A Brief History
Elva Rosella Brown Wengreen
1895-1976

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Table of Contents

Childhood and Early Years in Utah (1895-1915) 3
In the Downey, Idaho, Area (1915-1921) 3
At Arimo, Idaho (1921-1928) 3
At McCammon, Idaho (the first time), 1928 4
At San Bernardino, California, 1929 4
At McCammon, Idaho (the second time), 1930-1944 4
At Provo, Utah (1944-1976) 4

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Childhood and Early Years in Utah (1895-1915)

Elva Rosella Brown was born on July 15, 1895, at South Cottonwood, Salt Lake County, Utah. Her parents were Edmund James and Olive Jane Butterfield Brown. She was the fifth of nine children and had five sisters and three brothers.

The family was reared in the Sandy, Union, and Murray areas in Utah. In Sandy, they were neighbors to the Wengreens where she met and later married Carl Arthur Wengreen. Art, as he was known, was born on May 27, 1893, at Sandy, the son of Charles Gustav and Engla Marie Johnson (Jansson) Wengreen. (The Wengreens, all except Father, later changed the spelling of their surname to Wengren, which is closer to the Swedish. This accounts for the different spellings that exist today.)

Father and Mother were married on January 28, 1914, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The first of their ten children, Rosella Opal, was born to them while they still lived in Salt Lake City, before they moved to Idaho.

In the Downey, Idaho, Area (1915-1921)

They moved to Idaho in the spring of 1915, first to Virginia, just north of Downey, where Father worked on a ranch for a Dr. Ray. About a year later they moved into Downey. Here Father bought and sold grain and supervised the grain elevator there and later in surrounding areas.

In 1916 they moved to the McCammon area for a short time and farmed the John Goodnough ranch. They then returned to Downey again to live.

Four of the children were born in Downey, Carl Alvin (Buster), Eva, Genevieve, and Charles. While there Rosella died of diphtheria at the age of six years, and is buried in the Downey cemetery.

At Arimo, Idaho (1921-1928)

In August of 1921, the family moved to Arimo, Idaho, about ten miles north of Downey, where Father was working at that time. The baby then was Charles, who was three months old when they moved.

Father had been secretly building a home there as a surprise for Mother. It was nearly finished when he took her to it and asked her how she would like to have a new home. She said, "Oh, I'd love it." He then took her inside and said, "This is our home." The house cost $2,400.00. They later lost it when they owed only $300.00 on it.

Four other children were born in Arimo, Evelyn, Dean, Jess, and Earl.

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At McCammon, Idaho (the first time), 1928

In the spring of 1928, the family moved to McCammon Idaho, which is about five miles north of Arimo.

Father got employment in the produce business in San Bernardino, California, and Mother reluctantly consented to leave Idaho and join him there with the family. She sold the furniture and went there by train with the children, arriving about Christmas time of 1928. At this time Mother had eight children to get ready and care for, the oldest (Buster) being just twelve.

At San Bernardino, California, 1929

The family was there in California for only about a year. They returned the same year, arriving back in McCammon just before Christmas of 1929--again traveling by train.

At McCammon, Idaho (the second time), 1930-1944

The rest of Mother's life was lived in McCammon, until she moved to Provo, Utah, in 1944.

Melvin, the last and tenth child, was born in Pocatello, Idaho, March 25, 1930, although the family still lived in McCammon.

In 1931, Father returned to California where it was understood he had a job waiting for him. In the meantime, his employer passed away, leaving him without employment. However, he got a job selling insurance. Mother and Father corresponded for a time and then Father turned up missing. They never saw each other again.

Mother never re-married. She stayed in McCammon and as a widow, raised the children alone. McCammon became the "home town" for most of the children as it was here that they spent much of their childhood and grew to maturity.

At Provo, Utah (1944-1976)

Mother lived in several places in Provo during the 32 years of her life. The four youngest children were soon gone, the last in 1950, when Melvin married. She always kept busy, in her Church activity, the D. U. P. (Daughters of the Utah Pioneers), and many other interests. She attended the temple quite often, and spent much of her time in genealogy and family records.

Of her nearly eighty-one years, about 50 of them were lived in Utah and most of the other 30 in Idaho.

She had several health problems over the years. A few years before her death she learned that she had cancer. It was arrested temporarily, but it eventually took her life.

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She had been staying with Genny and then Evelyn in Lava and then in Pocatello, when it was necessary for her to be confined in the hospital in Downey. After a brief stay, she passed away there in the hospital on May 24, 1976.

She is buried in the Downey cemetery by two of her children, Rosella, and Buster.

Mother is survived in 1983 by seven of her children. Buster died on December 24, 1931, from a gunshot wound received in a hunting accident. Charles died in Pocatello, Idaho, on May 21, 1953, as a result of an explosion wherein he was critically burned. He was buried by his wife, Helen Mason Wengreen, in the Pocatello cemetery.

A detailed story of Mother's life will soon be written.

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