ISAAC WOOLF
1841–1920

Isaac Woolf, the 5th child of John Anthony Woolf and Sarah Ann DeVoe, was born 9 Feb. 1841, Westchester, New York. He received his early education in the school of experience and hard knocks. When he was 6 years old, the age normally spent in kindergarten by modern children, his parents loaded their earthly possessions and their 7 children into one horse-drawn and 3 ox-drawn wagons in Nauvoo, Ill., and ferried across the Mississippi River in the dead of winter to avoid bloodshed. Here gathered a large group of similarly homeless exiles, who in the spring, commenced a wagon journey westward that was to land them at the Missouri River by the following winter. On the journey, early rising was routine; as was the quick breakfast, maneuvering the oxen into place and yoking them to the wagons by the father and older sons; while the mother, daughters, and younger children washed the dishes, picked up all items of food, utensils and bedding that had been unloaded the previous evening and packed them into the wagons for an early departure. There were tasks for all, large and small, and each was assigned tasks suited to his capacity. The following winter was spent in a small log house hurriedly erected at Winter Quarters. Here sickness and bitter-cold weather sapped their strength, but spared their lives.

In the spring, the westward journey was resumed. Thus in Isaac’s 6th year, the year normally spent at school in the first grade, his school teachers were endless days in the jolting wagon, the plants and flowers of the prairie, buffalo, deer, coyotes and wolves (the latter heard but rarely seen), Indians, the fording of big rivers, ascent of steep canyons with high walls, and clear streams, the pine and quaking asps, and the continuing acceptance of increased responsibility and performance of ever-harder tasks.

The family arrived in Salt Lake City 6 Oct. 1847, where they built an adobe house in the old Pioneer Fort and helped others to do the same. Here lush green foliage had been replaced by a grey and treeless valley hemmed in by equally grey mountain ranges.

When Isaac was 11 years old, his father was called to settle in Iron County, where he built a house, cleared some ground, and raised a disappointingly small crop. Returning to his family, they started for Iron County in the fall of 1852. While camped on the Jordan River, thieves stole their cattle. This delayed the southern journey so long as to make its continuance impractical because of impending winter storms. The family huddled together that winter in a temporary log cabin quickly constructed on the Provo River. Isaac’s 12th summer was spent in Mona, Utah, where the family settled by virtue of a change in destination directed by the Church. Here prosperity smiled on them for a short time, terminated by the outbreak of an Indian War. The family took refuge in the fort at Nephi. Isaac lived with his family in Nephi from 1853 to 1861. Here the hardships of Indian fighting, drought, and pests robbed them of any degree of prosperity, but endowed them with courage, discipline, and strength. At the age of 20, Isaac moved from his family to Cache Valley and settled in Hyde Park, where with his strength (he being the oldest of the Woolf boys unmarried and still living with his family), virgin soil was cleared, and in a few years converted into a productive farm.

By 1869, having matured into a man of great physical strength, and wise in the ways of pioneering, farming, and stock raising, Isaac courted and married Ellen Marie Hyde, daughter of William Hyde, founder and Bishop of Hyde Park.

They raised a family of 8 children in Hyde Park; the eldest, Ella Frances, born in 1870 and the youngest, Ruby Howe, in 1891. The other children were: Mary Elizabeth, Clara, Isaac
Hyde, Chloe, William Hyde, and Absalom Devoe. Isaac was a good farmer and a good provider for his family.

Isaac Woolf passed away 29 April 1920 at the home of his daughter, Ella Frances Woolf Baxter, at the age of 70, leaving a posterity of able descendants to honor his name.

Information from book of John Anthony Woolf and families Publ. 1986

Typed into computer by Kathleen Jardine Woolf on 11 Oct. 2002 Idaho Falls, Idaho