

Courtesy of the Lambert and Woodruff families

Wilford Owen, Rhoda, June, and Helen Mar Woodruff

eventually married her stepbrother after attempting to sublimate her own complex feelings of romance.

Owen and Helen's children stayed for several years with their grandmother Emma. Other members of the Woodruff family desired to care for the children, but Emma remained determined to care for them herself. It was during Emma's care that baby Rhoda, then three years old, died unexpectedly. Family members consoled themselves with the thought that Helen and Owen could be reunited with their baby. At Emma's death, Heber J. Grant and his wife Augusta (Helen's sister) "adopted" Wilford Owen, Helen Mar, and June. The children remained in the Grants' care until adulthood. Wilford, the eldest and perhaps the most affected by his parents' life and death, led a troubled existence. He served the LDS Church on a mission and married in the LDS temple, but later felt compelled to enter into plural marriage. The LDS Church, by then totally estranged from the practice of polygamy, excommunicated Wilford, and his first wife divorced him. Wilford was later rebaptized in the LDS Church, remaining with his second wife and their seven children but almost completely abandoning his first family of five. Both Helen and June also married, each having five children. Wilford died in 1986, Helen in 1990, and June in 1995.

Shortly after Owen and Helen's deaths, apostles Cowley and Taylor were removed from their leadership positions in the LDS Church, and their membership was tenuous. President Joseph F. Smith issued in 1904