Katherine Woolf was born 10 Nov. 1878, to John Anthony Woolf and Celia Ann Hatch in Hyde Park, Cache County, Utah. She was the eldest daughter of a family of 4 girls: her sisters were Bertie Aldura Woolf, Ethel Woolf, and Eva Savona Woolf. She had 5 half sisters and 7 half brothers from the “first family” that of John Anthony Woolf and Mary Lucretia Hyde.

Kate grew up in Hyde Park, Utah. She graduated from the 8th grade there. In the spring of 1887, her father took his first wife and family to Cardston, Alberta, Canada. Kate took over some of the management of the family because her mother’s health was poor. She tended the garden and raised chickens. She was strong and she enjoyed her work. She went to work when she was young and her education was one of the experience from then on.

When Kate was about 10 years old, she took a hen to the store and traded it for a white, rose-decorated milk pitcher. She gave it to her mother for her birthday. Her mother was upset and told her it was stealing to take things that didn’t belong to her. Kate quietly replied, “I didn’t steal the hen. I raised her. I set the eggs and fed her as well as all the other chicks—she was mine.”

When Kate was about 19 years old, she went to Cardston, Alberta, Canada, to work in her father’s hotel. It was there she met her future husband, Horton Hyrum Hammond. He was secretary for his father’s construction business in Cardston. He was a native Utahn, born in Logan. They were married 9 Jan. 1901 in the Logan Temple. Horton and she lived in Providence, Utah. He taught school in the winter and raised wheat on a dry farm in Ridgedale, Idaho, in the summer.

In 1911, Kate, her husband, and 4 children, Jessie, age 9, Devoe, age 7, Marjorie, age 5, and Weldon, age 2, moved to Metropolis, Elko County, Nevada. They shipped their cows, chickens, horses, farm machinery and household furniture to Wells on the Southern Pacific train and then freighted them by team to Metropolis 15 miles north. They pitched tents on a spot that the sagebrush had been burned off near Trout Creek on her brother-in-law’s (J. Alma Balls) homestead. Her sister, Ethel Balls, lived in a tent next door. They lived there during the summer while they built their house about a mile away on the piped water line for the town of Metropolis. Ethel lived about a hundred yards farther down the pipeline.

The next 8 years were years of pioneer life. She and her husband homesteaded 160 acres of land adjoining J. Alma Balls’ homestead. 5 more children were born during those years. Opal Kneil born 1 Dec. 1911, in Metropolis on the homestead before Kate had time to complete her plans to return to Logan for his birth. Mrs. Kneil, a trained nurse, was brought to the place about 4 hours after he was born. She drove her horse and buggy 5 miles every day to care for Kate and the baby. Opal was the first LDS child born in Metropolis. Hugh Transtrum born in Providence, Utah on 1 Feb. 1914. Katherine born in Hyde Park, Utah, on 20 May 1917, and the twins Ruth and Beth, born 27 May 1919, the day Kate died in Logan, Utah, at the Budge Memorial Hospital.

The first years in Metropolis were good for dry-land farming, but just as soon as more land was cleared, drouths set in. Kate had met those hardships by raising chickens and churning butter. She had a good market for her products and received a premium price for them. She drove a horse and buggy to Wells, 15 miles away, to market her eggs and butter. She planned and helped build her first home in Metropolis. It was a double boarded-up tent that first winter.
She and the children helped clear the land by burning the sagebrush that the men had railed and raked into win rows. It was done at night with torches made of bent pipes, kerosene, and rag wicks.

Kate took great pride in her work and tried to do things better each time. She liked to entertain and she fixed a room in her old home where she and her sister, Ethel, gave parties. They were both good cooks and served regular banquets at their parties. She made ice cream, cookies, cake and candy for many 4th of July and 24th celebrations that were held at the combined recreation hall and church 5 miles from the homestead.

In 1914 they bought a “Model T” Ford which she learned to drive. Later, she broke her wrist cranking a friend’s Ford after Relief Society. She taught Jessie and Devoe to drive and continued on in her way more determined than ever. She had faith in Metropolis and she had her plans drawn for a home with a large family room where she could entertain and where young people could come for recreation.

During the winter of 1912-1913, all her children came down with scarlet fever. It was through her faith and hard work that they made it through without the help of a doctor. The elders were called in to administer to them. A neighbor, Mrs. Allen, came several times to help and was an answer to Kate’s prayers.

Her sister, Ethel, was a joy to her. They worked, picnicked, and went to church meetings together. Ethel was more feminine and artistic and they supplemented and sustained each other. It was a sad time for her when Ethel moved back to Hyde Park.

Kate was a good seamstress and she made all her family’s clothing. She had a good voice and sang with the choir in Providence and in Metropolis. She sang solos, too.

She was proud and neat about her appearance. She was a very faithful member of the church. She paid her tithing and attended to her church callings. She was secretary of the Relief Society at the time of her death. She set a good example for her family to follow and they revere and honor her memory.

Marjorie H. Holbrook Daughter