Ethel Belle Brown was born on 14 Jan. 1878, in Salt Lake City, Utah, in a humble home located on 6th South Street between West Temple and First West. She was the 12 of 14 children born to Homer and Hannah Eliza Woolf Brown. 5 of those children had died as children before Ethel was born. Her 6 living brothers and sisters, ranging in age from 19 years to 2 years of age were: Orson-age 19; Solon-age 17 (who never married); Arthur-age 11 Called “Arth”; Byron Nelson-age 8; William Edward (Will) age 5; Lydia Eliza -age 2. Another sister, Josie, was born 2 years later, and then Claude LeRoy, 2½ years after that.

The family moved to Taylorsville (Bennion Ward) in 1881, when Ethel was 3 years old. The family farm consisted of 85 acres, bounded on the east by the Jordan River. They had a 6 room house, part of which was already built at the foot of a hill near the canal, and part her father built. Ethel helped on the farm herding cows, washing dishes, washing milk pans, cooking meals, and so forth. She learned to mix bread at the age of 9, learned to knit when very young, and to make her own clothes. Ethel took a course in embroidery and did a lot of beautiful embroidery work. Josie, Lydia, and Ethel worked well with their mother. They talked and sang and laughed as they worked, and they loved to work. Ethel attended public schools until she graduated from the 8th grade.

The Brown children played with the Parker and Bringhurst children, who were near neighbors. Their amusements consisted of games and sports typical of the times: hide and seek, kick the can, run sheep run, baseball, swimming in the canal or the Jordan River in the summer.

The family attended meetings in a little 1 room brick schoolhouse. The ward was then part of the Taylorsville Ward, called the South Taylorsville Branch. Ethel was baptized March 1893 in the Salt Lake Tabernacle, the same day as her sister, Josie, and confirmed the next day at the Taylorsville schoolhouse. Ethel, Lydia, and Josie were often asked to give readings in their community, and they loved to take part in plays, which were often directed by their father. He always saw to it that they were supplied with readings and coached them in “elocution”. All of the sisters loved to dance, and went to many dances together.

Ethel’s mother boarded men who worked at the smelter. Eddie Bird was one of those boarders. He also worked for Ethel’s father on the farm occasionally. Ethel’s father had raised bees and blooded horses until the smelter fumes killed them.

Ethel married Edward Leroy Bird 16 Nov. 1903, and they had a lovely wedding supper at the Brown home for friends and neighbors after the ceremony. Eddie was not a member of the Church. He was a kind and loving husband and father. He worked at the smelter, and their first home was at Union, where the first daughter, Lois J., was born 28 Feb. 1905.

Ethel had a bad heart, probably an after effect of diphtheria. After her first daughter, Lois, was born, Ethel’s heart became progressively worse until she became bedfast, and was taken to her mother’s, where she lingered at death’s door for several months. She finally became so weak that she could take nothing but water, a few spoonful at a time. Finally she lapsed into a coma, and remained so for some time. The family took turns staying with her around the clock. About 3 a.m. one particular morning she came out of the coma and rallied enough to talk to her mother, who was sitting up with her. Suddenly she stopped and began talking with someone who seemed to be standing at the foot of the bed. She said, “Yes, I will come, but they are holding me—they won’t let me come.” Then after a pause, she said, “What is
that you need me to help you with?” Another pause, then, “Yes, I will come if they will just let me.” She then turned to her mother and said, “Mother, Father was here and he needs me; you’ve got to let me go.” She then asked her mother to send for Brother Rich, an old gentleman who lived down the road—who was about the only one in the ward who had not been in to see her—and ask him to come and dedicate her to the Lord. Then she asked what time it was, and when told it was 3 a.m. she said, “Well don’t get him out of bed—wait until he is up.” In a few minutes she again lapsed into a coma. At 6 a.m. someone was sent to bring Brother Rich.

Ethel’s husband, Eddie, was working night shift at the smelter. Between the time Brother Rich was sent for and the time he arrived, Eddie came home from work. When he found out what was happening, he became nearly hysterical, threw himself across the bed and cried, “She can’t die. I won’t let her die.”

When Brother Rich arrived and saw the state of affairs, he did not dedicate her, but rather gave her a blessing, asking the Lord to make her entirely well if she should be spared, or take her now and not let her suffer any longer.

In just a few minutes, Ethel opened her eyes and asked for a drink of water. Her mother said she would get a spoon, but Ethel said, “No, I want to drink it.” She took the glass of water and drank from it and later ate breakfast. In 2 weeks she was up and around. She seemed to heal from the inside out, because her hair fell out and came in new, her fingernails came off and came in new, and even her skin peeled. She later returned to her own home and bore another child, Leah, who born at the Brown home 17 Nov. 1908.

Ethel never mentioned her experience after she was well, but Josie kept wondering about it. One day she asked about it, saying, “Ethel, do you remember when you were so sick, you seemed to be talking to someone. Was there really someone there?”

Ethel replied, “Yes, there certainly was. Father was there just as real as you are here right now, and when I asked him what he needed me to help him with, he said, “It’s all these records. I need your help with.’ I saw that he had his arms full of rolls of records that looked like papyrus.”

Then it was Eddie who had poor health. Eddie had been hit on the head with a rock when he was a boy, when he and another boy were trying to catch a chicken. As he grew older, he had very severe headaches. The only relief he got was when Ethel rubbed his head. The nerves were injured so severely that he became paralyzed and his speech was affected. Soon after Ethel had recovered from her illness, he had a bad sick spell and could not work; in fact, he was confined to a wheelchair the rest of his life. So the family moved back to the Brown home, where Ethel took in sewing for a living. Eddie was a 6 foot athletic man and grieved much because he couldn’t support his family. His father and Uncle Will Brown saw him through surgery that removed the piece of bone that had caused the pressure. It relieved the pain, but the nerves were dead and the paralysis continued as long as he lived. Uncle Will was still at home. He worked the farm and helped with Ethel and her family.

In 1909, when Leah was just a few months old, Ethel became terribly ill again, and the family again took turns staying with her around the clock at her mother’s home. She died 29 Aug. 1909 at the age of 31.

After Ethel’s death, Lois went to live with Josie and Aaron Quist in Salt Lake City, because it had been Ethel’s dying wish. Leah was cared for by Orson (Ethel’s oldest brother). And his wife, Alice, and their daughter, Stella. Lois went frequently to visit her grandmother, until her grandmother’s health began to fail and she sold the farm and moved to Thomas, Idaho,
in 1914, to be near Lydia and her family. Josie and Aaron moved their family to Arco, Idaho, in 1916 and Lois went with them.

Leah married Harry Woods 21 Sep. 1926, and died in childbirth with her child 10 Feb. 1927. Lois married Albert Roy Scott on her 18th birthday, 28 Feb. 1923, at the Quist home in Arco, Idaho. This union was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple 14 June 1927. They had 5 children, all of whom grew to maturity, and 4 of whom married and raised families. Roy died 7 July 1941, at the Idaho Falls Hospital. Mary Jo, the oldest daughter, who was unmarried, died in Pocatello, Idaho, 18 Feb. 1983, of an aneurism.

Lois then married Wallace Lindsay, a widower with 5 children at Rigby, Idaho, 29 June 1943. They lived at Firth, Lavaside, Idaho for several years. They sold their farm in Lavaside and moved to the Moreland area, buying a double-wide mobile home to be near their children.

Wallace died 7 Nov. 1973. Lois and Wallace had one daughter, Lois Maria, born 15 Dec. 1948. She married Marvin Bruce Miles in the Hawaiian Temple and they had 2 children, bringing the total number of grandchildren to 10. There are also 17 grandchildren from Wallace’s children. They are all very close-knit, and considerate of each other and their parents, and well thought of in the community. They were never considered stepchildren. In fact, Wallace would not allow the term to be used in his hearing. Lois now lives at Moreland, Idaho.

Helen Quist Milligan, Niece
Lois Lindsay, Daughter

Typed into the computer 24 Oct. 2002 by Kathleen Jardine Woolf  Idaho Falls, Idaho
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