

Anna Maria Hall Price Hall

1868 - 1951

Written by her daughter

Dean Hall Burbank

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Transcribed by Faye West July 2008

Maria Hall, commonly called Rye, was born to Richard and Anna Maria Singleton Hall on 6 January 1868 in Manti, Utah. She was the oldest of three daughters and at an early age tried to fill the roll of the son her parents never had. She was her father's constant companion.

She used to tell us about going with her father to gather wood for their fuel supply and one time she dug up a cottonwood seedling, took it home and planted it in their front yard. That tree is still there and June and I have had our pictures taken by it. It is huge now. Mom was only five years old at that time.

At about 25 years of age Rye married a handsome young man, Edwin Ether Price and they became the parents of four children: Edwin H, Richard Henry, Mark Reece (who died in infancy), and a daughter Letitice (Lettie).

When Lettie was six months old, Edwin Sr was stricken with a kidney disease and died. Being left a widow in those days with small children was a serious thing, financially. It became necessary to leave her children in the care of her parents and get work. For a time she lived with Susan Young, a wife of Brigham Young, at the Lion House in Salt Lake City.

In order to be closer to her family, Mom paid a considerable price for recipes for hot tamales and meat pies. With the help of her father she opened a small eating establishment on Main Street in Manti and soon she was well known for her tamales and meat pies.

When Mom's sister, the youngest of the three decided to marry Carl Poulsen and move to Canada, it caused quite a furore in the family. Grandmother could not see her baby moving off to a foreign country away from all the family. It was finally decided that all the family would move. Grandfather thought it would be a good chance for Rye's boys to get a start, so in the spring of 1902 they made the move to Magrath, Alberta, Canada.

Mom's father was a stonemason by trade, and his skill with rock and also blacksmithing came in handy in the new town. Soon after settling there, Mom again opened a small restaurant and very shortly became famous again for her specialties. With the help of her boys she was again able to provide for her family until she met and married Orson Hall on 11 March 1908, thus changing her name back to Hall.

Mom was a hard-working woman, trying almost any job and making a success of it. She planted many gardens and always had a supply of potatoes and dried corn on hand. She milked cows and made and sold butter. She loved her chickens and made pets of them (a trait I didn't inherit). When it was time to butcher a pig or beef, she knew exactly how to cut it up to the best advantage, skills she no doubt learned in her restaurant business. She was also a good seamstress, not only capable of making new garments but adept at 'making-over'. When her mother would come for a visit you could be sure one or two quilts would be put on the frames.

She was an excellent cook, she didn't always have the best ingredients to cook with but she could make a wonderful meal out of what she had and no-one ever left her table hungry.

Life was hard after Dad passed away but she made the best of it but it finally became necessary to give up her home which she had shared with Earl Ellingson for several years. No grandson was more

considerate of her than Earl.¹

Alter Mom's 70th birthday she was able to get her pension, she continued to live with her children but was able to do some travelling which she enjoyed. Just before her last illness and death she had planned on going to Victoria which she loved.

Mom passed away 28 March 1951 and was buried on 31 March 1951 at Taber Memorial Cemetery. Everyone loved and respected Aunt Rye and I am so proud that she was my mother.

¹ Earl Ellingson was Maria's step-daughter Mary Elizabeth (Hall) Ellingson's son. [FW}