



RUBY ROSETTA TAYLOR ROMRELL 1882-1927

Ruby Rosetta Taylor was born 25 March 1882, to Josephine Bingham and Levi James Taylor at the home of her maternal grandparents, Willard and Genet Gates Bingham in Wilson Ward, Weber, Utah. Ruby's mother, Josephine, was the third wife of Levi James Taylor. He was also married to Josephine's older sister, Flora Gennet. Levi's first wife, Nancy Jane Gates, died in 1872. She was an aunt to Flora and Josephine. The

Taylors accepted the principal of polygamy. However, the Edmunds Act outlawing polygamy passed the same year Ruby was born. This brought about a great deal of persecution for men, like Levi, who refused to disown their wives and children. For this reason Josephine had gone in hiding when Ruby was born. That same year, Levi was called to the Southern States Mission where he served for two years. No doubt this was a trial for the two families in his absence, but Levi's parents lived close by and the wives' parents not that far away in case of need.

Ruby's childhood was full of chores including taking the cows to and from the pasture, churning, carrying wood, tending chickens, weeding gardens, but there was still time for fun. Ruby had nine siblings but only four lived to adulthood, Lucetta (1880), Wilford (1892), Grace (1893) and Ada (1898).

Ruby attended school in Harrisville. When she was in third grade, her mother was her teacher and her father was her principal. Later she attended the Weber Academy.

Craig's Canning Factory operated on Third Street in Ogden, and Ruby and her sister Florence both worked there. They were considered the fastest tomato peelers at the factory. Hyrum Romrell also worked there, and he had his eye on Ruby with her beautiful golden hair, blue eyes, and fair skin. They enjoyed a pleasant courtship and married 10 December 1902, in the Salt Lake Temple, after which they had a large wedding supper at her mother's home.

The young couple lived for a while in a three room house in Harrisville where their first child, Belva Josephine, was born (1903). They went to Idaho for a time, but Hyrum had scarlet fever and typhoid fever during the 18 months they were there. He was very sick for a long time. They returned to Utah and Hyrum bought his father's place on 4th Street. He and Ruby moved into the east half of the house while his parents lived in the west half. Mildred (1906), Fern (1911), and Leonard (1917) were born while the family lived on 4th Street. [The farm property on 4th Street is now the Romrell Park]. Ruby's younger sister Grace died in 1915, leaving three small children. Ruby and Hyrum raised her eighteen month old son, Glen.

In 1919, Hyrum quit work for the railroad. He sold the place on 4th Street, and bought two houses. He worked the farm in Harrisville that he bought from Pleasant Green Taylor. Their son, Roland (1922), was born in Harrisville.

Ruby was active in the LDS Church. She was president of the Primary and religion class while they lived in the Lynn Ward. In about 1924, she took a course in practical nursing at the Dee Hospital, and when there was sickness, she was always willing to help out. She served as president of the Relief Society in Harrisville and also as president of the Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau was very active in helping people learn sewing, dress making, cooking, and all types of homemaking. They sponsored a kitchen improvement contest and she won 3rd place. One week each summer she would go to Logan to the Agricultural College Farmers Encampment with her family. It was a time of fun and education.

The family liked to picnic on Easter at a place they called “table rock” above the State Industrial School [200 North Washington Boulevard]. They stayed home on Monday evenings and had a family hour.

During the years 1924 to 1927, Ruby made soup for the school children’s lunch at the Harrisville School. They were charged three cents a bowl. It was usually a vegetable or tomato soup, or chili. Hyrum helped her carry the container of soup to the school each day. Sometimes she served hot cocoa.

Ruby had a lovely flower garden. She developed her own special seeds, always selecting seeds from only perfect flowers. She won prizes for her flowers and loved to share them with others.

She suffered gall stone attacks for a number of years. She died 11 October 1927 of pneumonia which she contracted following surgery for gall stones. She is buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

SOURCE:

Hardy, Mildred R. Records.

Steiner, Fern R. “Ruby Rosetta Taylor Romrell.” Unpublished manuscript. 10 Jan 1972.

Bingham, Flora Gennet	Romrell, Hyrum
Bingham, Genet Gates	Romrell, Leonard
Bingham, Josephine	Romrell, Mildred
Bingham, Willard	Romrell, Roland
Edmunds Act	Taylor, Flora Genett Bingham
Farm Bureau	Taylor, Florence
Gates, Genet	Taylor, Grace
Gates, Nancy Jane	Taylor, Josephine Bingham
Orton, Glen	Taylor, Levi James
Orton, Grace Taylor	Taylor, Levi James
Romrell, Belva Josephine	Taylor, Nancy Jane Gates
Romrell, Fern	