

MARY ELLEN WRIGLEY FUGATE

Mary Ellen Wrigley was the first daughter and child of ten children born to Joseph Wrigley and his second wife in plural marriage, Ann Singleton. She was born on Sunday, 16 January 1870, in American Fork, Utah County, Utah. Mary Ellen was listed as 5 ½ years old when the census taker visited their home in August, 1870. Joseph Wrigley had come to the United States from Doncaster, Yorkshire, England. Ann Singleton was born in American Fork, Utah, Utah. They were married in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah on 1 November 1868 and settled in American Fork when they made their home until 1879 when they moved to Emery County and settled in Ferron.

May Ellen was soon joined in the family by two brothers and two sisters: Thomas was born 11 March 1872, Clara Ann was born 24 September 1874, Cornelia was born 21 February 1877, and Joseph Alma was born 14 June 1879. All these children were born in American Fork. Mary Ellen was baptized a member of the LDS Church on 22 October 1878. The Church would play a big part in her life.

One evening in the fall of 1878 her father sat reading the Deseret Newspaper. Mary Ellen noticed him becoming very excited as he read about opportunities now available in Castle Valley. She wondered where Castle Valley was. Joseph decided to move his small family to Ferron and there he took up plots of ground, dug ditches and built a comfortable dugout for Ann and their children. Winter was coming and all the settlers took their women to Sanpete to avoid the terrors in this wild country. Ann chose to remain by herself with her four small children, Mary Ellen being eight years old, and Joseph returned to American Fork where he took a third wife. Joseph married Dinah Stoddard Crookston on Mary Ellen's ninth birthday.

Mary Ellen shared many close moments with her mother, being the eldest child and alone in this wilderness. Many times as her mother would see Indians approaching their dugout, Mary Ellen would quickly gather her brothers and sisters into their safe hiding place, the cellar, where she would have to keep them quiet while her mother tended to the needs of the Indians hoping they would quickly go away after she fed them. Mary Ellen accepted the responsibilities of helping her mother as her father was gone a lot. This special mother and daughter would share many experiences in life together. In the June 2880 Emery County Census Mary Ellen was listed as 10 years old living with her parents. Thomas was 8, Clara 5, Caroline 3, and Joseph Alma one-half. When Mary Ellen was 12 years old she had a new little brother, Wellington, born during the winter on 25 February 1882, in Ferron. Although she was needed in the home to help her mother, Mary Ellen took advantage of every opportunity to work she could. She spent a lot of time out of her home doing housework and tending children for other people. She was not listed as attending school in the 1880 census, but nevertheless, Mary Ellen had a strong desire to learn to read and write and spent many hours satisfying her hunger for learning. She dearly enjoyed reading and learned to write well. Her sister, Catherine, was born 5 August 1885. On 8 October 1886 her brother, Thomas, age 14, died.

Being an active young lady in and about town, Mary Ellen had an opportunity to notice

any newcomers. There was a family who had recently moved to Ferron who had one son she had especially noticed. He was tall, slender, strong and very good looking. Mary Ellen's heart always skipped a few beats when she saw him. As if it were meant to be, Jezreel Fugate soon wasted no time in becoming acquainted with her and they soon knew they wanted to be married so their love could continue to grow. Jezreel was 25 years old and Mary Ellen 19 years old when they journeyed to the county seat in Castle Dale and purchased their marriage license. They were married by J. C. Duncan, Justice of the Peace, in Ferron on 16 December 1888. Their witnesses were Thomas Fugate and Elcy Olsen. They made their first home down by the Sorenson's Service Station. It had two rooms and was right in the middle of town. They loved Ferron and it would be their home.

Mary Ellen was pleased to be a young bride and have her own home. She felt a need to continue to help her mother who was expecting another child. Mary Ellen's newest little sister was born in the summer on 25 August 1889. She was named Lacoran. Eleven months later Jezreel and Mary Ellen had their first child, a beautiful little girl they named Ellen. Ellen was born and died the same day, 25 July 1890. Two years later when Mary Ellen found out she would be able to have another baby she was delighted, but she was to share this blessed event in a special way with her mother as Ann was also expecting. Mary Ellen gave birth to her new little daughter, Elora, on 2 March 1892. Six months later Ann gave birth to a son, John Osborn Wrigley, on 3 September 1892. Two years later mother and daughter again shared the events of pregnancy and child birth together once again as Mary Ellen gave birth to her third child, a girl she named Llewellys born 3 July 1893; Ann gave birth to her tenth child, a son she named Robert Llewellyn born 30 October 1894. Eight days later, Mary Ellen's sister, Clara Ann, was married to Joseph Smith Stevens, Jr.

Mary Ellen loved to go to church. The first church was held in the bowery, a group of trees, until the saints in Ferron could build a chapel. She was as proud as could be when their chapel was finally completed. It was made out of logs from the nearby mountain forest. Unfortunately it burned down destroying many church records with it.

1896 was to bring many tears of joy and sadness to Mary Ellen. Her first son, Ruel, was born in the hot summer on 13 August. It was such a joy to have another man in the house, surely the apple of her husband's eye. Jezreel was away from home working at the mine in November when he learned about Elora. Mary Ellen was out milking the cows on that morning when little 4 ½ year old Elora sat down on the hearth on the old stove to tie her shoe laces when her dress caught on fire. She screamed out and a man who was passing by heard the screaming and ran into the house and quickly picked up a five gallon can of cream and poured it on her to put out the fire. Unfortunately this actually drove the fire into her little body. Mary Ellen tended to her needs and suffered silently with Elora. Grandmother Ann brought Elora a small doll to keep by her side. One of the neighbor ladies brought her a necklace she had taken a fancy to. The day before she was released from her suffering, Elora told her Grandmother Ann to take the doll back home as she would not be needing it any more. When the neighbor lady came to see how she was doing, Elora also insisted that she take back the necklace for the same reason. Elora suffered for three weeks before the end came on 16 November 1896. She was buried next to Ellen in the Ferron City Cemetery. The family was amazed that such a small child could know when it was

time to go.

Jezeel moved his family into a home out of town which had a dirt roof. During one spring it rained so badly that the family had to go to Grandmother Wrigley's home for a few days for things to dry out,. Mary Ellen was so happy when Jezeel purchased a new home for her. The home had four rooms, two of brick and two of adobe. Within no time at all, Mary Ellen had their new home all fixed up and comfortable to live in. She knit all her children's socks. They would take a few eggs and go to town to buy a couple of yards of material from which she would make a new dress or shirt. She made the cleanest butter in town. From the butter, wheat, oats and eggs she bought the things her family needed. She made the trousers and shirts her boys wore spending many hours in front of her Singer treadle sewing machine completing articles for others as well as her family to enjoy. She was the type of person who had to keep busy.

Sister Cornelia was married on 9 December 1896 which was an exciting event in the lives of Mary Ellen and her mother, but Cornelia died two years later on 1 April 1898. Mary Ellen gave birth to two sons during the next two years. Yukon was born 13 June 1898 and Thomas Wendall was born 9 June 1900. Mary Ellen was 30 years old and great with child when she answered the door on 8 June 1900 and gave the necessary information to the census taker. She and Jez had been married for eleven years. She had given birth to five children, three of whom were living. She was due to have another child any time. Jez was still mining and she did most of the business work for her family. She wrote all the letters for Jez to the owner of the Copper Globe which he ran. When Mary Ellen was 34 she gave birth to their seventh child, a son they named, Oren, who was born 4 May 1904. Since Mary Ellen had come from a large family, there were always birthdays and weddings to celebrate along with the holidays. Her sister, Catherine, married 23 May 1906 to Lars Peter Thompson. All the sisters and members of the family joined in to prepare the wedding feast to be served after the ceremony. After Catherine was married, Ann came to live with Mary Ellen as her health was failing. Mary Ellen was in their home tenderly taking care of her mother's needs when her mother passed away on 4 August 1908. Ann Singleton Wrigley was laid to rest the following day in the Ferron City Cemetery. No one could take her mother's place. They had shared so much together – birth, death, and every day happenings as they were always just a few blocks away from each other. Her last sister to be married, Lacoran, was married the following October on the 7th in Castle Dale. They would all surely miss their mother. Mary Ellen took her two youngest brothers in with her until they were old enough to fend for themselves. Time always has a way of passing by quickly and days were filled with joy when Mary Ellen gave birth to their last child and daughter, Naomi "Ann", who was born on 6 August 1909 in their home with Dr. Bruce Easley assisting. It was so nice to have Ann in the home again even though they called this beautiful little girl "Naomi".

A prized possession now in Mary Ellen's home was the blue tea set with hand painted flowers on each of the three pieces which had belonged to her mother. Mary Ellen placed in her living room on top of the chiffonier (a narrow, high chest of drawers). She had pictures of her parents and Jez's parents enlarged and framed to hang on the walls of their living room. They filled a special place in their hearts.

When Mary Ellen was 40 years old on 28 December 1910, their son, Ruel, died following

his illness with Brites disease. Mary Ellen made his burial clothes from a fine piece of white linen. The following spring on 5 May 1911, Joseph Wrigley, died. He was buried next to her mother on 7 May. It was a hard thing when she learned two days later that their son, Thomas Wendall, had been killed while out herding the cows when his horse ran away with him and he was dragged to death. Mary Ellen had always assisted in laying out the bodies for burial, but this was too much. Before Jez let her see their son, their neighbor's mother, Mrs. Hansen, took care of Thomas Wendall and cleaned him up. Mary Ellen took the scraps of linen from Ruel and Wendall's burial clothing and made two 8' circular doilies. Meticiously she carefully hemmed by hand the edge and then crocheted a beautiful two inch lace border on each one. These two beautiful sons of God had lived only such a short time on earth. She put her love of handwork into a remembrance of each of her sons.

Mary Ellen was always of service to others. When the first flu epidemic broke out in Ferron she accompanied the doctor to the homes where the people were sick and assisted him in caring for them. She also helped deliver many babies. Birthdays were always such a joy in her home and she felt that this special day was a real occasion to celebrate. It was so important for each member of her family to have their own special day. She spent hours fixing a yummy dinner with a special cake and lots of pudding. She was known throughout the town as "Aunt Nell". Everyone loved her. No one knew who would be next to receive a gift of love from her in the way of a baked goodie or an article of clothing.

When their daughter, Llewles, was 17 years old she married Jesse Mahonri Killpack. This was 30 January 1912. This would be an eventful year. The following September, on the 11th, Mary Ellen and Jez became proud grandparents when Llewles gave birth to a son, Drexel. How delightful it was to cuddle a little boy in her arms again. He grew fast and one of his favorite past times was watching her make cakes. Mary Ellen did not like to have little fingers in her cooking, however, one day when he was helping without permission she shook a knife at him and he accidently grabbed hold of it and cut his thumb. Sunday dinners were always especially nice as Mary Ellen always had the whole family home for dinner. She delighted in baking something extra special. Her family favorites were among the following: chicken and dumplings, pie, cake and plenty of homemade bread with lots of creamy milk to dunk the bread into.

Her family was growing more rapidly each year. Her brother, John Osborn, was married 6 November 1912; she now had a little granddaughter, Lela, who was born 30 November 1915; Llewlyn was married 18 June 1917; and another granddaughter, Cleo, was born 7 November 1917; and their son, Yukon, was married to Margaret Vera Jensen on 12 December 1917.

Mary Ellen was a religious woman. She worked in all the organizations of the Church, especially in Sunday School, Relief Society, MIA and she served on the Genealogical Committee. Each Sunday she would go to church taking with her the members of the family who wanted to go. She believed in keeping the Word of Wisdom and never drank tea or coffee. She spoke only beautiful words and was admired for never uttering any bad words. When she was 48 years old, her dream came true. Jez took their family to the Manti Temple where they were sealed together for time and all eternity by he priesthood of God. On Wednesday morning, 17

July 1918, they received their endowments and after they gathered in a beautiful sealing room. President Lewis officiated and performed the seals. Her whole family, including their four dead children, would now be theirs through the eternities. What a glorious occasion and the Spirit of God touched her heart deeply as she knelt across the altar gazing into the faces of her beloved Jez and children Llewllles, Oren, and Naomi and feeling the closeness through the veil of Ellen, Elora, Ruel and Wendall. This would be a special day in each of their lives. Mary Ellen and Jez received their patriarchal blessings together on 7 February 1922 under the hands of Patriarch Abinidi Olsen. Each day always began very special as Mary Ellen and Jezreel gathered their family around the kitchen table for family prayer.

Mary Ellen loved her home and on weekends she scrubbed the kitchen floor with lye water and it was just as white as could be. When Jez came home from working on the farm he always would find a nice tub full of warm soap suds which he cleaned up in before he could come into the house. Each week meant a thorough house cleaning and every spot in her home was carefully selected for its best usage and attractiveness. Her inward beauty extended beyond her home into their yard where she had a lovely flower garden of dahlias, cosmos, a snowball bush and a white and purple lilac tree. Mary Ellen did all her washing on a wash board until most of her family was married and gone. While Naomi was still at home Mary Ellen got her first washer which was run by Naomi moving the handle on the side of the washer which in turn moved the agitator inside. The washer was located out of the back door from the kitchen under the apple tree. The clothes would be washed, then hauled in the house and placed in the big boiler pan on the stove where they boiled for ten minutes. They then were carefully lifted by a big stick out of the pan into a bucket to be taken back outside and placed in the washer to be finally rinsed and blued. She made her own soap. They had an electric light in the home and had running water. They had a big box covered with burlap sacks with cold water on top which served as a cooler. They dug a big cellar in the ground with the door being made out of limbs, burlap sacks, tarp and dirt. This cellar was where the cream, milk, fruit, meat and other foods were kept. There was a big five gallon jug of pickles ready for nibbling when anyone felt the urge. Jesse Killpack smoked the pigs and Mary Ellen would can and store the food. Mary Ellen loved to try out every recipe she could get a hold of and see if she could make it a little better. She was a neat woman and did not believe in being idle.

Christmas and the holidays were always looked forward to. Mary Ellen, Jez and Naomi spent many Christmas days with Llewllles and her children as it was so fun to see the delight in the grandchildren's faces with exchange of a gift followed by a special dinner. On 8 December 1922 Yukon and Maggie had a new little daughter they named Virginia. This was a special name to Mary Ellen as she had anticipated naming Naomi "Virginia" until Jez changed his mind on the way to church the day Naomi was to be blessed. Mary Ellen was saddened by the death of her brother, Joseph Alma, on 27 August 1923. Mary Ellen was 53 years old. She would miss visiting with him, especially on New Years Day when she and her sisters and brothers and their individual families. She would have a special gift for each one of them and was anxious to see how they were getting along. After their visit, Mary Ellen would wish them well and the best of the New Year for each one. This special visit was looked forward to by everyone. Mary Ellen enjoyed the birth of another granddaughter, Louie May Killpack, born 23 May 1926.

Mary Ellen received word that her half brother, Ed Wrigley, had died and she went to Salt Lake to attend his funeral in April, 1927. When she returned home she was not feeling well. She became steadily worse and Jez sent for the doctor. She had been suffering with chronic mitral insufficiency for three years but on Tuesday morning, 26 April 1927 she passed away. J. M. Nixon was the attending physician. A great loss was felt throughout the family and Ferron at the passing of Mary Ellen. She had lived a full 57 years, 3 months and ___ days. She was buried on Saturday, 30 April in the Ferron City Cemetery next to her four children and parents. She left standing by her grave side a 16 year old daughter; a 23 years old son; a loving husband of 38 years; a married daughter with four children; a married son with two children each full of fond memories and the realization that life goes on.