

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
EDMUND JAMES AND OLIVE JANE
BUTTERFIELD BROWN FAMILY
1913-1940 - THE EARLY YEARS IN IDAHO

WRITTEN BY
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The Brown family moved from Union, Utah, to Virginia, Idaho, in the spring of 1913. For several years after that, the activities of the family centered in the Downey-Virginia-Arimo area and eventually most of them moved on to McCammon.

They left Utah originally to farm some land owned by C.N. and D.C. Ray which was situated about two miles west of Virginia. Later, some of them were involved in homesteading land over the mountain west of Virginia.

As time went on, they began to farm and work for themselves and to acquire their own property. More of the children married and established their own homes.

After Grandpa Brown's death, Grandma Brown purchased forty acres of land north of the Ray farms and the boys built a home (or homes) on it.

Ever since I was a youngster I have heard about the home built by the Browns near Virginia, Idaho. Although I was born at Arimo just five miles from there, and reared in McCammon just another five miles to the north, I never knew where the home was. And I didn't know that they owned forty acres of land there.

I had talked with my sister, Eva, about it a few times. She said that she remembered the home and had been out there as a girl. She also remembered the home where the Ira Goff family lived about a mile away, and could distinctly remember walking from Grandma Brown's home with a bucket to get milk from the Goff's.

I remember going out there from McCammon with Mother as a small boy. Uncle Alvin (Brown), her brother, and his wife, Leatha, were there. I don't remember anything in particular about the house except that it was a frame home, that it was out in the country by itself, and that I fell in a ditch near it and got my best (and probably only) shoes wet.

On August 3, 1985, the Wengreens held our bi-annual family reunion at McCammon. Eva and I decided that the following day we would drive out to Virginia and see what we could find. I took my family back to Hyrum, Utah, that evening and returned the next morning to meet Eva in McCammon.

We drove to Virginia, which is located between Arimo and Downey, east of the present freeway, and along the old highway. Eva remembered that the home was west of Virginia. We drove around, looking generally along the roads to the west. We went down three or four with no success but Eva knew we were in the right area.

We stopped at a home west of Virginia to inquire, and to our surprise we found that these people knew of the Brown family and said that they now owned the land that had belonged to them. They said also that they knew where the foundation of the Brown home was located on their property which was exciting to hear. The man's name was John Hart (but he goes by "Bill") and his wife's name was Jennie.

They volunteered to ride over with us and show us the place. They directed us along some back roads until we came to a place which they said was the site of the Ira Goff home. There is nothing there now except a flat piece of ground in the northeast corner of a large field. Bill showed us where the house had stood. I got out and walked over the area and took some pictures.

Bill pointed northeast and said that over there was the location of the Brown home about a half mile away. We continued to drive east along the road a little ways and then turned off on the north side and into a field, back towards the west a little distance, and right to the remains of a cement foundation where a home had once been.

Even though there is not much there now we were excited to know that perhaps here had stood the home where Grandma Brown and the family had lived. I have since learned, to my surprise, that Grandpa Brown had never lived in the home as he had passed away before they purchased the land and built the home.

The major part of the remains is part of a cement foundation. It is situated against a small hillside, with the high side to the east. The home appears to have faced west. Other than the foundation, there was not much there except some odds and ends such as tin cans, old buckets, an old wash tub, broken dishes, and the like.

This was the experience which later prompted me to write this brief history of the Brown family, covering the early years in southern Idaho, and to try to learn what I could about the home and the land. The information is sketchy as there are no detailed histories, diaries, journals, or other major sources that I am aware of; and most of the adults who were directly involved in those early years have passed on.

I have relied most heavily on the information received from visits and letters from three aunts--Aunt Percy Thomas (age 94), Aunt Leatha Brown (age 76), and Aunt Gladys Brown (age 73). At their ages I don't think they will mind my revealing their ages. Sometimes there have been minor conflicts in the information I have read or heard. In those cases I have resolved them the best I could or have left out that part of the story. This refers to the brief biographies in the family also.

In 1912, Grandpa and Grandma Brown lived in Union, Utah. They actually lived east of Union--"up the creek" as they called it. In 1907, they had purchased a home there. Here they were neighbors to the Charles Gustav Wengren (Wengreen) family. The oldest of the Wengren children, Carl Arthur, eventually married one of the Brown girls, my mother, Elva Rosella Brown.

Aunt Percy (the oldest married daughter of Grandpa and Grandma Brown) and her husband, John, were then living in Bingham, Utah, where Uncle John was working. A Dr. C.N. Ray was their doctor when their first child, Helen, was born there on July 25, 1912.

Dr. Ray had a brother by the name of D.C. Ray who was also a medical doctor. Aunt Percy said that they approached her husband about going to Virginia, Idaho, and running

their 160 acre farm. They suggested to him that he get someone else to go with him. Uncle John and Aunt Percy went to visit Grandpa and Grandma Brown to see what they thought about it. They decided that they would sell out and all go there together.

They sold their home and made the move to Virginia, which was a small farming community about five miles north of Downey, as we have indicated. The Ray farmland was situated about two miles west of the main part of Virginia.

Evidently, they made the move in March of 1913. Aunt Percy said that at that time they moved she was in the early months of pregnancy with her second child, Elmer John, who was born on October 15, 1913, in Virginia in the C.N. Ray home on the Ray property.

Bill Hart told us that the Portneuf-Marsh Valley Canal was opened in 1913 and the promoters were trying to get all the land sold and water put on the land. They later put in a redwood pipe syphon with iron bands which ran west about two or three miles to the 240 acres which included the Ray and later the Brown property. This area was known as the "bench".

Moving with Grandpa and Grandma Brown were five of their children--Olive May (age 25 and unmarried), Robert William (age 23 and called "Bob"), Alvin James (age 13), Sarah Evelyn (age 10), and Eddis Kemp (age 8 and called "Ted").

There were two other children who did not come with them when they moved--Elva Rosella (age 17) and Mable Edna (age 15). Elva was working and stayed in Utah. She was married soon after the family moved to Idaho--on January 28, 1914--to Carl Arthur Wengren (later, Wengreen). Edna stayed for a while in Utah where she was working as a "domestic servant" in homes. She later moved to Virginia to be with her family.

The family first moved into the two-room house (which had a shanty attached) on the east Ray place belonging to C.N. Ray. The children slept in a shack which was on the D.C. Ray place located west of there.

In the fall of 1913, Aunt Percy and Uncle John moved from the Ray place in order to make more room for Grandpa and Grandma Brown and their children.

They moved into a home belonging to a Dr. Pond which was located along the road just south of the Ray place. The following spring (1914) they moved to Downey to run the Riddle farm which was located about a mile north of Downey, on the east side of the highway and railroad tracks.

The Ray farms had never been cleared and were mostly sagebrush. The family cleared some land that first spring and planted wheat. They got a good crop that year. Aunt Percy said that they harvested 3,006 bushels of grain.

As they worked they accumulated a few cows, pigs, chickens, and some machinery of their own. Grandpa Brown helped construct the first flume to assist in the irrigation of the

farmers' crops in that area and, for a time, was the overseer of the flume and irrigation system.

The Brown family were there when the first Latter-day Saint ward was organized in Virginia on June 13, 1915. It began with twenty-six families listed, two of them being listed as "Edmund James Brown" and "Robert Brown". Uncle Bob was still unmarried but was now twenty-five years of age.

My father and mother, Art and Elva Wengreen, moved to Virginia in the spring of 1915 where Dad at first worked on the Ray farm also. By this time they had the first of eventually ten children--a daughter named Rosella Opal, born to them in Salt Lake City in 1914, before coming to Idaho.

Later, they moved from Virginia to Downey and Dad began to work buying and selling grain. Eventually he supervised the grain elevators there and in the surrounding area.

In 1916 they moved to the McCammon area and for a short time farmed the John Goodenough ranch before returning to Downey again to live. Four children were born to them while living in Downey. A son, born March 8, 1916, was named Carl Alvin after his father and Uncle Alvin (he went by the nickname "Buster"). Next was Eva Jenett, born September 3, 1917, followed by Genevieve on July 10, 1919, and Charles Edmund, born May 7, 1921. Charles was given the first given names of his grandfathers on both sides, Charles Gustav Wengren and Edmund James Brown.

In about 1916, Grandpa and Grandma Brown left the Ray farm and took up a 320 acre homestead in Power County, which is the county bordering Bannock County to the west. Two others of the family also took up homesteads of 320 acres each in the same area, Uncle Bob, and Dad and Mother. Some years later, Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha took up a homestead of 640 acres.

Some of us have wondered just where these homesteads were located, and what happened to them. Mother gave some details about the homesteads. She said that they had a tent to live in on theirs which was located about a half-mile from where her parents lived on theirs. The folks "proved up" their land for a few years, built a log cabin, and soon had the place stocked with cattle, horses, and had implements and sheds. It appears that the land was used mainly for the grazing of livestock, but Aunt Percy said that their folks were involved in dry farming on their homestead as well.

Mother said that she and Dad were on their homestead land only during part of the summer months. Theirs was primarily grazing land and she said that they did not break the soil to plant crops.

Many of the second generation have wondered about the location of these homesteads in Power County. Mother said that it was "a long ways up there," and out west of Virginia. She said that it took four or five hours to go there in a car (imagine a 1919 automobile or earlier) and that the roads were bad.

Aunt Gladys said they went west from Virginia and down through Hawkins Basin and past Hawkins Reservoir. Aunt Leatha said that to get there they would go west, cross Marsh Creek, and follow a dugway dirt road which went over the mountain which was several miles south of the Gap (a canyon and roadway through the mountain northwest of Virginia and near Robin, Idaho), and at a low elevation. Bill Hart said that the road west was called "Dairy Creek Road". Aunt Leatha added that it took perhaps four hours to drive it on the crooked and unimproved dirt roads. Apparently they were located almost straight west of Virginia, over the mountain, and perhaps 40-50 miles from Virginia "as the crow flies".

Mother added a few other details about the homesteads. She said that some of their land was up in the pines, and at times they would bury their meat in the snow to keep it. She remembered being up at the homestead during the summer of 1918 with three children, Rosella, Buster, and Eva. Eva was then just a year old. Mother said that they would go up as soon as the snow was off the ground. Sometimes they would come home for the weekend. She said they spent three summers up there on their homestead.

Aunt Gladys said that she can remember that Grandpa Brown would tell about the time lightning killed one of their horses and another bolt of lightning struck the chimney and came down the pipe into the stove.

Uncle John and Aunt Percy did not take up a homestead. Aunt Percy said that the only time she and Uncle John went up to her folks' homestead was in 1919 when Grandpa Brown got sick, just before Grandma brought him down to Downey.

While Uncle John and Aunt Percy were living in Downey on the Riddle place, two more children were born to them--Stanley Elias on April 3, 1917, and Marjorie LaFern on May 9, 1919. The Thomas family moved to Willard, Utah, in 1920 where Uncle John had a job working on the highway construction, "scraping the highway," as they called it.

After moving to Willard, another son was born on September 2, 1921, whom they named George Edmund. However, he was born in Virginia, although their home was still in Willard. Aunt Percy had gone to Virginia to attend the funeral of her younger sister, Evelyn, who had died August 30, 1921, and was buried September 1st. After the funeral Aunt Percy was at the Brown home in Virginia and was on her way out to the buggy, where Uncle Alvin was waiting to take her to Downey to catch the train to Willard, when she "took sick". Mrs. Ira Goff was there and offered to take her to their home just west of the D.C. Ray place and south of the Brown's. This is where George was born the next day.

Their sixth and last child born to them was Elwyn LaVoy, born on February 6, 1925.

The Thomas family apparently moved from Willard to near McCammon in 1926 so they lived in Willard from 1920 to 1926.

Aunt Edna met Elven Benjamin Jensen in Chesterfield, Idaho on November 9, 1917. They were engaged one month later on December 9th. She wrote that they "had a short courtship" and were married in the Logan Temple on May 22, 1918. She was nearly twenty-one years and he had just turned twenty-one.

As a teenage girl, Edna had served as first counselor in the Ward Primary presidency to Katherine Richards (the Bishop's wife) after the Virginia Ward was organized in 1915.

She and Uncle Elven made their home in Chesterfield where Uncle Elven was born and raised, and were involved in farming. They lived there from 1918 until 1924 when they moved to Santa Rosa, California. He had the promise of employment there and eventually became an expert welder.

Three daughters were born to the Jensens. The first two were born in Idaho. The first, Velda, was born in Downey on May 3, 1919. The second, Laureen, was born in Chesterfield on February 9, 1921. It is interesting to note the large number of cousins who were born around these years. Laureen said that she remembers in later years of visiting Chesterfield and her parents showing her the little house where she was born.

Elvedna, their third and last daughter, was born on September 3, 1924 shortly after their move to Santa Rosa. Years later, on February 9, 1939, they moved to Vallejo, California, which is near San Francisco.

In 1919, and still living at the homestead, Grandpa Brown's health was failing fast, so he and Grandma moved back from Power County to Downey and rented a home so that he could be near the doctor. The home was located on the first road going west as one travels the highway going north from Downey, and perhaps a half mile west on that road. During the winter of 1912-13, just before they moved to Virginia, Grandpa Brown had been very ill with pneumonia and was near death. His health was never as good after that time. He died there in Downey on November 7, 1919, at the age of fifty-five years. He was buried in the Murray, Utah, city cemetery on November 11, 1919.

Grandpa Brown and Grandma Brown had never been to the temple for their endowments and sealings. Mother wrote in her brief history of her father that "through some trying circumstance he had become bitter and did not attend church". She adds that "he was of a religious nature and spent many hours reading the standard works of the church".

He welcomed the Elders into their home for cottage meetings and encouraged Grandma and the children in their church attendance and activities. He had a habit or two that stood in the way and Aunt Percy wrote that "it seems tobacco was his worst enemy".

Grandpa was a good entertainer and loved music. He played the violin by ear and played at home and at public gatherings. He was a good teamster and loved horses, and many times entered his teams in pulling matches, and often won first place.

After moving back to Downey from the homestead in Power County, his health was rapidly getting worse. He became very ill and was not expected to live. Grandma Brown had wanted to have their temple work done all her married life, and now she feared it may be too late. Grandpa had a desire to recover enough to receive their temple ordinances; but it was not to be, as he never got well. He gradually grew worse.

One night, about midnight, the family thought that he had gone for sure. But he revived and lived two weeks longer. What happened that particular night was a testimony to the family regarding temple work. Mother wrote that "he seemed to have had the privilege of 'viewing beyond the veil'".

Both Aunt Percy and Aunt Edna made a record of what happened that night. I will follow and quote from Aunt Edna's, as she made a record of what happened the very next day. These "testimonies" are written and are available to the family. Aunt Edna was at his bedside that night and conversed with him and closely observed what happened. He "looked the picture of death," she wrote, and he asked her, "What do you have to do to do like John and Percy?" Aunt Edna had been married in the temple eighteen months previously, and Uncle John and Aunt Percy only two months prior to that had been to the Salt Lake Temple to have their marriage sealed for eternity.

Aunt Edna understood that he was much concerned about temple ordinances and in answer to his questions tried as best she could to answer him. Big beads of perspiration stood out on his forehead and body. He appeared to be mumbling to himself and then to talk with someone beyond the veil. Aunt Edna wrote, "I heard him say he could not die until he felt sure his work was done. He seemed to be pleading to stay a little longer."

This experience lasted from 12:10 a.m. until 2:30 a.m. He then fell into a deep sleep or coma so sound that he could not be aroused. He slept "through this coma" until 10:00 a.m. the next morning.

When he awoke, he asked for the Elders. They were sent for and Bishop Erick Olson and his cousin, Amel Olson, came and administered to him. For the remaining two weeks of his life his main subject was temple work and his expression of regret that he and Grandma Brown had not had their work done. He begged Grandma to have his work completed after his death.

Aunt Edna wrote that, "He was a shadow of skin and bones, caused by the effects of a bleeding lung contracted by first getting the flu during the epidemic that year."

Two daughters passed away in less than two years from Grandpa's death. Olive May (age 32) died May 16, 1920, and Sarah Evelyn (age 18) died on August 30, 1921. These two daughters were buried in the Downey cemetery.

According to Aunt Leatha, my father, Art Wengreen, and Uncle Alvin bought the cemetery lot when Olive died. Originally there were ten plots or burial places, but it is now reduced to eight for some reason.

Olive May was born on February 14, 1888, the oldest of the nine children born to Grandma and Grandpa Brown; she was named "Olive" after her mother. Perhaps Grandpa always called Grandma "Jane" rather than Olive for that reason. She had come to Idaho with the family in 1913 and lived with them until the time of her death at the age of thirty-two. She never married.

Aunt Percy said that she was with Olive all night before she passed away on May 16, 1920, in the Brown basement home. She said that during the night Olive May continued to sing the song, "Nearer My God to Thee" before she died. She was the first of the Brown family to be buried in the family cemetery lot in Downey.

Evelyn died just fifteen months after Olive. She was born November 15, 1902, at Sandy, Utah in a four-room home which the family was renting. She went to school in Union, as by then the folks had moved "up the creek" east of Union.

Evelyn was just a girl of ten when the family moved to Virginia. She learned to play the piano and later played in the little family band organized by their teacher, Albert Albertson. Playing with her were Alvin on the banjo, Ted on the violin, and Edna on the guitar. They played for various social events in the nearby communities and for church dances.

She spent some of her time living with Aunt Edna in Chesterfield or working for others there. After Grandpa Brown died in 1919, she went to live with the Hendersons in Arimo and attended high school there.

About 1920, at the age of seventeen she met and began to date a young man from Robin, Idaho, by the name of William Armstrong. They became engaged in the spring of 1921 and set their marriage date for November 15th of that year--her nineteenth birthday.

However, misfortune came between them. One day in May, she and her fiance and other friends were at the Arimo railway depot having some fun walking on the top of some empty mike cans. One of the girls playfully kicked a can from under her and she fell and was struck across her back. She became very ill and was in much pain. She stayed with my mother and father in Downey until taken to the old General Hospital in Pocatello. The doctors diagnosed it as appendicitis and operated but apparently their diagnosis was incorrect.

After being there in the hospital several weeks, the doctors said that there was nothing more they could do for her. Grandma Brown then took her to Soda Springs, Idaho to Dr. Cackley who said that she had an abscess on the liver. They tried to get her high fever down so that they could operate, but were unsuccessful. She could not keep food down and lost so much weight that the family hardly knew her.

Dr. Cackley gave up and said for them to take her home. The Elders were called in several times and many prayers were offered and faith exercised but to no avail. At times

she was in severe pain. Dr. Cackley had said that the abscess would burst and she would go into convulsions, which eventually happened.

Aunt Evelyn died in the basement home in Virginia on August 30, 1921, at nearly nineteen years of age. She was buried in the Downey cemetery, along side of her sister Olive May. She was a beautiful and capable young woman and those who knew her cherish fond memories.

The deaths of three family members in less than two years (November 7, 1919 to August 30, 1921) brought much sorrow to the family and especially to Grandma Brown. She later wrote, "I felt at this time there would be no end to my grief".

Sorrow had also come to the home of my mother and father while living in Downey, for on August 24, 1920, their little daughter, Rosella Opal, died of diphtheria. She would have been six years old the following day. This left them with three small children ages one, two, and four. Rosella was laid to rest in the Downey cemetery beside her Aunt Olive May who had passed on just three months earlier.

Aunt Edna had married in 1918, so after the death of Grandpa Brown, Olive May, and then Evelyn, there were only the two boys left in the Brown home--Alvin (age twenty-one) and Ted (age sixteen).

Mother and Dad moved to Arimo into their new home in August of 1921 when their second son, Charles Edmund, was three months old. They lived there until the spring of 1928, during which time four more children were born to them--Evelyn Fay on March 16, 1923, Arthur Dean on September 22, 1924, Jesse Brown on April 26, 1926, and Early Wayne on December 9, 1927.

In the spring of 1928, they moved from Arimo to McCammon. In December of the same year they moved to San Bernardino, California, where they lived for about a year, returning to McCammon in December of 1929. When we returned from California, we moved in temporarily with Uncle John and Aunt Percy and family, into the Wallace Howell home north of town by the cemetery. It was while living here with them that the tenth child, Melvin Bowtelle, was born on March 25, 1930, in the hospital at Pocatello.

In the spring of 1930 we moved across the street (east) to the Charley Romriell home, where Uncle John and Aunt Percy had lived temporarily, and we lived there until the fall of that year.

These were trying and hard times because of the very severely depressed economy, along with the other usual trials, suffering, and heartaches that come into our lives at one time or another. In the fall of 1930, my father returned to California believing that he had employment there, and none of the family ever saw him again.

In the fall of that year we moved into the Harkness home just north and across the road from the Romriell home. It was while living here that another tragedy struck the

Wengreen family. The oldest son, Buster, now fifteen, was hunting with a friend on December 24, 1931. He was accidentally shot in the head by his friend. He was rushed to the doctor in Lava Hot Springs, Idaho, but died that evening. Needless to say that was an unhappy Christmas that year for the family and relatives.

No contact was made by father with the family then or ever. Mother was now not only missing her husband but her oldest son was taken just at an age when he was really needed and could have been of great help and support to family. Mother could say along with Grandma Brown, "I felt at this time there would be no end to my grief." Buster too was laid to rest in the Downey cemetery along with his sister, Rosella, his aunts, Olive and Evelyn, and his Uncle Alvin.

From the Harkness home we moved over into what we called the "Dot Hale" home. This home actually belonged to his father, R.T. Hale, who was a good friend of the family and helped mother in many ways.

The last home mother and family lived in for many years in McCammon was the large, brick home on Main Street near the center of town. This was the "bank house" belonging to a bank in Pocatello. All of the children were gone from home except the younger boys when Mother and boys moved to Provo, Utah in 1944.

Those years in McCammon were eventful and many of Grandpa and Grandma Brown's grandchildren grew up there. Because of the conditions, sometimes we wondered if we would be able to hold body and soul together. I remember that the rent for the large, red brick home was \$8.00 a month. We later joked that we could have bought the home for "nothing down and \$8.00 a month"--but we didn't have the down payment. Our children today have difficulty understanding the conditions in the 1930's and early 1940's. Usually our concern was not "what are we having for dinner" but rather hoping we would get enough to eat.

Uncle Bob did not marry until 1921 when he was thirty-one years of age. He had helped on the farm in Virginia and during World War II he served in the cavalry. He went to Chesterfield and worked for his Uncle David Butterfield, one of Grandma Brown's younger brothers. Here he met and later married Laura Vienna Johnson on November 2, 1921.

Aunt Laura was born in Chesterfield on July 13, 1903, and was, therefore, seventeen years of age at the time of their marriage. Uncle Bob and Aunt Laura moved from Chesterfield to Arimo where they lived for a short time with Dad, Mother, and children. They then moved to Virginia in October 1922. Here their first child was born on October 22, 1922--the first of their seven children. They named him Orville William, receiving his father's second name as his middle name.

Four additional children were born to them while living in Virginia--Edmund Dean on December 23, 1923, Roland James on June 3, 1925, Robert Wayne on October 25, 1926,

and Laura Ruth on January 15, 1928. All of these children received names which were family names, or at least one as their given name.

It appears that from October 1922 until the spring of 1929, Uncle Bob and his family lived most of this period with Grandma Brown and family in Virginia.

Apparently after the death of Grandpa Brown, and after Grandma Brown sold the livestock and farm implements, she purchased forty acres of land out by the Ray property. Grandma's brief "Story of My Life" says that "at this time we owned a dry farm in Power County and had it stocked with cattle, horses, implements, and sheds. I sold this and bought a home in Virginia."

Aunt Percy wrote that, "The home in Virginia was built by Mother and the boys after my father died. It was located west of the highway about a half mile north of where Mr. & Mrs. Ira Goff lived. . . . It was a nice basement home, never was built on above or finished as I remember it by Mother and the boys. Olive May died there May 16, 1920, and Evelyn died there August 30, 1921, in the basement home."

It should be remembered that Aunt Percy was with Olive May during the night before she died in the basement home on May 20, 1920. Also, she attended Evelyn's funeral in Virginia on September 1, 1921, and wrote that "Mother was living in the basement part of her home".

The question arises--if Grandpa died on November 7, 1919, and Olive May died May 20, 1920, (only six-and-one-half months later), would it have been possible during that six-month period for Grandma to have sold the dry farm, purchased the forty acres, built the basement home, and to have been settled in before the death of Olive May? Also, Aunt Leatha and Aunt Gladys are definite in their statements that the Brown home in Virginia was not a basement home, and that it was not located where that cement foundation now stands. Apparently, they are talking about two different homes.

Perhaps the basement home was "bought" by Grandma Brown rather than "built" by her and the boys. Or maybe they bought a basement home which was partially finished. At this point and with the information available, we don't have a clear answer to the question. One thing seems clear, however, and that is that they did live in the basement home and later in the one just east of there which Aunt Leatha and Aunt Gladys later describe, and which was built by Grandma and the boys.

In describing the basement home, Aunt Percy said that it was not finished above and contained four rooms--a kitchen, a dining room, and two bedrooms--and it faced west. She says she remembers the big rag rug on the floor and that it had an outside toilet (of course). When Aunt Percy attended the funeral of Evelyn in September of 1921, she said that at that time, "Mother was living in the basement apartment part of her home. It was quite comfortable as it had a rag rug on the floor. It had a nice stove in it and cupboards, table, dishes, and all thing to be able to enjoy life." She went on to say that after that time

she doesn't remember much about the home as they lived in Willard, Utah, until they moved to McCammon in 1926.

When Aunt Leatha speaks of the Brown home on the forty acres west of Virginia, she is not referring to the basement home at all but to the small, frame "four-room bungalow" immediately east of the cement foundation. Apparently this foundation was the basement home described by Aunt Percy.

Aunt Leatha said that she first remembers seeing the "bungalow" in about 1924. She describes the cement to the west of the house as an "old foundation as high as a room" (or about eight feet high as she said on another occasion) at least the east and south side of it. The foundation was there when she was out to the Brown home the first time, and the cement was always a part of the landscape west of the house.

She said that Uncle Alvin and Uncle Ted had helped build the "bungalow". So it appears that sometime after the death of Evelyn in 1921 and by 1924 Grandma and the boys built the four-room frame house just east of the basement home.

Aunt Leatha and Uncle Alvin lived in the home spoken of, east of the cement foundation, for a while after their marriage in 1928. Aunt Leatha has described it to me in detail. She said that it was built facing south but that they used the door on the west as the entrance. The door on the west side came into the kitchen which was in the northwest corner of the house. East of the kitchen was a bedroom which they occupied. The south side of the home was one large room. They had intended to put in a partition, making another bedroom in the east, but the partition was never finished so it was one large room. It doubled as a bedroom and a living room. My sister, Genevieve Wengreen Hall, said that she remembers being out there as a young girl and said that there was no upstairs and that it was still partly unfinished. She remembers that upright two-by-fours in the front room but no wall covering them.

Aunt Gladys said that she didn't remember the home as having a basement. She does remember that there was a root cellar out near the house. There were two or three rooms, she said, "not large," and to her the house "seemed old".

Aunt Leatha said that the forty acres were fenced, as was the yard. There were corrals and sheds to the north, and a stream of water ran through the north-west corner of the lot near the house.

A man by the name of Hugh Brady (born in 1892) came to Virginia in October of 1925 and is still living there. Eva and I visited with him last year when we were there. He opened a store at that time and also ran the little post office. He said that he was acquainted with the Browns and that they were some of his first customers.

Aunt Leatha said that during 1926 and part of 1927, Uncle Bob, Aunt Laura, and three of their children still lived there in Virginia with Grandma Brown, Alvin (then age 27), and Ted (then age 22). About that time, Ted went to McCammon and lived for a year or two

with John T. Romriell, Aunt Leatha's father. Chester Romriell, John's nephew, lived next door. He is the father of Gladys Romriell who later married Ted in June of 1932. Ted also spent some time in the summers during this time in California with Aunt Edna and Uncle Elven and family.

Uncle Alvin would occasionally go to McCammon to visit his brother, Ted and also Leatha Romriell whom he married in 1928. So Uncle Alvin and Uncle Ted both married Romriells, who were second cousins.

Uncle Alvin gave Leatha an engagement ring on February 9, 1928, which was her eighteenth birthday. Leatha graduated from McCammon High School on May 28, 1928, and they were married on June 13, 1928, in the Salt Lake Temple. The ceremony was performed by George F. Richards, one of the Twelve Apostles of the Church and then President of the Temple (and the father of the beloved LeGrand Richards).

The day before, Uncle Alvin, Leatha, and Ted left for Salt Lake City in a pickup truck and barely made it in time to get the marriage license so that they could make their 7:00 a.m. appointment in the temple the next morning.

With them in the temple were Grandma Brown, Aunt Percy, and Maude Batemen (grandma's niece and cousin to Alvin and Percy). Grandma and Grandpa Brown also received their endowments--she for herself and he by proxy, and then they were sealed as husband and wife for eternity that same day. It had now been about eight and one half years since Grandpa Brown had died on November 7, 1919.

Five of the Brown children were then sealed to the parents. Aunt Percy and Uncle Alvin were sealed to them as were the three deceased children--Olive May, Martha Ann (who died in 1894 at age one year), and Evelyn. Leatha was proxy for Evelyn, Maude Bateman for Olive, and Aunt Percy for Martha Ann. The rest of the children were sealed to the parents later on, Aunt Edna on August 1, 1928, Uncle Ted in 1932, Mother in 1935, and Uncle Bob in 1967.

At this time (1928), Uncle Bob and family were still living in Virginia. Mother and Dad and family were living in McCammon where they had moved in the spring of 1928. Aunt Percy and Uncle John and family were also living in McCammon.

After their marriage, Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha lived in the Brown home along with Grandma Brown, and Uncle Bob and Aunt Laura and their children (Aunt Leatha said three children, but they had five by this time). Uncle Ted was still living with the Romriells. Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha were given the bedroom on the north, east of the kitchen. It had no door, so they hung up a curtain for privacy. Aunt Leatha said she was prompted to do this when she observed that from the kitchen one could look through the doorway and into the dresser mirror in the corner and see almost everything in the room.

They all lived here together from June until the following October (1928), when Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha moved to Tooele, Utah, taking Ted with them. Grandma and Uncle Bob and family remained in the home until early the next spring.

In Tooele, Uncle Alvin worked in the mines and at the smelter. Uncle Ted had his own room in another house but ate his meals with Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha.

The next spring they returned to the home in Virginia to run the farm but Ted remained in Tooele for the time being. When they moved back from Tooele, Uncle Bob and Aunt Laura and children and Grandma Brown moved out and rented a home in Virginia. Apparently this was the last time that Grandma Brown lived in the Brown home in Virginia (the spring of 1929).

On the farm Uncle Alvin planted crops and attended to the irrigation of the alfalfa which at that time was on the south side of the house and on the west side down under the hill. Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha lived by themselves in the home that summer.

Aunt Leatha told me of how they enjoyed being together and working together. She said that she would be outdoors with him as much as possible, often just following him around in order to be with him. She said that there was a gully between Virginia and the home and that Uncle Alvin would hunt sage hens and bring them home for her to prepare to eat. They had an enjoyable summer on the Brown farm. Little did they know that their marriage would be so brief and that he would be taken and she left a young widow at the age of twenty-one.

In the fall they returned to Tooele where Uncle Alvin again worked in the mines. This time Grandma went with them as well as Uncle Ted.

Uncle Bob and family at that time moved to Soda Springs, probably still in 1929. While there, Annie was born to them on April 6, 1930--incidentally on the 100th anniversary of the organization of the Church. They moved back to Chesterfield later in 1931. Here on September 28, 1931, another daughter was born to them. She was named Olive Jane, after Grandma Brown.

The "Great Depression" and its impact was felt nationwide, with unemployment across the land. Along with others, Uncle Bob had difficulty finding work and providing for his family. To illustrate this in their experience, according to Aunt Laura's account, in March of 1931, Uncle Bob and Aunt Laura and their small children made a trip in a horse-drawn wagon from Chesterfield way up to Farrell, Montana where he had the promise of a job--only to be disappointed when they arrived. They made the long drive back, arriving at Chesterfield on July 23, 1931.

Aunt Laura wrote of her family in late 1931, "My children were taken away from us on October 30, 1931. It was hard for me to part with my children, if it hadn't been for the baby (Olive Jane), which I kept, I don't know what I would have done. I knew there would be a time when I would get my children back." In speaking with Aunt Gladys

about what happened, she called it "a miscarriage of justice". She said they were put in orphan homes.

Uncle Bob and Aunt Laura, with Olive Jane, moved to McCammon in 1933 and lived at first with Grandma Brown in the Johnny Gittens home east of where the Lords family lived. They lived in McCammon for about ten years. It was during this period that I got to know them so well as a boy.

Aunt Laura was close to my mother and very good to help her as Mother then had eight children at home. I well remember the family gatherings, especially at Thanksgiving, and remember looking forward to the carrot pudding. I also remember our getting Uncle Bob to sing a favorite song in which he would snort and make funny noises which greatly amused us children.

The Thanksgiving dinner seemed sumptuous. We were poor, as were many others, but as one said, "We were poor and didn't know it."

In January of 1943, Uncle Bob and Aunt Laura moved to Pocatello where they lived for many years. After several years of separation, they did get their children back--Orville and Dean in 1943, Laura Ruth on May 25, 1945, and Wayne in December 1946. Roland had gone into the military as World War II was then underway. They had left little Annie with a family years before when they had made that trip into Montana in 1931.

In the fall of 1929, Aunt Leatha, Uncle Alvin, with Grandma Brown and Ted had gone to Tooele. Grandma and Uncle Ted had their own apartment. It was here in Tooele that Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha's only child was born to them. Aunt Leatha gave birth to a son on December 16, 1929, and they named him Alvin Jean. He was blessed the following February in the Tooele North Ward.

Aunt Leatha said that in February they bought a new car, a black 1929 model Chevrolet, for \$785.00. They traded in their Ford pickup on it, plus giving \$500.00 in cash. Aunt Leatha had received the \$500.00 as her share of the estate of her Grandfather Marble.

On March 26, 1930, Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha (and Jean), Grandma Brown, and Uncle Ted left for Santa Rosa, California where Aunt Edna and Uncle Elven and family were still living. Uncle Alvin had been promised a job in a welding shop where Uncle Elven worked. They travelled in the new Chevrolet and pulled a small trailer, and arrived on March 29th. Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha rented an apartment and Grandma and Ted stayed with the Jensens.

Although Uncle Alvin worked for a week or so, they could not afford to keep him. So Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha returned to Idaho, leaving May 2, 1930. In all the travelling they were doing right then, Aunt Leatha mentioned that gasoline was from 17 cents to 19 cents a gallon. Grandma and Ted remained in California for the time being.

Arriving in Virginia, they again made their home on the Brown farm. They also had a 640 acre homestead over in Power County. Aunt Leatha said that their homestead was definitely not one of those earlier belonging to others of the family, each of which had apparently reverted to the Government. Uncle Alvin had made claim for his about 1926, and had six years to "prove up" on it. So at this time they had two years left. They visited the homestead in early June and picked out a location to build a cabin, near a spring.

Grandma Brown had deeded the home and land in Virginia to them, and on June 18th they travelled to Logan, Utah, and got a mortgage on the place from Utah Mortgage and Loan. They did this to get money to pay the balance still owing for the lumber and materials used to build the Brown home in Virginia and also to buy lumber to build them a cabin on their homestead. Aunt Leatha said that she can't remember how much the mortgage was for, nor can she find any papers on it, but she said the amount was "nominal".

They gave most of their attention to building the cabin and it was completed by the end of June. It was just one large room, and had a one-sided sloped roof. Two pine logs made up the foundation. Uncle Alvin built some furniture for it, a drop-leaf table, a table-length bench, a work table, and some shelving.

In July of 1930, they moved to McCammon and rented the home and forty acres to Hugh Brady for one year. Aunt Leatha said that they rented the property to him a second time later on.

In McCammon they moved into a two-story frame house in the south part of town, just across the road west of where Uncle Ted and Aunt Gladys owned some lots and later built their home and lived for many years. Uncle Alvin was involved in road construction at this time while living in McCammon.

Uncle Elven and Aunt Edna and family visited relatives in McCammon for a few days in September of 1930. At this time, Mother and children, as well as Aunt Percy and Uncle John and Uncle Bob and Aunt Laura and their families were all living in McCammon.

Aunt Percy and Uncle John and family had moved from Willard, Utah in 1926 to run the Bishop Bill Howell farm on Marsh Creek, southwest of McCammon. Uncle Bob and Aunt Laura and children lived with them and helped on the farm. However, they were only there one summer as the place was sold and Elwin Hall took it over. So Uncle John and family moved into McCammon, at first temporarily into the Charley Romriell home on the north end of town and just north of Fred Lindenschmidt's place.

They were there a short time waiting for Leo Hansen to move out of the Wallace Howell home across the street. After he moved to his farm south of town, the Thomases moved over into the Howell home "by the Catholic cemetery," Aunt Percy said. In later years we boys called it the "Harkness" cemetery. This is the home that they were living in when

Mother and Dad and family moved from California and lived with them during the winter of 1929-30.

During this time a tragedy struck the Thomas home. On April 18, 1930, their thirteen year old son, Stanley was killed instantly in an explosion. He, Buster, and some other boys were at a gasoline service station on the main street in McCammon. One of the boys lit a match by a gas tank and it exploded, and the tank hit Stanley with full force and knocked him across the street, apparently killing him instantly. The other boys were not hurt except that Buster had sand and dirt blown into his face.

Buster was just fourteen, a year older than his cousin, Stanley. His life, as we have seen, was taken also in a terrible accident the following year.

It was while living in McCammon that Uncle Alvin got sick and died about two weeks later. According to Aunt Leatha, Dr. Rich of Lava Hot Springs thought it was a problem with his liver and gave him some pills. Uncle Alvin was sick at home for about a week and then was taken to the St. Anthony Hospital in Pocatello. He was there a week before he passed away on March 1, 1931, at the age of thirty years. Either Aunt Leatha or Aunt Percy were with him almost constantly night and day while he was there in the hospital. Aunt Percy said of him, "a better brother never lived, and I love him dearly". The cause of his death was believed to be mastoiditis which developed into meningitis. He was buried in the Downey cemetery beside his sisters, Olive May and Evelyn, and his niece, Rosella Wengreen.

In September 1931, Aunt Leatha moved to Salt Lake City to work and attend the business college. She left Jean in the care of Aunt Percy until December of 1933. During this time Aunt Leatha worked for her board and room. She later wrote, "Jean and I were always blessed during the 'Great Depression'. We at least always had a roof over our head, and enough to eat and wear. . . . Our rent, after the first few years I worked for our board and room, was \$18 per month."

In early 1932 she received notice from Utah Mortgage and Loan that the payment on the mortgage on the "40 acre Brown home" in Virginia was past due. She said that the first thing on her and Uncle Alvin's minds had been to pay off the mortgage and hang onto the home in Virginia. Now in 1932, Uncle Alvin was gone, the "Great Depression" was in full swing, and she was working in Salt Lake City for her board and room.

She said that she could not borrow money because she had no income. With no family in Salt Lake City to counsel with, she sought some advice there and was counselled to sign a "Quit Claim Deed," which she did, and Utah Mortgage and Loan took the property over. She said that she didn't realize the full meaning of what had happened until later. At this point, the Brown property west of Virginia passed out of the Brown family.

Grandma Brown returned from California in 1932 and moved to McCammon where she and Ted lived in what we remember as the John Hallon log house. It was located close to the railroad tracks in the southeast part of town, on the east side of Front Street. After

Uncle Ted and Aunt Gladys were married in the Salt Lake Temple on June 15, 1932, they first lived with Grandma in the Hallon home.

In 1933, Grandma moved into the yellow frame house just south of the Hallon home. Uncle Ted and Aunt Gladys remained in the Hallon place until September, 1933, when they moved to Twin Falls, Idaho. In December they moved on to Buhl, Idaho, near Twin Falls. Grandma then moved back into the log house because the well was closer to it and it was easier for her to get water. I remember many times pumping the handle to get water from that well for Grandma.

Uncle Ted and Aunt Gladys were in Buhl several years where Uncle Ted worked on the railroad, before returning to McCammon. While living there they got a little baby boy whom they adopted. He was born the eleventh child of a poor farming Catholic family who gave him up when he was ten days old. He was born September 14, 1936. They named him Gary, and raised him as their only child. He grew to be a fine young man and has been a part of the Brown family ever since.

After living in the Howell home for several years, Uncle John and Aunt Percy and family moved into the "Utah Power and Light Building" down on Front Street, south of the old Opera House. I well remember this home, as LaVoy and I were inseparable during those years, and I spent a lot of time in their home. Uncle John seemed like a second father to me and Aunt Percy always treated me with respect and kindness.

Uncle John for many years worked for R.T. Hale on his dairy and farm on the northwest edge of town, until his untimely death on October 10, 1937. He was somewhat handicapped because of poor vision which made life more difficult for him. But I remember him as a humorous and friendly person.

Before his death, I remember seeing him lying in bed in the front bedroom all swollen and puffy. He evidently died of dropsy, brought on by kidney problems. Aunt Percy was left a widow with the three younger children at home. In 1938 she was able to buy a nice home and yard just across the street and north of the Opera House.

She and the children moved to Pocatello in about 1939 and rented a home. She returned to McCammon and their home in about 1943, and according to LaVoy, lived there until 1951. At this time she rented the home again and lived in Provo, Utah for several years, first with LaVoy and his friends who were attending Brigham Young University, and then with Mother.

In 1959 she sold the home in McCammon and since that time has lived with her children. Aunt Percy never remarried and at the time of this writing has been a widow for nearly forty-nine years. Also, although she is past ninety-four years of age, she had written down information for me and is able to converse with me by telephone on details from Idaho Falls, Idaho where she is living with LaVoy and family.

It has been interesting to try to determine what eventually happened to the Brown home and the forty acres of land in Virginia. Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha went to California in March of 1930, intending to stay there. However, as we have seen, the work prospects didn't turn out and so they returned in May.

After building the cabin on their homestead land in Power County, they moved to McCammon in July, 1930. Frieda Reisner Hart, Bill Hart's mother, who is elderly and still living in Virginia, told us that when Wilford and Thelma Reisner were married in 1932 they lived in the Brown home for from twelve to sixteen months while they were building them a home.

Aunt Gladys said that she and Uncle Ted went out to the Brown place probably in 1933 to see what had become of Grandma Brown's pump organ. She said that the home was vacant at that time. The organ was "all to pieces" and the mice had chewed on it. They brought what was left of it home and used part of it to make a washstand.

Bill Hart said that in about 1934 or 1935, Hyrum Paris bought the Brown home and moved it to March Center, which is about three or four miles west of Virginia. This may help account for the fact that in later years so little was known by the family about the house, as it had been removed from its site so many years ago.

He also said that in about 1940 not only was the house gone but the barn, outhouse, and all. The cement foundation was still there on the place as was the well which was located a ways below the hill on the west. According to Bill, his mother's brother, Hermon Reisner, bought the forty acres in 1942 from Utah Mortgage and Loan for \$40.00--one dollar an acre. However, I asked my sister, Genevieve, to talk to Hermon Reisner about it. He is still alive and living in Lava Hot Spring, as does Genevieve (actually she lives between Lava and McCammon). Hermon told her that he bought the forty acres for \$400 or \$500.00. At this point it is difficult to reconcile those two figures, except to say that for several reasons the first figure given by Bill Hart is more realistic considering the times and the fact that the irrigation water was taken off the land in 1941 by the Marsh Valley Company. Hermon also said that the forty acres joined his land on the southwest corner. Bill Hart bought the land from Hermon Reisner in 1966.

The last years of Grandma Brown's life were spent in McCammon. She lived in the Johnny Gittens home along with Uncle Bob and Aunt Laura. Then she moved out and Uncle Bob and family remained there. From that time until the boys built a little home for her in about 1941, she spent considerable time living with Aunt Percy and family, and some in California with the Jensens.

Uncle Ted and Aunt Gladys moved back from Buhl to McCammon in 1939 and moved their trailer home onto the two lots which they had purchased, located on the south part of town. These lots were located across the road, east of the Bailey home where Uncle Alvin and Aunt Leatha were living in 1931 when Uncle Alvin died. They had built the trailer house themselves in 1937 while living in Buhl.

Aunt Gladys said that they bought eight additional lots for \$8.00 each, and that Grandma Brown bought two lots north of theirs, also for \$8.00 a lot. Uncle Bob later bought one of Grandma's lots--the one on the north. Grandma also bought two more lots located northeast of hers, down by the highway which ran east of these lots. She bought these two for \$5.00 each.

I remember being in Uncle Ted's and Aunt Gladys' trailer house many times. My brother, Earl, lived with them for a while. They later added on to the trailer. In 1951 they began a basement home on their land and in 1963 they began to build on top, and finished their home in about 1965.

The family decided to build a home for Grandma Brown. It was built mainly from an old building that they bought and tore down and then cleaned up the old lumber. The home was built on Grandma's lot just north of Uncle Ted's and Aunt Gladys' lots, apparently during 1940-41.

It appears that Aunt Edna and Uncle Elven were involved in the finances, to what extent I am not sure. Aunt Gladys said that Aunt Edna paid for the shingles and the lath and plaster. It was a family project, and besides some of the women helping to pull nails and clean up the lumber from the old building, Aunt Gladys and Aunt Laura shingled the roof.

On Grandma Brown's 80th birthday, April 29, 1946, a special birthday celebration was held at Aunt Percy's home in McCammon down on Front Street, to which many of the family and friends gathered to honor her.

Later, she was staying in California with Aunt Edna and family and became ill. They brought her back to her home in McCammon. Aunt Percy said that she locked up her home and went and stayed with Grandma in her little home and cared for her until the time of her death.

She died there in her home in McCammon on July 31, 1948, from pneumonia. She was eighty-two years of age at her passing. She had been a widow for nearly twenty-nine years since Grandpa Brown had died in November 1919.

Grandma Brown knew the meaning of toil and sacrifice but had faithfully endured the years of hardship, sickness, and heartache, and helped to raise a large posterity. She was admired and loved by her friends and family.

Thus ended an eventful and interesting chapter in the family of Edmund James and Olive Jane Butterfield Brown. May God bless their memory.