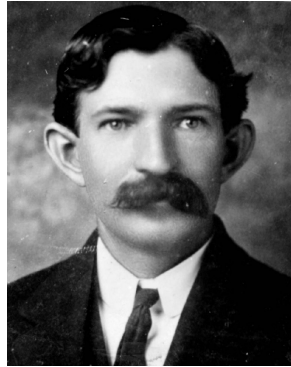


History of Wellington Wood Jr.



Wellington Wood Jr., the oldest boy of a large family, was born 29 Dec. 1873, to Wellington Wood Sr. and Susannah Warner. Wellington, was taught the Gospel from infancy, prayer being the foundation of the home of his good family. Honesty, tolerance unselfishness, along with love and compassion for his fellow men were emphasized.

Wellington, spent his childhood days much the same as other boys. He was taught that early to bed and early to rise was essential, if one was to be a successful farmer, and he put this into practice every morning, as he helped his farther on the farm.

Wellington, spent his childhood in Leland, but as school time came, the children would go up town and stay with Uncle Jim Warner's, family during the week and return home for the weekend. Wellington studied hard and gained a good common education for those days.

Grandpa Wood encouraged his boys to stay at home to work and told them if they would do so, he would give each of them 10 acres of ground and a team of horses. The land was situated in Leland, at the time, but later it was traded for land in the river bottoms.

As a young man, Wellington, courted Elizabeth Lavina Ferris, who lived with step parents Alphas Bingham and wife. Wellington courted Elizabeth for over two years, and then one night when they were alone, he asked her to marry him, but she avoided giving an answer at that time. Wellington, went home feeling very unhappy and as he kneeled by his bed to pray that night, he asked God to touch her heart, that she would accept his proposal, as he loved her very much. A few nights later he went back to see her, Elizabeth, met him at the door and told him that she loved him and would marry him.

Elizabeth Lavina Ferris and Wellington Wood Jr. spoke vows in a very humble and impressive ceremony performed 23 November 1898 in the Salt Lake Temple. Later they had a wedding dinner and Wellington, furnished the turkeys, a barrel of pickles and 100 lbs. of sugar. Aunt Nora Carter made their wedding cake.

Shortly after their marriage. Wellington, and his bride moved into a two room house out in the river bottoms. Wellington, spent long hours working hard to buy more land so he could provide for he and his wife.

In 1905 Grandfather Wood met with an accident resulting in his having to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. Wellington, did all the farming for both he and Grandfather on a crop share basis. In addition to the land, they had a herd of range cattle and milked 10 to 14 head of cows. They had a milk house where they run the milk through a separator and made butter from the cream. They sold the butter at Orem Lewis Store, and there were always many orders for their butter.

Wellington, always lived closed to God, and because of this he seemed to be inspired to sense danger among other things. Alonzo Warren, told that one time they were hauling hay and they were returning to the barn with a load, and Uncle Morris, who was a young fellow at the time, happened to be lying on the back part of the load. As they approached a ditch half full of water, Wellington, told Morris, to move to the front but he didn't do so. As they were part way across the bridge, the load slid, Uncle Morris, went into the ditch with part of the load of hay on top of him. Wellington, pushed his foot down in the hay and felt Uncle Morris, he quickly pulled him out, or he would have drowned. This very keen sense of danger prevented several accidents from happening through out his life.

Wellington and Elizabeth were blessed with five children: Merrill, Mary, Willis, Syrenus, and La Verne. These five devoted children were taught the Gospel and the same virtues that their parents were taught.

In April, 1906, the Bishop called Wellington, to go on a mission for the church at the time his family of five children were sick with whooping cough and chicken pox and because of this he did not like to leave mother to care for them alone, but she told him "If the Bishop wants you to go, do as he advises, you." Wellington told the Bishop of their situation and the bishop said, "Brother Wood, you have your call and I believe you had better go and I promise you that your family will be taken care of." At that time the missionaries had to travel with out purse or script and when he left he had \$600.00 in the bank, his mission cost \$600.00. So he returned out of debt. (Wellington kept a journal on his mission and Cathie Owens has a copy)

He had many wonderful experiences and also many trials and tribulations. Most everywhere he went in his diary he tells of him hiking 25 miles and holding street meeting at night. He had many wonderful companions, one of them being LeRoy Koyle Sr. of Spanish Fork. Everywhere they went the people called Roy, his little boy.

After he left for his mission his family moved to Benjamin, and stayed with the Alf Bingham family for the summer. When fall came, they moved to Spanish Fork, and remained with old Aunt Ann Wilson until he came home in 1908. The family got along fine during this time, always having plenty to eat and wear and having very little sickness. After returning home Wellington was called to fill a home mission in Payson, and his companion was Uncle John

Warner. After going on these two missions, he always had a soft spot in his heart for missionaries and always contributed to missionary funds. In 1928 he was in the 19th quorum of Seventies, composed of 11 members from the 1st and 2nd wards.

Wellington and Elizabeth were blessed with four more children: Anne, Vernal, and twins Ferris and Ferrin.

Wellington was always busy doing many things. He was ditch rider for the High Line Cane 1 Co. and Water Master for the South East Irrigation Co. for many years. He believed in giving each one his fair share of water. He had a blacksmith shop somewhere he repaired his farm machinery and the farmers from all around would come with broken plows, harrows, and wagons. Wellington would always lend a helping hand. Wellington also had the art of shoeing horses.

At the time he bought a circle saw and sawed the lumber for his barns and sheds and did sawing for the neighbors. He also bought a threshing machine and besides threshing his own, he would thresh for others. He believed in sharing what he had with his fellow man. Many times he gave flour, potatoes, vegetables, and meat to many who were in need. He trusted everyone who he had doings with and whenever he had the occasion to sell something, frequently the person buying could not provide cash right at the time. But, because of his trust for mankind he did not require the signing of an agreement. He always took the man's word. He was always thoughtful toward his family. On Mother's day he and Mother would get each daughter and daughter-in-law a potted plant and even after mother died, he still got plants for all.

Everyone who ever came by at meal time were warmly invited to eat with us. It was always a joy to him to have company. Wellington, was a cheerful humorous man always trying to make life happy for them around him. He was honest in his dealings and believed a man should be as good as his word.

At his funeral service, Albert Swenson was the main speaker. He told of the wonderful life Wellington Wood, had lived and said that there was a poem that could express his life better than he could. The house by the side of the road.

The House By the Side of the Road
by Sam Walter Ross

There are hermit souls that live withdrawn in the place of their self content;
There are souls like stars that dwell, apart in a fellowless firmament;
There are pioneer souls that blaze their paths where highways never ran;
But let me live by the side of the road, and be a friend to man.

Let me live in the house by the side of the road, where the race of man go by;
The men who are good and the men who are bad, as good and as bad as I.
I would not sit in the scorners's seat or hurl at cynics ban;
Let me live in the house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road, by the side of the highway of life.
The men who press with order and hope, the men who are faint with the strife.
But I turn not away from their smiles nor their tears, both part of an infinite plan.
Let me live in the house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

I know there are brook gladdened meadows ahead and mountains of wear some height;
But the road passes on through the long afternoon, and stretches away to the night.
But still I rejoice, when the strangers rejoice, and weep with the strangers that moon,
Nor live in my house by the side of the road like a man who dwells alone.

Let me live in my house by the side of the road where the race of man go by.
They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong, they are wise, they are foolish—so am I.
Then why should I sit in the scorners's seat or hurl the cynics ban.
Let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

Story of Wellington Wood Jr.

By Jean Warren

Wellington Wood Jr. was born 29 Dec 1873 to Wellington Wood Sr. and Susannah Warner.

He was a good boy and a hard worker. He was the oldest boy of a large family. He was taught to pray and to be unselfish. He was also taught to help those around who were in need. He farmed with grandfather before his marriage, and when his father met with an accident and had to spend the rest of his life in a wheel chair he did all the farming on a corp share. They also had a herd of range cattle and milked from 10 to 14 milk cows.

Grandfather said if Wellington would stay with him he would give him a team of horses and 10 acres of ground. The ground was in Leland and was later traded for land in the river bottoms.

Wellington had a good common education for those days.

He was a good honest young man and on the 23 Nov 1898 he married Elizabeth Lavinia Ferris in the Salt Lake Temple. Merrill Wellington was the first child born to them the 3 Sept 1899.

Then Mary born 10 Nov 1900

Willis born 13 June 1902

Syrenus born 19 Mar 1904

LaVern born 23 Nov 1905. She was the baby when her father was called on a mission to Colorado, for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He left in May 1906. His family of 5 children were all sick at the time, with chicken pox and whooping cough. He hated to leave them and went to the Bishop. The Bishop said, "Brother Wood you have your call and I believe you better go."

At that time the missionaries had to travel without purse or script. Roy Koyle was one of his missionary companions. Everyone called him his little boy. They had many interesting experiences.

His family lived in the Spanish Fork River Bottoms, but when he went on his missions, they moved to Benjamin for the Summer Living with the Alph Bingham family. Then in Spanish Fork until he came home in Nov 1908.

When He left he had \$600.00 in the bank. His mission cost \$600.00 so he returned out of debt. He also filled a home in Payson. His companion was Uncle John Warner.

He was a ditch rider for the Highland Canal company and Water Master for the Spanish Fork South East Irrigation Company for years. He believed in giving every man his fair share of water.

He also ran a threshing machine going out thrashing for others.

In 1928 he was in the 19th Quorum of Seventies. There were 11 men in the First and Second Wards.

He always donated to the missionary fund. Wellington Wood and his wife Elizabeth were blessed with four more children.

Ann born 13 Jan 1910

Vernal born 10 Nov 1911

Then last but not least twin boys Ferrin and Ferris born 25 Aug 1916

Every Mother's Day he and grandma would get their daughters and daughters in laws a potted plant and even after grandma died he still got plants for all.

Wellington Wood was a good honest man and was loved by his children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends. He died 26 Feb 1944.

Wellington Wood Jr.

Wellington Wood Jr. was born 29 December, 1873, in Spanish Fork, Utah, Utah. He was the first boy born to his parents Wellington and Susannah Warner Wood.

Wellington's parents were both members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and it was in this church where Wellington was blessed on 5 March, 1874. A month before this event his father had entered the order of polygamy by marrying Mary Elizabeth Warner, the sister of Susannah, his wife.

Wellington's family lived in Leland. His childhood was similar to other children of the area. He was expected to rise early, work hard, and obey gospel principles. His father was a farmer and cattle rancher. He expected his children to learn and enjoy this hard work.

When it was time for Wellington to go to school in town, he took up residence with his Uncle Jim. All week he would study hard and live with Uncle Jim. On weekends he would return home. Wellington studied hard and received a good common education.

When Wellington was nine years old, he was baptized in Spanish Fork Creek.

Wellington's father loved his family and encouraged them to stay close by, as they grew up. If they wanted work there was a great deal at home, so as they grew up he promised them ten acres of ground and a team of horses, if they would stay home.

As a young man, Wellington courted Elizabeth Lavina Ferris. She was living with the Alpheus Bingham family. They courted for more than two years. One night when they were alone, he asked her to marry him, she avoided giving an answer at the time because he had not told her he loved her. Wellington, went home feeling very unhappy and when he knelt to pray that night, he asked God to touch her heart so that she would accept his proposal, because he loved her very much. A few nights later, he went to see her. She met him at the door and told him that she loved him and would marry him.

They were married in the Salt Lake City Temple, 23 November, 1898. Later they had a wedding dinner. Wellington furnished the turkeys, a barrel of pickles and 100 lbs. of sugar and Aunt Nora made their wedding cake.

Shortly after their marriage, Wellington and his bride moved into a two-room house out in the river bottoms. Wellington spent long hours working hard to buy more land so he could provide for his family.

Wellington and Elizabeth were quickly blessed with five children: Merrill Wellington, Mary Susannah, Willis, Syrenus, and LaVerne. These five devoted children were taught the Gospel and the same virtues that their parents had been taught.

The family lived so far out that the children had to go long distances to get to school. They would go in a wagon, on horse back, or by foot to get there. Wellington taught his children to ride horses as soon as they could sit up.

In 1905 his father met with an accident resulting in his having to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. Wellington did all the farming for both households on a crop share basis. In addition to the land, they had a herd of range cattle and milked 10 to 14 head of cows. They had a milk house where they ran the milk through a separator and made butter from the cream. They sold the butter at Orem Lewis Store and there were always many orders for their butter.

Wellington always lived closed to God and because of this he seemed to be inspired to sense danger among other things. Alonzo Warren told that one time they were hauling hay and as they were returning to the barn with a load, Uncle Morris, who was a young fellow at the time, happened to be lying on the back part of the load. As they approached a ditch half full of water, Wellington told Morris to move to the front but he didn't do so. As they were part way across the bridge, the load slid, Uncle Morris went into the ditch with part of the load of hay on top of him. Wellington pushed his foot down in the hay and felt Uncle Morris, he quickly pulled him out, or he would have drowned. This very keen sense of danger prevented several accidents from happening throughout his life.

In April 1906, the Bishop called Wellington to go on a mission for the church, at the time his family of five children was sick with whooping cough and chicken pox and because of this he did not like to leave Elizabeth to care for them alone, but she told him "If the Bishop wants you to go, do as he advises, you." Wellington told the Bishop of their situation and the bishop said, "Brother Wood, you have your call and I believe you had better go and I promise you that your family will be taken care of." At that time the missionaries had to travel without purse or script and when he left he had \$600.00 in the bank, his mission cost \$600.00. So he returned out of debt. (There is a journal that Wellington kept, Cathie Owens has a copy of it.)

He had many wonderful experiences and also many trials and tribulations. In his diary, he tells of hiking 25 miles and holding street meetings at night. One story he told was, that one night when he and his companion had finished their work for the day, they stopped at what they thought was a member's home for supper and a place to stay, but the member had left the church. He told them if they would hike over the mountain they would find someone to help them. They walked all night in snow drifts up to their hips, before arriving at the house. He had many wonderful companions, one of them being LeRoy Koyle Sr. of Spanish Fork, everywhere they went, the people called Roy his little boy.

After he left for his mission his family moved to Benjamin and stayed with the Alf Bingham family for the summer. When fall came, they moved to Spanish Fork and remained with old Aunt Ann Wilson until he came home in 1908. The family got along fine during this time, always having plenty to eat and wear and having very little sickness.

Wellington wrote home when he could. The following is a letter from him to his sister and family.

Aspen July 17, 1907

Mr. and Mrs. Maylon Carter
Dear Brother and Sister

I now try and answer your kind and welcome letter I received some time ago. The folks told me you had come back from Castle Gates and were well.

I am thankful to hear of your all being well for that is a great comfort to me for as long as we are well and trying to do what is right we have nothing to worry about. I am well and enjoying my work. You see that I have been moved since you wrote to me before and I have a nice place to spend the summer for I am up in the mountains to a mining camp. It seems as though I have been favored in that respect if they only leave me here for about another month and I think they will.

We have quite nice people to work among as good as we could get that are not of the church but they are not very anxious for our religion but they are not afraid to read our booke or talk to us and they most all treat us nice.

If I could always have them as nice to work among I would not care for whare it is hard to get to talk to them that is whare it is the most tiresome.

I guess you had a nice time on the fourth or at least I hope you did. We spent our time at the room there wasent much going on here they pretended to celebrate but that was about all it amounted to. The Day goes had the most of the celebration here. Their town paper was giving the people a rakeing over for leting them out do American citizens. I think you must have hot weather down there now it was a little warm here for about a week but we had some nice showers and has been nice since. It hasent been long since I see a little frost on the lettuce in the morning but not enough to hurt any thing.

I am pleased to hear of Mr. Huff's coal mine turning out all right for he needs something for he is getting to old to do much work and has a family to keep.

Did you see John Huff while you was up there? How is he getting along. I guess he is quite a man by now.

Did you get out to see Mrs. Morrison when you were out that way they told me you was intending to go. I think she would be pleased to see you I know she was me when I went out there that time to shear sheep. It was night when I passed through there on my way out here and I was asleep and did not know when I passed through.

I would like to go through there in the day when I go back again if I can.

It seems as though Mrs. Morrison has always had a hard time but she has tried to be faithful under it all and if she can continue she will sure be blessed and have her reward laid up in Heaven that she can enjoy when she completes her labor here. If Uncle Jim would get her and do as she wanted him to he would be a good deal better off and much happier for when any one tryes to do what is right it always brings joy.

You must write when you can I like to hear from you if I am careless in getting them answered and must ask you to excuse me for not writing sooner.

Have you went back to take care of Charl's children since you went back? Who took care of them when you was away? I always feel sorry for the poor little fellows when ever I think of

them for they always say a boys best friend is his mother. [Wellington's sister died leaving her sons motherless.]

I will close asking our Heavenly Father to pour out his choicest blessings upon you all.

Your Brother

Wellington Wood Jr.

Kiss the babies for me I will bet Ora is cute running around and talking.

After returning home Wellington was called to fill a home mission in Payson and his companion was Uncle John Warner. After going on these two missions, he always had a soft spot in his heart for missionaries and always contributed to missionary funds. In 1928 he was in the 19th quorum of Seventies, composed of 11 members from the 1st and 2nd wards.

Wellington and Elizabeth were blessed with four more children: Anna Ireta, Vernal, and twins, Ferris and Ferrin following his mission. Wellington greatly enjoyed these children. He would take them all up on his lap and sing songs to them at night when the chores were done.

Wellington enjoyed music. He loved to sing and taught all his children many songs which he knew by memory. He also enjoyed listening to music being played and his children knew how to play many instruments. His children often felt his love the best when they were singing with him.

Wellington was always busy doing many things. He was a ditch rider for the High Line Canal Co. and Water Master for the South East Irrigation Co. for many years. He believed in giving each one his fair share of water. He had a blacksmith shop somewhere he repaired his farm machinery and the farmers from all around would come with broken plows, harrows, and wagons. Wellington would always lend a helping hand. Wellington also knew the art of shoeing horses.

Wellington's normal attire was a pair of overalls and a work shirt. He was a big man with dark brown hair and blue eyes.

He bought a circle saw and sawed the lumber for his barns and sheds. He also did sawing for the neighbors. He also bought a threshing machine and besides threshing his own, he would thresh for others. On the days he threshed, the men would all work together on the thresher and the women would produce a feast. The feast would be served on planks of wood laid over sawhorses. There was always food left over from these feasts so much was made.

He believed in sharing what he had with his fellow man. Many times he gave flour, potatoes, vegetables, and meat to many who were in need. He trusted everyone with whom he had dealings with and whenever he had the occasion to sell something, frequently the person buying could not provide cash right at the time, but because of his trust for mankind he did not require the signing of an agreement. He always took the man's word. He was always thoughtful toward his family. On Mother's Day, he and Elizabeth would get each daughter and daughter-in-law a potted plant and even after Elizabeth died, he still got plants for all.

Everyone who came by at meal time was warmly invited to eat with them. It was always a joy to him to have company. Wellington was a cheerful humorous man always trying to make life happy for those around him. He was honest in his dealings and believed a man should be as good as his word.

In 1915, while Wellington and Elizabeth were away, Mary Susannah decided she was going to ride a half-tamed horse. The horse threw her and she broke her arm. It was a bad compound fracture, and became infected. A few days later she died of the effects of the fall. Wellington and his wife were very sad.

That same year the family moved their home across the Spanish Fork river. The spring in 1916 was very wet and the bluff, below which their house had stood and where their saw mill still stood, moved. It covered the saw mill over, so that you cannot tell it was ever there. Their house would have been covered if they had not moved it. The family did dig out the saw but nothing more.

Wellington and Elizabeth were both very religious. They taught their children the gospel and made sure they always went to church with them.

In 1940, Wellington's wife passed away, this caused a great change in his life to occur. Wellington loved fresh light soda biscuits and until the death of his wife he had them for breakfast every morning with coffee. After her death Wellington began to eat cold cereal, he found that Cherrios were quite good.

Wellington died after a long illness, 26 February, 1944, in the Payson Hospital. He was buried in the Spanish Fork Cemetery.

At his funeral service, Albert Swenson was the main speaker. He told of the wonderful life Wellington Wood had lived and said that there was a poem that could express his life better than he could.