Russell Glenn Woolf was the youngest of 11 children born to James Woolf and Emma Hurren. He was born at the family home in Riverdale (near Preston, Id.) 3 Dec. 1892.

A typical young man, Russell was active in Church and civic affairs. In 1916 he was called to serve a mission in the Central States. The Church Section of the Deseret News, November 1977, stated in the article, “Missionaries & the Indians,” that Russell Woolf and his companion were largely responsible for the early conversion of the Indians to the gospel because the Indians loved and trusted them and knew they were friends.

On 21 Feb. 1917, Russell wed Viola Hansen in the Logan LDS Temple. Both were very active in the Church, although they lived on a dry farm many miles from the Church. During that first year of marriage they lost twin babies. The shock of losing their first babies was a hard blow to the young married couple. In 1925, Russell, was again called to serve a mission, this time in Canada. Viola moved into part of his mother’s home, cared for the children (by then Bernice and Boyd had joined the family), and helped finance the mission. The separation and hard work experienced by his wife at this time, in addition to the loss of the twins, greatly affected her health. Two more children were born in Riverdale: Cleo Jon and Lynden Scott.

In 1937, Russell’s mother passed away, his wife’s health failed, and financial woes due to the depression forced him to leave Riverdale and seek employment elsewhere.

For awhile he carried on alone, acting as both father and mother. His employment in construction forced him to travel a great deal, so he left the 2 youngest boys with his married daughter in Washington. At this time, he was working on the transcontinental T.V. relay stations that were being installed across the country. The 2 older boys joined the military service due to the war. After the war, Russell settled in California and maintained a home for the boys. When he was away, he was always in contact to see how things were going at home. The family learned the commandment, “Honor thy father and thy mother,” by the example Russell set. They were taught to pull together and love and protect one another.

“Pop” as he was affectionately called, lived with his son, Jon, in San Leandro, Cal. The last years of his life. He encountered many hardships during his life, but remained true to the ideals that he taught. He faced life with a smile and his sense of humor was to be admired.

Russell, the witty, loveable and loved father and husband, passed away in San Leandro, California, 12 Nov 1967. His wife followed him in death 23 March 1975.

Carma Woolf Kirkland, Niece

Typed into the computer 24 Oct. 2002 by Kathleen Jardine Woolf  Idaho Falls, Idaho
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