

## REDD FAMILY HERITAGE - 1996

### MEMORIES OF AUNT LURA - By Earl W. Redd - November 1995

Marie and Laurel were asked to research one of their ancestors (or family members) and report on them in Young Women. Marie chose to tell about Aunt Lura and Laurel chose Grandma Bertha Lackey. Nana wrote something a Grandma Lackey and this is what I wrote about Aunt Lura.

My first memories of Aunt Lura was when I was a child when she would come to Los Angeles to visit us, or our family would be in Salt Lake and we would visit her and Aunt Vilo and Aunt Pauline at their homes. The greeting from Aunt Lura always included her kiss to each of us---and it was always on the lips---not a fun experience for a little boy. I remember "wiping it off" when I was very little, but as I matured I learned to grin and bear it---but I always remember that ritual greeting from Aunt Lura and each of the other Redd Aunts.

It's difficult to write about my memories of Aunt Lura without also remembering Aunt Vilo, so this little memory will include some things about both of them.

Aunt Lura was a fun person to be around. She was usually in a jolly mood, she was interested in what we were doing, and loved to tease---a great part of the fun from each of Dad's family. Aunt Lura was a school teacher. While she was a fun Aunt, she looked like she might have been a stern teacher, very prim and proper, and probably not inclined to take any guff from the students. She taught Art in High School in Brigham City, but kept her home in Salt Lake where she returned most every weekend. The house was shared with Aunt Vilo, both of them were never married. My Mom said that Aunt Lura had many opportunities to be married when she was young, but never accepted any of those proposals.

Their home had many memories for me. The house was next door to Aunt Pauline and her family and Uncle Mel helped them build it. They did a lot of the physical work to build the house, including the roofing that Aunt Lura personally, as legend has it, climbed the ladder to do the nailing herself. Aunt Lura had the second floor which consisted of one big room, as I remember, which was her art studio, genealogy work-room, and bedroom combined. The bathroom on the main floor was very tiny, but the walls were painted with murals of two very beautiful and important places from her earlier years. The murals were of the red cliffs as seen from her birthplace in New Harmony, Utah and the mountains south of their home in Raymond, Alberta. It was interesting to be in that bathroom. I wonder if the people who bought the place after they died still have those oil-paintings on the walls.

Their homes were always open to everyone. When family would visit in Salt Lake, there was always a comfortable bed, good food, and fun conversations. At General Conference time their homes were family gathering places, and that is where I met many of my Canadian and Utah cousins, aunts and uncles. The women of the family would get together at Aunt Lura and Aunt Vilo's place during the General Priesthood Session of conference and the men would return after the session to a big group of family for some home-made goodies they had prepared. It was a great way to keep in touch with family---some of them we only saw at those gatherings.

Aunt Lura was always involved in genealogical research. If Aunt Lura didn't know about the ancestors, it probably wasn't known. She traveled extensively to all parts of the country doing research and she published her research about the Redd Family---"The Utah Redds and Their Descendants"---, copies being in the libraries of many of the Redds as well as in the Salt Lake and Los Angeles Family History Libraries.

Aunt Lura was an artist. She especially liked to paint watercolor landscapes of the gorgeous Utah mountains. She painted from nature, not from photographs and the method was something like the impressionist paintings, with dots of color representing the trees and bushes she saw. I don't think I appreciated her artwork until we moved to Utah and saw the blends of color on the hillsides as the seasons change and saw how she captured those beautiful views. We have several of her paintings.

Aunt Lura was the 6th child of William Alexander Redd and Mary Verena Bryner Redd and was born in New Harmony, Utah in 1891. She was 99 years old when she died. Life was tough in those pioneer days in Utah. Her oldest brother, William was born in 1885, followed by her sister Elda Grace born in 1886, and then triplets Myrtle, Verena, and Belle born in 1890. Elda Grace and the triplets all died in the Spring and Summer of 1890. After having a family of five children, suddenly they had but one child, William. Lura was #6 and my Dad was #10 of the family of 14 children.

A few days ago I was in the First Security Bank in Heber, Utah and was again reminded of my Aunt Lura Redd. The teller was a lady that I had seen at the bank before. She usually was sitting at a desk and helped people with banking problems, new accounts, etc, but this time she was at the teller window where I went to deposit our refund check for our income tax. In the brief conversation she asked me how to pronounce "Redd". I told her and she said: "I knew some people by that name who lived in Salt Lake many years ago---one of them was named Violet or....." I said: "Do you mean Vilo?---and her sister Lura?" "Yes", she replied and then she told me that she had lived on 4th East in one of the rental units that belonged to Mel and Pauline. There were others in the line to the teller's window so the conversation was very short, but she didn't hesitate to say that it was a nice place to live and she loved those Redds and Burts.