

## **JUNE AGREN BROWN**

### **1919 -**



June Agren was born 25 June 1919, at the home of her parents Samantha Cornelia Shurtleff and Stephen Andrew Agren (408 North Harrisville Road). Her parents were also born and raised in Harrisville. She was the seventh of eight children. Their other children included Ruth Genieve (1904), Eileen Mattie (1906), Bertha Cornelia (1908), Fern (1911), Grant Andrew (1914), Karl Shurtleff (1916), and Phyllis (1921). Carl and Fern died at a very young age, probably from the flu epidemic.

The family home was an enjoyable place with broad lawns, trees, and flower and vegetable gardens. The children helped on the farm, doing chores, gathering eggs, thinning sugar beets in the spring, weeding gardens, and helping with the canning of fruits and vegetables grown on their farm. Besides working hard, the children enjoyed the time they spent playing games such as hide-and-seek in the evenings, jacks, jump rope, tag, marbles, and softball with the neighbor children. The girls also played 'house' with their dolls. In the winter, they enjoyed sleigh rides in a big bobsled pulled by horses, and sledding on a hill in the field at the back of the property. A highlight of summer was always the Fourth of July Celebrations in the grove behind the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meeting house.

June spent her schooldays from first to ninth grade at the Harrisville School (yellow-brick). In 1937, she graduated from Weber High School, located at that time between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> streets on the east side of Washington Boulevard. In 1939, she graduated from Weber College, which was then a two-year school. She continued her education at Utah State Agriculture College and graduated in 1941. June found employment during the summers at canning factories, the Union Station Laundry, and at Kress 5 & 10 cent store. She also worked during Christmas break to earn the \$100 dollars which was required to pay her college tuition for the year.

After graduation from Utah State, June began teaching at North Ogden School, which included 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Her teaching required six preparations every day and physical education in the after noon every other day. The second year she taught the same schedule at Wahlquist Jr. High School.

In the spring of 1942, she began dating Harry Kenneth Daniels Brown (Ken), also an educator. They met while attending teacher education meetings and married on 10 August 1942, in the Salt Lake L.D.S. Temple. Their first home was an apartment on Washington Boulevard just past 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Ken was teaching at Washington Junior High for the Ogden City School District. He was appointed as assistant Principal then principal at Pingree and later at Edison. The following March, June quit teaching and gave birth to twin boys. Bruce Kenneth Daniels and Brent Harry Daniels were born 9

June 1943. When the twins were about one year old, Ken and June moved their family to Washington Terrace and lived there for seven years. Their third son, Christopher Daniels (Chris), was born 20 September 1949. While living in Washington Terrace, June put her teaching skills to use as a primary teacher in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In 1951, Kenneth and June bought land in Harrisville. Ken worked all summer to prepare a foundation so they could move their Washington Terrace house to Harrisville. After the house was moved, they gradually remodeled it by adding two bedrooms and a bath, enlarging the living room, and then finishing the exterior with brick. June served in the Primary in the Harrisville Ward, and was soon called as Primary president, where she served for two years.

In 1954, June went back to teaching as a kindergarten teacher at Lynn Elementary. She took their son Chris with her, and he attended the other kindergarten class. She taught school for the next 19 years, and retired at age 55 while teaching at Mountain View.

In addition to serving in the Primary organization of the L.D.S. church, June was Sunday School organist for a while, before being called to serve in the Mutual Improvement Association (M.I.A. or mutual). She taught the Beehive Class a few years and then served as a counselor in mutual. Her favorite memories while serving in mutual were of the people she worked with, Arlene Kennington and Joyce Larsson; the great youth of the ward; and the wonderful road shows they performed.

In 1978, June was called to the Stake Relief Society as a visiting teacher leader, nursery leader, and finally as secretary to President Ina Deamer. When Roma Shurtleff was called as the Stake Relief Society President, June served as first counselor for five years. The Farr West Stake was divided and Harrisville Stake created in 1984, and June was the first Stake Relief Society President. She served until March 1989. Joyce Larsson and Melba Gooch were her counselors, and Diane Anderson was secretary. Due to changes in ward boundaries, June has lived in the same house but has been in three different stakes and five different wards.

In January of 1989, her husband Kenneth had leg surgery to improve circulation. He went back to the hospital in June to correct a blood clot. Early in 1991, Ken fell and hurt his back and spent 9-10 days in the hospital. In July of 1991, his other leg started to bother him, and after a week in the hospital, it was determined his leg should be amputated. He never fully recovered from this and died on 4 August 1991.

After Ken's passing, June felt the need for something more in her life and became an Ogden Temple ordinance worker, 4 February 1992. She enjoyed this service and felt she was doing something worthwhile and not just drifting. She served there until 1999, when she had knee replacement surgery.

June has known the tragedy of losing close family members. Carol, the wife of her son Brent, had surgery in August 1991. After three months in the hospital on oxygen, she

returned home where she lived a limited life for five years and then passed away 25 August 1996, leaving Brent with five children to raise.

In January 1998, her son Christopher was in a terrible traffic accident where his brainstem was damaged leaving him almost helpless. His wife Christine did everything she could to help him recover, but he passed away two and a half years later, 29 October 2000, leaving a wife with twelve children to care for. Brent and Christine each raised wonderful families after losing their spouses and remain single as of 2010. June has twenty-three grandchildren, 40 great grandchildren, and another one due as of 2010.

When her grandchildren were young, they held "school's out" parties in the grove of trees on June and Ken's farm. Activities included a bonfire at night, a sleepover under the stars, and breakfast the next morning. Their family enjoyed camping at Causey Reservoir and being together so much that June and Ken purchased mountain property near Causey. After Ken passed away, her twin sons and grandchildren built a cabin on the property that they all enjoy together and as families.

Kenneth and June Brown were instrumental in starting the Harrisville senior citizen luncheon program in April 1983, which is held at the Harrisville Log Cabin. It began with forty-four attendees and has run continuously since that time.

Teaching school allowed Ken and June their summers off to vacation with family and friends, something they both loved to do. They visited L.D.S. church historic sites, national historic sites, and many early American historic sites. A group of "empty nesters" from Harrisville, that June referred to as "The Trailer Bunch," planned trips every summer to places like Zion National Park, Bryce National Park, the Salmon River country, Monte Cristo, Bear Lake at the Satterthwaite home, Banff, Canada, and their favorite place, Capitol Reef. These friends included: Cecil and Celia Satterthwaite, Ralph and Jennie Dabb, Leon and Eula Larsen, Lorin and Hazel Crowther and later Eleanor Crowther.

June has adopted as her philosophy words received on a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday card from a niece. The card pictured a cute little old lady with a funny hat looking out her window while blowing soap bubbles and the inscription read: "It doesn't matter how old you are, but it matters how you are old."

#### **SOURCE:**

Brown, June Agren. *Autobiography of June Agren Brown*. Unpublished manuscript. February 2009.

Agren, Bertha	Crowther, Hazel
Agren, Carl	Crowther, Lorin
Agren, Eileen	Dabb, Jennie
Agren, Fern	Dabb, Ralph
Agren, Grant	Deamer, Ina
Agren, Phyllis	Gooch, Melba
Agren, Ruth	Kennington, Arlene
Agren, Stephen Andrew	Larsen, Eula
Anderson, Diane	Larsen, Leon
Brown, Brent Harry Daniels	Larsson, Joyce J.
Brown, Bruce Kenneth Daniels	Satterthwaite, Cecil
Brown, Carol	Satterthwaite, Celia
Brown, Christopher	Shurtleff, Roma
Brown, Kenneth H. D.	Shurtleff, Samantha Cornelia
Crowther, Eleanor	