

Minnie Nettie Wride Perkins

Minnie Nettie Wride Perkins

"In the prime of her life"



Minnie Nettie Wride

1877-1962

A Biography

Compiled from notes from her diary and a brief history written by

Avard Wilson, her grandson

Edited by W. Thomas Wride

Minnie Nettie was born on 23 Jan 1877, and was the sixth child of this Welch emigrant family living in Payson, Utah. Her father, Barry Wride and mother, Hannah Selman, were married by Church Apostle, C.C. Rich, at Liverpool, England, just prior to their departure for America in 1861. They traveled from Liverpool, England accompanied by Barry's oldest sister, Mary and her husband David John, and Barry's younger sister Ann. Minnie Nettie was preceded by two brothers, Lewis William Barry and George Thomas and three sisters, Annie Jane, Margaret and Hannah Sophia. Her father, Barry was a prominent man in the community in both the Church and civic affairs. He was treasurer of the school board as well as a director of one of the local banks. He also served as constable and sexton of the cemetery in Payson City. He was noted for his good judgement and record-keeping abilities. Because of this he was often called to be a clerk or note taker for many gatherings. The family was sustained by their farm, orchards and livestock. Barry was a good judge of livestock, which he learned from his father in South Wales.

Though Minnie Nettie doesn't record it, she was involved in the busy and hard work of chores around the house and farm yard. She learned to sew and mend clothing, clean the house, wash the clothing and bedding, bottle and dry fruit and berries from the farm. She also was taught many skills in the kitchen by her mother, who was well known in the neighborhood for her many fine dishes. Feeding the chickens and gathering the eggs, along with milking cows and churning butter were standard chores of the Wride children. She did state in her diary upon returning home from attending AC, (the Utah State Agricultural College in Logan): "I thought I knew it all because I had learned to cook." She no doubt had picked up many new techniques, though she must have learned some basic kitchen skills while growing up at home.

Minnie's childhood passed by with the usual small-town activities that would happen in Payson. Hot summer days would have been spent by playing with friends in the shady parts of the yard, after the daily chores were done, or on special events they all could be found at the city park with most of the residents of the city, along with some visitors from out-of-town. It was almost standard procedure for the residents of Payson to go the city park in the evenings on the weekend and listen to the "band concert" and visit with friends and neighbors. During the school term and winter months, much time would have been spent in the kitchen, near the wood-burning stove helping with chores, doing school work, or keeping warm while knitting or mending clothes.

Avard Wilson, a grandson of Minnie Nettie who had the opportunity of having Minnie Nettie live in his home during his youth, and Minnie's later years, recalls that she had told him of an incident that happened during her youth wherein she had been struck by lightning, or was standing in an area where lightning hit, and was knocked unconscious for a period of time. She made a satisfactory recovery, but indicated, that from that time, she had a great fear of thunder

and lightning.

Minnie stated in her diary, "My early life and activity is not clear or hardly worth mentioning." She also recorded that her mother died when she was thirteen, and states in her diary, "My sister, Maggie took charge of the home. Father was working and kept the home supplied with the things necessary. Missed my mother greatly." Other records indicate that Hannah Selman Wride died 29 Dec 1861, which would have made Minnie Nettie fourteen years of age at the time. She recorded that after graduating from Payson High School she went to Logan to attend the Utah Agricultural College in 1893. She also indicated that, "Nellie Page was sort of my guardian, she being much older." She recorded that when she came home from the A.C., after one year she spent one year at home. Then she records, "father decided to send me to Provo to Brigham Young Academy. Lived with Aunt Mary John, Father's sister, and the last few months with Mary Jane Cluff." This was a rather common procedure for many of the Wride children and grand children to go off to Provo for higher education and to stay with the relatives while there. Minnie also followed the same path as many other Wrides in obtaining a liberal arts education in preparation for a teaching career. Upon her graduation from the Brigham Young Academy in 1898 she received an offer to teach school in Monroe, Sevier County. She accepted the offer and moved to Monroe, where she taught school for two years.

When she returned home to Payson in the summer of 1900 she found that her father had remarried and it wasn't convenient for her to live with her father any longer. Minnie moved on to Salt Lake City for a brief stay before proceeding on to Montpelier, Idaho, where she continued her teaching career. She met and fell in love with a handsome young man by the name of John Francis Perkins [he was actually a year and a half younger than Minnie Nettie]. They were married 18 Dec 1901. Some time after their marriage she returned to Payson for the birth of her first child. John Wride Perkins was born September 13, 1902. Waiting a short time for her new baby to grow a little and get some strength, she returned to Montpelier, Idaho in October. She recorded that at that time she was happy.

Nothing is mentioned about her activities for the next several years, however this must have been an enjoyable time in her life, for this is when all of her children were born. Though it is not written we know that Minnie Nettie and John were active in their ward and attended many church and community gatherings. The next addition to their family was a baby girl born on the 16th of December, 1903, and she was named Gwendolyn Wride Perkins. Now with two little ones to look after Minnie Nettie became busier and more limited from activities outside the home. They were soon blessed with another boy on September 22, 1905 whom they named Culver. Now with three youngsters, Minnie Nettie was even more restricted from getting out of the home and about town. Almost on their established two-year schedule, their fourth child was born on February 7, 1907. This little boy was named Dean Bunney Perkins. Again, nearly two years to the month, a fifth child was born to the Perkins family. Another boy, whom they named Louis Barry Perkins, was born on January 15, 1909. This was to be their last child, for before the end on that year, her beloved John Francis Perkins passed away. Having been married less than ten years, which Minnie Nettie often mentioned, John died on September 24, 1909. Minnie's grandson, Avard Wilson, recalls that Grandma Minnie told him that John Francis had come home from a fishing trip, where he took a "chill"--he was cold and weak and never recovered.

About this time Minnie's niece, Beatrice **Eloise** Wride, daughter of Minnie's brother Lewis, came to Montpelier to help Minnie. The following is taken from **RECOLLECTIONS, by BEATRICE ELOISE WRIDE SWENSEN--February 5, 1973:**

"My father's sister, Minnie Perkins, lived in Montpelier, Idaho. Her husband died and left her with 5 small children. At the time, her father (my grandfather) [Barry Wride] was living with her and her family. After her husband was buried, she and her family, and her father came to Payson and spent the winter with us. This increased our family numbers by seven--making a large group, with several small children. It was a cold, snowy winter and the clothes would freeze on the lines and would have to be brought inside to be thawed around the stoves."

"When Spring came, my aunt [Minnie] and her family decided to return to their home and my father [Lewis] went back with her to help her get settled. This was a hard trip, as my father was sick all the way back on the train, but they finally arrived and got settled. The next Fall, my aunt Minnie was offered a job teaching school, as she had taught before, so she took the position, hiring a lady to care for the children."

"The next year, my aunt wrote and asked if I would come to Idaho and take care of her children while she taught [school], which I did--arriving in Montpelier on September 8, 1911 [Eloise being eighteen years old at the time]. I had never been away from my family for such a long period of time; I especially missed my mother and father, so I spent many homesick hours. The worst time was at Christmas time. But as time went on, I found nice friends and got along quite well. When school was out, in the Spring, I went back home and was happy to be with my folks again. The next Fall, I again went back to Idaho and cared for the children while my aunt taught school; we became good pals and had many happy times together."

"During my absence from Idaho, a neighbor of my aunt had returned from a mission in Norway and after arriving back in Montpelier, I had the opportunity of meeting him and knowing him. This was the beginning of a wonderful relationship which terminated [progressed] in [into] our marriage in the temple, in Salt Lake City, Utah, [on] May 18, 1916."

"After a vacation for a few days, we left for our home in Montpelier, which Lorenzo had bought from his grandmother; it was one of the first houses built in Montpelier. It was a log home...."

This account written by Eloise Swensen gives some insight into the life of Minnie after her husband died. It is likely that after the Summer of 1916, when the school year began, that Eloise continued to help with the children as needed.

The next chronological account we find comes from the diary of Minnie as follows: "Nine years later [June 1, 1919] I lost my boy, Culver. He was just thirteen. This nearly used me up. That Fall I sold out in Montpelier (Idaho) and move to Payson (Utah)."

Jack, (John Wride Perkins), Minnie's oldest boy, Married Iona Wilson on May 25, 1921. Minnie started teaching school in Payson. There was a teaching position open at the elementary school in Payson during the year. The former teacher had used the willow for punishing misbehavior. When Minnie entered her classroom she put the willows in the trash can. It was a third grade

class with some active boys. By giving special assignment responsibilities and attention to the former misbehaving boys, she won them over and had several parents give her thanks for the better change in their children.

Comment by Avard Wilson

“My mother, Gwendolyn Perkins Wilson, told me that Minnie and the children, Dean, Louis and Gwendolyn, lived in the Douglas Building, in a second floor apartment. This building was located on Main Street in Payson, at the northwest crossing of Utah Avenue. This building later became a drug store and bakery.”

Minnie’s daughter, Gwendolyn, married Howard Wilson on June 30, 1926. Howard and Gwendolyn lived in Dividend, Utah [which is on the east side of the Tintic Mining District], for one year where Howard taught school. After one year, in 1927, they moved back to Payson. About this time Minnie came to live with her daughter, Gwendolyn and family. Dean Perkins had married Madge [Hazel] Cannon sometime in 1926. Louis, Minnie’s youngest son, went into professional baseball, and at times would come to live at Payson, with his mother and Minnie at the Howard Wilson home.

Comment by Avard Wilson

“At my earliest recollection, which is about 1935, I would have been a preschool child, Minnie was a member of our household at 189 North First East, Payson, Utah. Minnie was teaching at the Taylor Elementary School in Payson. She helped me and taught me many things, fulfilling a child’s needs and activities--riding a tricycle, roller skating, picking fruit in our orchard, gathering eggs from the chicken’s nests in our coups, etc. Grandmother was a great joy to have in our home--she could recite from memory very long ballads and narrative poems. As a boy, some of these recitals seemed to be ten minutes long or longer. Most of her poems had a strong message for better living--good examples. While in our home, Minnie attended most Church meetings, being an active member with various Ward assignments such as visiting teacher, Relief Society Instructor, etc. Minnie had a testimony of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the restoration of His Church through the prophet, Joseph Smith. She was ever ready and did counsel her children and grandchildren on being true to the principles of the Gospel.

She was a great example of hard work--she could milk a cow and plant, weed and harvest a garden. She bottled and dried fruit and vegetables from our garden and orchard both as an example to us and to help the family effort. My first grade of schooling was at the Taylor Elementary School. Minnie and I would walk to school together in the mornings. She taught the Third Grade. Minnie’s son in law [my father], Howard Wilson died in 1938. Minnie continued to live with her daughter [my mother], Gwendolyn and children at Payson.”

Minnie’s son, Louis, had married Dorothy Jensen on September 29, 1934. Louis and his family rented a home in Payson, but eventually moved to McGill, Nevada. Her other surviving son, Dean, lived in Grass Valley, California. Her sons often came to visit her in Payson, and she in turn made a few summer visits to their homes. She also paid a few visits to Montpelier, Idaho to see family and friends.

Minnie retired from school teaching in 1940 at the age of sixty three. Minnie had many very

good friends, and was especially close to Jane Manwell and Cora Page. There were also several former faculty ladies she had taught with in the public schools, she considered good friends.

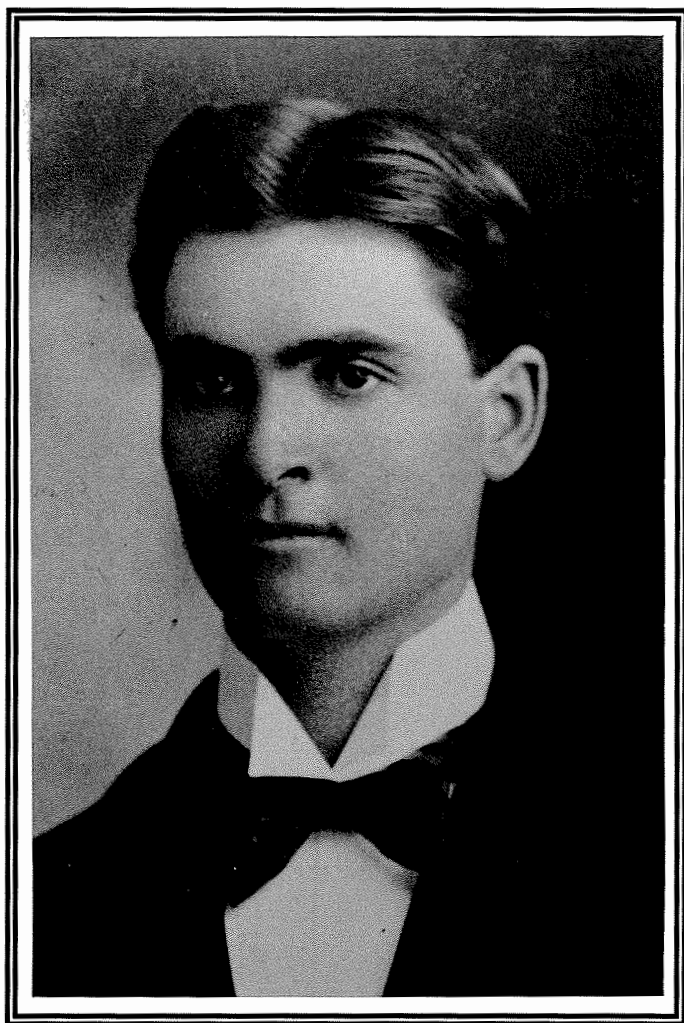
Minnie helped more and more with the home responsibilities at this time because of the poor health of Gwendolyn. Gwendolyn died in 1944 and her two sons, Avarad and Howard continued to live at home with their grandmother, Minnie. At that time Avarad was eleven years old and Howard was fifteen. Later, acting as Trust of the Estate of Minnie Perkins, the bank sold the Perkins home and Avarad went to live with his Uncle, Stanley Wilson of Payson, and Howard went to live with the O. D. Merrill family in Salt Lake City. Minnie went to live with a widowed daughter-in-law, Iona Perkins. Iona was the wife of Jack (John Wride) Perkins, who had died in 1932 at Payson.

About 1946 Minnie married an old school friend, named Charles H. White of Payson. They lived in Provo, where Charles had received an appointment as supervisor of the buildings and grounds at the Utah County Court House at Provo, Utah. Charles and Minnie lived at a home on the court house grounds during the time of this appointment. His work for Utah County was during the time period of 1947-49.

Minnie and Charles bought Minnie's old family home at 488 East Utah Avenue in Payson. They remodeled the home and lived there. Charles H. White died in the Summer of 1958. Louis Perkins of McGill, Nevada was Minnie's sole surviving child. He helped Minnie eventually move to a senior care home east of Payson, where she died April 5, 1962.

At her funeral service it was said of her, that she was true to the principles of the Lord's Gospel, and a model of love, friendship, honesty and charity. She was buried at the Payson cemetery.

John & Minnie Perkins
abt 1901



John Francis Perkins
Electrician
1879-1909



Minnie Nettie Wride Perkins
Devoted wife & mother
1877-1962