

employed by the Utah General Depot in Ogden, Utah, and worked as the sexton of the Wellsville cemetery for seventeen years. He knew where every grave was located and on Memorial Day took pride in the condition of the lots. He was always available to the people when they needed to find certain graves. Ora retired at the age of 78. He died 7 May 1975 at age 86 and was buried in the Wellsville cemetery.



**Reuben Ora K. and Carrie L. Smith**

**CARRIE MARIE LARSEN SMITH**  
(1893-1969)

Carrie Marie Larsen Smith was born 14 October 1893 in Logan, Utah, the daughter of Jorgen "George" and Karen Marie Nielsen Larsen who were Danish immigrants. Her family moved to Wellsville, Utah, when she was very young and made a permanent home just west of the cemetery. Carrie was an active member of the LDS Church throughout her life.

Carrie married Ora Kilfoyle Smith 2 December 1914 in the Logan Temple, and they were the parents of six children: Margaret, Carrie Marie, Edith, Ora Louis, Donna, George. After her daughter Margaret died, she cared for Margaret's two boys, Charles and Gordon Bowcutt. She spent many years caring for the elderly, her father-in-law, her mother, and an elderly neighbor. She had a very sweet disposition and was generous to everyone. Anyone in trouble could always come to her door. She died 24 November 1969 at the age of 76 and is buried by her husband in the Wellsville cemetery.

**MARGARET ELLEN BROWN SMURTHWAITE**  
(1864-1956)

Margaret Ellen Brown Smurthwaite was born 17 October 1864 in Wellsville, Utah. "Maggie" as

she was known was the fifth child and the third of seven daughters born to Joshua and Sarah Bailey Brown. Sarah gave her girls and boys the desire to make fine homes. Besides being good housekeepers, all of the girls could sew, crochet, knit, make rugs and hats. "Maggie" prepared the straw which her older sister, Sarah Ann, wove into hats for all the family. She took turns helping with the outdoor chores when necessary. As a child, Maggie roamed the hills that surrounded her valley home, gathering wild flowers and picking shiny wild berries. She was a vivacious child and delighted in outdoor games with her family, her cousins, or friends. Maggie was called upon to give dramatic readings from early childhood and developed into a dramatic actress with great ability. She and Samuel B. Mitton became a popular team, performing skits and singing duets. She attended the local schools and at the age of fifteen was admitted to the Brigham Young College, at Logan, Utah, from which she graduated and became a school teacher. Maggie taught school in Wellsville for ten years. 467

In the early evening of April 30, 1889, Maggie was walking home from a rehearsal for the May Day celebration in which she was to be queen. As she passed the Pioneer Hotel, two men were standing on the corner talking. She heard one of them, Alfred Smurthwaite, say, "I'm going to marry that girl." Maggie laughed, ignored the remark, and hurried on home. They were married in the Logan Temple, 25 June 1890, and became the parents of five daughters and four sons. Alf was born 4 May 1867 in Manchester, England, the son of John and Ellenor Smith Smurthwaite. While Alf served on a mission to England after their marriage, Maggie continued to teach school, but after his return she retired from teaching. 160  
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She was thirty-five years old when she began to lose her hearing. Her deafness became gradually worse as time went on, but she continued to teach in the church organizations until she was unable to hear distinctly enough to follow the discussions. Maggie and Alf moved their family to Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1918.

During the Centennial year, 1947, when Maggie was in her eighty-third year, she was invited on a number of occasions to give readings. This she did gladly, still responding with dramatic power and sincerity. She died almost in the twinkling of an eye on 23 October 1956 and was

brought back to her native Wellsville to be buried beside her husband and two children. Alfred died 31 March 1932.



Esther  
Jenkins  
Allen  
Sorensen

ESTHER JENKINS ALLEN SORENSEN  
(1881-1916)

Esther Jenkins Allen Sorensen was born 27 December 1881 at Wellsville, Utah, the first child in a family of eight children of James Sneddon and Esther Jenkins Allen. Her natural talents in music surfaced early in her life, and her parents made every effort to give her the training that she needed. Esther's father taught her the fundamentals of the organ in their own home where the organ occupied a prominent place in the "big room." Esther attended school in Wellsville and then went on to the BYC in Logan, Utah. She taught school in Wellsville and Logan; and while she taught, she helped her sister Mary financially to get her teaching certificate. They helped their brothers so they could get an education. Esther spent many hours playing the piano while the May Pole was being braided for the annual May Day Celebration. She also served as the organist for many of the ward meetings. Esther played the organ at the dedication of the Wellsville Tabernacle. Whenever anyone needed music transposed, they came to Esther or her brother James who were able to make the transition with ease.

Esther married Nephi Sorensen on 24 June 1909 in the Logan Temple. They moved to Mendon, Utah, and then to Plymouth, Utah. To them were born three children: Edna, Vella, and a still-born baby. Esther lost her life during its birth on 29 December 1916. Esther was buried with the baby in her arms in the Mendon cemetery.

ALEXANDER DUNKERLY SPENCE  
(1887-1965)

Alexander Dunkerly Spence was born 2

February 1887 in Wellsville, Utah, the son of Alexander Morrison and Hannah Dunkerly Spence. His mother passed away when he was thirteen years old, leaving him pretty much on his own. Alexander married Lessie Lucille Squires 18 December 1912 in the Logan Temple and to this marriage came four sons and one daughter.

He received his schooling in a little rock schoolhouse that stood at about 174 East Second North, Wellsville. He was a hard worker and was involved in many different types of employment so he could provide for his family. He had a small farm that he worked in the "Brush Pile Area," cutting and harvesting the grain by horse power. All the farming and transportation was accomplished by horses. When the railroad came to Wellsville, he was employed with his team of horses and scraper in building the grade from Mendon to Hyrum, Utah. This was accomplished during the extreme cold weather of the winter. He helped with the installation of the original water and sewer systems of the city.

Alexander worked for the Hansen Dairy. He would haul cheese and butter by wagon to Mendon to be shipped out on the railroad to Logan, Utah. Sometimes the roads through College Ward, Utah, were so muddy and bad that they had to go through Hyrum to get to Logan. He worked many years as a section hand on the railroad for the OSL at Wellsville. He was also employed for about ten years for the State Road Commission of Utah. He worked for the Morning Milk and Carnation Companies in Wellsville. After retirement, he was custodian of the Wellsville Theatre, helping sell tickets and maintaining order. He knew the name of every child who came to the theatre. He had such a kind, gentle manner that the children all loved him.

Alexander died at his home 2 May 1965 and is buried in the Wellsville cemetery.

LESSIE LUCILLE SQUIRES SPENCE  
(1894-1971)

Lessie Lucille Squires Spence was born 31 March 1894 in Hyrum, Utah, the daughter of William Augustus and Jensine Christena Jensen Squires. Her early life was spent in Hyrum. At the age of eighteen, she met and married Alexander Dunkerly Spence in the Logan Temple 18 December 1912. They made their home in Wellsville where she spent the rest of her life.

Her mother passed away when she was sixteen