

## Nina Rosabel “Rose” Hartwell

Nina Rosabel “Rose” Hartwell was born 10 November 1861 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.<sup>1</sup> She was the eighth of twelve children of Elliott Hartwell and Hortense Rogers, who crossed the plains in 1853 with their three oldest children.<sup>2</sup> Rose was caught in the building tensions over polygamy and it tore her family apart. After her father took a second wife, Rose’s mother and her ten living children left the Church.<sup>3</sup>

Rose was 5 feet 4.5 inches tall with blue eyes, light brown hair, fair complexion, and an oval face.<sup>4</sup> She attended the Salt Lake Collegiate Institute (now Westminster College) and graduated as an art student. She taught school at Silver Reef, Washington, Utah, from 1883-1884.<sup>5</sup>



Six women graduated from the Salt Lake Collegiate Institute, now Westminster College, in 1882  
(Image from [http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm/ref/collection/WC\\_PhotoCol/id/103](http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm/ref/collection/WC_PhotoCol/id/103))

Rose was back living in Salt Lake City in 1892,<sup>6</sup> and was listed as a substitute teacher in 1894.<sup>7</sup> She studied art with James Taylor Harwood<sup>8</sup> and John Clawson, both of whom encouraged her to study abroad.<sup>9</sup> Rose left in June 1894 for Paris to study art for three years.<sup>10</sup> She and Mary Teasdel were the first Utah women to go abroad for art study.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United States Passport Applications, 1795-1925.

<sup>2</sup> Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database.

<sup>3</sup> [Commentary by Dawn Pheysey](#), Curator of Religious Art, Brigham Young University.

<sup>4</sup> Passport application 1906.

<sup>5</sup> [Teachers of Presbyterian Schools in Utah and Idaho](#), by Fred Burton.

<sup>6</sup> US City Directories, 1822-1995.

<sup>7</sup> *The Salt Lake Herald*, 14 October 1894, p. 15.

<sup>8</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 28 April 1931, p. 12.

<sup>9</sup> [Commentary by Dawn Pheysey](#), Curator of Religious Art, Brigham Young University.

<sup>10</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 9 June 1895, p. 4.

<sup>11</sup> *Devotees and Their Shrines: A Hand Book of Utah Art*, by Alice Merrill Horne, p. 54.

Rose studied at the Vitti School and the Academie Julian<sup>12</sup> (a progressive art school that was the first to enroll female students<sup>13</sup>) in Paris, working under some of the most eminent masters of Europe, such as Claudio Castelucho, the Spanish colorist.<sup>14</sup> For nine years<sup>15</sup> she studied, returning home from time to time, visiting family and vacationing at the Hartwell Ranch in southern Utah.<sup>16</sup> She visited England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Germany, Austria, Egypt, Greece and Turkey, some multiple times<sup>17</sup>.

In 1900 Rose had one of her paintings accepted at the Salon<sup>18</sup>, the official art exhibition of the Academie des Beaux-Arts in Paris. She had continued success, with four of her five submissions accepted at the Salon over several years.<sup>19</sup> Her oil paintings and miniatures sold in France<sup>20</sup>, were exhibited in New York, and hung in the Holmes Gallery in Salt Lake City.<sup>21</sup> Her overlarge painting "A Royal Meal", a homely scene of a little family of Italians eating macaroni, hung in the Commercial Club in Salt Lake City after being exhibited at the Salon.<sup>22</sup> Brigham Young University has a collection of 71 paintings by Rose Hartwell.<sup>23</sup>



(Image from *The Salt Lake Herald*, 15 April 1900, p. 9) (Image from *Salt Lake Tribune*, 2 June 1912, p. 2)

<sup>12</sup> *Women in Utah History: Paradigm or Paradox*, by Patricia Lyn Scott and Linda Thatcher, 2005.

<sup>13</sup> [Commentary by Dawn Pheysey](#), Curator of Religious Art, Brigham Young University.

<sup>14</sup> *Springville Museum of Art: History and Collection*, by Vern G. Swanson, Jessica R. Weiss, Ashlee Whitaker, Nicole C. Romney.

<sup>15</sup> *The Salt Lake Herald*, 9 October 1904, p. 13.

<sup>16</sup> *Goodwin's Weekly*, 8 September 1906, p. 11.

<sup>17</sup> *Utah Art, Utah Artists: 150 Year Survey*, by Vern G. Swanson, Robert S. Olpin, Donna L. Poulton, p. 26.

<sup>18</sup> *The Salt Lake Herald*, 15 April 1900, p. 9; *The Daily Herald* [Delphos, Ohio], 28 May 1900.

<sup>19</sup> *Devotees and Their Shrines: A Hand Book of Utah Art*, by Alice Merrill Horne, 1914, pp. 65-70.

<sup>20</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 9 April 1911, p. 10.

<sup>21</sup> *The Salt Lake Herald*, 14 June 1905, p. 5.

<sup>22</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 25 March 1907, p. 2.

<sup>23</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 13 March 1949, p. 38.

Rose married Theodore Washington Whiteley in 1914 as his second wife.<sup>24</sup> She was 53 and he was 59; they had no children together. Theodore was a lieutenant colonel and judge advocate<sup>25</sup> and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Utah Art Institute at the State Capitol in Salt Lake City in 1917.<sup>26</sup> He also served on the board of governors of the Commercial Club in 1913.<sup>27</sup>

Rose died 22 August 1917 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, at age 56. She was buried in the Mount Olivet Cemetery in Salt Lake City. Theodore remarried in 1920 and died in 1930 at age 75. The historic family home can still be visited in Salt Lake City at 132 South 600 East.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Utah, Marriages, 1887-1966; Utah, County Marriages, 1887-1937; Goodwin's Weekly, 27 June 1914, p. 9.

<sup>25</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 2 June 1912, p.1.

<sup>26</sup> American Art Directory, 1917, Volume 14, p. 272.

<sup>27</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 12 January 1913, p. 1.

<sup>28</sup> [Salt Lake City Landmark Sites](#).