CARRIE GIBSON MORTON
1873-1947

Carrie Gibson was born 10 Oct. 1873, at Hyde Park, Cache County, Utah, the 3rd of 5 children of William Moroni Gibson and Phebe Elizabeth Woolf. Her father was born 13 April 1848, at Ruskington, Lincolnshire, England, and her mother, Phebe, was born 23 Jan. 1851, in Salt Lake City. They were married 8 March 1869, in the Endowment House at Salt Lake City, Utah. From this marriage 5 children were born; Sarah Elizabeth born 20 Feb. 1870, Hattie born 26 Oct. 1871, Carrie born 10 Oct. 1873, William Alfred born 27 Dec. 1875, and Tracy born 13 Jan. 1878.

Carrie’s sisters, Sarah and Hattie, married brothers, William and Frank Follett. Her younger sister, Tracy, married George Daines, and her brother, William, married Nellie Ormond.

Carrie spent her early childhood in Hyde Park and Franklin, Idaho. She attended school in Hyde Park and graduated from the 8th grade. Her favorite subjects were History and Geography. In her later life she enjoyed reading very much, especially historical novels. Of all the books she read, her favorite was The Good Earth, by Pearl Buck, which she read and enjoyed many times.

When Carrie was one year old, her father, William Moroni, took her mother’s younger sister, Harriet, as his 2nd wife, and the 2 families lived in Franklin, Idaho. They lived in a 6 room white frame house, which later caught fire and burned down. Her father built and operated the first sawmill in that county. Maple Canyon (Franklin Canyon) was a beautiful place for the children to play, but was noted for its heavy snowfalls. In 1880 Phebe and her 5 young children moved back to Hyde Park to live with her mother and father, and her brother, Andrew Woolf.

Carrie’s grandfather, John Anthony Woolf, died about one year after they came to live at the old home and Andrew, who was a bachelor, took over as father of the children. He helped with the family as if they were his own. He was very kind and good to all of them. Phebe and Andrew and the children then moved to a home of their own. Carrie, with her two older sisters and her brother, helped with the milking of the cows and various other chores around the farm.

Carrie was a very religious girl and taught Sunday School. She and Hattie sang in the choir. Carrie was baptized when she was 8 years old (3 Nov. 1881). In her later life she was very active in Relief Society and was a member of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. She worked at Lee’s Mercantile Store until her marriage. Carrie was a tall, slender girl with medium brown hair, blue eyes and a very lovely complexion. She weighed 140 pounds at the time she married and was 22 years old.

Her younger sister, Tracy, was keeping company with George Daines. He was attending Utah State Agricultural College and one of his friends was James Wright Morton. He persuaded James to come to Hyde Park and meet Tracy’s sister, Carrie. They kept company for 1 year and were married in the Logan Temple 26 May 1896. Carrie’s wedding dress was ashes of roses (dusty rose) and had 12 yards of material in it. It was trimmed with braid & small seed pearls.

In June of 1896, James and 2 other young men were the first 3 students to graduate from the college. Carrie and James then moved to Wellsville, Utah, where he taught school for 2 years. Kenneth Wright Morton was born there 25 March 1897. James was a tall, slender man with wavy brown hair. Education was very important to him. He and his parents had worked hard and deprived themselves of many things so that he could attend college. James was a very good teacher, but didn’t have much patience with the older boys who didn’t care to study.
They then moved to Smithfield, where Gladys was born 10 Nov. 1900. James worked at the college dairy, grading and testing the milk from the college herd of cows. Gretta was born 22 Oct. 1903. By that time, they had moved to Hyde Park.

When Kenneth was 7 years old, he was kicked in the back of the neck by a horse. The doctor in Logan diagnosed it as a broken neck, and he was an invalid in bed for many months.

In 1905, the telephone was brought into the State of Utah and James was offered a position of manager in the northern part of the state, which included Richmond, Trenton, Lewiston, Cove, Cornish and Smithfield. The family moved to Richmond in 1906 and lived in the Carson home, later buying their own home in the northern part of town.

Wallace was born 23 March 1908. He was a fair, sandy-haired boy. When he was 13 months old, he passed away following surgery.

In 1911, James was transferred to Preston, Idaho. They lived there for 2 years and then returned to Richmond, where James went to work for the Sego Milk Co.

In 1917, James was sent to Galt, California, to help with the new milk factory that was being constructed. He and Kenneth left in July, while the rest of the family followed in September. Carrie’s health had been very poor for many years, and while in California she had a serious stomach operation at the White Hospital in Sacramento. Her recovery was very slow, in May 1918 it was decided that it would be best if she and the girls returned to their home in Richmond.

World War I was going on at this time. In August 1918 Kenneth was inducted into the Army and sent to Fort Lewis, Wash. A month later, the great flu epidemic was raging all over the United States. Carrie received a telegram from the War Dept. Stating that Kenneth was very ill with flu pneumonia. Carrie was known to worry about her family a great deal, but she was very brave at this time. She house cleaned each in her home while waiting to hear if Kenneth would recover from the illness that claimed so many lives.

Kenneth was sent to San Francisco Presidio when he was feeling stronger, then promptly came down with the mumps. The armistice was signed Nov. 1918 and he was discharged the following spring, at which time he went back to Galt to work for his father.

Carrie worked very hard while in Richmond trying to help with expenses. She knew that James would be paying for her operation for a long time. She bought 2 cows to milk, but in the winter it was very hard for her to do this. The following spring, she broke 3 ribs as she slipped off the north porch. At that time, James and Kenneth returned to Richmond and both worked at the Sego Milk Plant, where James was bookkeeper.

Carrie’s health improved somewhat and she and James took many short trips around Utah & Idaho. Life was easier for them both. They planted many roses and other flowers. Her rock garden was a thing of beauty. She arranged it so that she always had some flowers in bloom: tulips and daffodils in the spring, Madonna lilies and delphiniums in the summer, and zinnias and chrysanthemums in the fall. At this time, she devoted much time to temple work, going to Logan twice a week, both winter and summer. She pieced many quilts and quilted them in beautiful patterns. She gave them away as soon as she made them, as she did with her crocheted pillow cases.

She was a very generous person to her family and anyone else she felt was in need. The Navajo Indians used to come to Richmond for many summers and she would give them homemade bread, bottled fruit and clothing. Any hobo that came to her door was sure of receiving a handout. She always said, “You never know what circumstances caused this person
to be in need.”

She was a wonderful cook: her specialties included Parker House rolls, desserts and roast beef. She liked sweets very much, although they were not good for her, and at many family dinners she would have cake, pie and fruit salad at the same meal.

The Sego Milk plant closed in Richmond, so James went to work at the Naval Supply Depot in Ogden. He enjoyed the ride to work, always sitting on the sunny side of the car, as he enjoyed being in the sun. He was a quiet, gentle person. He was city recorder in Richmond for twenty years. James passed away 2 July 1944, from one of many heart attacks. He was buried in the Richmond Cemetery.

Following his death, Carrie went to Los Angeles & stayed with her daughter, Gladys, and her family. Gladys’ husband, Floyd Pilkington, would come home from work each day and say, “Come on, Grandma, let’s go for a ride.” How she did enjoy this: it was one of the highlights of her life. Although she missed James very much, she did enjoy her stay in California.

When she returned to Richmond, it was very lonely for her. She lived 2 more years then took seriously ill. She was in the Logan Hospital from September until November, at which time Kenneth took her to his home in American Fork, where his wife, LaRue, gave her wonderful care. She was in and out of the hospital there many times and passed away 21 April 1947, at the age of 73. She was buried in the Richmond Cemetery alongside James and her son, Wallace.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CARRIE’S MOTHER, PHEBE, AND HER CHILDREN

Phebe & her children had families which consisted mostly of girls. Phebe had 4 girls & one boy, thus setting the pattern:

Sarah had 4 girls and 2 boys, losing the youngest boy with rheumatic fever.
Hattie had 5 girls and 2 boys, losing one twin boy shortly after birth.
Carrie had 2 girls and 2 boys, losing the youngest boy following surgery.
Willie had 4 girls and 2 boys, losing the oldest boy at 3 weeks of age.
Tracy had 4 girls and 2 boys, and was the only one to raise both boys.

Phebe had 29 grandchildren-19 girls and 10 boys, losing 4 boys.

Of Phebe’s own children:

Tracy, the youngest, passed away first, 8 Jan. 1937, at age 59.
William, the next youngest, passed away 7 Nov. 1945, at age 70.
Carrie, the middle child, passed away 21 April 1947, at age 73.
Hattie, the next oldest, passed away 26 Nov. 1948, at 77.
Sarah, the oldest, passed away 24 Dec. 1949, at age 79.

Gretta Morton Jenson, Daughter

Typed into the computer 28 Oct. 2002 by Kathleen Jardine Woolf  Idaho Falls, Idaho
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