

History of the Life of Nora Wood Carter



Nora Wood

Nora Wood, was the fourth child in a family of nine children, who belonged to Wellington Wood and his wife Susannah Warner.

Wellington Wood was the only child of Daniel Wood and Sarah Sweet. They were married in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Susannah Warner, was a daughter of William and Mary Reynolds Warner.

All of these parents and grand-parents were pioneers. The Warner's came from England, and the Wood's from different states in the United States.

Nora's father, Wellington Wood was named after his father's first wife, Abbie Wellington, because he was born on her birthday, 17 August 1841. They came to Utah in 1850. Wellington made other trips back and forth across the plains to assist others who were coming, and who needed help in getting to Utah. This family settled in Spanish Fork, Utah.

Nora's mother, Susannah Warner, was born in Gosberton, Lincolnshire, England, 21 August 1852. They came to St. Louis, Missouri, sometime between 1852 and October 1853. The family suffered many hardships, including hunger. The mother had to work, to earn enough money for the supplies that they needed, and for the trip across the plains, which they planned to make. After much tribulation and hard work, they arrived in Utah, but the hardships continued. They managed to live through them and to get settled down.

Wellington Wood and Susannah Warner were married 10 July 1871, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake.

They had nine children, but only five of them lived to have families. They are: Susannah Evaline, Wellington Wood Jr., Sophronia, Nora, Violet, Sabina, Abbie, Adelaide, and Sarah Jane. Those who had families were: Wellington, Sophronia, Nora, Violet and Abbie.

Nora's father, Wellington Wood also married, 4 February 1873, Mary Elizabeth Warner, a sister to his first wife. She had five children: William Daniel Wood, who died young, James Morris, Mary Dorcas, Geneva, and Amos Benoni. These brothers and sisters were all very dear to Nora.

Nora Wood, was born 15 October 1878, just two days after her grandfather Daniel Wood passed away. Nora was blessed by George D. Snell, and on 7 Jul 1887 was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, by Elder A. R. M. Beck. This baptism was preformed in the mill race. Nora was confirmed that same day by Rufus P. Snell. The family home was a frame house located at 88 West 2nd South, in Spanish Fork, Utah.

She began school at the age of six years, in a two-room school house where the Thurber School building now stands. Her first teacher was Mary Ann McClain. Other teachers who taught her were: Marelda Andrus, Ervin A. Willson, Hiram F. Thomas, Nicholas Wilson, Clara Jones and Joseph A. Reese. Another school, where Nora attended, was near the place where the American Legion Hall now stands. Nora, liked school. She learned lessons quickly, for other students frequently came to her for help with their lessons, and later with their problems in life.

When Nora Wood, was thirteen years old, her youngest sister was born, but the joy of this event was quickly over-shadowed, when her mother passed away four days later. Nora felt this loss keenly, especially when it was necessary for her to leave her home, miss a year of school, and stay with her Aunt Sarah Markham and Uncle Don Markham, in Leland. Aunt Sarah, was also caring for Nora's baby sister, Sarah Jane, but the next year, the baby, too, died, on 3 September 1893.

When Nora, went back to school, she didn't know which class she should go in, for the schools were graded at the time that she had been absent. She went in a grade lower than she should have done, and in these ways, she lost two years of schooling.

In 1893, the Salt Lake Temple, was completed, and plans were made for the dedication. People, everywhere, were talking about it, and many of them were going to Salt Lake, to attend this great dedication. Nora wanted to go, but she didn't say anything to anyone about this desire. The day of the dedication came, and she was disappointed, because she did not get to go to this great program. Her Uncle Don Markham, was in the Bishopric, and when a special day was appointed for all Bishoprics to attend the Dedication, Nora did get a chance to go, with her Uncle Don. She was so thrilled with what she saw and heard at the Temple, that she gained a personal testimony that she belonged to the true Church of Jesus Christ.

In Leland, which was a branch of the Spanish Fork Second Ward, Nora was appointed secretary of the Primary organization. She was also secretary of girl's hygiene class.

At the time that Nora Wood finished grade school, there was no High School in Spanish Fork. She wanted to continue with her education, so she studied under Joseph A. Reese for High School work. She also went to summer school, under Professor Reese, where she had training

and pedagogy (the art, science, or profession of teaching.) Nora later attended the Brigham Young University, where she had special studies and training to become a school teacher.

Nora's sister, Sophronia, was an officer in the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association. Nora, wanted to help her sister, for she was interested in that work. She helped to copy the minutes of the meetings. Later, when Maria Scoville, was president, Nora chose to be assistant secretary, she thought that others would think that too many in one family were doing the important work of that organization.

While Nora, was working as an officer in the M. I. A., she had the privilege to witness something wonderful. Zina D. Young and Susa Young Gates, were at a meeting, when they had the gift of tongues given to them. One of them spoke in tongues, the other interpreted it. Nora has never forgotten that wonderful experience.

After training at the BYU, Nora, was asked to teach school. She taught at the Central School and at the Ideal School in Spanish Fork, and at Lake Shore. She taught the beginners, the first, second and third grades. Later, in Spanish Fork, she taught the fourth grade. She was secretary of the Teachers' Association. Nora also taught religion class at that time, and after she was married.

In 1901, she stopped teaching school, and on 11 December, Nora Wood was married to Maylan F. Carter in the Salt Lake Temple.

Maylan, was a son of William F. Carter and Sarah Ann Mecham. William F. Carter came from Newry, Oxford county, Maine. Maylan's mother, Sarah Ann Mecham came from Nashville, Lee county, Iowa. They came from a humble home, and Maylan and Nora made plans for a year before they had the opportunity to be married to each other.

They lost their first baby, and also their third one, both boys; but they had two girls and three more boys: Ora, Lillian, Eldon, Ray, and Alton W. The babies who died were Maylan Carter Jr. and Eldred Carter. Eldred, was born the same day as the baby boy of Charles and Gertrude Harrison. When Nora's baby died, 20 February 1910, she missed him more than anyone would know. She was rather quiet, but later, she said, "Some people say 'Well, it was only a baby,' but I don't know how a person could miss anyone more than they miss a baby who has been nursing its mother."

From December 1901 until May 1904, Maylan and Nora lived at the home of Nora's father, Wellington Wood. Then they lived in Spanish Fork for six months. By the time, they had a new three-room house at Benjamin ready to move into. Maylan, once said that Nora, was more happy when she moved into their own house, than she was the day that she was married. She was, naturally, a quiet, unassuming person, and those who knew her, loved her. Nora's health failed her in July 1905. She was very ill, so her sister, Sophronia, asked her to come to her home in Spanish Fork, for the kind help that a sister can give. They lived there until December 8, when Nora, was able to return to their Benjamin home.

In March 1906, they moved again, to Spanish Fork, in part of the James Warner home. Maylan, could then be nearer to where he worked in a blacksmith shop. He helped his brother, there.

In February 1907, Nora's sister, Sophronia died and Nora, went to their home and cared for the children. Maylan, was working in Castle Gate, at that time. After a while, they were back in the James Warner home, until 1908, when they bought a house from Joseph Angus. This became their home for eighteen years.

When Jane Jones was president of the Primary, Nora was appointed secretary. Later, she was a Relief Society teacher, for a number of years.

Charles Harrison, husband of Sophronia, married a second time, Gertrude Haase. She became a dear friend of Nora, Maylan, their family, and to all of the Wood family.

Nora's home was only one block from the home of her father, so the children often went to visit grandpa and grandma Wood. They were sometimes given a "bun," as it was called or an apple, for everyone was treated kindly, there. Even the small children, as soon as they were able to walk well, would try to find their way to grandma's.

Beginning in 1916, Nora was asked to give lessons in Relief Society, on the subject of genealogy. She became very interested in this work, and began to try to find out who her great-grandparents were, and something about them. This led to a study which lasted all the remainder of her life, and which meant a great deal to her.

On 24 March 1920, Nora's father, Wellington died of pneumonia. This was a terrible shock to all of the Wood families, as well as to the many other relatives, friends and associates, for he had hundreds of them, even Indians, who loved him very much.

Hundreds of people have come to Nora, to ask her to help them with their records. She always gave them assistance in a cheerful way, even when it required many hours of time and effort. At one time, the Genealogical Society required each Stake to have a censor, to inspect the records, before they were sent to the Index Bureau, to be checked for temple work. Nora Wood Carter, was Stake Censor for the Palmyra Stake. She taught many people the fundamentals of record keeping.

Nora, also undertook another great project. She found that many people, in their search for certain dates for their record keeping, needed the Cemetery records. These were scattered through many books in the City Office. Nora, asked for permission to copy them. She made a copy in alphabetical order for the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake, and one for the people in Spanish Fork to use, of the Cemetery Records from the time they began to keep records, until this year (1960). She also copied 1100 Stake records for the Genealogical Society.

Mary Elizabeth Wood, widow of Wellington Wood, Sr. was crippled with rheumatism, and was unable to get around well. The relatives were worried about her, so she decided to stay for a little while with each one of the families. She did this for about two years, but in 1923, she became ill and wanted to go to her own home. She was in bed for a long time. Everyone was concerned about her. Then, they heard about Abbie Wood Wightman, who lived in Payson; she was ill with pneumonia. Three days later, on 13 January 1924, Abbie died and on the 16 January 1924, Mary Elizabeth Warner Wood passed away. This was a shock to all of the family. Nora, had some heart trouble, and this made her ill, but she had wonderful vitality and perseverance, and she came through all right.

In July 1926, a new home for the family went under construction. It is located on part of the lot which once belonged to Wellington Wood, Nora's father. The family of Maylan and Nora Wood Carter moved into the home on 18 October 1926.

The children in the family grew up, and began to help a little in the home. Some of them moved to homes of their own in Spanish Fork, and in nearby towns.

Nora, taught a stake genealogical class in the old seminary building, in 1935 and 1936. Assignments were given, and those in the class completed their books, by doing a little work on them each week.

Nora, was Stake Baptismal Clerk, and she recorded baptisms from 2 August 1941 to July 1952.

In June 1952, Maylan Carter became ill. He didn't say very much about it, until his doctor advised him to have an operation. He wanted to avoid this, if possible, because, when he had gone under surgery years before, there had been serious trouble caused by blood-clots. But the doctors, said that no treatment could help him. He finally had the operation. Many complications followed. Nora, stayed in Salt Lake, all of the time he was there. Maylan's sister, Matilda Dennison invited her to stay with her, when she was not at the hospital. Nora, did not give up hope for Maylan, to get better, but blood-clots again caused trouble, and it was time for Maylan to be called away. This happened 5 July 1952, in Salt Lake City.

This seemed to be the end of everything, to Nora. She said that it was very hard to come back home without her husband. She was ill for quite a long time, but that vitality and perseverance, and her testimony of truthfulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ helped her. She continued to help her children and grandchildren in every way possible, as she always did. She carried on genealogical work from her home, and did wonderfully well. She helped other with their problems.

Nora Wood Carter, became ill in May 1960. She didn't complain, but she was very ill until 14 July 1960, when she passed away at her home in Spanish Fork. Her funeral was on July 18 at the Stake House. Many fine tributes were given, in appreciation of the wonderful life that

she had lived. Her daughter, Ora did well in taking care of her, while she was sick. It was a blessing the she could be with her.

Nora Wood Carter was truly a servant of the Lord, she surely will have real happiness forever and ever. Her children are greatly blessed to have such a wonderful mother.