

# Nancy Minerva Earle

## Documents from Julia Rawlins scanned July 5, 2007



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NANCY MINERVA EARL

Nancy Minerva Earl was born 13 October 1840 in Hancock County Illinois. Her Father Aca C. Earl was born 1812 ,Ontario Co. New York. He died 1 December 1891, Peno Nevada. Her mother Minerva Rich was born in 1815

Her mother died when Nancy was four weeks old. Her Father Aca C. Earl felt that hs could care for the two older children, Joseph and Julia, but he asked the grandparents if they would take the tiny baby. They did and raised her as thier own.

When she was small she had dark red hair and it often hung in ringlets.

She always worked in the field with her Grandfather, she was a favorite with her grandparents, she was the only small child in the family at home and so she enjoyed helping her Grandfather very much.

She Never Knew much of her Father and brother and sister since she never saw them.

She was married when she was 17 years plus 9 months old, on 11 July 1857, to George Leavitt as his third wife.

It was some years later she and husband made a trip 300 miles to see her Father, but the day before they got there he left, she was disappointed in not seeing him, it nearly made her sick.

Her Father had married again to Nancy Allred, and they raised a family that she had never heard of until about the time her Father died.

His wife wrote a letter and sent a picture of her Father, which was a great joy to her. The stepmother wrote several letters after this, she also sent Nancy a quilt top she had pieced.

It Seemed such a shame that Grandma couldnt have the pleasure of meeting some of these people in her life time, she did know that the Wixam family were her relatives on her father's side and knew some of them. She knew the Rich family and loved them all.

Grandma was a real pioneer for all her life she was helping to build new homes. She came with the pioneers in Charles C. Rich's Company to Utah.

Her Grandmother, Nancy O'Neal Pich died on the 5 of October 1847, which left her alone with her Grandfather, she was only 7 years old at the time.

Her Grandfather lived in Centerville for 17 years then moved to Paris Idaho in the spring of 1864 and died the 23 July in 1866, being past 80 years old.

Nancy moved to Lewiston Utah with her husband and his other family. Grandma had 10 children ,7 boys and 3 girls, Louisa died in May 1865, leaving just one girl, Julia with all those boys . Rabies Charoltt Ann and Landon had lived only 7 and 8 months.

When her boys were hunting places and homes, she went with them up to Star Valley in wyoming, where Charles and Henry settled and met thier wives and raised thier families.

It was while she was in Auburn, Wyoming with her boys her husband died 23 Jan 1889. at that time she came back to Lewiston and lived in her home which is still standing there. She left again in 1906 and went to Mampa Idaho and stayed for 2 years with her Daughter and Husband where they had work, then she returned to Lewiston to stay.

Grandma worked for different people and always had a job . When the sugar factory was built she had boarders for a long time, thenshe helped the lady that lived at the stockyards to cook for the men who worked there. She had many friends among the people who worked at the stockyards.

She was a real wife and Mother all that knew her loved her dearly, She was a good neighbor and Nurse, she went out as a midwife a great many years, for there were very few that could take care of the Mother and new baby in those days. In those new countries many lived a long way from help in time of need.

This trait she gave to all her children for they were all blessed with the good deed of helping the sick and poor. Another thing her Children were all taught was to get up early in the mornings and go to bed early at night, and how to cook a meal at home or on a campfire this thier Mother taught them to do. As her family were mostly boys they all became good cooks and helped her fix the meals for the family. The Youngest was the daughter Julia.

Just a few things about Grandma

Grandma always had a pan of water on the stove and as she soiled the dishes they were washed so that when the mwal was over only the dishes on the table were left to be washed.

She planted trees and shrubes often, her favorite bush was the wild rose bush. She had them close by the house and they were big enough to make shade for the house.

She always raised a good garden, not only for herself but for the children and neighbors. she always had a good strawberry bed, making such good jam and jelly for the whole family.

As she grew older she could not pull the weeds, so she would break the tops off the weeds, it helped so they would not seed any more.

One more real joy she got was in changing her house around. Her home was always a pleasant place to go. We used to say we didn't know which side the kitchen would be on when we went next time.

Grandma always had 2 or 3 cows and raised the young calves. Then she raised 2 or 3 pigs so she always had meat and lard she needed for herself and she made her own butter which she kept in a brine, so when needed she always had some for others

Grandma made her own soap from grease she saved, she had a nice flock of chickens which supplied her family with plenty of eggs. There was always plenty of good cold milk, cream and Buttermilk. I think this was why the family all loved good buttermilk.

She always had a cat to lay around the house and in her rocking chair.

The two Grandmas lived close together and the families always got along together. The families had Thanksgiving and Christmas, also New Years day for a big dinner together. These were real happy days for the 2 families never knew anything else but to love each other.

The Christmas before she died we went over to see her. She insisted on getting up and making soda biscuits, she said maybe she would never make any more and she didn't. Her biscuits were always cut with a tomato can so when you got one it was nearly a meal and were they ever good! When she gave you one with butter and jam it was a real treat. That was what we always had before we went home as young children.

She was a member of the first Relief Society, It was organized the 6th of January 1876, on the 20th of Jan. the visiting teachers were organized and she was put in as a overseer of the visiting Teachers for years. There were 13 women put in as teachers the same day. When they had a celebration of 50 years, She and grandma Janett went both wearing dresses just alike, with white collars and a small silk scarf around their necks.

All the time the Grandmothers lived close together and raised thier families as one as one they never had a cross word between them.

Grandma died at her home in Lewiston 20 May 1911, Grandma Janette died later at a very good old age.

Written By Granddaughter Eulalia Leavitt Taggart

April 1954

#### Added Notes

The Leavitt homes were almost 2 miles East of the center of town and as Grandma Minerva walked to and from town she used the time well by Knitting as she walked. She taught Grandma Janett's granddaughter-in-law, Nellie how to put a new heel in a sock so it was not necessary to knit a whole new sock when the heels wore out,