements.

By initially outlawing polygamy, the U.S. Government had merely enlarged the area in which great men like Orson Gurney Smith helped colonize the West and even into Canada. Except for remotely running his family farms and supervising wards in the stake, Ellen's father had been absent from Utah for six-years.

In that time, he had surveyed and built railroads in Montana Oregon and Washington, placed and run two Oregon sawmills, helped colonize the city of Cardston, Canada and helped build Cardston's first log meetinghouse.



Portrait of Ellen's father, Orson Gurney Smith, at 40-years-old. (1893)

Orson also dug the well, fenced the lot, and built the three-room home where Ellen and the children lived while he traveled. That lot is where the Cardston Temple now stands. (19)

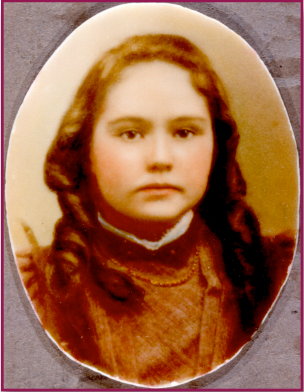
As for Orson, with his pressing duties as Counselor in the Stake Presidency,

... it was time to come home, to Utah.

**Orson journals:**  
"After six years of going from one state to another, engaging in all kinds of enterprises, I sold my outfits, came home with my three families, settled down and gave myself up. I was arrested, tried and acquitted. Statehood was obtained for Utah... and Peace was declared." (20)



Aunt Zina Card's log home on the lone prairie, where Ellen Wright Smith & her family stayed in Cardston, Canada until her father, Orson, built them a home nearby. (1889)



Ellen Wright Smith

The four years that Ellen and her children lived in Canada were harsh, primitive conditions compared to life in the lush valley of Logan, Utah. Great blessings lay in store. On May 9, 1893, Ellen was baptized in the Logan Temple, along with Auntie Annie's son, Lyman O. Smith. Their busy father, Orson, signed their recommends that morning. Hopefully, he was able to baptize and confirm them as well. (21)

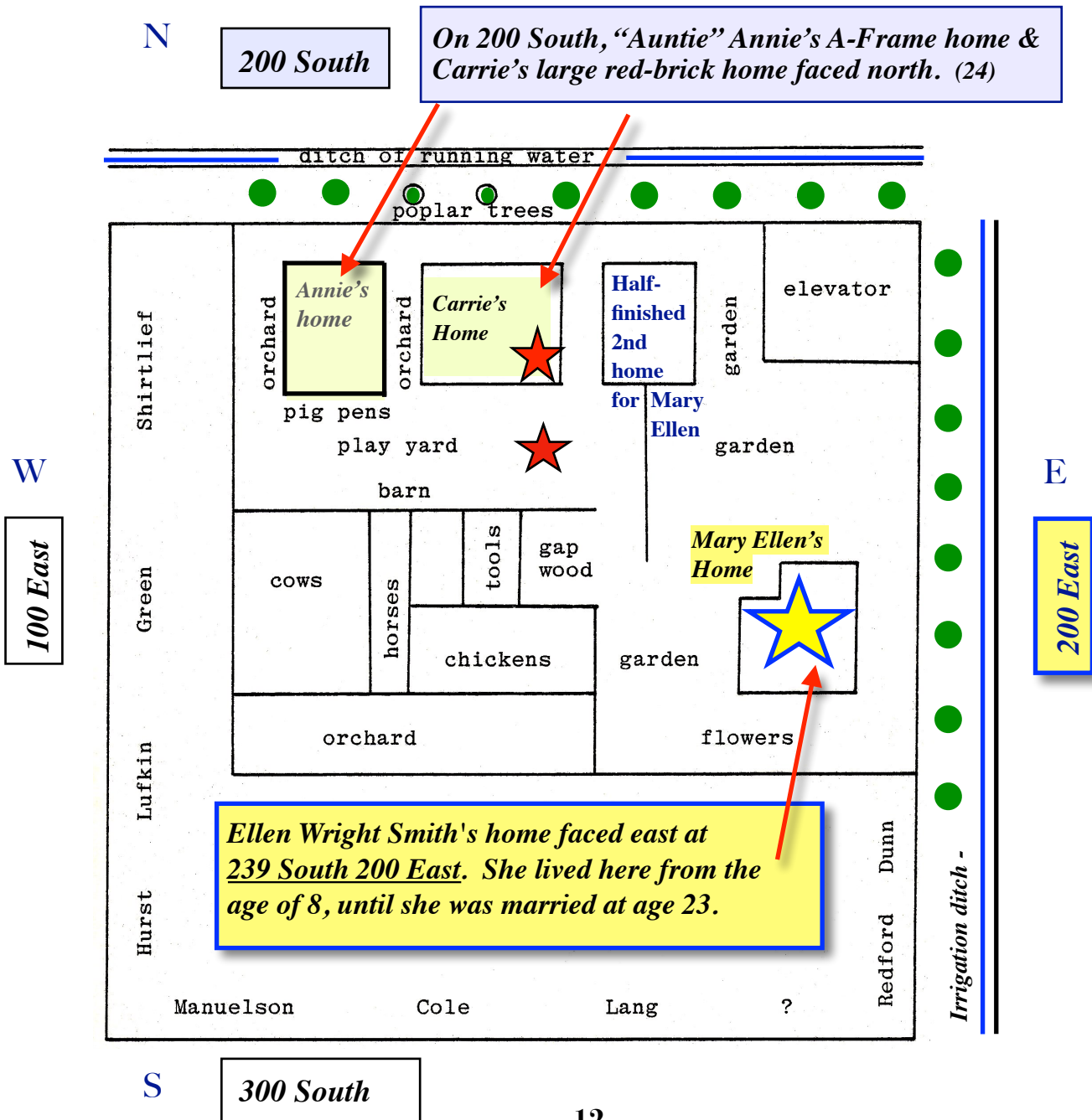
1890's young girl's knitted dress gloves



Except for living with Orson in Idaho for awhile, "Auntie" (Annie), had been staying with Carrie at the thirty-acre family farm in Paradise, Utah. Meanwhile, Ellen and her family had been living in a house in Logan. Now, the families could all be reunited if they were discreet. Carrie would be the official wife and attend social functions with Orson.

*At the final dedication of the Salt Lake Temple, Pres. Joseph Fielding Smith had said, "Obey the laws of the land but do not forsake your covenants." (22)*

Orson was now Stake President of the Cache Valley Stake and wouldn't abandon his families. He bought lots with shared backyards. He ended up owning three-fourths of a city block on 200 South and 200 East, near Logan's city center. (23)



The house that Ellen's family lived in was a wood-frame home over adobe walls. It was the smallest of the three homes for her father's wives.

Auntie and Carrie were settled in their homes earlier, so Mary Ellen's home was a later addition. Orson purchased her home, just one day after eight-year old Ellen was baptized on May 10, 1893.

*Orson paid associate, Bro. J.Z. Stewart, \$625.00 for the "3 rod x 9 rod" lot and home. (The lot measured 49.5 FT WIDE x 148.5 FT. DEEP. - \$625.00 is \$18,075.00 in 2020 purchasing dollars.) (25)*

Small or not ... soon Ellen's cozy home became a hub for dining and entertaining, or for just dropping by. It was hard to resist, when the aroma of Mary Ellen's fresh baked bread or her suet-dumpling pudding with sugared apples, plums or raisin aromas filtered out the window. (26)



*Interior of a Utah Pioneer A-frame home over adobe.*



*Old-fashioned raisin dumpling pudding.*

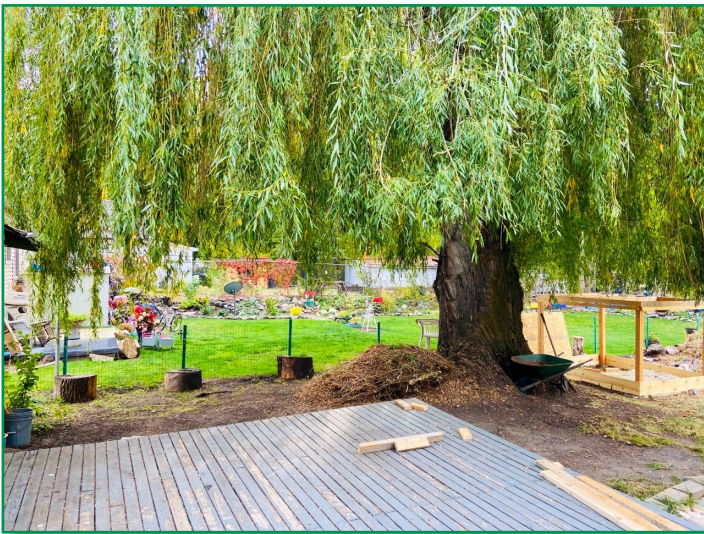


*Ellen's family home on 239 South 200 East, in Logan, Utah. It's adobe brick walls were stuccoed, then in later years, cemented over. (photos taken in 2020).*

*Utah bank-issued, 1882 twenty dollar bill*



*Side-view of the home, showing the 2 bedrooms upstairs where the ten children slept - five boys in one & five girls in the other: A-frame Salt-Box style.*



*This ancient, majestic Weeping Willow behind the home, was likely planted by Ellen's father. (\*from a side-view, facing south, looking into the next-door backyards.)*

*Ellen's backyard, facing northwest You can visualize the common play yards & gardens, up to where Auntie & Aunt Carrie's homes were.*



*Sweet green gauge plums, delicious raw or in pies. High in pectin, they make great jams or tarts.*

Orchards between the homes, memorably, grew red green gauge plums, "Askerton apples," and tart pie cherries. Another large central orchard grew yellow transparent apples, pears, and prunes. (27)

Ellen's home had four rooms downstairs, a front sitting room, the master bedroom and closet, the dining room, and a kitchen. The bedroom closet was later made into an indoor bathroom.



*Utah is the 2nd largest tart cherry producing state in the nation.*

On the back porch, there was a wood shanty for storage on the main level. It was painted white like the privy (or outhouse) that was a little ways away. The shanty shack was connected to a two-room cellar with a brick floor.

Bottled fruits, fruit juice, and large jars of salted corn, beans, and cucumbers sat on shelves on one side of the larger room with cooling pans of milk on the other. Root vegetables and potatoes were stored in the smaller room with a window.

On the shady back porch, Ellen's mother kept a large barrel filled with damp sawdust mulch. When prices were low, she'd buy up dozens of unwashed, fresh eggs and bury them deep in the mulch. (They also kept their own chickens.) (28)



*The eggs stayed fresh for a long, long time, if stored with the pointy-end down in damp sawdust. This keeps the yolk centered with the air pocket away from the yolk. Then, bacteria never reaches the yolk because egg-white is bacteria-resistant.*

Well past Ellen's backyard, center court, stood a spacious red barn. It held chickens, cows, horses, an amassing of tools, and wood, coal and hay. When the hay was low, Ellen's younger siblings and half-siblings would "put on plays in the hayloft, using it like a stage. The neighbor kids paid one egg to see them." (29)



To the north of the block, was a huge stone elevator that Orson built to store and grind wheat into flour or cracked wheat. Next to that was Carrie's large red-brick home, then Annie's A-frame house. All of the families met at Carrie's once a month for a large family home evening.

Tragedy was looming though. Not long after Orson's 41st birthday, in July of 1894, Carrie passed away, after giving birth to a baby boy. She was just 37, and a mother of ten.

It was a devastating blow to Orson, perhaps even more so for Auntie. She and Carrie had lived in the same home while hiding from authorities for many years and, through Orson's example, had created a celestial oasis for their families. Notably, Carrie could have never traveled and presided in her illustrious church callings without Annie's devoted support. (30)

Over a year later, Mary Ellen was ready to deliver a baby girl. The window blinds of her home were usually down, since anyone could be watching. So, she discreetly went up to Apostle Matthias F. Cowley's home in Preston, Idaho, where his wives could help her. On November 3, 1895, she gave birth to Gladys Wright Smith. (31)



*(below): 1st wife, "Carrie" ~ Caroline Maria Carpenter*

*(left): Orson Gurney Smith*

*(right): 2nd wife, "Auntie" or Sara 'Annie' Obray*

*(above): 3rd wife, Mary Ellen Wright Smith, (our Grandma Ellen's mother).*

*Auntie suggested the baby name of Gladys to Mary Ellen ~ to bring her cheer and gladness ... which she proved to do.*

*(right): Gladys Wright Smith ~ everyone's ray of sunshine.*



*(right): Apostle Matthias Cowley's home in Preston, Idaho, where Mary Ellen gave birth to Gladys Wright Smith. (Apostle Matthias is the father of Apostle Matthew Cowley.) ~ Mary Ellen's father, John Fish Wright, visited the family in Logan daily. It's likely, he & ten-year-old Ellen, took care of the family for the three weeks her mother was away.*



*(above): What early 1900's couples wore to visit friends.*

Ellen was becoming the measure of her mother in every way. From now through her teens, Ellen would excel in putting up fruit and vegetables, cooking, baking and sewing. The family always ate in the dining room with a white tablecloth on the table. They used a cotton cloth during the week and a formal, linen one on Sundays.

Visiting Church brethren from Salt Lake often dined and were entertained at Ellen's home. An irrigation ditch ran in front of the home as well as the 20 poplar trees that Orson had planted along the entire block. The wives of the apostles and dignitaries, in their long gowns, would lift their skirts to step over the ditch. So, Orson built a wooden boardwalk from the front door out to the street, so they wouldn't get their skirts wet. (32)

In the kitchen, the family's large, coal and wood burning stove had a reservoir on the side.

It held a lot of water and was always hot.

The younger children were in charge of keeping it filled using buckets from the outside metal pump. They would also keep flat stones in a heating compartment in the kitchen stove. Wrapping them in a cloth, they'd take them to bed to warm their feet. (33)



*(above): back view of 1890's-inspired, Victorian style, taffeta dress.*



*Hot water reservoir*

*Oven, (warming oven below it).*

*Wood and coal compartment, (ashes clean out, below).*



*(left): A parlor or heating stove. There was one in the dining room & in the front parlor.*



Orson believed in having superior equipment. He'd buy it or make it himself. Electric power wasn't in the house yet, but Ellen's family always had a good washer.

It was a generation after scrubbing clothes in a tub on a washboard. The Smith family now had a deluxe, hand washer with a wringer.

Around this time, on February 26, 1897, Mary Ellen had a sixth child. **Olena Wright Smith** ~ a little ministering angel, was born. Her life of service would bless many lives, especially Ellen's. We owe a great deal to her biography, which helps us glimpse what Ellen's maturation years were like.

*Olena writes:*

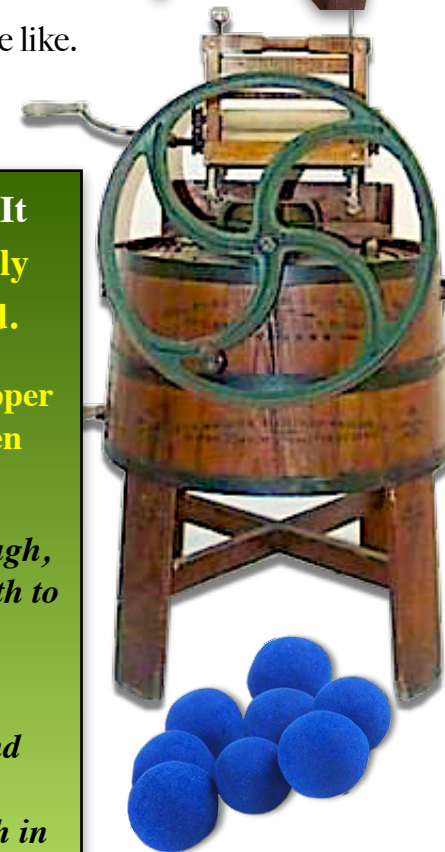
**“We had large washings, as we only washed once a week. It was usually on Mondays. Ellen had charge of that. It usually took the rest of the week to get it all dry, ironed and mended.**

**The water was heated on top of the kitchen stove in a large copper boiler. When it was boiling, soap and lye were added. It was then carried in buckets to the washer.**

*The white clothes were washed first. As we children grew big enough, we took turns turning the big wheel or pushing a bar back and forth to move the agitators inside. Each washer we had was different.*

*A wringer was fastened to the washer that was turned by hand. It swung around to fit between two tubs of rinsing water ... the second rinse water had blueing in it. Blueing came in marble-sized balls. We'd put four or five in a cloth and tie it. You'd then hold the cloth in the water until it was that right blue shade to tint the white clothes. (You didn't want them to look yellow.)*

*Clothes needing a little stiffening, were starched. They looked better and seemed to stay clean longer, especially our cotton aprons and dresses. We also starched the eyelet ruffles on our petticoats.” (34)*





*Olena writes,*

“All year long, rain or shine, the wash was hung outside on the line. Most of the clothes would freeze-dry ... especially the fleece-lined underwear. Still clean, they’d bring the clothes in and defrost them on a rack over the reservoir. The family then wore the red or white long johns under their clothes and even their nightgowns until summertime.

Martha was in charge of the mending and ironing. Just three-years younger than Ellen, she was her comrade-in-arms. They shared many interests and worked together.

Orson saw to it that they had a superior grade of irons. Some were the kind with detachable handles, so one wouldn’t get burned switching a cool iron for a heated one.

Martha would sprinkle the clothes to be ironed, then roll each piece up. After retrieving each roll from a homemade wicker basket, Martha would then iron them beautifully.

Because homes didn't have furnaces or central heating yet, people wore thermal long underwear. The nice ones were called a Union Suit. Ellen’s family wore the ones made out of a medium heavy-weight cotton that were fleece-lined.” (35)



“Sad Irons” with detachable handles, weighing 5 TO 9 LBS each. (left to right): G.H. Over Iron for ironing around buttons; Simmons Iron- 1897; detachable walnut handle & Mrs. Potts ornate double-pointed iron. The family had 6 small irons, (average size - 6 3/4” x 3 1/2”).



*Victorian sewing & mending kit.*



*(l to r): Ellen’s sisters, jMartha Wright Smith & Olena Wright Smith.*

**You Can Not Afford to Lose**  
any of the comforts of life, and one loses a great many who wears the old-style two-piece suit of underwear instead of a

**Lewis Union Suit**

**It's so Comfortable**  
that in wearing it, the worries of life are easier to bear. Send 2c. stamp for our 32-PAGE Illustrated Catalogue which shows and tells you why, with testimonials from prominent people everywhere indorsing all our claims, and sample card with selection of fabrics sent at same time.

**Comfort in WEARING in PRICE in HEALTH**

Full fashioned, fit smooth from neck to ankle, no under-shirt to work up or drawers to work down, and withal cheaper than two-piece suits of same quality, and conceded to be the garments best adapted to resist health-impairing influences.

ASK YOUR DEALER FOR THESE SUITS, should he not have them do not take a substitute, but send us your order. We will have it filled or refer you to a dealer.

**LEWIS KNITTING CO., 200 Main Street, Janesville, Wis.**

Except in Summertime, women had to make a choice of what to layer over these union suits. It had to create a presentable shape, conforming to conventions of the day. The Civil War hoop skirts were no longer, but even tighter lacing corsets were the norm. Middle and upper-class females of large East Coast cities were wearing laced-up or extremely-rigid, metal or bone-moulded corsets which limited their ability to move or exercise.

Because of ill health and bone deformities in many of its wearers, suffragettes for women's rights and physicians began a movement against styles like this. It was called "The Rational Dress Reform Movement." As a result, underclothing was invented that offered more freedom for women, like "Turkish Leglettes," and "The Chemilette." This encouraged the coming trend of split skirts, allowing women to pursue sports or to have less weight of heavy petticoats around their ankles.

It was now 1898, and at thirteen, Ellen was becoming a young woman. Ironically, in making sensible choices in modest and moveable clothing, she was healthier than most of her higher society counterparts and employed physical and domestic abilities.

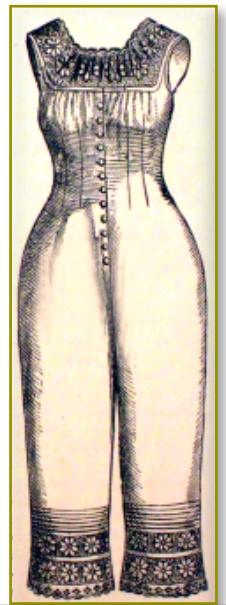
A new "health corset" loomed on the horizon however, called the "S-bend" or "Swan Bill Corset." It wasn't so healthy, though. Heralding in the Edwardian Era, Ellen's womanhood years of fifteen through twenty-five, saw the Popular "S Corset" being worn in society and to social functions.

Even though it allowed a more relaxed waist and stomach, it forced the torso forward and the hips back in an unnatural posture. With stress on the back and the knees locked, the wearer could only walk in short, mincing steps. (36)



*(far right) Luckily, Ellen and her sisters, seemed to opt for the Model Bodice style-type. (below: Edwardian 1903 silk stockings)*

**The Model Bodice-** was based on the natural form of the body, shaped with only cord or bone. **(Layer #3)**



**The Chemilette -** made of cotton, linen, cambric, chambray or silk with lace layers around the legs. **(Layer #1)**



**Turkish Leglettes -** made of cotton to resemble petticoat fullness, or of surah silk, linen or silk pongee. **(Layer #2)**



~ Decades earlier, in 1869, Brigham Young had been so inspired. He directed his daughters & the female saints of Utah to not consume their time chasing after frivolous fashions but to improve their minds. ~

The Retrenchment Association that was formed, encouraged spiritual & personal growth through home efficiency & frugality. It also assisted women in learning home industries like silk production and the running of female-commission stores. Others were aided to study medicine, learn the art of public speaking and, of note, urged to vote.



Mary Wright Smith, was close to Olena.

On September 9, 1898, another baby girl, Mary Wright Smith, joined Ellen's family. This made six close sisters to help their mother to just one older brother. Owen was always out helping the older boys run the family farms or by his father's side.

Ellen's parents believed in education. The children noted their fine vocabulary and even though money was budgeted in other areas, the children had access to a notable family library.

Ellen attended the brand new Woodruff School, right next to the "BYC" or Brigham Young College in Logan, Utah. It was a stately, red-brick building on 81 West and 100 South.

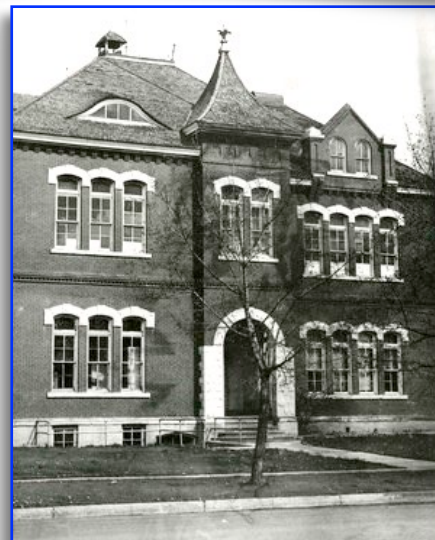


Owen Wright Smith

Ellen attended there through junior high then transferred to the four-year high school program at the Brigham Young College or B.Y.C. (37)



(above): Woodruff School 1st & 2nd grade class of 1894-95 with older classmates. Ellen was 9-10 yrs old, (top right). Her teacher, Bessie Morehead, became a famous opera singer, likely inspiring Ellen.



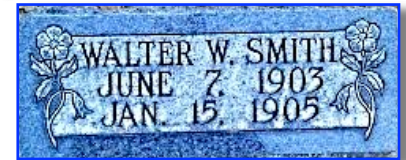
The original Woodruff School was torn down in 1939. A new Woodruff Elementary School now stands at 950 W. 600 So.

When Ellen was sixteen ... a long-awaited, younger brother finally arrived. **Seymour Elliott Wright Smith** was born on October 4, 1901. Sadly, while attending the "A.C.," or Agricultural college, as a well-admired student, he passed away from pneumonia. Being so close to the Spirit, Ellen's father, Orson, was given the prompting and comfort that Seymour's life mission was complete. He was now needed on the other side of the veil. (38)



*Seymour Elliot W. Smith, died at just nineteen yrs old*

When Seymour was two-years-old, **Walter Wright Smith** was born on June 7, 1903. Tragedy struck when two-year-old Walter's life was cut short. The girls had left out pans of homemade starch in boiled water on the floor to cool. Walter accidentally sat in one and was burned. Two months before little Walter passed away, Mary Ellen gave birth to her cherished last son, **George Gibbs Wright Smith**. (39)



To help her deal with Walter's death, Mary Ellen's parents took her with her baby, George, and ten-year-old daughter, Gladys, to Newport Beach, California for a few months to recuperate. Meanwhile, Ellen and Martha took care of the family while they attended the "B.Y.C." or Brigham Young College. *(Mary Ellen's parents, John Fish and Mary Hill Wright often wintered at Newport Beach.)*



*George Gibbs Wright Smith was born on Nov 18, 1904.*

The B.Y.C. or Brigham Young College was Logan's first university and was established in 1877. Ellen's mother had attended when it met in the basement of the LDS Logan Tabernacle. Now, Ellen could attend class on the handsome, 6 1/2 acre campus, located at 100 West and 100 South. (1903 - 1907)

*Until 1909, BYC offered 4-yrs of high school and 2 & 4-yr degrees.*

*~ Ellen had at least one year of **Normal training**, or **Teacher Training**, then switched to a **Domestic Arts Degree**. Classes included: **Household Economics**, **Organic Chemistry - food, fats, soaps & dyes**, **Dressmaking**, **Cooking & Hosting 3-Course Meals**, **Vocal Music**, **Elocution**, **Rhetoric**, **Needlework-Art**, **Millinery**, **All Maths**, **Vegetables & Fruit Preserves**, **Nutrition & Healing**, **Study of Fabric**, **Grammar**, **the Classics - Shakespeare**, **Religion**, **Bacteriology**, & **all Physical & Social Sciences**. ~ *Ellen's botany class nurtured her love of trees & ferns.* (40)*



*B.Y.C. ~ a liberal arts & science college, provided its graduates with a discerning and well-bred education with a focus on **Theology, Literature, Science and Art.***

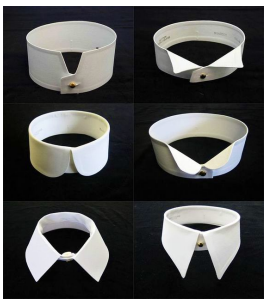
The appropriate attire for school, during the Edwardian Era, were day outfits.



*B.Y.C classmates of Ellen's, wearing ultra-high collars and ties or ascots with sack suits.*

Girls wore light, high-collared blouses with detail or lace on them that poofed out in front. These were paired with high-waisted, tailored skirts that flared out like a lily. More formal walking suits were also popular.

Boys wore high-collared shirts and ones with detachable collars and cuffs. Tuxedo-like, spread shirts were worn on formal occasions. In big cities, it was still customary to wear ascot-style, long morning coats but the younger generation preferred the practical, affordable sack suits.



A complete ensemble for a girl, included a hat and gloves and *always*, an umbrella, to shade her most prized feature ... her creamy complexion.

From 1900 to 1912, looking like one was wearing makeup during the day was still tabu.

Ellen had begun the daily ritual of cleansing, then applying creams to her velvety, milky skin. A rinse with lemon juice would be applied first, to achieve freckle-free, paler skin.



*Recreation of a designer ~ Edwardian skirt.*

*(above): detachable collars.*

***Ellen used it as a health tonic, drinking lemon in hot water every morning, her entire life. She would hand down many such beauty rituals, in time, to her future daughters.***

Creams and makeup were often homemade, and in time would be sold in stores. But, every girl had a powder puff with beneficial, crushed-pearls face powder. For an evening event, little pots of matte rouge for cheeks, eyes and lips were applied, then muted with blotting papers.



*(left): Ever a lady, Ellen Wright Smith, in a ruffled, detailed ensemble with a "Merry Widow" hat that she likely made herself. (circa 1903 - age 18 or 19)*

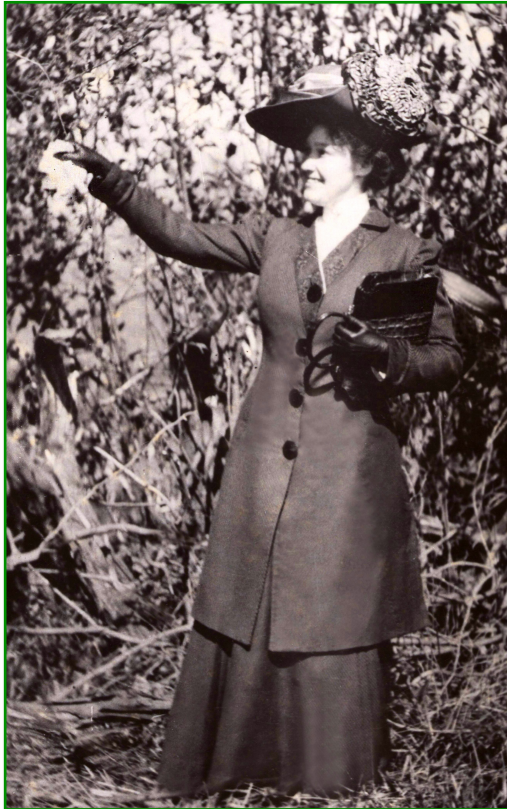


*(below right): Ellen Wright Smith, in a smart walking suit and hat that she designed. She and her friends loved to explore at the mouth of Logan Canyon.*

Ellen and her sisters came into their own in college.

Ellen grew up in a home with a piano in it and sisters that always sang around it. Her high soprano voice stood out. At school, she sang and played the guitar and performed in many B.Y.C. opera productions, and later in the lead roles. (41)

Ellen's grandchildren may be surprised to know that she loved to dance and ice-skate ... and that she excelled at it. With her Victorian restraint, she never bragged about her accomplishments, she just accomplished much. **Her life was about achieving perfection ... she embraced the "zen of Life."**



**Ellen had a very full social life.**  
**In fact, in time ...**  
**she would tell her five future daughters,**  
***"I never wanted to go anywhere but that I always had an escort to take me there."***  
**She would then, sternly eye them**  
**like they were doing something wrong,**  
**if they were sitting at home waiting by the telephone.**

Some say, your college years often shape you. Ellen shared her beautiful, lilted soprano voice, throughout her lifetime. She never turned down a request to sing civically or at church.



*Ellen literally, had her pick of any boy in Logan. She had friendships with exemplary boys like future apostle, Alma Sonne: (not pictured), & future member of the First Presidency, Hugh B. Brown, (1st row, 3rd from the left) & Lyman & Franklin Daines, who became notable doctorates in their fields, (2nd row, 2nd & 3rd from the right)*



*(left): Ellen Wright Smith, in the soprano chorus of the opera, "Princess Ida" in 1905, at age 20.*  
*(below): An Edwardian hair ornament pin. (42)*



*(right) actress, Kate Winslet, in the movie, "The Titanic". She is wearing crushed pearls face powder, a walking business suit & a banker's collar and tie.*



**Ellen cultivated worthy friends.**

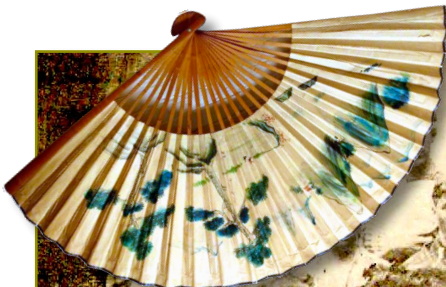
**She always said,**

*“Choose your friends wisely ~ the kind that will lift you up throughout your life ... you are judged by the company you keep.”*

**Her best friend was little sister, Martha Wright Smith. Just three-years apart, they were in two B.Y.C operas together, where they sang lead parts. (43)**



*(above): Ellen Wright Smith-soprano in her college choir. (right): Sister & best friend, Martha Wright Smith.*

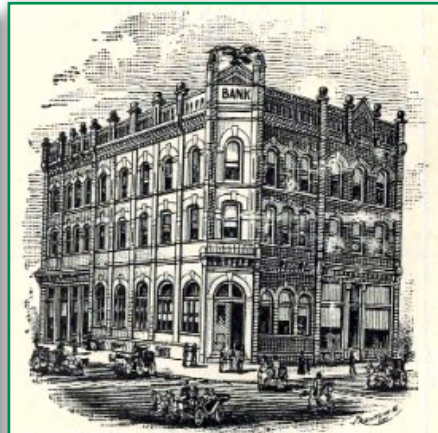
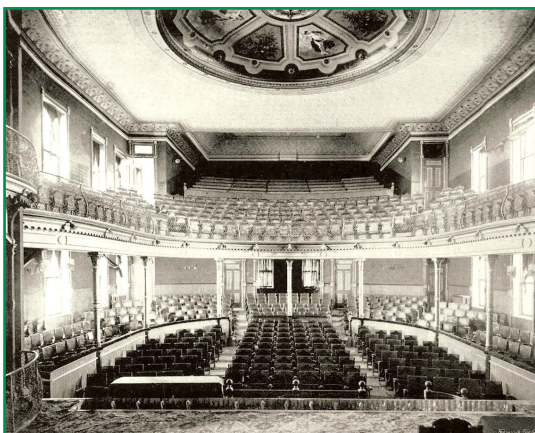


*(above): B.Y.C. Opera Company performance of “The Mikado” ~ 1906, (left): Ellen (21) in black (& above): just right of center, in the third row.*



**THE ELEGANT, 800-SEAT OPERA HOUSE, OPEN SINCE SEPT OF 1890, BURNED DOWN ON APRIL 17, 1912. GONE WAS A CULTURAL GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY.**

*Ellen performed in BYC operas, put on in the elegant Thatcher Opera House in Logan, Utah. (right): interior and exterior of the opera house which took up the 2nd & 3rd floors of the bank building.*





One distinguished friend of Ellen's, made it a point to tell her favorite brother all about Ellen. Her friend's name was Eva Grant. (right):

Eva's handsome brother was Walter Eldredge Grant. (below): (44)



(below): 1906 Western Electric operator-assist, candlestick desk phone with wall mount or desk ringer.

Walter came from a worthy background like Ellen's. He had nine siblings in his family as well, and his father was a stake president like Ellen's. Walter's uncle was, notably, apostle & future prophet, Heber J. Grant.

Courting Ellen wouldn't be easy. It was an eighty-mile trip to Logan from his home in West Bountiful and he had to drive the whole way in a carriage with horses.

One day in 1907, Walter came by Ellen's house in Logan.

Ellen was away visiting friends at the expansive, lush Nebeker farm along the shores of Bear Lake. Orson used one of the few installed phones in Logan to call Ellen and tell her to come home, to meet a young man that was visiting her. But, Ellen wasn't interested enough in a "Mr. Grant" to leave her friends. It wasn't until the Fall of that same year that Ellen would meet Walter, in person, at the home of renowned B.Y.C. and University of Utah professor, Dr. Frederick J. Pack. Walter's sister, Sarah "Sadie" Grant, happened to be married to Dr. Pack. (45)



Walter E. Grant



***Ellen's and Walter's romance began in 1907, the year Ellen graduated with a three-year degree in Domestic Science. After graduation, Ellen did more college course work, specializing in her field. (below): A novel picture postcard that Walter gave Ellen. It was taken of him in the Irish Sea in 1906, while returning home from his British mission.***

(right): Walter added this note with the picture:

~ "DECEMBER 13, 1907, NELLIE, WHAT ARE THE WILD WAVES SAYING? IN THE OLD IRISH SEA, WOULD YOU KNOW IT IS I?"

(Imagine walking out to this rock at low tide dressed in a suit & tie, like Walter Grant did, to get this picture.)

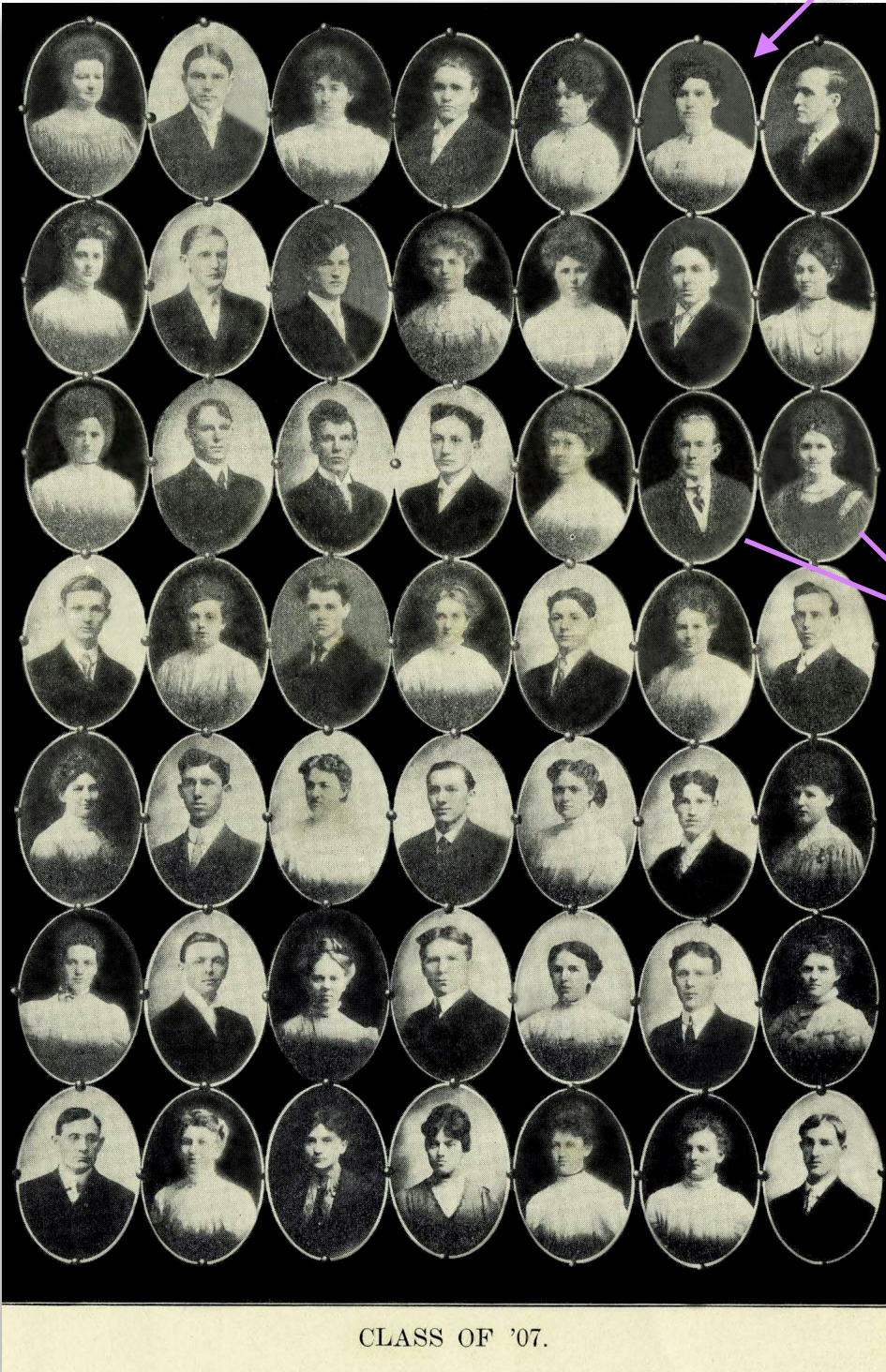


**ELLEN'S GRADUATING CLASS OF 1907.** Only three students graduated with baccalaureate degrees, most with 7 years of college. Ellen and the rest, graduated with 2-3 year degrees in Domestic Science or Arts, Teaching, Business, Nursing and Engineering. Because BYC was the first college in Utah, its courses weren't standardized college courses yet. **In total, Ellen completed over four years of schooling after high school.** Her sister, Martha Wright Smith and future husband, Orville L. Lee, graduated with 2-year business degrees. (46)



*Ellen Wright Smith  
~ 1907 at age 22*

**ELLEN'S SCHOOL YEARS -**  
 1904 - NORMAL - TEACHING  
 1905 - DOMESTIC SCIENCE  
 1906 - FRESHMAN -  
 REQUIRED COURSES  
 1907 - DOMESTIC SCIENCE  
 1908 - CONTINUING  
 COLLEGE COURSES



*(left & above): Martha W. Smith (19) & Orville L. Lee. (age 23) They later, married in 1910.*



**ELLEN AND WALTER HAD WONDERFUL WEEKENDS TOGETHER,  
THEY EVEN WON A WALTZ DANCE CONTEST.**

FOR DECADES IN AMERICA, THE WALTZ HAD BEEN CONSIDERED “TOO FAMILIAR” AND WAS BANNED AT MANY DANCES. THE IDEA OF DANCING SO CLOSE TO ONE’S PARTNER WAS A FAR-CRY FROM SQUARE-DANCING. NOW, BY 1908, THE WALTZ WAS A HIGH ART-FORM. PEOPLE NOT USED TO “ROUND DANCING” WOULD BRING A SACK LUNCH TO WATCH DANCERS ACTUALLY HOLD EACH OTHER (WITH GLOVES ON), AND GRACEFULLY WALTZ AROUND THE FLOOR FOR HOURS. (47)



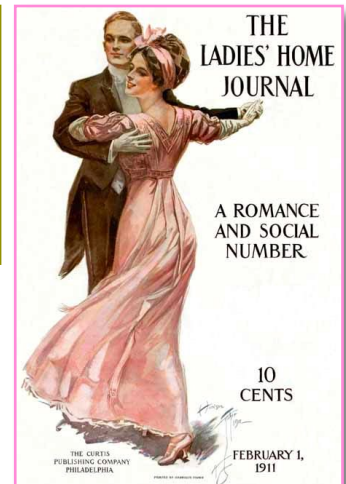
*(above): Edwardian couple in gloves at a dance. circa 1909*

Instead of going home, Walter would stay the weekend with Ellen’s family in Logan. Ellen’s little sister, Olena, recalls Walter’s weekend visits:



*“I can remember the good things Ellen cooked when Walter came to visit. She was a beautiful girl and a good cook ... Martha’s beau, Orville, would go home after his dates and Walter stayed the weekend. We were a little frightened of him.” (48)*

~ On September 2, 1908, Walter and Ellen were married in the Logan Temple. This announcement appeared in the Deseret News. ~



**THE MARRIAGE OF WALTER GRANT, OF WOODS CROSS AND MISS NELL SMITH, OF LOGAN, TOOK PLACE IN THE LOGAN TEMPLE, WEDNESDAY AND IN THE EVENING, A RECEPTION WAS HELD FOR THEM AT WHICH WERE PRESENT, MEMBERS OF THE TWO FAMILIES. THE ROOMS WERE TASTEFULLY DECORATED WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF CUT FLOWERS AND THE BRIDE AND GROOM WERE THE RECIPIENTS OF MANY PRETTY GIFTS. THE BRIDE IS THE DAUGHTER OF MR. AND MRS. ORSON SMITH AND ONE OF LOGAN’S POPULAR GIRLS. THE GROOM IS WELL-KNOWN IN SALT LAKE AND WOODS CROSS AND MANY GOOD WISHES ARE EXTENDED TO BOTH. MR. AND MRS. GRANT WILL RESIDE IN WOODS CROSS. ~ published Sept 5, 1908 (49)**



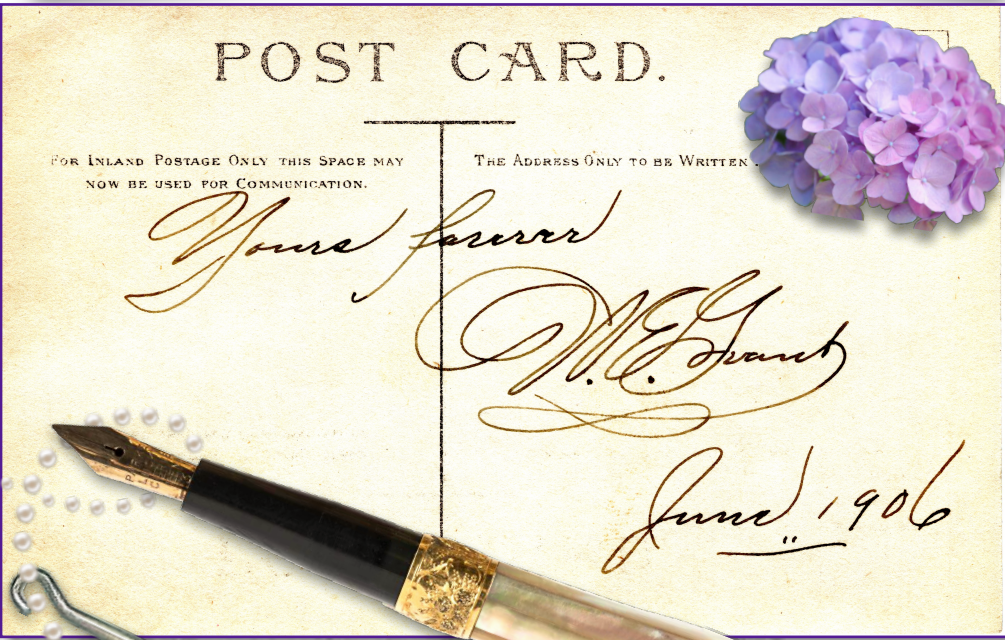
*Ellen wasn’t fond of the name “Nellie,” or “Nell,” but she abided it since Walter loved it so. (above-right): Popular Edwardian-style wedding dress. 1908 gowns were made of very soft fabrics.*



Ellen's dress was made out of a soft, ecru linen. She eventually made formal dinner napkins out of her gown, as a keepsake for her daughters. After crocheting on them, she edged them with dainty stitches. These are the ones that were given to Helen Grant Barton, your Nana.

*(right) Walter E. Grant in a morning suit, top hat & cane. His mission to Britain was January 1905 - January 1907.*

Even though their romance officially began in late 1907, Walter admired Ellen before they met in person. It would appear, he sent a picture postcard to Ellen during his mission, encouraged by his sister, Eva. (below): He returned home from Europe in March of 1907. Ellen still made Walter pursue and court her properly, which makes their love story even more romantic and one to be treasured.



*~ (left): Walter's postcard & inscription: "Yours forever W. E. Grant ~ June 1906." Walter was an artist with elegant penmanship. He wrote poetically with a dry wit. (left below): 1906 ink well, Parker pen & a sterling boot button hook.*





**“IN SIGHT OF BLARNEY CASTLE, I WANDERED BY A LITTLE BABBLING BROOK WHICH SANG IRISH MELODIES ABOUT THE ‘BLOOM OF KNIGHTHOOD’ TO THE CRUMBLING RUINS AND ME.”**  
 ~ Walter E Grant 1907

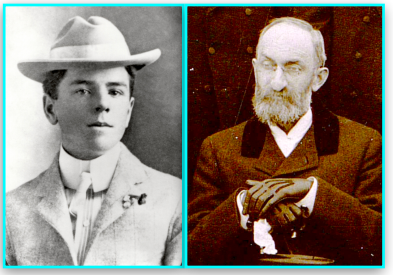
*In sight of Blarney Castle, I wandered by a little babbling brook which sang Irish melodies about the "Bloom of Knight-hood" to the crumbling ruins and me.*

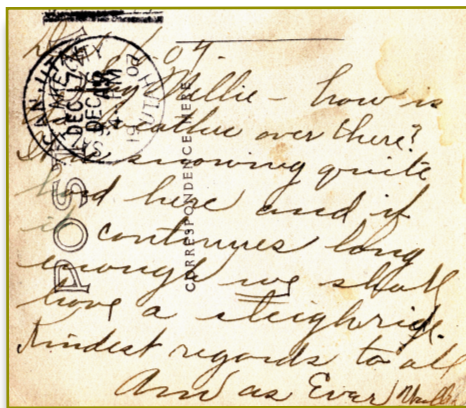
(left): Walter wrote this poem when visiting Blarney Castle in Ireland, home of the famous “Blarney Stone.” After his mission, he gave this postcard to Ellen. Pres. Heber J. Grant was Walter’s uncle and head of the European Mission while he was there. “Uncle Jeddy,” as Walter called him, gave up his travel plans and arranged for Walter and a companion to tour the United Kingdom, (U.K.) after their missions.

(below): Pres. Heber J. Grant presided over the European Mission from 1903 - 1905. He is seated next to his nephew, Elder Walter E. Grant, at a Liverpool Mission Conference. \*Note the top hat Walter is holding & his ascot morning suit, necessary for calling on people & proselyting. (circa 1907) (50)



(above): Reverse side of a 1907 picture post card Walter E. Grant gave to Ellen, or his “Nellie Smith.” He writes about the experience of sitting on a rock, while the tide from the Irish Sea swirled in around him. (below): a close-up of Walter E. Grant and his uncle, Pres. Heber J. Grant.





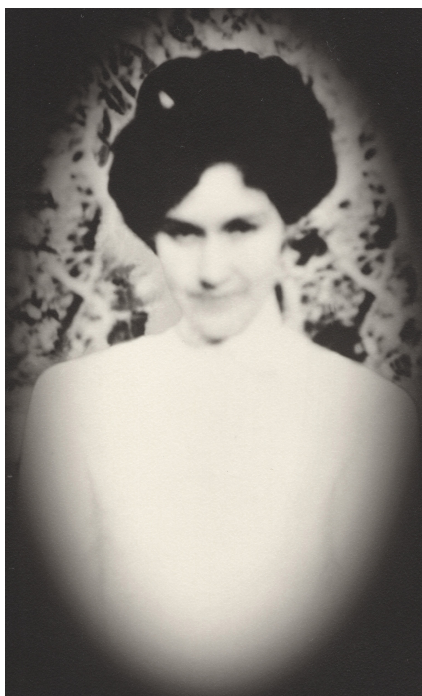
(left): While courting Ellen, Walter sent this to Logan from SLC, UT. ~ (Dec 16, 1907):

“**SAY NELLIE - HOW IS THE WEATHER OVER THERE? IT IS SNOWING QUITE HARD HERE AND IF IT CONTINUES LONG ENOUGH, WE SHALL HAVE A SLEIGH RIDE.**”

**KINDEST REGARDS TO ALL,  
AM AS EVER, WALTER**



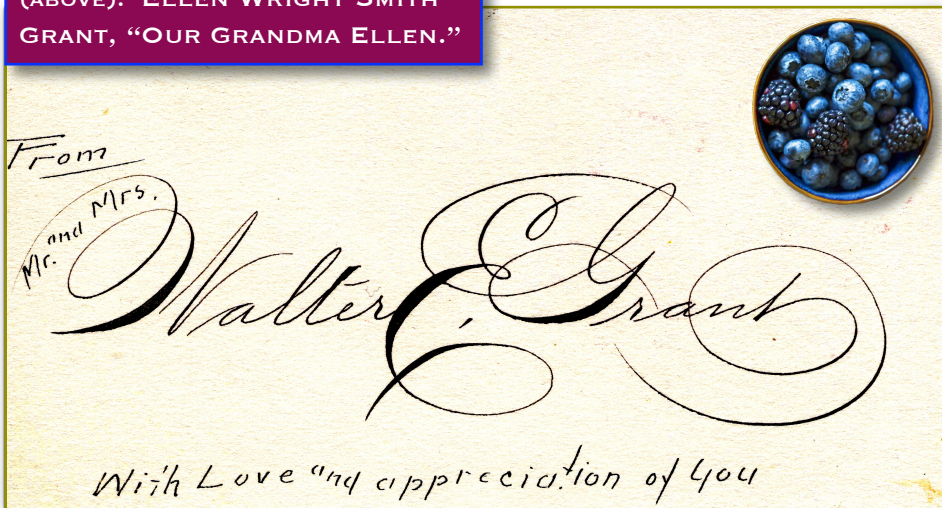
Before their wedding, Walter had asked Ellen to demonstrate her knowledge of preserving fruit and vegetables, so they'd have something to eat after they were married. All of Walter's dotting sisters were in attendance and watched, as Ellen flawlessly put up the two bushels of tomatoes and fruit that Walter had grown. Ellen must have smiled to herself as she conducted a master class in domestic science for her amazed audience. (below left): Ellen as a newlywed (51)



(above): A traditional, double-ring, wedding quilt. Ellen made one like this for Walter.



(ABOVE): ELLEN WRIGHT SMITH GRANT, “OUR GRANDMA ELLEN.”



*Equal strands of gold wove Walter and Ellen's families together.*

(below): Ellen Wright Smith's parents and siblings

~ THE ORSON GURNEY SMITH & MARY ELLEN WRIGHT SMITH FAMILY  
 ELLEN WAS THE ELDEST CHILD OF HER FAMILY'S TEN CHILDREN, WHEREAS  
 WALTER WAS THE SECOND OLDEST SON IN HIS FAMILY OF TEN CHILDREN.



*inset: Ellen's father,  
Orson Gurney Smith*

(above, left-to right, 1st row):

Ellen Wright Smith,  
 George Gibbs Smith,  
 (mother)-Mary Ellen Wright  
 Smith, Seymour Elliot  
 Wright Smith, Martha  
 Wright Smith.

(2nd row, left to right):  
 Olena Wright Smith,  
 Gladys Wright Smith,  
 Owen Wright Smith,  
 Mary Wright Smith,  
 Harriet Wright Smith

\*(Ellen's brother, Walter  
 Wright Smith is not pictured,  
 he died at 2 years of age.

(above right inset: Ellen's  
 father, Orson Gurney Smith.)

**ELLEN WRIGHT SMITH'S SIBLINGS ~ BIRTH & DEATH DATES**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| - ELLEN WRIGHT SMITH<br>B. APRIL 27, 1885.<br>D. NOV 18, 1975 ~ (90) | - OLENA WRIGHT SMITH<br>B. FEB 26, 1897<br>D. MAR 20, 1994 - (97)     |
| - MARTHA WRIGHT SMITH<br>B. MAR 20, 1888<br>D. OCT 6, 1961 ~ (73)    | - MARY WRIGHT SMITH<br>B. SEPT 9, 1898<br>D. DEC 27, 1980 ~ (82)      |
| - HARRIET WRIGHT SMITH<br>B. DEC 23, 1890<br>D. FEB 20, 1978 ~ (88)  | - SEYMOUR ELLIOT W. SMITH<br>B. OCT 4, 1901<br>D. JAN 23, 1920 ~ (19) |
| - OWEN WRIGHT SMITH<br>B. NOV 1, 1892<br>D. NOV 3, 1965 ~ (73)       | - WALTER WRIGHT SMITH<br>B. JUNE 7, 1903<br>D. JAN 15, 1905 ~ (2)     |
| - GLADYS WRIGHT SMITH<br>B. NOV 3, 1895<br>D. NOV 13, 1990 ~ (95)    | - GEORGE GIBBS W. SMITH<br>B. NOV 18, 1904<br>D. NOV 12, 1999. - (95) |

(ELLEN WRIGHT SMITH'S PARENTS):

- OWEN GURNEY SMITH

B. JULY 4, 1853

D. AUG 5, 1935 ~ (82)

- MARY ELLEN WRIGHT SMITH

B. JAN 4, 1865

D. JAN 27, 1934 ~ (69)

(BELOW): THE JOSEPH HYRUM GRANT & ELIZA EVALETTA  
ELDREDGE GRANT FAMILY ~ *(Walter E. Grant's family)*



(above): first row, children on floor: Howard Eldredge Grant, Lyle Prudence Grant & Horace James Grant; (2nd row): Sarah (Sadie) E. Grant, Joseph Hyrum Grant, Eliza Evaletta Eldredge Grant & Jessie E. Grant; (3rd row): Susan Evaletta Grant, Carter E. Grant, Joseph Hyrum Grant, Jr., Walter E. Grant & Eva Eldredge Grant.

*Ellen and Walter both came from noteworthy families with parents who were hardworking community and church leaders. Both Ellen and Walter's fathers were Stake Presidents and their mothers each served in Stake Relief Society Presidencies. Both families were also supportive of culture, the arts, the written word and of improving their lives through lifelong learning. With the example of their parents as stalwart, vibrant leaders who served their communities, Walter E. Grant and Ellen Wright Smith Grant had the perfect blueprint to begin their lives together.*