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The Life of Ellen Garn Capner Rhodes

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Such a touching
story of a great lady
who faced every day
with courage, hard
work and a loving
heart. - a true pioneer
Your essay made me
remember my own
grandma's boiled
raisin cookies
Good work Zoey!

I chose to do my essay on my Great Great Grandma, Ellen Garn Capner Rhodes. I chose her because I am named after her and wanted to get to know more about her. I've learned so much about her and am happy to be named after her. Ellen was born on March 11, 1888 she was the oldest of 6 children. Her mom's name was Fanny Celesta Garn and her Dad's name was Samuel Rigby Capner. When Ellen was 2 years old the family moved from Centerville, Utah to East Garland, Utah to start a new farm. Only nine years after starting the new farm Ellen's Dad, Samuel was shot and killed in a hunting accident. A group of men went hunting for rabbits because they were eating their crops. They were in a sled and somebody's gun fired when they hit a bump and hit Samuel in the back and killed him. Ellen was only 11 years old when her dad died. Ellen had to help around the house a lot because she was the oldest and was able to have the most responsibility.

Around the age of 16 she met this boy named Jasper William Rhodes or JW as his friends called him. JW and Ellen met when JW was checking the water canal close to her home. One day JW left his gloves by the canal and Ellen found them and filled them with dirt just to make a funny joke. When JW found the gloves he thought that the joke was pretty funny and started to check the water more frequently just to see Ellen more. JW and Ellen got married on November 29th 1905 in Brigham City Utah. After they got married they moved in with Ellen's mother. JW helped with the farm and Ellen's younger siblings. In 1908 the "big cement house" was build and JW and Ellen finally got to live in their own house. By then they had two sons, the youngest was six weeks old. The house had a kitchen, one bedroom, and a pantry. They had no electricity or running water. Water was pumped from the well and brought in to cook and do laundry. A "summer kitchen" was added to make room to feed the farm help since the kitchen was so small. Ellen's mom, Grandma Capner, moved into the "big cement house" with Ellen and JW in 1910 after her Son, Samuel William Capner got married and moved into her house with his new wife. Even though Grandma Capner became crippled, she could still help around the house. Some of the things she helped with were, washing dishes, cleaning eggs, and darning holes in socks. Something that kept Grandma Capner busy was feeding the babies because JW and Ellen had 15 of them (9 boys and 6 girls). All of the children were born at home. The first ten with a midwife named Belle Farnsworth and the last 5 were born with a Tremonton doctor that came to the house. As the family grew the house had to get a lot bigger. Around 1914 before their 6th child was born the house was added onto. They added a second bedroom, a larger kitchen and a porch. The best part of the addition was the Ucon water system. They now had running water in the house. They also made the "summer kitchen" into a bunk house for the boys now that the kitchen was bigger. There was lots to do on the farm and Ellen taught the kids how to help. They milked the cows by hand twice a day, separated the milk, churned the cream into butter, and collected and washed eggs. The butter was sold or traded for other things that they needed. She also kept busy baking and keeping a large garden. She made 15 loaves of bread twice a week. They farmed hay, grain, sugar beets, and red potatoes. Good thing Ellen had a lot of kids because she needed the help on the

farm. Grandma Capner lived with them and helped around the house till she died in 1951 at the age of 84.

Ellen had some hard times in life. Her first heartache came when she lost her 4 year old son, Daniel, to pneumonia. He was her 12th child. When World War II came around she had to send four of her sons to war. It was a hard time but she was glad that they all returned home safe. Her husband, JW, died of pneumonia in the year 1960. This was a shock to Ellen even though he had been sick for a couple weeks. Ellen also lost 2 more sons. Ross died of cancer on July 27, 1967 and Arnold died in an accident at the Utah and Idaho Sugar Beet Factory on January 5, 1973. Ellen went through some hard times but was happy to have her family around her.

In 1965 Ellen sold her house and farm to her son Ray and moved to a small house in Garland, Utah. She was happy to make new friend at her new house. I always picture her with a smile on her face. She loved her family and was so happy to see it grow so large. She was always excited to welcome new babies and sang her favorite song, "A Little Boy Went Walking" to many of the 66 grandchildren as she rocked them to sleep. She always had cookies for them when they came to visit. Boiled raisin cookies were their favorite. She liked to walk to church and the grocery store. She continued to garden. She enjoyed reading and the "Lawrence Welk Show" was her favorite. She lived alone until she died at the age of 90 on September 3, 1978. She is buried in the East Garland cemetery.

I have loved reading many stories about my Great Great Grandma Ellen. She had a life that was filled with lots of love and children. When I think about her life, I think of someone who worked hard and was pretty busy all the time. I'm so glad I was able to get to know her better through this essay.