Rhoda Woolf was born in Benson Ward, Utah, 3 June 1876, a daughter of Absalom and Harriet Wood Woolf. Her father owned a farm in that area, where they lived in the summertime, but their main residence was at Hyde Park, Utah.

Born of these goodly parents, she was 2nd to the youngest of 10 children in her family of 4 boys and 6 girls. One sister, Esther Marilla, died at 6 years old. She also had 8 half sisters and 4 half brothers. 2 of these brothers died in their youth. Rhoda truly loved all her brothers and sisters and they enjoyed each other’s company. She had much fondness for her nieces and nephews, and the feeling was most likely mutual.

She said of her early childhood that it was full of pleasant memories, and she and her brothers and sisters had a happy time together. She has said that they were easy to please and had plenty to eat. For amusement they played ball, rode horses, had candy pulls, went sleigh riding, and above all else, learned how to work. She attended school in Hyde Park, where one of her teachers was her oldest brother, Martin Woolf. As her family grew older, the brothers and sisters remained close and they would travel long distances to visit each other. Rhoda always spoke with sadness when she would mention her 2 sisters, Hattie Cranney and Mae Ricks, both of whom died in their thirties, leaving young families.

In 1898, Rhoda married Alma Victor Reese in the Logan LDS Temple and they made their home in Benson, where she lived the rest of her life. They both worked hard and raised a family of 7 children: 5 sons and 2 daughters. Rhoda was a wonderful homemaker, having learned the skill from her parents. She always had room in her home and around the table for anyone who came to visit. She had the ability gain respect & love from her family and friends.

She would say “A thing of beauty is a joy forever”, and she credited many beautiful pieces of handwork. She was a very proud woman & loved to dress neatly & keep herself looking just right. She loved the beauties of nature & always had a lovely vegetable garden. Trees to her were truly a gift of God, as were beautiful sunsets.

She loved to sing & was one of the first members of the Benson Ward Choir. In her late eighties and nineties, she could still sing sweetly & clearly & remembered all the old songs she loved so well. In 1948, Rhoda and her husband celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Her husband died 8 years later, 15 Feb. 1956, at 80 years of age.

As a result of a fall in her home from which she suffered a broken pelvis, she was hospitalized 3 weeks, suffered complications, and died 28 April 1968. She was buried 1 May in the Logan City Cemetery, less than a month before she would have been 92. For several years preceding her death, she was the only surviving member of her father’s large family of 22 children. She lived more years than any other member of that family. Her grandmother, Sarah Ann DeVoe Woolf, had died at age 90.

Afton R. Smith, Daughter