

Oscar Hurst and Nida Mary Adamson Hall

Oscar was an outsider to Highland, having been born March 29, 1898, in Atchison, Kansas to Edmund Estep and Anna Eliza Hurst Hall, the youngest of sixteen children. His family converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and moved to Alpine, Utah when he was twelve years old.

By contrast, Nida was home-grown, born in American Fork November 11, 1899, to David Hutchison and Jessie Diantha Myers Adamson, eldest of their eleven children. She attended grade school in Highland and High school in American Fork.

Oscar and Nida were married June 18, 1919, in Salt Lake City and their reception was held in the Highland Church with music by Carter's Orchestra. They lived for a while in Highland (#98), moved to Murray, then to American Fork; in 1926 they purchased their forty acre farm in Highland (#74). They had eleven children: Clayton, Betty, Virginia, James, Junior, Alta, Ella Mae, Robert, Diantha, Jay and Keith. Virginia died at two days old. They were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple May 24, 1928.

In early in 1937, just before the birth of their ninth child, their house burned down and they lived in #76 while it was rebuilt.

Nida was counselor in Relief Society and Primary, Relief Society teacher, temple worker and sang in the ward choir. She was employed for fifteen years as a dietitian and cook at the American Fork Hospital, was a member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers and the Ladies Literary Club. She wrote many short stories and poems.

Oscar and Nida worked together on the Highland Old Folks Committee for many years. His farm produced hay, grain, and peas, which he took to the Eddington cannery pea viner next to his property. In addition to farming he worked for Utah Power & Light, for the Forest Service and used his carpenter training to help build Geneva Steel and schools and churches in the area. He was a member of the Deer Creek and Lehi Irrigation Companies and was instrumental in helping to get the culinary water for Highland. For a number of years he helped Evar Strasburg and Tom Binns plow the roads in winter after the famous Highland blizzards. Sometimes they would have to work around the clock to keep the roads open, using six-horse teams.

In later life they moved to American Fork and Oscar worked at the city cemetery and as animal control officer. His favorite pastime was to "go hunting, fishing and horseback riding with my sons and grandsons." Oscar passed away October 12, 1983, in American Fork and Nida followed on July 23, 1996. They are buried in the American Fork City Cemetery.

The picture used as a logo for the Highland Historical Society shows Oscar plowing with his team of horses. The picture is also displayed in the American Fork IFA store, above the exit.