

Wilson Lenoir Scott  
by Barbara Lynn Redmond Horn

My grandfather, Wilson Lenoir Scott, was born in Mt. Zion, Macon County, Illinois, a small farming town on April 13, 1876. His parents, Alexander Bone Scott and Mary Catherine Blalock Scott were large land owners and made their living from the farming and selling of corn, soy beans and other crops.

Wilson Lenoir was the oldest of five children, (three girls and two boys) born to Alexander and Mary C. Scott. Wilson Lenoir was almost two when his mother gave birth to his little sister, Virginia Mae or "Virgie" on 23 Dec 1878. It was 9 years before another child was born, on 15 Nov 1887, Mary Mignonette or Mig was born followed by Edna Catherine, born 25 August 1889 and then David Jehu on 22 April 1891. Now the family was complete.

The Scott children grew up in the tiny Mt. Zion community and attended the local schools. They belonged to a prominent family that provided their children with all the comforts of life and many opportunities. Wilson Lenoir grew into a handsome young man as shown by many of the photos we have of him.

Wilson Lenoir, in his early twenties, left Illinois and went West during the gold and silver rush of the late 1890's. In 1900, he is living in State Line, Iron County, Utah and working as a gold/silver miner. It was during this time that he gained expertise in assaying ore and obtained financial stability. Sometime in 1909, he met Sarah Elinor Stirling of Leeds, Washington County, Utah and fell in love. It is thought that he was probably working at the Silver Reef mines nearby Leeds where Elinor lived with her family. The couple could have met at one of the famous Stirling socials or dances. They married August 12, 1909 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In 1910, they were married one year and managing a hotel and dining facility in Modena, Iron County, Utah. This hotel was a convenient stop for the railroad workers. Elinor was a fabulous cook and provided delicious meals for the lodgers at the hotel. Wilson Lenoir while managing the hotel, also continued his assaying work and owned land and investments.

On March 21, 1912, their first child was born, my mother, Jessie Scott. Only fourteen months later their second child, another daughter was born, Dixie Mae Scott on May 25, 1913. Their son, Wilson Wilbur Scott was born Dec 24, 1914 on Christmas eve. Elinor and Wilson Lenoir had a happy little family and were doing well working hard and enjoying life. Then tragedy struck, Wilson Lenoir became extremely ill while working in State Line, Utah. They rushed him to the hospital in St. George, Utah but they could not save him. He died of acute kidney failure at the age of 39. Elinor and the children, who were in Modena when they got word of his grave condition, traveled day and night to reach his bedside but were too late. Elinor became a young widow, with 3 small children to raise the oldest being but 3 ½. They had been married less than 5 years.

Elinor sent word by telegram to her husband's family but it was not possible for them to get to Southern Utah in time for the funeral. He was buried in the Leeds, Washington County, Utah cemetery.

Elinor raised her small children to adulthood but never remarried. She died at age 77 in Beaver, Beaver County, Utah at the home of her daughter, Dixie Mae Scott Harris and was buried beside Wilson Lenoir in the Leeds Cemetery.