

DIXIE LEONA FAUCETT

Dixie Leona Faucett was born November 9, 1880, in Manassa, Conejas County, Colorado, to Alphonzo and Queen Victoria Bailey Faucett. She was the first of nine children. Her parents had moved from Georgia to make a home with the Mormon settlers in the San Luis Valley in Colorado. While Dixie was still a small child, they returned to Georgia for a few years, but later returned to the valley and settled permanently in Sanford, Colorado.

When Dixie was fourteen years old, her mother gave birth to a baby girl; however, she was suffering from complications and was near death's door. She called Dixie to her bedside and told her she wouldn't be with them very long and for her to help her father all she could with her brothers and sisters. This request by her mother influenced her decision later in life to refuse her first marriage proposal from William C. Christensen; she felt obligated to her father and the children.

Pioneer living was hard with no modern conveniences. For years Dixie took the responsibility of the home and family, also helping to raise a cousin who had been orphaned by the death of both his parents. When her younger sisters could shoulder the responsibilities at home, she decided to go to college, one of her life's ambitions. She attended the Brigham Young Academy, forerunner to the now famous Brigham Young University. She worked out her room and board in a student rooming house, where her job was to make the bread for all the meals.

Upon obtaining her teaching certificate, she returned to her family and continued her service there while she taught school. She taught for eight years, part of which was in Kirtland, New Mexico. Some of her former students include Carlos Stolworthy, Ethel Taylor Collyer, Hugh Foutz, Authur Tanner, Roy Foutz, and a host of others.

Dixie and her sisters were beautiful singers and were popularly known as the "Singing Faucett Sisters." They were often called on to sing at Church, funerals, public gatherings, and entertainments.

In the spring of 1914, Dixie was again proposed by William C. Christensen; he had previously lost his wife and was left with five motherless children. Dixie accepted his proposal and they were married in the Salt Lake Temple December 18, 1914.

Dixie now set out for the second time as the mother and manager of a young family. To these five children, Will and Dixie added four more: Vaughn L., Leona, Clayl Dixon, and Kurt Jay. Dixie's third child, Clayl, died when six years old due to after effects of the measles. Dixie's grief over the loss of her child, as only a mother knows, stayed with her all her life.

Music was a major part of their life. In the evenings when the family was gathered together they listened to humorous and exciting stories about Will and Dixie's life, always

ending with songs and laughter. Dixie's children well remember her chording on the piano hers and Will's favorite song, "Down In The Old Orchard."

Due to the cold climate and poor health of the family, Will and Dixie moved to Fruitland, New Mexico, in 1929. Several years later they moved to Kirtland, then lived at Igacio, Colorado, on a big farm, sold out, moved to Provo, Utah, for three years, then back to Farmington, New Mexico, where Dixie and Will lived out their years.

Dixie's life was full of church service which brought her happiness and joy beyond expression. Her long full life has left much to her credit. She reared three families, obtained a college education, taught school, was a Sunday School teacher, then Stake Sunday School leader, Counselor in the Stake Primary Presidency, a Counselor in the Young Women's M.I.A. Presidency, five years a president of the Stake Young Women's M.I.A., Relief Society Stake President for five years, and served as Theology teacher in the Relief Society, and was a Visiting Teacher for many years. She served as Chaplain of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, although she was not an eligible member of that organization.

Dixie was a meticulous housekeeper and her home and yards were always noted for their neatness and beauty. Even though she suffered from arthritis, she always managed to keep her home and yards in perfect order.

Dixie fell and broke her hip two times, once in November, 1951 and again in November, 1965. She was flown to the Salt Lake L.D.S. Hospital, from this injury she never fully recovered and was never able to walk again. She passed away in a nursing home in Provo, Utah, September 12, 1966. Her husband preceded her in death August 29, 1961.

Dixie lived a long full life and will be remembered always as giving faithful service as mother, friend, neighbor, church leader, school teacher, and to the community.

Compiled and written by her daughter

Leona Christensen McGee