

william henry turley

WILLIAM HENRY TURLEY, son of ISAAC TURLEY and SARAH GREENWOOD TURLEY, was born in 1865 and married MARY SKOUSEN in 1887. MARY was born May 2, 1870 in Draper, Utah to James Niels and Cecil Marie Pedersen Skousen. She died Jan. 14, 1953 in South Gate, California and was buried in Mesa, Ariz.

The following is a biographical sketch of WILLIAM HENRY TURLEY written by his daughter, Della, with help of her mother, MARY SKOUSEN:

WILLIAM HENRY TURLEY was born December 14, 1865 at Beaver City, Utah. He was blessed in January, 1866 by John Murdock at Beaver City, Utah and baptized June 6, 1877 by Henry Rogers, Beaver Ward, and was confirmed by Dudley Merrels, Beaver Ward. He was ordained an Elder September 27, 1879 by Frank Farnsworth.

My father grew up when the west was a wild country. Indians were a problem and so were the thieves and other Godless men. However, father grew up to be a strong, healthy Latter-Day Saint, who was honest and truthful with his fellow men as well as loyal and faithful in attending to his Church



William and Mary Turley

duties. The people who associated with him were constantly working to get him to join them in smoking, drinking, and riotous living. He always refused them, however, and because of his high standards, he was always trusted and respected.

My father loved his parents dearly and patterned his life after them. There were no girls born to this family, so WILLIAM often assisted his mother in her house work. His father depended on him to look after the stock. He rode the range and was in complete charge of his father's cattle. This was a very dangerous job as there were many cattle rustlers and warlike Indians, but he was never afraid of them.

He did a lot of hauling of lumber out of the mountains. One trip he was late in returning home. He had a feeling he should not leave 'till later. When he did get part way home he saw smoke. He stopped his team and crawled up the ridge and there he saw a house burning and Indians who had killed all the family living in the burning home. He felt his life had been spared. Apostle Erastus Snow told my father if he would never carry a gun, he would never need one.

My father met my mother in Colonia Juarez, Mexico and they were married July 31, 1887. They later went to the St. George Temple and were sealed October 23, 1887. My brother, Marion, was born August 15, 1888 and I was born 3½ years later, January 24, 1892.

During the spring of 1896 my father worked some for Uncle Ernest Taylor. One day while irrigating a field of alfalfa, he became ill. It was later diagnosed as pneumonia. He died the 9th of May, 1896.

Children of WILLIAM HENRY and MARY SKOUSEN TURLEY:

Marion William Turley
Della Turley Shook

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Marion William Turley

Marion William Turley was born August 15, 1888. This blessed event occurred in Colonia Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. This was a very special day for this couple as it turned out to be the birth of their only son. They were later blessed with another baby, however, a little girl who was named Della.

The first seven years of Marion's life were typical for a Mormon boy living in this locale during this period of time. This can be said because he enjoyed the companionship of his father and mother and did the normal, expected things that children ordinarily do. The untimely death of his father at the age of thirty-one, however, changed all that.

When WILLIAM HENRY TURLEY died, Marion was seven years

old. The next tender years in this man's life were spent learning the lessons of life in the school of hard knocks. He learned to support his mother and sister. He learned to stand on his own two feet and rely on his own decisions. He learned to pray and to stand up for righteous principles. He learned to work and save and be self-reliant, and yet stay generous, humble, clean, and loyal to his mother and sister.

Because Marion had a keen business mind and the desire to succeed, many of the aforementioned lessons of life were well learned. For example, May 5 (Cinco de Mayo) is an important Mexican Holiday. Marion went to town to celebrate. Some of the things Marion wanted to see and do cost money, but he was broke. So he used his head! He went to the store and used his good credit to charge one dollar's worth of sugar. His mother made it into taffy candy and together they put it into sacks. He sold it at the park for a total of twelve dollars. He paid the store for the sugar, gave his mother nine dollars, and had two dollars to celebrate on.

When Marion worked he worked, and when he played he played just as seriously. He was what is known today as a natural athlete. He was big and strong and loved the outdoors and sports. He could throw hard with amazing accuracy. This, of course, made him a valuable baseball player. He could throw "in curves", "out curves", "drops" and "the whisker burn" as he smilingly labels it. "The whisker burn" simply means he could throw the ball at a high rate of speed and with such accuracy that the batter, fearing the ball was going to hit him, would strike at it in an effort to get out of the way. When he and his cousin, Lorin Taylor, went hunting rabbits, Lorin used a rifle and Marion threw rocks. Marion could bring in the most game. Volleyball, basketball, and fishing have also been enjoyed.

As Marion reached manhood he found himself qualified in many areas. He had valuable experiences riding the range in Mexico for Dan Skousen and Ernest Taylor; he worked on farms and ranches around Eagar and Alpine, Arizona for Bert Colter and Aunt DeWitt; he worked on road gangs and railroads with Willard Skousen; he studied agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry at the BYU; he worked as part of a survey crew near Parowan, Utah. Later he went to Canada with Willard Skousen to work on a farm and care for his work horses.

Marion's mother and sister followed him from job to job. They often cooked for the men and cared for Marion, showing their love and concern for him. While working in Canada for a wheat farmer named Harris, Marion bought a hotel and eating place for his mother and Della to run. He didn't tell them that he owned the place, but let them make the payments just as they would rent. Imagine the pleasant surprise to learn they actually had a sizable investment when they decided to move on.

Lola Ollerton was a lovely girl whom Marion met in Parowan, Utah. Marion had moved to Mesa after spending two

years in Canada. His letter of Proposal was accepted and they were married in the Salt Lake Temple, October 8, 1913. Together Marion and Lola built up a fine business in dairying and farming.

Marion was active in scouting during these happy years. He and Lola were not blessed with natural children. However, they adopted little Ned Leroy, but this child died suddenly after being in their home only two years. The boy scouts have been very important in filling in the void felt by this disappointment. Marion talks often about those thirty-six boys so close to his heart.

Marion has served in the following important positions in the Church:

1. He was one of the Seven Presidents of Seventies.
2. He was Bishop of the Tempe Ward from February 19, 1928 to January 14, 1940.
3. He was on the High Council of the Maricopa Stake from January 21, 1940 to March 13, 1945.
4. He served in the Maricopa Stake Presidency from 1945 to 1948.
5. He served again on the Maricopa Stake High Council.

When Marion was made Bishop of the Tempe Ward many of the people were not friendly to the Mormons, so he had trouble getting a place to build the church. One day Marion was walking on Main Street when a man started calling him terrible names. Marion let him have it on the jaw, knocking him down. The policeman came and arrested them for fighting. He took them around the corner upstairs to the Judge's office. The judge fined Marion ten dollars. Marion said, "Is that all it costs to whip that man?" The Judge said, "Yes." Marion handed the judge the ten dollars and said, "Here is another ten dollars because I am going to do it again." The fellow jumped up and started running out the door and down the stairs, and had just reached the bottom step and sidewalk as Marion's toe caught him in the seat of his pants. This sent him sprawling into the gutter on his face and hands. The judge, thoroughly entertained by this extemporaneous outburst, called Marion back into his chambers and returned his money.

After fifty years of married life Lola died. This was a great shock and great loss for Marion. His life was empty and difficult. So, when he met Fern Turley Faucett, they found interests in common and were married September 9, 1963. They have been very happy, spending their winters in Mesa and summers in their cabin in the White Mountains.

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Della Turley Shook

Della was born January 24, 1892 in Colonia Juarez, Mexico. At the time of the Exodus from Mexico due to the conflict going on throughout Mexico, her parents settled in California with their children. It was here she met and married Ralph Edwin Shook. Their marriage was not a happy

one and ended up in a divorce.

Della spent practically all of her spare time doing research on the Turley and related lines, sending in hundreds of names for Temple work.

After her brother Marion's wife had passed away, she moved to Mesa to help care for him as he was in poor health. Della passed away May 31, 1966. The Turley family can be grateful to her for her dedication to research and Temple work for our ancestors.



Della Turley

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This picture was included with the William Henry Turley materials but was inscribed only "To Aunt Mary Turley."