

LURA REDD

Lura Redd was born 16 June 1891 in New Harmony, Utah to William Alexander Redd and Mary Verena Bryner Redd. She was the sixth of fourteen children. She grew up knowing the love of her immediate family as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Her family was very self-sufficient. They farmed and raised sheep to provide a living. Her father was the LDS Bishop in this tiny community for sixteen years. He was the civil leader in the community and also was the dentist when anyone needed a tooth pulled. Their home was always open for visitors and they had many.

In 1905, when Lura was fourteen, their family moved to Raymond, Alberta, Canada. She graduated from the Knight Academy in Raymond, then attended Normal School in Calgary to get her teaching certificate. She taught school in Canada for awhile, but decided she would do better if she went to the United States. She went to the University of Utah in Salt Lake. At first she planned to teach literature, but she took an Art class and did well and liked it, so she studied Art instead. She studied under Mable Frazier. They became lifelong friends spending many summers traveling and painting. They spent some time touching up the murals in the Salt Lake Temple. This was a thrill for Lura.

She first taught school in Raymond, and Kay was her student when he was in grade four. She then taught at Box Elder High, in Brigham City, Utah. She started out with one art class, but soon built it into a very good program. She retired from there in 1956.

This talented woman has always been active in the LDS Church. She served one mission in Chicago from 1916 to 1918. She returned home and worked as a bank teller in the Bank of Montreal in Raymond and in those days the teller worked in a cage of iron bars. She served her second mission to England from 1961-1963 when she was seventy years old. She taught the Gospel Doctrine class in Sunday School for many years in the Millcreek First Ward.

During her travels, she not only painted but she searched records in courthouses, cemeteries and churches filling many notebooks with vital statistics and information concerning her ancestors. After her retirement she spent many days each week at the genealogical library finding information. She published her book, "The Utah Redds and Their Progenitors" in 1973 when she was 81 years old. This book has been very valuable to her family.

Lura and her sister Vilo Redd built a home next door to their sister Pauline Redd Burt and husband Mel Burt, who helped them build their home. She helped Pauline with her six children and became an important part of her family. At General Conference time, Vilo and Lura would always have a big gathering at their home for all

the relatives. They also had a big breakfast on Christmas morning for the numerous nieces and nephews. Everyone looked forward to these occasions.

Lura has always been very healthy. One time when she was going to a meeting, she got out of her car after she had started it, and it rolled over her leg. She got back into the car and went to the meeting, and it was only later in the evening that she fainted, and it was discovered that she had broken her leg.

Her paintings are found in the homes of numerous friends and family members. She also used to grow a large garden and preserve a lot of food from it. She also made excellent wheat bread and wheat cookies that everyone loved.

Lura spent the last few years of her life in a Home in Bountiful, Utah. She died 30 March 1991, just short of one hundred years old. She was a wonderful example to all who knew her especially her nieces and nephews, we all loved her dearly.

Lura was, and is, an Elect Lady.

QUOTES TAKEN FROM TALKS GIVEN AT HER FUNERAL

Lura graduated from the University of Utah with honors.

The car she and Mabel Frazier used to go on their summer painting excursions was a Model T. (If memory serves me correctly, they built a box on the back for their painting supplies and the lid, when pulled down, served as a table from which they could paint. Lura was very ingenious. (Added by Alma Redd Mendenhall)

Lura lived in a Quaint Hotel in Brigham city and used a hot plate to cook on. Nena stayed with Aunt Lura and almost starved because "she did not cook like mamma did."

Kathy remembers Aunt Lura staying with them on week ends so she could build the new home. Lura herself built the upstairs cup-boards and shelves. She also built slide-in, slide-out beds which went under the eaves. One time the cousins had a party and watched "Psycho," and were forever after frightened by the black holes into which the beds would slide. A huge desk tailored for her general needs was also in the upstairs studio, it was all one big room. Her motto was "recycle, reuse, make it over."

When painting in the canyons, she used a huge cartwheel sunbonnet to shield her from the sun. Nena remembers attending an art show at Springville, people honked and looked disgusted because Aunt Lura only went twenty five miles an hour. They stopped at Aunt Eva's (Lois Laycock's mom.) Went to visit Aunt Ellen and Gwen at Salt Lake City by the Temple, she had lunch in a little cup and saucer while they talked and

talked. She remembers Christmas breakfasts at Aunt Lura and Aunt Vilo's. Her mom and Aunt Vilo made traditional foods but Aunt Lura made experimental, unusual food such as deep-fried bananas, hot jello punch and a strange avocado dish.

At each general conference time these two dear Aunts, hosted the women at their home while the brethren went to meeting, then they came to the home also and a great time was had by all.

Aunt Lura had a garden. She pitch-forked it and planted it herself. They also had fruit trees, and made wonderful crab apple jelly.

Randy remembers her car, her one claim to fame. Ernie taught her, at her insistence, to change a tire. She never again asked anyone to change a tire for her. He and his children remember her for her firm handshake. Because of her life, Lura's name will be remembered, no one has asked for the great antiques Lura owned, but do you have her books? She created things for the "Eternities". Pray not for Lura, but that we may be such, and do the things that she did and be remembered for them, as she is.

She went to a Daughters of the Utah Pioneers luncheon and got out of her car and the car rolled knocking her over and ran over her leg. She told no one, and went in to the luncheon, came home and fainted, that is when we knew she had a broken ankle. She never complained.

The first thing Lura did in the nursing home was to organize a Relief Society with herself as President. She made assignments, always offered the prayers. Whenever they moved Lura out of her room, her room-mates complained because she read to them. Lura set goals, she was very focused and dedicated to the gospel.

Lura was not highly skilled in things of the world, but as a teacher she was highly skilled, also in Genealogy and the gospel. Like Paul of old she was not ashamed and never complained.

Karen Morgan told of the Art Exhibit at Springville in 1945, a highlight of her later years. She quoted Aunt Lura as saying "If this is a wonderful Nursing home, then why don't you move here?" As long as Aunt Lura could see, she read to those in the nursing home. She would sit on the piano stool and teach the other ladies. They loved and appreciated her. She was a master teacher, anyone in Brigham City who knew her admired and loved her. Her main calling was Gospel Doctrine Teacher, she taught until she could teach no longer because of her age.

Also while in the nursing home, she would place the chairs with their backs to the table and kneel and have prayer in the evening and morning too. She would say the prayers.

With her first pay check earned while teaching, she bought a coat and gave the rest to her mom.

Her dad always told Lura, "When you need things, don't ever forget to come home." Her father sold sheep and got the much needed money. He also told her he would buy two thousand dollars worth of chickens if she would take care of them, she refused because she was into teacher training.

They broke the "mold" when they made Aunt Lura.

Tom Van den Berghe says "My mom was the only member of her family to join the church. My father the only member of his family to join the church. We came to America and I was twenty before I knew what a relative was. When I married Lila and met Lura I found I was related to half the ward. He told of the Saviour choosing the apostles, of Mary at the well, of many accepting His teachings. He taught that He had power over death, many did not accept the teaching of Him so he left. Then Lazarus died and Mary and Martha sent for Jesus to come and see him, the apostles were afraid Jesus would be stoned if He went but Thomas said, "Let us go to that we may die with him". This is the kind of faith Aunt Lura had. This unique lady had a testimony that could not falter. When she read in the Nursing Home it was the Book of Mormon, she would read louder than the noise, she wanted everyone to know and hear.

After her mission she began to be confused, but when you asked her to pray she was always clear. At testimony meeting her testimony was always rational, the spirit was clear.

Later years doing genealogy Lura drove to the Library and worked all day, she could remember relatives but sometimes came home on the bus as she could not remember where her car was.

I testify that Lura is beyond all of the adversary's powers, and is in a state of rejoicing and happiness, and greeted by an Elder Brother who will say to her, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."