Susie Orilla Woolf came into the world as the 11th child of Absalom and Lucy Ann Hambleton Woolf 22 Sep. 1876, in the town of Hyde Park, Cache, Utah, where she lived a happy life as a child.

In the summertime, besides helping with the regular household duties, she took pleasure in knotting her own stockings for the winter, during which she enjoyed many trips to Logan on ice skates to visit with her married sister, Phebe England. As a young lady, she enjoyed singing, dancing, and various Church activities. Her family had heard a few stories about the once-popular horse and buggy dates, too. Because of her happy, fun-loving disposition, she always had many friends.

On 3 June 1896, she became the bride of Lawrence Morton, a handsome young man from Wellsville. The marriage ceremony was performed in the Logan Temple, followed by a reception at Hyde Park. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Iona, Idaho. Her husband was a traveling photographer, who also taught school. Their first son, Ilo, was born 23 Nov. 1897, but only lived a short 15 months, when he was stricken with pneumonia and died. Memories of him were long-treasured through his father’s photographs and his mother’s stories, one of which concerns his asking for “Micki (milk) in a blue cup.” This special blue hobnail glass cup is seen in many of his photographs. It was passed on by his mother to her first grandson, who was also named Ilo.

During the next 14 years the Morton family lived in Riverside, Idaho; Magrath, Alberta, Canada; LaGrande and Union, Oregon; and Rigby, Idaho. They were blessed with 7 more children: 2 boys-Whipple and Volney–and 5 girls–Ufa, Hazel, Wanda, Golda and Gwenna.

At the time of Gwenna’s birth, her father had started to build a photographic studio with living quarters above it in Rexburg, Idaho, where there was a college at which he hoped all of his children could get an education. This dream, however, was short-lived. When Gwenna was 6 months old, her father was caught in a late snowstorm on the first of April 1913, and he was forced to spend the night in the not completed building. Because of his exposure to the cold that night, he was stricken with pneumonia and on the 5 of April, he, too, “walked the Streets of Gold.” Their time together had been full and happy. With Lawrence’s talents as an artist and writer, the years with him had been filled with young people, Mutual plays, and much laughter. Susie Orilla’s love for him and her beautiful memories were great. Now, alone with her children, she assumed even greater responsibilities, and the next few years were hard ones.

She went to work as a practical nurse, and there was little money for “extras.” Just the same, their home was always full of love and laughter. Susie could always come up with a good story, a song, a jest, a poem or a game. When the family played “Hide the Thimble,” Gwenna, being the baby of the family, sometimes needed help and her mother always showed her the best places in which to hide that thimble. They both took great pride and pleasure in watching the older ones search for it.

In the large family sometimes there were quarrels. To restore order, their mother would start singing “Love One Another” or “Angry Words” and if that didn’t work, she was very handy with her “thimble pie.”

On 20 May 1916, Susie married Ralph H. Sargent. Together they had 2 sons, Ralph Myron and Arlo Erving, both of whom died in infancy. Ralph was hurt and bitter and had much
difficulty coping with the loss of his sons. When his work called him to Salt Lake City, a separation was agreed upon. Susie stayed in Rigby, until Gwenna was 9 years old, at which time they moved to Logan, Utah, where she worked as the Delta Nu Fraternity Mother.

In 1923 she married John Alma Carson, a widower from Richmond, where they then moved, and she lived there until 1930. By this time all her children were married and living in California except Gwenna. Due to crop failures and generally difficult times, the Carson farm was leased out and Susie took a job nursing in Logan.

After Mr. Carson’s death Susie moved to California, where she continued working as a practical nurse. Her life up to this time had not been an easy one. The hardships were many, but she never lost her keen sense of humor. She was always cheerful, and never complained on her troubles.

In her later years, she lived in Bell, Ca., in a house trailer purchased by her children. In the trailer court there were close fellowship between the neighbors, and all the little children knew her as “Grandma”. These last years were easy, happy ones for her. Even though she remained “independent”—a situation to her liking—her children and grandchildren were all close by. She lived in the trailer court until her death 21 Aug 1951.

In her patriarchal blessing it was said that she would be blessed with choice spirits (which she was), and that she would live to feed the hungry (which she certainly did). A short time after her death a little 5 year old boy in the trailer court died of a hemorrhage during tonsillectomy. His younger brother, comforted their mother by saying, “Don’t worry, Mama, ‘cause Grandma’s already in heaven and she’ll take care of Mike.” She was loved by all.

Gwenna Morton Haynes, daughter

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