MILO HENRY WOOLF
1886-1961

Milo Henry Woolf was born at Hyde Park, Cache County, Utah, 14 Sep. 1886, the son of James Woolf, Sr. And Emma Hurren. His parents were sturdy pioneers who crossed the plains with the first Mormons. His father crossed the plains at the age of 11 in the second hundred wagons which came to Salt Lake Valley in 1847, and his mother, who crossed the plains at the age of 4, was a member of the famous Captain Willey’s Handcart Co. Both parents endured many hardships because of their religion and were firm in their faith until death. Milo, like his parents, had a deep understanding of the Gospel and taught his family to respect the truth and honesty taught by the church.

Milo attended school at Riverdale, Franklin County, Idaho. The children used to ride horses to school and went about 6 hours a day for approximately 5 months each term.

At about 19 years of age, he bought some pasture land from his parents, paying $800 for 20 acres in back of what is now known as Ben Meek’s. Then in 1913, Mr. Meek was desirous of trading some land for the 20 acres adjoining his property, so the trade was completed. It was an advantage to Milo because the land he acquired in the trade was more easily reached by main roads and had good water rights. He bought a 40 acre dry farm, which he later sold to Orville Neeley. While he was in France, his brother, James, rented the dry farm and sent Milo a picture of 2 men in the wheat field with grain up to their shoulders. It was not until he returned home that he learned they were kneeling down when the picture was taken, and the grain was not nearly as good as they had led him to believe.

Milo’s father deeded 80 acres to his children and divided it among them. Milo bought Marion’s, Stella’s, and Amanda’s shares of the property. He later sold James 3 acres. That is how he acquired the property that came to be known as home to all his children.

But back to his boyhood-Milo was probably the average boy full of pranks and loving a good but working most of the time. It was his job to herd cattle many days at a time because there were no fences in those days. He remembered once riding a horse to Logan, Cache County, Utah, about 40 miles to see a circus. His brother, James, and Frank and George Barrington accompanied him and they drove a bull to Hyde Park as they went.

Once some city boys came to visit the Woolf Family. They had been teased about sucking eggs. One day when they were not hungry at lunch time, someone asked if they had been sucking eggs while they were playing in the orchard. One said, “We sucked most of them, but some of them were tough and we had to chew them.”

One day, when returning to their home in Riverdale from Preston, a group of boys became involved in an argument. It seems there were some birds floating on the pond; some of the boys said they were geese, and the others said they were swans. So he went to the house and said, “Mister Swan, aren’t those your geese?” So he won the bet.

In the spring of 1917, Milo received “Greetings from the President,” but because he was a farmer, he was not called to active duty until that fall, after the crops were harvested. He enlisted in the Army 2 Oct. 1917. He trained in California and at Camp Lewis, Washington, leaving Campo Lewis 23 March 1918. It took 7 days to reach New Jersey, where they stayed 3 days before sailing for France on one of the biggest troop transports of the time, “LaVathean”. It took 7 ½ days to cross the ocean. In France, he was struck in the eye by a piece of shrapnel, which later caused blindness in one eye. Shortly after his arrival in France, Milo was stricken with an
acute pain in his knees and back and was hospitalized most of the time he was in France. While overseas, he was grieved to learn of the death of his father, who passed away at the age of 84 as the result of a stroke. Milo bought one of the first battery-started automobiles in that part of the country. People were amazed that it would start without cranking. He always loved good horses and was known to have some of the best horse teams in the country. He was a rancher and cattle raiser most of his life. The last few years of his life he was raising fewer cattle, but of a purebred strain, which were admired by many people passing through the countryside.

Although his health was very poor, he was determined to live a normal life. In 1922, he married Vareta A. Taylor, the daughter of Heman Caldwell Taylor and Elizabeth Bennett. This marriage was blessed with 2 children: Carma, born 1923 and Phyllis, born 1924. Full of determination to make a good life for his family, Milo began the first commercial poultry production in that part of the state, which yielded large quantities of eggs. The eggs had to be shipped to Pocatello for grading. Milo’s mother told him he would go broke for sure when she learned he had bought 500 chickens. That winter he sold eggs for sixty cents a dozen after dances. This amazed his mother, who had only raised a few chickens at a time from a setting of eggs.

Milo was a very witty gentleman with a keen sense of humor. He did not believe in personal gain at the expense of his fellow man and was generous and willing to help anyone in trouble, especially if they were willing to help themselves. He believed there was a great difference in being thrifty and being stingy. He hated to see things wasted, especially if anyone could use them. Milo tried to be active in Church affairs and was a leader in the YMMIA, but his health again failed and he was forced to lead a less-strenuous life. He spent months at a time in the hospital in Boise, and for many years was forced to lease the farm because of his health.

He always encouraged the advancement of anything that would improve the standards of living. In 1929, when electricity was being installed in the rural area, he was one of the first to urge its use, although because his wife and daughter, Phyllis, were both operated on at that time, finances were limited. In 1937, a new home was built on the old homesite & Milo & Vareta were able to live a quiet & prosperous life. Life was not always kind to Milo, yet, in his later years he was able to count his blessings and received much satisfaction as he looked back over the years.

From Discharge Records: A.S. #2258457 Private First Class Co. L. 361 Infantry 5 ft 8 in.-tall-brown hair Fort D. A. Russell, Wy. 28 March 1919 Service honest and faithful No AWOL No Absences Under G.O. #L-191 or G. O. 45-1914 Entitled to travel expenses to Preston, Idaho Milo Henry Woolf passed away 8 Nov. 1961, at Preston, Id., and was buried 11 Nov 1961, in Preston. He was survived by his wife, Vareta; daughters, Carma and Phyllis, and 11 grandchildren. Carma Woolf Kirkland, Daughter