

## Historical Fiction

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### Brief History of Zay Wright

Zay Wright was born near the turn of the century on September 12, 1896. She lived with her father, David Wright, her mother, and Esther, her younger sister of four and half years. Her family lived near Newman, Illinois.

Zay was a girl similar to girls today. She liked to play dress up and put on skits. She was a tomboy, liked the outdoors and loved to ride horses. She even teased her younger sister sometimes.

Zay went to a country school through her grade school and middle school years and then attended high school in Champaign. Zay loved to read and liked school. She attended the Illinois Woman's College and received a general education. After college she taught for a while at Staley School. She also taught school for a short time after she was married.

Before Zay was married she did some traveling. She went to Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., and spent some time working at Yellowstone Park.

It wasn't until Zay was 26 years old that she married Edgar Young. Her family often went to Homer Park where she met Edgar. They were married in 1923. They had two daughters and lived on a farm. Zay enjoyed entertaining at their home and they had many parties. The Youngs didn't have electricity or an indoor bathroom until after Zay had died. They used a coal heater. Winters were very cold.

Life for the Youngs was comfortable until the depression. During the depression their life was not poor in comparison to others, however there were struggles and at one point they almost lost the farm. They took in tenants and sold eggs to help pay the bills during the depression. They also raised their own food on the farm.

Zay was always interested in causes for people in need and wanted to help out. She was a staunch republican and always made sure she voted. She and Edgar also were involved with the local school board.

Unfortunately Zay was not long for this life and died in March of 1937 at the age of 40. She enjoyed her life and was able to do some travelling and get an education. She had a family and enjoyed raising them while being involved in the community. Zay Wright was born over one hundred years ago but in many ways was like you and me.