

FLORENCE POWELL BROWN

1884 - 1958

Florence Powell was born in Marriott, Weber, Utah, on 15 October 1884. She was the seventh child in a family of eight. Her father, John D. Powell, joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while living in Wales. He came to Utah in 1869, arriving in Ogden with the first company of Mormon immigrants to arrive by railroad. Her mother, Sarah Joyce Powell, came from England when a small girl, crossing the plains by ox team with her parents in 1855.

Both the Powell and the Joyce families settled in Marriott. Her parents met and married, and made their first home in Marriott. Florence was baptized 6 July 1893 by Henry H. Butler and confirmed by her father 9 July 1893. She attended the Marriott School and later the Weber Stake Academy in Ogden.

Her parents, though not trained in music, both possessed some musical ability, and encouraged their children in both vocal and instrumental music. They sacrificed much toward developing musical talent in their children. Many evenings were devoted to the study and practice of quartets, duets, choruses, etc. by the family, friends and neighbors. The musical numbers were then presented in church services and programs.

When she was a young girl, Florence was sent to a neighbor, Mary A. Hodson Parry for her first music lessons, which were given on a reed organ. Later, she studied piano under the direction of Florence Sherwood, Professor Squire Coop, and Professor John J. McClellan.

At the age of 11, she was called as assistant organist in the Marriott Ward Sunday School. She later became the organist, and held that position until she left the ward in 1927. She was also the organist for the ward choir. While living in Marriott, she also served as ward organist, secretary of the primary, teacher in the religion class, organist of the M.I.A., Sunday School teacher, organist for the North Weber Stake, and member of the North Weber Stake primary board.

When the Weber gymnasium was built, Florence was given the position of pianist for classes. She played there for more than three years.

On 1 September, 1927, Florence married Richard Roy D. Brown in the Salt Lake Temple. The ceremony was performed by President David O. McKay. After their marriage, they made their home in Harrisville. When Florence left Marriott, the ward gave a party in her honor and presented her with a beautiful lamp, which she cherished the rest of her life. Several years before, the Marriott Ward choir had given her a "splendid music cabinet," which she also treasured.

Florence and Richard bought a home in Harrisville located at 880 North Harrisville Road. The yellow brick house was originally built in 1910 by Lee Andrus and Alice Taylor Shurtleff. While living in Harrisville, Florence served as Sunday School teacher, ward organist, a member of the old folks committee, teacher in the Mutual Improvement Association, president of the Young Women M.I.A. (1934-1940), and secretary-treasurer of the ward budget committee.

On 2 December, 1940, she was sustained as organist of the North Weber Stake Relief Society, and on 17 March, 1941, was set apart as the first counselor to President Nellie W. Neal, of the North Weber Stake Relief Society. After church leaders divided the North Weber Stake, she served as a counselor in the Farr West Stake Relief Society.

In 1945, Florence and Richard moved to Ogden, Utah, making their home at 544 21st Street. While living in the Ogden 4th Ward, Florence served in many positions including, ward Relief Society president, assistant ward chorister, and Sunday School organist. Six years after moving to Ogden, she lost her husband. Richard Roy D. Brown died 22 June 1951.

Seven years after her husband died, Florence Powell Brown died 22 August 1958, in Ogden, Utah. She was survived by two step daughters, Myrle Brown (Bert) Nelson, and Thelma Brown (Lorin) Hardy, who both lived in Huntsville. She also had one brother, Albert J. Powell, who lived in Ogden, and two sisters, Sarah Powell Buck from Marriott, and Elsie Powell, who lived in Ogden.

SOURCE:

Brown, Florence Powell. Autobiography of Florence Powell Brown. Unpublished manuscript. n.d.

Brown, Florence Powell	Neal, Nellie W.
Brown, Myrle	Nelson, Bert
Brown, Richard Roy D.	Nelson, Myrle Brown
Brown, Thelma	Parry, Mary A. Hodson
Buck, Sarah Powell	Powell, Elsie
Butler, Henry H.	Powell, Florence
Coop, Squire	Powell, John D.
Hardy, Lorin	Powell, Sarah
Hardy, Thelma Brown	Powell, Sarah Joyce
Joyce, Sarah	Sherwood, Florence
McClellan, John J.	Shurtleff, Alice Taylor
McKay, David O.	Shurtleff, Lee Andrus