

## Elmira K Ellis Collins Biography

Elmira (Mira ) K. Ellis was born 10 November 1869 in Mt Vernon Illinois, to the Rev. John Samuel Ellis and Harriet Moss Hinman.

When she was three years old in 1872, her mother Martha died and her father later married Louisa M. Carpenter on November 20, 1872. In 1874 Louisa gave birth to a baby boy and named him George Ellis.

In the 1880 census we find Mira and her father living with an older brother and his wife in Mt. Vernon. Mira was 11 years old.

In 1882, when Mira was 13, her brother Henry Ellis moved to Mt. Vernon with his three little girls Hattie, Mabel and Elizabeth. Their mother had died of cholera in Batavia, Ohio and he wanted to be near family.

In 1883 when Mira was 14 her brother George, age nine, and niece Elizabeth, age two, died. Then in 1884 her niece Mabel died. Mira and Hattie, her other niece, became life long friends.

On the 03, July,1886, Mira married Asa Collins in Mt Vernon. They had issue of three children:

- Leta M. born 1889 at Mt Vernon Illinois
- Hellean M .born 1891 at Mt. Vernon Illinois
- George O. born 1898 at Arthur Illinois

Mira and Asa had moved to Arthur Illinois in 1895 and that is where she lived for the remainder of her life.

Her son Charles enlisted in the United States Army during World War I, was wounded, and died on 23 January 1919, a few hours after being brought home from a government hospital in South Carolina. He was only 22 years old. He was buried in the Arthur Cemetery.

Leta married Roy H. Reeves and gave Mira her first Grandson in 1912 and another in 1914. The boys were named Roy H. Jr. and Floyd C .Reeves.

Hellean married and had children but we have been unable to find any records.

Sadly, Mira's devoted husband Asa passed away 23, May, 1926. He was buried beside his son in the Arthur Cemetery.

Mira was a devout Christian and was active in the First Methodist Church of Arthur. She was a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary of Arthur. She was one of Arthur's Gold Star Mothers, due to the death of her only son in the war.

After a long illness Mira died at the home of her daughter Leta Reeves, on 21, March, 1934. She was buried in the Arthur Cemetery with her son and Husband. Her niece and friend Hattie Ellis Strattan attended the funeral with her husband Fred and a few other people from Mt.Vernon.

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