

SHORT SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF
VILATE MAY CROWTHER

VILATE MAY CROWTHER, daughter of Thomas Crowther and Jane Jewkes, was born 1 May, 1872, Fountain Green, Utah, the ninth child of a family of ten children. She went through many of the trials and hardships pertaining to early pioneering, yet not so severe as the first children born to this family. Peace had been established with the Indians about the time of her coming into the world, times improved because the people could get out and work on their farms, and roam the hills and mountains and they felt free. While it was a struggle to obtain the necessities of life, all members of the family labored hard and the older members especially were thoughtful of the comforts of the young ones. On holidays, more especially Christmas time, the oldest girls would help mother make rag dolls, and nick nacks for all, that the Christmas stockings that hung by the fireplace might be filled to the brim. This young girl with the rest would be awake before peep o'day, get out of bed and feel the stockings, to find out if Santa Claus had come. Oh the joy, the hustling to get dressed; (for it was the rule in this home that we were not to take down our stocking until we were dressed). Schooling facilities began to improve, the town was now twelve years of age and about one hundred families had located there, a postoffice, school house, co-op store, the United Order was organized there. Most everything was run by the organization of the L.D.S. Church. Emigrants from eight to ten nationalities, Old American stock, English, Scotch, Welsh, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Holland. Danish were predominant. All went to the same school, the same church, learned the English language, danced

together and in a very few years forgot all about nationalities. Three boys and three girls out of this family married Danish companions, and one girl a Swede. Vilate May was one of the girls to take a Danish man for her companion. She was active in the community, in school and socials, had been taught to sing and play the organ, but by the time she was eight years of age, quite a number of the older members of the family had married and started homes for themselves. A number of them going to Colorado, was the result of causing all the family except the oldest daughter, Mary Ann, who had located at Manti, Utah, to follow.

By the year 1890, Vilate May, with her parents and youngest sister, being the only survivors of the Thomas Crowther family left in Fountain Green, Utah, left in March for Colorado, where they made their home. May, as we all called her, being born on the first of May, was given that name. She was a beautiful figure approaching the age of eighteen, a good dancer and entertainer, she took well with the young people of Sanford and surroundings. Here she met a young Danish man from her home town of Fountain Green, James C. Jensen, a former neighbor. They became quite attached to each other and soon decided to become partners for life. Went back to the Manti Temple, Utah, and were married there 16 Oct., 1890.

After their honeymoon trip they returned to Sanford, Colo. In a short time a small new frame house was built in the northwest corner of town, just across the street west from his father and mother. May was a tall, slender woman, fair complexion, brown hair and eyes, self sacrificing for the comfort of others. It was pleasing to anyone to go to their home and to have them at our family socials.



Vilate May Crowther, Husband James C. Jensen

James C. Jensen was 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighed about 160 lbs., wore a heavy mustache; a very fine neighbor. Very industrious and considerate of his family, a likeable fellow. He was active in the L.D.S. Church, filled a mission to the Southern States about 1894-5. A good farmer and business man.

They were very unfortunate in losing three of their children by death, leaving only one girl, Etta May, who has survived them, and married Clarence Hansen, a distant relative from the old home town of Fountain Green, where they now reside. They have a very fine family of six children. Three of them married.

Vilate May died after a short illness, severe cold and pneumonia, 9 Mar., 1902, Sanford, Colo. After her death, Etta May and Robert, the two children living, were left with their grandmother Jensen, until April, 1904. James C. married a young lady, Nora Fredericksen, a very fine woman, and she became a good mother to May's children. In 1914, Robert died. Two children were born to this union, Earl and Maggie. Then on 8 Oct., 1906, James C. Jensen died, leaving Nora a widow with three children to care for.

DESCENDANTS OF VILATE MAY CROWTHER

- 2-9 Vilate May Crowther, b. 1 May, 1872, Fountain Green, Utah, d. 9 Mar., 1902, Sanford, Colo., m. 16 Oct., 1890, Manti Temple, Utah, James C. Jensen, b. 3 Aug., 1865, Fountain Green, Utah, son of James Nielson Jensen and Metta Katrena. Four children.
- 3-1 James Ernest Jensen, b. 25 Aug., 1892, Sanford, Colo., d. 8 Oct., 1912, accident, load of rock on the wagon which he was driving a team. He fell and the wheel ran over him.
- 3-2 Etta May Jensen, b. 5 Oct., 1894, Sanford, Colo., m. 14 Feb., 1917, Clarence W. Hansen, b. 8 July, 1893, Fountain Green, Utah, son of Hans Hansen (Bough) and Carline Jensen. Six children born to them. They reside at Fountain Green, Utah. All active church workers in L.D.S. Church. She was presi-

- dent of the Primary association for years in the Fountain Green Ward, North Sanpete Stake.
- 3-3 Robert Jensen, b. 11 Feb., 1900, Sanford, Colo., d. 17 June, 1914, Sanford, Colo.
- 3-4 Elmer Thomas Jensen, b. 24 Feb., 1898, Sanford, Colo., d. an infant.
- 4-1 Jewell Marteen Hansen, b. 21 Nov., 1917, Fountain Green, Utah, m. 18 Jan., 1935, Elwin Grant Goble, b. 26 Apr., 1910, son of George Goble and Marcel Ingram. Three children.
- 5-1 Grant Lary Gobel, b. 22 Feb., 1936, Nephi, Utah.
- 5-2 Ronald Merrill Gobel, b. 30 Oct., 1937, Nephi, Utah.
- 5-3 Carolyn Gobel, b. 2 Sept., 1940, Nephi, Utah.
- 4-2 Jessie May Hansen, b. 29 Aug., 1920, Fountain Green, Utah, m. 25 May, 1938, Ramond Sudweeks, b. 15 Apr., 1917, Nephi, Utah, son of Richard Sudweeks and Florence Bowls. Two children.
- 5-1 Richard Sudweeks, b. 19 June, 1930, Nephi, Utah.
- 5-2 Raymond Marice Sudweeks, b. 19 Aug., 1941, Nephi, Utah.
- 4-3 Willard Clayton Hansen, b. 7 June, 1921, Fountain Green, Utah.
- 4-4 Kay Arnell Hansen, b. 20 June, 1923, Fountain Green, Utah.
- 4-5 Devona Iona Hansen, b. 6 Feb., 1925, Elberta, Utah.
- 4-6 Gordon Merrill Hansen, b. 2 Sept., 1929, Fountain Green, Utah.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF NELLIE CROWTHER (MORTENSEN)

NELLIE was born in Fountain Green, Utah, July 18, 1875, to Thomas Crowther and Jane Jewkes. Here she lived and grew to young womanhood. She was schooled and educated in the private schools of this town under the tuition of the best teachers of the neighborhood. She was especially gifted in penmanship, her handwriting being almost as legible as print. She was a gifted and talented leader among her sex, for she was an interesting conversationalist and mixer, and had many admirers among the opposite sex. Being of English decent, she often used expression of the English brogue in her speech.

With her parents she immigrated to Colorado in 1888, and took up her residence in Sanford. Here she made many friends and acquaintances; among her many boy friends, her favorite one was Lars Hanmer Mortensen. As she was fair to look upon, she had many admirers. Being a good singer and performing well on the organ, she was gifted as an entertainer. She could accompany herself in singing as well as other soloists.

Soon after her arrival in Colorado, her principal interest turned to her future husband, Lars Hanmer Mortensen, whom she wooed and wed on 26 Nov., 1893, at her parent's home. Brother George W. Irvin performed the ceremony, surrounded by a host of friends and relatives. On account of financial difficulties, this young couple was not married in the Holy Temple, for the very important event. Apostle John Henry Smith advised the young couple to go ahead and marry at home and postpone the Temple marriage on account of economic reasons, for said he, "When I return to Colorado, I will



Nellie Crowther Mortensen

perform the sealing ordinance, the same as though it were performed in the Temple, therefore, children born to you will be born under the new and everlasting covenant."

Nellie served in many capacities in the Ward, such as Mutual, Choir and Sunday School. Her work and record as secretary of the Sunday School under the superintendency of Lars Mortensen, her father-in-law, who was very fond of her, was particularly outstanding. For which Assistant Church Historian, Andrew Jenson, gave the following comment: "This, Sister Nellie, is the finest record it has been my pleasure to examine in all the Church."

During the first winter of married life, her husband Hanmer was engaged as a teacher in the Sanford School. The newly wed couple were living in the new brick house then owned by Job Whitney, and although his salary was but \$35.00 per month, because of thrift, he purchased a five-acre tract of land in the east five acre field. At the conclusion of the school term they moved into the little log house across the street east from the Swen Peterson home, where they resided until their own little home across the street was made ready for occupancy. During the summer of 1894 every effort was being made to get this new home completed, being greatly aided by Lars Mortensen the father-in-law. Besides this work and tending their little crop, Nellie accompanied her husband down on the old Ball Ranch, where he was assisting Peter A. Mortensen in putting up the hay on said ranch.

One day, September 14, 1894, evidence of the arrival of the stork began to appear; not being familiar with such an experience, the young couple hardly knew what to do. Peter being wiser than they, suggested it would be better

to leave the ranch and consult the doctor or nurse. Acting on the timely suggestion, in a few hours, about six p. m. of that day, they were in Sanford. Mother Mortensen was quickly summoned and in a few moments were assured that conditions were perfectly normal and that they might expect the stork to appear before many hours. The next day, September 15, 1894, Nellie presented her husband with a fine 7½-pound boy. So Hanmer Wells, as he was called, became a new member of the family, there never was prouder parents, nor a finer baby said his mother: there never was a mother who cared more carefully for a child, both in dress and other care than Nellie. The boy baby became the idol of all who knew him, he never cried or gave any trouble until he had reached his 16th birthday.

She was a fine housekeeper, very congenial and loving and thoughtful in the home. It is doubtful if there was ever a happier home than her home, for they constantly strove to make each other happy; no contention but full confidence reigned supreme. Wherever her husband's work took him, Nellie and the loving baby also went. During the next year Hanmer was offered the principalship of the public school at Monticello, Utah. There both went and became important additions to the new neighborhood. Said Pres. Platt Lymon to the young couple, "The neighborhood has been made better by your work and residence here."

During the early spring of 1896, as we were preparing to leave for home, the sad, sad news reached us that Nellie's loving mother had suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. In her delicate state of health, the shock was so great that it preyed on her mind until her health was impaired. Finally on July 11 she gave birth to another bouncing boy 10½ lbs., Penn

B. Mortensen. At the time of the birth it seemed that Mother Crowther came to call for her, for Nellie saw her and said, "Mother!" She never showed signs of being perfectly normal, although the good and conscientious Dr. George Hamilton did his best to care for her and restore her to health. One day he said to me, "Mr. Mortensen, I have done my best, but it seems we must submit to the inevitable." On August 10, 1896, dear Nellie was taken into another sphere, leaving a heart broken husband and two fine baby boys to be cared for and reared, a father, brothers and sisters to weep and wait and hope for the day when they may all meet again where there will be no more sorrow, sickness, pain nor death. She lived and loved and her presence is greatly missed. This poem by Don Q. Crowther sets forth plainly the faith of this family in the marriage relationship.

THE JUNE COUPLE No. 2

As time flows past you, year by year,
 Little voices, children dear;
 Will brighten many days to come,
 And tie your heart strings near to home.
 And if a shadow comes one day,
 When 'neath the earth you lay away:
 A boy or girl with eyes of blue,
 Or perhaps it may be one of you.
 When death comes back and one by one,
 It takes them, till near all are gone;
 In that day, my happy pair
 When you'r engulfed in deep despair:
 When you like Him on Calvary,
 Will cry, hast thou forsaken me?
 Your heart will then turn unto God,
 You'll look back o'er the ways you've trod.

And plead to Heaven with trembling voice,
 That the loving souls of your heart and choice
 May live again as they did of yore,
 Renew their loving ties once more.
 Be not estranged in foreign lands,
 But take each other by the hand.
 See and love and feel and know,
 The thrills you knew long years ago.
 God has said my happy pair,
 That loving ties continue there.
 If in the Temple of the Lord,
 You'r wed by His own power and word.
 Not 'till death you two doth part,
 For death will only be the start;
 Of centuries where you will be,
 Together through eternity.
 To share the sweet delights and joys,
 Of Heaven with your girls and boys.
 If in your youthful hearts you're sure,
 There burns a love that will endure.
 Beyond the pale of mortal days,
 To cheer and hope and help always.
 Then don't accept a term so short,
 As until death you two doth part.
 Lift your eyes to God's great plan,
 Divinely shaped that every man;
 With wife, and children doubly blest,
 Can there obtain eternal rest.
 From folly, vice and worldly sin,
 And build a loving realm therein.
 The lives of those you love so dear,
 May be secure from harm and fear.
 There within that sheltered nook,
 You and yours can dwell, and look,
 Into the great eternity,
 Which yours for work and joy shall be;
 Think far young happy pair, and you,
 Can make your happiest dreams come true.
 Think not in terms of earthly years,
 Through which you move 'mid sighs and tears;

But let your vision dare extend,
 Through countless ages without end.
 Where you will travel hand in hand,
 With faith to walk and understand
 The path to all eternal joys,
 For husband, wife and girls and boys.

LARS HANMER MORTENSEN

Lars Hanmer Mortensen, b. 9 Nov., 1870, at Parowan, Utah. Moved with his parents to the San Luis Valley, Colorado in 1887, settled in the town of Sanford which was just begun in 1885. Worked on the farm with his father, passing through the trials and vicissitudes of pioneer life, until 1892, when he went to Provo, Utah, to attend the Brigham Young Academy. On April 6th, 1893, was privileged to attend the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple with his father and other San Luis Stake members of Colorado. There listened to the inspiring words of the president of the Church, Wilford Woodruff. With the school year over, went back home to Sanford, Colo., and was engaged to teach in the Sanford school. On November 26, 1893, was married to Nellie Crowther.

"I continued to seek for knowledge and an education, attending institutes and normal schools, until I received a high first grade certificate. Continued with my educational work until I received a P. D. M. Degree from Greeley, Colorado, 1914. Prior to this time after having served as principal of Sanford public school for five years, 1902 to 1907, was called on a mission to the Northeastern States by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After having accepted the mission and prepared to go, the presidency of the Church, at the request of the presidency of the Snowflake Stake, through the recommendation of

Prof. L. F. Moench, principal of the Snowflake Academy, my mission was changed to go to Snowflake Academy and teach music there, where I served from December, 1907 to the spring of 1910. I was released from my mission there and returned to my home in Sanford, Colo., where I recuperated my health which had been run down because of excessive over work. I was then appointed teacher of music, history, theology, etc., in the San Luis Stake Academy, where I served for four years.

"In January, 1914, I engaged in politics and served in Conejos county office of county treasurer. Two years later was elected county superintendent of schools of said county and served two terms, four years. 1920-21 was placed at the head of the music department of the Center Consolidated Schools at Center, Colorado, achieving some success. The next year was elected high school principal of the Sargeant Consolidated School at Monte Vista, Colorado. Because of the high type of student body and teacher organization, this school was designated by the school authorities of the nation as the best consolidated school in the United States and the Center Consolidated, both of whom we had organized, as the second best. Was selected superintendent of public schools of Manassa, Colorado, to organize the Manassa High School as a state high school on the basis of the remains of the old academy. Within a year and a half we placed Manassa High School on the accredited list of high schools of the state, because of the proper type of organization. Served from 1924 to 1927. This school was then designated by the state C. E. A. as one of the very best. In 1927 made a visit to Los Angeles, California, and soon began work in the high schools of that great city and served for twelve years. Should have mentioned that I received a degree of A. B. at Greeley, Colorado, 1922. Also an honor degree

of eminent service from Colorado State in January, 1927, without solicitation and a National Social Science College Degree of Pi Gamma Mu, 1927. In 1933, was appointed Bishop of Pasadena Ward, where I served for two years, but because of long distance to my work, was released and appointed Stake Superintendent of Sunday Schools of Hollywood Stake."

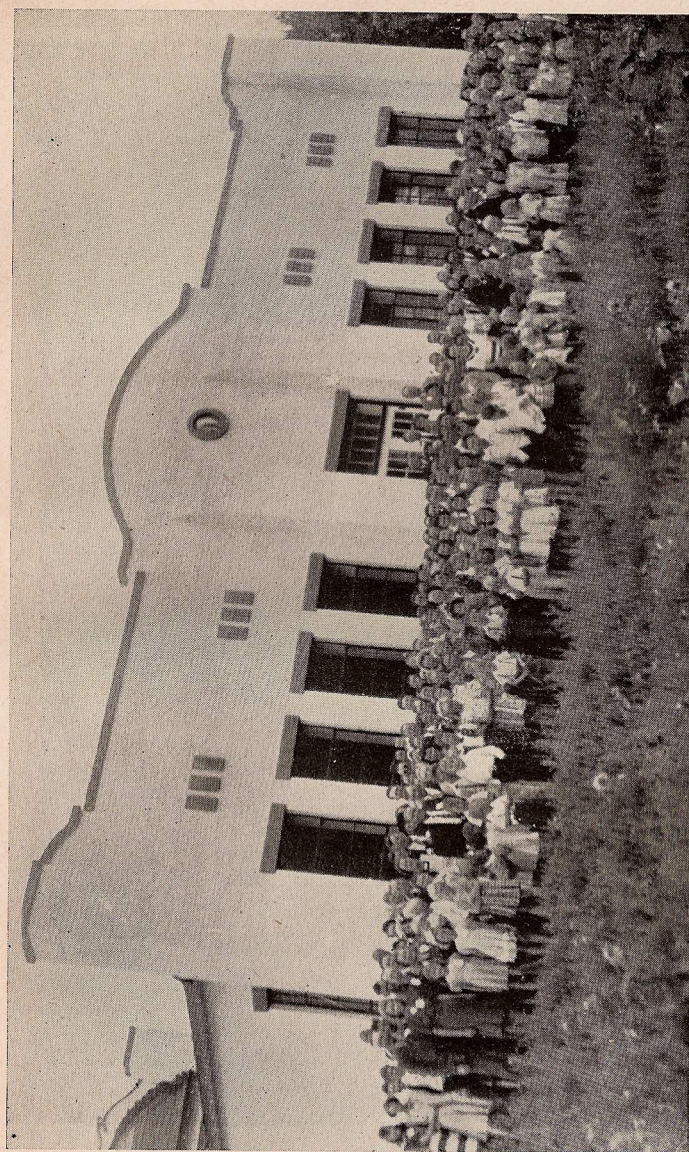
Was sent as a special delegate to the N. E. A. at Washington, D. C., in 1934, and to Denver, Colorado, in 1935. On June 5, 1937, was granted a Master Degree in Science of Education by the University of Southern California. In 1941, was elected to membership of the Forty Plus C. In the fall of 1941 came back to Colorado and taught the Norton Ville School during the winter and spring of 1942, his wife being with him.

DESCENDANTS OF NELLIE CROWTHER

- 2-10 Nellie Crowther, b. 18 July, 1875, Fountain Green, Utah, m. 26 Nov., 1893, Sanford, Colo., Lars Hanmer Mortensen, b. 9 Nov. 1870, Parowan, Utah, son of Lars Mortensen and Cornelia Decker. Resided at Sanford, Colo. Two children born to this union. Nellie d. 10 Aug., 1896. Lars Hanmer, married his second wife 12 Oct., 1896, Luna C. Bailey, who became a fine mother to his two boys left him as babes. She died 9 Sept., 1926. He was always an ardent worker in the L.D.S. Church, was a member of the Bishopric in the Sanford Ward for years. Was diligent in seeking an education. Has made teaching his profession. Has taught in Colorado, Arizona and California. Is now back in Colorado teaching in the Norton Ville school. Many of the young people under his tuition have been inspired to high ideals and given an ambition to seek for a better life. On 21 Oct., 1927, he married a third wife Gussie Leone Yielding, b. 18 Sept., 1889. She is now with him here in Colorado, a very fine woman. No children by either of his last wives.
- 3-1 Hanmer Wells Mortensen, b. 15 Sept., 1894, Sanford, Colo., m. _____, first wife, Hazel Nielson, b. _____,

died soon after marriage, daughter of Peter Nielson and Laura King. Married second wife _____, Blanch Kirtland, b. _____, daughter of Daniel Jackson Kirtland and Alice Von Cannon, d. _____. Two children were born to this union. Wells was a talented musician, filled a mission for the L.D.S. Church in France, was called home when the World War No. 1 broke out _____. After the death of his second wife he married his third wife _____. They returned to Sanford, Colo., where he died 27 June, 1933, bur. Sanford Cemetery.

- 4- 1 Lovelle Louise Mortensen, b. 6 Aug., 1919, La Jara, Colo., m. 4 Apr., 1936, Elmer E. Parr, son of Earl Parr.
 5- 1 Coleen Ann Parr, b. 5 July, 1939, Wendell, Idaho.
 4- 2 Coleen Mortensen, b. 22 June, 1922, La Jara, Colo., m. 27 Oct., 1940, Howard Clayton Johnson, b. 10 Sept., 1912, son of August Johnson.
 5- 1 Coleen Ann Parr, b. 5 July, 1939, Wendell, Idaho.
 3- 2 Penn Bertrand Mortensen, b. 11 July, 1896, Sanford, Colo., m. _____ 1919, Bessie Warnock, b. 17 Mar., 1899, daughter of James Warnock and Rozilla Reynolds. Ten children. Address, 720 E. Grand View, Arvado, Colo.
 4- 1 Penn Odell Mortensen, b. 30 May, 1920, Logan, Utah.
 4- 2 Lois May Mortensen, b. 17 Nov., 1922, Boulder, Colo.
 4- 3 Norris Jay Mortensen, b. 1 July, 1924, Sanford, Colo.
 4- 4 Nellie Jean Mortensen, b. 13 March, 1926, Sanford, Colo.
 4- 5 Verres Mortensen, b. 19 Dec., 1928, Sanford, Colo., d. 19 Feb., 1929.
 4- 6 Thomas Lyle Mortensen, b. 3 April, 1931, Sanford, Colo.
 4- 7 Norland McRay Mortensen, b. 11 Jan., 1933, Sanford, Colo.
 4- 8 Marvin Wells Mortensen, b. 18 Sept., 1934, Alamosa, Colo.
 4- 9 Gerald Richard Mortensen, b. 24 March, 1936, Sanford, Colo.
 4-10 Larry Steven Mortensen, b. 26 April, 1941, Denver, Colo.



Thomas Crowther Reunion, Sanford, Colo., 26 July, 1941



Thomas Crowther Reunion, Sanford, Colo., 26 July, 1941