

grandparents
WISE WORDS & WARM SMILES

The Histories of:

George Wesley McMullin

&

Florence Mae Oakden

McMullin Davis



Florence Mae Oakden McMullin Davis
21 May 1866 – 2 March 1953
daughter of
Philip Louis and Olivia Alger Oakden
by
Carol Easterbrook Wolf & Bernice McMullin Payne
great-granddaughters

Florence Mae Oakden was born Monday 21 May 1866 in Beaver, Beaver, Utah to Olivia Alger and Philip Louis Oakden. She was the oldest of four children. Her siblings were a sister and two brothers:



Florence about 12 years of age

Sarah	5 May 1868 - 11 Jun 1869
Don Louis	13 Apr 1872 - 05 Feb. 1898
Lorraine	30 Aug 1874 - 27 Dec. 1923

Her grandparents, John Alger and Sarah Pulsipher Alger, along with Sarah's parent's Zera and Mary Ann Brown Pulsipher, were called to the Dixie (St. George, Utah) Mission by President Brigham Young. Her grandfather, John Alger, took a contract at Beaver of building a gristmill and also a sawmill. Her younger sister, Sarah, was born in Pine Valley. The two

younger brothers were both born in St. George.

Her mother, Olivia Alger ended up marrying a man ten years her senior, who she describes as "not of energy enough to provide for a family. He was by nature a wanderer and I think I can say idler." She states in her own journal that her father (John Alger) had not approved of her choice of sweetheart. The Oakden's also settled in Beaver. It is assumed that is where Olivia met Philip Oakden. They were married in Oct. 1864, but this marriage ended in a divorce. It appears that following the divorce Philip had little contact with his children. He remarried a woman with 4 children a short time later (1880 census in Beaver). It is thought they ended up in Idaho.

Great-great grandma Olivia, remarried a man by the name of Hyrum Smith Bryson. They were married in the St. George Temple shortly after it was dedicated. From that union Olivia and Hy had the following children:

Hyrum S. Bryson, Jr.	15 Oct 1877
Samuel Conray	26 May 1879
John Alger	23 May 1881
Olivia	23 Dec 1882
David LeRoy	26 May 1884
Charles	Abt. 1886
Earl Donald Ross	13 May 1892

The 1880 Census shows Hyrum and Olivia and family living in Leeds, Utah. His occupation is listed as Teamster. At some point, they lived in St. David, Arizona. The birthplace for Olivia, David LeRoy, and Charles is listed as St. David, Arizona. That would be around 1882 to 1888. The youngest Earl Donald was born in St. George. Great-grandma Olivia told stories of the Indians and the love she had for them. She said the squaws could be working in the field one minute, take a break, squat down, have a baby and be back to work. She told that Geronimo, the Indian Chief, would come to her home and warn them when the Indian raids were to be held.



Chief Geronimo

We aren't sure where or when gr. grandma Florence met George Wesley McMullin. They were married 19 October 1885 in St. David, Cochise, Arizona. His father, Willard Glover McMullin, had also been called to settle the St. George area. An interesting sideline is that great grandma's great-grandfather, Zera Pulsipher, baptized Wilford Woodruff (who later became the prophet). Wilford Woodruff then went on a mission to Maine and converted Willard Glover McMullin to the church. The Pulsiphers, Algers and McMullins then all ended up in the Dixie mission.

It is unknown how long great-grandma Florence and great-grandpa George Wesley lived in St. David, Arizona. It must have been only a few years since their first child was born in St. George in 1890.

Their children were:

Florence	6 Feb 1890
Sarah (Sade)	2 Nov 1891
George Douglas	6 Sep 1893
Olivia	6 Aug 1895
Willard John	8 Sep 1897 -
	18 Feb 1898
(buried in St. George, Utah)	
Hyla	13 Nov 1898



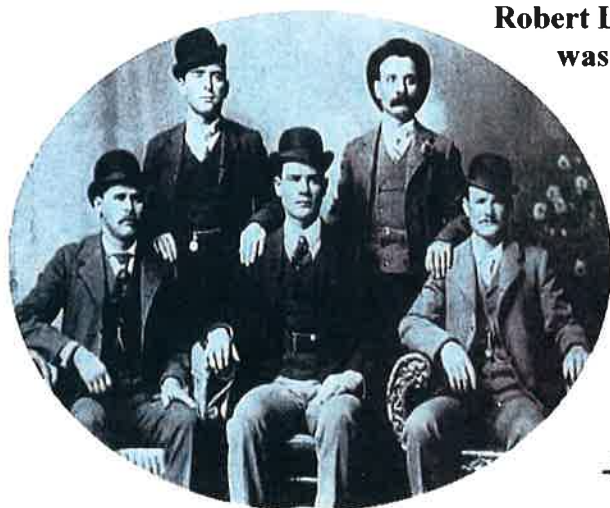
Home in St. George

George heard about a gold mine, not too far across the Nevada border and thought that would provide a good wage to take care of his family. So in about 1895 he went to Delmar, Nevada to work.

Unfortunately there were not the mining regulations used in modern times to safeguard miners. The situation at this mine was terrible. The long term health problems were unknown at the time. But it didn't take long for the miners to develop a fatal lung disease. George came home ill and lived only a short time longer. He was a young man of 38 ½ years when he died in April 1898. Great-grandma was left with five children, the oldest barely eight years old. She had buried her five month old son just two months before her husband's death, and a brother about 2 weeks before the son. She was expecting another child in November. These were indeed tough times for Florence.



In September of 1898 she and her children went to the St. George Temple and were sealed as a family to George Wesley McMullin. At some point prior to this date, some of the Algiers, Brysons, and Pulsifers had migrated to Emery County. Great-grandma's brother, Lorraine helped her to relocate her young family to Cleveland, Emery, Utah to be near her mother and family. They traveled by horse and wagon. Here she supported her family by being a seamstress, making hats, and operating a hotel or boarding house. The main patrons were U.S. Mail carriers, peddlers, salesmen, and politicians of both the Democratic and Republican parties. Two or three dentists roomed with her while doing work for the town people. On one occasion she fed seven of the members of the Robbers Roost gang and stabled their horses. (The location in Cleveland is 10 S. 100 E. at that time there was an upstairs with a side stairway.)



Robert Leroy Parker (Butch Cassidy lower right) was a cousin to Florence. He probably felt he could trust her to feed and shelter them. And he made sure that she was well compensated for her work.

The Wild Bunch, 1900,
Left to Right: Standing, Bill Carver and Harvey Logan ("Kid Curry")
Seated, Harry Longbough ("the Sundance Kid"), Ben Kilpatrick ("the Tall Texan"), Robert LeRoy Parker ("Butch Cassidy")

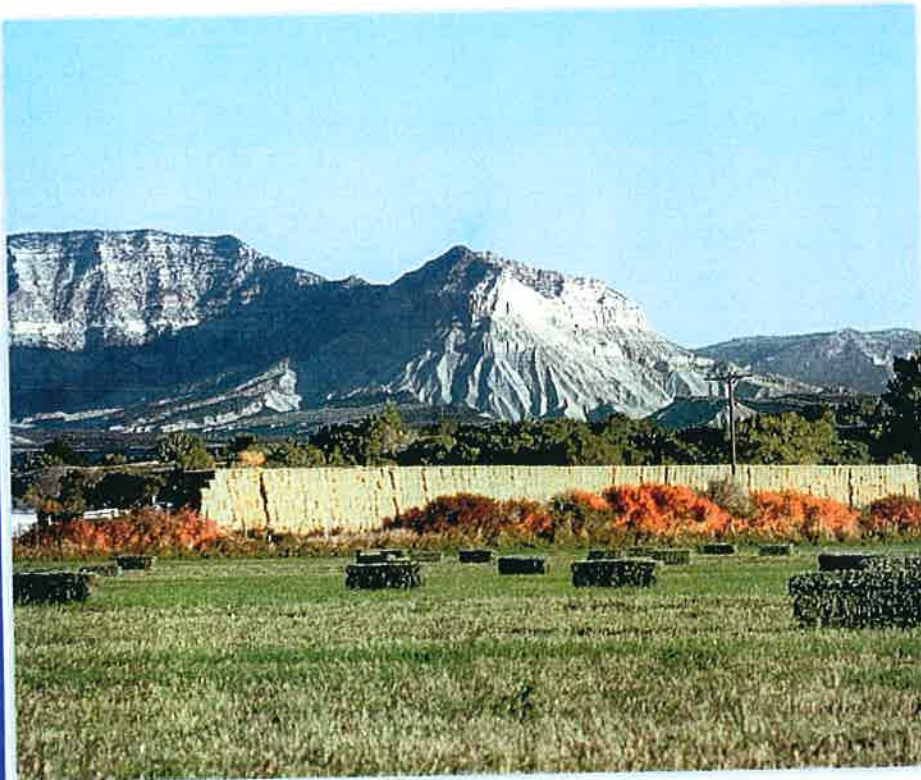
**This small article was published in an
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Robber's Roost Gang Patrons
In 1889, and for several years thereafter, Florence McMullin kept a hotel in Cleveland. Her main patrons were U.S. Mail carriers, peddlers, salesmen, and politicians. On one occasion she fed seven members of the Robbers Roost gang and their horses. For this she received \$15. She made her own bread, raised her own garden and meat, and cooked and served the meals herself. One room in her establishment, however, was reserved for sewing and there she made dresses and hats to sell.

Castle Valley Women

"... woman's work is never done."

Castle Valley EMERY COUNTY, UTAH



our towns our desert our mountains

Florence remarried a man by the name of Thomas Evan Davis on the 2nd December 1902. He was a widower with a young family, four daughters and one son. In looking over the information of his family, it appears that his wife died in February of the same year following childbirth leaving him with a young family. The baby girl died a few months after her mother. The marriage merged two large families and was added to with the following births:

Oleia (Leah)	30 Oct 1904
Thomas Lorain	11 Dec 1906
Lowell Clayton	19 Nov 1909

Mr. Davis's family consisted of:

Clara	12 May 1885
Esther	05 Jun 1887
Sarah	26 Jan 1890
Samuel Henry	06 Aug 1892
Ida	14 Apr 1897



Right: Grandma Florence and her daughters. Lt. to Rt. Sade, Leah, (mother) Florence, Olivia, Hyla, & Florence.

The fact that great-grandma was mother to 13 children probably accounts for the comment she is known to have made. Upon hearing the common "Ma" phrase called once too often she said, "For Hell sakes call me Peter."

Another interesting tidbit is that in later years great-grandma's step-daughter, Clara, married Florence's half brother, Samuel Conray Bryson.

Great-grandma was called Grandma Davis because she was married to Mr. Davis. Some people also knew her as Flora Bryson instead of Oakden as she was raised by a Bryson step-dad. Therefore, occasionally there is some confusion about her name. On some records in the church it shows that George Wesley McMullin was married twice; once to Florence Mae Oakden and once to Flora Bryson.



They are, indeed, one and the same person. Her legal and true name is Florence Mae Oakden McMullin Davis.

(Carol now goes to her memories of Grandma Davis, keeping in mind that she was not quite 8 ½ years old when her gr. grandmother Florence died; Florence was nearly 87.) “I remember that grandma had brown eyes. When I knew her she and her son Lorain, or Chris as we

sometimes called him, lived in Cleveland. The house was located west of us up just past where the road forks, across the road from Loren and Vernice Wells and just east of her daughter, Florence Jensen and family. The address is 815 W. 100 N. although at the time street addresses were not used. Her original house is no longer there, but has been torn down.

She would walk from her place down to Iv Whitehead’s and Aunt Leah’s. About a block to the east. Then about a block west was Florence’s.

I believe that she was the midwife in attendance at my birth. She also did ear piercing for people. My mother, Barbara tells of her putting a clothespin on her ear to numb it prior to having it pierced by Grandma Davis.

I remember going to her house. She had a jar of pennies that I would play with and count and stack. I remember her bathtub was put in backwards and the drain was at the back and the faucet at the front. I remember her stove. I don’t know how to describe it. It was electric, and considered “one of the old type” now. I’ve seen one like it in the museum in Helper. There were ornate egg-shaped doorknobs on the front door, and a worn down concrete step outside the door. There were apple trees in the orchard in the back, and a lift up cellar door on the east side of the house. The upstairs was closed off so I never went upstairs. It seems like she had an ouija board.”



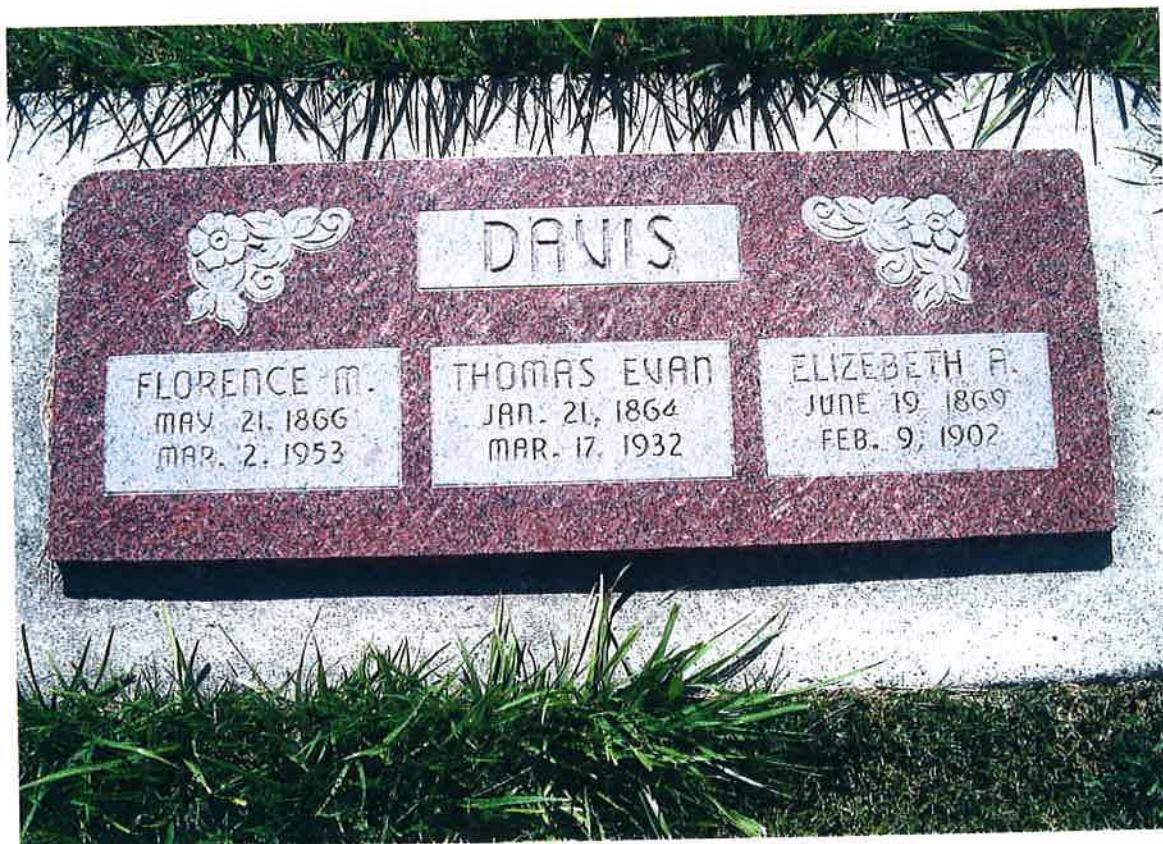
Florence on her 85th birthday.

She liked to go for a ride in the car. She'd ask to be taken for a trip around the world. That meant a ride around South Flat. She mentioned to her neighbors, Loren and Vernice Wells, that she would like to go for a ride to Buffalo (a farming area east of Lawrence) so one day they took her. The next day she passed away.

She dearly loved all her family. Large as it was she knew us each by name. She said that dying wouldn't be so bad if she didn't have to leave us all behind.

She died on Monday, 2 March 1953 in Cleveland, Emery, Utah. She was nearing her 87th birthday. Carol was baptized the day before her death. Her funeral was on the 5th. It was a nice, warm day. Her coffin was placed in front of the south living room window in her home. Carol wondered about her feet and so cousin, Lou Whippey opened the lower section so she could see her legs and feet dressed in her white slippers.

Following a funeral in the Cleveland Ward Chapel, she was buried 5 March 1953 in Cleveland, Emery, Utah. She's buried next to her second husband Thomas Evan Davis. He is buried between his two wives. Great-grandpa McMullin is buried in St. George, Utah.



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FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
MAR 10 1953
BIRTH NO. 143 00506 UTAH REGISTRAR'S NO. 4
STATE FILE NO.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Every item of information should be carefully supplied. PHYSICIANS should enter CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY <u>EMERY</u>		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: residence before admission) a. STATE <u>UTAH</u> b. COUNTY <u>EMERY</u>	
b. CITY (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL) OR TOWN <u>CLEVELAND</u>		c. LENGTH OF STAY (this place) <u>93 YES</u>	c. CITY (if outside corporate limits, write RURAL) OR TOWN <u>CLEVELAND</u>
d. FULL NAME OF (If not in hospital or institution, give st. address or loc.) INSTITUTION		d. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location)	
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or Print) a. (First) <u>FLORENCE</u> b. (Middle) <u>MAY</u> c. (Last) <u>DAVIS</u>		4. DATE OF DEATH (Month) (Day) (Year) <u>MAR 2, 1953</u>	
5. SEX <u>FEMALE</u>	6. COLOR OR RACE <u>WHITE</u>	7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Specify)	8. DATE OF BIRTH Mo. <u>MAY</u> Day <u>21</u> Year <u>1866</u>
9. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done most of working life, even if retired) <u>HOUSEWIFE</u>		10. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY <u>HOUSEWORK</u>	11. BIRTHPLACE (City and State or foreign country) <u>BEAVER, UTAH</u>
12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? <u>U.S.A.</u>		13. FATHER'S NAME <u>Philip Dalden</u>	
14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <u>Olivia Ayer</u>		15. HUSBAND'S OR WIFE'S NAME <u>Thomas E. Davis</u>	
16. WAS DECEASED ever in U.S. ARMED FORCES (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service) <u>NO</u>		17. SOCIAL SECURITY No. <u>None</u>	18. INFORMANT and ADDRESS <u>Douglas McMillen - CLEVELAND, UT.</u>
19. CAUSE OF DEATH Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c) *This does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, asthma, etc.; it means the disease, injury, or complication which caused death.		MEDICAL CERTIFICATION I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH* (a) <u>Cerebral Hemorrhage</u> ANTECEDENT CAUSES DUE TO (b) <u>Chronic Myocarditis</u> DUE TO (c) <u>Did not see this patient since, but he acquainted with her medical condition & symptoms</u> II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing death.	
20. DATE OF OPERATION		21. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION <u>medical condition & symptoms</u>	
22. INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH <u>4 days less 1/2</u>		23. AUTOPSY? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
24. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE (Specify)	25. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office (Indg., etc.))	26. (CITY or TOWN) (COUNTY) (STATE)	
27. TIME (Month) (Day) (Year) (Hour) OF INJURY	28. INJURY OCCURRED While at <input type="checkbox"/> Work Not While at Work <input type="checkbox"/>	29. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?	
30. I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I ATTENDED THE DECEASED FROM <u>3-2-53</u> TO <u>3-2-53</u> , 19 <u>53</u> , THAT I LAST SAW THE DECEASED ALIVE ON <u>3-2-53</u> , 19 <u>53</u> AND THAT DEATH OCCURED AT <u>9 P.M.</u> FROM THE CAUSES AND ON THE DATE STATED ABOVE.			
31. SIGNATURE <u>Henry Turman</u> (Degree or title) <u>MD</u>		32. ADDRESS <u>Castle Dale, Utah</u>	
33. DATE SIGNED <u>3/2/53</u>		34. DATE OF DEATH	
35. BURIAL CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) <u>BURIAL</u>	36. DATE <u>MAR 7, 1953</u>	37. NAME OF CEMETERY or CREMATORY <u>CLEVELAND</u>	38. LOCATION (City, town, or county) (State) <u>CLEVELAND UTAH</u>
39. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG. <u>3-7-1953</u>		40. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE <u>Max C. L. Whitlock</u>	
41. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS <u>W. C. Christensen</u> Price, Utah		42. Funeral Director's No. <u>204</u> Embalmer's No. <u>318</u>	