

# The DeLong Family Saga

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## Elizabeth "Libbie" DeLong



**Born 2 Apr 1877**  
**Died 24 Sept 1931**

**Panguitch, Garfield County, UT**  
**Flagstaff, AZ**

**Married Loran Savage 25 July 1917**

## Elizabeth "Libbie or Lib" DeLong Savage

Compiled by Gladys Winn Banks

Elizabeth "Libbie" DeLong was born 2 April, 1877, in Panguitch, Utah. She was the fourth girl and fifth child of Albert DeLong and his wife Elizabeth Houston DeLong.

*The Deseret Eagle*<sup>1</sup>, the school paper, in reporting a school program said, "An address of welcome by Libbie DeLong of Garfield County, a girl of fourteen years who lost her hearing at the age of five, and is now a member of lip reading class."

Libbie, in writing to her niece, Beth Cline, about her mother Dicey, wrote the following:

"You know — your mama and I were so closely associated all our lives. Had it not been for her untiring goodness to me when I was a kid, her perseverance in making me understand when I first lost my hearing, I might now be without speech. Grandma was too busy with her large family to pay much attention but your mama was "ears" for me until I left to go to school."<sup>2</sup>

Libbie became deaf in 1882, when she was five years, from scarlet fever and small pox.<sup>3</sup> One can understand her mother's dilemma in trying to deal with her newly deaf daughter. She had two little boys, Jim and Albert, ages three and one. In the years until Libby attended school in Ogden at the school for the deaf, three more little girls were added to the DeLong family — Mary Dempster, Gladys, and Winnie. The DeLong household was indeed a busy one.

Libbie entered the Ogden School for the Deaf in the fall of 1891, at the age of fourteen. Her cousin John Clark, with whom she had a close association, also attended the School for the Deaf on Ogden, Utah, at the same time. They also attended Gallaudet College in Washington D.C. She was an active participant in school programs and activities. In February of 1892, Libbie participated in a program given before the State Legislature to demonstrate what was being done at the school.<sup>4</sup> Libbie gave the welcome and later participated in a demonstration of lip reading and a recitation of a story told by another person. This bright young woman continued to excel in her schoolwork and participate in school programs.<sup>5</sup> The January 15, 1893, *Deseret Eagle* listed Libbie and her cousin, John Clark, as members of the Student Literary Society, and were storytellers in the meeting. In the Christmas program that year, the program listed Libbie DeLong as giving a recitation called "Two Little Boys and Two Little Sleds." In her final year at the school in Ogden, Libbie was listed as one of the editors of the student newspaper.

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1 The Deseret Eagle, February 1, 1892

2 Letter written to Beth Showalter Cline by Elizabeth "Libbie" Savage, February 4, 1918

3 Records from Gallaudet College

4 The Deseret Eagle, February 1, 1892

5 The Deseret Eagle, January 15, 1892

Libbie's success in Ogden made it possible for her to leave and attend college at Gallaudet in Washington, D.C., the national college for the deaf. She left for school in 1891 at the age of 20. The records at Gallaudet College show that the U.S. Government paid for her schooling.

From some of the photo albums that were made by Libbie, the pictures and captions show a young woman, active in drama and school activities, and with a sense of humor. She was a great letter writer and communicated with her family, especially her sister Dicey, with whom she had a very special relationship as we mentioned earlier.

During her time at Gallaudet she worked on the school publication called the Buff and Blue. From November 1901 to June 1902, she wrote a monthly column called "Our Washington Letter for the Utah Eagle," the new name of the paper at the Ogden school. Some of the Washington events of the day that she wrote about were:

November 1901 - The Death of President McKinley and the Funeral

December 1901 - The New President, T. Roosevelt, and the Civil Service

January 1902 - A Visit to the Opening of Congress after McKinley's Death

February 1902 - A Reception at the White House Given by President Roosevelt

March 1902 - The Visit of Prince Harry of Germany

April 1902 - A Mother Goose Party — Baseball Game with Yale

May 1902 - A Visit by Helen Keller

June 1902 - A Review of Her Five Years at Gallaudet

(This article is printed at the end of the history)

After being the first in her family to have a full college education, Libbie left Washington and returned to Ogden, Utah, and the School for the Deaf, where she began to teach that fall at the school. She continued in that position for the next fifteen years.

The following excerpts from the school paper mentions Libbie:

"Miss DeLong entertained for the older boys and girls Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The party was a rare treat for those who were favored with an invitation."

"Miss DeLong contemplates spending most of the summer in Idaho with her sister."

"The girls basketball team was assisted by Misses Eddy, DeLong, Maughan, and Devine. They gave a pretty reception Monday afternoon. The hostesses were gowned in Colonial style, and the effect was very unique."

One of the great memories of Libbie's niece and nephews was that when they were young, every year at Christmas, a Christmas box from Aunt Lib was greatly anticipated. There were seven families to remember. Libbie was a beautiful seamstress and sewed many of her own clothes. The nieces who got a dress made by Aunt Lib felt very special. The following is a story written by a niece, Beth Showalter Cline:

"I cannot remember all that Mamma said, except that we had no money for Christmas gifts. "You have had some wonderful Christmases, but this year is different. Will you let Aunt Libbie send the gifts to Bobbie, Maggie and little

Phillip? Will you be willing to go without this Christmas?" Aunt Libbie was a beautiful woman. She was deaf. She taught in the deaf school. She would talk with her fingers. She read lips. She gave us gifts -- city gifts to country children. Her name was Elizabeth and I was her namesake. She had lots of nieces 'in Utah and several were named Elizabeth too. But, Aunt Libbie's money could buy only so many presents. Aunt Libbie's box came. In it were toys for the three little ones. There was no Christmas tree, and there was no talk about Santa Claus that year. But beautiful! The day before Christmas, another box came for Beth (she meant "me"), Paul and Dee. In it were some clothes and a book for each. My dress. I can see it yet. It was red plaid with a white Wool blouse. Aunt Libbie was deaf, but could sew like a dream. How joyful and happy we were. "Oh, Mama, it's been our best Christmas," we sang."

A young man by the name of Loran Savage from Antimony, Garfield County, Utah, came to Ogden to attend school. He was a very athletic young man who participated in the school sports program. He was especially good at basketball. While at the school, he was in training to become a shoemaker.

During this time, the student and teacher became very well acquainted, and were eventually married on July 25, 1917. I'm sure this was not an easy decision for Libbie to make, as there was fifteen years difference in their ages. Libbie gave up her teaching position. The two were married in Panguitch, then moved to Flagstaff, Arizona, where Loran established his shoe repair business.

After fourteen years of marriage, Libbie died of cancer on September 25, 1931. Her funeral was conducted by Professor Larson of the Arizona Teachers College. Her obituary stated Libbie, as she was familiarly known among her associates here, was a bright and attractive personality. She was loved by all who knew her. The obituary from the *Coconino Sun*, the local county newspaper, said, "Mrs. Savage shared with her husband the esteem of the entire community. Their married life was ideal. She attended to most of the clerical duties connected with his business, and they were happy 'in their constant companionship until her last illness, which, however, did not abate her sweet cheerfulness nor his loving devotion."

The following is a quote from a letter about her illness, written to her sister Winn on August 5, 1931, one month before her death:

"I can't go to Bryce this month with Logan's folks. Even if we were crazy to go, we could not because I couldn't stand it and I can't wear any of my clothes. They are all too big. Just wait awhile till I get better and we will get around to a visit with you.

"They found that the doctor who did the tumor operation so long ago, bungled his job and it came back again, so they put me under the radium, which just about killed me. But, I seem to be getting over it now and in time, may be myself again. In the meantime, I'm not traipsing about the country or going to any parties or such like things and I don't want to be seen by folks who say, "Why Mrs. Savage,

how thin you are!" We will be along to see you when we get there, but it won't be soon. Love to you all, Lib."

Three years after Libbie's death, Loren and his mother were killed in a car accident on June 7, 1934, just north of Cedar City, Utah. They were returning from a convention for the deaf in Ogden, Utah. The accident was caused by a tire blowout on the Savage's car, according to an article in the Deseret News.

It has been interesting for me to find out about "Aunt Lib" as her nieces and nephews knew her. What a bright, talented woman she was. With a quick wit and a sense of humor, she never let her deafness keep her from enjoying life and making a success of her life. Her devotion to her nieces and nephews is legendary. Another interesting fact I learned while researching material to write Libbie's history was when I looked in the Arizona 1920 census and found Loran and Libbie listed. Libbie's age was given as 33 instead of 43. It seems there was a little sensitivity about the difference in their ages at that time.

Her many literary books were left to a niece and will be passed down to another generation. Some of those books include: Rubaiyat of Omar Khyyam; Poetical Works of Robert Browning; Making a State, by Orson F. Whitney; Mastery of Self, by Christian D. Larsen; The Works of Shakespeare; Emerson's Essays; First Reading in German Prose; Homer's Odyssey; The Iliad; Lady of the Lake, by Sir Walter Scott.

## OUR WASHINGTON LETTER

### Five Years at Gallaudet

ELIZABETH DELONG

The culmination of five years at Gallaudet College is in Presentation Day. It is a retrospective day, when we who graduate love to sit and recall again the years that have passed. How we first entered the stately portals of Gallaudet, eager and anxious to worship at Wisdom's shrine, fully convinced of our own worth and our capability to do or die. How as "Ducks" during the first year, we had some of the conceit taken out of us and became as wax in the hands of the upper class men and women, who taught us the College traditions, kept us in a state of fear and trembling, lest we commit some breach of College etiquette, and be punished therefor. How on the night a long time ago, such a dark night too, we stole a march on them all. We came together in our room and resolved, in spite of all the mandates to the contrary, to have a midnight spread. We secured the door, nailed a blanket over the transom, closed all the window shades and prepared to enjoy ourselves without interruption. The wily Sophs discovered that we were up to something and so watched for their chance. They smelled our simmering candy and when we put it out to cool they swiped it (as they thought) in a hollow soup plate, off the window sill. But lo, there was a bit of soup in the plate – the candy was safe inside the room. They, angry at the joke on themselves, tied the doorknob to another door knob, on the opposite side of the hall, thus making us prisoners. We did the only thing to be done: climbed to the ground on a blanket and filed into their midst with wild glee. How astonished they all were. Who will not recall with tender thoughts, the days of their "Duckdom!" these glorious days, brimful of fun and jokes and rare larks, that only "Ducks" can enjoy without losing dignity.

Then comes the Freshman year before our eyes. How we did haze

those Dudes! How we shocked their credulous minds with tales of the wondrous strictness of the college rules, and told of the dire punishments that awaited the infringement of any of them. And we never felt any pity for the poor fowls at all, for we knew all the time, that they were enjoying it as we had enjoyed it before them and as other "Ducks" would enjoy it after them. Ah! That Freshman year! We look back with forgiving and condoning smiles, as we think of our precious conceit, for had we not cause to be? Was it not tradition for the Freshmen to be conceited? And of course we were model Freshmen.

The Sophomore year now passes in review before us and we remember how here for the first time we dared in the least relax our vigilance over our lessons, how we spent more time in midnight spreads, how we looked down upon Freshmen with superior intelligence and deigned not even to notice the "Ducks;" yet we formed plans in the dark for the Freshmen to edify them with, how we suggested ghost dances, midnight baths, and caps of flour for them, when they racked their brains in vain for plots. We smile again, as we think of our Sophomore fun, our jokes on and about our good long-suffering professors, our superior self-complaisance(?) and then we drift into the Junior year when we began to come to our senses, were included to shield the "Ducks" and reprove the Freshies for their "foolishness," yet in our hearts we loved them for it, loved them for their very mischief and fun-loving spirits.

Now we think of the last year of all: how we strove to assume the dignity that we were expected to assume, and then gave up the struggle, coming at last to be our natural selves, somewhat wiser, but much sadder since our light-headed "Duck Days." For do we not now realize that soon we must sever our connection with the beloved Green; leave forever the historic halls; repeat no more to green and credulous "Ducks" the traditions of the old place, so dear to us; wonder no more over the campus, to the

woods beyond, to find the first flowers of spring; no more witness on the old garlic field the contests of our valiant boys and yell for them, exulting in their triumph, or sad in their defeat; never again gather stealthily for a midnight spread, tiptoeing about with fingers on lips, and struggling to stifle rebellious laughter – for behold Miss Gordon cometh – and never, O never, again live over our college days. We think sadly and regretfully of all this – yet our hearts bound when we think of the great future that lies all unexplored before us, and we are eager for the fray, eager to do or die in earnest, to battle with the world and make for ourselves a name, to labor in quiet content, to seek happiness, or to hunt for fickle fortune. 'Tis here we leave the past behind us and "aim for the highest," the best that life has to offer us. We begin our true fight here and may we all come out victors, or at least, most of us if all cannot.

### THE LAST WEEK AT GALLAUDET.

Presentation Day at Gallaudet College has come and gone once more. The *great* day in the college life of two students from Utah, the first from our State, when they were presented for degrees.

[These two students, Miss Elizabeth DeLong and Mr. John H. Clark, both of Panguitch, graduate in the Arts and Science courses respectively. – Ed.]

Ah! yes indeed 'twas a great day in more than one sense. The class of 1902 just graduated, is the largest that was ever before presented, and contained more varied phases of character, more intelligent and capable students, too. For long years hence the history of this class will be remembered by the succeeding college generations, and will in time become tradition, after the different members have gone to their last long rest and their bones have mingled with their native soil.

### THE UTAH EAGLE

*Obituary from  
Coconino Sun Newspaper  
October 2, 1931*

**Flagstaff, Arizona  
Mrs. Savage died  
Sept. 25, 1931**

**Paper published every two  
weeks**

**MRS. LORAN SAVAGE  
LAID TO REST HERE  
SUNDAY AFTERNOON**

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Mrs. Loran Savage, who died at her home here early last Friday morning, was laid to rest in the Flagstaff cemetery Sunday afternoon.

Elizabeth DeLong was born in Panguitch, Utah April 2, 1880. She graduated from the high school for deaf at Ogden, Utah, then from Gallaudet college, national school for the deaf, in 1902 in Washington D.C. She specialized in both domestic arts and domestic science, and taught in the Utah school for the deaf at Ogden 14 years.

Loran Savage of Antimony, Utah, was a student at that college, and took some of his work under her. Her teaching concluded when she was married to him, July 25, 1917.

Mr. and Mrs. Savage came at once to Flagstaff. He was interested in ranching for some time then was employed by W. H. Switzer, who then had a shoe repair and harness shop in his hardware store. About eight years ago Mr. Savage went into the shoe repair business for himself.

Mrs. Savage's health began to fail about two years ago and

although she was nearly as active as usual until recently, for some time she had realized there was little chance for recovery. In February of this year she was taken to a hospital in Phoenix for attention by specialists, remaining there only a short time. Her failing health was more rapid from then.

About three weeks ago she was taken to Mercy Hospital, Flagstaff, and there was some hope that her strength could be built up enough to permit taking her to the Mayo hospital at Rochester, Minn. for an operation. She was taken home from the hospital about a week before her death, which occurred Friday morning at 1:30

Mrs. Savage's father, Albert DeLong of Panguitch, Utah, died in 1910. Her mother, 85, still lives there. She is survived by several brothers and sisters: Mrs. D. L. Heywood, Ralph DeLong, and Albert DeLong all of Panguitch; James H. DeLong of Salt Lake City; Mrs. Alma Banks of Lynndyl, Utah, and Mrs. Winnie Morris of Provo, Utah. There were three other sisters, now deceased - Mrs. George LeFevre of Minersville, Utah; Mrs. Victor Showalter of Lovell, Wyoming, who with her three children was burned to death several years ago, and Mary Dempster DeLong, who died in infancy.

The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at two from the residence of Miss Lura Kinsey on North San Francisco Street, where Mr. and Mrs. Savage have lived the last two or three years. Among relatives of the deceased who were here were: Mrs. Winnie Morris of Provo, Utah; Ralph and Albert

DeLong, Mrs. D. L. Heywood, and the latter's son, Leland Heywood, and his wife, all from Panguitch and Mrs. Harry Stremble, a cousin of deceased from Phoenix.

The funeral was private and was conducted by Prof. Andrew C. Peterson of the teachers college of this city, member of the church of the Latter Day Saints, of which deceased was a member. There was special vocal music by the Misses Helen Copeland and Zelda Ellsworth, and Corwin Larson and Lynn Hanson all students at teachers college.

Mrs. Savage shared with her husband the esteem of the entire community. Their married life was ideal. She attended to most of the clerical duties connected with his business and they were happy in their constant companionship until her last illness, which however, did not abate her sweet cheerfulness nor his loving devotion. The community, saddened by her illness, which, however, few realized was so serious, was shocked by her death and many expressions of grief and condolence were extended the bereaved husband and other relatives. Shortly before the funeral, they asked The Sun to express to their many Flagstaff friends, some of whom they felt they might not be able to personally thank, their grateful appreciation of the many evidences of sympathy and desire to be of assistance that had been extended to them.

## Elizabeth "Libbie" DeLong Savage Family Album



Libbie as student at the Utah School for the Deaf in Ogden, Utah, about 1895



Libbie as a student at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., about 1902



Libbie at Gallaudet College



Loran and Libbie with friend,  
about 1920



Libbie and friends on the road. Great transportation!



Elizabeth Houston DeLong with  
son-in-law, Loran Savage



Libbie and Loran Savage about 1930