

Grand Parents

WISE WORDS & WARM SMILES

The Histories of:

George Wesley McMullin

&

Florence Mae Oakden



McMullin Davis



History of George Wesley McMullin



Born: 5 Oct. 1859

Died: 4 Apr. 1898

George Wesley was born on Wednesday, the 5th of October, 1859 in Payson, Utah, to Willard and Mary Ann Holmes McMullin. His father Willard had completed a mission to England in 1855 and returned home on the same ship that a convert named Mary Ann Holmes was traveling on. They were living in polygamy times, and Mary Ann became one of Willard's wives.

George was the 2nd child born to this couple. The family helped colonize several places, directed by Brigham Young, then President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. It was in about 1858 that Willard's two families (Martha and her children and Mary Ann and her child) moved to Payson. They were living in the Payson area at the time of George's birth.

Payson was a small settlement started in 1850 nestled against the foothills of the southern Wasatch Range. There were two major breaches of the peace between the native Ute Indians and the Mormon settlers during the early years. In July 1853 what became known as the Walker War began when an Indian shot and killed a guard outside of the fort at Payson. Skirmishes and encounters between the factions continued until May 1854 when a treaty of peace was entered into with Chief Wakara. Ten years of comparative peace followed.

Payson was a farming community. Principal crops have always been grass hay, which the pioneers found growing wild when they arrived, lucerne (alfalfa), and grains such as wheat, barley, oats, and corn; beets, potatoes, and onions have also been grown. Cattle, sheep, and hogs are also raised in the area.

Payson, like other Mormon communities in Utah Territory, was nearly self-supporting. The people produced their own food and clothing, milled their own flour, operated their own sawmills, manufactured their own shingles, adobe bricks, and furniture.

George's father was a school teacher in Payson. The early recorded history of Payson states that the school became known as one of the organization's best. Willard notes in his personal history that he was the official baptizer for the community.

In 1862 Brigham Young called for volunteers to organize the Cotton Mission to Dixie. The McMullin's were in that group. It is hard to understand why they would leave their homes in the winter (November) and travel by wagon to an area a little north of St. George, called Harrisburg. They arrived there in December. A distance of a little over 200 miles. Traveling with small children through the mountain area in the snow and cold, could not have been an easy task. Martha had 3 children ranging in age from 11 to 7. Mary Ann had a 6 year old and George 3 ½. It is not until south of Cedar City, where it drops down to a lower altitude. A great distance to travel before warmer weather and less snow would have made their trip a little easier and more pleasant.

The little settlement of Harrisburg was started in the fall of 1859 by the Moses Harris family. Others arrived in the Spring of 1862 bringing the populations up to 41 souls. By December, when the McMullins arrived 20 families occupied the town. Apostles Orson Pratt and Erastus Snow met with the people at the home of Moses Harris and organized them into a branch of the church, making the name of Harrisburg official.

With other families in the area, little George probably had playmates and grew up as most young boys did. Playing games and learning the chores of the normal pioneer family. He lived in a nice house for the times, as his dad was a very talented man in laying stone. Their home was a rock home, two story. Martha's family had one also. These two homes faced onto a large quadrangle dooryard paved with flagstone. They also had a fine large, stone milk house perched over a ditch of running water.

When George was 8 years old, his "aunt" Martha passed away. Mary Ann then became mother to both families. Martha's youngest had --just the day before turned 11 years old. Mary Ann had 5 young children of her own.

In the spring, on 3 Apr. 1868 George was baptized a member of the church. In a river no doubt, probably the Harrisburg Creek, now called Quail Creek, as it ran through the community.

In 1864 the townspeople met and decided to build a church and school house combined. Many people settling Harrisburg were educated, and were artisans of different trades. The McMullin's contributed to this infra-structure. Father Willard G. was a stone mason and was able to teach some of his sons his trade. One son was a blacksmith, some were miners and others worked with livestock. George was a miner, but probably was involved in various other trades including a stone

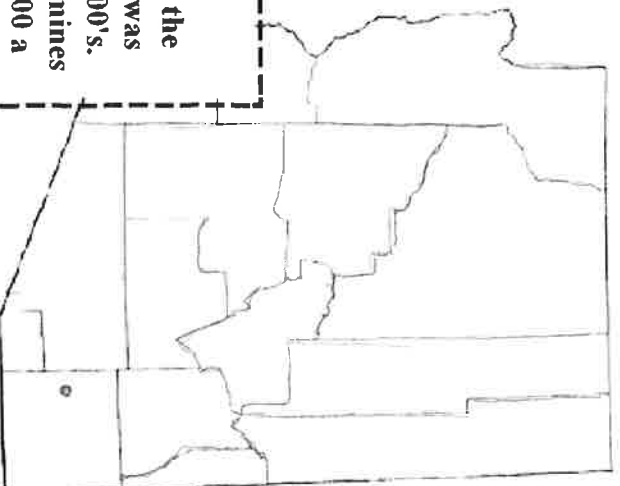
mason and cowboy. It is said that "the McMullins practically built Silver Reef". (A mining town Northwest of Harrisburg with lots of stone buildings including the famous, now restored Wells Fargo Building.)

Harrisburg was on the trade route of freighters who freighted to California via Las Vegas, Nevada from Utah and also connecting with the California freighters were others who freighted clear to St. Louis, Missouri.

When George married, for some reason we do not know, he was in Arizona.

Records show that he married Florence Mae Oakden on the 19th of October, 1887, in St. David, Cochise County, Arizona.

St. David was a small desert farming community located in Southeastern Arizona near the Arizona and Mexico border. St. David, Arizona was founded by early Mormon pioneers in the late 1800's. At that time it was said in St. David history that mines were paying \$30.00 a cord for wood fuel and \$40.00 a ton for hay. A good amount of money in those days.



Florence's step father,
Hyrum Bryson and the

family, are listed in the 1880 census as living in Leeds, and his occupation was a teamster. However, in 1882 their next addition to the family was born in St. David, Arizona. Probably George's family and Hyrum and his family knew each well as it was a small area. Maybe George had his eye on Florence before her family left to move the family to St. David. Whatever the situation, George ended up in St. David and married his sweetheart there.

In father Willard's history, he talks about taking his older sons, which would have included George, to Pioche, Nevada where they had a wood-cutting contract. This may fit in with the above freighting possibility.

What ever the reason for the marriage in Arizona, they were back and living in St. George when their first child was born in February of 1890.

The following children were born to George Wesley and Florence Mae

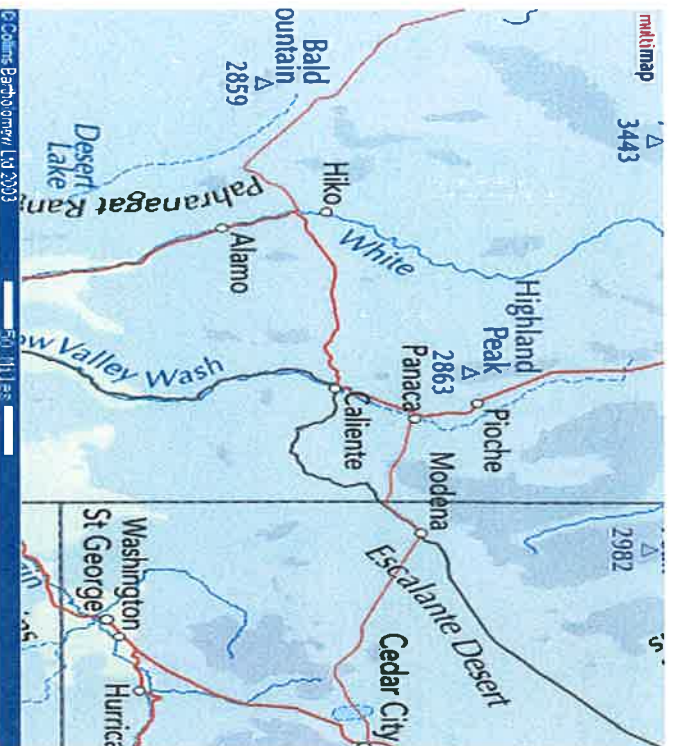
Oakden McMullin, all born in St. George:

Florence Mae	6 Feb	1890
Sarah (Sade)	2 Nov	1891
George Douglas	6 Sep	1893
Olivia	6 Aug	1895
Willard John	13 Aug	1897 - 20 Apr 1898
Hyla	13 Nov	1898

This is a picture of the McMullin Family home in St. George, Utah. This photo was taken several years after the family moved to Emery County, (abt. 1950). Olivia said this was the home she was born in.



Gold was discovered in 1889 in Monkeywrench Wash by John Ferguson and Joseph Sharp, gold and silver seekers rushed to the isolated and treeless region. Before long a mining camp was born west of the Monkeywrench Mine and was



called Ferguson after one of the original prospectors.

In April, 1894, Captain Joseph Rafael De Lamar of Montana bought most of the important mines in the area and renamed the Ferguson camp, Delamar. In the same year, a newspaper called the *Delamar Lode* began publication and a post office was opened. Lamar built a fifty-ton mill which commenced operation in May of 1895 and the camp began to grow.

George heard about this 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 a 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.



Delamar, Nevada April, 2005

Soon, the new settlement boasted more than 1,500 residents, a hospital, an Opera House, a couple of churches, a school, several businesses and the numerous inevitable saloons. Most buildings were built of native rock and though the camp has long since been a ghost town, the ruins of these timeless buildings continue to stand.

By 1896 the Delamar mill was handling up to 260 tons of ore daily. Water for the camp was pumped in from a well at Meadow Valley Wash, some twelve miles away. Supplies and materials traveled even further, by mule teams over mountainous terrain from the railroad head at Milford, Utah, 150 miles from the remote camp. The precious ore was hauled out of the settlement in the same arduous manner.



The quartzite dust at Delamar created these interesting unnatural sculptures in the mining district.



The gold in the Delamar mine was unique in the fact that it was contained in quartzite. The process to remove the gold from the quartzite resulted in large quantities of dust which contained particles of glass like rock. This hazardous dust, when breathed by the mine workers, as well as the townsfolk, often resulted in a disease of the lungs called silicosis. Soon, the town earned the nickname “The Widow Maker” due to the numerous premature deaths from the disease. At one time there were over 400 widows living in Delamar. Today, Delamar’s two remaining cemeteries display the inscriptions on tombstones of the many victims of the quartz dust.

George returned home to St. George, most likely very ill. During that time their baby boy Willard, died of pneumonia. It is not known if the family records are correct of 18 February 1898 or the cemetery records of St. George, 20 Apr 1898. (probably the family records as it was many years later that the stone was made and placed at the cemetery.)

Regardless, it must have been a terrible time for the family. George died on Tuesday April 4th, 1898. He was only 38 ½ years old. He left a pregnant widow and 4 small children. Baby Hyla was born seven months later.

Florence had George's temple work done on September 23rd, 1898 and she and the family were sealed to him in the St. George Temple. Hyla born about 1 ½ months later was, therefore, born in the covenant.

(Follow this family in the history of Florence Mae Oakden McMullin Davis's History.)



Willard's death date is not correct on this stone.



GEORGE W. McMILLIN.

A sad death occurred in St. George on the 4th of April, 1898, in the person of George W. McMullin, after months of suffering. He leaves a widow and four children, and it is a very hard and serious time indeed with the widow. Only a few months ago she lost her infant of a few months old. It being the one thousandth person interred in the St. George cemetery! Since its death she has also laid away, her brother, a promising young man, and now she has had to lay away her loving husband.

He was born on the 5th of October, 1859. The funeral services were provided over by Elder Thomas P. Cotton. Consoling words were spoken by Elders George T. Jarvis, John G. McQuarey, William Atkin, Samuel L. Adams and Thomas J. Cotton, each of whom would kindly help to calm the troubled waters of sorrow that have come upon this devoted wife and mother. It was truly said of him that he was an honest, upright man in all his dealings, whose delight it was to do

good and to provide for his loved ones, but it is a pleasure to know that his wife in her sorrow is surrounded with loving friends.
WILLIAM ATKIN.

Obituary courtesy of the
Church Archives Library.

Done.

Michelle
Seward

Shirley Thomas

Yvonne MacHarward

Terrelline Fittler

Thelaine Jones

Emma Stearn

Jois Wilson



Therese Kalykield

Yal Young

Beal Raper

Ray White

Boyd Mortensen

Jim Christensen

Henry Mc
Candless

Red Thurman

Ross Gordon

Neloy Mortensen

Blaine Colwell

— Hazel McKee

— Emma Henry
Dwight Teacher