

Memories of My Father, William Stirling Jr.
by Alta Stirling Wicks

My father, William Stirling Jr., was the eldest of William Stirling Sr. and Sarah Ann Leany, born in Glendale, Utah, February 16, 1866.

I don't know when they moved from Glendale but I am sure the Stirling family was among the early settlers in Leeds. Grandpa had a two-story brick home built for his family on the east side of the street. Here was home for my father, known as Will, for the first 34 years of his life.

At 34 he married Susan Sarah Harris, December 23, 1899 in the St. George Temple. Our parents had five girls and two boys. The third girl was stillborn. Here we are in line of birth: Adelbert, Alta Harris, Vera, Zelpha, Luceil, Leona and Hyrum Legrand.

Will Stirling was a gentle man, quiet of speech with his family and highly regarded in our community. He played fair with everyone, was as honest as the day is long.

The home he and mother moved into is a stone house, a hundred years or more at this time. It stands on an acre lot of the west side of the street just two houses north of Grandpa's. We children were all born there and grew up in that old house.

Our father owned fourteen acres of land at the south end of town. He raised alfalfa on seven acres for the animals (I should have said stock). We always had a team of horses and milk cows. On the other half he raised wheat and some beans to dry for winter. Our parents had a garden always on our home lot with fruit trees, also pigs and chickens. They raised almost everything we ate, did a lot of canning.

There had to be money for some things; so my father did a number of things to buy clothes, pay taxes and such. He sometimes sold a beef or hay. More often, he hauled freight from the railroad in Lund, Utah for different people. Wagons, machinery as well as other large items came unassembled. My father would bring them from the railroad, then assemble them and get them in working order for the people who had ordered them.

My father also did some mining, very little as I remember. He may have worked in Silver Reef in its boom days. I don't know. This I do know: he worked in a mine, sometime in his life, called the Delamar, in Nevada. It was learned later that the dust in the mine contained arsenic.

This was the cause of his death at 49 years of age, October 26, 1915. Our mother passed away July 15, 1917. Will and Susie Stirling: our parents.