

HATTIE GIBSON FOLLETT
1871-1948

Hattie Gibson's parents were William Moroni Gibson and Phebe Elizabeth Woolf. William Moroni Gibson was born at Ruskington, Lincolnshire, England, and his wife, Phebe was born at Salt Lake City, Utah. They were married 8 March 1860, in the Endowment House at Salt Lake City. Hattie was the 2nd of their 5 children and was born 28 Oct. 1871, at Hyde Park, Cache County, Utah. She had 3 sisters and one brother: Sarah Elizabeth, born 20 Feb. 1870, who married William Henry Follett; Carrie, born 10 Oct 1873, and married James Wright Morton; William Alfred, born 27 Dec. 1875, and married Nellie Ormond; Tracy, born 13 Jan. 1878, and married George S. Daines.

Hattie's father, William Moroni Gibson, married a second wife, Harriet Woolf, younger sister of his first wife, Phebe, 23 Nov 1874. There were 9 children born to this couple. He owned and operated a sawmill in Franklin Canyon. There were two homes that they occupied at different times. The sawmill burned down, & this instilled a great fear in Hattie that she never did overcome. In the autumn of 1880, while Phebe was visiting her parents in Hyde Park, Utah, the first house burned at Cherry Creek, so Phebe and her children stayed in Hyde Park to live with her parents until a home could be provided for them. They did not go back.

Sometime afterward, Phebe was permanently separated from William, but did not obtain a divorce.

This move into her parent's home with 5 children made quite a houseful and much extra work; therefore, Phebe and her family had to work hard. Hattie had to help herd cows and do house work. She attended school in Hyde Park and graduated from the 8th grade. She excelled in reading and loved good books. She served as secretary of the YLMIA in her early life. She and her sister, Carrie, sang at many socials when they were young girls. Hattie's best girl friend was Mary Daines Hyde (Bishop Charles G. Hyde's first wife and daughter of Bishop Robert Daines and Mary Ashcroft.)

Phebe's father, John Anthony Woolf, died one year after they came to live at the Woolf home. Phebe's brother, Andrew, who had never married, took over as the father. He helped with the family as if they were his own. He was very kind and generous to them.

Hattie was tall and slender, with a nice head of dark brown hair and blue eyes. Later on in life she became heavier: her peak was 164 pounds.

She was a member of the William Hyde Camp of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, and was secretary of this camp at one time. She was a Relief Society visiting teacher most of her married life & helped the poor, sick, & needy, & was generous to a fault.

Hattie married Frank Laban Follett, son of John and Sophronia Niles Follett, 19 Jan. 1893 in the Logan Temple. He was a brother to Wm. Henry Follett, who married her sister, Sarah. Hattie was just 3 months past 21 when she was married. At this time her hair was worn in a bob on top of her head. It was so long and thick she had to shampoo it often and it took a long time to dry. They lived in North Logan for a year, later homesteaded in Winder, Idaho, and moved to Hyde Park in 1896.

To this union were born 7 children: Grace Loret, born 7 Nov. 1893, at North Logan, Cache, Utah; a set of twins, Frank Laban and Florence Phebe, born 19 March 1898 at Hyde Park, Cache, Utah (Frank died the same day); a second set of twins, Ruth and Ruby, born 19 Aug. 1904; Niles, born 8 Nov. 1908, Hyde Park, Cache, Utah; and Delora born 25 Jan. 1911.

Hattie was proud to be the mother of 2 sets of twins, even though she lost the twin boy. She often said the 19th day of the month was her lucky day; her wedding day 19 Jan. 1893, her first set of twins were born 19 March 1898, and the second set of twins were born 19 Aug. 1904. Twins certainly ran in the Gibson family, as her sister, Tracy, had 2 sets of twins, her sister, Carrie, had a set of twins that died at birth, her sister, Sarah, didn't have twins but her daughter, Carrie, had twin daughters, and Carrie Gibson Morton's daughter, Gladys, had twin girls.

Besides being a good mother to her own children, Hattie tended other children. Her house was full all the time. She was an excellent cook, always cooking with the best of foods. She did not skimp, as she wanted her food to be the best. What she did not have at home, she would buy at the store. Besides cooking for those always in her home, she would carry food to the sick. They raised a good garden with raspberries, green-gage plums, strawberries, and a good supply of vegetables.

While Hattie's husband served an LDS mission in Iowa from 1905-1907, she was left alone with 4 children and the twins, Ruth and Ruby, were still very young. Frank's parents had lived in Iowa & he met many relatives there while on his mission which he enjoyed very much.

Hattie was very friendly with her mother-in-law, Sophronia Niles Follett, and her sister-in-law, Rosabel Follett Thurston, who were widows. She would invite them to Sunday dinner and serve chicken, rolls and such good food. She would have to kill the chicken, clean it, and prepare it well for cooking. Then they would go to sacrament meeting.

A player piano was owned by the Follett family and all the young people would gather to enjoy it for hours. They would sing and dance on the porch and pavement. One wonders how Hattie ever stood it all, but she was very patient & never said a word. She wanted them to have a good time.

The neighbor on the west of them was Harriet Beddingfield. She was a widow and her closest kin was her daughter in Rexburg, Idaho. Hattie was very kind to her until she passed away. This home was purchased by the Follett family. After Hattie's mother's death, Uncle Andrew was left alone, so he came to this little home to live. After his death, Hattie and her husband lived here, and both died here, as their son, Niles, lived in their bigger home.

Hattie passed away very peacefully on her couch of a heart attack 26 Nov. 1948, and was found by her sister, Sarah. Her death followed just 6 weeks and 2 days after her husband's death, 13 Oct. 1948. She was buried in the Hyde Park Cemetery.

Ruby Follett Balls, daughter

Typed into the computer by Kathleen Jardine Woolf 27 Oct. 2002 Idaho Falls, Idaho
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