

LIFE SKETCH OF VIOLA GALLUP BRUCE

Viola Gallup was born 30 September 1898 at Mapleton, Utah County, Utah to James Alva and Arminta Hall Gallup. She was baptized 3 June 1911. Her endowment work was performed on 23 June 1939 in the Salt Lake Temple. She married James William Bruce on 7 March 1917 at Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. She died 4 October 1937 at the Idaho Falls Hospital in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. Cause of death was nephritis and pneumonia. She was buried 6 October 1937 at the Annis Little Butte Cemetery, Annis, Jefferson, Idaho located 4 miles north and 2 miles west of Rigby.

Viola was the oldest child in the family. She had two sisters – Hilda and Mildred and three brothers – Maurice, Lawrence and Leo. Viola was a great story teller. Her favorite was about a Hipa-rhi-elephant that lived in the trees out in the field. If this was told toward nighttime, she had the little ones so frightened they wouldn't go down the field to bring the cows in for milking – she had to go by herself.

Her dad built a merry-go-round and since there was much visiting of relatives back and forth, the kids always loved to come and ride the merry-go-round.

Viola's parents moved from Mapleton, Utah to the Lorenzo-Annis area in Idaho with Uncle Will Hall and Uncle Ike Hall. Their homes were built of logs and had dirt roofs. They had board floors with home-woven rugs over part of the boards. The boards were scrubbed with lye water so they sparkled and were bleached almost white. When it rained, mud ran down the chimney, all over the stove and made a dirty mess to clean.

Viola and her cousins, the Burt family, lived 2 miles apart so they visited back and forth. One day, Viola, Hilda, Maurice and the cousins, Ethel, Elfie, Kenneth and Lester Burt went into the chicken coop to play. They got lousy with chicken lice. Their mothers made them strip off their clothes outside, get in the round tub full of water, and scrub down before putting clean clothes on again.

Sleigh riding was a lot of fun in the winter. Two horses were hitched to the sleigh, straw was put in the sleigh to sit on and lots of quilts were on top to keep them warm. What fun it was to sing and sleigh. Some winters the snow drifts were so high they could have reached the cross-arms on the electric power poles had they gone under them.

About the summer of 1913 or 1914, Viola, Hilda, and Elfie Burt got jobs at the Pea Seed House, sorting peas, in St. Anthony, Idaho. They lived in an upstairs apartment of a lady's home. Every weekend, one of the girls would go home. When Viola and Elfie stayed, they had fun going to the movies, supper, or roller skating. Of course, they usually met their boy friends and they would take the girls home after skating. The boys took them to lunch occasionally during the week too. The three girls had one double bed to share. They rotated places each night so the one on the front had to get up first and build the fire in the stove and start breakfast before they went to work.

Viola and Bill's early married years were spent in Lorenzo, Idaho. Eva was born 1 April 1920 and Mildred 12 February 1924. Viola had a very out-going personality and was a tease. Lots of friends and relatives came and enjoyed her meals. She did her own work at home in the mornings and then was available to help a neighbor in need. She loved to whistle tunes and she played the harmonica.

The kitchen linoleum was usually worn out around the round table. This was from dancing and the kids running around, chasing each other. Viola enjoyed playing 'donkey' with the kids. This was a card game much like 'old maid'.

If the young people wanted a 'chickeree' (this was when a bunch of them decided they wanted a chicken to eat and would go raid a coop, catch a chicken, clean it, cook it, and eat it), Viola insisted that they get a chicken from her coop. She enjoyed entertaining friends of Eva and Mildred.

About 1928, Viola, Bill, Eva and Mildred moved to the Bruce corner, which was a mile west of where they had been living in Lorenzo. This corner was located 3 miles north Rigby on the Annis Highway.

Christmas time was anticipated by the school teachers as Viola made delicious candy bars for the girls to give their teachers.

Eva and Mildred had fun swinging from the bedroom rafters in the upstairs of the house before the rooms were finished.

If Viola said, 'no', you knew she meant it. If she said, 'maybe', then the girls had a chance of changing her mind.

Viola made butter to sell. She would drive the horse and buggy to Rigby with the butter, get supplies and drive home. One day Eva and a cousin, Lola Pabst, decided to make butter balls out of the new butter. They placed them in neat rows on the door – it was great fun until Aunt Hilda and Viola saw the butter. Viola laughed and Aunt Hilda was disgusted with the girls. Viola reasoned that if they had not gone to sleep and had been watching the girls, they wouldn't have played in the butter. No matter how much scrubbing or painting on the door, the butter grease spots always surfaced to the top.

The girls looked forward to birthdays and Christmas as they knew they would receive a book to read. Both loved to read and have read much through the years.

Viola had her own potato (spud) patch. This project was hers to do with as she pleased. It was watered, weeded and well cared for.

Swimming wasn't Viola's favorite sport – when the water was deep enough to reach her 'belly button', that was deep enough!

She didn't like anything sour such as lemons. She was a dessert maker and made lots of cakes. An after school snack was always ready – ice cream, pie, donuts, etc.

Wintertime clothing for Eva and Mildred was long legged underwear with long cotton socks over them and a wool dress with a cotton pinafore over it. During the summer the girls wore cotton dresses or jumpers and blouses. The girls had new shoes at Easter time each year. Eva kept hers nice and clean and no scuffs. When the shoes were showing wear, Mid liked to hurry and get dressed, take Eva's shoes to wear and leave the scuffed ones for Eva. Yes, Mildred has always been a tease, like her mom, Viola.

The girls weeded and hoed beets during the summer. Mildred was a faster worker but not as careful pulling the weeds – SO – next time around, she'd choose the rows Eva had weeded before, therefore she didn't have as many weeds.

One job the girls had was to water the horses. The water had to be drawn by a hand-pump. Mid, again teasing Eva, came up behind Eva just as the pump handle came up, hit Mid in the mouth and knocked her tooth out. Mid told the kids at school that Eva got made and knocked her tooth out.

Viola wasn't very tall – about five foot one inch. She was heavy set with beautiful curly dark brown hair. Her eyes were blue and danced with happiness. Her hair went wiry after Ila was born 7 August 1934, at the age of 36. Three years later she contracted nephritis, a disease of the kidneys, was admitted to the hospital where she developed pneumonia and passed away at the age of 39 years and four days on October 4, 1937.

This sketch is just part of a life history, put together by daughters, Eva and Mildred in 1989 and completed at Mildred's home in Castle Rock, Washington in June 1991 when all three sisters were visiting together. Typed by Ila with the desire that the descendants will gain a knowledge and love for our mother.