EVA SAVONA WOOLF
1885-1968

Eva Savona Woolf was born 3 Dec. 1885 in Hyde Park, Cache County, Utah. She was the 4th daughter of John Anthony Woolf II and Celia Ann Hatch.

They lived in a humble 2 room, frame home in the center of town, having very few conveniences and very little money. When Eva was very small, her mother’s health broke, and she was bedfast most of the time. Eva’s older sisters, Katherine, Bertie and Ethel took over the responsibilities of milking cows, churning butter, washing on a board, gathering fruits and drying them for winter use, and many other chores. When Eva was 1 ½ years old, her mother had a serious operation. Ethel and Bertie were sent to Franklin by team and wagon to stay with their Grandma Hatch; Katherine took care of little Eva, the home and chores, in addition to the care of her sick mother.

In the spring of 1887, John A. Woolf, being a polygamist, was forced to take his first wife, Mary Lucretia, and family, and flee into Canada to escape the punishment of government officers, leaving Celia Ann and her family to survive as best they could. The girls had limited time for play and were taught mature responsibilities by a patient, convalescing mother. Eva would take her turn to tend chickens and help drive the cows to the pasture; also to get a fresh start of yeast from Sister Mickelson’s taking a bit of sugar or potato water in exchange. She learned to knit her own stockings, made of yarn corded and spun by her mother, and was taught to do fine stitching. She had a very brilliant mind, and it was easy for her to memorize poetry, songs and stories, which she enjoyed doing in Primary, Sunday School and at grade school. Mary Ann Grant was a favorite teacher, also Edna Lee, Sylvia Hymas and others who helped guide her young years in Hyde Park.

At that time, the long rock building was the gathering place for all Church activities. Its thick walls and huge pot-bellied stove in the center of the room kept them warm in winter and cool in summer.

In 1909, John Anthony Woolf moved his first family back from Canada to Logan, Katherine, Bertie and Ethel were married then, and soon Celia Ann was moved to Logan also. The little home and land in Hyde Park was sold to Joseph Christensen, and they purchased the little home that belonged to their Grandma Hatch for Celia Ann. It was located just one block west of the old BYU school. In the Logan 2nd Ward Eva taught Sunday School and made many new friends, among them Della England, Lettie Rasmussen, Cardon, Della Daniels, and others.

Eva’s sister, Bertie, contracted double pneumonia and died 23 March 1904, leaving 2 young children, Arta (two years old), and Wanda (nine months). Celia Ann Took Wanda to raise as her own and she and Eva became as sisters throughout their lives.

Eva was employed at Thatcher Brothers Bank which helped to finance the home and support her parents, both of whose health was very poor. In 1915, they sold the little home in the 2nd Ward and bought the big one at 231 North Third East, nearer the temple, thinking perhaps they could do temple work, but their health did not permit.

Eva was active in the Business and Professional Women’s Organization, Soroptimist, and other civic organizations, as well as a Sunday School teacher in the 4th Ward. She worked hard to provide for the comforts of home and her aging parents, sacrificing many pleasures of travel or vacation. She had many special friends—Squires family, the Eccles, Nibleys, Cardons, Thatcher’s, McQuarries, Ann Peterson, and Belnaps. It became necessary for Ethel or one of her girls to
come to Logan at least one day a week to help clean the big house and go grocery shopping, and
care for their grandpa, who was totally blind in both eyes, and their grandma, both of whom were
in very poor health.

Idonna Balls, Eva’s niece, would often spend the weekends with Eva and her parents and
became very close and comforting to them. Idonna and Eva enjoyed many special events
together, going too Chittawkwaas (live stage plays under the big tent on the east side of
tabernacle square), walking a mile and a half to the fairgrounds to see the Barnum & Bailey
Circus, or “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” at the Lyric Theatre, and little operas at the Brigham Young
College. They were very companionable and enjoyed being together. Another Niece of Eva’s,
Wanda Bake, who was married to W. C. Cole, lived only 2 or 3 blocks away.

John Anthony Woolf II passed away 20 Feb. 1928, and Celia Ann Hatch on 5 Sep. 1939,
making it necessary to sell the big house. Eva was still at the bank, and the responsibilities and
upkeep were too much for her. She boarded with Lettie Rasmussen for some time, then moved
into the Park and Lane Apartments on First West. A niece, Sharon Leishman, went to live with
her while she was working at the Mountain States Telephone Co., because Eva’s health was
poor. She suffered severe asthma attacks and nervousness, and the stairs to the upstairs
apartment were too difficult to climb, and a danger to her, so she moved to the Patience Thatcher
Apartments, which were closer to her work and more convenient. A dear and devoted friend,
Maybelle Cole, shared the apartment with her for a time, and their friendship was very sincere and
pleasant. They vacationed together in California and spent many enjoyable afternoons in
beautiful Logan Canyon and at Bear Lake. Eva, Been P. Merrill, Adeline Edwards, Alta Palmer
and Alta Coburn would get together on occasion for a picnic and pleasant afternoon for visiting.

After 40 years of faithful service, she was retired from her job at the age of 72.

Both Maybelle Cole and Alta Palmer passed away (each dying one year apart on Eva’s
birthday). She certainly missed their friendship and became very depressed and lonely. Her
sister, Ethel, and nieces and nephews were generous and good to her, taking her on weekends for
a tasty meal, or to the canyons for an afternoon. She was always considered a special family
member and was present at Christmas gatherings, Easter, Thanksgiving, or other special
occasions.

On 15 March 1963, Eva received her own endowments in the Logan Temple. This was a
very special day in her life. A nephew, Kim Leishman, and his bride, Margene Albretsen, were
married this same day. All members of the families were present later that day at Zanavoo Lodge
in Logan Canyon to celebrate the festivities.

In Oct. 1965, the Townhouse Apartments were sold, forcing Eva and the other tenants to
move. This was a sad, disheartening day for her. She had loved being on Main Street where
people and traffic just kept going.

She moved into Apartment #13 at Tidwell’s, 235 N. First East, on 14 Oct. 1965. This
move greatly upset her life, and she became nervous, frightened and very unhappy. Her health
became poor and she suffered from arthritis in her legs and chest. She was unable to get out
much and soon became sick and depressed, neglected her eating, and grew weak & confused.

She entered the Logan LDS Hospital 13 Nov. With a serious attack of colitis and was
later taken to Wellsville to Donna’s home for 2 and a half weeks of recuperation. She had gained
5 pounds, and was much improved in health and attitude, but how she dreaded going back to the
apartment. She was never able to walk to town anymore.

Each day she seemed to get weaker, with loss of appetite, and great pain. Her doctor kept
her on medicine that only gave temporary relief. On Feb. 11 she again entered LDS Hospital.
Dr. Merrill Daines was puzzled with her condition. They made major tests and a biopsy of the
liver, but still her trouble seemed to be arthritis and an infected liver.

Gradually she became worse until Sunday, 23 March 1968, she passed quietly away.
Nieces and nephews and other family members had been with her that afternoon and at death
Idonna and her husband, Allan Leishman, were at her side.

Her dear devoted sister, Ethel, had never ceased giving help, prayers and kind words of
comfort, and greatly mourned her passing. Beautiful services were held at the Nelson Funeral
Chapel 26 March, after which she was buried in Hyde Park Cemetery in the family plot.

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