HISTORY OF BELVA WHITING SUMSION (1887-1927)*

EIGHTH CHILD OF EDWIN LUCIUS AND ANNA MARY BULKLEY WHITING

By Daughter Merlene Sumsion, written on March 15, 1932:

Belva Whiting Sumsion was born in Mapleton on August 24, 1887. She was the eighth child of eleven children of those splendid pioneers, Edwin Lucius and Anna Mary Bulkley Whiting.

Father Whiting, a man of great integrity and a staunch Mormon, was Bishop of the Mapleton Ward for eight years up to the time of his death in 1896. From both her parents, she inherited a religious zeal and spiritual insight which remained with her throughout her life.

At an early age, nine, her father died, leaving her mother with a large family and a very meager income. Because of this, the children were forced to help make a living by doing any honorable work they could find. From these experiences, she learned early in her life the lessons of economy, industry and the value of money. She also cultivated a determination to stick to and master whatever came into her life.

She commenced her schooling September 15, 1893, at Mapleton and graduated from the Eighth Grade, May 13, 1904.

Her most intimate friends were her two sisters, Blanche and Beulah Whiting, the latter one being her half-sister.

The love of God and man was her daily creed and always her comely presence and smiling countenance radiated joy and cheer where she passed.

On October 5, 1910, she was married to James Spender Sumsion in the Salt Lake City L.D.S. Temple by Anthon H. Lund and thereafter she lived in the Fourth Ward of Springville, Utah.

Shortly after her marriage she was asked to work in the religion class, which she did for a number of years, reaping much joy and happiness with the associaton of small children.

The intelligence and strength of her character evidences the fruitful quality of her spirit which turned all her experiences into deeper

* This section is made up of three parts, each part written at a different time. They are by her daughter, Merlene Sumsion, written in in 1932; her daughter-in-law, Betty Boyer Sumsion, written in 1976; and her youngest sister, Edna Whiting Mills, written in 1980.

THE DESCENDANTS OF JAMES SPENDER SUMSION AND BELVA WHITING

INCLUDING SOME GENEALOGICAL DETAILS

HUSBAND : JAMES SPENDER SUMSION

Birthdate : 10 September 1885 Place : Springville, Utah, Utah

Date of Death: 21 March 1972 Place : Springville, Utah, Utah

Father : James Henry Sumsion Mother : Tamer Ann Bird

Date Married : 5 October 1910 Place : Salt Lake City, Utah

WIFE : BELVA WHITING

Birthday : 24 August 1887 Place : Mapleton, Utah, Utah

Date of Death: 5 January 1927 Place : Springville, Utah, Utah

Father : Edwin Lucius Whiting Mother : Anna Mary Bulkley

CHILDREN	WHEN BORN	WHERE BORN	DIED	MARRIED TO	DATE
1. (F) Merlene	27 March 1912	Springville, Utah	-	Floyd Huff Evans	28 June 1939
2. (M) Max Whiting	10 May 1914	" "	-	Betty Louise Boyer	17 Feb 1939
3. (F) Naomi	29 Jan 1917	" "	-	Darol L. Gardner	31 May 1941
4. (M) Randall Leo	28 June 1921	" "	-	Pamela Evans	29 Nov 1945

womanliness and more sympathetic wifehood and motherhood. Her genial spirit and her understanding heart drew admiration and affection from those who knew her. Her own feelings were so sensitive and fine and her imagination so keen, that she could understand what disappointment and suffering meant to others. She spoke no unkind words. She seldom, if ever, showed a feeling of anger. Her great heart was sad if others were sad. She looked always forward, undaunted, to a brighter day beyond.

She was a consistent Latter Day Saint, serving humbly in the Relief Society, never seeking office. In 1920 she was assigned to be a class leader working in the literature department. In 1924 she began working in genealogy. During the same year she worked in the Primary, teaching a group of girls called "Bluebirds." But she was never so busy with her church work as to neglect her family. She was alert to even the slightest neglect on the part of the children to their father, being just as loyal to her husband as to her children. To her husband and children she was generous, perhaps to a fault. All that she enjoyed, she wanted them to also to have and enjoy. She was never happier than when surrounded by the members of her family and making them happy gave her delight. She had her most enjoyable recreation at her family reunions. When surrounded by those dear to her, she would relax and indulge in humor and fun-making to the great satisfaction of the members of her household.

Her understanding heart and keen sympathy won for her the general love and respect of those about her. A truly great woman was she for she took the common things of life and walked nobly among them.

On May 24, 1925, she was chosen President of the Relief Society, being set apart as the Fourth President of the Fourth Ward Relief Society of Springville, Utah, September 12, 1925. To this high calling she gave the most sincere and reverent devotion. She rendered to her family sweet affection and has left a legacy of things imperishable. Her kindly ways and gentle deeds will not be forgotten.

On January 5th, 1927, at the age of 39, she passed away. The dawn of a more glorious life began for the faithful woman who passed from this school of experience into a higher school of learning. Those who survive her are her husband, James Spender Sumsion, and four children: Merlene, Max Whiting, Naomi and Randall Leo.

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By Daughter-in-Law Betty Boyer Sumsion on October 29, 1976:

I didn't know Mother Sumsion as she was gone before I became a member of this fine family. However, I have lived nearly 38 years with her wonderful son, Max, whose middle name is "Whiting", after his dear mother.

Through things that Max and others have told me about her, I know I would have loved her, and missed much by being deprived of being called her daughter-in-law here upon this earth. I believe the veil between this earthly existence and the life after death is so thin that Mother Sumsion loves me and has accepted me into her family circle.

Through my association with Dad Sumsion through these years, I know of the deep love and respect he had for his little Belva.

Spender brought his bride, Belva, home to live and keep house for not only himself, but also his father, who was a widower and his brother, Arthur Max, who was unmarried. To cook and keep house and do the many tasks that a home demands for three grown men would, in my opinion, be a tremendous task for a young bride. The home was comfortable for that era of time---but without water and bathroom facilities. In fact she did not live to see her home modernized, but her sunny disposition and ability to make the most of any situation and her love of a dear husband and children of her own, made it all worthwhile.

Belva was full of fun! She loved to have quilting parties where neighbors and friends and their families would gather at her home to enjoy quilting, joking, the pranks of their children playing around and always the delicious home-cooked meal for all. The welcome mat was always out for all who shared her hospitality.

She was an excellent horse-woman and always rode side-saddle. She did many and all kinds of hand work, sewing clothes for her family and lovely things for her home. She never considered a job too hard to do---she would find a way, someway, to accomplish its completion. This characteristic, as well as others, her son Max certainly inherited. Dad Sumsion always said Max was so like his mother in this respect and how thankful I am for this fine heritage and quality he also has.

Mother Sumsion was a small woman, about five feet tall, blonde hair and pretty blue eyes that sparkled with love for her family and also shone with compassion when one of her dear ones needed reprimanding.

Merlene was born into this humble home on March 27, 1912; Max on May 10, 1914; Naomi on 29 January 1917; and Randall Leo on 28 June 1921. Grandfather James Henry Sumsion lived with them until his death on July 17, 1923. Uncle Art lived with and loved this family, played with the children, teased them and frolicked with them until Belva's death on January 5, 1927. Shortly after this, Art found his own life's mate and they built a home on the Sumsion property south of Spender's home which was on the southeast corner of Center Street and 2nd East.

Belva's death was caused by pleurisy pneumonia while she was carrying her fifth child. To take a loving mother of small children and a mate who was loved and needed so much from this sphere of action, makes us know that the mission her Heavenly Father sent her here to do was complete, and whatever her work on the other side has been and is, she will be doing it faithfully as she was a choice daughter to whom the Lord said "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

I am especially grateful for the fine qualities of her nature that she passed to my husband, and through him, to our son, Kent Max, and which will go on to his posterity, for this is life eternal.

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Written By Sister Edna Whiting Mills written in October 1980:

Belva was an excellent seamstress and had a mannikin of herself to fit her own clothes. As she was small it was difficult to buy clothes to fit her. She had such a small foot that it was hard to find shoes to fit and at one time she found not one but two pairs that fit and she bought them both. She loved to fix herself up and look pretty.

She was very quiet but always wanted to be an elocutioner (or dramatist) and would stand before the big looking glass practicing this art to her captive audience of brothers and sisters. Her brother, Burr, used to really tease her, but it was all done in good fun!

At one time Edna and Belva went to Mackay, Idaho, to cook for the men working on the railroad in a construction camp. There were 30 or 40 men to cook three meals a day for. This was a great challenge for the young girls.

The family horse "Old Pratt" would come up to the porch and wait for the four or five children to get on his back and he would carry them to the Mapleton schoolhouse. They would then turn him around and he would come on home alone.

One time Grandmother Whiting, Randall and Belva went to Owinza, Idaho, to see Aunt Edna. Belva had Merlene and Max with her and as they were riding along a dirt road in the car, Max fell out of the door of the moving vehicle. You can imagine their relief to find that he was still breathing when picked up.

One day Uncle Art (Spender's brother) put the saddle on "Old Snip" and put Merlene and Naomi on the horse. They dropped the reins and the horse took off at his own speed which was faster than the little girls could handle. When Mother Sumsion saw them coming from the barn she ran out in front of the horse and stopped it, never thinking of the danger she may be putting herself in. The horse stood still until she had her little girls off from it.

She was just 39 when she became toxic from pleurisy pneumonia while carrying her fifth child and she passed away. She was Relief Society President at the time and her two Counselors were Maude Thorn and Deal Miller.

We think that Spender met Belva possibly at a dance. They both loved to dance and made a handsome couple on the dance floor.

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HISTORY OF BLANCHE WHITING HILL (1890-1978)*

NINTH CHILD OF EDWIN LUCIUS AND ANNA MARY BULKLEY WHITING

Written in the first person by Blanche sometime after 1973:

I was born of goodly parents on 7 February, 1890, in Mapleton, Utah, a daughter of Edwin Lucius Whiting and Anna Mary Bulkley. My Father was born 22 October 1845 in Nauvoo, Illinois, and died in Mapleton, Utah, on 19th Feburary 1896. Father served as Bishop for many years. My Mother was born in Springville, Utah, on 21 January 1854, and died 10 June 1929.

I was the ninth of eleven children and had just turned six years of age when my Father died. Among my earliest recollections of him was when he was on his death bed. Father had two wives (being termed a polygamist) and at the time he took ill of pneumonia he was staying at the

* This section consists of six parts, the major part of which was written by Blanche herself in the first person sometime after 1973. The remaining five parts are short eulogies written by five of her children.

THE DESCENDANTS OF EMILE DOYLE HILL AND BLANCHE WHITING
INCLUDING SOME GENEALOGICAL DETAILS

HUSBAND : EMILE DOYLE HILL
Birthdate : 28 November 1983 Place : Burrville, Utah
Date of Death: 7 March 1945 Place : ?
Father : Leonard Hill Mother : Mable Mary Haskell
Date Married : 6 May 1914 Place : Salt Lake City, Utah

WIFE : BLANCHE WHITING
Birthday : 7 February 1890 Place : Mapleton, Utah
Date of Death: 10 June 1978 Place : Idaho Falls, Idaho
Father : Edwin Lucius Whiting Mother : Anna Mary Bulkley

CHILDREN	WHEN BORN	WHERE BORN	DIED	MARRIED TO	DATE
1. (F) Leah	17 December 1915	Mapleton, Utah	-	Virgil P. Rowbury	23 June 1933
2. (F) Fern	22 October 1917	" "	-	Sherid S. Lindsey	27 July 1937
3. (F) Maxine	15 April 1920	" "	-	Clinton C. Jense	28 Nov 1940
4. (M) Robert E. (Twin)	31 October 1921	Leslie, Idaho	1973	Vonda Fern Jordan	28 Nov 1947
5. (F) Rowene (Twin)	31 October 1921	" "	-	Ivon Arthur Elder	12 July 1941
6. (M) Melvin Dean	6 December 1923	Mapleton, Utah	22 May 1926	-	-
7. (F) Grace	1 October 1925	Darlington, Idaho	-	Vernall E. Killpack	4 Dec 1943
8. (M) Lawrence Arthur	12 October 1927	Springfield, Idaho	-	Joan Harris	4 Apr 1951
9. (M) Newell K.	26 December 1929	Pingree, Idaho	-	Delma Rose Avery	23 July 1952
10 (M) Marion Glen	24 October 1931	Goshen, Idaho	-	(1) Marsha L. Davis	3 Mar 1955
				(2) Karen M. Bowman	31 Dec 1960
11. (M) Orin Keith	30 June 1934	Orgood, Idaho	-	(1) Betty L. Jennings	11 Mar 1958
				(2) Sherrie Pickering	12 Dec 1962
12. (M) Eugeen Reed	1 Dec 1937	Idaho Falls, Idaho	-	DeAnn Van Epps	25 Aug 1962