

EMELINE WOODRUFF



Born: 25 July 1863. Salt Lake City Salt Lake, Utah, daughter of Wilford Woodruff and Sarah Delight Stocking

Died: 25 May 1915, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

Being two-year-older than her brother Ensign, it seems that the two of them were often together in their early youth. One-time Wilford Woodruff took Delight (his wife); Emeline, and Ensign out to the orchard to pick peaches. Wilford, who was about 60 at the time, climbed a stepladder, leaned against a tall branch. The branch broke. Wilford fell off the ladder and onto his back, knocking the wind out of himself. Sarah Delight screamed. Wilford soon regained his composure and got up. Using his usual metaphor, he stated, "My conscience, my conscience, I might have killed myself."

Emeline was born in mid-summer. It would seem natural to have her baptism after her 8th birthday on a hot August day, but no!! Her father must have had a great sense of humor (and I'm sure that he wanted it to be as memorable of an experience as his own baptism). Emeline was baptized by her father in

Parley's Creek on February 28, 1874. They had to clear out the ice on the creek in order to perform the ceremony.

Emeline complained at one time that her father treated Emma Smith's family better than Sarah Delight's family. Right or wrong, it is still clear that Wilford Woodruff cared for Delight's family and had a love and concern for his daughter, Emeline. On June 26, 1886 Wilford wrote Emeline to exercise caution in selecting a husband. He excused himself for failing to write or visit often. He cited both attention to his journals and official correspondence as a partial excuse, add that he had been busy trying to secret himself from our enemies. He said that there were "so diligent after me and my Quorum that I have to withdraw from all of my family and entirely hide up.". Emeline used to write love letters for her brother, Marion, because he could not read or write well.

Emeline married David Creeland Burrows on August 18, 1887 in the Logan Temple. The same day her brother Marion married his bride. The Census of 1900, finds the family living on 3rd East in Salt Lake City. Her husband lists his occupation as teamster.

David and Emeline were the parents of 5 children, all born in Salt Lake between 1888 and 1897. Their youngest, Ruby Delight, only lived about a year and a half. Their second youngest, Lulu Emeline lived to age 10. The remaining three lived into the 1950s and 60s had married and had children. Her husband preceded Emeline in death, passing away in 1909 from acute appendicitis. Conditions of Emeline's health prevented her from participation in public work, it any great extent: however, she was devoted to her domestic duties and it was said that she was a good mother. She passed away, at age 51, from bronchial pneumonia, after a three-month confinement in her home. She was survived by her three sons, Wilford, Elmer and Lewis.

[Alan J. Hill, 12-8-01, revised 4/12/20]

SOURCES

Alexander, Thomas G., Things in Heaven and Earth, The Life and Times of Wilford Woodruff, a Mormon Prophet. Signature Book, Salt Lake City, UT. 1991.

Cowley, Matthias F., Wilford Woodruff, History of His Life and Labors as recorded in his daily journals. Bookcraft, Salt Lake City, UT> c. 1964. 7th Printing 1978.

Family Group Sheets, Wilford Woodruff and Sarah Delight Stocking, David Creeland Burrows and Emeline Woodruff.

FamilySearch (2020). Used the sources to obtain the census of 1900 on the family along with death certificates for David and Emeline Burrows.

Life History of Ensign Woodruff, written by Ensign Woodruff, May 23, 1931. It and other notes attached to family group sheet of Ensign Woodruff and Isabell Shields (records of Wilford E. Woodruff, Sandy, Utah)

Obituary, "Mrs. E.W. Burrows dies of Pneumonia," Deseret News, May 25, 1915.