

RHODA GEISLER JARDINE
1888-1969

I. Rhoda Matilda Marie Lowder Geisler Jardine was born at Annis, Fremont County, Idaho 1 Jan. 1888. In a small one room log cabin with a dirt floor. The day I was born it was so cold, the snow was as high as the house. There were no doctor's so Father went after Grandmother Poole, a midwife. She lived about 2 miles from our house. They returned in time to see things through. Although, I weighed only 3 pounds at birth my name made up for my size. Being small did not stop me from growing and being full of life and ambition. My parents said they put me in a shoe box and it just fit for size.

Father's name was Neils Christian Ernest Geisler, Nick-named Chris. He was born in Twersted, Vljoring, Denmark, 1 August 1863. His parents embraced the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and came to America. He at the age of 8 years. My mother's name was Frances Katherine Lowder. She was often called Fanny or Fan by her friends. She was born in Burks Garden, Tazewell County, Virginia. She came with her parents to Ogden, Utah for the gospel. Grandmother Lowder passed away soon after they landed in Ogden of Home Sickness. Leaving Mother and the other children to take care of their father, David Lowder. They moved to Lewisville, Idaho and from there to LaBelle. Here is where Mother and Father met. They were married 22 feb. 1887 in Idaho Falls by I. L. Rogers. 5 children were born to them, I being the eldest, 3 brothers and 1 sister, she the youngest, 14 years younger than I.

When I was about 4 weeks old my Father and Uncle Mose Clark were to furnish the music for a dance. Father played the trumpet, Uncle mose the Violin. Mother being young and timid could not stay alone. They wrapped me good and warm, away we all went to the dance. A distance of 10 miles, we went by team and sleigh. They were happy days. All came along fine no harm done. My parents sold their farm in Annis around 1898 and bought a home in Menan. Here we received our schooling and I grew to womanhood. My brothers and I helped on the farm and went to school. Father started me in music learning. The organ first and by and by they bought me a piano which I loved. I was so happy.

Father was a band leader, Ward Choir Director, and I was Sunday School organist. Bishop Hart thought how nice it would be for me to be ward organist as Father and I could practice at home. Many times Mother would say, Rhodie you go and practice with Father for tomorrow's meeting." I started to play for Sunday School at the age of 15. I would get the horse and buggy ready and take Mother to Relief Society. They would say "Rhodie, we need you today, can you help us, " of course I did. Oh, we as a family enjoyed it all so much, traveling with horse and buggy, sleigh in the deepo snow. As a girl at home I enjoyed every minute of it. I loved my Father, Mother, Brothers and Sister. We all worked together as a family around the home.

Then, of course, my boy friends came. My folks weren't so happy about this age. Father and I played for dances. He the trumpet, and I would chord to this at the piano. Mother was nearly always with us. Then on Sunday the Bishop wanted to see me. He said, "Would you accept a call for a Mission?" Well, I was thankful and happy. I wanted to talk with my Father and Mother. Well, Rhodie did not go. Mother's health was not too good at that time. I helped all I could. I also helped in the ward all I could too. I really did my part and I feel happy at this time that I did, for it pleased Mother. Now the years have glided by, all happy ones at home. They had their Temple work done in the Salt Lake Temple, 21 Dec. 1910. I was old enough then

to take out my endowments so I did. The other 4 children were sealed to the folks.

Mother was a woman of pleasing personality who had many friends, and who enjoyed a close friendship. She was patient in her suffering and always a devoted wife and mother. She lived to have fun. There was a group of women in Menan that were always playing jokes on someone, but always had a real fun time together.

Father assisted many men in building canals, roads, churches, school houses and the many tasks that awaited the early pioneers of this community. They found a willing heart in Chris Geisler. He was also a man respected by all, a devoted father, husband, and a loyal friend. He died at 77 years on 4 June 1941. Mother passed away 27 Dec. 1929.

Neighbors, it seems are always in the picture. What would one do without them? Mr. And Mrs. Will Merrill, one of our neighbors had left for a trip and left the keys to their house with me so that I could run over and water the flowers. This particular time my brothers went with me and on returning home we got to playing along the creek, the keys were lost. We looked and looked, finally we all started crying. I turned around and knelt down and asked my Heavenly Father to help me find the keys, as I was getting to my feet I put my hand down to the ground, I looked down and there the keys were. I think we were the happiest kids in the world and a real testimony of prayer. Many times prayers have been answered in our home.

I had the task of taking the cows to the pasture every morning and bringing them back at night. The pasture was about 2 miles from home by the Snake River. Sometimes I would ride the pony, sometimes walk. Majority of the time I would ride the pony. I would always ride my pony to take piano lessons, which were 3 miles from home. Later I took lessons from a Mrs. Liza Ossmen in Rigby. During the summer months starting in the year of 1903. I would go over once a week. A distance of about 8 miles. I would ride my pony side saddle. I then studied piano at Rexburg, Idaho under Oscar Kirkham. Also at Rexburg I took sewing lessons in the year of 1905, which aided me very much during my life. We were taught to draft our own patterns and if we took the measurements right the garment would fit very nicely. During this course we had to make a skirt, blouse, suit, and a wedding dress. The skirt would have 12 gores in them. All seams had to be pressed out and bound. I did get through it all pretty good and enjoyed it all. After I was married I did a lot of sewing for my family and other friends.

After the courtship days were over, then came the time to take up the matrimonial part of life. I loved my friendship with the younger set of people. We all knew each other as clean moral friends. At a dance in Menan, Idaho, the year of 1909, I met Will Jardine. Well, you know the results. We had many good old times with the old horse and buggy. Our courtship days lasted 3 years. On 24 Jan. 1912, we were married in the Salt Lake Temple and while we were there my brother, Ernest, received a call for a mission to the southern States, which made us all happy.

Will and I settled in the Lewisville Ward and lived there for 12 or 13 years, where I made new friends. They were grand, yet my old friends were very dear to me. We both worked in the ward for the Church all we could, while raising our children. More than once at choir practice I have set and pumped, played the organ with a baby on my lap. Oh yes, Will would always help, he sang in the choir.

In 1919, Lewisville Ward, I became 2nd counselor in the Primary. I served up to 1925. I also helped with the music. I was ward organist from 1918 to 1924. We lived at Roberts a couple of years and here too, we met lovely people. While here I was 1st counselor in the Relief

Society for one year and President one year. I was also Pres. Of the Primary for one year at Annis. I have always been a visiting teacher which I still am and do enjoy very much.

We were blessed with 7 children, 5 girls and 2 boys. Vera was born 4 Nov. 1912, she with dark hair and eyes, very healthy and strong. Then came Fern, blonde hair and blue eyes. Fern however was not strong. In fact the doctor give her up when she was born. A lot of faith and prayers has been with Fern throughout her life.

Then came Emmett, red hair and blue eyes. Virginia was next with dark hair and brown eyes. At the age of 2 years, Emmett was taken ill in March 1918. The first week in March there was plenty of snow, but the doctor said that he wanted him in Rigby, so we took him. The doctor saw him every day, everything possible was done for him but yet he passed away at Will's sister's home. His services were on Saturday and that night our baby Virginia became ill. The doctor was called early in the morning and everything was done again. Our friends and relatives prayed for her and oh, how we did pray too. The Stake Presidency called at our home to help, but it seems like she had to go. We were up night and day with both of the children. There was a week between their going. I tried so hard to keep her here, I felt that I could not then give her up. When I reached down and kissed her and said goodbye, she drew her last breath. It was a trying time. With the help of friends and loved ones and the Lord, we did not give up. In fact after all was over, I had been warned in a dream before she was born, about her death.

The Lord blessed us again—20 Jan. 1919, another little girl with red hair, blue eyes, came to us. We called her Roba. She has been a joy to us all her life. She taught school 5 years in Menan, one at Nampa. She filled a part time mission. She was in Atlanta, and Tifton, Georgia, also Orangeburg, S. Carolina. She served in the M. I. A. Stake Board for a number of years. Acted as dance director in the Menan Ward and also helped with the singing. She sings Soprano and now is married and the mother of 6, 4 boys and 2 girls. They now live in Paul, Idaho.

In 1921 another brown hair and brown eyed little girl came to us. We called her Nellis Ruth. She too was active in the Church. Was chosen Queen for the Ward Gold and Green Ball. Also chosen as a Queen on a Bathing Beauty Contest at Rigby. She worked as a Telephone Operator in Rigby for a couple of years. She sings Alto. She and Roba used to sing so much with Fern playing for them. Once in a while Will would sing with them. Fern, Vera and I have played a number of duets. Nellis lives in Idaho Falls and she had 5 lovely children.

In 1924 a boy came, blonde hair and blue eyes. We loved him so. He served in the Service for 2 years or so, came home and married a lovely girl. They have 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls. He too has served faithful in the Church and in the Wards. M. I. A. Stake Boards, as a High Councilman in the Yellowstone Stake, now a 1st counselor in the Bishopric of the Marysville Ward at Ashton. He owns the Jewelry stores at Ashton and Driggs. He now lives at Ashton. Grant was in a number of plays and worked faithful on the farm. Always a good boy. Grant played the Cornet. All the children enjoyed their younger days, there was always someone at home to practice for something or another. All the children met their mates, all good husbands and wife. We love them all.

Vera's husband, Harry C. Mills, has been in the Nampa School District as Principal, Superintendent of Junior High, and High School. He was Superintendent of Nampo Schools. Vera, our first child, passed away 27 April 1943. She passed away during childbirth. She left 3 children. Yes, the baby lived and they named her after Vera. They added Dawn to it, and they call her Dawn. Vera was very active. Working in the Primary Presidency and also the Relief

Society. She sang with a sextet at the time of her death. Vera's husband remarried and is at present living in Nampa. Vera's death was a great shock to us.

Fern our second and Vera played together so good all the time. When they became 3, 4, and 5 they would come home from Sunday School and play they were in Sunday School. Vera would lead the singing and Fern on a chair would pretend she was playing the piano. When we got a piano, I started Vera playing and giving her lessons and Fern followed. Fern has played the piano for Gold and Green Ball dances, Sunday School organist, 19 years in the Primary, Ward Organist also Assistant, Secretary in the M. I. A. For 13 years, 2 years on the M. I. A. Stake Board. Fern is still with us, however she had 2 very good chances to marry and others but because of her health she felt that she should not marry. She is working in the Temple been there 3 years. She has received many wonderful things, also served as a Home Missionary. She served as Secretary of the Mission for one year. While we were on the farm she used to help so much in the house.

I treasured our wedding gifts and in all our moving these special gifts were always packed extra careful. We moved a beautiful kitchen cabinet (for that time) with us and always found the right spot in each home. I was Ward Organist in Menan Ward before I was married. 25 years later in moving back to Menan Ward, I again was asked to be Ward Organist.

We sold the farm in the spring of 1947 and moved to 475 L. Street in Idaho Falls, Idaho. I found some adjusting to do in this move. I had always used an old comfort wood cook stove and now an electric range, it was different, like learning to cook all over again. I still enjoyed my home, made new friends, and found you find the kind of people you look for, wherever you live.

Will would go fishing. I would stay home and enjoy it. Daddy and I would find pleasure in going to the temple. It was here in Idaho Falls, I was honored at Relief Society as a Queen For A Day. Nellis read my history, a dozen roses were sent by Roba, and Fern helped in all the planning. The following are some thoughts Nellis gave that day.

"We always made our living by farming and raising chickens and having lots of milk cows. Many wonderful memories will be with us of driving the cows in at night from the pasture. We all remember when Grant was out alone with the horse, when a flash thunder storm came up. We all ran out in pouring rain to help him. The little chickens were a source of comfort to Mom when Vera passed away. To go out to take care of them and watch them grow helped beyond measure. We always laugh when we think how the Mash Man (He brought the feed for the chickens) used to catch some one in the bath tub on Saturday afternoon. What a splash and slipping on soap as we hurried into the cold bedroom. Where we'd shiver and shake until he left. But we had to start early in order for Fern to wave all the heads of hair. The girls helped Will as much as possible. Our boy in the family came a little late, being the last. The girls learned to be handy when needed.

After they all left home to seek out their own lives we found it hard to run the farm, Will, one day, had a heart attack, while out irrigating, so then we decided to sell the farm. We bought the home on L. Street in Idaho Falls and have been very happy. We bought this home in 1947. Living our quiet years enjoying the grandchildren whenever they come. Will enjoyed fishing and telling tall fish stories to all. My palace is my home, very humble but always a joy to clean, scrub and polish. Even today Mom's housekeeping is the envy of all her girls. Now to climax our program Dad and I will sing Mom's favorite song "Silver Threads Among The Gold."

Sister Ethel H. Park wrote these thoughts. ?A tribute to a fine lady, a wonderful mother, a devoted member of the L. D. S. Church and a loyal citizen of the United States. A faithful wife,

and she would do anything she was asked to do. I had known Rhoda Jardine for many years and truly she was one of the most loyal friends I've known. She was so patient, clean, good taste in clothes, good sport. While I was Pres. Of the Idaho Falls 4th Ward Relief Society, I really got to know and appreciate her and her willingness to serve. She was always cheerful and anxious to do more than her share. I have never heard her say anything bad about anyone. I shall always remember times when we had a death among our 4th Ward members. Sister Clara Wadsworth, Ann Sibbett and Sister Jardine would work many hours making delicious sandwiches put together with love and kindness. We will all cherish our memories of a lovely sister. "She sang a song with Sister Park and another Sister on a program.

Ruth Hart said of Mom that she was so well posed, mannered, clean and so cultured. She told this to one of her friends from Salt Lake and Fern heard this. Pores. Lloyd Mickelson made this remark "She was an outstanding person, knew what to say at the right time and knew when to stop."

I took Will's death fairly good. I still tried to keep up my home and yard with the flowers until 1965. A Mrs. Landon came to stay with me. Fern was working at the temple. She would prepare my breakfast and dinner. I had a sick spell and she stayed that month. I did get back on my feet. Nellis and friends of Fern would come and take us to the grocery store. Once a month Fern and I would go over to Ada's Café to eat. I was honored on my 80th birthday. An open house was held for me by Fern. Friends and relatives came from Menan to Blackfoot. I liked apple and cherry pie. Fern would buy one or the other each week. I enjoyed still going to the grocery store, I always enjoyed calling my Sister Nettie, Brother Ches, and my sisters-in-law and friends.

I would go over to Nellis's 2 or 3 times a month. I would go and stay with Roba's a few days in Spring and Fall. After Fern stopped working at the Temple, Fern and I found enjoyment in each other. Fern would let Mom do dishes, yet many times later, would have to do them over unknowingly to Mom. Mom would often take pots and pans from cupboard preparing a meal for her family and would say. Many times she would put fry pan on the stove and if it had grease in it this would create a problem because she would turn the stove on. One particular morning she did this, and a fire started. Fern awoke and came to the hall door and stood there. Fern was afraid to say anything to her that it might frighten her. She finally took the fry pan and put it on the rug in front of the kitchen sink, then put water on it. Fern felt the Lord's protecting care was surely with them that morning. Fern then had Brother Walt Whipple fix a switch on the back porch so she could pull it and Mom would not be able to turn the stove on. Her last Christmas we gave her a coat with a fur collar on it. It was one like Aunt Louella Jardine had had. How proud she was of this coat.

Fern called Nellis 14 Sep. 1969 said their mother was in the L. D. S. Hospital in Idaho Falls. She went into a coma for 3 days. She passed away on a Friday morning a minute to 6. 17 Sep. 1969 will be a day long remembered by all who loved her so dearly.

Dear Mom was loved by son and daughters. Her grandchildren found in her an inward and quiet beauty. Nellis, Grand, and I (Roba) appreciate dear Fern in taking care of Mom her last years. Mom loved her own home and this is where she wanted to be. Fern kept a promise to Mom that she had made. We are proud of Fern and all she has ever done.

Mom was like a protecting Mother Hen wanting to protect her family from all harm. She was the busiest little person hurrying to accomplish all she could in each day. Mother had such pride in her home and cooking. Her fried chicken and homemade Ice Cream was delicious.

Mom and Dad's word was as good as a written statement. Last year of Mom's life, she was so close to her loved ones on the other side. Often really meeting them and wondering where they had gone.

The words to the song "That Wonderful Mother of Mine" really fit in this dear one's life.

The moon never beams without bringing me dreams of that wonderful mother of mine,
The birds never sing but a message they bring of that wonderful mother of mine.
Just to bring back the time that was so sweet to me,
Just to bring back the day when I sat on her knee.

You are a wonderful mother, dear old mother of mine.
You'll hold a spot down deep in my heart, till the stars no longer shine.
Your soul shall live on forever, on through the fields of time.
For there'll never be another to me, like that wonderful mother of mine.

Information on the history is from the family.

Typed into the computer by Kathleen Jardine Woolf a niece. Idaho Falls, Idaho