

**A LIFE SKETCH OF FANNY JOHNSON WHITTING (1861-1933)**

Second Wife of Edwin Lucius Whiting  
by Grandson L. Lamar Whiting

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This history is compiled from events as told by my father, from family genealogical records and from brief histories of the Whiting and Johnson families as well as some events which I myself remember.

Fanny Johnson was born 9 November 1861 in Bucklebury, Berkshire, England, the daughter of Solomon Johnson and Caroline Buxcey. She and her family were converted to the Church and in 1871 she was baptized in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

In 1873 Solomon Johnson, his wife Caroline Buxcey Johnson, and their children, Elizabeth J. Barlowe, who was married, Ellen (Nettie), Emma, Mercy, Lydia and Fanny sailed for Toronto, Canada. Their son, Lorenzo, who was also married, stayed in England two or three more years before going to Canada.

In 1876 Solomon and his family moved to Springville, Utah. Fanny was just 15 years old when they moved to Springville. On 26 December 1877 Fanny Johnson married Edwin Lucius Whiting in the St. George Temple, receiving her endowments the same day. She was the second wife of a plural marriage family. The first wife being Anna Mary Bulkley who was the mother of eleven children.

Edwin Lucius was also from a plural marriage family. His father, Edwin Whiting, my great grandfather, had five wives and 34 children. Lucius was the eighth child from the first wife, Elizabeth Partridge Tillotson Whiting.

My Grandmother, Fanny J. Whiting, became the mother of seven children born under the "Everlasting Covenant." Grandmother had a very hard life while she was raising her family, being chased from one end of the country to the other by the federal authorities because of my grandparents's practice of plural marriage. In 1891 when my father, Lyman, was a small boy, my grandfather moved my grandmother and her family to Juarez, Mexico, to escape the harassment of the federal marshals.

There were many other L.D.S. polygamist families living in Mexico at that time for the same reason as my grandmother. The Calls, Romneys and Eyrings were some I remember my father telling about. These

families went through many privations and hardships. They barely had enough food to exist on and were in constant fear of being attacked by Mexican bandits. These bandits would rob, rape, molest or even murder anyone who "crossed their path." I remember my father telling of the children going out to gather mesquite brush (their only source of fuel) and not daring to go far from the dirt-roof and dirt-floor hut where they lived.

My grandmother, Fanny, was a person who never complained or became discouraged. She always made the best of her situations. She loved the gospel, her husband and her children.

Fanny and her family lived in Mexico for eighteen months. They then returned to Mapleton, Utah, where my grandfather had started to build two new homes for his two wives. He was a very fine carpenter and cabinet maker. He earned a living as a farmer, stockman and carpenter.

My Grandfather Whiting was sustained Bishop of the newly organized Mapleton Ward on 21 August 1888, where he served until his untimely death from pneumonia on 19 February 1896. This was a great loss to his two families and friends in Mapleton.

During her marriage to Edwin Lucius, my grandmother and her beloved husband did much work in the temples of the Lord (Manti and St. George) for their dead kindred. She was also active throughout her life in Primary and Relief Society. As a widow she always paid her tithing, setting an example for her family.

By necessity, my father, Lyman, and his elder brother, Marion, learned the art of farming on the small acreage left to their mother by their father. With the help of their older half brothers, Burr and Clarence, they managed to make a living for Grandmother's young family. Also, grandmother took in boarders to help the family budget.

In October 1902, at the age of 41, having been a widow for six years, my grandmother married Philip Houtz, a widower from Mapleton. They moved to Wallsbury for a few years but later they moved back to Springville where in 1915 they adopted a new-born baby girl who was given the name of Ruth Houtz. Meantime, between 1900 and 1912, all of my grandmother's children married and moved away.

In 1918, my father, Lyman, and our family moved to Provo, Utah, from Idaho to be near Grandmother Fanny who lived in Springville, only five miles away. It was during these years that I really learned to love

my grandmother. She was everything that a grandmother should be, kind, understanding, cheerful, loving and a very fine cook and homemaker. I can remember going to her place (I was eleven years old when we moved to Provo) for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. I shall never forget her stuffed chickens, plum puddings and fruit cakes with all the trimmings.

I remember one summer day we visited our grandmother in our new 1919 Dodge touring car. They had a Jersey cow with a new calf. Ronald (my brother) and I wanted to see the new calf so we proceeded to climb the pole fence to look the calf over. I was not as close to the calf as Ronald was so when the mother cow charged I was over the fence safe, but the old cow was on Ronald's heels all the way. Needless to say, he cleared the fence without touching a pole. We did not bother that cow again.

About 1922 Phillip Houtz died leaving my grandmother a widow again with the responsibility of raising Ruth alone. Shortly after, she moved to Provo, Utah. She lived in the Bonneville Ward in a new little home that my father (Lyman) and Uncle Elmo provided for her. Uncle Elmo was living in Los Angeles, California, at that time, still unmarried.

While living in Provo, my father took Grandmother, Aunt Belle and my mother to Idaho on a trip to visit relatives. It was a two-day journey in those days over dirt or gravel roads. My Dad had traded in the 1919 Dodge for a later model Dodge. They carried their bedding and "grub" on the running board, held on by a luggage rack. They decided to camp in Sardine Canyon (between Brigham City and Logan). They picked a nice level grassy spot in the bottom of the canyon. They had a feather mattress for Grandma and Aunt Belle to sleep on. In the middle of the night there was a sever "cloud burst". It did not take long for the "grassy spot" to become a raging torrent of water and it didn't take long for them to get themselves out of the water, wet as they were. But getting the water soaked feather bed on the running board of the car was another story. I can still hear my grandmother laughing and telling of that experience.

About 1929, Grandma and Ruth moved to Los Angeles to live with Elmo. She enjoyed living in the warm climate of California. It was a better climate for her asthma and high blood pressure. Her condition worsened as the years went by and on 24 June 1933 my grandmother passed away in Los Angeles. She was buried in Mapleton beside her beloved husband, Edwin Lucius. May we always remember her for her faithfulness to her family and the Gospel which she loved so well.

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down on the road called "Straight Line."

Between 1902 and 1904 he filled a mission to the Eastern States and labored all of the time in the city of Baltimore.

Following the mission he returned to the Brigham Young University during the winter quarters where he tried to finish his high school work. The pressures on the farm, however, made it extremely difficult for him to stay with an educational program. He had hopes of one day becoming a dentist, but finally, because of his father's ill health, he had to give up his education and return home to assume greater responsibility for providing for the large family.

During the winter of 1908 he became acquainted with Sarah Jane Nielson of Sanford, Colorado, who was in Utah attending the Brigham Young University. They became attracted to each other almost immediately and after a courtship that lasted several months, they were married on August 26, 1909, in the Salt Lake Temple.

Sarah Jane (Sadie) was the daughter of Anthon and Maria Beck Nielson, who had been called by the church to help settle the San Luis Valley in Southern Colorado. She was born at Richfield, Colorado, on March 14, 1886. She was the fifth child and the oldest living girl of ten

children. Later the Nielson family moved to Mapleton.

Bert had some of the work under way on a home when they were married, and within a few weeks two rooms were completed so they could be occupied. Bert and Sadie made that spot their home for over fifty years.

Bert had a great love for the soil and early began acquiring his own farmland. He was an industrious worker and took great pride in his crops, his animals and his farm machinery, and was known as one of Mapleton's outstanding farmers. He was also involved in many church and community activities.

Sadie was a capable wife, mother and homemaker. Beside the routine tasks of keeping a home, she always had a flock of laying hens and a garden of beautiful roses. She, too, contributed to her church and to the community. She held leadership positions in the L.D.S. Primary, the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association, and for seven years was president of the ward Relief Society. She helped to organize and served on the first Planning Commission for Mapleton.

The first great love of this couple was their family — Quinn, Ruth, Rex, and Niel; but it also extended to a host of relatives and friends who knew that in Mapleton the door of Bert and Sadie was always open.



G. E. Anderson

FANNIE JOHNSON  
EDWIN LUCIUS WHITING & ANNE BECKEY-WHITING FAMILY -  
eleven children.

Rell G. Francis - Heritage Prints

2nd wife

Belle (Mrs. Young)

Top Row

177

Fannie Johnson  
Elna Isabelle  
Francis Johnson  
Elnora Johnson  
Edwin Whiting

Bert  
Elna  
Beck  
Lucy

## ANNA MARY BULKLEY WHITING

Anna Mary Bulkley was born January 21, 1854 in Springville, Utah. She was the daughter of Newman Bulkley and Olive Amanda Fullmer Bulkley. She married Edwin Lucius Whiting December 18, 1871 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. Soon afterward they went to Mapleton, Utah to build a home. Mapleton was a sage covered benchland at the time which was just being homesteaded. She and her husband took up some acres to homestead and built a house, barn, granary and buggy shed. They cleared off the land, planted fruit and shade trees, berry bushes, grapevines, a garden, and crops of grain, alfalfa, and later, sugar beets.

Anna had three children before her husband, Bishop Whiting, took a second wife. She eventually bore him eleven children. Since her husband was so busy with his ward obligations, and a second family, Anna was chiefly responsible for raising her own little family. This she did by hard work and good management.

Edwin Lucius Whiting was born October 22, 1845 at Nauvoo, Illinois. His parents were Edwin and Elizabeth Partridge Tillotson Whiting. His father was a man of moderate means and worked as a farmer and horticulturist in Nauvoo until 1846 when he moved with his family to Mt. Pisgah. Three years later, when Lucius was four years old, the family was driven out of that area after having their home, a chair factory, and all that they owned burned by mobs.

The Whiting family then emigrated to Utah traveling across the plains by ox team. Captain Ezra T. Benson was in command of their company and they reached Salt Lake City in November of 1849. From there they were directed by Brigham Young to proceed to Manti. After three weeks of hard travel they reached Walker's Camp of five hundred Indians on the present site of Manti. Here they made dugouts on the south side of the stone quarry, just beneath where the temple now stands. In this dugout father's sister Louisa was born. It was a very hard winter, snow fell four feet deep and all their cows and oxen perished. Lucius's father and Orvilla Cox had to travel to Salt Lake City on Snowshoes to get relief for the settlement.

In 1868 President Young called Lucius's father to Springville where he became a very successful nurseryman and farmer. Edwin Whiting planted many of the beautiful fir trees in Springville, Provo and other central Utah towns. In 1868 Lucius Whiting, with several other young men, made a trip across the plains to get emigrants. This trip lasted six months and was a special calling from the general authorities. Edwin Lucius also took part in the Black Hawk War and was assigned as a

Anna spent much of her life alone with her young family because her husband died in 1896. So this pious, hardworking woman and her young family all pitched in together to earn their own way. They did it successfully and even sent some of the children on missions for their church. There was always time for her to help a neighbor, deliver a baby, or nurse the sick. She was active in her church and encouraged her children to be active also. She loved music, and to watch young people dance and have fun. As a result, she always had a house full of young people and visitors.

The people of Mapleton respected Mrs. Whiting so much that they gave her a party at the Town Hall. They presented her with a small table, a beautiful lamp, and a dark wood mahogany rocking chair as a token of appreciation for all the service that she had rendered the community. She used them constantly and appreciated them very much until her death June 10, 1929 at her home in Mapleton.

## EDWIN LUCIUS WHITING

minute man in the home guard.

On December 18, 1871 Lucius married Anna Mary Bulkley. She bore him eleven children: Millie, Elizabeth, Lucius Burr, Clarence Othel, Jane, Ovilla, George Clinton, Belva, Blanche, Randall Austin and Edna. On December 26, 1877 he married a second wife, Fannie Johnson, in the St. George Temple. To care for his growing families Lucius constantly engaged in the labors of his choice, that of farming and stock raising. His two young families had to work hard to make ends meet. In 1885 Lucius was selected Presiding Elder of the little branch on Union Bench and on August 21, 1888 a Mapleton ward was organized with Brother Whiting as its first Bishop.

In 1891 Lucius went to Mexico to escape prosecution for being a polygamist. He and his family stayed there eighteen months before they returned. When they returned Lucius resumed his job as bishop and reestablished his family here. Before he completed his activities, however, he was stricken with pneumonia and taken from this life. He left his family and many friends to mourn his loss. He was honored and loved by all who knew his pleasant thoughtful nature, and he was respected by those who opposed his religious beliefs.

He was Bishop of the Mapleton Ward at the time of his death which occurred February 19, 1896. He was fifty years old. His passing ended a career of usefulness and created a void in Mapleton's social and religious circles which was hard to fill. However, his record of service and hard work has given his family a legacy to be proud of.

## CHARLES LEONARD WHITING

boys that herded with him would earn about 15 cents per day. They drove the cows to Ether Mountain, East of Mapleton, watched them during the day, and brought them back to town at dusk. During the day while the cows grazed, Charles and the other boys would play around the hills. Charles gained a love for the hills from these early experiences.

Charles Whiting was the eighth of sixteen children born to Albert M. and Susannah Perry Whiting. He was born on January 21, 1886 at Mapleton. He was educated in the Little Red Schoolhouse and the North and Central schools through various stages of his childhood. When he was eight years old, he became a herd boy. He herded the cows for 2½ cents per cow. Charles and the other

A SHORT LIFE SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF FANNY  
JOHNSON WHITTING, AS WRITTEN BY HER GRANDSON,  
L. LAMAR WHITTING, SON OF LYMAN JOHNSON  
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My Grandmother, Fanny J. Whitting, became the mother of seven children born under the "Everlasting Covenant", namely: Morris Willton, born 5 October 1878 in Springville, Utah who died in infancy; Clara Isabelle, born 12 November 1880 in Springville, Utah; Francis Marion, born 7 November 1882 in Springville, Utah; Lyman Johnson, born 4 March 1885 in Mapleton, Utah; Bulsah, born 30 August 1887 in Mapleton, Utah; Lucy Exile, born 25 September 1890 in Spanish Fork, Utah; and Lucius Elmo, born 9 October 1892 in Springville, Utah.

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was a small boy, my grandfather moved my grandmother and her family to Juarez, Mexico to escape the harassment of the Federal Marshals.

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My Grandmother, Fanny, was a person who never complained or became discouraged. She always made the best of her situations. She loved the gospel and her husband and children.

Fanny and her family only lived in Mexico a short time, eighteen months, then returned to Mapleton, Utah where my grandfather had started to build two new homes for his two wives. He was a very fine carpenter and cabinet maker. He earned a living as a farmer and stockman and carpenter.

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In the year of October 1902 my grandmother married Phillip Houtz, a widower from Mapleton, and moved to Wallsbury for a few years, later moving back to Springville, where in 1915 they adopted a new born baby girl born 22 January 1915, and named her Ruth Houtz.

In the meantime, all of grandmother's family had married, with the exception of Elmo who was in World War I. Isabelle married Levi Manwaring 5 December 1900. Francis Marion married Mary Davis 21 June 1905. Lyman Johnson married Josephine Nuttall 21 June 1905. Bullah married George S. Perry 11 October 1911. Lucy Exile married Reuben J. Hewlett 16 September 1912.

In the year of 1918 we (Lyman and Jose and their three children) moved from Idaho to Provo, Utah where we could visit our Grandmother regularly. (Only five miles from Springville, where Grandmother lived.)

It was during these years that I really learned to love my grandmother. She was everything that a grandmother should be, kind, understanding, cheerful, loving and a very fine cook and home maker. I can remember going to her place (I was eleven years old when we moved to Provo) for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. I shall never forget her stuffed chickens, plum puddings and fruit cakes with all the trimmings.

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