

(Janette)
A BRIEF LIFE HISTORY OF JEANETTE CAROLINE CALVERT FORDHAM

BORN 29 AUG.1899 DIED 25 NOV.1983

This life history was written in March,1995,mostly from memory.It has now having been eleven years since her passing. The purpose in writing is so that her posterity may have a better insight of this loving lady. If dates,times,places may not be quite correct, the reader has freedom to make corrections,or to write their own version.

Who was "Nettie"?She stood about 5' 3". I would say hundreds knew her well over many year and would agree she was a kind and truly loving wife,mother,grandmother and friend. Did she ever display hatred or desire ill will towards others? If she did,this son has no memory of.Was she perfect? perhaps not,however she wasn't far from.

She was born in Greenville,Beaver Co.Utah in the twi-light of the nineteenth century. Greenville was a small farming and dairy community. Everyone knew everyone. Her education completed the eighth or nineth grade locally which was common for the area and time.She was the first child of William H. Calvert and Laura Jane Arthur Calvert.She learned housework and usual barnyard chores well.In her youth at times she would hire out to neighbor women to help do housework and washings and ironings. Her pay for the day was somewhat like 25 cents.

How did she meet her husband,George Albert Fordham? This young man came to Greenville to teach school. Was it love at first sight? George and Nettie were attracted to each other and were married Sept. 6,1917, he being 28 and college educated and she a blushing 18. Within days of their marriage,her new husband enlisted in the army and was away for training. World War I was raging and his military service took him to France. He returned later in 1918.

Memory serves that George Albert continued teaching at Grace, Ida. and Orderville, Ut. Then they returned to Greenville where they settled and lived out the remainder of their lives.They had one home which location is where Brent and Sandy Edwards live. Additions to the home were made to accomodate a young and growing family. Their children are Howard,Ralph,Bessie,Dean,La Mar,Wallace Barbra,Allen and Glenna Rae. For many hears the road thru Greenville was gravel and periodically the County grader would re-surface the road to rid the "wash board" effects. Why is this mentioned?

2 Think of muddy surfaces walked upon and then muddy feet walking into her home. Nettie was a METICULOUS housekeeper having learned from her mother Laura Jane. During the earlier years of marriage Nettie regularly helped her husband with the farm work; at times taking her young children with her. She became a fine cook making meals from the common foods they had access to. All of her children well remember her holiday fruit cakes. They were very special. When asked for a recipe she said she didn't have one. Just some of this and some of that. They were yummy. As her children grew in number and size this meant much baking of bread in a wood burning stove. Usually eight loaves every other day. In the fall, father would purchase 500 pounds of flour--in 50 # sacks. Many are the memories of her hungry boys coming in from work and devouring a large loaf of hot bread and a cube or more of butter. How tasty! Her first eight children were born at home attended to by the family doctor who made house calls from Beaver. The family had little cash money and especially from 1918 to 1945 mother hand stitched and repaired clothing. It was common to have a knee worn out of denim trousers replaced with a new knee patch. Mother was well familiar with a needle and thread and thimble.

Mother and father were blessed to raise their first eight children to maturity. All born at home. Jan. 28, 1940 changed the family. Her third daughter, Glenna Rae was born. Glenna Rae was a dainty little girl. Born with some health problems, she was delayed in walking and speech and had periodic illnesses. The family catered to her and mother gave her the best care she knew of. One week after her sixth birthday, Glenna Rae passed away on Feb. 6, 1946 at home of pneumonia.

Mother was a worker. Most of the food was raised on the farm, including a good sized garden. It all had to be processed from the raw product. This was labor intensive. She mentioned some years the family would process 1,000 quarts of vegetables, fruits and meat. This woman loved her family. They were her top priority. When the married children and their families would come to spend a day or two visit, she would follow them out to the car and plead "Why do you have to go? Can't you stay a little longer?"

Mother had some health problems at mid-life. She was plagued with severe nose bleeds. These were frequent for a number of years. The family doctor would be summoned. Several times the doctor cauterized the blood vessels in her nose which had to be painful. Her nosebleeds were most frightening to her young sons. Seeing the amount of

3^r bleeding, we were sore afraid of our mother would bleed to death. During her lifetime During her lifetime she probably traveled no where over a few hundred miles from home. She lived a life of work and simplicity, without complications so common today. Father retired from farm work sometime around age 65 and the two lived at the home until his death some 8 years later. They were married 45 years and mother was widowed for 21 years.

She lived alone with over-see of Bessie and Ralph until she reached the point it wasn't safe for her to live alone. Then Bessie took her in and lovingly cared for her needs for ten or eleven years. As she grew in age one of her knees became most painful making it difficult to walk. Eventually she needed more care and it became impossible for Bessie to lift her such as bathing and dressing and in and out of bed.

For about the last year of her life she was cared for at a nursing facility in Milford, Ut. One of her legs lost circulation and to save her life one leg was amputated above the knee. Later the second leg became a life threat but she said no. Her final illness was in Milford, Ut. where she died at age 84. Her burial was in Greenville, Utah. Thinking upon mother's life, she had almost no recreation or entertainment as we know it today. She would visit her brothers and sisters and her parents. Her mother died in 1945 and her father in 1953.

Nettie Fordham exemplified the message of a virtuous woman taught in Proverbs Chapter 31 from verses 10, 11, 15 and 28. "Who can find a virtuous woman? The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her. She riseth also while it is yet night and giveth meat to her household. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

by her son, La Mar