

THE CHARLES ROBERT WARD FAMILY

1964

Ruth Ward Smith

Charles Robert Ward

Charles Robert Ward was the youngest son of George Welton and Ann Truelock Ward. He was born 1 February 1858 at Willard, Box Elder County, Utah.

George Welton Ward, his father, was born 12 September, 1814 in Leiston, Suffolk, England and married Ann Truelock 24 January 1842 in England.

George Welton's father was John Ward, born 25 January 1786 at Theberton, Suffolk, England. John's father was Samuel Ward, christened 12 August 1753 at Kelsale, Suffolk, England. We are indebted to George D. Ward and church records in England for the latter information of our great-great grandfather. Research has certainly disclosed our grandfather was of true and noble character to stand at the head of so great a posterity.

After George Welton joined the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in England and came to this country with his wife and family, he proved himself to be a capable and worthy citizen of his adopted land. He died 18 August 1882 while serving his community as bishop of the ward. Church records of Willard show that during the time he was bishop in 1878, there were 120 families, 45 rebaptisms, one excommunication, and 712 members. He blessed and confirmed many of his own grand-children. Our sister Olive was born in Willard and blessed by him.

Ann Truelock was born 13 May, 1812 in London, England and died 14 July, 1860 at Willard. She left her little family of eight children. Father was the youngest at two years of age. Mary Hankinson came into the home. We are told she treated the children as her own.

There were four children born to Mary which made twelve children in Grandfather Ward's family.

Charles Robert Ward, born 1 February 1858, grew up in the picturesque little town of Willard which nestled close to the rugged Wasatch Mountains. The mountains towered over Willard on the east. On the west lay the silver shimmering Great Salt Lake. The little town was settled in 1851. It was first known as North Willow Creek, but in 1859 it was changed to Willard in honor of Willard Richards, second counselor to Brigham Young.

The inhabitants of Willard were hardy and progressive. They soon outgrew the little town and began moving to other sections of the country. They are found among the prominent leaders in the communities where they reside. They seemed to portray the

spirit of the towering lofty mountains. They had unusual ambitions and high ideals coupled with great strength and vigor. In this favorable climate, Charles Robert and Margaret Ellen Ward went to the elementary school and church. They participated in all the social activities of each. I can remember mother telling of the good times they had and telling about acting in the home town dramatics. Evan Stevens was in one play they produced. He later became the venerable leader and composer of music for the Tabernacle Choir.

Church records show Margaret Ellen Mason was born 29 March 1862; was rebaptized by Shad Jones; and reconfirmed by George Facer, 10 May 1879. It seems some records were lost and we find many records of rebaptisms.

Charles and Margaret Ward were married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, 8 January 1880. Four other couples went with them, among which were William Jones and Mary Ann Nicholes who were life long friends.

Father had been employed as a cowboy herding cattle for the residents of Willard north in the Pocatello Valley. One day he took a ride into the Raft River Valley. Immediately he was struck with its favorable characteristics for the cattle raising industry.

He must have filed on the old homestead prior to marriage, because brother Wesley has our land deed, dated 1880 to a water right on Grape Creek in Cassia County, Idaho. Soon after marriage, father and mother left Utah to establish their home on Grape Creek. I have in my possession a letter written 8 August 1880 by Grandmother Mason to Father and Mother telling how sorry she was they were so far away but pleased they had a home and liked it. She also told them the fruit was ripening.

In October of the same year, Mother returned to Willard where, on 9 October 1880, Margaret Olive, the first child, was born.

All the other children were born at Ward, Idaho with all church records in the Almo Ward. The children between Olive and Wesley were born in the three room dirt roof log house which father first built. Wesley and Roscoe were born in the new brick house built about 1898-99.

Aunt Ann Lowe passed away 9 February 1919 and soon after the Ward Post Office was closed and Elba became the postal address.

Father immediately went into the cattle raising industry and grew hay and grain to feed the horses, cattle and pigs. We had some of the hardier fruits such as apples, plums, and currants. We always had a summer garden, where the boys learned irrigating early and where we all took a hand at weeding.

I can remember taking a large bucket of lemonade and slices of bread and jam in a covered strainer to my older brothers who were putting up hay down in the field stock yard. I was not much taller than the waving alfalfa. It was on one of these errands that I

got my hand caught in the Jackson Fork pulley of the derrick while exploring the shiny smooth surface inside the pulley.

Mother was always looking after the education and physical welfare of her children. She felt the growing boys needed a mid-morning and afternoon snack. She was many years ahead of her time, for today the government and all industries give such a 15 minute break morning and afternoon to all employees.

Father and William Jones opened the Ward and Jones Mercantile Store about a quarter of a mile west of the Old Rock Saloon, where the Brackenberry home later stood and where Asel Ward's home now stands. (This is where Bud and Marian Ward now have their Bed and Breakfast.) I have in my possession a postcard with a cancelled stamp, no date, hand printed, which reads, "We want to buy clover, timothy, millet, etc. Any to offer send samples and state amount." signed, Ward and Jones, Almo, Idaho. They later sold out to Harry Eames who built the store where the present post office and Almo store now stands.

According to church records, the Almo Ward was organized 5 November 1887. Thomas O. King was made the first bishop with father as first counselor and William Jones second counselor. They were set apart by Seymour B. Young. Mother was set apart as secretary and treasurer of the Relief Society at the same time. They served faithfully and diligently in these capacities until their deaths. In reading the church records, I was very thrilled to find a complete record of father's and mother's family births, blessings, baptisms, on micro-film.

I also remember going with Mother in the little black buggy pulled by our old faithful horse, Roud, to Relief Society and playing with Wesley, the baby, while Mother read the minutes.

A picture of our first log church house near Edwards Creek, propped up with poles on one side, bears witness of our early religious training for we are all present with Wesley in mother's arms. Every Sunday morning, after the Almo church was completed, the white top was ready to carry the entire family to Sunday School and mutual. Mother usually took a lunch because she felt it was far too long for children to go without food. We returned home at three or four o'clock in the evening. This meant a great deal of work for mother which we, as children, took for granted.

Father was called on a mission to the North Western States when I was about two years old. In his journal dated 12 June 1898 he tells of attending conference in Anaconda, Montana. Sometimes the elders walked and slept out under pine trees when they felt 75 cents was too much for a nights lodging in the hotel. However, he records they took the train to Spokane, Washington 15 June 1898. Father states he was invited by President Bramell to accompany him through the North Western States Mission. At Corvallis he met Jared Grover who was formerly from Willard. He and his wife entertained President Bramell and Father at their home and Father tells how he enjoyed hearing about people in Willard. They proceeded visiting the saints and holding conferences. When not invited

to stay with any of the saints, they went to hotels. There is no entry in the journal after a good nights rest in the hotel at Spokane 26 June 1998.

Father became ill and returned home but I find no record of the date. The attacks which he had developed were undoubtedly gall bladder attacks. The descriptions of symptoms by older members of the family seem to point to this. Three other members likewise have developed similar attacks.

Our new brick home with nine rooms, including five bedrooms, soon became "the house by the side of the road" for all travelers. This was because there were no hotels in the valley. We seemed to have extra food and bed for church officials, peddlers, hide buyers, and anyone else that came. I remember Ed Officer and Louie Cohm, both Jewish, would step out on the porch while morning prayer was said and while the blessing was asked on the food. Father would then invite them in to breakfast.

One of the highlights of memory was the Hayseed Quartet composed of brothers George and Clarence, Charlie Wake and Al Segars. They practiced at the organ each week in our parlor and became so harmoniously successful, they sang at churches, socials, and societies all over the county.

In 1905 my oldest brother, John, was called on a mission to Australia. Olive, who had been teaching school in Oakley, Idaho, came to Almo to work in the store then owned by Albert Tracy. She boarded with the Kings in Almo.

After the invasion of the Spanish American War in 1898, where more troops died of disease than bullets, some of the Almo boys came home. They went away to work in the summers, but in the fall they returned home. Very soon after, cases of typhoid fever developed in Almo. Periodically for several years thereafter, the epidemic would reoccur. The typhoid carrier had not yet been identified and no one could trace the source of the disease.

The John Whittaker family lost their mother which left a large family of small children. When the epidemic next struck, Lewis Whittaker had a light form of walking typhoid, but no one knew this. Mother, feeling she could nurse him back to health, invited him to our home. Lewis was the age of our brother Clarence and a very close pal. I contacted a very severe case of typhoid from Lewis. I was desperately ill, but with Mother's good care and my youth, I recovered.

While I was recuperating, Mother, who was pregnant, began ailing and in a few days came down with the dreaded disease. Father sent to Salt Lake for a trained nurse and Grace Severe came to care off our dear mother. Despite the best known treatment and care, Mother passed away 11 January 1907. This was indeed a sad and tragic loss to our family.

After Mother's death, father became very despondent. With four little children under twelve years of age, his eldest son on a mission in Australia, and failing health, Father

seemed more frustrated and depressed each day. Finally Olive succeeded in getting him to visit his oldest brother, Moroni Ward, in Riverside, Utah. She thought he might get some help in adjusting to and accepting his burdens. Because of his unpredictable attacks, someone had to accompany him and I was the one.

I remember that it was very rainy and muddy in Riverside and it was here I had my first experience with polygamy. We stayed in Aunt Eliza's home with her and Uncle Moroni. I played with Ivy, a younger daughter of the second wife, Aunt Phoebe, who lived across the street. I have never seen two women think more of each other. When Aunt Eliza washed, we all ate over at Aunt Phoebe's and when Aunt Phoebe washed, everyone came to Aunt Eliza's and this was the pattern of their cooperation. Father soon became restless and homesick. I have a letter he wrote to the family at home showing his concern about their welfare and telling them a letter would follow when they were to meet us at Kelton.

We returned home some time the last of March. Father was very despondent but hadn't had an attack or gastro-intestinal upset. On 18 April 1907, we were awakened by a gun shot early in the morning. Clarence dressed and rushed downstairs to find Father lying on the kitchen floor dead. Had it been today when such strides have been made in disease control and diagnostic techniques, I feel our lot would have been greatly different and the second great tragedy might have been avoided. Symptoms which had developed in our father which are now recognizable by most adults who ever read the paper, would have disclosed the foreboding tragedy. Psychiatric help is available in every state which could have prevented the shock and sadness which fell upon the family only a few short months after the loss of our mother.

The losing of our father and mother in less than four months was indeed shocking and tragic to a here-to-for secure and happy family. It was made somewhat less devastating by the manner in which sister Olive and George assumed the managerial reins of the family until brother John returned from Australia to take over the management of the stock and ranches.

Olive married Pater Jeffs Gunnell from Salt Lake City and into their home Ruth, Wesley and Roscoe were made welcome. Wallace came later in the fall to enter high school. Only in later years has it been realized the great sacrifice she and her ever kind and loving husband made in giving such a clean, well kept, and spiritual home to four orphan children. Never once did they complain or abuse one of us. Their contribution to the education, the moral and spiritual fiber of these brothers' and sisters's lives can never be measured or evaluated. Surely they have received their just reward in heaven for assuming the task of our parents during those formative years.

Wallace and myself spent our winters in school in Salt Lake. Wesley stayed with George and Lennie until he was ready for high school. George and Lennie bought 40 acres and a little home in Twin Falls. Wesley helped George clear some of his first acres on the Salmon project before coming to school.

George was called on a mission to California in 1920. He was away from his family for two years. He organized a quartet. I have a picture of the quartet which I cut from the Improvement Era which states how they sang all over the California Mission.

George became a very successful farmer in Twin Falls and raised a family of eight children to adulthood. They have all married and are continuing the fine heritage bequeathed to them by their parents.

Wallace and I were active in the 28th Ward Sunday School and mutual. He entered debating in his last year in the Salt Lake High School and won a gold medal. He also wrote and delivered an oration in the Sons of the American Revolution contest for which he also won a gold medal. At the University of Utah the following year as a freshman, he tried out for the University of Utah debating team and was selected. He won his gold block "U" for debating his freshman year.

Wallace was appointed to the Salt Lake Sunday School Stake Board when only seventeen years of age. This was an appointment he enjoyed very much.

In his (Wallace's) junior year of college, Brother John had too much to do with both sheep and cattle and Clarence away on a mission to England. He persuaded Wallace to buy an interest in the stock and work with him. This was the end of what promised to be a successful professional career.

Wallace married Amelia Matthews in the Salt Lake Temple on 22 June 1921. Three children were born to them. Amelia passed away on 26 August 1927. He married Elizabeth Smythe on 6 April 1929 at Boise, Idaho. Two children were born to them.

Wallace was killed in an auto accident near Twin Falls, Idaho, while coming from his ranch in Ruby Valley, Nevada to Malta. He was buried 7 July 1951.

Clarence returned from his mission and was in the Almo Ward bishopric for some time. He married Iva Bedke who was a school teacher from Oakley. He then entered the University of Montana at Missoula to study law. They were endowed and sealed in the Salt Lake Temple 22 June 1921. They had five children, of which one son died in childhood. Iva passed away 3 December 1934 of cerebral hemorrhage. Clarence was very gifted musically. He was once offered a movie contract from MGM. He sang the solos in the operas for music week in Boise for several years. He was also a successful lawyer.

He married Emma Juliette Scorup in the Salt Lake Temple 5 October 1937 and three children were born to them.

Our oldest brother John married Helen Louise (Nellie) King in the Salt Lake Temple 19 November 1908. To them were born four children. They are all living and having children of their own. John became one of the successful stockmen of the county after he bought father's ranch on Raft River where he built a nice home.

Wallace and I were kept together in school until he joined Ward Brothers. We went out each summer to help on the ranches.

I remember when I was fourteen years of age and he was sixteen, we were left on the old homestead to get the hay mowed and the old house painted by Mr Carr, while John and Nellie were putting up the hay on the Raft River ranch. Bernus, who was eight or nine months old and on the bottle, was left with us. We often laughed about our experiences that summer with all the chores to do besides our other projects. Mr. Carr ran out of paint so we had to go to William Jones to get the can of paint that he had brought from Kelton, Utah.

After all the chores were done such as milking the cows, feeding the pigs and preparing supper, Wallace hitched up the team he had been mowing with all day to an old two seated black top and we started out. As we left the lane and looked back at the colt which belonged to one of the team, a little orphan lamb and the dog were following us. With Bernus on my lap, Wallace stopped, gave me the lines and put the lamb in the back between the seats. We proceeded with the little colt and dog following. Those were the days we certainly learned to assume responsibility and learned how to work.

I went to the LDS High School and skipped the eighth grade. It stood just across Main Street from the temple. In 1913, I entered nurses training at the LDS Hospital, from which I graduated in 1917. My first position was with the Utah Public Health Association. It is now the Utah Tuberculosis Association. Our office was in the north west corner of the old Town Hall. It is now a restore museum across the street from the Salt Lake Capitol to the south.

From this time on I worked and continued my education. I was married in the Salt Lake Temple 19 November 1920 to John William Mumford. One son was born 29 May 1922. I continued to work at my profession after the baby was 18 months old.

In 1928 I accepted a scholarship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. Bill, my husband, thought this was a great honor and opportunity and urged me to go. He gave me what financial support he could and obtained a pass for me on the railroad to Boston and return. Ward was only six years old when I left. I completed my years special work in health education for which I have a special certificate.

It has been my good fortune to hold some of the best position in my field in the state of Utah and in Washington, D. C. I was the first nurse trained in Utah to obtain a masters degree from the University of Michigan in 1938.

In 1935 a civil divorce was granted from William Mumford in Salt Lake City. Eleven years later, 7 March 1945, I married Chauncey T. Smith in Washington, D. C.

Wesley B. Ward, the youngest living brother, joined Ward Brothers and worked in the sheep and cattle raising business. He left for a mission to England, 11 February 1928.

He labored in the same conference Clarence had been in several years before and fulfilled a very successful mission, after which he toured Europe. He returned home and was married to the Almo school teacher, Edna Kolb 25 June 1931 in Ogden. He has become a very successful stock man and lives on the old Homestead which he has completely modernized and made very comfortable and attractive. His good wife has flowers each summer and the old yellow rose bushes brighten the landscape as of old and send their sweetness into the air. Wesley and Edna were endowed and sealed in the Logan Temple 27 December 1963.

Wesley has always been one of the stalwart members of the Almo Ward, working in any capacity he was asked. Wesley and Edna have a wonderful family of seven children.

Only a labor of love would cause one to attempt to write this brief sketch of the Charles Robert and Margaret Ellen Ward family.