

## MARY ALICE WOODRUFF



**Born:** 2 Jan.1879, Salt Lake City Salt Lake, Utah, daughter of Wilford Woodruff and Emma Smith

**Died:** 16 Jan. 1916, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

She was Wilford Woodruff's youngest child, and very special to him. In 1886, 7-year-old Mary Alice and her mother accompanied her father on a trip to St. George. On Jan. 2, 1887 (her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday) she was baptized in the St. George Temple font by William H. Thompson and confirmed the same day by J.D.T. Mc Allister. Another special trip with her father occurred on July 4, 1889, when she accompanied him on a carriage and train ride to the granite quarries at Wasatch, where the rock was being cut in blocks for the Salt Lake Temple.

At the age of 18, Mary Alice was married to William McEwan on Nov. 16, 1897 in the Salt Lake Temple. Alice's father performed the ceremony. He stated, in part, "Now if you honor God, yourselves, and your Parents through all times, and keep the commandments of God and the covenants you have entered into, I will promise you that you will be true and faithful throughout all eternity."

William McEwan, who was 28-years old when he married Mary Alice was already an accomplished businessman. He had entered the banking profession in 1890 and had advanced to the position of head bookkeeper before serving a 33-month mission to Germany, which he completed in 1896. He married Mary Alice at the end of the next year. He continued his business dealing becoming very prominent in banking and the automobile industry. He also held many important church callings. He served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Counselor in the Granite Stake Presidency from 1903 to 1919, which were most of the time they were married. The family lived in the Sugar House Ward. Mary Alice was President of the Ward Primary and was also an active board member of the Granite Stake Primary Association.

William and Mary were the parents of eleven children, five boys and six girls. They all had Woodruff as part of their name just before McEwan. They were, in order: Dolores (b. 1898), Erma (b. 1900), Emma (b. 1902), Agnes (b. 1904), Mary Alice (b. 1905), William (b. 1907), Taylor (b. 1908), Owen (b. 1910), Clarence (b. 1911), Joseph (b. 1913) and Blanche (b. 1915). Son William, died as an infant. The remaining children lived to maturity.

In 1916, following an illness of five weeks, Mary Alice passed away at "the family residence...of blood poisoning." She was 37-years old and besides leaving a husband, she left 10 children, the oldest was 17 and the youngest 9-months. William married 37-year old Elizabeth Bennion the next year 1917. However, she passed away in 1919. William remarried one more time in 1922 to 31-year old Grace Pixton. They had at least one more child, Willard (b. 1923). Grace was probably quite busy with Mary Alice's children for several years. William McEwan lived to the age of 73, passing away in 1945. Two of his sons were serving overseas in World War II at the time of his passing.

[Alan J. Hill, 7-13-20]

## SOURCES

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Jakeman, Jas. T., Daughters of the Utah Pioneers and Their Mothers.

Jenson, Andrew, Encyclopedic History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1941.

Family Group Sheets Wilford Woodruff and Emma Smith: William McEwan and Mary Alice Woodruff

FamilySearch (April 8, 2020) Obituaries were posted on memories for both William McEwan and Mary Alice Woodruff

Wilford Woodruff Journals