

EVA CATHERINE JORGENSON BLACKBURN

Eva Catherine Jorgenson Blackburn was born in Lake View, Utah to Edward Johannes Jorgenson and Eva Catherine Zobell on July 24, 1883, 2nd of six children. Her father was a convert from Denmark who had come to the USA when he was 14. She attended school until the third grade when they moved too far from a school to walk. They left Lake View when she was ten. They went to castle Valley with two cows tied behind a wagon. They stayed in Cunnison, one year later going to Emery and then Ferron. They stayed in Ferron two year and she went to school there. Later her father homesteaded 160 acres of land. They lived in a tent for about six months until they could build a house. She rode a horse to Molen to School. In th spring, she and her sister got a job sprouting potatoes so they could each have two dresses to wear to school. She went barefoot most of the time until she was sixteen because they didn't have money to buy shoes. part of the time, she wrapped sacks around her feet to keep them warm.

Eva was married to Oscar Blackburn, August 20, 1900, in Clawson by the Bishop. They had 10 children: Marion, Rose, Edgar, Jim, Alvin, Berniece, Bessie (who was stillborn), Bill, Delbert, and Fontella (who died very young of pneumonia).

Oscar was born in Loa, (Rabbit Valley) Wayne County, Utah, December 22, 1881, to Elias Platt and Malena Busenbark Blackburn, 5th of nine children. His father was born on the Platt River while his family was making the trek to Utah from Pennsylvania. His grandfather, Elias Hicks Blackburn was the first Bishop of Provo and the first Patriarch of Eastern Utah. He was a well known faith healer.

Elias Platt had 350 cattle when he moved his family from Wayne County to Ferron. Some years later, a team ran away with him and the wagon ran over him and he was killed.

Oscar had started school in Loa and continued for some time in Ferron, but times were such that he only reached the 5th grade before he had to quit school.

He began to herd sheep at a very early age. His first boss was Quince Crawford who lived in Rochester. He was herding sheep at the age of 21 when he married Eva.

Among his many occupations was driving the mail by stage coach from Price to Emery. This he did for seven years. His stage coach experience included driving the first passenger coach in Yellowstone Park. His picture is still in the visitors museum in the park.

About 1906, he went to Hiawatha, but his dream was to farm. While in Hiawatha he hid money, without his wife's knowledge, in the round rods os a brass bed, dropping money in when he could. When he decided to leave the mine and try to farm, he had \$450.00 in the secret cache. They bought a team of horses, a new wagon and a plow. They rented a farm belonging to John Rassmussen. After about six years, they moved for a short time to Ferron to a one room brick house so the kids could go to school. Later, after renting a farm from Clayton Crawford, they bought their first home from Oscar's brother, Bert, in Clawson. This home was destroyed by fire about five years later.

His mining career began at the Rock Canyon Mine for the Knight Ideal Company. Edgar, his son, worked with him. They sold the coal for 75 cents A ton. Later, he worked at the Sweets Mine, as a security guard and in his later years, did handyman work for Clara Miller in Price.

Oscar died January 20, 1966 in Price.

Eva, Now age 97, lives in the Ferron Rest. Home, She always loved dancing, playing the accordion and harmonica. She is well known for her crochet work and quilts, and especially for her breakfast biscuits that she baked every morning.

Eva Catherine Blackburn died of old age October 29, 1984. at the age of 101.