

A Sister's Tribute to Her Family

By Dorothy Stewart Simpson

Ethleen Folsom Hiram

The first born of eight children Ethleen established the pattern to follow. Her home and garden were of major importance. The only employment outside her home was at the Utah State Fair in the flower exhibits. She volunteered at the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers helping with feminine biographies.

Her children and husband were given support in all their activities. After Roy passed away she fulfilled the commitments he had for public speaking in his field of gardening. 'Pete Moss' was his pen name for his newspaper column.

We were always made to feel welcome whenever we called. Many were the family dinners in their home. Ethleen played the piano well and we would sing together. Everybody loved Ethleen.

Florence Folsom Wilson

Florence was dedicated to her family. There was a beautiful atmosphere of love in their home. Even today all the family members are very close and enjoy their frequent activities together.

As a young girl she helped around the home because in such a large family everyone had certain responsibilities. I remember her practicing on the violin. Before she was married she taught school after acquiring a two year degree. Later in life she resumed her teaching to help with family finances. She was an excellent teacher. Her students were loyal to her, some keeping in touch many years later.

Early in her married life she had some health problems. There were also financial difficulties because farming was not very profitable. However, she was always cheerful and made the best of things. She always depended on Ellis, not participating in many activities in which he was not included.

Paul Whitaker Folsom

Paul is remembered for his sense of humor and his magic tricks. Many young people around were fascinated with his performance of magic and continually asked for more.

Our father depended on him to market the produce for the orchards. He faithfully went to the Farmer's Market at five in the morning.

He made friends there as he did everywhere. He worked many years with the Junior Traffic Police. As our big brother we expected his protection and received it.

You can't remember Paul without his partner Lily. He never had any other girl friend. They had mutual friends who always included them together.

He was like Mother in his zest for life and their sense of humor. They had much in common and enjoyed each other's company.

Edna Whitaker Folsom Hanks

Edna had such a pleasant and positive outlook. She never expected any special privileges or made a fuss when she didn't get her way. She was a peacemaker. Her husband was very demanding but she smiled and got along. Any projects of sewing or arts or crafts were cleared away before he returned from work so she could give him her full attention.

During his absence when the children were in school she studied art and became proficient in painting and ceramics. I have the oil painting she made of our mother. I proudly show those who visit me the miniature photo which guided her. I commend her for continuing her education and graduating with a degree at the same time her son also graduated.

Though parents do not have favorites I often felt Edna might have been one. When she came to visit our Mother in later years they spent many precious hours together.

Donald Whitaker Folsom

As time went on, in his later years, Donald was much like our Father in disposition and mannerisms. He was the only one in the family I ever remember who quarreled and had differences. I feel the reason they clashed was because they were so much alike.

Donald was dedicated to his beliefs. He was the only one in the family to go on a mission. Father wanted him to go into medicine for he was a good student. However, this did not appeal to him.

He was an Eagle Scout and loved the outdoors. At one time he had a mountain cabin. In later years after moving to Washington State he had a boat and went fishing.

He took wonderful care of Rose when she needed constant attention, giving his time willingly. When his own health was slipping the doctor insisted Rose get care outside the home. As a result she lived only two weeks afterward.

Donald worked diligently in reporting the financing of the Seattle Temple and was a dedicated church member.

Juliet Whitaker Folsom Clayton

There was never anyone like Juliet. Her beautiful red hair and sunny disposition made her very attractive. I've thought that if anyone could have disliked her it would have been because of being jealous. She knew what she wanted and went after it. When just a teenager she gave *Marcel waves* to customers at home to get spending money.

After a couple of years at the University she decided she'd had enough and got work in an office. She could play the piano by ear and could compose simple tunes but was not interested in piano lessons, not appreciating her talent.

I remember her skipping out of her family assignments whenever possible and visiting her friends instead. Yet, when she had a home of her own everything was immaculate and well organized.

Many mourned for her and Waldemar at their tragic end. She has never been forgotten.

Rhea Whitaker Folsom Smurthwaite

Being the two youngest in a family of eight children, Rhea and I were more or less spoiled by the older members. Our mother, who was a good manager, found it convenient to treat us almost as twins. Many of our clothes were identical. Our mother trusted Rhea to look after me. Many nights I was lulled to sleep by stories told to me by Rhea as we shared a double bed.

Rhea enjoyed reading. She was also a good student. She completed requirements for high school graduation one year ahead of her class and was able to enter the University of Utah early.

When she was Relief Society President and they made quilts she worked so hard at it that she would always end up with a sore throat. She never wasted a minute in her life and was cheerful all the time.

Dorothy Whitaker Folsom Stewart Simpson

Since I am the only one around to write about myself I will tell something of my interests. I have always wanted to learn and eventually received a Master Degree from the University of Utah. I still read a great deal even though mostly historical fiction and mysteries. I try to keep up with magazines such as the *National Geographic* and *Smithsonian*.

I like people and have been a joiner of the several organizations which enabled me to make friends of various interests. I am fortunate that I am still able to enjoy ballet, the Pioneer Theater, Opera and the travel films at the University.

The travel bug bit me early. Probable I caught this from my husband. Golden. At the conclusion of his LDS Mission he traveled in Europe for six months. I realized after he was gone how much he would have enjoyed going around the world when I did. I'm thoroughly convinced that travel helps a person to know about how others live and gives one an appreciation of home family. I love my family and am grateful for my many blessings.

*The enclosed tribute was written by Aunt Dorothy at the request other niece, Diane, in 2001