

Memories of My Mother, Ruth Stirling Porter  
by Don E. Porter

Ruth Stirling Porter was born the 15th of October 1883. She was the 11th child born to William Stirling and Sarah Ann Leany, who had 14 children in all.

Ruth was born in Leeds, Utah and spent her childhood there. She was a very happy young girl and enjoyed riding horses. In those days you either rode a horse or walked. Ruth also loved music. She played the piano some and was the one who was most responsible for the Stirling home getting and having a piano. To my knowledge that piano is still in the old Stirling home.

It wasn't a common practice in the early 1900's and late 1800's for people to pursue an education and especially for a woman. However, my mother did get a good education and even went on to two years of college and received a teaching certificate to teach Grammar School. This was received on the 16th of September 1912. My mother taught school then for a time in the city of Parowan, Iron County, Utah.

After teaching school for a few years, Ruth then went on to Eureka where she worked as a cook slaving many hours of her life over the old iron cook stove as did all our ancestors.

Ruth then met and married George Edward Porter on July 25th, 1928. They were married in the Manti Temple. Ruth and George moved to Cedar City, Utah where they lived until the death of George Edward. Ruth was given a Patriarchal blessing by Alexander Gordon Matheson June 10, 1931. After the passing of George Edward in 1943, Ruth needed to be closer to her family and in 1948 when the school purchased her property in Cedar, she was able to move back to Leeds and be closer to most of her family. Aunt Ida and Aunt Elinor were still some distance away.

I don't know if she had any hobbies. I did mention that she loved horses; her favorite fruit was the peach.

Ruth had as much patience as anyone I ever knew and much more than most. She wasn't one to spat and spank for every little thing, but did get after me with a willow switch once.

Ruth didn't travel a lot. She got to Salt Lake now and then and to St. George and New Castle sometimes. She did take her first airplane ride in 1956 flying from Salt Lake to Oahu, Hawaii, where I was stationed at the time in the Marines. This was quite some doing for her. She was never a person to want for herself. She never let you know how hard life was.