

# Leona Steele Ball Conder (1905-1984)

## Partial Chronology of Life Events

1907-1908 LIFE EVENT: New Mexico, San Juan Co., Kirtland, "The Roads of Life: My Story", by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, pages 2-3; earliest memories of family visit to aunt, uncle, & cousin [Nell & Tom Hadden, cousin Caroline], remembers being made over and baby talked to, with the background of musical jingles and sight of fancy harness on beautiful team of horses.

Note: Thomas Jefferson HADDEN married Eleanor Maria (Mariah) (Nell) WILLDEN, on 26 December 1884, in Mancos, Montezuma, Colorado. "Nell" is the daughter of Charles Turner WILLDEN JR, born 21 Jan 1837, and Emma SMITH, born 27 Sep 1843.

1907-1908 MIGRATION/RESIDENCE: New Mexico, San Juan Co., LaPlata, "The Roads of Life: My Story", by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, page 2; lived in a small two room log cabin on the LaPlata, New Mexico, road.

Abt 1908 MIGRATION/RESIDENCE: Colorado, Montezuma Co., Redmesa, "The Roads of Life: My Story", by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, page 8; moved to a tent house on a homestead at Redmesa, Colorado, just a few miles north of the New Mexico State line.

1908 [Autumn] MIGRATION/RESIDENCE: New Mexico, San Juan Co., LaPlata, "The Roads of Life: My Story", by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, page 10; moved back to LaPlata in time for the three older kids to go to school – and Papa could work in the Jones coal mine.

Note: No one used much coal in the summer time, but when winter came they'd come from miles around to get coal from the Jones mine. All Leona could remember about that fall or winter was that

sometimes Lauren and her would walk up the canyon to the mine and take Papa his lunch.

1909 [Summer] MIGRATION/RESIDENCE: Colorado, Montezuma Co., Redmesa, "The Roads of Life: My Story", by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, page 10; Papa put a board floor in the tent and built a room onto it.

1910 CENSUS: Colorado, La Plata County, Kline Precinct No 20. United States 1910 Census, micro publication # not given, (Ancestry.com: 1910 US Census, Colorado, La Plata County, All townships, ED # 83), Supervisors District No 2, Enumeration District No 83, ED 3 May 1910, by Jonh C Sullivan, Enumerator 99, page 127 Sheet No 10 B, line 51, dwelling 136, family 136.

Benjamin Steele, age 39, male, minor (coal mines) length of marriage 15 years, born in Iowa, father born in Illinois, mother born in Illinois, able to read and write, owned home, free of mortgage; Tryphena, age 31, female, born in Utah, father born in Utah, mother born in Utah, able to read and write; Olive, age 13, female, born in Colorado, father born in Iowa, mother born in Utah, able to read and write; Eva, age 11, female, born in Colorado, father born in Iowa, mother born in Utah; Lauren, age 7, male, born in Colorado, father born in Iowa, mother born in Utah; Leona, age 5, female, born in Colorado, father born in Iowa, mother born in Utah.

1911 [Summer] RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES: Colorado, Montezuma Co., Redmesa, "The Roads of Life: My Story", by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, page 13; Papa [Benjamin Franklin Steele] joined the church later, after he and Mama were married.

Note: As of 28 February 2003, of the 10 listed likely matches in the IGI for Benjamin Franklin Steele, four matched records

with LDS Ordinances indicate he was baptized in May 1898, and two indicate he was baptized on 15 May 1898 – 3 years after he and Tryphena were married.

**1911 [Summer] RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES:**

Colorado, Montezuma Co., Redmesa, “The Roads of Life: My Story”, by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, page 13; traveled to Salt Lake City at the age of 6 with parents so that Leona’s parents could be endowed and sealed in the Salt Lake Temple.

**Note:** There is evidence to suggest, according to several records in the IGI, that the LDS Ordinances of the endowment and sealing for both Benjemin and Tryphena occurred on 24 August 1910.

**Note:** Based on the evidence that the parents were endowed and sealed in Salt Lake City on 24 August 1910, that would put her at age 5 years, and 5 months old at the time of this event.

**1911 [Summer] LIFE EVENT:** Colorado, Montezuma Co., Redmesa, “The Roads of Life: My Story”, by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, page 13; on the way to Salt Lake for the temple sealing, Leona’s family stopped to visit her uncle Johnny who lived on the road to Mancos.

**Note:** her uncle Johnny may be the same person as John CRANDALL, who married Benjemin’s sister, Katherine STEELE. It appears they were married on 29 December 1876. Katherine was born 26 Nov 1855 – which would make her 14+ years older than Benjemin.

**1911 MIGRATION/RESIDENCE:** Colorado, Montezuma Co., Redmesa, “The Roads of Life: My Story”, by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, page 16, when Jesse was a year old Leona’s family moved into the log house, and Papa soon had [the] little frame shanty (which

they used as a kitchen) moved and attached to the log house.

**Note:** Leona’s father tore down an old two room log house that was located on what was known as Hay Gulch, a few miles to the north of Redmesa. He moved it down on the running gears of the wagon (the chassis without the wagon box), then rebuilt the house across the wash from their little shack.

**1913 [Autumn] LIFE EVENT:** Colorado, Montezuma Co., Redmesa, “The Roads of Life: My Story”, by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, page 16, started elementary school.

**Note:** It was a two mile walk each way to and from school, if they went around the road; but little more than a mile if they cut through the field.

**Note:** The winters were quite severe then – snow piling over the top strand of barbed wire which enclosed every field.

**1913 MIGRATION/RESIDENCE:** Colorado, Montezuma Co., Redmesa, “The Roads of Life: My Story”, by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, page 16, Tom and Nell Hadden (uncle and aunt) homesteaded in Redmesa, close to the little brown schoolhouse on the hill.

**Abt 1913 MIGRATION/RESIDENCE:** Colorado, Montezuma Co., Redmesa, “The Roads of Life: My Story”, by Leona Steele Ball Conder [1905-1984] (BOOK: Privately Printed, 1971), Autobiography, page 16, Grandmother and Grandfather WILLDEN built a home up in the township (or townsite as it was sometimes called) which consisted of a store and post office. [This event must have occurred prior to 1911, because Charles Turner WILLDEN Jr died on 29 June 1911.]

**Note:** There was also a basement meeting house which was later used as part of their new church house.

**Note:** Papa (Benjemin Steele) volunteered to help make brick and to burn them in

the kiln. Most of the work fell on Papa's shoulders.

**1920 CENSUS:** Colorado, La Plata County, Precinct 26 Red Mesa, United States 1920 Census, micro publication # not given, (Ancestry.com 1920 US Census, Colorado, La Plata County, ED #70), Supervisors District No 4, Enumeration District No 70, ED 3 February 1920, by George Harrison, page 273 Sheet No 11 A, line 9, dwelling 82, family 84.

Benjamin F. Steele, head of family, home owned and mortgaged, male, white, age 49, married, had not attended school since 1 September 1919, able to read and write, born in Iowa, father born in Illinois, mother born in Illinois, speaks English, rancher, live stock [difficult to read this], employer, farm schedule 43; Tryphena, wife, female, white, age 43, married, had not attended school since 1 September 1919, able to read and write, born in Utah, father born in England, father's mother tongue is English, mother born in England, mother's mother tongue is English; Evangeline, daughter, female, white, age 21, single, had not attended school since 1 September 1919, able to read and write, born in Colorado, father born in Iowa, mother born in Utah, English as native tongue; Lauren, son, male, white, age 17, single, has attended school since 1 September 1919, able to read and write, born in Colorado, father born in Iowa, mother born in Utah, English as native tongue, laborer, farming; Leona, daughter, female, white, age 15, single, has attended school since 1 September 1919, able to read and write, born in Colorado, father born in Iowa, mother born in Utah, English as native tongue; Jesse, son, male, white, age 9, single, has attended school since 1 September 1919, not able to read or write, born in New Mexico, father born in Iowa, mother born in Utah; Lucy, daughter, female, white, age 6, single, has attended school since 1 September 1919, not able to read or write, born in Colorado, father born in Iowa, mother born in Utah; Mabel, daughter, female, white, age 2, single, not able to read or write, born in Colorado, father born in Iowa, mother born in Utah.

