

BIOGRAPHY

CECIL S. CRAWFORD

Born in Ferron, Utah, February 18, 1893, to Samual and Clara Singleton, pioneer settlers in Emery County. Completed her early education in Emery County. Attended and graduated with a degree in education from the Utah State Agricultural College, now Utah State University.

Taught school in Sugar City, Idaho and Randolph, Utah, before returning to Ferron. Upon her return, she taught elementary grades in Clawson riding a horse the majority of the time between Ferron and Clawson, often in inclement weather, as little motorized vehicle transportation was available at that time.

Married Edward M. Crawford, a native of Orangeville, on May 7, 1919. Raised three children: Clay, Ted and Annette, all graduates of Utah State University.

Active throughout her life in civic and church affairs and became a fluent public speaker. She was elected to the Emery County School Board in the early 1940's. These were turbulent and controversial times for the County's educational system. Consolidation of the school system was just beginning and World War II was in full swing. At about this time (1945), she saw the need for a County Library System, with the veterans and their families returning home. Soliciting the support of the County Commission, the system was established in about 1945. Obtaining the use of the old Stake House on Main Street of Castle Dale, headquarters were established there. Other branches were established throughout the County. Many of the basic principles used in the present County Library system were established at that time.

Other activities she participated in and helped organize was the huge-bon fire and Christmas program which became a tradition on

CECIL S. CRAWFORD

(Continued)

the Town Square. The Centennial Commission and celebration was also a big event in 1947. Cecil served and promoted the beautification program for Castle Dale City at that time.

Ed and Cecil were industrious people engaged in the ranching business throughout their lives. They also owned the service station on West Main Street.

Cecil S. Crawford died at the age of 56 in 1949 of a rare blood disease. Life in Emery County during those years was perhaps harsh compared to today's standards. It was, however, romantic, exciting and glorified for all of those who lived through it and remember it.

5/2/8



MOTHER'S WELCOME HOME MESSAGE
CHRISTMAS 1945

Members of the Ladies Chorus wish to extend to all a Merry Xmas. This is an unusually joyous Christmas because we have so many of our boys home.

We also wish to take this opportunity to welcome our boys home and let you know the happiness and joy it brings to our little community when each one of you return.

I think we never realized what youth contributed to a community until you were all taken away. About 100 boys and girls were in the service from this small town. It was like taking all the hope, courage, beauty, self confidence, adventure, and excitement out of our lives. You took all these things into battle with you and we sincerely hope you still retain them. We realize you have been made older in a short time thru experience but we hope you will be able to forget the ugly things of war and use only the worthwhile experiences on which to better and build your lives.

The thing I have notice during your absense is that we have not only been interested in the welfare of our own boy but in every boy in the service. When sorrow came to a home it bowed the hearts of the whole community in grief and prayer. This is the joy of belonging to a small town where we are all bound together as one big family.

We know the happiness you must feel to be able to return home. We have been lonely but I'm sure we cannot know the meaning of loneliness as you do.

You speak of various things, home food you couldn't buy nor steal, a mattress and the lovely feel of clean sheets. The weather is perfect but you needn't say how good it is to be together for we can read it happily in your eyes. We do want to express our love and gratitude to you for the suffering you have endured to make this world a better place in which to live.

Peace loving people everywhere this Yuletide have special cause for rejoicing. The war is ended and ~~we are all taking up~~ the broken threads of

our lives are being taken up and tied together. Boys who last year were offering their lives in airplanes, battleships, or foxholes are spending this Xmas at home. Others are still serving in foreign lands and are thankful the war is ended and hopeful that they may ~~still~~ soon be homeward bound.

We are particularly mindful tonight of those who will never return. They sacrificed not only their own lives but the lives of their posterity that might have been.

Remember the son of man also died. In the minds of His sorrowing mother and discouraged disciples all hopes were blighted...a glorious cause seemed defeated. A sense of injustice mingling with feeling of sorrow and gloom filled their hearts with despair. Christ broke the bonds of death forever. To every bereaved parent, brother, sweetheart of the boys who have answered the last summons the living Christ proclaims this divine message.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me though he were dead yet shall he live." May all who mourn find in Christ that peace which supplants sorrow with faith and hope.

WITH ALL OUR HEARTS WE REPEAT THE ANGELIC MESSAGE HERALDED AT CHRIST'S BIRTH IN BETHLEHEM...GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN.

Cecil Crawford
Christmas Greeting
December 24, 1945