

History of Abbie Wood Wightman

Written by a daughter Rhea May Wightman Huff

Abbie Wood Wightman was born in Spanish Fork, Utah Co., Utah 29 March 1885. Her parents were Wellington Wood and Susannah Warner Wood. She was their 7th child. She was Christened by George D. Snell the 4th of June 1885 and Baptized when 8 years old 6 July 1893 by A.R.M Beck and Confirmed by Henry Gardner. Her brothers and sisters were Susannah Evaline, Wellington, Sophronia Nora, Violet, Sabina, Adelaide and Sarah Jane. Susannah, Sabina, Adaliade and Sarah Jane all died when very young.



Back left to right: Abby Wightman, Violet Nelson, Nora Carter
Front left to right: Mary Stewart, ?, Geneva Huff

Wellington Wood Jr., sisters

Her Father married her Mother's sister, Mary Elizabeth, and lived in Polygamy. Her half brothers and sisters were, William Daniel, James Morris, Mary Dorces, Geneva and Amos Benous. They all got along well together and none knew which wife the children belonged.

Abbie's Mother was quite sickly and people would bring her fish because she could eat them. When Abbie was quite small she was good at picking the bones out so she often got to share them with her Mother. She loved fish. When Abbie was seven years old her mother died and Mary became Mother to them all and treated them all very impartially and Abbie loved her.

Her Father, Wellington was a farmer and run a thresher for many years. He also started one of the first Creameries in Spanish Fork and made and sold butter. Abbie helped on the farm and arose early each morning and milked and fed cows. Her Father always made them get up about 5 o'clock even if they had been out late the night before to a dance. Sometimes the dances lasted until 2 o'clock in the morning.

Abbie loved music and wished she could take piano lessons. She watched her sister Geneva play till she learned her favorite piece.

Abbie attended Grade school in Spanish Fork. Three of her teachers were Agnes Lewis, Hubbard Tuttle and Israel Hayes. Later she worked in the Oran Lewis store. She and Fern Lewis were the best of friends and worked together in the store. She also worked for aunt Mary Elsworth in Payson, who had an ice cream business and later at the Wightman Hotel in Payson.

Abbie was quite afraid of lightening as a neighbor of theirs used to tell awful stories about people getting struck with lighting when Abbie was very young and she fought this fear all her life.

Abbie attended school in Provo at the BYU Academy. She lived in Provo and loved it there where the mountains were so near. She loved nature and all growing things.

She met Wayland Roger Wightman from Payson and went with him a while and then he was called on a mission to North Carolina. She corresponded with him while he was on his mission and this was while she was attending the BYU. She also met and went with a fellow named Struam Robertson who she thought a lot of but when Wayland came home from his mission he asked her to marry him and she accepted. She was a deeply religious girl and proud to accept the offer of this returned missionary.

Wayland was working with his brother Phile running a store in Silver City, Juab Co., Utah which was a thriving little mining town at this time 1908.

They were married in the Salt Lake Temple by John R. Winder December 16, 1908 and went to Silver City to live. Here their first five of seven children were born. Rhea May 4 November 1909, Ray Wood 31 May 1912, Mark Wayland 5 March 1914, and twins Gilbert Wood and Wallace Joseph born 8 October 1916.

They both enjoyed working in the Church in Silver City. Wayland served as counselor in the Bishopric and Abbie as President of the Primary and Relief Society. When the twins were only 8 months old with three other small children the Bishop asked her to be Relief Society President. It looked like a huge task and she said she'd have to talk it over with her husband. When she told Wayland about it he said she could do it if they would hold the meetings at night so he could tend the children. So they did this and he tended them other nights too while she tended the business of the organization.

Wayland worked in the mines for a little while but didn't care for this and later was offered a job as payroll clerk for Tinie Standard mines and this was just what he wanted as he had attended the L.D.S. Business College. He made good wages at this but after several years Abbie kept thinking of the green central Utah Valley and how much the children were missing by not knowing about growing things. Each summer they would spend two weeks down in the valley. One week in Payson visiting Wayland's folks and one week in Spanish Fork visiting her folks. We children always looked forward to these trips usually going by steam train which was always a thrill.

In 1919 a brother-in-law to Wayland, Dave Shuler, offered him a job as bookkeeper for the Ford Garage in Payson and though it was less wages Abbie wanted to leave the dirty mining town so they moved to Payson and started buying the old Wightman family home at 410 South Main from Wayland's Father. The family was always proud of this home built by Wayland's Father.

At Payson two more children were born, Grant Fuller 26 September 1919 and Doramae 14 Sept 1921. All the family was glad to have another girl after 5 boys.

Abbie was always interested in feeding her family properly with things that were good for their health and in doing those things necessary to keep them feeling well. She had a good friend in Sliver City. A Dr. Jessie Brydsen who was a Scotch lady. She was a good nurse and helped out many times in illnesses and had many good remedies which Abbie used to keep the family well. This friendship continued after the family moved to Payson. She gave Wallace his name when the twins were born.

Abbie also taught the children the Gospel and read to them and told them stories. She had great love for her family.

In Payson Abbie continued to work in the Church and served as President of the Y.L.M.I.A. in Payson 2nd ward, also as counselor in the Primary and Relief Society Presidency. She and her husband were always interested in improving themselves and attended the Leadership week at the BYU every year. They also enjoyed the social dancing there.

Abbie was very attractive with gray eyes and dark brown hair weighing about 125 lbs. She had great love for her family and everyone and often took bouquets of flowers to friends and neighbors. She loved flowers and was also thoughtful and kind to everyone.

In January 1924 Abbie became ill with pneumonia and after a week of illness passed away on 13 January 1924.

“She died at the family home surrounded by her husband, brothers and sisters and many dear friends. Every medical and spiritual effort was used to prolong her life. She died full of faith and the hope of a glorious resurrection. Funeral services were held in the Nebo Stake Tabernacle, the building was nearly full. Her grave was completely covered with many lovely flowers.

She was a noble and true wife to her husband, and ideal mother and a real daughter of God.”

The last words (2 paragraphs) in quotations were written in the family record book by her husband Wayland who loved her with all his heart.

At one time in their life they were called for a special anointing in the Holy of Holies in the Salt Lake Temple.

It was a great desire of her's to live to raise her family but since she was such a faithful wonderful person she surely must have had an important work to do in heaven and I'm sure she appreciated the lovely lady who came into our home later and was such a good Mother to the children.

Everyone who knew Abbie loved her and respected her.

She had a wonderful, sweet personality and was always kind and good.

One year at the Christmas program she was picked to be the Madonna and everyone said she certainly was a fitting person to be the Madonna.

She is buried in the Payson cemetery. Utah Death Index, 1905-1951 Record at www.ancestry.com says about Abbie Wightman, Death date: 13 January, 1924, State file number: 1924000186, age: 38, County of Death: Utah