When the pioneers of 1847 came to the Great Salt Lake Valley, Homer Brown and his wife, Sarah Ann Woolf, settled in Salt Lake City, where they resided until the fall of 1857, when they moved to Nephi, Juab, Utah. Here, their 3rd child, Walter Henry Brown, was born 5 March 1858. When he was 4 years of age, the family returned to Salt Lake City.

Walter’s early life was spent much the same as most children of pioneer families who were forced to hew their way by hard work in building up the area. His schooling was limited to a few weeks during each year. At a very early age, he was hauling coal from Coalville, Utah, and lumber out of Cottonwood Canyon for his employer, Daniel H. Wells, who had a residence where ZCMI now stands. Walter’s grandfather, Benjamin Brown, owned a farm where the County Hospital was located. Walter used to help milk cows there.

In the year 1870, at the age of 12, Walter went to Tintic with his father and Harrison Sperry, who at that time were working the Eureka Mine. He was employed carrying food to the workmen. Later in the fall of the same year, he moved to Hyde Park, Cache Valley, where he worked for some of his mother’s relatives, and later engaged in farming for himself in partnership with his brother, Homer Manley Brown. At the age of 20, his farming operations took him to Rabbit Valley, Piute County, Utah.

In the year 1877, Walter was visiting with his brother, Manley, and his wife, Lydia, in Hyde Park, at the same time that Emmerett Brown, Lydia’s sister, was visiting with them. It was here that Walter & Emerett first met. After his return home, Walter wrote to Emerett and they continued corresponding for about 2 years, until their marriage in the Endowment House at Salt Lake City, 4 Dec. 1879, with Daniel H. Wells officiating. It was a cold, wintry afternoon when they went to the home of Walter’s parents for their wedding breakfast.

They lived with Walter’s parents until the following spring. Then in March, they moved to their first home in Rabbit Valley, where their 1st child, Walter, was born 16 Nov. 1880.

From there they moved to the Chrisman farm, & later to Sugarhouse, the old Paper Mill. After a short time, they moved to Granger, where Emerett Jane was born 11 Jan. 1882. Maud was born at Taylorsville 3 Oct. 1883. Then they moved to Hunter, Utah, where Zina was born 12 Oct. 1886.

At Hunter they spent many happy days while they were both active in Church work, Emerett, presiding over the Primary and acting as treasurer in the Hunter Ward Relief Society, and Walter serving as chairman of the Young Folks Committee & president of the YMMIA.

It was while they were in Hunter than an epidemic of diphtheria broke out, bringing them great sorrow. Walter went to help lay out little Lillius Brown, a half-sister to Emerett, & on his return, went to the barn to change his clothes before coming into the house to his own family. The following morning, Waltie went out to the barn & found his father’s clothes. He gathered them up in his arms & brought them to the house, wanting to know why “Papa’s good clothes were in the barn.” The next day, he was taken sick with diphtheria. Shortly after, Retty became sick and both were very ill. People were frightened to death to come near the disease; but when word was sent to Walter’s brother, Frank, & Emerett’s brother, Jim, that they didn’t expect Waltie to live through the night, they both came. When they came into the room, little Waltie said, “Hello, Uncle Jim. Hello, Uncle Frank.” They all thought he would be all right & that his mother was just worn out & over-anxious; but that night he passed away. 12 days later, Rettie
died after suffering a great deal. Emerett washed & prepared her children for burial. Then Maud became ill & was so near death’s door they could not detect life in her body. Emerett sent for her father, James S. Brown, to come administer to her. When she met her father at the door, he told her, “The Lord is not going to take this child. He has seen you suffer enough.” Emerett thought, “You have not seen her yet; you don’t know how bad she is.” But when he went to her bedside and laid his hands upon her head to give her a blessing, he rebuked the disease in the name of Jesus Christ and told her to arise. Maud got up and walked across the room and sat down in a rocking chair. Her mother stepped forward to help her, but he said, “Let her go, my child, she is healed. All she needs now is a little nourishment.” Maud didn’t go back to that bed of sickness again. The neighbors were as good and kind as they dared be, especially Brother and Sister Day & Brother & Sister Neilson. They would bring things & stay out on the roadside & wave a handkerchief to attract attention. When Walter would see them, they would put a roast, fresh bread or something on the gatepost with a note of sympathy & drive away. Brother & Sister Day had 7 of their own children taken, so they really knew how to sympathize with others. Then the baby, Zina, became ill while she was teething; complications set in & she died 20 April 1888.

Walter & Emerett felt they had to go away for a change, so they went to Brighton, where Asa was born 21 July 1888. It is not known how long they lived there, but they returned to Hunter, where Hazel Everean was born 6 Nov. 1894. Maud & Asa wanted to name the baby. Maud chose the name Hazel. Asa was undecided, but one day while he was out herding the cows, he thought of a name. He came running in the house & said, “I have found a name for baby. It is Everean.” The folk had never heard of that name before. Walter could not find it in Webster’s Dictionary, so he made up his own spelling for the name. He used to call her “Silver Leaf,” while Emerett called her “Queen”. One day someone asked her name and she said, “Papa calls me Silver Leaf, Mamma calls me Queen, but not I’ll tell you what’s my name, it’s Hazel Everean.”

Walter kept busy in Church work after they moved back to Hunter. He loved the parties and dances (he used to take Maud when she was about 11), loved the outdoor life, and taught the young folks how to camp out, which later would be officially known as the Boy Scout Movement.

The family later moved from to Hunter to 550 Cheyenne Street in Salt Lake, next door to Emerett’s sister, May, and her husband, John J. Gerstner. Emerett’s father had given each of his children a building lot, & Walter build a 4 room frame house on this lot.

A significant event occurred at 3:30 pm., Thursday, 11 May 1898, when Walter H. Brown and his brother, Manley, with Frank and Hatty Brown, Jim and Maime Brown, Nate and Edna Tanner, and Tavie Fullmer left for Canada to Pioneer there. They started out with teams and wagons. On the way, they stopped to replenish supplies. From Walter’s journal we read, “Paid for fixing single tree 15 cents, paid 85 cents for 85 lbs. Of oats, paid 25 cents for bread and eggs. They arrived in Canada Thursday, 23 June 1898. All went well, but the horses were very tired and poor. There had been so much rain, mud, and snow, it was impossible for them to look otherwise. It rained and snowed for 21 days without stopping and then there were a great many days of stormy weather besides.

Just about as soon as they arrived, Walter started cutting potatoes to plant the next day. On Friday, they went down to their tract of land to lay out a town site, “as Pres. Card thinks that would be a proper place for a town site.” Walter did not say where the town site was to be located, but said they were in town all day Saturday working on it. It would take a lot of clearing.
to get it ready to sell lots. The following entries tell us more of those early days:

2 Oct. 1898—“I’m at Edna and Nate Tanner’s place. Jim & Maime just came home from Frank and Hattie’s this morning. She has a baby girl born this morning. Manley, Bud and Tavey are all well. I attended Sunday School this a.m. and Fast meeting p.m.

In a letter to Emerett he says later, “We have a stable built that will hold 32 head of horses, but have not yet got a house built. Haven’t received any money yet for putting up hay and hauling it. I am feeling under the weather. I guess it is Legrip. I went to Lethbridge after Ree Bevens and while crossing the Pothole River, our rig came very near tipping over. To save it from tipping, I jumped and went into the water up to my armpits, then had to ride 12 miles in wet clothes with a cold wind blowing. When I got here I could not get clothes to change, so had to dry my clothes on me. But I kept around and did my work until last night, Tuesday, when I had to give up for a few days. Manley came up but only stayed about half an hour and then went to Cardston. He expects to be back tomorrow.”

31 Jan. 1899—“It was so cold and windy that the mail did not go through to Lethbridge, and did not get through until Friday, 3 Feb.

6 Feb. 1899-The weather has averaged from 10 degrees above zero to 24 below at Spring Coulee, and they say it has been down to 34 degrees below in Cardston. Today is quite nice, the snot is 8 inches deep but the grass is not covered up. I don’t think the snow will melt until we have a Chinook wind. The stock and horses can get plenty to eat. The cattle and horses that are here are climated and looking fine, but our horses don’t look so good. They have been out all winter.

7 April 1899—“Br. Murser was late with the mail and he said there were a lot of loaded teams that could not cross the Pothole River the water was so high and great chunks of ice in it. Br. Murser said that Viel Bevens and a lot of others are out on the Prairie between Lethbridge & Great Falls with a bridge washed out behind them and in front of them, and they do not know if they will get into Lethbridge.” Walter also said he was so snow blind he could hardly see the lines on the paper he was writing on, and had been snow blind for more than a week, having to wear a green veil all the time.

16 April 1899-The surveyors are here surveying the canal.”

3 Sep. 1899-The First Presidency of the Church have made a call on all people here to turn out and help on the canal. I expect I will send a team or two if I can hire someone to drive them.”

While Walter was in Spring Coulee, he received a letter dated 22 May 1899, from “Box B” calling Walter H. Brown on a mission to Canada. This mission was a call for them to cook for and look after the needs of the traveling public in Spring Coulee. He forwarded the letter on to his wife, Emerett, for her approval or disapproval. She accepted the call. Walter returned to Salt Lake City in Sep. 1899 and took Emerett and the family and Aunt Lydia and her family to Canada in the Spring of 1900.

When they arrived in Spring Coulee, there was a 2 room log cabin, bare logs, and dirt floors that was to be their home. As soon as possible, another room was added to the kitchen. Emerett bought a bolt of unbleached “factory” and covered the bare logs inside and hung up a few pictures to make it look a bit more inviting. The factory, when soiled, could be taken down, laundered and put up again. There was a lovely sporing of water not far from the back door. Walter built a good-sized rock room over this sporing with shelves all around the walls, where they kept the canned foods and large pans of rich Jersey milk. They made their own butter with a
In the little 3 room log cabin they kept the Post Office. Walter was Postmaster and Emerett, his assistant. But she had most of the work to do, sorting the mail and getting it out. There was a wall telephone, and all telephone messages from Lethbridge to Cardston (a distance of 50 miles) had to be transmitted over their phone. They had many great experiences while in Spring Coulee, cooking and caring for people of many different nationalities, colors, and creeds, and thus saving the lives of many who otherwise would have perished while traveling in that cold and bleak open country.

At the end of the 3 year mission, one of the General Authorities of the Church came to Spring Coulee and gave Emerett a blessing; and an honorable release was given to them both, with the assurance that they could not have gone to any part of the world and performed a greater mission than they had performed in Spring Coulee, feeding, caring for, and saving the lives of many.

In 1900 Walter was Census Enumerator in the Cardston District, which at that time covered a distance of about 12 by 70 miles. He was also active as vice President of the Farmers Association of Alberta, which at that time extended from Edmonton to the border, an area of one hundred by 400 miles.

It was at this time that he was foremost in introducing Turkey Red Wheat into Alberta, which later became Alberta’s most lucrative crop. It was a hard variety that would stand frost better then the softer varieties. He later organized the Alberta Land and Colonization Co., through which he was successful in buying townships and subdividing them.

After the mission release, the family moved to Cardston. While there, Walter was chairman of the Liberal Assoc. His last 2 years there were spent in the implement business. His various business ventures in Canada proved successful.

Later, he went to California to sell or take orders for coal for the Elk Coal Co. In the year 1909, Emerett and Hazel Everean went to California to meet him. At the time, the World’s Fair was being held in Seattle. Aunt Zina Card and her son, Rega, accompanied them mon part of the trip. Emerett was not well all the time they were in Seattle and they could not get reservations. For some time to California, so went to Salt Lake City and stayed there until she felt well enough to go on to California. They met Walter in Los Angeles, but soon left for Long Beach, where they made their headquarters during the California stay. They enjoyed long walks along the beach and short boat rides to many points of interest.

Walter then went to Mexico, where he bought a 250 acre farm; but just after this venture, the Madero Rebellion of 1910 broke out and the unsettled conditions of the Mexican Government and its depredations upon life and property made it necessary for all Americans to abandon their property and leave. He then returned to California, and with Emerett and Hazel Everean, returned to Cardston to settle some business matters.

At one time, Walter and his son, Asa, took up a homestead in Metropolis, Nevada. Asa stayed there and did the greater part of the work clearing the ground, digging a well, plowing and planting the crops under great obstacles and privations.

In the year 1912 at this home that Walter had smallpox, and Emerett, too, was ill, so Mabel Waspe Brown climbed in a back room window, changed her clothes, and went in to help them; she disinfected herself, came out again, and did not take the disease.

In this home, Hazel Everean was married to Charles M. Radley, 20 Sep. 1916. In 1918,
they were blessed with a baby boy, Asa Malan Brown Radley, who soon loved to visit his grandparents. They enjoyed their grandchildren. Walter would take Malan with him to feed the chickens, milk the cow and goat, and would take him for rides in the carriage, letting him hold the reing to make believe he was driving the horse.

Walter and Emerett later moved to the 4th Ward in Salt Lake City. While there, Emerett took seriously ill. They later moved to a home at 919 S. Thirteenth West, where they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Walter’s health failed him, as he suffered with heart and kidney trouble, asthma, and rheumatism. He was ill for about 3 years and was waited on in turn by Emerett, Mabel, Asa, and Hazel Everean. Maud was in Nevada and helped out in order

Walter died 17 Oct. 1931, having lived a very active and useful life. He was survived by his widow, Emerett; one son, Asa; 2 daughters, Maud B. Short and Hazel Everean B. Radley; and 9 grandchildren.

Hazel Everean Brown Radley, Daughter

Typed into the computer 22 Oct 2002 by Kathleen Jardine Woolf Idaho Falls, Idaho
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