

## **H. KENNETH BROWN**

### **1905-1991**



H. Kenneth Brown was born in Farr West, Weber, Utah, on 13 August 1905, in a rock house built by his grandfather, Thomas Daniels Brown. He was born in the same house and the same room as his father Harry Daniels Brown and was the first child of his father and Gorja Severina Folkman Brown. At the time the home was built, it was the 16<sup>th</sup> house from the Ogden River bridge on the road going north to Utah Hot Springs. When Kenneth was almost a year old, his father bought 80 acres of ground in Farr West from his father. The family lived in a small home where four more children were born: Belva Gorja Daniels Brown (Jones), Nona Esther Daniels Brown (Taylor), Vera Caroline Daniels Brown (Jenkins), and Milton Thomas Daniels Brown. The home had no modern conveniences. The family drew water from a hand pump located outside, used kerosene or candlelight to light the home, had a wood burning stove to provide heat, and used an outhouse.

By the spring of 1916, the Browns decided they needed a larger home. Kenneth's father sold two workhorses for \$150, bought building materials for the home, and went to work. The total cost of the house was \$2,500. Electricity and bathroom fixtures were added a few years later. Ken's brother Folkman Daniels was born in the new home.

Kenneth attended school in Farr West from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Their home was two miles from the church and school, and the children walked there and back to attend. The family went by horse and buggy to Ogden once a week for supplies, securing their rig at Tabernacle Square. Most of their social and cultural activities were centered around the school and church. The teachers who taught in the school lived in the community and joined in the activities. The school sponsored July 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> celebrations, organized by the school principal, Douglas Brian.

In 1919, when Kenneth was 14 years old, his parents bought their first car, a Buick, for about \$1,000. His father had to learn to drive the vehicle by trial and error. He practiced north of their home on the wide-open spaces near Hot Springs. At first he talked to the car like he did his horse. Soon he learned how to drive it. On a trip to Burley, Idaho, in 1920, it took all day to travel the 180 miles on a dusty and bumpy road.

Since there was no high school in Weber County, when Kenneth graduated from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Farr West, he went to Weber Stake Academy for one year, then transferred to Ogden High School located on Monroe Boulevard and 25<sup>th</sup> Street in Ogden City. He graduated in 1925. In the summer he worked on his father's farm. He also worked for a neighbor thinning and weeding sugar beets, and cutting and hauling hay. The pay for the work was \$3 for a nine-hour day. Kenneth was glad to have a job to help pay for schooling and to save for a mission. He attended Weber College for one year.

On 3 December 1926, he left for an LDS mission to the British Isles. He traveled with other elders to St. Johns, Canada, where they boarded a ship for Liverpool, England. After a stormy voyage, they arrived at Liverpool on 20 December 1926. James E. Talmage was the president of the European Mission, and Kenneth had the opportunity to work in the mission office. It was here that he met Richard L. Evans, a young missionary, and John A. Widtsoe, who replaced James E. Talmage as mission president.

After Kenneth was released from his mission, he spent six weeks traveling through Europe visiting Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, France, Italy, and Switzerland. This was an educational experience as he learned much about the Old World. He traveled home on the USS George Washington, and arrived in New York, 12 February 1929.

The first automobile Kenneth bought was a two door Chevrolet. He spent the summer selling clothes in the northwest to earn money for college. Tuition was \$25.00 per quarter. He graduated from Weber College after two years and went to Brigham Young University for his junior year. In 1932, he transferred to Utah Agriculture College, graduating in June 1933 with a major in entomology and zoology, and a minor in Education.

In 1933, the country was in the depth of the Great Depression. Jobs were difficult to find, and many people were out of work. In June 1933, there was a job opening at Weber County High School in Biology. Sixteen people applied for the job. Kenneth was the only applicant with a teaching degree in biology so he was given the job for \$900 for the nine-month year. He enjoyed his teaching experience. A year later he was made chairman of the Biology Department Physiology, Eugenics. He was also the school photographer and advisor to the photo club and the year book class.

While at Weber High School, Kenneth met a young woman who was teaching at Wahlquist. Her name was June Agren. In the spring in 1942, he began to court her, and they were married on 10 August 1942 in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. They went on their honeymoon to the northwest and down the Coast along the Pacific Highway to California. Since it was wartime, they could not travel at night and the hotel room windows had to be darkened at night.

Kenneth and June made their first home in a rented basement apartment at 1324 Washington Boulevard. They both continued to teach school.

Kenneth was offered a job with Ogden City School District, which paid \$300 more per year than he was making at the Weber School District. He thought this was an opportunity to progress in his field. He accepted the job and began teaching at Washington Jr. High School, where he taught biology and general science until 1953. In 1953, he was appointed assistant principal. He held that position for four years, and then transferred to Pingree Elementary School where he served as principal for five years. In 1962, he opened up the new Edison

School where he remained for nine years until he retired in June of 1971. Ken spent a total of 38 years in the field of education. During two years of that time, he was elected and served as President of the Principal's Association.

Kenneth and June began their family with the birth of twin boys on 9 June 1943, Bruce Kenneth Daniels and Brent Harry Daniels. They were named and blessed in the Harrisville Ward. They moved to Washington Terrace in 1944 where they lived for seven years. During this time, Christopher Daniels was born on September 29, 1949.

During World War II, Kenneth taught school during the day and worked at the Railway Express at night until 11:00 p.m. He did this to help in the war effort. He also joined the service and was trained in the signal corps. However, he did not see active duty.

In the summer of 1949, Kenneth enrolled at Utah State to work on a Master's degree in education. He and his family camped in Logan Canyon in a trailer and tent for several weeks in the summer while he attended school. Later, he took an extension class to finish earning his certificate in administration.

While living in Washington Terrace, he served on the Board of Directors to incorporate it into a city. The plan was to remodel and relocate the existing homes. Many homes had to be removed because of needed space. In August 1951, June and Kenneth bought property in Harrisville and moved their Terrace home to its present location at 160 East Larsen Lane. They worked the ground, planted a garden, bought a cow for milk, and raised pigs to add to their food supply. Later they remodeled the home and added two bedrooms, a bathroom, and extended the front room.

In August of 1952, Kenneth was sustained as the Harrisville LDS Ward Sunday School Superintendent. On 1 February 1953, he was set apart as first counselor to Bishop Wallace Knight, and remained in the bishopric for five years. During this time, members of the Harrisville Ward needed a new church. The old church building was built in 1890, with an addition added in the early 1900s. The school building, located south of the church, was torn down, and the 1913 addition to the old church was gutted and remodeled to become part of the new building, which included a new chapel and cultural hall. Church members volunteered much of the work. The project was completed at a total cost of \$185,000, and the building was dedicated in the fall of 1958.

Kenneth was sustained as the Farr West Stake Clerk in 1958, and was sustained as a member of the High Council in 1961, where he served for twelve years.

In 1956, Harrisville needed a culinary water system. The Weber County Commissioners appointed a committee to organize a water district, and asked Kenneth to be chairman of the five-man board. A bond election was passed, and work began on what became known as the Bona Vista Water Improvement District. The water system was installed in Harrisville, Farr H. Kenneth Brown 3

West, Plain City, Slaterville, Marriott, and Wilson. Kenneth was appointed as chairman of the Bona Vista Water Improvement District, a position he held until 1971.

Harrisville began to grow in population, and in 1962, the citizens realized that in order to control their destiny, they would need to incorporate into a town. Kenneth was appointed chairman of the committee, and after several meetings with the Weber Commission, in April 1962, Harrisville became an incorporated town. Kenneth was appointed to serve on the Planning Commission of the town in May 1962, where he served for nearly ten years. In addition, Kenneth was appointed to the office of Justice of the Peace in July 1962, a position he held until August 1973. He felt greatly honored when he was given the first outstanding citizen award by the City of Harrisville in 1974.

Because of continuing growth, leaders divided the Harrisville LDS Ward in 1973, and Kenneth was sustained as bishop of the Harrisville First Ward, with Robert L Nielson as first counselor and Ray Grange as second counselor. Kenneth loved the people in the ward and enjoyed their support. On 15 July 1979, he was released as bishop when a third ward was organized. In April 1985, he was called to be the executive secretary to Bishop William Shurtleff. He also celebrated his 80th birthday that year.

After both Kenneth and June retired from education, they traveled throughout the United States. They also visited several foreign countries.

H. Kenneth Brown died 4 August 1991 in Ogden, Utah. He was buried in the Ogden City Cemetery. He was 86 years of age.

**SOURCE:**

Brown, H. Kenneth, *Autobiography of H. Kenneth Brown*. Unpublished manuscript.

Agren, June	Brown, Vera Caroline Daniels
Brown, Belva Gorla Daniels	Evans, Richard L.
Brown, Brent Harry Daniels	Folkman, Gorla Severina
Brown, Bruce Kenneth Daniels	Grange, Ray
Brown, Christopher Daniels	Jenkins, Vera Caroline Daniels Brown
Brown, Folkman Daniels	Jones, Belva Gorla Daniels Brown
Brown, Gorla Severina Folkman	Knight, Wallace
Brown, H. Kenneth	Nielsen, Robert L.
Brown, Harry Daniels	Shurtleff, William
Brown, June Agren	Talmage, James E.
Brown, Milton Thomas Daniels	Taylor, Nona Esther Daneils Brown
Brown, Nona Esther Daniels	Widtsoe, John A.

Brown, Thomas Daniels	
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