

Step Grandmother Flora

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Flora is the only grandmother I ever knew on my mother's side of the family. My grandmother, Sadie, died when my mother was about eighteen, so I never knew her.

I visited with Flora many times in Sweet Home, Oregon. One time, after she died, I went looking for her grave. All I knew then was that she was buried next to my grandfather, Percy Chance. I looked all through the main cemetery in Sweet Home but did not find either of them.

So, I wrote a letter to the local cemetery board and got a very nice reply. I had been looking in the wrong cemetery! I was given directions to the correct cemetery and the location within that cemetery where they are both buried.

Those directions led me to the Liberty Cemetery. If you put "28060 Liberty Road, Sweet Home, Oregon" into one of the various mapping programs you will have a map that is very close and will get you there. Percy and Flora are buried in the south section of the cemetery in about the middle of that section. It has been a while since I have been there but know I could find them.

Finding Percy's marker was no problem but Flora did not have a marker at that time. There was only a small "mortician's" marker with her name on it and nothing permanent. So, I contacted the cemetery district again and asked about getting a marker for Flora. "No problem," was their reply. Just send the details and a check and all would be taken care of. I wanted her maiden name on the marker so the research began.

Starting with the marriage between Percy and Flora, I found that they were married in Reno, Nevada on 6 Jul 1931.¹ The License Application states her surname as St Clair. But the license also indicated that this was her second marriage.

I remember her saying that she was from Idaho and had two sisters. After much searching, I finally found that she was born Flora Luella Houston on 23 July 1885 in North Powder, Baker Co, Oregon.² I was lucky that the record even exists.

Now I had Flora's maiden surname and her birth date. Her death certificate says she died on 2 December 1979 in Sweet Home, Linn County, Oregon.³ I sent all this information and a check to the cemetery district and Grandmother Flora now has a marker right next to my grandfather.



FLORA L. HOUSTON CHANCE
JULY 23, 1885 DEC 2, 1979



PERCY "JACK" E. CHANCE
JULY 9, 1887 MAY 21, 1964

¹ Marriage Record, "Affidavit of Application for Marriage License" for Percy E. Chance and Flora St Clair; 6 Jul 1931. Washoe Co. Clerk, Reno, Nevada

² Birth Record for Flora Luella HOUSTON; 23 Jul 1885 (delayed entry on 6 Aug 1952). Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon.

³ Death Certificate for Flora L. Chance; 2 Dec 1979. Oregon Health Division, Portland, Oregon.