

SYLVIA WOOLF WRIGHT
1880-1962

Sylvia Woolf was born at Hyde Park, Cache, Utah, 17 May 1880. She was the 6th child born to James and Emma Hurren Woolf.

In March of 1884, when 4 years old, she moved with her family to Riverdale, Franklin, Id. The journey was made part of the way by wagon and the rest of the way by sleigh. The snow was so deep that her father and his brother, Homer, had to walk ahead to break trail. They forded the Bear River in one of the shallow places, but even then, the water came right up into the sleigh box. In Riverdale, they lived in a home which James had bought from William Pratt, consisting of one large room made of logs with 2 small frame rooms in front. In this home, Sylvia was raised under pioneer conditions. Culinary water was carried in buckets from a spring about one quarter of a mile away.

They raised nearly all their own food: there were cows, chickens, and turkeys, a large garden, and an apple orchard and berry bushes.

Sylvia's recreation as she grew up consisted of attending church on Sunday & MIA dances in the small ward once a week or so, and swimming in the river or canal. Groups of young people would gather and have surprise parties at various homes, playing games, dancing, and enjoying a lunch brought by the guests.

Sylvia married Lorenzo M. Wright, son of John George Wright and Ruth Judd Mitchell Wright in Salt Lake City on 22 Aug. 1906, and was sealed to him in the Salt Lake Temple on 10 Oct. 1907. She had met him in a beet field in West Jordan (she had gone to visit cousins), where they were both thinning beets.

Lorenzo and Sylvia lived in West Jordan for 3 years, while Lorenzo worked in the smelter & did farm work. Here their 2 oldest children, Orson LaVar & Erma Ruth, were born.

In 1909, they moved to Riverdale, Id., where Grandpa Woolf had given them a small piece of land. They bought an old 2 room school house & moved it onto the lot to live in. Here 4 more children were born: Lyman Marion, Rodney Lorenzo, Archie Glen, and Lola May.

During the years 1915 to 1918, Lorenzo homesteaded in Dry Valley northeast of Soda Springs. They moved up there each spring and back to Riverdale each fall. It took 2 days to move the livestock, supplies, & the family, so they always camped out one night each trip.

They lived in Cleveland for 2 years, 1918 & 1919, where Lorenzo worked with Howard Thomas on a farm they rented. In 1924, they bought a ranch at Mapleton, up Cub River Canyon, where they lived the remainder of their lives, & where the last & 7th child, Harold Dean was born. Sylvia was a hard worker. When very young she tended to the chickens & turkeys, milked cows, & worked to help raise a big garden. She was carrying water in buckets from the spring once when she climbed through a fence & looked down just in time to keep from stepping on a large snake.

When she married & had a family to care for she was always busy canning food or cooking & cleaning. Each year she canned hundreds of quarts of fruit, pickles, chili sauce, & catsup. She made the most delicious sausage, head cheese, and canned meat. Her home made candy was the "very best" & would melt in your mouth. Whenever she had visitors she was quick to ask if they were hungry & if she could get them something to eat.

She always had a little money stashed away. Every time the ward teachers came, she gave them her money to pay her very own tithing.

Sylvia had a keen sense of humor. One morning when her daughter Lola lay in bed & wouldn't get up, her mother put her coat on & said, "Well, if you won't get up. You can't go with me." Of course, Lola Jumped up & dressed in a flash. When she went out to go with her, her mother said, "Good, now that you are up you can take the cows to pasture & I won't have to go." On April Fool's Day when there was very deep snow, Sylvia told Archie to go out to the coop & "get the dead chicken & throw it down over the hill" Archie waded out to the coop through snow drifts, with the temperature near zero. He was gone quite awhile. When he came back he said that he couldn't find any dead chicken. His mother just laughed & said "April Fool"

In later years when it was harder for her to get around, she sat & pieced quilt tops. She probably pieced a hundred quilt tops & gave them all away to her children, grandchildren, or the Relief Society of her ward. She was cutting quilt pieces when she suffered a heart attack the evening before she died..

Lorenzo died 13 Oct. 1954, and was buried at Franklin, Idaho. Sylvia died 14 Oct. 1962, & was buried beside her husband.

Sylvia carried the habits she acquired early of hard work & thrift throughout her life & tried her best to teach them to her children. The greatness of her good habits & traits & character should be held in high esteem by all her descendants.

Rodney Wright, Son

Typed into the computer by Kathleen Jardine Woolf 23 Oct. 2002 Idaho Falls, Idaho
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