MARTIN WOOLF
1858-1929

Martin Woolf was born 18 October 1838 in Nephi, Utah, the oldest child of Absalom and Harriet Wood Woolf. The Woolf family was among the earliest settlers of Utah, having arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in October 1847.

In 1880, Martin married Roseltha Hyde of Hyde Park, Utah, a daughter of William and Sally Allred Hyde, the founders of Hyde Park, after whom the town was named.

The young couple moved to Salt Lake City where Martin became active in Civic Affairs. They later moved south of Salt Lake City and saw many of the trials and privations of the Indian wars in Southern Utah. The next move was to Cache Valley, where Martin taught school at Hyde Park and Millville for a number of years.

In 1899, they decided to move to Canada; the town of Cardston, Alberta, was being developed and land was plentiful. Martin thought this would be an ideal place to raise his family of 8 children, six sons and 2 daughters. Another daughter was born a few years later in Cardston in 1903.

Martin had always loved horses, and before long he purchased many acres of ranch land south and west of the town and went into cattle raising. He always had the very best horses and took great pride in them, some of these being shipped by train from Cache Valley. He was always an active man of affairs and associated himself early with the public life of the community. In 1902, when the town was incorporated, he became Cardston’s first Secretary-Treasurer. Later he was appointed Police Constable, in which position he served for a number of years.

During the homesteading days, he acted as Land Titles Agent and was appointed customs collector at the Cardston Port of Entry. He held this position until the resignation of John W. Woolf from the Provincial Legislature in 1912, when he resigned to enter politics.

He filled the unexpired term of J. W. Woolf and was elected to 2 terms in the Legislature, in 1913 and 1917. During the latter term he was elevated to the position of Deputy Speaker of the House, in which position he served under 2 Premiers, Arthur L. Sifton & Charles Stewart.

Martin was a fearless exponent of the rights of the people he represented and was always in the thick of the fray when his duties called him to enter. He became a valiant champion of prohibition during his legislative career and promoted legislation for irrigation and other projects in Southern Alberta.

He was active in other fields also, serving as first counselor to Bishop Hammer in the early religious history of Cardston and holding this position until 1912, when he entered politics. Martin was always found at his post in any religious duty or call that was expected of him.

Martin Woolf died in Cardston 28 August 1928, having been in very poor health for several years. The following thoughts were expressed by some of his lifelong friends at the funeral service.

John S. Smith said, “In Martin Woolf we have a man of unusual mentality, of the highest ability, possessed of a wealth of experience which has developed within him the keenest facilities, the most sensitive feelings, the powers of mind to discern issues, comprehend conditions and arrive unerringly at correct conclusions.

“The physical media in his case had been so highly efficient in interpreting life and its problems that when that media began to break down health, Martin Woolf suffered more than
most men, and death came as an angel of mercy. It released the great mind from its handicaps, giving free scope to the spirit, and at the same time placed the body can become reunited and celestialized into an immortal bring. Such is the hope that the church Martin belonged to holds out to all the world.”

Pres. E. J. Wood, who for 30 years had been an intimate friend of the family, paid tribute to the services rendered to his constituency by Martin Woolf, the untiring labors and fearless stand he had taken on prohibition and other issues, and the honor conferred upon him by the government in making him Deputy Speaker during his last term as a member of Parliament. He said, “As a public servant there was no one more respected or honored than Martin Woolf, both at home and in the Dominion of Canada.”

Martin Woolf was always a very generous, kindly man, well loved and respected by all his children, who could always turn to him for advice and help when it was needed.

The children of Martin and Roseltha Hyde Woolf are: Martin, Jr., Harriet, Junius Feramorz, DeVoe, Sally Iona, Golden LeGrand, Vernon Hyde, Lyle Kenneth, and Roseltha. 3 of the 9 children are living at this writing (1970): Feramorz (Fern) in Richmond, California; Lyle Kenneth, Salt Lake City, Utah; and Roseltha Eldredge, Seattle, Washington.

Flora A. Woolf, Daughter -in-law

Information taken from book John Anthony Woolf Family Publ. 1986
Note: The book has his death 1929 and 1928. ??
Typed into computer 15 Nov. 2002 by Kathleen Jardine Woolf   Idaho Falls, Idaho