



JENNIE ROSE CROWTHER DABB 1913–1991

Jennie Rose Crowther, was born 4 June 1913, in a blue frame home (954 North Harrisville Road), the third child of Ellen Catherine Groberg and Albert Lawrence Crowther. Her family moved into a yellow brick house (930 N. Harrisville Road) down the road from the home where she was born, and she lived there from the time she was 3 or 4 years old until she married. Her other siblings included Eva Maurine (1909), Lawrence Albert (1910), Chester Groberg (1915), Elva Josephine (1922), Eleanor (1924), and Kenneth Bert (1926).

She attended her early years of school in the four room yellow brick school house located next to the LDS meeting house in Harrisville; both were within walking distance from her home. There were two grades in each room of the school, and one in a small room that was built for an office. She rode the bus to attend 10 – 12 grades at the Weber High School on Washington Boulevard.

After completing high school, she enrolled three months in Henager's Business College in Salt Lake City. Her education was cut short because of financial hardship brought on by the depression when the bank where her parents had their money was closed. Her sister Eva helped Jennie get hired at Shupe Williams Candy Company for the Christmas rush, and she continued working there until she was married and was no longer allowed to work. Before World War II, it was the practice that when a woman married, she was often no longer permitted to work.

She enjoyed associating with people. She was involved in plays and activities in the Harrisville Ward, and enjoyed fun parties that included all singles no matter their age. She started to date Ralph Dabb, whose family also lived in Harrisville. He went to Provo to attend BYU, so she only saw him on some weekends. He graduated in the spring of 1938 with a teaching certificate, but jobs were hard to get so he worked on the farms and in canning factories that summer. They married 23 December 1938. Ralph secured a teaching job which took them to Iona, Idaho. Their first daughter, Janice (October 1940) was born while they lived in Idaho. After teaching one year, the family spent the summer in Moscow, Idaho, where Ralph went to summer school in order to get an Idaho teaching certificate. They returned to Iona where they lived in two rooms on one side of the old church. The Hawkley family lived in an apartment on the other side of the church. The Hawkley's had two sons still living at home. Their son Dean later met and married Jennie's sister Elva.

Jennie and Ralph went from Iona to Nephi, Utah, where Ralph taught in a school near where they lived so he could walk to work. This was during World War II when gas was rationed. This helped them to be able to save their gas stamps, so they could go home to Harrisville to visit occasionally. At the end of their second year in Nephi, their daughter Carolee was born (June 1943). On one of their trips home, Ralph got a job teaching for the Weber County

Schools so they moved to Ogden. They moved around some, living in Ogden, Riverdale, Roy, and North Ogden. Their son Keith Ralph was born October 1946 while they were living in Roy. Ralph and Jennie moved back to Harrisville in 1951. They first lived in a two story brick home at 875 North Harrisville Road. Ralph and Jennie later moved their family into the home that Jennie's brother Chester had built at 944 North Harrisville Road.

During the summers, they took their family on trips to various places. After their children were in school, Jennie worked occasionally at Shupe Williams. She worked at the Model Laundry with her sister-in-law, Lorene; and she worked part time for a few years at a little store in South Ogden that was operated by some of their friends. She worked during five filing seasons at the Internal Revenue Service, and then she went to Wahlquist Jr. High where she worked in the office.

Their daughter Janice married Byron Knight, also from Harrisville. They went to California for a year where Byron obtained a degree in mortuary science and became a licensed mortician. Janice went to beauty school and became a licensed beautician. Their daughter Carolee married J. Michael Downs. They were married a year and three months when they were accidentally asphyxiated in a camper in June 1966. After serving a mission to the Indians in South Dakota and Montana, their son Keith married Gaylene Larson, also from Harrisville. He finished college and was ready to begin teaching when he was drafted into the service and was stationed in San Diego and Long Beach and spent about seven months at sea during the Vietnam War.

Jennie held various positions in the Harrisville Ward. She served in the Primary organization and taught Relief Society. About a month after the death of Mike and Carolee, Ralph was made bishop of the Harrisville Ward. They built a cabin in Island Park, Idaho. The family enjoyed spending time there during in the summers.

Jennie was ice skating at Willard Bay with some of their grandchildren when she fell on the ice and broke her wrist and hip. Seven months later, Ralph had surgery for prostate cancer. Two years after her having a broken hip, doctors had to operate on her hip again and do some bone graphs. She was on crutches nine months and then used a cane the rest of the year. Six months after her surgery, Ralph had five by-pass open heart surgery. They had a grandson that had a form of cancer. He had surgery and chemo therapy for about two and a half years and fortunately survived. Another grandson was seriously injured in an automobile accident. Through it all, Jennie stated she found that, "you can usually handle whatever comes to you better than you ever thought you could."

She proved her ability to handle whatever comes when she suffered with multiple health problems which led her to eventually depend on the complete and loving care of her daughter, Janice Knight. She died in Janice's home 13 December 1991. She was buried in Memorial Gardens of the Wasatch Cemetery in South Ogden next to her daughter Carolee and husband Michael Downs.

SOURCE:

Dabb, Jennie Rose Crowther. "Autobiography of Jennie Rose Crowther Dabb."
Unpublished manuscript.

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| Crowther, Albert Lawrence | Dabb, Janice |
| Crowther, Chester Groberg | Dabb, Keith Ralph |
| Crowther, Eleanor | Dabb, Ralph |
| Crowther, Ellen Catherine Groberg | Downs, J. Michael |
| Crowther, Elva Josephine | Groberg, Ellen Catherine |
| Crowther, Eva Maurine | Hawkley, Dean |
| Crowther, Kenneth Bert | Hawkley, Elva Crowther |
| Crowther, Lawrence Albert | Knight, Byron |
| Dabb, Carolee | Larsen, Gaylene |