

Oral History From: Edna Lamar Larson

Collected By: Matt Larson

Edna Lamar Merrill Larson.

She is 82 years of age.

The way I'm connected to her is, she is my Grandma on my dad's side of the family.

She still lives in Ferron Ut.

She has lived in Ferron for most of her life.

Matthew: What is your full name?

Grandma: Edna Lamar Merrill Larson.

Matthew: Where did you live before you came to Utah?

Grandma: Well I was born and raised in Sacramento, California in a little area out side called Oak Park.

Matthew: When your you born?

Grandma: Feb. 17, 1924. That makes me 82.

We both laugh.

Matthew: Do you have any children?

Grandma: Well I have four. But none of them ar, aaa their all married, and have families on their own.

Grandma: Do you what to know who they are?

Matthew: Sure.

Grandma: The oldest one is Annell Larson Jackson. Her name aa I decided to call her Annell, Ann for her Grandma Larson. Ell is a for Nell, who was my mother. So that's how she got named. Then the next one is Dale, a boy, Dale Orrin, and a then Demar and a that what he's called. His first name is Charles, and then Curtis Lynn Larson. He is the youngest. They all were born in Sacramento, California. And a they a course they all married and have families.

Grandma: Would you want to know how many kids they had or something they had.

Matthew: Sure.

Grandma: Ok, well Dale has four, five. She laughs. Dale has five. Annell has Jennifer, Robert, Keith, and a Craig. So she has four. And da then it then it your dad and they have the we already I already told you that. And then a there's a did I mention Demar but didn't I say he had four kids. Isn't it awful I can't remember.

(Laughter) Lets see. Demar married Vicky Trigg was her maiden name. And da they had da Mike, and then da I just can't remember them all today, just because I you want me to I they go drifting off, But and da I said Michael.

Matthew: Then Dave, Richard and Lori.

Grandma: Richard, and da ah Lori and David. Sure can't remember anything and here your gona. Then she starts laughing.

Matthew: Don't worry it's alright.

Grandma: And da they were like I said all born in California and da there was Curtis and he was born in California also. He has three children.

Matthew: James.

Grandma: Jeff.

Matthew: No James.

Grandma: James and da a I can't.

Matthew: Christina and a Jackie.

Grandma: Christina and Jackie yeah. Then I forgot your dad, no I said you dad. Yeah.

So they, Curtis is the only one the lives out of Ferron. Annett, Dale, and Demar live in Ferron. But not at home. They have their own individual homes.

Grandma: Well like I said I was born in Sacramento, California. A my dad when he and my mom met they had both migrated to a California also. Dad's from Idaho, mom was from Idaho also, but they meet at a church meeting they both went to church and

da my dad was a carpenter he loved to build things and da so he and a friend who's name was Lamar Green that's how Demar got his name we named him after his friend Lamar Green. But we had a just got acquainted at a church and a Demar a Lamar Green and dad built homes down there in California area and then a my dad was up on a roof a of house one day putting on a roof and he went down the latter and got a package of shingles and took them up the latter and in the process of going up he the pile of shingles seemed he was carrying got of balance and he fell. And he was in the process of falling he hit with his right hand um an electrical line. And in that fall that way then he hit the ground they thought well he hit that wire he wouldn't live probable. But he he survived the electric shock except for his hand. And the hand he a had severed the accident severed his thumb and frosted his other fingers. In that position. And they took they took him to the hospital and they never were able to get his fingers moving again you know straightened them out. But he, he continue on after they that hand got healed to building and everything and a and a he just for a long, long time did building and then he got a decide to get a try for another job and he went to work for the a phone company in Sacramento. Mom she was the house wife and she stayed home and rased us kids. And da I have had a had a twin brother,

he was my twin he did not survive and then I another next brother and he was a born with a double hair lip. And da they a when he was about eighteen months old the doctor at the wanted to see if we they could fix his lips so he would have you know it wouldn't be big scares or anything and a so they took in for surgery and during that time he a of course they use the chemicals on him to put him out and things like that. And he end up umm getting um pneumonia from the medicine, things they gave him I can't tell ya the name of them or anything. And he died so I lost my to brothers. Then I had a sister, Kerma and she lives in Idaho and married long time ago has a family and that's where she lives now. And da then I had another brother named his name is Keith and da he a also past away. Cancer a few years ago and so that, that about counts for my family except that after that I lost my dad and my mother though just and age and different diseases things that get older people their buried in buried in a California, Sacramento area. Dad had before he past away tho and even before I was married he had build a beautiful big home for us there in Oak Park area and the city condemned the area in which we live for two they were going to make a a what do you call it a freeway out in town and condemned our dads building or house they did let us move it dad move it to another couple of blocks away and it still exists the

house but we live for awhile but then they just we us kids all left home and dad and mom were live in the house all by themselves it was a nice house he build but he just had a lot of fun in and around it going to school right our schools were pretty close we had about a block and a half to walk to school to the grammar school then had three blocks to get to the junior high school and the when we went to high school we would of had to go a quit a bit farther into the old Sacramento High School. But before I even left the junior high school they had put in another a high school and instead of north of us it was to the west of us and that McCallan nope I think I got I'm pronouncing that wrong so I can't remember. She then laughs. But anyway I graduate from there in fact we all, all went to all three of those schools and graduated from them. McCellan is an airport a big airport was build down there during the War years and we went there. I worked there for awhile. And da then I work for Beneficial Life Insurance for awhile then I got married and da I just Henry just decided he wanted me to stay home and take care of our kids and we live with mom and dad at that time and da dad and Henry build a nice home in the Arden Park area. And we lived there until 1966 and da our kids went to a elementary school about two or three blocks away for us, junior high school and high school out in that area. And da then

we move to Nevada for a year aa in 1966, Uncle Herold Henry's youngest brother wanted us to a come and work and take over a farm in Nevada with him and his family so that's what we did and Herold and his wife had problems and they separated so there just wasn't a wasn't cause Herold was not there anymore he just come and goes sometimes. And da so we, we end up giving up the farm and coming back here to Ferron. Then we moved back here in 1966. Been in this house ever since. Kids of all graduate from high school up here and went to different areas where they worked for awhile, they come back here to live not in not in our house but in their own places. That's the way its been. Course grandpa left us in 2004 just the 29 of December. And so I'm living alone and all the kids are helping me around, do things for me and thing like that. I do live alone but that's about like I said I most of my life I don't work we did take over the old Ferron Merc not this building an old building and da I work there awhile after we came up here until Henry got a on a teaching again and I stay there awhile work for awhile but after awhile the in Price all those big stores like Wal-Mart and K-Mart opened up and people would really go there and shop. Even though we were this close they just didn't shop as much so we gave up the building there and I come home again for awhile. Then I went to work for a Robert



Killpack he had a meat raping place I work for him for several years there, then I went out as a cook at the junior high school and cook there for quit awhile so. Then I just retired so now I just sit at home and phut around. She Laughs. Try to keep busy doing one thing or another I've always had a hobby of I love to paint was on of my hobbies. I've do lots of, of quilts and I umm lots of different things for all my grandkids got quilts and da all of them have a picture of an animal I painted and da this just keep it going. Any other thing that you would now about?

Matthew: Just keep on talking I guess.

Grandma: Laughs. I don't know what would be interested.

Matthew: Its all interesting.

Grandma: Laughs.

Matthew: Just start talking about different things I guess so.

Grandma: Well I love I do lot of crafting too I do a make a lot of things, dad use to help me a, a Henry would cut out things for me out of the wood then I would paint them and da I always done a lot of that type thing too. In fact right now I got a project on which sounds maybe silly but I in this time of the year I'm making but I'm making Christmas stockings for a project for the Nursing Home they have a bazaar every

somewhere in August or September somewhere I just don't remem know the date they set up but I'm I'm gona give donating to them to um to sell for the to help ummm get some of some you know money and stuff that they can purchase things for the senior citizens up there to have if they want it. They would to get them a game or something and so they can take care of that. That's what I'm doing right now. Like I said the kids are always helping me and Dale is doing a lot of paint and stuff right now the others are all work so much double shifts that they cant help everyday or anything like this been doin. Uncle Curtis he is up in American Fork and da he's running for a new position in the county up there and so he's really busy he can't get down here he's the one that started the painting, but he can't get down to that he has so many meetings and things going to that he doesn't make. Like I said Annell has two jobs. DeMar works nights, so he sleeps during the day and cause he just can't work all night and be awake all day so he has to sleep. (Cough, Cough) That's just the way it's going around with me. Dale, your dad, did really lot of work out on my our old front lawn this past year made it had lots of compliments on the job he did. So keeps him busy. And dad and I were called on a mission we spent a year in the Iowa Des Moines mission and that was really a nice experience, meet a lot of nice people.

Had one man that did all that year we got acquainted with that was Baptized his name was Tates, Mr. Tate . And da still hear from them on the Holiday days and everything they still contact me. And da then after that we took a trip back though the on our way home we went though up into New York and to a see the Niagara Falls, and lot of the different areas back there and lot of the church umm ee umm areas you know that we know about and heard about seen Joseph Smiths home and things like that. And da then we went one time other time to a the a Worlds Fair back in Tennessee can't remember the exact date but went back that was really interesting and drove back there to. She Laughs. See all those things beautiful areas we went though it was interesting. And we after that we were called a mission again to work at the temple as workers there in Manti Temple we worked there for about three years and then your dad or a my, your grandpa started having trouble breathing and so we had to retire from that. It was really a wonderful experiences to do those things we did, meet this lots and lots of wonderful people. But then he lived in the Nursing Home for awhile because he being, being a big man I couldn't really handle him you know to get him up and take him, bathe and things like that I, I just didn't have the get up and go like I need to do those things. So he end we had to put him the Nursing home that's were he

was when he past away. I meet a lot of nice people up there that really you could some of them you could talk to and they talk back but others wouldn't be able to correspond with you all. And we had quit a time. I up til this past month I go up even now twice a month to read to some of them and so I do that to. Although I had other difficulties this month that I just haven't made both time I'm suppose to be there. (She laughs) So just that's about the extent of my life I just (She Laughs) I just don't know what else to tell you about. I have had lots of friends, all some of them, shall I tell you about my boy some of my boyfriends.

Matthew: Sure

Grandma: (She Laughs) Well I had lot of friends and I remember one in particular that was a real nice young man he aaa he I meet him at my junior high school and da he was a member of the church but not active he was not an active young man and da I just, just really we got along real good we had a lot of fun together and da I keep telling him I go to church I sure would like to have him to go to church with me if he wanted to. Got him going to church and da with me. And one time I went out for a funeral. At we a I meet a Henry during that time too. I a started going with him quit a bit and didn't see this fellow as much as I use to. But one time as I came back from a

up in a Ferron to a funeral down in Sacramento, Henry's one sister, I was sure surprised when I walked in to the chapel and here this, this young man man that had been so in active was the bishop of the ward, so I did help do something for him to get him acquainted with the church activities again. I think about him once and awhile and wonder how he's doin and he was a nice, nice young man he was real nice. You just never know what you can do when were your on this earth help some people.

Henry had twelve brothers and sister well eleven brothers and sisters he was the twelveth. And da they all past away now but one he is the very youngest s one of the twelve kids. And his mom and dad were from a foreign country they migrated here, Grandma Larson was for a Germany and Grandpa Larson was for Sweden but they didn't meet until they came migrated to the United States and end up in Salt Lake and that's were they got acquainted and live for good number of years. And they move down to Ferron got married and moved down to Ferron had lots of property down here, Farmed. Grandpa Larson he became had a nickname they got him call it calling him Concerte Carlirly because he would do a lot of work for Concert or cement work and still here upon in the area there are several of the big old umm.

Matthew: Silos

Grandma: What do you call em.

Matthew: Silos

Grandma: Where they would store grain and stuff.

Matthew: Silos

Grandma: Silas, yeah that's where he got his nickname. Building the silases and other parts of the area in Castle Dale too and some other places he built. And so he had quit a time keep his kids busy and with the farms and the animals and stuff. Of course lady about that time most of them were on the farm would be cooking meals for the workers and things like that. Yup, they move around here in Ferron several places.

And grandpa and his sons build a house up the way here away they moved into that.

Lived there until the war years that's when they left Ferron. They sold there house.

Their both buried in Sacramento, California cause that's where it seem like most of the family not all of them so of the older boys still remained in Utah. Uncle Carl he stay right here in Ferron and da he lives his house was is just next to your dads house were you live now. But they just moved seems like all those who were available

moved to California for work for what ever places they could. Grandpa Larson was when he worked was here he went to work for McCellan Air Force Base when we

was down in California worked there for awhile. And da when he past way he was working that day at a one of the church welfare houses where they stored or a can fruits and vegetables and things like that. That's were he was. He's a hard worker too. Love to work. Lot of those people did. Of course lot of them still do, people like to work you know but have to work. But he was a hard working fella as old as he was just had to have a job to do so he donated his time down there at the welfare center. I don't even know if that's still down there anymore. Could be but I don't know yup. I remember being rased in Sacramento first ward that was ever really built in Sacramento out in the little area that we lived in that's were the church was. And da when, when we were going to church before that umm the American Legion would let us let the church have meet our meetings at there umm meeting house so we would have that until we got a ward on our own. And da that included all of Sacramento plus my little area that I was live with my folks in of course and da and then they built that one in Oak Park area so we had da I was the first girl baptized in the building, after it had been dedicated to the you know for church activities and things. I was the first girl baptized there it very different the building was a two store building and then inside where the chapel was on that was the main floor of course they had a big room

for the meeting section there, they had a great big stage back up in on it and a where they the church authority you know bishops and stuff would sit way up there but the rest every once and awhile they have a party's and stuff and all take all these chairs out of the where we use to have our meeting and it wasn't an activity hall it was in all one building. We had a choir section too, and that you would have to go up in the tower kind of that was towards the top of the roof anyway where they had seats all put together for the choir seat up there course if you where a member of the choir.

That was always interesting to get up there and sing out over the people below you. I can't think of much more that what to tell you. Maybe we better close.

Matthew: K. So how did you meet grandpa.

Grandma: Well years ago the wards would have lot of dancing in evenings you know or we go play games and stuff. And da this one night we went to, at that time there were other wards but they couldn't didn't have all the church the wards would get together at that one building and a that had been build and I was sitting there waiting for somebody to come ask me to dance and da I look up and here comes two fellas one was Uncle Carl not Uncle Carl, Uncle Oscar Larson and with him was this young man in a uniform he was in the Air Force (U.S. Air Corp) and da walk over to him.



Know I my folk and even I had meet Uncle Oscar being in the church wards you know and da Uncle Oscar invited me to a introduce me to um his brother Henry and da that was that night we really dance a lot he, he your Uncle ((Grandpa) Henry was a real good dancer. Way we dance those days not this dances you these days. It was really lots of waltzin and things like that you know we had just got acquainted that night and then course after that I got acquainted with a lot of the family that had moved out there because they got together every Monday night a as a family and da they even in their house at their home a grandma and grandpa would invited all the family over and I was always after we got acquainted a invited also and we had we would even grandpa he love to dance too, He grab every girl around that was around, the boys out numbered girls of course but I sure got a lot of dancing it with grandpa Larson and we just loved to sit and watch him go around grabbing the other girls and dancin away with them and it was fun. We went together for a long time well a good year before we decided to get married and we got Married. That's about they just use to have more fun with each other and they loved to sing the whole family would sing it wouldn't be necessarily be one person. But it was always fun to get together and Henry didn't have a car he have to walk over to my house of he want to a see me.

That was quit a few blocks. (She laughs) We had fun anyway. Yeah just keep busy got acquainted, they live near what they the old Sacramento fair grounds and we could walk over from his house to there to a go though the fair buildings and things that was always fun to. They had a few things you could ride you know, not a lot but more animals than and da things like that, displays and things like that to see. That was always fun to see. They use to really have some big dances not necessarily the family but the church had there would be stake ones were the all the stake would get together they even go down to the big local a auditorium at the city had where they would have performances and things you know that was always, always a monstrous big thing all kinds of people, each ward perform a dance they have us come to their ward and each ward would have learned a dance you know then they perform em it was always fun. It wasn't like the normal dance it was something kinda a little different for the normal dancing sometimes lot of the other were just the regular dancing with the big group of people. It was fun. Ok that's about that I guess.

Matthew: K you can start talking now.

Grandma: (She Laughs) Well I was born in Sacramento California and da I was born a twin but my twin brother did not live he died at birth so I just rased alone for awhile

and da my mother was Nelly Gerchered MacBride and my Father was Orrin R Merrill. And they meet um when they both end up leaving a Idaho Mom was from Oakley and my dad was from Preston, Idaho. And they moved to California and was in the same area down there and da were both members of the church so they would get meet acquainted in the a church, mom use to be a singer with a group of lady's and da dad he was active in the Priesthood you know and they um mom she I can't really remember where mom worked. She had a job oh, she work nope that was in Nevada in Sacramento I can't remember work she worked and a but before they moved to California mom my mother um she was a telephone operator in Phellon, Nevada. And da then they got acquainted and just decide to get married, and da just what temple did they get married in. Anywhere I can't remember dates so when they got married exactly.

Matthew: That's ok.

Grandma: But a my dad's employment was that he just and a friend he meet there in a Sacramento area decide to become contractors and do some building and da dad did a lot of building of homes at that time and da should I repeat that part about him falling of the roof? And da he was a always active that way until had a you know in the

church and doing carpentry til he lost his hand that fall and da mom went to what ever job she could get around town she could keep busy at. And da and um they lived for a good number of years with my grandmother in Sacramento and da so did my moms brother and his wife and a daughter and da then there was another aunt and da her husband live with them too in Sacramento with grand my grandmother they had the three of them living with grandma and da they um all were just they all got along really good, but their jobs had would come and go and so grandma would just let them stay with her until they could find something and get a house on their own. And da they called it was kinda funny got in the house with granny because her name was Edna, and my one Aunt and Uncle had a daughter and they named her Edna and when I came along they named me Edna so when grandma was anybody was calling one another down in there our little house together everybody named Edna would answer so they decide to name me Lamarr my middle name was Lamarr so they called me Lamarr That's how I got to be called Lamarr. And da they lived and worked and just took care of each other of all of us and for a number of months then my dad got a job with the telephone company and da that's where he went to work and by then things were going a little better for us we move into our little house just a couple of blocks a

from grandma's old place though. And da one thing that when I was kids livin with grandma that was quit interesting was we lived right across the street from a bakery where made da aa not, not for individual sale they made um big loafs of bread to take to stores and things as bakery and we had wonder bread type thing and da that use to be one thing. They made great big windows on the side of the building and we could watch them makin the bread in there and seen em cookin it things that would go down and around the different places were they prepare it you know had a way thing in and out and da that's where we live. And then we this was in the Oak Park area just a little outline area of Sacramento and we then move a from that place into another house but that was a was on ninth avenue in the Oak Park area. And da that's were we lived mom had another little boy that was a Richard his name was Richard he live about until he was eighteen months old and two. But he to being with was born with a double hair-lip and he got into the hospital to have surgery some surgery to see if they could repair it and he got pneumonia from the anesthetics and he past away and then my sister came along goes Kerma were close sisters, my mother was going to have another baby and da that little one past away also died before birth my folks couldn't afford a big funeral so they just took the little baby out and buried him in the

backyard . Never was name or anything. And then a there was a street on one side of our house and it just went just half a block past us and da we had a some good neighbors along that little area that we got acquainted with lots of kids we had of fun together. There were lots of people were young people and had children be friends.