

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF CARR MCGEE & PEARL MCGEE

I was born in Huntington, Utah, Aug 6-1888. We moved to Fruitland, N. Mex when I was 11 years old. This is the first I remember taking part in my religious life. I remember going to SS (Sunday School) and I very seriously helped my Mother with a Primary she held in Kirtland. I was a teacher in Sunday School at the age of 14.

I was married to Carr McGee in 1909. We were married in the Salt Lake Temple. Our early married life was very busy. We had to work hard for a living and a home. We had 5 children and I took one of my sisters girls to raise, her mother and father were dead. My health was very poor while my children were small. With my husbands help and understanding I was able to care for my children and home and work in the Ward organizations. I held positions in every organization and loved it all.

Carr was also active and we were happy and proud of each calling we received. I was always humble and thankful to my heavenly father and liked to feel that he was watching over me. I know that if I did anything well it was due to my Heavenly Father answering my prayers for guidance and my dear husbands encouragement & support.

I was called to work with Hattie Foutz in the primary at Fruitland. As a Councillor to her we worked together for 3 yrs. We were released in 1923 and called to labor in the Primary Stake Board. We worked happily together for almost 5 years. My duty during this period called me to go to Salt Lake to several conventions and we also did a lot of visiting around the Stake. We held Union Meetings each month and this was quite hard as roads were not good and cars were scarce, too.

One time I had made all plans to go to Salt Lake to a convention and the night before my departure my 2 year old baby was real sick with croup. I felt I could not go but my husband insisted that I should. We called in the Elders and they blessed the choking baby and he seemed better so I joined the others who were going to SLC. I would cry every time I thought of my family at home. In our first meeting David O McKay spoke to us. He realized most of us were Mothers and had left babies & children at home and would be away for some time. He promised us in the name of the Lord that all would be well with our dear ones. I was comforted and never had fear again. We were released in 1927 or 1928.

I then was a Coun. to May Cardon in the Stake Primary from 1929 to 1931. Then I was released and later was called to be Stake Sec. of the Primary. This office I held for 2 years.

In the mean time Carr had held the position of SS Supt. for several years. He was also a Councillor in the Young Mens Mutual Improvement Assn. He filled a short term Mission in the Stake and he was away from home for 3 months. He was Stake Supt of YMMIA and Sunday School serving each one faithfully and well. He was one of the 7 Pres. of the 172 Quorum of Seventys from 1923 to the time of his death in 1939. He had just received a call to act as Stake Missionary at that time.

I was injured in the accident that took my husbands life and my Dr. said I must rest from public work for a while. In 1941 I was sustained as Stake Sec of Relief Society to work with bergetta Covington, Lucy Burnham and Ella Goodman. We enjoyed the work and the close association of each other in this capacity for three years.

I am grateful for having these wonderful opportunitys. I know they have enriched my life and I thank my heavenly father for my blessings and my family. For the gospel and my understanding of it and my membership in his church. I pray to remain faithful and useful to the end of my life.

Pearl McGee

Pearl was the daughter of Lydia Roseanna Young and Henry Thomas Stolworthy. Joseph Carr McGee was born in Missouri to Emily Lucretia Robinson and Solon Huff McGee. He was a convert and came to New Mexico with his family about 1900. Melvin, Roscoe, Jewel, Fern, and Kenneth LaMar are their 5 children. Ardell Washburn raised with the family was the orphaned daughter of Hazel Stolworthy and Francis Washburn. Kenneth (Kelly) was the baby left when Pearl went to SLC and a niece, Lois Wade, from Farmington stayed with the family to help out.

Besides positions mentioned, Pearl and Carr were very involved in all Ward activities and community affairs. Carr's mission was to the Kline/Red Mesa, Colorado area and Sarah Slade Huntsman has told me that even though she was just a young girl she remembers that he was well liked and greatly admired while he was there. For people who had to work every day to make a living a 3 months absence was no small thing.

Pearl did remain faithful and useful and at the time she was seriously injured by a careless driver she was secretary of the Farmington Ward Primary and had just attended opening exercises before leaving to do an errand down town.

Carr was also on his way to attend Church services and a Stake meeting when the accident ocured which took his life. Carr was not an eloquent speaker and greatly admired those who were. He studied diligently and performed his duties with great humility.

Joseph Carr McGee died in Cortez, Colorado, on September 24, 1939, as a result of injuries sustained in a one vehicle automobile accident. Pearl Vilate Stolworthy McGee died in Farmington, New Mexico on February 19, 1953 from injuries sustained when hit by a careless driver on December 18, 1952.

I do not know when Pearl wrote this "Short Biography" but in early 1988 her hand writing is still clear and the paper well preserved. My gratitude to Bessie Decker McGee for keeping it for us to treasure.

Fern McGee Duckworth