

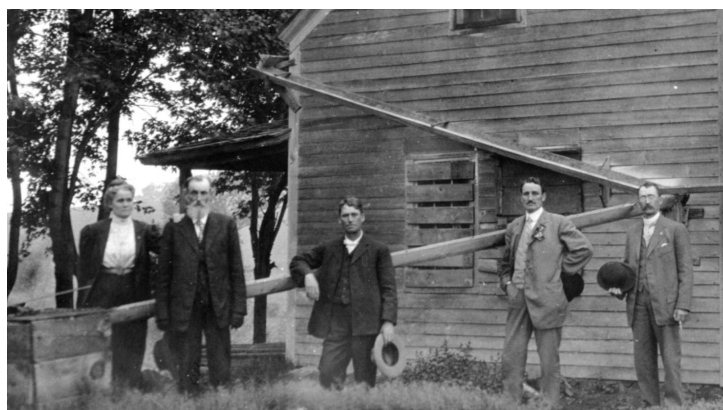
Viola Paine Shumway Cass

Viola was the eldest child of Jeremiah and Mary Maria Paine Shumway, and was born in [Burrillville township](#), Rhode Island on 28 Jun 1853. Soon after her birth the family and a number of relatives headed west, settling finally on [Portland Prairie](#), Houston Co., Minnesota. Life was [difficult at first](#), but the family prospered and added children to the family – Herbert, Eva and Edmund and infant Charley before Jeremiah was drafted into the Civil War in 1864. During the year of his absence Viola, aged 11, had diphtheria. Viola married, in 1875, Will Cass; the Cass family had arrived in Portland Prairie from the same area (northwest Rhode Island – southwest Massachusetts) as the Shumways and the Paines.

The new Cass family seems to have made its way to Burt Co., Nebraska soon after the 1880 birth of their son William. Daughters Sarah (Sadie) joined them in 1886 and Charlotte in 1889. Will was a carpenter and worked much of the time as a wagon maker, perhaps for his father-in-law. In a 1905



Viola Cass about 1895



1909 on Portland Prairie - Viola, Jeremiah, Loren, Edmund and Herbert Shumway

letter to his son Herbert, Jeremiah frets¹ that he couldn't help his daughter's family as he could wish.

Viola raised her children in Lyons and was a pillar of the Methodist Church. Her children married; her son had no biological children and her

¹ When we com from the Prairie last July Will Cass was gon to Denver. He was in debt around here between four and five hundred dollars. I collected a litle that was due him and I paid the rest and we have[sind?] all that. All that Will has accounted for is 60 dollars. He is at home now but he is not doing any thing. Maybe he is not able but I do not know but it does seam to me that he could git around a little now. I am not feeling bad over it am glad that I can do it for Viola and fameley. Now do not say a word to Viola that I said any thing to you for she feals bad enough but I find that it takes lots of

daughters lived in Louisiana and Vermont. Viola, like her mother and several siblings, developed diabetes but lived to the age of 88, older than any of her siblings except her brother Charles.



Will Cass, Sadie Cass, Lottie Cass, Jessie Shumway, Viola Cass, Bus Shumway, Jay Shumway, Bunny Shumway, Edmund Shumway, ?, Mary Evelyn Shumway, Emma Shumway, Jeremiah Shumway, Herbert Shumway abt 1911

I know little about Viola; she cared for her father after her mother's death, and Jeremiah lived with the Cass family in his last years. She made a point of (I think) saving family letters and copying family photos, and she loved gardening.



Tout Viola's home - Lyons Neb.

Viola Shumway Cass' home, Lyons, Neb, 1914. taken by Ralph Shumway

[Newspaper clippings](#) and a few photos are the only things that speak for her.



Uncle Jerry Cousin Viola taken May 30 - 1920.