

SHORT STORY OF THE LIFE OF LOIS ELLEN FOSTER BELNAP

Lois Ellen Foster Belnap, wife of Hyrum Adolphus Belnap was born January 21, 1894 to William Payne and Eunice Carrigan Foster. She received her schooling in the Ogden City Schools.

At a very early age, she showed a great love for music. Her desire to play the piano was intense. Because they had no piano, she began to play the organ and showed a remarkable talent. Her father was a fine musician and was the conductor of an orchestra and also a band. He was a great help to her in her music. When she was sixteen, her father gave her a job as pianist in his orchestra and she played at dances and many other social affairs. During this time Lois used a rented piano to practice on, but at the age of 19, she began giving piano lessons, and she bought and paid for a new piano with her teaching money. She still has this piano today and it is in excellent condition. During this time she studied with many fine teachers, one being Squire Goop, head of the music department at the University of Utah. She continued teaching piano lessons until she was married. Lois became a very accomplished pianist while working under Mr. Coop.

On September 14, 1921, she married Hyrum A. Belnap in the Salt Lake Temple. They lived for four years in the Ogden Eleventh ward. During this time, two children were born to them, David Foster and Ruth Ellen. In 1924, they moved to the Ogden Thirteenth Ward. Ronald Foster, Kathleen Lois, and Karen Foster were born to them at this time. Karen died soon after birth. Lois became the Thirteenth ward Relief Society organist in 1955. She also was a member of the Thirteenth ward choir and the Ogden Tabernacle Choir.

On January 20, 1940, her husband passed away leaving her a widow with four children, the oldest, David, only 17, and the youngest, Kathleen, was 9. She was left with a very meager income from a small insurance payment (only \$35.00 a month). At that time, Social security did not cover her husband's job. One of Lois's most remarkable traits was that of frugality and was a great blessing to her following Hyrum's death. She saved and cut corners wherever and whenever possible. She would even walk to and from town to save a nickel bus fare. She began taking piano students to help supplement her income. It was very hard for her to get started. In the beginning, she would even go to the student's houses. However, after three years she had developed a fairly good group of students or pupils. Her children helped her a great deal and the Lord blessed her very much. She continued to teach piano lessons until 1971. During this time she taught many many students. She was particularly good with beginners because of her great patience. She not only taught these students, but she counseled them. Many of them have come back to her and told her of the impression that she had made upon their lives.

In 1948, she was called to be the organist of the Ogden Stake Relief Society. She held this position for several years.

In 1950, she and her daughter Kathleen went on a trip to Hawaii to visit her son, David, who was managing the office there of the United Press International. For a year before going to Hawaii, she taught the Beehive girls in the Thirteenth ward. After returning, she was again sustained as Relief Society Organist.

In 1954, she sold her home in the Thirteenth ward and moved to the 54th ward where she taught Sunday school. Several years later the ward was divided and she was made Ward Organist and Relief Society Organist. After seven years, the ward was divided again and she was called as the organist at the 61st ward. She is still a member of that ward and is the Relief Society and ward choir organist,

Because of Lois' frugality, she was able to support two of her children on mission for the LDS Church. Her son Ronald F. filled a mission from the Thirteenth ward of the Ogden Stake to the Northern States Mission from 1950 to 1952 where he served as Supervising Elder for the last 15 months of that mission. Her daughter Kathleen L. filled a mission from 1957 to 1959 at the Washington DC Mission. All of her four children are married. They are David F. Belnap, Ruth Ellen Belnap Hoggan, Ronald F. Belnap, and Kathleen Lois Belnap Hunter.\

Lois passed away at a Nursing Home in Ogden, Utah on 27 January 1985 at the age of 91. She was a grand lady and a wonderful wife and mother..