

Elmina Elizabeth Humphrey Scorpup by Edith Scorpup Clinger

It is difficult to reconstruct a life and do justice to it from a few figures in a book, some postcards and a few letters. However, I am the last of Elmina Elizabeth Humphrey Scorpup's children, consequently I feel better qualified to write this history than anyone else. I have been fortunate to live in the home Elmina and Jim furnished and to live in the home town where they grew up. Friends, relatives and acquaintances have generously shared their memories of my parents. Elmina's mother was my grandmother who loved and cared for Elmina's four orphaned children after the death of their parents. Grandma, Ellen Maria Bailey Humphrey, told me many interesting incidents in Elmina's life. (Ruth wrote or dictated some of her memories, but they are lost in someone's computer.)

I am very grateful for Elmina's record of her siblings and her children. Elmina had the good fortune to be born to Thomas Griffin Humphrey and Ellen Maria Bailey Humphrey because both of her parents had good minds, a desire to keep learning, and an understanding of the restored gospel with a strong desire to live by gospel

principles. Elmina was the fourth child in the family of twelve and the first girl. She was born January 14, 1882. Elmina never knew her eldest brother, George John who was named for his two grandfathers, George Brown Bailey and John Humphrey. He was born in Mill Creek, Utah September 20, 1875 and died in Mill Creek also, June 17, 1878 of membranous croup .

The first brother Elmina knew was Thomas Griffin, Jr. (*Tom*) who was about five years old when Elmina was born. As was the custom in the Humphrey family Tom was baptized on his eighth birthday, October 1, 1885. Tom worked away from home much of his adult life, returning to Salina in 1921. Elmina shared her parents' concern for Tom's well-being.

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Elmina's brother, Joseph William was a little more than two years older than Elmina, being born November 29, 1879. The two of them were very good friends and careful of each other's feelings. However, when Will was courting his future wife Helga, Elmina was miffed when Will gave Helga a mandolin. To make peace with her, Will bought a beautiful mandolin inlaid with mother-of-pearl to appease Elmina. Elmina's first sister, Alice Rebecca, was named for a maternal aunt, Alice Bailey (Stay), and for a paternal aunt, Rebecca Humphrey Murphy McLatchie. Elmina may not have remembered much about her little sister born in August of 1884. Alice Rebecca died in May of 1888 of measles. (Did Elmina have measles at the same time? What might a six-year think about death?)

Wilford Josiah joined the Humphrey family in December of 1886 probably named for President Wilford Woodruff. A four-year younger brother with a playful and genial disposition brought happiness to Elmina.

Seven years in age separated Elmina and her sister, Rhoda Ann, the only one of her sisters who grew to maturity. Rhoda expressed great love for Elmina. Perhaps Elmina helped ease the tedium of the bed rest Rhoda had to have during a severe attack of rheumatic fever when she was a child. A strong bond developed between the two sisters.

Six short years were all that Charles Ethelbert spent with the Humphrey Family, but he was lovingly remembered. His older brothers had taught the family dog to balance a stick on his nose until the end of a little rhyme and then toss the stick in the air and catch it in his mouth. "Bert" could not remember the rhyme, instead said the blessing on the food. When "Bert" said "amen" the dog completed the trick.

Bert was a baby three days old when his father was called on a mission to England. His sister, Elmina, nine years old at the time, no doubt tended him and did many household chores while her mother did twelve washings a week to support Griffin, her father, on his mission (1891-1893). That time must have been a difficult

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time, with a family of six children, George John and Alice Rebecca deceased. Bert died of diphtheria when he was six years old (1897).

After Elmina's father returned from his mission in 1893, four more siblings became part of Elmina's family, Ray Bailey, Ellen Maria (Nellie), Bessie Lavonia and Leone Isaac. Ray, Nellie and Bessie were born while Elmina was completing her education in the Salina public schools. Elmina was twelve when Ray was born. She wrote numerous cards and letters to him after he went on his mission to the Southern States, 1914-1916, from herself and for her children. Elmina's family is indebted to Ray's family for that correspondence. The cards shed light on Elmina's life as a mother.

Nellie and Bessie were always mentioned together--two beautiful little sisters for Elmina to love. Elmina was fourteen years old when Nellie was born. Nellie had blue eyes and light brown hair. Bessie was born two years later with dark blue eyes and curly light brown hair. She died of diabetes ("childhood" or "quick") when she was almost four years old. Since she died in Mill Creek, her mother may have taken her for help in a larger city. Ten days later Nellie died of diphtheria in Salina. What sadness for Elmina and her family!

Leone was born the year after Nellie and Bessie died. No wonder that he was adored and spoiled! Elmina wrote to Ray about Leone's tan puppy and his pony.

Elmina had a special part of the garden planted to green peas for Leone and his friends to pick and eat as a special summer treat. The music of World War I had a prominent place in Elmina's home because of her two brothers, Leone in the navy and Ray in the army.

Other family members that were part of Elmina's life were her grandmother Elizabeth Young Bailey and her great grandmother, Anna Davis Young. Elmina's photograph appears with her great grandmother, Anna Davis Young, her grandmother, Elizabeth Young Bailey, Josie Bailey (Alfred) and her aunt, Alice Bailey(Stay). She

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spent some time in the summer with her Grandmother Bailey and enjoyed visiting with her grandmother who spent the last years of her life with Elmina's mother in Salina.

An aunt, Elizabeth Davis Bailey, Elmina's mother's sister married her father's brother, William Bird Humphrey. Their four sons, George, Sydney, Lester and Issac, spent a lot of time with Elmina's brothers and in Elmina's home.

Before Elmina met James Halvor Scourp, she was a friend of his sister, Stena, who was three months younger. As Olevia grew up she too was a visitor in the Humphrey home. Mary and Emma Christensen were dear friends. Mary said of Elmina, " She was the best! "

Elmina graduated from the Eighth Grade of Salina Public School May 29, 1900 and the same year, after passing a teacher's graded test and being interviewed by the schools' trustees, was hired to teach in the Vermillion School. It was a red

(vermillion) sandstone building. She taught there one year and then moved to the Salina Public School where she taught six years. (Elmina's four children all attended school in the same building and one of them, Ellen, also taught there.)

Elmina was living at home while she taught in Salina. She and her mother agreed to wash on Saturday an ideal day for preparation for the Sabbath.

Handkerchiefs were hung by one corner in groups of five on the clothes line. One week Elmina and her mother counted ninety-two handkerchiefs which they had washed. She could not see the running noses without wiping them. Neither tissues nor toilet paper were available at the time.

Elmina was ambidextrous. She learned to write very legibly with her right hand. At teacher's meeting she was called to come to the front and draw a large circle on the board "free-hand". She met the challenge well, drawing without thinking, with her left hand, much to the surprise of her associates.

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There was a bell in the school house tower that rang to call the children to march in through the west door. Each grade was lined up separately and generally marched in to some vigorous march music.

Every room in the old rock school house was equipped with real slate blackboards on two sides of the room. Elmina taught penmanship and arithmetic using the slate which is easy to use with chalk and easy to erase.

A strong contralto voice was a great asset for Elmina at home, in church teaching and in school. She was a member of the choir. As a younger member, one of the older sisters, Caroline Nielsen, would lean over to hear if Elmina was singing correctly. The choir director taught Elmina and all of the choir members a valuable lesson on promptness. The organist was twenty minutes late.

The director said, "You are twenty minutes late! You have wasted my time and eighteen choir member's time. Think how many hours you have wasted! Twenty minutes multiplied by nineteen! " Elmina's favorite hymn that the choir sang was "Jesus, Lover of My Soul". The first two lines have a beautiful tenor and alto duet.

Elmina developed an extensive repertoire of songs and singing games for children. She owned several books of songs for kindergarten and grade school. "My Pigeon House", "Little Bird Song" (Up, Up in the Sky), "There! Little Girl, Don't Cry", "To Baby Land", "A. B. C.", "Billy Boy", "The Birdie", "Fairy Ring", "The Cuckoo", "Three Little Pigs", and "Robinson Crusoe" are some of the songs she taught to her school classes, Sunday School Kindergarten classes and her children. Her children in turn taught them to their children.

Because of the legible handwriting Elmina learned and her ability to express herself and others' thoughts clearly, she was asked to write reports for the ward Relief Society and the Sunday School. The Sunday School report she wrote was included in the "History of Salina 1863-1913".

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Service in the limelight was not what Elmina sought. She was willing to serve in her home, setting the table, helping to prepare and serve the food for visiting general authorities and the numerous Sunday guests who came from out of town in their wagons or buggies. B. H. Roberts was a guest at one time. Elmina's father had killed a pig for food for the family and visitors. The pig's feet had been carefully cleaned and cooked. With some reluctance, Elmina had served them at the opposite end of the table from Brother Roberts. When the meal commenced, Brother Roberts asked, "Do I see pig's feet on the table? Please pass them " .

The visit of Heber J. Grant to the Humphrey home was especially memorable. He spent his time between conference sessions playing the reed organ with one finger and singing the hymns that he had committed to memory.

Elmina loved children. She was the kindergarten teacher in Sunday School from 1894 until 1919. The kindergarten class included all of the children from the time they were old enough to leave their parents until they were seven years old. This large difference in age, skill and attention span required great teaching skill and a large collection of pictures and other teaching aids. Elmina had the skill and resources to be outstanding. Elmina had a many-faceted personality. She was outgoing and friendly because she genuinely loved people. She was also confident. Elmina gave readings. Once at a patriotic program where the speaker had talked for a long time, Elmina was scheduled to follow him. Instead of the reading she had prepared she stood up and pretended she was a small child struggling to recite " Mary had a little lamb " . The audience roared with laughter and remembered the occasion for a long time after .

Elmina was fortunate to have found a man who had the same basic philosophy about money as she had: money is to be used prudently to make life better for those around us.

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Being warm and affectionate made Elmina remembered. Mary Domgaard had come from Lost Creek to Salina (five miles in a buggy) on a cold winter day. She stopped by Elmina's home and asked if she could leave her three-year old daughter, Margaret. Margaret remembers the love and warmth of Elmina's arms.

Because Elmina valued books, she frequently gave books as gifts. Two she gave, "The Greatest Thing in the World 11 by Henry Drummond and a Danish LDS Hymnbook, were treasured by her sister-in-law, Olevia, and her father-in-law Christian C. Scourup.

During the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, Elmina cut up most of a beef to make and take hot food to families all over Salina. Many times every person in a household was too sick to prepare anything to eat. Elmina was very compassionate.

As secretary of the Relief Society, Elmina apparently kept account of all the food requested and donated for ward functions. Not only did she keep her accounts carefully, but she was also plain-spoken. She said to Brother Jensen, "You did not bring what you were assigned for the last party. Are you going to bring what I have assigned you for this meal ? 11

Elmina was regular in her habits. She sent a monthly check of \$35 to her sister-in-law, Stena Scourup, who was an outstanding missionary in the Northern States. Jim and Elmina had agreed to pay for Stena's mission. She sent postcards and pictures as well as a monthly check. While Elmina's brother Ray Humphrey was a missionary in the Southern States, Elmina sent letters and postcards. She had Ruth, Marden and Ellen send cards she wrote for that as if they were writing.

She also kept up correspondence with her sister-in-law Olevia, after Olevia married Jesse Thornell and moved to Blanding. Olevia felt free to ask Elmina to send her some things that were not available in town.

The seven years of teaching and the years of living at home had given Elmina a rich background of experience to qualify her for motherhood. Even with all her

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background, Elmina found her two oldest children difficult. Several of her cards indicate that the children were cross. James Marden cried much of the time he was a baby except when Elmina played the cylindrical records on the old-style Edison phonograph.

Elmina's mother had confidence in her daughter's skills. As president of the Relief Society Ellen had the charge to improve the skills of the local sisters. She set up a potato-peeling contest to see which of two girls or women would finish with the most potatoes to cook, one who peeled fast and left thick peelings or one who peeled with thinner peelings. Elmina won the contest with her thin peelings and speed.

As an entertainer, Elmina had readings in two large collections to choose from. Her willingness to respond to requests made her a popular performer .

About 1900 Elmina and James Halvor Scourp (Jim) became aware of each other as people. Elmina had been aware of Jim as one of the "Big Boys " in the Scourp family. Jim was aware of Elmina as one of his sister Stena's playmates. When Elmina became a schoolteacher at age eighteen and Jim came home for a visit from San Juan, their age difference was less significant. From Jim I s letters to Elmina, there is indication that Elmina had written to him and also had sung for him.

Only one specific incident of courtship can be recalled. On a strip to Salina one year Jim invited Elmina to go with him and his sister, Olevia, to the Barnum and Bailey Circus in Provo! The trio stayed at Hotel Roberts. Olevia said "Elmina was so much fun! We all had a great time."

As the date for Elmina's wedding to Jim drew near, Elmina needed to choose material for a wedding dress. One of Elmina's friends went with her to Richfield, anticipating a view of all of the white material in the store. The friend was visibly disappointed when Elmina chose a fine piece of white batiste without looking at all of the yard goods. Elmina's mother exhibited her sewing skills with beautiful small tucks and insertion on a blouse and wider tucks near the bottom of the skirt.

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Caroline Scourp Polly sent, on October 24, 1996, a copy of an invitation Elmina had sent to her future sister-in-law, Emma Bayles Scourp. (Copy of the invitation--almost ninety years old!) Did Elmina need help with her sewing or was the gathering an excuse for a small party?

James Halvor Scourp was almost thirty-eight years old and Elmina Elizabeth Humphrey was past her twenty-fifth birthday when they were married in the Manti Temple, September 4, 1907.

Lewis Anderson officiated. Marriage and a comfortable home were great changes for a cowboy who had spent fifteen years in the red rock country of San Juan, Utah, frequently being hungry and cold. The change from the schoolroom to her own home was less dramatic for Elmina. Love made the transition to marriage easier for both Jim and Elmina.

Their eldest child, Ruth was born nine months after their marriage. June 8, 1908. Ruth grew well and welcomed her baby brother James Marden, twenty-two months later April 6, 1910. From postcards Elmina wrote, the two children were difficult to care for because they were frequently cross. Later Ellen was a happy child with large blue eyes and hair that curled into ringlets. Her birth on August 28, 1912 was a time for rejoicing. Edith was born on October 26, 1915.

Jim was a good provider. He brought Elmina to " one of the nicest homes in Salina." the barn and shed were in excellent condition. A chicken coop was brick and a high wire fence enclosed the chicken yard. Corral fences were solid finished lumber . A white picket fence enclosed the house and garden. There was a large garage with an adjoining coal shed. Indoor plumbing was a part of the house. That amenity was not common in 1907.

The furniture Jim and Elmina chose was beautiful and durable. Some of it has lasted almost ninety years and with care will last another ninety years .

In 1919, Jim purchased a small Steinway piano for Elmina shortly before she died in the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. It's quality of tone had endeared itself to

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the children and grandchildren who have played it. Ruth, Ellen and Edith have had special ties to the piano and each other because of solos, songs and duets.

That Elmina was a talented homemaker is evident by the influence of the skills beyond the eleven and half years she worked to make her home the pleasant place it was. Her kitchen was well equipped. There was a large bin that held a wonderful assortment of cake and pie pans and tins including a ricer, cookie sheets, quiche, angel food, soufflé, pans, and a pudding mold. A work table and kitchen table provided ample work space beyond the cabinet. A large hutch with one drawer for knives and forks and the other for napkins. Two lower shelves contained miscellaneous articles

for everyday use. The upper shelves held pretty dishes shown off through glass doors. The combination living-dining room was well-lighted with large deep windows on the south and west sides. In the ceiling there were colorful ornate flowers and fruit surrounding a light fixture. There was a tiled fireplace that could be covered in the summer with a fancy iron door.

Every room in the house was special. There were two bookcases in the "middle room" that provided good reading for all of the family. Jim and Elmina were impressed by the writings of Orison Sweet Marden enough to give their son the name of "Marden" for a middle name.

Elmina liked leather-bound books. She had a leather-bound copy of the Doctrine and Covenants and a leather-bound Psalmody. Personal books, "Sunday Morning in the Kindergarten" and a large book for use in the Kindergarten as well as children's song books were much used and appreciated. There were books of readings, a set of music books, ten volumes, that provided her children with duets, songs and solos.

Colored pictures were not as common before 1919 as they are now. Elmina created a large book from a tailor I s suit sample book that entertained her children for hours.

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Ruth, Elmina's oldest child, never saw her mother in a dirty dress. She wanted her children dressed in clean clothes also. Seven clothes lines from the house to the barn were needed for hanging the weekly wash. Elmina liked blue and white striped chambray and blue and white gingham with long white aprons for everyday attire. For Sunday, Elmina had a medium weight, medium blue wool dress and a plaid silk (green, blue and brown) for Sunday. Dickies were in style and Elmina had some lovely ones.

For cold weather, Elmina had a black fur shoulder cape and a matching muff lined with purple silk. She had an especially pretty hat with a wide imitation beaver brim and straight crown of peachy-pink satin.

In 1901 when Elmina started teaching in Salina she bought a watch to be worn in the school room. As a proper lady of her day she had gloves according to the weather. She had gauntlets for driving that were attractive with light brown for the hands and black leather above the wrists. She also had a lightweight tan coat of wool that would be ideal for spring and fall drives.

Elmina learned to drive a big Studebaker without power steering and power brakes. She is reported to have practiced turning around using reverse on Fourth North in Salina "Swedish Avenue" then. On the south side of the lane there were barbed fences. On the north side there was "The Big Ditch, " Salina Creek Irrigation Company canal. No room for error!

⁵ One of the places to go for a drive was along the old road to a bridge across the

Sevier River. There were generally ducks swimming in the river to delight the children. Coming back from one of the drives, Elmina reported, "Mother is a real old sport: I went twenty miles and hour and she didn't say a word!" After Elmina learned to drive she took her handicapped brother-in-law, Victor Scourp for a ride every Tuesday afternoon.

Elmina was ill with influenza and was taken to the Salina Hospital on Monday, February 12, 1919. Dr. Thome came to see Elmina who continued to vomit severely.

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Her parents were there and anticipating that she would need to go to the hospital, Grandpa had a chair ready for Elmina to sit on and be carried to Dr. Thome's car .

Dr. Thome said, "She can walk. If Grandma felt that the effort of the walk used up the last reserve of Elmina's energy. She died on Tuesday, May 13, 1919, a few hours short of delivering a baby.

As Elmina's descendants, may we radiate the warmth and love she did.