

Brown, Lenard

BECKY BROWN'S FAMILY STORIES

Becky Brown
April 13, 1995

Carter 9th grade English

Brown, Lenard. 1 December 1924. Orangeville, Utah.
Personal Interview. Orangeville, Utah, 5th
April 1995.

I chose to write this story because my Grandpa told it to me a very long time ago and I thought that it was interesting and he tells it really well. My Grandpa lives in a big house in the center of Orangeville.

This story is about how my Grandpa lost his thumb!

My Grandpa told his family goodbye as he was heading out the door for another hard day's work. As he arrived at the wallis coal mine and was ready to go down, he noticed that the shuttle cars were not very good and so he went to the loader/operator for all of the other miners safety, and all that the loader/operator told him was that it would be okay for that day and to get back to work and so he did as he was told and loaded the shuttle car and as he did the roof suddenly collapsed on him and he was covered with 1 foot thick of rock that averaged 30 feet long and 20 feet wide.

He looked up and saw it coming but he couldn't remember what happened as it was falling but he remembers what happened after so anyway he remembers hearing an extremely loud crash and the next thing he knew what happened was that he was down on his hands and his knees with blood all over his right hand and a hurt shoulder.

All of the men were very scared because they did not know what happened and they knew someone was hurt but they did not know how bad! but my Grandpa looked up and saw light coming from the hole that the rock had made so he did the first thing on his mind and started climbing up the face of the cave toward the light to get out of the mine, but as he did a guy grabbed him and told him that the rock was no good and he shouldn't even try to climb up it or he could get hurt more! as they took him out of the cave, he saw the

loader/operator and he looked really confused because he did not know what had happened.

They took him up to the first aide station and operated 3 times on his hand. They almost had to take his whole right hand but they took all of his thumb instead. He was off of work for a year and it was good that he was because at the time my Grandma was pregnant with my dad and she was really sick so my grandpa cooked, cleaned and even did dishes and after a year he went back to work!!

April 1995

I chose to write this story because when my mom told it to me I thought that it was really funny and I liked it. My mom grew up in Midway, Utah and moved down to orangeville when she was 16 or so, then married my dad when she was 20 and lived in Orangeville ever since!

This story is about when my mom was expelled in 8th grade. She was sitting in class listening to another boring lesson in English (Greek Myth) by her boring teacher (she liked greek myth and all, but her teacher taught it so boring!) but everyone was talking when the bell rang and then the teacher walked in and told everyone to be quiet and mostly all people did but one of my moms friends asked her something (and every body knows that when you start talking, that it is hard to get out of the habit of still talking) so anyway he answered her friend and the teacher taught her and asked her if she thought that if she could teach the class better than the teacher and he did not like my mom anyway because he thought that her brothers were smart ellics so my mom replied " yes i think any one can teach the class better than you! " and so the teacher let her come up and teach the class.

She got up there and erased the chalk board and said okay class today we are going to LEARN some Greek Mythology and the teacher got really mad and sent her to the office where she was expelled from her class for a week and she had to get a signed note from one of her parents, and so she had one of her friends sign her mom's name and they let him back in the school but not back in the class because she had to stay in the library and do work until the week was up . As she went back in the class, they all applauded her, even the teacher. She got an "A" out of the class believe it

or not..

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I decided to ask my Grandpa about this because I always wonder how my Grandparents met, and it really that interesting but it is because most people usually meet this way but it doesnt really work out all the time but anyway, heres my story!

This story is about how my Grandparents met.. Well it all started with one of my Grandmas Friends and she just said that there was a really gorgeous guy that my Grandma just had to meet, of course she said no because she didn't know the guy or anything and one day this one guy came up to my Grandma and said Hi and introduced himself and she believed her friend that he was cute and he thought that she was really pretty too! but then t hey decided to go on dates and stuff like that. Well they dated for a while and then one night my Grandpa proposed to my Grandma and she said yes and a few months later they were married.

They have 6 kids and their names are: oldest to youngest.. Linda, Kathy, Noreen, Larry, Diane, David and I think that is all! but they all grew up in Orangeville and they had Horses and Animals. My Grandparents still live in Orangeville in A great big house in the center of Orangeville. They like to travel alot and go places with their friends like on long vacations! and they have been married a really long time but I cant tell you how long.

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During the summer of 1947, while hauling timber from Nile Mile Canyon to the Kaiser Steel mine at Sunnyside, Carbon County, Utah just below the mouth of a place called "Minnie Maud Canyon", a place I had heard was named for my mother and her twin sister Maud, I was very surprised to see my friend from Wattis, Sheridan Powell. He was repairing a fence at the road side. I stopped just to say "Hello" but it turned into quite a visit.

Among the many things Sherd, as he was called, told me during this visit was this place where he was working was his old family homestead. His mother and dad had homesteaded the place and most of his brothers and sisters had been born and raised in the little log house there by the side of the road. He told me of a lot of the early history of that area--how they had made their living there and how they used to do so much freighting through there with four to eight horse teams and sometimes ox teams on the big wagons. They hauled supplies from the rail road at Price to Fort Duchesne and the rest of the Uinta Basin and the Gilsonite Mines and would then haul the sacked Gilsonite back to the rail road. He said they made a lot of their living by selling hay and grain and other supplies to the frieghers, as they were called.

He then told me he knew the two girls that canyon had been named for. He said they were idenitical twin daughters of Charles and Amy Hall, who had a homestead right at the mouth of the canyon. Their names were Minnie and Maud and they were their closest neighbors. He said he could still remember pleading with his mother as did his brothers and sisters to go up to Minnie and Maud's to play. He said they soon dropped the "AND" and it was "Minnie Maud" and that it had been Minnie Maud ever since. He said he could still remember how much fun it was for him to go up there as he got along real good with the Hall family, and what nice people they were, but his older sister didn't get along at all with them. Although she was only a little older than the twins, she would "Just beat the shit out of those two girls." Like a dummy I popped up and said "Minnie is my mother". He said "What did you say?" and I told him again that Minnie was my mother. I thought he was going to pass out, he was so shocked. Finally he said, "Well, when you see your mother again ask her if she can remember me and my sister," and he told me her name, which I have forgotten.

When I saw Mom again I ask her if she could remember them. She said, "Yes I can and that girl had to be the meanest little bitch I ever knew. She had me and Maud bawling all the time." And just like Sherd had said, they were up there to their place a lot and Sherd was real good to get along with but his sister was something else.

I talked to Sherd on several occasions about this later on both in the canyon and later when we both worked at Wattis. He was glad I had confirmed it with Mom, and that she had remembered it just like he had.

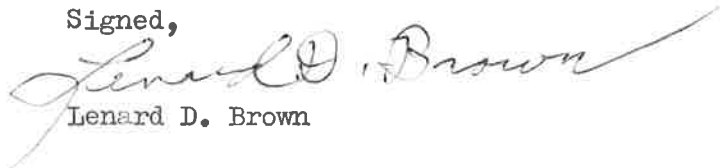
After Mom married Charilie Petitti, and was living South of Price, Sherd and Mrs. Powell were their close neighbors. I know

they got together quite often, and they discussed this matter of "Minnie Maud Canyon" on several occasions. Mom told me of some of their conversations concerning these things. It is too bad they did not make some records of this.

During this summer of 1947, and later on several occasions, Harold and Nevel Wimmer of Nine Mile and Ted Housekeeper and Mel Keele also of Nine Mile, discussed this matter with not only me but also some or all of my brothers, Carl, Lou, Leon and Steve. and Cliff. They all confirmed the fact that "Minnie Maud Canyon" got its name from the Hall Twins of Minnie and Maud, identical twins who lived there at the mouth of the canyon. It should be fully understood by every one concerned that Minnie and Maud were not born there. They were born in Escalante, Garfield County, Utah On October 9, 1893, and moved with their parents Charles and Sarah Amy Babcock Hall to their new homestead early the following spring. This new homestead was only a few miles up the Nine Mile Canyon from Sarah Amy's mother and dad's, John Rowley and Augusta May Hanchett Babcock's, homestead at the mouth of Cow Canyon.

It was during the summer of 1970 while I was working for Eureka Sales Co. that I took Mom on a trip with me out to see our good customers Jack and Nevel Wimmer. This was the first time Mom and the Wimmers had met, and it was a great occasion for everyone of us. The Wimmers were especially thrilled as they finally got to meet one of the twins they had heard so much about. The visit lasted several hours, and Mrs Jack Wimmer fixed dinner for us at her Argile Canyon home. She felt it a great honor to have Mom, a person she had heard of for so many years, this distinguished visitor in her home. Jack said he was going to get one of his daughters who was a good writer to come with him to Huntington and see Mom and get everything about this down on record. It was not very long after this visit that Jack had a sudden illness and died in, I think, a Salt Lake hospital before he got the records made. This trip out there with Mom was an all-day trip as she showed me several things that have since turned out to be historical landmarks, including the old stage stops, one of which her mother and dad operated and another one former governor J. Braken Lee's folks ran. We stopped and looked them over as well as their old homestead at "Minnie Maud". What a wonderful day.

Signed,



Lenard D. Brown