

CLARA MARTISHA WOODRUFF

Born: 23 July 1868, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Utah, daughter of Wilford Woodruff and Emma Smith.

Died: 29 December 1927, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah



She also went by the name Martina. She spent her early school years in the 12th Ward School. At age 14 she acted as secretary of the Primary in the Farmer's Ward, serving for three years. In November 1880, her father recorded in his journal that his daughter Clara, who had been very ill with diphtheria seemed to be recovering. She accompanied the Wilford Woodruff family on the extended camping trip into the Uinta in 1886. It was during this period that her father was in hiding from authorities regarding polygamy. Unfortunately, she was deathly sick during part of the trip. She seems to have recovered from several serious illnesses; and in her father's journal are recorded several instances of her, in turn, caring and lending assistance to her father, sister, and other members of her own family.

She married Ovando Collins Beebe on Aug. 3, 1887. Ovando had been born in Polk City, Iowa in 1867. He was 20 and Clara 19 at the time of their marriage. Ovando worked as cashier for Zion's Savings Bank and was said to be "an excellent man." Ovando

was also associated with his brother-in-law, John Daynes, Jr. in the music business. Ovando and Clara were the parents of eight children, namely Vedi Clare, Woodruff Collins, Emma, George Rogers, Hester, Blanch W. Margaret and Ruth.

Clara served as president of the 20th Ward Primary from 1895 to 1898 and member of the Salt Lake Stake Primary Board until called to the General Board of the Primary Association in 1904. She served as second counselor from 1906 to 1925. She was a perfect hostess and had charge of all special social events on the board. As a result of her efforts. 152,331 baptisms for the dead were performed by children of the Primary. She was present at the founding meeting of the Daughter of the Pioneers on April 11, 1901 and actively participated in the meeting. She represented that group in the Social League of Salt Lake City and acted on numerous committees of both groups. She was also a member of the Salt Lake Civic Center from April 19, 1917 to 1921, serving as treasurer and a member of the board of control.

Clara passed away in Salt Lake City, at the age of 59. He husband followed her the next year.

[Alan J. Hill, 6-22-20]

SOURCES

Gibbons, Francis M., Wilford Woodruff, Wondrous Worker Prophet of God, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1988.

Heart Throbs of the West, compiled by Kate B. Carter [Salt Lake City, Daughter of the Pioneers, 1949] vol.10

Jakeman, Jas, T., Daughter of the Utah Pioneers and Their Mother, p. 63.

Later-Day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia: A Compilation of Biographical Sketches of prominent Men and Women in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Andrew Jenson "Salt Lake City: Andrew Jenson History Company, 1936] vol.4

Price, Richard W, "the Great Lives of Joseph John Daynes Jr. and Winnifred Blanche Woodruff Daynes", compiled 25 Dec 1973 from writing of Joseph John Daynes Jr. A family history. Thanks, given to Wilford W. Daynes Sr. and Julie Anne Price for their assistance.

Family Group Sheet, Wilford Woodruff and Emma Smith

Wilford Woodruff's Journal