

LIFE SKETCH of RUTH ALTHEA ROWE WESTOVER

by her sister - Matilda Mathie

RUTH ALTHEA ROWE, was born 17 November 1861, at Parawan, Iron County Utah, the fourth child of WILLIAM ROWE and ELIZABETH MURDOCK. Her parents were both born in Indiana, of goodly ancestry. Her grandparents were DAVID ROWE and HANNAH MANNING and LEVI MURDOCK and ELIZABETH CAMPBELL. In December of 1864, Ruth moved with her family to West Weber County, Utah; where she lived near her Grandfather Murdock. This she enjoyed very much as she was a favorite with them and her Uncle Harvey and Dan Murdock took great delight in teaching her to dance. As a child she was quite frail and delicate, and her parents were fearful lest they would not be able to raise her.

In March 1869 Ruth's parents and their six children moved to Mendon, Cashe County, Utah. At this time Ruth had two sisters, Margaret Ann, and Elizabeth Matilda. She also had three brothers, William Levi, David Alfonso, and Joseph Manning. Soon after their arrival in Mendon, Ruth started working and doing such chores as might be expected of a girl her age. Ruth possessed an excellent disposition and all that knew her loved her. She was dependable, thrifty, helpful and happy, always trying to cheer others and planning for her own future. In 1872 another sister was born, Electa Senora, and in 1877 a baby brother named Olie Delbert Rowe.

Ruth married WILLIAM RUTHVIN WESTOVER on March 1st, 1883 after a continuous seven year courtship. Only twice during these seven years did they have a falling out and this only lasted two or three days. Their wedding was a happy one. Ruth had a wonderful trousseau and they were given a splendid wedding supper by Ann Westover, the groom's Mother. All of the immediate family and many friends were present. Soon after their marriage they moved into a little home of their own and here their first child was born on Dec. 27, 1883, William Earnest. Ruth nearly lost her life from the birth of this child. Complications set in and her recovery was very slow. She was administered to by her father, who promised her that she would get well and raise her family and this she did.

In the Fall of 1884 they moved to Cabin, Idaho, a place situated between Oxford and Arimo, perhaps where Downey now is. Here they worked hard taking in boarders and William worked on the section. The 26th of February 1886 they moved back to Mendon, Utah where their second child was born, Arthur Edwin. After the baby arrived they moved to Rexburg, Idaho which at that time was just being settled. They lived in town the first year and then moved to a home-stead one mile north of Rexburg. Here they spent the rest of their lives.

Like many homesteads at that time the ground was rough and covered with sagebrush and being unable to clear the land and proved the needed

ditches they didn't raise hardly any crops the first 2 to 3 years. In spite of this they were industrious. At first they built a one room house with a dirt roof where they lived for several years before building a 4 room house. They were very thrifty and worked hard to provide the necessities of life, even so it was necessary to put the children to bed while their clothes were being washed and dried, as a change of clothes was completely out of the question. Flour was acquired from wheat that was given in exchange for work at threshing season. Were it not for two cows that they had it would have seemed impossible to exist. The mosquitoes were so thick at times that it was necessary to eat with one hand and fight mosquitoes with the other. Many times they were discouraged and much depressed. In spite of these hardships they were devout members of the church and paid an honest tithing. It was not long until they began to realize some rewards for the hardships and sacrifices which they endured. No doubt they would have become well to do as well to do might have been defined in those days were it not for the sickness that crept in and caused the death of their first girl, HAZEL ANN, just two years old. This was a great blow, but was bravely born. This tragedy occurred the thirteenth of February 1895.

Ruth was blessed with seven more children in her Rexburg home, They are: Floyd Delbert, Ray Findley, Hazel Ann, (mentioned above), Arnold, Zena Althea, Myrtle Elizabeth and Lorin. In the Fall of 1903 her husband became very ill and underwent an operation from which he could not recover and he died on the 29th of October. Ruth was now left a widow with 8 children to raise. They were between the ages of 1 year and 16 years old. This was almost beyond her realization and then in 1904 the family became sick with Typhoid Fever. Earnest and Floyd being the worst. Floyd had pneumonia with his. This illness following the death of her beloved Husband was too much for Ruth and she lost her mind. It seemed that her trials were beyond her physical ability to endure. She fought a hard battle but never completely regained her health. She won though because she raised her family of eight children and was very proud of them. She died the 17th of April 1914 surrounded by her children.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

State of Idaho

BOARD OF HEALTH

Bureau of Vital Statistics

7-86

Registered No.

157

Primary Registration District No. 2178

Registration District No.

157

City of

Boise

County of

Boise

Place of Death

Boise

Sex

Female

Color or Race

White

Married, Widowed, Single, Married, Wid.

Widowed

Age

51

Occupation

Housewife

Trade, profession or

particular kind of work.

(b) general nature of the

industry, business, or estab-

lishment in which employ-

ed (or employed).

9. BIRTHPLACE

Black

10. NAME OF

FATHER

Sam Brown

11. BIRTHPLACE

Idaho

12. MAIDEN NAME

Idaho

13. BIRTHPLACE

Idaho

14. THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

(Informant)

(Address)

Boise, Idaho

15. Filed

1914

Local Registrar

1914

20. EXAMINER

Dr. W. W. Williams

19. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL

Boise, Idaho

DATE OF BURIAL

Apr 20 1914

Address

Boise, Idaho

18. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions,

Transients or Recent Residents)

At place

In the

State

Idaho

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I attended deceased from

1911

16. DATE OF DEATH

April 14

15. I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I attended deceased from

1911

14. I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I attended deceased from

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3. I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I attended deceased from

1911

State of Idaho . . . . .

County of Ada . . . . .

MAR 6 1967

Date Issued

State Registrar of Vital Statistics

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that this is a certified copy of a certificate filed with the State Department of Health under title 39, Idaho Code.