

ELIZA MARIETTA WOOLF ASHCROFT  
1870-1952

Eliza Marietta Woolf was born 30 Dec. 1870, at Hyde Park, Cache County, Utah. She was the eldest of 11 children born to James Woolf and Emma Hurren. She was born in a one room log house, her parents' first home, located one block north and one-half block west of the new post office. She was a beautiful baby with dark hair, brown eyes, and even features. Her oldest son remembers her as the most beautiful woman in Hyde Park.

Soon after she was born, her parents moved to a log house which they bought from Martin Jensen, located on First North at about 81 East. Eliza, or Retta, as she was always called, lived in this home until she was 12 years old, by which time there were 6 more children. Her parents then sold the home to Julius Hansen, took the 7 children and moved to Riverdale, Franklin County, Idaho.

Retta disliked farm life and was so lonesome for her friends in Hyde Park that she cried every time a southbound wagon went through Riverdale, so when it came time for school to start in the fall each year, she was allowed to return to Hyde Park and live with her grandparents, James and Eliza Hurren, where she could attend school with her friends.

As she grew into young womanhood she met and fell in love with Charles Ashcroft. They were close friends of William Follett and Sarah Gibson and spent many happy hours together.

Charles and Retta were married 18 July 1890, in the Logan Temple at Logan, Cache County, Utah, in a marriage ceremony performed by Marriner W. Merrill.

Soon after their marriage they built a 2 room frame house, of which they were very proud. The little furniture they owned was homemade, as was the carpet covering the bedroom floor. For many years the kitchen floor was bare; then they managed to buy a piece of linoleum to put under the stove, while the rest of the room was covered with homemade carpet.

Drinking water was carried from Robert Daines' well; other household water was dipped from the ditch across the street. When Retta set out her first raspberry patch, she kept it alive with water carried from the Daines' well, 1 ½ blocks away.

Charles and Retta were the parents of 6 children: Charles, Leland, Gertrude, Audrey, Phyllis, Leda and Theron. They were grandparents to 26 grandchildren.

Retta was always interested in improving her mind. She wanted her children to have an education and was willing to make any sacrifice to see that they could attend school. The children were never allowed to stay home unless it was absolutely necessary. She taught her family to be honest in all things and to give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay.

While the children were still quite young, Charles received a letter from "Box B" calling him on a 2 year mission to California. This call was readily accepted by both Charles & Retta & she assumed the responsibility of raising the family & running the farm while he was away.

Retta's formal education was limited, but she did a great deal of reading & kept abreast of the times. Whenever she came upon a new word, she looked it up in the dictionary, which was always on the table by the side of her chair.

An important part of her library was the seed catalogues which came in Jan. & which she studied & dreamed over, comparing prices & quality for weeks. After the long list of seeds was compiled, it had to be cut & revised many times before the final order was mailed. Flower seeds were her one extravagance: she always ordered the very best & included at least one new or unusual type of flower. It gave her great pleasure to see her flowers grow & then share them with

others.

As long as her health permitted, she took an active part in different Church organizations. She was a teacher in Primary, MIA, and Relief Society, and was also an active member of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers.

Retta was a widow for 29 years. Her husband died 12 March 1923, leaving her with the family and debts to cope with. Her health failed steadily from that time & she became less & less able to care for herself. She became so crippled with arthritis that she was confined to her home for many years. With the help of all members of her family, she was cared for by Phyllis for many years. The last year of her life was spent with her other 3 daughters. She died in the Logan Hospital 18 March, 1952, of ailments of old age & was buried in the Hyde Park Cemetery.

Children: Charles Leland, Gertrude, Audrey, and Leda

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