

Maggie Wride Hand



Margaret (Maggie) Wride (Hand)
about the time of her marriage, or soon after—1894
Age 25

Margaret Wride

1869-1910

A biographical sketch

by

W. Thoms Wride, a grand-nephew

Margaret Wride, known by her family and friends as Maggie, was born July 25, 1869. Twenty two years and one day after Brigham Young and the first company of pioneers arrived in the valley of the Great Salt Lake. Maggie was the third child of Barry and Hannah Selman Wride of Payson, Utah County, Utah. The year 1869 was a busy year in Payson with many new pioneers moving into the valley—mostly from Europe. Others were also leaving, such as Daniel Stark and others from Utah Valley, who had been called by Brigham Young to the Muddy Mission in Southern Utah.

Maggie was welcomed into the family by older sister Annie Jane, who was five at the time and older brother Lewis, who was six and approaching seven. She was followed by Hannah a couple of years later, then George who joined the family three years after that. By the time her youngest sister, Minnie Nettie was born Maggie was seven and a half years old. Francis was born two and a half years later, but didn't live to his second birthday.

In 1877 the family enjoyed their newest little sister and helped their mother a great deal with the household chores as well as caring for Minnie Nettie. The Wride home was one of learning, working and having fun in an atmosphere of love. During the summer months the children had chores around the house, yard, fields and orchards. Sundays were strictly days of worship and rest, however the children did manage to get some play time. The children looked forward to the summer holidays to participate in and watch the parades and other events at the city park and community. The band concerts on warm summer evenings were also fun to attend. Winter was also a fun time for the children with a grand sleigh riding hill just east of their home, which was located on the corner of Fifth East and Utah Avenue, at the west base of the hill where the Peteetneet School was later built.

The family also enjoyed the close association with relatives. The Selman family lived right behind the Wride home on the next street south. The two homes were back to back and easily accessible due to the adjoining street at the east of the two properties. This was the family of Charles and Ann Selman. Charles was Hannah Wride's brother. Maggie was named after her grand mother Margaret Selman, who migrated from Wales in 1866 with her son Mormon. She lived in that house with her family until her death in 1886. Annie and Maggie often stayed at the Selman home to care for Grandma Margaret before her death.

Barry Wride, Maggie's father, was a prominent citizen of Payson holding various political positions over the years, as well as many years on the school board. His interest in a good educational opportunity for the young people of the community held him in this position longer than most others of his peers.

Maggie's mother taught her, Annie and Minnie Nettie to sew, knit, quilt, cook, launder and all the common household chores of the times. Most of their clothes were made at home and with their garden and farm the family was provided with the necessities of life.

August 2, 1877 was an important day in the life of young Maggie Wride—she was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She felt important and enjoyed the warm feeling of the spirit which she was blessed with. She had renewed interest and determination to help her parents, obey the teachings of the Church and the Gospel.

She continued to grow in knowledge as a school girl and enjoyed the companionship of other girls in the neighborhood and community, as well as the strength that comes from wonderful lessons learned in the home from loving parents and siblings. As she progressed into womanhood through her experiences at home, school, church and community she completed her secondary education at Payson High School.

Through the summer of 1889 Maggie worked at what jobs she could find to save some money for her much anticipated enrollment at Brigham Young Academy in Provo for the fall term. By the first of August she was becoming quite excited in her preparation for moving to Provo. As school started the 5th of August 1889 Maggie was beginning classes and boarding at the home of the Stubbs family in the Provo First Ward. She enjoyed meeting and mingling with students from all over the county and state. She did well in school and found pleasure in social and church activities. As the term ended on December 20th she was excited about going home for the holidays. Christmas was her favorite holiday and it was especially enjoyable this year after being away from home since August—the longest time she had ever been gone from home and family. The time slipped by so quickly, with school starting on January 6th it seemed like she had never been home at all. Maggie was glad to see her school mates she had met the previous term and hear their adventures of the holidays. She was enrolled in the Normal College which taught “daily instructions regarding methods of teaching, rules of discipline, catechization, drawing up daily programs, devising plans of studies for schools, grading and handling of text-books, and keeping records.” “The Academy, being the recognized Normal College of the Church School Organization, its course of Normal training has been recognized to

meet the wants of the Church School Service as set forth in General Circular No. 4.”

By the end of the second term on May 23, 1890 Maggie was ready to go home for a break. The health of Maggie’s mother was failing and her father needed her help around the house. It was not an easy summer for Maggie taking over the many chores usually done by her mother. By the time August rolled around Maggie was persuaded to remain at home to help out with her many new found responsibilities. Things didn’t change much over the next year, her mother’s health continued to decline until death came on December 29, 1891. Though her general health was failing, the cause of death was said to be a ruptured appendix. At this time, older brother Lewis, who had married in 1887 was on a mission in Wales. Maggie likely stayed close to home over the next year or so, helping her father and doing odd jobs at home or in town for spending money.

It was likely at a summer band concert or a church dance possibly as early as 1893 that Maggie first came in contact with and met the young man from Benjamin named Hyrum Hand. He had come from England less than ten years earlier and was living with his brother George. A biographical sketch of Hyrum’s life by his son Wayland describes this event and what unfolded, as follows: “Hyrum met and courted Maggie Wride of Payson, daughter of Barry Wride, and finally asked for her hand in marriage. When Grandfather Wride, a man of some means, asked the young fellow from Benjamin whether he thought he could, in the parlance of the day, ‘provide for Maggie in a manner to which she had become accustomed,’ Hyrum , never at a loss for words, said that he was not sure, but that he was not afraid to work. These preliminaries over with, Hyrum and Maggie were married on Wednesday, December 19, 1894 in the Salt Lake Temple, with Apostle John R. Winder officiating.” A dinner/reception was held at the residence of Maggie’s father on the Tuesday following their marriage at the Salt Lake Temple—Christmas Day December 25, 1894. It’s easy to imagine that Lewis & Harriet, other close relatives, and sisters of the Relief Society all teamed together to spread a beautiful table for this dinner and “open house” being held to honor the wedding of these two young people. Though Barry Wride’s tastes with regard to food were basic and simple he enjoyed a good meal and there would have been an abundance of good meat, potatoes and vegetables available for such a celebration. There was also enough talent available to have had a beautiful wedding cake or similar baked goods to sweeten the occasion and fill the guests to a mutual satisfaction.

(See copy of the announcement for this reception, following this biographic sketch)

Hyrum was born in the picturesque town of Sutton Bonington, Nottinghamshire, England on September 15, 1866. His parents, James and Sarah Simpkin Hand and

five siblings died in 1872 from the ravages of consumption after some local flooding in their community. George, the oldest brother, left for America in 1865 according to the plan of the parents to get the whole family to the “new land.” With the family being separated after the death of their parents, Hyrum went to live with uncle “Charlie” Chadburn and Aunt Alice. While with them he was sent to the stocking looms at a young age, receiving little formal education. He took an active part in the life of the village and was a good Cricketer, playing on the village team. When he became fourteen years of age he went to North Anston, Yorkshire to live with his uncle Philip Hand, a portly and jovial man. It was here that he first came in contact with the Mormon Church. He remembered well the thrill that came over him as uncle Philip told him the story of Joseph Smith. Though he accepted the doctrine and beliefs of the Church, he wasn’t baptized until after he had emigrated to Benjamin, Utah County, Utah in September 1884. He was baptized July 25, 1885 by brother John Hawkins. Hyrum worked in the Benjamin area as a farmhand and later as a chain carrier on a surveying crew.

After their marriage, the Wride home was open for the newlyweds to reside. A few months before the wedding Maggie’s brother George started teaching school and the only other sibling remaining at home was Minnie Nettie who was seventeen at the time. Maggie’s mother having died three years earlier, Barry enjoyed the help around the house that Maggie offered. By the time summer arrived Maggie was expecting her first child and she and Hyrum determined that should find their own home before the baby arrived.

Maggie and Hyrum found a nice little cottage in Benjamin they could rent and still be close to their relatives. They weren’t established long when a baby girl arrived and filled their lives with the challenges and joy of starting a family. They named her Margaret Anita and she was born on October 5, 1895. It soon became apparent that child-bearing was taking a toll on Maggie’s body—her health and strength became fragile. An extra burden was added to Maggie on October 15, 1896 when Hyrum left for a mission call to the British Isles. By the time Hyrum returned from his mission in 1899 Anita was helping her mother a great deal. Hyrum began working with his brother Joe at the Benjamin brickyard. Their second child Hannah was born January 6, 1901 in Payson, where Maggie was able to get more help and attention.

Hyrum’s work with Joe at the brickyards seemed to have good prospects so they formed a partnership and both worked very hard to make the business successful. It was reportedly the only facility of its kind in Utah County. The third daughter was welcomed into the family on February 21, 1903—she was named Theodora and was born at Benjamin in the their home. Tragedy came to the family a short time later

when on May 23, 1903 little Hannah drowned in an irrigation canal at Benjamin—she was only two years and four months old.

The work at the brickyard was physically taxing on Hyrum and the worries of ownership began to effect his health as the profitability of the business started to look doubtful. By 1906 failing health and great discouragement forced Hyrum to move his young family to New Zealand where he was convinced he would find better economic and social opportunities. They arrived at San Francisco for their departure to the southern hemisphere shortly after the great earthquake. The ravages of this destructive event were evident over the entire city.

Their experiences in New Zealand were nothing like Hyrum had anticipated. During this period Anita developed a great dislike for her father—feeling abandoned as he was proselyting for the Church and pursuing his socialistic ideas. The family was left without support and comfort. During this difficult time their first son was born in Auckland on March 19, 1907—he was named Wayland. Anita, being strong of body and spirit, took a major role in caring for her mother and siblings during this challenging time in their lives.

By 1908 Hyrum was discouraged with the events of his New Zealand experience and decided to return to the Americas. They arrived at Vancouver, BC late in 1908. They had likely communicated with and received permission to join the George Wride family (Maggie's older brother) at their farm in Alberta. They made their way to Raymond, Alberta and stayed with George at his homestead and farm. Hyrum labored in the community and on the farm but the prospects of establishing his family with suitable accommodations were began to look doubtful.

Maggie was still suffering from ill-health and the Alberta winter was not easy for her. Sensing an urgency with her deteriorating condition the family decided to return to Utah. Early in February of 1910 they departed for their homeland of Payson and stayed with Maggie's father in the Lewis and Harriet Wride, where Barry was living at that time. Within a few days of their return Maggie died in Payson on February 13, 1910.

Anita, still harboring tender feelings for her mother and not being so close with her father, left home soon after her mother's death. She relocated in Salt Lake City and took up working and studying to be a nurse at the old County Hospital at 21st South and State Street. By 1915 she enlisted in the Army as a nurse and participated in World War I. She returned to the Salt Lake area and married Cornelius Richards Doremus on January 27, 1919.

Hyrum was very discouraged with the death of his beloved Maggie and due to some illness and unemployment he arranged to have Theodora and Wayland go live with a "Good Samaritan" by the name of Maude Roskelly in Smithfield, Utah. Hyrum then moved to Salt Lake City looking for work. Thinking a new marriage would help him start over he married Johanna Elzinga on February 1, 1911. Hyrum soon re-established a home on Green Street in the Forest Dale area of the Salt Lake valley and was reunited with Theodora and Wayland.

Theodora followed her sister's pathway into nursing and Wayland went to the University of Utah and after much education and travels he became a renowned professor of German and folklore at UCLA in southern California.

When Theodora died in California her brother, Wayland made the necessary arrangements to bring her body back to Utah. They had grave-side services at the "Mound" in Benjamin just north of Payson. Many family members and friends attended. Wayland contacted many of the Wride relatives and was quite firm in his insistence that they be at the services at the Benjamin cemetery.