

Florence Stirling Adams

by Katherine Christensen

Florence was the third child of David and Annie Ethel Isom Stirling born on 26 April, 1924 in Leeds, Washington Co., Utah. She was born in the old Stirling home. Florence had eight siblings: Eldon, Charlene, Katherine, the twins Ilene and Elaine, David Leslie (who was run over by a truck when he was almost two), Merrill and Culbert. After the twins were born, Mom said that she had six children under the age of six.

She grew up in a loving home with parents who strived to provide for a large family. Florence and her siblings learned to work in the garden and fields while growing up.

Florence attended school thru the 8th grade in the two room school house in Leeds. It was originally an old building from Silver Reef that Grandfather Stirling helped in moving it to Leeds. She finished High School in St. George at Dixie High.

There were many friends to play with in Leeds. Florence along with her siblings disliked asparagus and would pick it from the ditch banks in the field and throw it away so they wouldn't have to eat it at home. She, along with Katherine and a friend fed pigs the fermented skimmings from off the sorghum that her dad had produced. The pigs went berserk. This was just one of the many pranks that they played.

One Christmas Florence received a camera and proceeded to take many pictures of friends, family and townsfolk. She continued to take pictures at any event or where ever she went. At her passing she had filled 5-6 albums which were scanned and put on a DVD by her niece, Beverly Evans.

She always remembered birthdays and would sent a card to all her family members, including the little ones. She liked to crochet and made dresses and put them on dolls for Katherine's daughters one Christmas.

Charlene and Florence went to work in Salt Lake after her graduation from High School in 1942. This was the beginning of WWII and they found work in a defense plant. She met David Frederick Adams in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was serving in the military. They were married in SLC on December 28, 1943.

David was born the 28 January, 1924 in Greenwich, Connecticut. They lived in Rye, New York which was close to his family after his discharge. They had one child, "Larry" Lawrence Adams on 9 Dec. 1946 in Port Chester, West Chester, New York. Dave worked as a bookkeeper in New York City. He and his family were Catholics but Florence kept active in the LDS Church and attended meetings at the Scarsdale New

York Ward. Larry was baptized and also received his Aaronic Priesthood ordinances there. She would often invite the LDS Missionaries to their home in Rye as well as in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Florence and her family eventually moved to Norwalk, Connecticut where they lived until moving to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1966. They would drive home to Utah a number of times on vacation. Her mom, Ethel, rode back with them one time to visit. David and Ethel were able to go back several other times. They were given a "royal treatment" as they were able to visit many historical and interesting places. They also attended the Palmyra Pageant during one of their visits.

Dave got a job with Nevada Power after moving to Las Vegas. Florence was also so helpful to family when needed. David, her father, spent time in a LV hospital and when released stayed at her home. Charlene and her family received her help after Charlene had a heart attack. Florence went back to New York to care for one of Dave's Aunt for three months. She was always so helpful and kind. When her sister, Katherine's, husband died, she came and stayed and helped her through this difficult time.

Dave and Florence loved to square dance as they had done in the East. She had a nice dress she always loved to wear. Eventually, Dave met a lady at these dances and their marriage ended. Florence was devastated but was able to move on and provided a living for her and Larry by working at a shop that made trophies for all occasions.

She stayed very active in the church. One position that she had for many years and so dedicated in was being the Ward Librarian. Florence also went through the temple for her own endowments.

Larry later married and he and his wife had a tiny baby girl. Florence was so devastated when they divorced and never saw or heard from her granddaughter again.

Florence fell while on a walk; it was on her birthday. She spent three weeks in the hospital. She never seemed to rebound from her injuries. She also had an onset of dementia after that. Florence passed away the 19th of March, 2005. She was buried in Leeds, Washington County, Utah.

Florence loved reunions and always attended. Her trademark was to bring a gigantic bowl of sweet corn chex treats to share. She loved to visit and see her family.