MARY ELIZA WOOLF RICKS
1870-1901

Mary Eliza Woolf was the 4th daughter of Absalom and Harriet Wood Woolf. She was the 6th child in a family of 10 children. She was born 2 Aug. 1870 at Hyde Park, Cache, Utah.

She married William Gordon Ricks on 3 Feb. 1892. The couple had 5 children-3 boys and 2 girls. “Aunt May” had an active and useful life, though a rather short one, as she died at the early age of 31 years, after being married only 9 years. She died at Rexburg, Idaho, on 19 Nov. 1901. May was a tall, well-built, healthy young girl with a light complexion. She had a happy jolly disposition and made friends readily.

She was accomplished in all the pioneer tasks. She was well-educated and ambitious about improving her home conditions. She had employment in Salt Lake City, where she was in demand for special household arts. Here she associated with several of her cousins, among them the Browns, who lived in Taylorsville (Homer Brown had married 2 of her father’s sisters).

Not much has been told about her married life. Her first home was in Benson Ward near the old John Ricks’ farm. Her husband was a sporty type of man. He was a farmer and a cattle buyer. He owned good horses and was away from home often.

When the first 2 children, LaVere and Maud, were small, Aunt May took them on the train to Salt Lake City and renewed acquaintances with her friends and relatives. The children were elegantly dressed for those days. She bought them little red shoes and had their pictures taken. She was a seamstress and an excellent housekeeper.

Bill and May moved to sever places in Idaho. Two children, Duane and Delore, were born at Teton, Idaho. The latter was only 18 months old, when his mother died.

Grandma Harriet was with May during her fatal illness at Rexburg, Idaho. It was a dreadful shock to her mother and to the Ricks family when May passed away.

Will’s mother and his young sister, Jennie, took care of all the children except Duane, who was 3 years old. He went to live with his grandmother, Harriet Woolf, at Hyde Park. Grandmother Woolf also had 2 of her daughter’s (Hattie Cranney) children, Fay and Leslie, in her home. Their mother had died in childbirth 4 years previously leaving 9 children.

Years later Duane went to Oakley with Willard D. Cranney and Sons. He died in California in 1970. Both Florence & Delore died at a young age, but after both had been married. The oldest 2 children LaVere and Maud, are still alive (1971).

May was buried in Hyde Park Cemetery, where years later, her husband was also buri

Viva C. Munk, Niece

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