

A Short History of My Parents

By
Vernessa Young Reynolds

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As I endeavor to write a history of my parents I regret very much that there is so little I remember hearing of their earlier lives and so much I have forgotten of the early years of my life with them. Although we had little of the material things of life the examples my parents set for us were priceless and I will always be so grateful for that.¹

Newel K. Young

Newel Knight Young was born August 21, 1877, in Orderville, Kane County, Utah to John Ray Young and Lydia Knight Young.

Newel's father, "John R." had been sent to Orderville by President Brigham Young to establish a branch of the United Order for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He had taken Newel's mother Lydia there (as well as his other two wives, Albina Terry and Tamar Black Young, and their children), where they all worked faithfully until the "Order" was discontinued. It was while there in Orderville that Newel's two younger brothers were born.²

Sometime after leaving Orderville the family moved to Mexico and it was there that Newel spent most of his boyhood days. His father had purchased a home in Colonia Dublan for his mother.

Newel obtained the best education that was possible at that time and when twenty one years of age he started teaching school. He was a "born teacher" and followed that profession for over forty-five years -- attending summer and night schools most of that time to improve his teaching skills. He taught in the Mormon colonies in Mexico, in Loa, Wayne County, Utah, at the LDS High School in Salt Lake City, and in seminaries in several Utah communities including Mount Pleasant, Murray, Ephraim, Moroni, Richfield, Brigham City, Logan, and Provo.

1 These words were written by my mother, Vernessa Young Reynolds, in the early months of 1978 in response to a request by her cousin, Golden Buchanan, who was compiling a family genealogy work on the life and families of his pioneer and polygamist grandfather, Archibald Waller Overton Buchanan. Golden completed his work on time but mother missed her deadline, and the few words she put together were never published, except by a copy machine. Although she worked for over twenty years in the Salt Lake County Assessor's office doing meticulous and exacting grunt work on property deeds and extracts, mother found it unusually difficult to write her family history. It was not that she couldn't and didn't want to, but the demands of her full time job, a spoiled husband, some serious health issues, a lovely home, and those darn "tidy clean" genes inherited from her mother, Tina, just demanded all of her time. Her life passed much too quickly, considering all she had to offer and gave to us -- Robert N. Reynolds

2 Howard Spencer Young was born in Orderville on 30 October 1880, and Edward Webb Young was born on 24 May 1882.

Dad had the love, confidence, and respect of many in the teaching profession as well as hundreds of the young people who were his students and friends. He was a wonderful father to his nineteen children, struggling endlessly to support and provide for them on his meager teacher's salary -- always understanding and patient with their faults and mistakes. A more loving father never lived. He suffered much but never complained; always so full of vitality, energy, enthusiasm and warm concern and affection for others, he truly believed as the Savior taught, "In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto me." He always took the time to listen and lend a helping hand and an understanding heart to those who were lonely and in need of a friend.

Newel K. Young died on the 15th of August 1956 at the age of 79 and was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

Castina Maria Buchanan

Although it has been over thirty years since Mother passed away I still remember her sparkling brown eyes, her beautiful golden brown hair and the beautiful smile of encouragement she always had for us. She had such pride and love for her children, and how she loved her grandchildren! It was always so much fun to take our small children home to see their grandparents and to see the love that existed between them.

You never left Mother's home hungry. She was such a good cook, especially her bread, rolls and pies. Owen always said her bread tasted better than cake, and that's really saying something because Owen loves cake. She kept a beautiful home, always spotlessly clean and she taught her children the value of work. She believed that we should all have our special tasks to perform each day and she believed that anything worth doing at all was worth doing well. Many times a task had to be done over before it passed inspection. She taught us that cleanliness is next to godliness not only in keeping our home and surroundings clean but also our bodies and minds. She had a firm testimony of the Gospel and lived the principles as faithfully as anyone could. She taught us as children the importance of prayer, paying our tithing, and always being fair and honest in our dealings with others. She was truly a wonderful Mother!

Castina Maria Buchanan was born in Glenwood, Sevier County, Utah on 16 October 1876, The third child of Archibald Waller Overton Buchanan and Anne Maria Larsen. Her mother had seven children and being the oldest daughter, Tina was a big help to her mother in caring for her younger brothers and sisters. The life of a polygamist family was not easy and they all had to work hard to help make a living for the family. Mother always spoke of her girlhood days in Glenwood as a happy time of her life. She loved her brothers and sisters and always spoke of all of Grandpa Buchanan's family with love and respect. As a young girl, Tina was always active in school and church activities participating in plays and dramatic productions. She was a great story teller and recited many poems and readings to entertain her children as they were growing up.

When Tina was 20 or 21 years of age a young man by the name of Newel K. Young came to her home telling her that he had met her father and had been told that he had a beautiful brown eyed daughter that would make him a good wife and so he had come to make his claim. They fell in love and after seven months of courtship (mostly by correspondence) they were married 13 July

1898, in the Manti Temple.

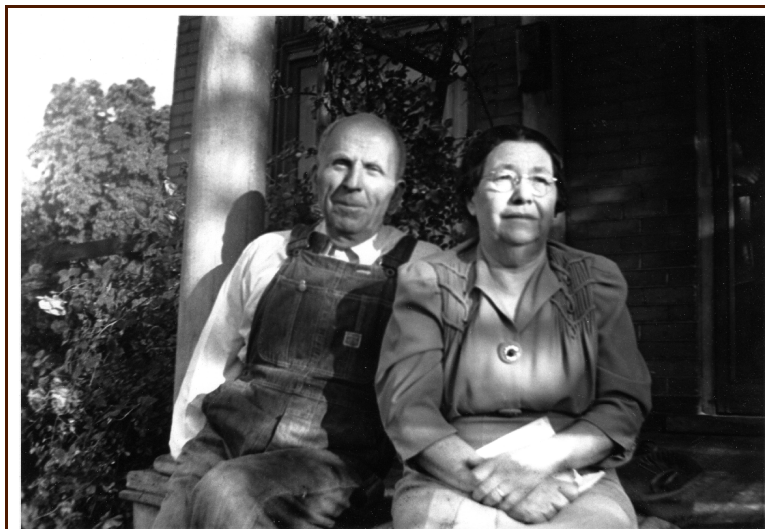
About a year after their marriage and shortly after the birth of their first child, Newel left Glenwood to go to Mexico to help his Mother who was having a real struggle to raise her family. Tina stayed behind until the baby was old enough to make such a long journey. Then she packed her few belongings and left her family and friends and joined her husband in Mexico. This was one of the greatest hardships Tina ever had to endure, although she had many in her life. Her love for her family was great and to pick up and leave all that for a strange life in a strange country - was a real trial for her.

Life in Mexico was not easy for Tina and Newel, yet they were happy and active in community and church activities. Five children were born to them while living in Mexico. A few months before they left Mexico the youngest of these five took sick and died at the age of nine months. This was, of course, a great sorrow to the family.

In 1910, because of unsettled conditions in Mexico, the family moved back to the States, living in Kirtland, New Mexico, for about a year before coming back to Utah. Tina's seventh child was born there. In the years that followed, three more children were added to the family.

Newel, being a school teacher and being called by the church to help build up the Seminary system, moved a great deal during the following years. This was hard for Tina and for the children, but she was always supportive to her husband and backed him up in all of his endeavors. After his retirement he brought Tina back to Salt Lake where she spent the few remaining years of her life. Her health was very poor but she never complained and was so happy to be close to most of her children during those days. She died on the 8th of August, 1944 at the age of 68 and was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

*Signed: Vernessa Y. Reynolds
March 1978*



Newel and Tina, Brigham City, Utah 1937-1938