

FENTON AND GWENDOLYN (KILLPACK) WILLIAMS

Gwendolyn Killpack was born on 7 Apr 1899 in Ferron, Utah. Her father, Frederick Arthur Killpack, was born 11 November 1865 in Glenwood, Sevier, Utah. Her mother, Jane Ann (Richards) Killpack, was born 4 February 1872 near Bradford, Yorkshire, England. Gwen's mother died in San Francisco when Gwen was only 1 ½ years old. Fred took his family there so that he could study medicine. They had only been there a few months when Jane Ann became deathly ill. Emma Richards, Jane Ann's sister, went to California to help before Jane Ann died. After Jane Ann's death, Emma accompanied the family back to Ferron and stayed with them to help them. Emma and Fred were married on 4 November 1903, and Emma became a wonderful second mother to the children. Gwen adored her. She was kind, unselfish and deeply religious and no one ever spoke unkindly of her. The children lovingly called her "Aunt Emma."

Fred and Jane Ann were the parents of Irene, Clive, and Gwendolyn; also Reva and Mary, who died in infancy. Fred and Emma were the parents of Janie Jerusha and William, who died the day he was born.

Gwen's father taught at her school and she walked to school with him every morning, holding onto his big, warm hand. Their home was across the street and about ½ block east of the elementary school. Fred built their home after he and Jane Ann were married and they moved into it on 14 December 1890.

Gwen's 1st grade teacher was Geneva Anderson, an excellent teacher. During the first grade Gwen and Lafonta Lowry became acquainted. They became dearest friends and were like sisters. Ella Folsom was her 2nd grade teacher. Stella Huntsman was her 3rd grade teacher. Her 4th grade teacher was Millie Burdick. Gwen's own father was her teacher in the 5th grade. Her 6th grade teacher was Evelyn Lowry, and her 7th grade teacher was George A. Weggeland.

Gwen inherited her father's love for beautiful things. Their home was one of the most beautiful in town, surrounded by beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers. When Gwen was nine years old her father traded their home in town for a nicer and larger home on the east edge of town. Fred ordered from California what he thought was a hedge, to plant along the front yard of the new home. The "hedge" grew and became tall mulberry trees with beautiful, juicy, purple, lavender and white fruit that was enjoyed by many people for many, many years. Gwen's home became a gathering place for young people, and Fred provided for their entertainment. He had a pond with a boat and lots of fish. In the summer the young people went boating and swimming; in the winter they went ice skating. He made a place for playing croquet and basket ball. He built a merry-go-round by putting a wagon wheel on top of a large post, with ropes tied to the wheel so the children could hang onto the ropes and turn the wheel. He made a big swing and a hammock, and provided roller skates for the children to use on his basement floor.

When Gwen was in the 7th grade their new home burned to the ground, destroying almost everything, including her doll clothes, her trunk and all her precious keepsakes. It was not long before her father rebuilt the home, making it even more beautiful. In the new home a little sister was born. They named her Janie for Gwen's mother and Emma's sister.

"Aunt Emma" was never very well. She had heart trouble and at times was very ill. Gwen was in constant fear of her dying and leaving them, and prayed that she might get well and be strong, but it wasn't to be. She died 24 November 1913, when Gwen was 14 years old and Janie was 9. Their home was so empty and life seemed too lonely for Gwen to endure. Her older sister had married so Gwen was left to care for things at home. She did the washing, ironing, cooking, sewing, and tried to care for her father, brother, and little Janie. Her father could not find help so Gwen gave up school for a while. Later she managed to care for the home and go to high school. She walked a mile each morning to school, hurried home to prepare lunch for her family at noon, ran practically all the way back to school, and then home at night. She found plenty of work waiting for her. She often cried on her way home when she smelled good dinners cooking in neighbors' homes. Her brother Clive was good to help and even mixed the bread very often, but he also had his farm duties to attend to. Gwen was always grateful for the things she had been taught by her Aunt Emma, cooking, sewing, etc. For a year or so after "aunt Emma's" death, Gwen felt her presence close. Gwen had "real" dreams of her giving encouragement when things became too hard. One night in a dream she gave Gwen a complete recipe for making hot cakes. Gwen used the recipe to make hot cakes for many years.

For two years Gwen attended the Presbyterian high school in Ferron until the state high school was built. Gwen loved to take part in plays. When she was in high school her father married again, Catherine (Richards) Stevens, another sister of Gwen's mother, a widow with four children. One of Catherine's daughters was married.

Fenton Lyle Williams was born on 26 February 1898 in Emery, Utah. He was the son of Nephi and Emelia (Staalesen) Williams.

Because of Emelia's determination that her children should have more education than was available in Emery, the family moved several times. They moved to Castle Dale so that the children could attend the Emery Stake Academy and then to Salt Lake City for the older children to have University training. In Salt Lake City,

Fenton attended Granite High School. Because of Emelia's encouragement five of her children became school teachers, Ada (Petty), Nephi L., Russell, Eva (Killpack) and Fenton.

Fenton said, "I never did graduate from high school. I went from Granite High to Snow College in Ephraim, intending to take my fourth year of high school there. I registered as a college student with only three years of high school. After one year at Snow College I was offered a teaching job at Castle Dale elementary school at \$75.00 a month. I started teaching in 1917 at the age of 19. During the school year I courted the girls and went often to Ferron to parties. That was when I found myself falling in love with my Gwendolyn, my future wife, Gwendolyn Killpack of Ferron.. From the time I first knew her she greatly affected my thoughts and actions." The following year Gwen and Fenton both attended the Brigham Young University and became better acquainted. Gwen taught the second grade in Ferron in 1918-19, and Fenton went to Idaho, where he and his brother and brother-in-law had purchased a dry farm. Gwen and Fenton corresponded and the following summer, 9 June 1920, they were married in the Salt Lake Temple by Joseph Fielding Smith. Fenton and Gwen went all by themselves to the temple to be married. Fenton said that even the two witnesses were strangers to him.

Gwen and Fenton moved to the dry farm in Idaho, but when the crops failed for two successive years because of smut, they moved back to Ferron in January of 1922. The night they returned to Ferron almost "broke," Fenton lost a \$10 bill. This was more like \$100.00 now. They searched and Gwen prayed. Gwen dreamed where the bill was and in the morning she told Fenton. It had rained and there were big ruts in the muddy road. Fenton found the bill in one of the ruts where Gwen told him to look. Within a week or two a teaching job opened in Ferron and Fenton began teaching again.

During the terrible flu epidemic of 1919, Gwen was an "Angel of Mercy." There were over 1,100 cases in Ferron; many times whole families were ill, and some died. Gwen was petite and not considered a strong person physically, but she worked day and night to help those with the flu, and she stayed well. She was so busy running from family to family that for one week she did not take her clothes or shoes off or go to bed, and she hardly took time to eat. The Duncan baby, who was deathly ill, was her miracle baby. The mother, Jennie Duncan, was terribly ill also. Everyone had given the baby up and Gwen's father told her not to go there any more because it was hopeless. Even though the baby was so near gone that it was cold nearly all over, Gwen spent another night. She said, "I held the baby all night and gave it part of my breath and made it live. I've never seen anything quite so wonderful as to see it still living."

Gwen and Fenton's children were: Millie (Harold Sellers) born 30 Apr 1922; Clara (Floyd J Woodfield) born 28 June 1925; Fenton Jr. (Joanne Faragher) born 26 July 1927, and Grant Kimball born and died 8 April 1929. All of the children were born in Ferron.

In Ferron, Gwen worked in Relief Society as literature teacher and in Primary as a teacher and counselor to Dehlia Petersen. In the summer of 1929 they sold their little home in Ferron and their furniture and moved to Provo so that Fenton could continue college. He graduated in 1930 during the depression from the Brigham Young University and was very fortunate to be given a position as principal of Roosevelt High School. Fenton was offered a better salary as principal of the high school in Delta and they moved there in September 1935. After two years in Delta, the family moved in 1937 to Sacramento, California, where Fenton worked first for the State and later became Command Historian for the Sacramento Air Materiel Area at McCellan Field in Sacramento.

Gwen was very happy in Sacramento. She and Fenton later served as stake missionaries, bringing some 20 people into the Church and as temple ordinance workers in the Oakland Temple. Gwen supported Fenton in all of his callings and was especially happy when he was called to be a patriarch. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a big reception on 20 June 1970. Gwen was 5 feet 4 ½ inches tall, weighed between 120 and 125 pounds; she had hazel eyes and rich, dark brown, naturally curly hair. Gwen had many gifts and talents. She had a special gift of faith and had many spiritual experiences during her life time, some very sacred. She was privileged to see president Heber J. Grant during the dedication of the Oakland Temple. Of course, he had died many years before.

Gwen lived for her family and was most happy when her children and grandchildren came to visit. She was a wonderful cook and a beautiful seamstress and she kept an immaculate home.

Gwen died in Sacramento on 8 Oct 1971 and is buried next to Fenton and their baby, Grant Kimball, in the Ferron Cemetery.

Following her death Fenton married Hazel (Foote) Killpack, Gwen's cousin's widow, and after her death he married Leocadia (Lee) Adelaide Wojciechowski. Fenton lived an exemplary life of service through three centuries from 1898 until 2001. He died in St. George, Utah, 6 Oct 2001 at the age of 103 and is buried in the Ferron Cemetery next to Gwen and Grant Kimball.