

William Young and Emily Rose Hannah (Weaver) Young



A Family History

by Shelley Dawson Davies

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Chapter 1

Beginnings

Childhood



*The Weaver family in 1888: (front, left to right)
David, Christopher, Annie, Ellen, Ellen
Elizabeth. Back: Emma, James.*

By the time Emma Young¹ died at the venerable age of ninety-two years, she had personally witnessed the most remarkable advance of technology in the history of the world. Riding across rutted dirt roads in a horse-drawn buggy was the only way her family travelled when she was born on the vast Nebraska plains in 1870. She remembered hearing about Custer's defeat at the Little Big Horn the same year the United States celebrated its centennial in 1876.² She grew up without indoor plumbing, central heating and the miracle of electricity, but was among the generation who grew old with automatic washing machines, telephones and televisions.

The advance of technology was already changing the face of Utah when Christopher³ and Ellen Weaver⁴ moved to the territory in 1873. Instead of making the trip across the plains by wagon train, as so many other Mormons had done since Brigham Young claimed the desert twenty-six years before, the Weavers boarded a train with their baggage and three-year old Emma. In fact, it was the railroad itself that forced the Weaver's move to Utah. The joining of the rails at Promontory Point in 1869 made the dusty immigration trails obsolete, closing down the LDS support communities at the mid-west trail heads where farm families like the Weavers made their living by supplying provisions for wagons headed for Salt Lake City.

Chris and Ellen found the wide open fields of northwest Layton every bit as beautiful and productive as their Nebraska acreage had been, and wasted no time settling in, not far from where Chris' uncle John Weaver⁵ had established a farm twenty years before on Easy Street.⁶ However, there was nothing easy about the first few years of life on "the sand ridge," where Ellen went about cooking and tending little Emma and newly born James⁷ in a primitive dugout,⁸ and Chris worked hard farming wheat fields to support his family.

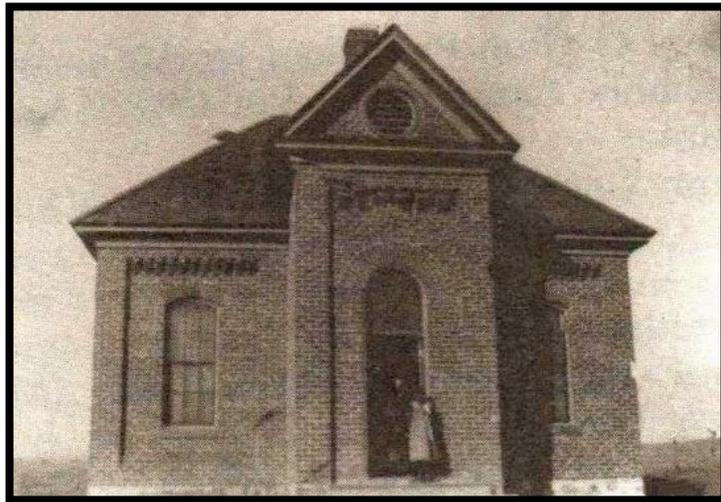
Chris managed his operations well and after several years was able to build a brick home surrounded by the fragrant orchards.⁹ Thanks to Chris' skills, it wasn't long before the Weaver farm became self-sustaining, boasting a blacksmith and carpenter shop that handled all repairs on site. In addition to a large root cellar for winter food storage, the farm yard also had a smokehouse for preserving home-butchered meats.¹⁰ It was here on this prosperous farm where the rest of the Weaver children were born: Annie in September, 1876;¹¹ George in October, 1878;¹² David in November, 1885;¹³ Ellen Elizabeth in February, 1888;¹⁴ Daisy in June, 1893;¹⁵ and Parley in January, 1895.¹⁶

The Weaver's place was three miles from a growing cluster of business concerns concentrated along Main and Gentile Streets which would eventually become the town of Layton.¹⁷ Unlike most towns settled by the Mormons, Layton residents abandoned the traditional grid when establishing roads. Roads in northern part of the settlement were a free-for-all of trails worn into the ground based on the shortest distance between any two points. All of the roads were primitive; even the main road running from Salt Lake City all the way to Ogden was nothing more than a wide swath of mire when the snow began to melt in April, and by June the ruts and dust were so deep it was almost impossible to travel any distance without a great deal of effort and sometimes a broken wagon axel.

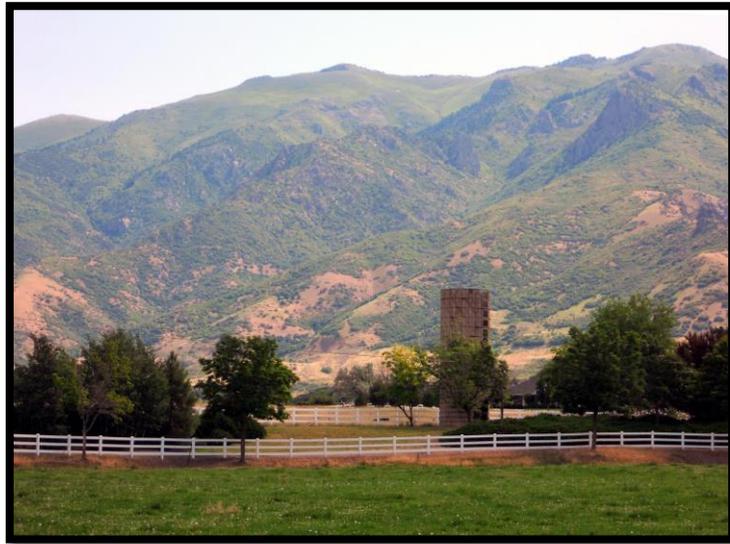
Emma lived almost two miles from the closest school, a one-room brick building constructed on the crossroads of Fairfield Road and Church Street.¹⁸ The Nalder school, as it came to be known, was far enough for Emma to ride one of her father's horses to school every day; other students were conveyed to class in a white canvass covered wagon driven by some of the older boys.

In back of the school was a steep hill that came in handy when the winter snows were deep. Both boys and girls piled onto a bob sleigh, holding the tongue up to keep it from digging into the earth, "and they would go down that hill just a heckin'," according to Emma's daughter Lillie Dawson.¹⁹ "Momma said they would go clean down that hill, then they would have to pull the sled back up, so they had it fixed up so they had the horse pull it back up again."²⁰

A standard education of the day covered the basics of learning to read, write and do basic math. Schooling ended at the eighth grade level, usually around the age of sixteen. For young ladies like Emma, learning how to run a household was just as important as formal schooling. Emma was taught from an early age how to crochet lace, knit sweaters and socks and sew her own clothing with her mother's treadle machine. The limited range of fabrics available at the Adams general store on Main Street could be supplemented by mail order catalogs from Sears.



Emma received her education at the Nalder School.



Looking east toward the Wasatch Mountains, not far from where the Young farm once stood.

Will

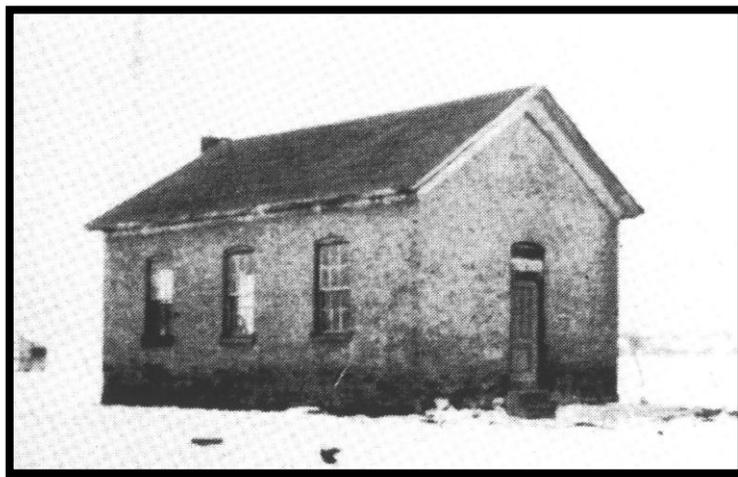
While Emma was the first of eight children, Will²¹ was the last of nine offspring born to English immigrants Joseph²² and Elizabeth Young,²³ who managed an extensive farm and fruit orchard across town along Fiddler's Creek.²⁴ Will joined older siblings Brigham (eighteen),²⁵ Ferdinand (sixteen),²⁶ Ada (thirteen),²⁷ Emily (eleven),²⁸ Elizabeth (nine),²⁹ Charlotte (seven),³⁰ John (two),³¹ in the adobe home Joseph had built himself with bricks made from a clay pit on the corner of the property.³² It was a small, but comfortable home, and the family managed to make do with the limited space until the older children left home.

Will grew up strong and healthy, doing what his father required of him on the family farm, where he helped cultivate "strawberries, blackberries, dew berries and currents," said Lillie.³³ He regularly loaded the wagon and accompanied his father on the day-long trips to the Farmer's Market in Salt Lake City to sell the fruits and vegetables the family grew.³⁴

Will began his schooling in a private class taught by English immigrant Mrs. Enoch King, who charged \$2.25 per pupil to teach the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic in a dim and drafty log cabin.³⁵ Will picked up the local pronunciation for words like creek ("crik") and root (to rhyme with "foot"), even under the influence of all the solid English accents in his life. By the time Will was ten

years old, a new one room school was built at the Five Points intersection, a half-mile walk from home. It was a classic school house made of fired brick lined with insulating adobes, with large windows along each side to let in enough natural light for students to work comfortably on their slates or at the large blackboard at the front of the room.³⁶

Like the other children, Will had already completed a series of chores before beginning his studies at nine a.m., and had chores waiting for him in the barn at the end of the school day. Will missed class from time to time to lend a hand on the farm, but he was a good student who was proficient in reading and writing and particularly enjoyed figures.³⁷ He was adept at learning and completed the course of study up to the fifth grade, which was the highest available at the time.



Will attended this one room school house at Five Points in Layton.

Weekly church meetings were held two miles away in downtown Kaysville.³⁸ Because most ward members lived at least several miles from the chapel, attendance was sparse. In addition to the distance, “Sunday school was a new thing to most people, and but few had interest in it,” said local ward leader James Linford. “In the early days of the school, we...had to overcome a great deal of roughness among the boys, it was similar to breaking colts to the harness. We used to give tickets for punctuality, for attendance and for deportment at school. At the close of the year, the pupils brought their tickets to their teachers who counted them and...we would then reward them according to merit. Every pupil would get something.”³⁹ The ward leadership found another way of encouraging worship by assigning Elders to hold Sunday evening cottage meetings in member’s homes.

Although he was known to attend church on occasion, Will was not a very religious young man. He took a nip of alcohol from time to time and regularly smoked Bull Durham cigarettes.⁴⁰ Most of his church attendance revolved around the many local dances where he played in an orchestra with his brothers Brigham and John and sister Emily.⁴¹ Fiddling came naturally to Will, who picked up music from his father, a talented musician with an unusual ear for notes⁴² who once built his own organ from the ground up. Will was not only skilled at playing the violin, but also the piano and harmonica. He was known for playing several instruments at the same time, thanks to “a special device he put around his neck that held a mouth organ, leaving his hands free to play the piano,” said grandson Dick Dawson.⁴³



Will strikes a handsome pose around 1894.



Will and Emma in 1894.

Courtship

Will, Brigham and Emily were often asked to play at many local entrainment spots, such as Webster's Grove, "a hit for many years," where they "stood in the center of the crowd, booming out their tunes during weekly dances."⁴⁴ The Youngs also played at St. Jude's Episcopal Church on Layton's Main Street where on one occasion, Will's eye was taken by a lovely young lady whom he escorted home that very evening.⁴⁵

Will and Emma "kept company" for the next six months,⁴⁶ until one day Emma decided she wanted to strike out on her own. She accepted a position as a nanny in an Ogden household, fourteen miles to the north. "Her parents didn't want her to do it, but she did it anyway," related Dick's wife, Janice,⁴⁷ who interviewed Emma about her youth. "She was feisty and independent."⁴⁸ Will, although he was "a quiet person, very soft spoken,"⁴⁹ was also a determined young man, who tried to keep in touch with Emma by mail. "He wrote to her for a long time, but she never did get his letters," said Dick.⁵⁰ When Emma returned home to Layton after nearly one year, Will began visiting her again. It wasn't unusual for a courtship in those days to meander over a long stretch of time, and because Will was resolute, he and Emma kept company on and off again for another three years.

Just for Fun

Kaysville resident George W. Webster transformed his grove of trees into a family-friendly play ground in the early 1880s, complete with a baseball diamond, teeter-totters, a giant swing anchored between a pair of telephone poles and a hexagonal dance hall with four sets of double doors that could be opened to catch a breeze on balmy summer evenings. Much of the community attended holiday celebrations held at the grove, as well as special programs arranged for Memorial Day, Independence Day and Pioneer Day on July 24th, where families spread out quilts for a picnic lunch. Ice cream was made with ice from an ice house in the south east corner and homemade cookies were disturbed from large cracker barrels in the dance hall.

A more sophisticated experience became available in July, 1886, when Lake Park, pictured below, opened two and half miles west of Farmington. A variety of sports and amusements were available among the shade trees small lakes, including swimming, boating and a shooting gallery. One of the most popular of the entertainments was the “pretty Swiss dance pavilion, a great ornament to the place.” A restaurant was located on one side of the pavilion, a refreshment bar on the opposite side, where a soda could be purchased for five cents and a large sandwich for a dime. Carloads of people traveled by rail from Salt Lake City and Ogden to witness several annual boating races held at the park, where a fifteen-piece orchestra played for the regatta. When lake water receded in 1893, the muddiness of the shore line and other problems forced closure.



In the meantime, Emma took a new position in Ogden, with a woman who turned out to be “very difficult to get along with,” and after a little more than a month, Emma moved in with her Aunt Alice Todd,⁵¹ an Ogden resident with five children ranging in age from twelve to one year old. Aunt Alice was happy to have Emma’s help with the family for the next few years, and Emma was content to be living away from home.⁵² This time, however, Emma kept in touch with Will by mail and she even visited the Young family when she made weekend trips back to Layton on the train. Emma’s visits were especially important to Will’s mother, Elizabeth, who worried about her youngest and last child at home finding a suitable wife.

During the last week of November, 1893, Elizabeth came down with a bad cold that quickly turned into pneumonia.⁵³ When she died a week later, the Young family was in shock. Emma immediately made her way to the Young home to support Will in his grief, and agreed to help watch the body while the Relief Society sisters prepared Elizabeth’s burial clothing.⁵⁴ Members of the family took turns packing the body with ice and salt peter, tending the body day and night until funeral preparations were completed.⁵⁵

Will and Emma were among the many mourners who attended the funeral the Thursday after Elizabeth’s death, but it was only Will who returned home from the cemetery with his father. The next few months were extremely difficult for Will, who at twenty-two, was responsible for his father, who was “very taciturn” and “often drunk.”⁵⁶ Will needed Emma now more than ever.

ENDNOTES

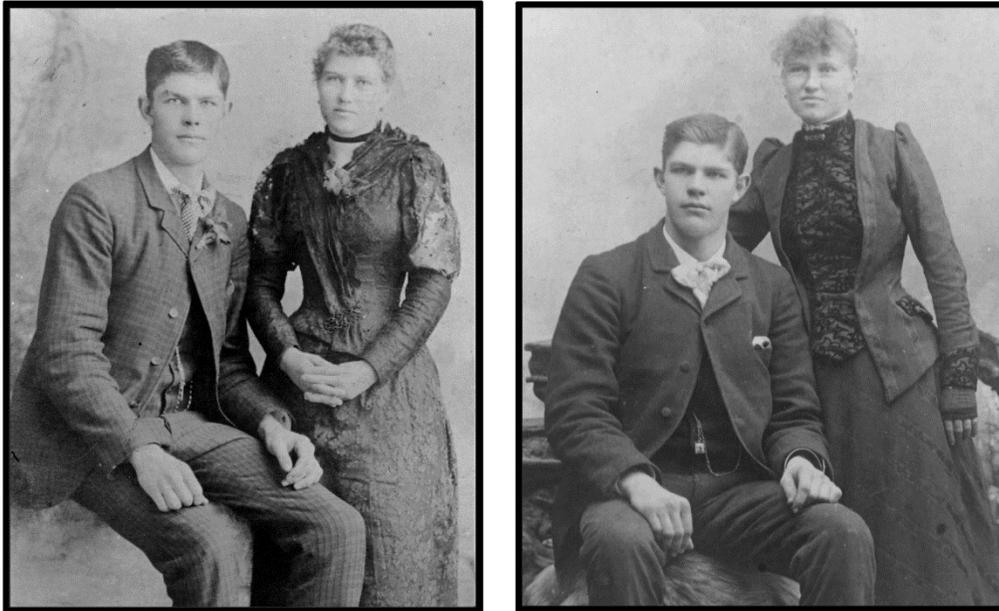
- ¹ Emily Rose Hannah (Weaver) Young (1872-1964), #KWJF-5XB, www.familysearch.org where verification of all vital dates can be found. Also see family group sheets at www.DaviesDawsonHistory.weebly.com
- ² Grandson Richard Rex Dawson recalled hearing Emma tell the story. “It impressed me that sometimes history is more recent than we sometime realize,” he said. Interview with Richard Rex Dawson, 1979. Transcript held by interviewer Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ³ Christopher “Chris” Weaver (1842-1926), #KWZD-3PB, www.familysearch.org
- ⁴ Ellen (Jackson) Weaver (1854-1931), #KWZD-3P1, www.familysearch.org
- ⁵ John Weaver (1825-1903), #KWJS-9FZ, www.familysearch.org
- ⁶ Easy Street was renamed Hill Field Road around 1940 with the opening of Hill Air Force Base.
- ⁷ James William Weaver (1874-1891), #KWVH-H95, www.familysearch.org
- ⁸ Richard R. Dawson, “History of Christopher Weaver and Ellen Jackson,” typescript, 1979. Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁹ The home was located at approximately 2392 Hill Field Road, according to great-grandson Richard R. Dawson.
- ¹⁰ Dawson, “History of Christopher Weaver and Ellen Jackson,” typescript, 1979.
- ¹¹ Sarah Ann “Annie” (Weaver) Graham (1876-1944), #KWCV-NDY, www.familysearch.org
- ¹² George Richard Weaver (1878-1879), #KWVH-H3J, www.familysearch.org
- ¹³ David Christopher Weaver (1885-1962), #KWC4-JG8, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁴ Ellen Elizabeth Jane (Weaver) Harbertson (1888-1979), #KWZD-3P5, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁵ Daisie Orene (Weaver) Clark (1893-1973), #KWCX-QX2, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁶ Parley Jackson Weaver (1895-1964), #KWC8-QW7, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁷ The Layton area was officially separated from the town of Kaysville in 1902 over tax disputes.
- ¹⁸ The school was located at the present address of 1830 Church Street. Interview with Lillie (Young) Dawson by Richard Rex Dawson, 1971. Transcript held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹⁹ Lillie (Young) Dawson (1895-1974), #KWZG-7K8, www.familysearch.org
- ²⁰ Interview, Lillie (Young) Dawson, 1971.
- ²¹ William Young (1871-1942), #KWJF-5XR, www.familysearch.org
- ²² Joseph Young (1833-1898), #KWJF-H1F, www.familysearch.org
- ²³ Elizabeth (Wade) Young (1830-1893), #29MM-WHH, www.familysearch.org
- ²⁴ Fiddler’s Creek was named after the many musicians who settled along the stream, including Joseph. Dan and Eve Carlsruh, editors, *Layton, Utah: Historic Viewpoints* (Salt Lake City: Moench Printing, 1985), page R-122.
- ²⁵ Brigham Young (1853-1927), #KWC4-H6M, www.familysearch.org
- ²⁶ Ferdinand Young (1855-after 1870), #KN45-P4H, www.familysearch.org
- ²⁷ Ada (Young) Ware (1858-1905), #KWV5-8J3, www.familysearch.org
- ²⁸ Emily Young (1860-1882), #KN4P-D53, www.familysearch.org
- ²⁹ Charlotte (Young) Ware (1864-1934), #KWCR-XXZ, www.familysearch.org
- ³⁰ John Young (1870-1920), #KWNN-4CJ, www.familysearch.org
- ³¹ “Joseph Young-Elizabeth Wade family group sheet, “supplied 1979, by Richard Rex Dawson. This sheet offers only a generic list of materials consulted. An infant John died in 1866 at the age of seven months. Joseph Young household, 1870 U.S. Census, Kaysville, Davis, Utah, page 249B; FHL film 553109, roll M593 1610, image 503.
- ³² The Young home was located at approximately 761 Rosewood Lane. Carlsruh, *Layton, Utah: Historic Viewpoints*, page R121.
- ³³ Interview, Lillie (Young) Dawson, 1971.

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- ³⁴ Interview with Emily (Weaver) Young, by Janice (Page) Dawson, June, 1958. Transcript held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ³⁵ Carlsruh, *Layton, Utah: Historic Viewpoints*, page 124.
- ³⁶ Present day location of the intersection of Main Street, Rosewood Lane and Fort Lane in Layton. Carlsruh, *Layton, Utah: Historic Viewpoints*, page 123-124.
- ³⁷ Interview, Emily (Weaver) Young, June, 1958.
- ³⁸ The Layton ward was created in 1889, when a frame chapel was built at 962 Church Street. Carlsruh, *Layton, Utah: Historic Viewpoints*, page 170.
- ³⁹ James Henry Linford, *An Autobiography of James Henry Linford, patriarch, of Kaysville, Utah*. Self-published, 1919. FHL US/CAN film# 1320515 item 9, pages 42-46. This document may be viewed online at www.familysearch.org
- ⁴⁰ Interview with Richard Rex Dawson, 1997. Transcript held by interviewer Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁴¹ Interview, Emily (Weaver) Young, June, 1958. Also, see *The Davis County Clipper* 15 March, 1901, William Young was a member of an orchestra.
- ⁴² “Papa would be playing the violin and if he missed a note, Grandpa [Joseph Young] would say, ‘Will, that’s wrong. Do it over again.’ He could tell when the notes was off,” according to Will’s daughter Lillie. Interview, Lillie (Young) Dawson, 1971.
- ⁴³ Richard Rex Dawson (1927-present), #LNDN-56L, www.familysearch.org Interview, Richard Rex Dawson, 1997. “He also fixed clocks,” according to Lillie. Interview, Lillie (Young) Dawson, 1971.
- ⁴⁴ Carlsruh, *Layton, Utah: Historic Viewpoints*, page 203.
- ⁴⁵ Interview, Emily (Weaver) Young, June, 1958.
- ⁴⁶ Interview, Richard Rex Dawson, 1997.
- ⁴⁷ Janice (Page) Dawson (1931-present), #LNDN-5DB, www.familysearch.org
- ⁴⁸ Interview, Emily (Weaver) Young, June, 1958.
- ⁴⁹ Interview with Rulon and Norma Thornley by Anne Dawson Nace, 27 October, 1997.
- ⁵⁰ Interview, Richard Rex Dawson, 1997.
- ⁵¹ Alice Maria (Weaver) Fenneyhough Todd (1854-1943), #LZDD-911, www.familysearch.org
- ⁵² Interview, Emily (Weaver) Young, June, 1958.
- ⁵³ Elizabeth (Wade) Young, obituary, *The Eagle*, Kaysville, Utah, 7 December, 1893.
- ⁵⁴ According to Emma, it was important to Will that she help watch the body. Interview, Emily (Weaver) Young, June, 1958.
- ⁵⁵ Will’s brother John and his wife Sarah sat with the body during the night, according to Emma. Interview, Emily (Weaver) Young, June, 1958.
- ⁵⁶ Janice Page Dawson, “Joseph Young and Elizabeth (Wade) Young” (typescript, 1996). Copy held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

Chapter 2

Marriage

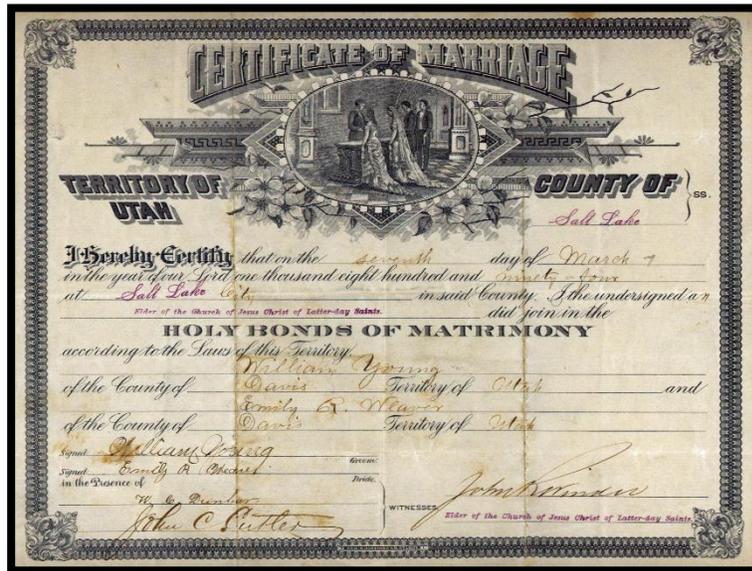
A New Life Together



*Left: Will and Emma pose in their wedding clothes.
Right: The couple soon after their marriage.*

The winter of 1893 was long, lonely and cold at the Young farm, where Will tried to manage caring for his father, attending to chores and mourning his mother's death. Emma left her position in Ogden and rejoined her family on Easy Street in order to be closer to Will.

The Weavers liked Will well enough, but since he was not much of a religious man, they hoped Emma's interest in him would eventually fade. Strong-willed Emma was determined to marry Will anyway.⁵⁷ She had set her heart on a marriage solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple, which had been dedicated the previous April, and finally, under some pressure from Emma, Will was able to meet the requirements of a temple recommend. The couple travelled alone in a little horse drawn cart to Salt Lake City where they were married on Wednesday, 7 March, 1894.⁵⁸



Relatives from both sides of the family gathered the next day to celebrate the union at a reception in the Layton ward chapel on Church Street. The Weavers put on “quite a party,” Emma remembered,⁵⁹ beginning with a beautiful luncheon spread in the afternoon followed by lively dancing on the gleaming hardwood floor. The festivities were informally extended when a few close friends followed the newlyweds home and “stayed up all night until the next day.”⁶⁰

Will and Emma settled into a rented home near the intersection of Main and Gordon Streets, still a rural area at the time.⁶¹ Every loose penny was dropped into a tin coffee can on the kitchen shelf with an eye toward buying a place of their own. It was only a few months later when twenty-three year old Emma found herself in the peculiar position of being pregnant at the same time as her mother, who was only forty one years of age and still had three small children at home. Ellen gave birth to Emma’s brother, Parley, on 29 January, 1895. Emma’s child, Lillie, arrived exactly seven months later on 29 July, 1895.⁶² Emma accepted the offer of spending her confinement at the Weaver farm, where she also stayed for several weeks of recovery before returning home to Will.⁶³

Advice by Verse

In an age when poetry was popular, there was a verse with advice for every occasion. Will and Emma seemed to have followed the suggestion of being married on a Wednesday, "the best day of all," according to a fashionable rhyme of the time:

Marry on Monday for health,
Tuesday for wealth,
Wednesday the best day of all,
Thursday for crosses,
Friday for losses, and
Saturday for no luck at all.

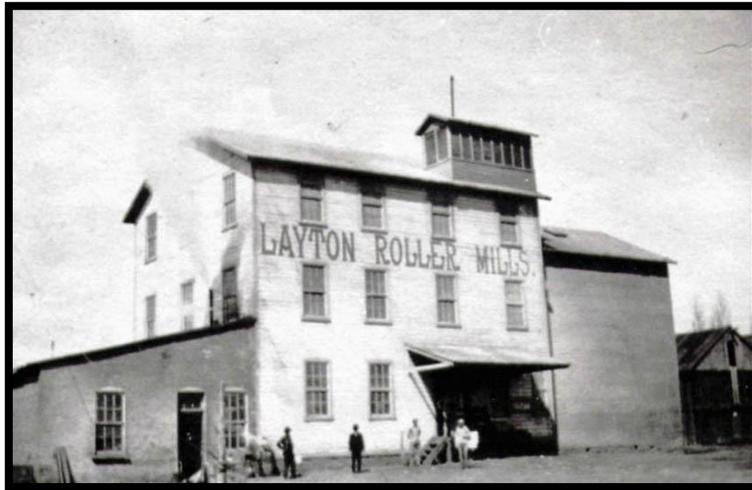
Another poem advised collecting objects from family and friends to wear for good luck in the new union:

Something old,
Something new,
Something borrowed,
Something blue,
And a lucky sixpence in your shoe.

"Something old" was often a family heirloom, a link with the bride's past. "Something new" was most often the bride's dress or a piece of jewelry that could be handed down to the next generation as something old. "Something borrowed" symbolized the support of family in times of need, "something blue" was a token of faithfulness, while the coin was to ensure future wealth.

Some couples served both a light bride's cake and a dark, heavier groom's cake with charms baked inside for luck, each with its own meaning:

The ring for marriage within a year;
The penny for wealth, my dear;
The thimble for an old maid or bachelor born;
The button for sweethearts all forlorn.



The Layton Roller Mills near the turn of the twentieth century.

Work at the Mill

After years of back-breaking field labor on his father's farm, Will was certain about one thing: he wasn't going to spend the rest of his life working behind a manure spreader. As soon as the Layton Roller Mills opened for business in August of 1890,⁶⁴ just south of the Farmer's Union on Main Street,⁶⁵ Will signed on as a miller.

The three story wooden frame building was painted as white as the flour it produced, and at its peak turned out an impressive sixty hundred thousand barrels of flour per year.⁶⁶ "Every twenty four hours that our flour mill here runs, enough flour is made to fill four hundred and forty sacks," boasted a front page article in *The Davis County Clipper* in 1903. "The mill has been running night and day considerable of late. It is said that the mill uses more sacks than any other flour mill in the state of Utah."⁶⁷

Layton Roller Mills was a modern operation, replacing older pioneer mills run by water power with industrial steam rollers used to crush the wheat.⁶⁸ The mill became an important link between local wheat growers and the demanding markets across Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, Alabama and Georgia.⁶⁹



An early parade float touts Layton's flour power.

Work at the mill was physically challenging, but straightforward. Will began on the loading dock, hauling “great big sacks of bran and wheat out to the warehouse where he stacked it up to the ceiling. He worked hard!” said Lillie.⁷⁰ He was a willing learner who quickly moved to the position of packer, sacking the processed product and stitching up the cotton bags printed on the front with a logo featuring a graceful blue swan. He was eventually promoted to running the milling machinery itself.

The noise of the machines could be hard on the ears,⁷¹ not to mention the dangers of lung disease from inhaling the constant cloud of powdery dust hanging in the air, but neither hazard seemed to bother Will. “They figure in the milling business that it is rather unusual for a person to remain in good health, due to the dust, but it hasn’t seemed to hurt me,” Will was reported as saying in a newspaper article marking his fiftieth year of work at the mill.⁷²

“I used to go to the mill in Layton with my dad to buy flour and animal feed,” remembered Dick, who was impressed by the level of noise and dust there. “It was usually Grandpa Young who took care of us. He weighed the sacks of flour and grain on the huge scale next to a stand-up desk at the end of the office area where they made out receipts and took the money. He told the story once of someone bringing back a sack of flour they had bought at the mill, complaining about the quality. Grandpa took the sack of flour into the back room, emptied it into a different sack, sewed it up and gave it back to the customer. Sometime later, the person told him that the second sack of flour was of much better quality than the first. There must be a moral to the story, don’t you think?”⁷³

Will was a diligent and punctual worker who only missed his shift when he was ill during a typhoid fever outbreak in October of 1903. “Typhoid fever claimed another of Layton’s very best citizens... the third of Layton’s foremost men to succumb to that dread disease inside of two months,” reported *The Davis County Clipper*. “William Young and William Green, who are sick with typhoid fever, were still unable to resume their work at the mill when last heard from.”⁷⁴ Fortunately, Will recovered after a six-week battle with the disease, returning to work toward the end of November.⁷⁵

Surprise Party

*“On Tuesday July 13, W.D. Major reached the fifty year mark of his life. The mill hands at the roller mills got up what proved to be a genuine surprise on their co-laborer. The crew went to Mr. Major’s home about nine in the evening and found that he had retired for the night, but he was soon routed out and then the evening’s enjoyment began. Some sang, others recited and Prof. William Young of the roller mills played some fine selections on his harmonica and the parlor organ, playing both instruments at the same time. Mr. Major supplied his visitors with an abundance of ice cream and summer drink which kept the party cool and in a good mood for the singing and dancing. Mr. Major was presented with a fine rocking chair in which he can while away many an hour when he gets old playing his concertina.” *The Davis County Clipper*, 30 July, 1897.*



Will, right, and a fellow mill worker.



Left: The Young family lived happily in this little house on Church Street for almost twenty years. Right: Will relaxing in the living room.

Home and Hearth

Will and Emma were looking forward to adding more children to their family when Emma developed serious health problems. Two and a half years after giving birth to Lillie, Dr. Gleason sent Emma to the hospital in Salt Lake City for a “serious female operation,” most likely a hysterectomy. She was confined in the hospital for eight weeks, then stayed at a friend’s house for several days to convalesce before returning to her own home. Four months later she returned to the hospital for further treatment, remaining for seven more weeks. “Mrs. Young expects to go down again this week to see the doctor,” reported *The Davis County Clipper* in September, 1898, and noted that Emma seemed to be “recovering very slowly.”⁷⁶

As Emma was never able to bear other children, Lillie became the center of attention in the Young household. “She was very close to her parents. She was their pride and joy,” said Dick.⁷⁷ Will moved his family to a frame home at 50 Church Street, less than a quarter of a mile walk from the mill, in the summer of 1899.⁷⁸ It was a small house, but was just right for the family of three. Lillie had her own bedroom, complete with a dresser and side table. Will and Emma enjoyed a lovely walnut bedstead with a thick cotton mattress supported by squeaky metal springs. A horsehair sofa graced the small parlor along with one of Emma’s prized possessions, a golden oak rocking chair with intricate designs pressed onto the back. The kitchen was updated with an easy-to-clean linoleum floor, and eventually Emma was able to replace her heavy earthenware and crockery items with finely decorated floral china, although she clung to the use of tin ware and granite ware for cooking.



Left: Lillie in her christening dress. Right: Lillie around the age of three, dressed in ruffles and bows. Below: At age seven with her pet dog.



Most of the family's daily activities took place in the kitchen. In winter, it was the warmest room in the house, thanks to the cast iron stove that burned wood from morning until night. Emma usually cooked up a hearty breakfast of thickly sliced bacon paired with eggs and fried potatoes and packed thick sandwiches of roast beef or ham for lunch with a wedge of cake for desert. Supper might consist of any number of meat dishes with potatoes and gravy, accompanied by the fresh or canned produce from the garden out back. Like most housewives, Emma liked to season her cooking with plenty of salt and pepper and spread butter and fruit preserves on her homemade bread. Any leftovers could be kept for a day or two in the sawdust lined ice box set in the corner of the room.

Since the only running water near the Young property was in the creek across the street, water for household use was pumped from the well out back by the bucket full and hand carried into the kitchen. A kettle of hot water was always kept on the stove to be used for hand and face washing, cooking, and other purposes. Emma's high standards of order and cleanliness earned the admiration of her neighbors, who remarked on her ability to "keep a good home, clean and orderly. She was very particular, very much so," said Norma Thornley. "Her home was always clean and orderly and tidy."⁷⁹

Emma found her duties as a homemaker becoming increasingly difficult over the years due to a series of "sick spells" and illnesses. *The Clipper* regularly reported on her bad health. In addition to several operations, there were cases of pneumonia, rheumatism, "la grippe" and numerous other ailments, even an accident in which she broke her ankle.⁸⁰ Emma's frequent bouts of sickness eventually turned her into a woman who came to see herself as unwell out of sheer habit, and she became dependent on Lillie to assume more and more of the household duties. Even after Lillie was married and quite crippled herself with arthritis, she spent a great deal of time doing her mother's housework after she had finished her own.⁸¹



Biblical References



Emma filled the blank pages provided in the back of her Bible, above, with favorite recipes for preserves and deserts, plus instructions on "How to Make Wine: Put fruit in pan, pour boiling water over, let stand three days. Put in jar, put half sugar, let stand 'till through working, the put in bottles. Cork tight."
Some of her other favorites include the following:

Chili Sauce Rescale

24 large ripe tomatoes

8 medium size onions

3 green peppers

1 cup sugar

5 cups vinegar

Salt to taste

One tablespoon of each kind of spices

Boil three hours

Mustard Pickles

Take quantities small cucumber, cauliflower and button onions. Slice cucumbers, cover with strong salt water 23 hours then drain the brine and dissolve in it a bit of alum size of a nutmeg. Pour the boiling brine over the pickle when could drain good and prepare--much---vinegar---their---quarts of brine to each quart of vinegar. Use one cup sugar half cup flour one fourth of a pound mustard. Boil sugar and vinegar mix the flour and mustard, stir in the boiling vinegar then pour over pickles ground ginger and pepper and turmeric.

Pickle Lillie

3 large heads of green cabbage

1 peck of green tomatoes

8 large onions

3 green peppers, chopped fine

Sprinkle well with salt and let drain overnight. Season with pepper and mustard. Cover well with vinegar and boil for three hours.

Spanish Pickles

4 quarts green tomatoes

4 quarts cabbage

3 quarts onions, all chopped fine

½ tea cup of salt, let stand overnight.

Drain of water.

½ pint chopped peppers

2 ½ cups sugar

1 ½ tablespoons ginger, cloves, all other spices put together.

Cover with vinegar and boil 2 hours. Take off and add 3 tablespoons mustard with [here the paper has crumbled away]

Fruit Cake Recite—Emmie Young's

Seven eggs, one cup sugar, one cup of butter, half cup of molasses with one half teaspoonful soda, one half pound of citron, one pound raisin, one pound of current, one pound of nuts, tablespoon full nutmeg, one teaspoon full cinnamon, one half teaspoonful of cloves, one quart of flour, flavor with five drops almond season beat white of eggs separate but last thing before put in pan. Bake in moderate oven two hours.

Ginger Snaps—Lillie Young

Put in a tin or granite-ware pan two cupfulls molasses, one cup full brown sugar. Two thirds cupful of lard, one heaping tablespoonful of ground ginger. Put the vessel on the stove and let boil until it thickens a little. Dissolve heaping teaspoonful of soda in one half cupful of tepid water and to the other ingredients. Mix well before removing from stove. When cool sift in flour to make a very stiff dough. Roll very thin and bake.



*Emma, second from left, and Will
enjoy unknown friends.*

Good Times

Relaxation for most people at the time consisted of simple pleasures such as chatting with friends and relatives about farming, family events or other every day topics. Outings like camping and fishing were easy, inexpensive ways to spend time together. Will and Emma enjoyed weekend fishing trips in nearby Weber Canyon, where they were often joined by Emma's sister Annie and her husband Henry Graham.⁸²

When people gathered together outside of church activities, they often took part in weekly card games played by small groups of two to six couples, who took turns hosting the evening. Will and Emma were often reported as guests at card parties and dinners hosted by family and friends around town,⁸³ and both belonged to local social clubs, as well. Emma was an officer in the Ladies' Circle of Kaysville and Layton,⁸⁴ while Will was a long-time member of the fraternal organization Woodmen of the World.⁸⁵

Fraternal organizations were particularly popular during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The elaborate rituals, handshakes, passwords and regalia of many organizations contrasted with the workaday world of factory and field, giving members a sense of fellowship, community spirit, patriotic fervor, and in the Woodmen's case, insurance. Will's group, the Abe Lincoln camp No. 707 in Kaysville, repeated the official creed in unison at the beginning of every monthly meeting:

*There is a destiny that makes us brothers;
None goes his way alone;
All that we sent into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.⁸⁶*

The Woodmen held many get-togethers and dances around Davis County. A particularly noteworthy "social and ball" was reportedly as "one of the best parties ever given here. The drill team and quartet were immense," according a front page article in the 9 October, 1903, issue of *The Davis County Clipper*, and was attended by "almost a hundred couples. "Will often played as a musician at these events,⁸⁷ and was also elected several times as an officer of the organization.⁸⁸

Green Thumb

Will was a skilled amateur horticulturalist who spent many hours working in the large kitchen garden he planted every year with green beans, carrots, tomatoes, lettuce and other vegetables. He also enjoyed raising a variety of flowers and fruit trees and joined several other Layton residents in "experimenting with a remedy for killing pear blight, which they have found to be very satisfactory," according the local Horticultural Notes in the spring of 1905. "The following is the remedy: sprinkle a pint of salt on the ground around the trunk of the tree, then rub the trunk of the tree from the ground up to the first branches with a rag that has been well saturated with coal oil. Give the tree two such coal oil dressings, one early in the spring, and another after the fruit is well set. The salt is only used once a year. The diseased limbs of the tree have to be removed. It will bring rich blood."



Above: Will and Emma in their buggy. Below left: Dressed up for an outing. Right: Will and Emma pose for a patriotic photo during a day at Lagoon.

Double Vision

The Youngs were among the many Americans who owned a stereoscope in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This early form of 3-D imaging created the illusion of depth when two offset images were viewed separately through the device. Before entertainments such as movies and radio, viewing 3-D photographs became one of the nation's most popular forms of entertainment. The Young's stereoscope and cards are pictured below.



ENDNOTES

- ⁵⁷ Interview with Emily (Weaver) Young, by Janice (Page) Dawson, June, 1958. Transcript held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁵⁸ *Ibid.* Also, Young-Weaver marriage, 7 March, 1894, LDS temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. Certificate held by Richard R. Dawson.
- ⁵⁹ Interview, Emily (Weaver) Young, June, 1958
- ⁶⁰ *Ibid.*
- ⁶¹ *Ibid.*
- ⁶² “William Young-Emily Rose Hannah Weaver family group sheet,” supplied 1979, by Richard Rex Dawson. This sheet offers only a generic list of materials consulted.
- ⁶³ Interview, Emily (Weaver) Young, June, 1958
- ⁶⁴ “Fifty Years a Miller,” undated clipping from unidentified newspaper in family papers of Lillie (Young) Dawson of Layton, Utah. Held by Richard Rex Dawson.
- ⁶⁵ Layton Roller Mills, sometime referred to as Layton Milling or the Layton Flour Mill, was located at 32 South Main Street in Layton. Dan and Eve Carlsruh, editors, *Layton, Utah: Historic Viewpoints* (Salt Lake City: Moench Printing, 1985), page 291.
- ⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, page 292.
- ⁶⁷ *The Davis County Clipper*, 9 October, 1903.
- ⁶⁸ Carlsruh, *Layton, Utah: Historic Viewpoints*, page 292. Production was steady enough that even the depression of the 1930s failed to slow it down. Glen M. Leonard, *A History of Davis County* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah Historical Society, 1999), page 323.
- ⁶⁹ Carlsruh, *Layton, Utah: Historic Viewpoints*, page 292.
- ⁷⁰ Interview with Lillie (Young) Dawson by Richard Rex Dawson, 1971. Transcript held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁷¹ The level of noise was high enough that an electric bell was installed to aid in communicating over the din. *The Davis County Clipper*, 15 March, 1901.
- ⁷² “Fifty Years a Miller,” undated clipping from unidentified newspaper. Held by Richard Rex Dawson.
- ⁷³ Interview with Richard Rex Dawson, 1997. Transcript held by interviewer Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁷⁴ *The Davis County Clipper*, 9 October, 1903.
- ⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, 13 November, 1903.
- ⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, 2, September, 1898.
- ⁷⁷ Interview with Richard Rex Dawson, 13 February, 1999. Transcript held by interviewer Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁷⁸ *The Davis County Clipper*, 14 July, 1899, Layton Lines. “William Young expects to move into his new house next Monday.”
- ⁷⁹ Interview with Rulon and Norma Thornley by Anne Dawson Nace, 27 October, 1997. Transcript held by Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁸⁰ *The Davis County Clipper*: 2 September, 1898; 1 August, 1902; 11 November, 1904; 25 November, 1904; 27 December, 1907; 9 March, 1909; 16 April, 1909; 26 April, 1912; 14 February, 1913; 5 March, 1920; 25 March, 1932; 10 March, 1939; 17 October, 1941; 7 November, 1941; 20 April, 1945; 17 September, 1948.
- ⁸¹ Interview with Richard Rex Dawson, 1997.
- ⁸² Henry James Graham (1876-1955), #KWCV-NDT, www.familysearch.org Interview, Emily (Weaver) Young, June, 1958
- ⁸³ *The Davis County Clipper*, 8 April, 1921; 25 November, 1932; 16 February, 1934; 29 November, 1935; 7 January, 1938; 16 June, 1939; 27 October, 1939.
- ⁸⁴ *The Davis County Clipper*, 14 June, 1907.
- ⁸⁵ William Young obituary, *The Davis County Clipper*, 4 December, 1942.

⁸⁶ “The Woodman’s Creed” from “Secret Signs,” *Family Tree Magazine* (June, 2004), page 30.

⁸⁷ *The Davis County Clipper*, 15 March, 1901; 3 November, 1916.

⁸⁸ *Ibid*, 2 June, 1911, “Kaysville Kinks”: Will was voted in as a member of the board; *Ibid*, 1 February, 1924, “Kaysville Kinks”: Will was elected Consul Commander.

Chapter 3

Later Years

A Slower Life



Emma and Will proudly pose in front of their newly finished brick home, surrounded by neat plantings and a white picket fence.

Although Emma had met with some resistance from her own parents when she married Will, she was not shy about voicing her opinion on Lillie’s choice of a mate. When her only daughter announced her engagement to Alex Dawson⁸⁹ in the summer of 1916, Emma was not pleased. “She didn’t think much of my dad. He wasn’t quite good enough,” according to Dick,⁹⁰ but on 17 January, 1917, Lillie married Alex anyway, and moved to Dawson Hollow in East Layton with her new husband.

Not long after Lillie left to begin her own family, Will and Emma decided to build a new home on West Gentile Street. Neighbor Owen Willey bought their Church Street house,⁹¹ allowing Will to purchase a lot “near the OSL Station”⁹² at 145 West Gentile Street, where the trains “would shake the house when they hit the broken rails” as they thundered past.⁹³

The Youngs contracted with Joe Harbertson,⁹⁴ one of Emma's brother-in-laws, to build a bungalow,⁹⁵ a house design that was becoming increasingly popular around town due to its efficiency and low construction cost. The bungalow design was small and simple, but modern by the standards of the day, with installed electric lights and wall plugs for the increasing variety of household appliances that were becoming routine, such as refrigerators, washing machines, vacuum cleaners and water heaters.

Dark chocolate-colored brick ringed the bottom of the house, which was topped with white stucco walls. Will installed a white trellis on the porch so Emma's roses could climb up to the low-pitched roof. The front door opened directly into the living room where a soft, flattering light streamed through the north-facing windows. A set of built-in bookshelves bordered the fire place on the east side of the room where his-and-hers upholstered arm chairs were arranged for night time reading. Emma was delighted with her new kitchen, which opened up right off the living room and featured one of the new gas stoves everyone was talking about. The floor was covered with easy care linoleum in a lively design that complemented the curtains over her porcelain kitchen sink. She had effortless access to her small pantry right next to the basement steps, where she now stored bottled fruit instead of in a detached, dirty underground cellar. The back door was screened so that in good weather it was possible to catch a soft summer breeze without letting in any flies.

The bedroom and bathroom were accessible from a short hallway off the kitchen. No longer would Will and Emma be forced to make a trip to the outhouse in the middle of the night. Indoor plumbing meant a flush toilet, quickly drawn hot baths and the comfort of privacy. It was a home just right for the couple as they entered their mature years.



Will and Emma show off their new car in the 1920s.



Emma commissioned this family portrait not long after Lillie's first child Marseille was born in 1920. Missing from the photo is Lillie's husband Alex, who Emma did not approve of.



The Youngs always planted flowers and vegetables in their yard and spent many hours caring for the gardens.

Modern Means

The Youngs were perfectly positioned to enjoy the prosperity sweeping the nation after World War I. The rate of technological change was remarkable as mass production made former luxuries affordable to the middle class. By the early 1920s, most households were subscribed to party line telephone service where multiple telephones were operated on a single line. Two short rings signaled the Youngs to pick up the phone. Any other number of rings meant the call was for someone else, although Emma could listen in on the conversation if she lifted the receiver quietly enough to remain undetected.

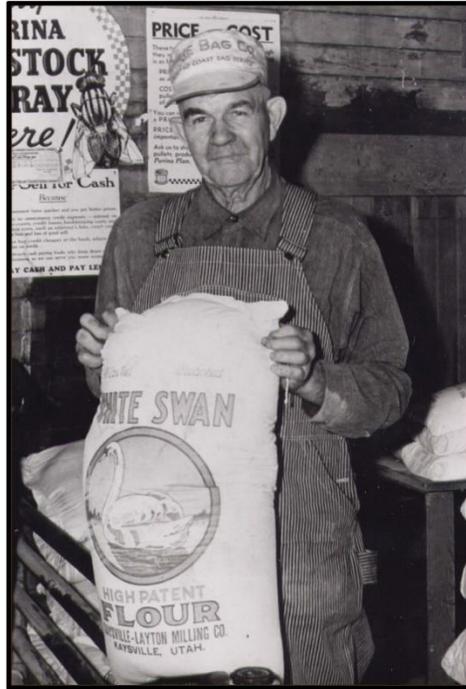
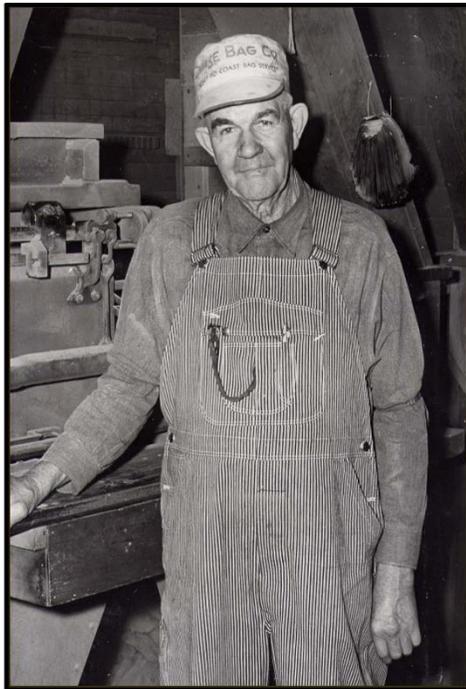
By 1930, Will had purchased a radio,⁹⁶ probably from local businessman R.C. Willey, who sold the sets himself door to door. The floor model radio was a fine piece of walnut furniture that was proudly displayed in the living room. Will spent an entire afternoon rigging up the outside antenna required for reception, but it was worth the effort. A click of the switch and turn of the dial not only brought

instant music and entertainment into the home, but live news updates as well. When Charles “Lucky Lindy” Lindbergh flew solo across the Atlantic in 1927, the Youngs first heard about it over the radio. They tuned in to listen to President Roosevelt’s fireside chats during the depression of the 1930s, kept up with the likes of John Dillinger as he robbed banks across the nation, and Hitler when he annexed Austria in 1938. Will enjoyed listening to the country music of the “Grand Ole Opry” and comedians Jack Benny, Bob Hope and Red Skelton, while Emma was partial to the daytime serial “stories,” whose advertisements aimed at homemakers gave the serials the nickname of “soap operas.”

The most dramatic change in the Young’s lifestyle came with their purchase of an automobile, which made quick and easy travel possible. At the typical speed of twenty-five miles an hour, Will could drive Emma to the doctor in Ogden, pick up the week’s groceries at the Farmer’s Union in Layton and still be home in time for dinner. Even with the dirt roads riddled with ruts and potholes, Will and Emma occasionally motored over to the Ritz movie theater on Main Street, where the glamour of Jean Harlow in *Hold Your Man*, the drama of Gary Cooper’s performance in *A Farewell to Arms* and the mystery of Alfred Hitchcock’s *The Lady Vanishes* offered an escape from everyday concerns.

Consumer Culture

Manufacturers and advertisers traded upon the culture of consumption created by the mass communication of the radio. Suddenly many products were sold by appealing to the taste and emotion of buyers, who could be lured into purchasing new items to have the latest model or color. Among goods available in a variety of fashion colors were towels and bed linens, underwear, cameras and plumbing fixtures. Of particular interest to female consumers were the attractive new dishes, now termed “depression glass,” which were sometimes offered as “give away” items in detergent boxes. Equally popular were the bold and bright colors of Fiesta Ware dinnerware.



Will was featured in a local news article when he “rounded out a half a century as a miller.”

Will's Death

Illnesses continued to plague Emma as she aged, and the habit of thinking herself unwell became more ingrained. Neighbor Norma Thornley remembered Emma as having “small complaints, more or less imagined,”⁹⁷ and according to Dick, “she seemed to relish her illnesses and demanded extra care. That’s the one thing I remember about her. Grandpa doted on Grandma and waited on her hand and foot. He was good natured and never complained.”⁹⁸

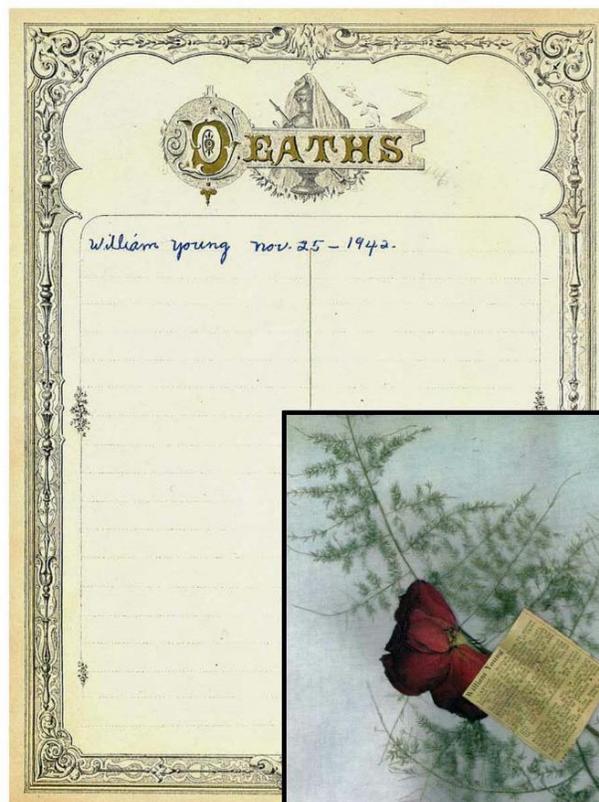
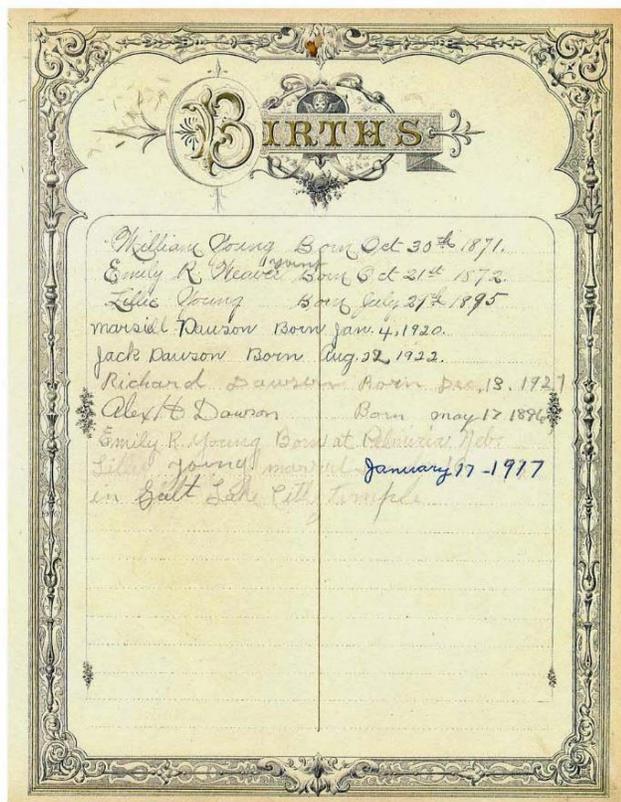
Will and Emma remained close to Lillie and her family, motoring up Church Street often to visit the grandchildren, Marseille,⁹⁹ Jack¹⁰⁰ and Dick. “They had a little Pontiac coupe. They used to come up and see us once in a while,” said Dick. “Grandpa always carried a bag of white peppermints in the glove compartment and he would give us one. I don’t recall Grandma even getting out of the car. I remember she would sit in the car with a shawl on her legs there, just being ‘sick.’”¹⁰¹

The Youngs lived a simple, conservative lifestyle. Every so often Will would change out his work overalls for the blue serge suit that smelled faintly of mothballs to drive Emma into Ogden to see the doctor. The weeks and months continued without much variation as Will and Emma aged. Even with hardships brought by the economic depression of the 1930s, the Youngs daily routine remained much as it had been before. Work at the mill was still plentiful and the daily walk to Main Street in good weather helped keep Will's muscles strong.

However, in the late autumn of 1942, when the cold winds froze the last remaining stalks in the fields, Will came down with a bad case of pneumonia.¹⁰² He found it difficult to fight off the phlegm that collected in his lungs and felt a sharp pain with every breath he took. Then there were the shaking chills, aching muscles and nausea. The heart disease he had been struggling with for several years had weakened him until he couldn't take the strain anymore.

Emma admitted him to the Dee Memorial Hospital in Ogden, where he was under constant medical care for twelve days, but it did him little good. Will finally succumbed at the age of seventy-one, two days after the family had celebrated Thanksgiving at home without him.¹⁰³ "I wish to express to you my sympathy in the loss of your beloved husband, and hope you receive some satisfaction in knowing that everything possible was done for him while in this institution," wrote the superintendent of the hospital,¹⁰⁴ but that was little comfort to Emma, who would remain a widow for the next twenty years.

Funeral services were held for Will the next Monday afternoon at the LDS white chapel on North Gentile Street, but most friends and family had dropped by Emma's home to deliver a covered dish and murmur their condolences in private. A small group of family members followed the hearse to the Kaysville cemetery where Will was laid to rest not far from where his parents were buried.¹⁰⁵



Emma noted Will's death in her Bible; Lillie pinned her father's obituary to roses preserved from the funeral bouquet and pressed them between the pages.

Book of Remembrance

“I did not come from a religious family,” said Dick, as he examined the crumbling Young family Bible in 1999. “I don’t know how this Bible got so worn out.” Even if a Bible wasn’t read on a daily basis it was an important book in almost every household at the turn of the twentieth century. As the most prominent book on the shelf, it was often used as a keepsake album, planner and file. It was always where a housewife could lay her hands on it, and was the perfect size and weight to press wild flowers and store precious items such as snippets of a toddler’s hair. Among those items Emma found special enough to keep in her Bible included a red velvet hat from Lillie’s baby wardrobe.



Emma not only kept locks of Lillie's hair between the pages of her Bible, but used the set of blank pages in back of the book to jot down important bits of information she didn't want to lose, such as the address of a friend, newspaper clippings and the lyrics of favorite songs:

Sweet and Low

*Sweet and low. Sweet and low, Wind of the western sea;
Low, low, brieve and blow, Wind of the western sea;
Over the rolling water go, Come from the dying moon and blow;
Blowing again, to me:
While my little one. While my pity one sleep.*

*Sleep and rest, sleep and rest,
Father will come to thee soon;
Rest, rest on mother's breast,
Father will come to thee soon,
Father will come to his babe in the nest;
Silver sails all out of the west under the silver moon
Sleep, my little one sleep, my pretty one, sleep.*

*The second page reads:
under the hickory tree,
Ben Bolt,
which stood at the foot of
the hill,
Together we've lain in the
noonday shade,
And listened to Appleton's
mill
The mill wheel has fallen to
pieces, Ben Bolt,
The rarters have tumbled in
and a quit that crawls
round the walls as you gaze
Has followed the olden din,
And a quite that crawls
round the walls as you gaze
Has followed the olden din.*



Left: Dick, Lillie, Emma and Jack in 1940. Right: Emma (back, second from left) stands between Doris Dawson (right) and Marseille and Lillie (left). Marseille's daughter Judy is the first child on the left, front.

Ornery Emily

Will had been a quiet, gentle and patient man, “the opposite of Grandma,” according to Dick. “My grandmother was very outspoken and feisty. She said what she thought and she could tell you off with the drop of a hat. I remember when I was six years old she took me to a restaurant in Ogden and as I was eating my green salad, I found a razor blade in it. I can tell you, she raised hell and we stormed out of the place.”¹⁰⁶

Emma’s persnickety nature increased with age and she became especially hard to please after Will’s death. “My mother always reminded me to make a fuss over her and ask how she was doing, which I did reluctantly, but it seemed she was always rather critical of Marseille, Jack and me, especially when I was in charge of mowing her lawn,” said Dick.¹⁰⁷

No matter how difficult Emma was to get along with, she valued family above all else in her later years, enjoying the mantle full of photos she collected of Lillie, Marseille, Jack and Dick, and her brothers and sisters, who she visited as often as she could.¹⁰⁸

Eventually there were great-grandchildren to become acquainted with. Marseille's daughter Judy Pearce¹⁰⁹ remembered Grandma Young as being mostly "in bed and she seemed ancient to me. She gave me a silver dollar when I went to visit her. I was perhaps eleven."¹¹⁰

Jacklyn Dawson¹¹¹ remembered her great-grandmother as "ornery," while Shelley Davies¹¹² first memory "was a visit when I was very small and she was very old. She was sitting in her chair, beckoning me to come over and give her a hug, but I was afraid of her wrinkles and the thick, dark glasses she wore. A few years later, my parents took me to visit on July 4th because the town parade passed right in front of her house where we could enjoy the festivities from her porch. By then I wasn't afraid of Grandma and had a good time visiting and eating ice cream sandwiches."¹¹³



Emma holds great granddaughter Carolyn Dawson as Alex and Lillie look on.

The “Medicine” Cabinet

Although alcohol was frowned upon by the LDS community as a beverage, a few people kept a bottle or two “for medicinal purposes,” including Emma, who had a bottle of sherry in the cabinet “to calm her stomach troubles,” according to Dick. Twelve year old Marseille recalled finding the bottle with a friend one day when Grandma Young wasn’t looking, and drinking “quite a bit.”

Realizing the level of sherry was now much lower than it had originally been, the girls added enough water to the bottle to reach the original level. Sometime later Emma caught a cold and took some of the sherry to nurse her symptoms. “She immediately spit it out, saying it didn’t taste right. She thought it must have gone bad,” said Marseille.

One of many physical complaints Emma had was rheumatism, a term often used to describe a variety disorders with symptoms of joint pain or weakness. Emma actually suffered for many years with the early stages of arthritis, which were often mistaken for rheumatism. It was probably not until she was older that her joints began to twist and tighten into the crippling condition that made her joints throb and eventually made her hands useless. In the meantime, she tried to treat the pain with a home remedy she jotted down in the back pages of the family Bible.

Rheumatism

Mix:

Oil of Rosemary

Oil of cloves

Oil of hemlock

Oil of orgaurmn

Spirits of turpentine

Spirits of ammonia

Camphor

Alcohol



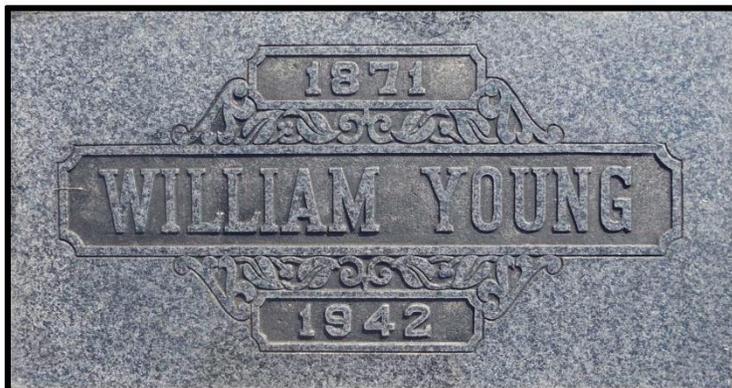
Emma, seated to the left of her sister Daisy, often wore this brass pin with set glass stones.

Living with Alex and Lillie

When Emma finally became too frail to care for herself,¹¹⁴ Alex and Lillie moved her to their new home along the Mountain Road in East Layton, where she slept on a daybed in the dining room for several years. It was not easy for Lillie to care for her elderly mother, since Lillie was every bit as crippled with arthritis as Emma was.

The situation was also difficult for Alex. “Grandma Young never did like my father,” said Dick. “She was a very difficult person, but Mom and Dad took care of her for several years.”¹¹⁵ Lillie was on call to help with feeding, bathing and other physical needs, such as supporting Emma as she shuffled down the hall with her walker, but eventually, Emma required the round-the-clock care only available in a nursing home. Alex and Lillie reluctantly took her to a Bountiful rest home where she died not long after being admitted in the spring of 1964.¹¹⁶ She was ninety-one years old.

A line of cars followed the hearse from the Larkin Mortuary to Layton’s Fourth Ward chapel where funeral services were scheduled for Monday, 9 March. Dick remembered the gesture of an old friend as the cortege turned onto Gentile Street. “Lawrence Ellis took off his hat and stood with his head bowed as we passed, something that was almost a forgotten custom at the time,” said Dick.¹¹⁷ The service was attended by friends and family, including her three children, nine great-grandchildren, and her surviving sisters Ellen Harbertson and Daisy Clark.¹¹⁸ A graveside service followed the funeral, where Emma’s casket was surrounded by floral arrangements “Even though Dad had a difficult time with his mother-in-law, he put up with her. I remember seeing tears in his eyes when they were talking about her at the service. He had a good heart,” said Dick.¹¹⁹ Emma was laid to rest next to Will in the Kaysville cemetery.



Will and Emma are buried side by side in the Kaysville City Cemetery, lot 43, Block 4, Plot A.

ENDNOTES

⁸⁹ Alexander "H" Dawson (1896-1968), #KWZG-7KD, www.familysearch.org

⁹⁰ Interview with Richard Rex Dawson, 1997. Transcript held by interviewer Shelley Dawson Davies.

⁹¹ *The Davis County Clipper*, 27 September, 1918, Layton Lines. "Owen Willey has purchased the William Young residence, and Mr. Young is preparing to build a bungalow on the lot near the OSL Station, which he purchased from Joseph Sill."

⁹² "Layton Lines," *The Davis County Clipper*, 27 September, 1918.

⁹³ Interview with Rulon and Norma Thornley by Anne Dawson Nace, 27 October, 1997. Transcript held by Shelley Dawson Davies.

⁹⁴ Joseph Taylor Harbertson (1886-1945), KWZD-3PR, www.familysearch.org

⁹⁵ Interview with Harold John Dawson, by Janice (Page) Dawson, 1 August, 1980. Transcript held by Shelley Dawson Davies. Mr. Dawson was a grandson of Will and Emma.

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- ⁹⁶ William Young household, 1930 U.S. Census, Layton, Davis, Utah, page 3B, enumeration district 12; Roll: 2415; Image: 804.0; FHL microfilm: 2342149.
- ⁹⁷ Interview, Rulon and Norma Thornley, 27 October, 1997.
- ⁹⁸ Interview with Richard Rex Dawson, 1997. Transcript held by interviewer Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ⁹⁹ Marseille (Dawson) Wood (1920-2010), #LZXN-4CD, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁰⁰ Jack William Dawson (1921-1977), #KWZG-75N, www.familysearch.org
- ¹⁰¹ Interview, Richard Rex Dawson, 1997.
- ¹⁰² William Young, death certificate no. 496 (1942), Utah Department of Health, Salt Lake City.
- ¹⁰³ Will died 25 November, 1942, of heart disease and pneumonia. William Young, death certificate no. 496 (1942), Utah Department of Health, Salt Lake City.
- ¹⁰⁴ Letter from Lawrence H. Evans, Superintendent, Thomas D. Dee Memorial Hospital, Ogden, Utah, 30 November, 1942, to Mrs. William Young, Layton, Utah.
- ¹⁰⁵ Lot 43, block 4, plot A, space 3. Utah Cemetery Inventory, Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, UT, USA: 2000.
- ¹⁰⁶ Interview, Richard Rex Dawson, 1997.
- ¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁸ *The Davis County Clipper*, 1 January, 1943: "Mrs. William Young is spending a few days in Ogden with her sister and family;" 29 April 1944: "Mrs. William Young left Sunday for Pocatello, ID, where she will spend a few days visiting Mrs. Joshua Moore."
- ¹⁰⁹ Judy (Wood) Pearce (1945-2013), #LK3Y-B5L, www.familysearch.org
- ¹¹⁰ Interview with Judy Wood Pearce, September, 1997. Transcript held by interviewer, Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹¹¹ Jacklyn Dawson (1946-2013), #KWZG-75G, www.familysearch.org
- ¹¹² Shelley Dawson Davies (1954-present), #KWZG-7KL, www.familysearch.org
- ¹¹³ Personal knowledge of Shelley Dawson Davies.
- ¹¹⁴ About 1962, according to Dick. Interview, Richard Rex Dawson, 1997.
- ¹¹⁵ Interview, Richard Rex Dawson, 1979.
- ¹¹⁶ Emma W. Young obituary, undated clipping from unidentified newspaper, in family papers of Richard Rex Dawson.
- ¹¹⁷ Interview, Richard Rex Dawson, 1979.
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