



## Shirley Esplin Hart

April 2, 1929 - February 2, 2019

Shirley Esplin Hart was born April 2, 1929, at the Ida S. Adams home in Kanab, Utah. She passed away on February 2, 2019 in Cedar City, Utah at the age of eighty-nine. Shirley has been a resident of a care center in Cedar City since July 2015 after falling and breaking her leg while out working in her beautiful yard.

She was the first of eight children born to John Lynn Esplin and Amy Heaton Esplin, who resided in Orderville, Utah. Her mother later wrote that when Shirley was three months old the little family went to spend the summer with the sheep herd on the mountain. In the history Shirley wrote about her own life she remembered that she and her siblings were as much at home at the sheep herd with their father as they were at home with their mother! Shirley lived through the great depression but was only aware of it through her school studies – the little town of Orderville was pretty self-sufficient. Shirley was the valedictorian of both her high school and college graduating classes. She was a popular student, passionate about history and politics. She had an artistic streak as well.

Just after she graduated from high school Shirley's father died after falling off a ledge while at the sheep herd. It was a defining moment in their family and changed the dynamics of their life but didn't end Shirley's focus on higher education. She attended the Branch Agricultural College in Cedar City. Shirley received her elementary school teaching certificate and began teaching at the little school house in Newcastle in the fall of 1951. Shirley grew to love the residents of Newcastle and became thoroughly involved in the lives of the Newcastle Ward members. She also taught one year in Cedar City.

Shirley was a gifted writer. She helped her husband Charles when he was bishop of the Newcastle Ward with his talks. She wrote and directed many roadshows and family reunion programs as well as her own life history and her mother's. She sent countless personal letters over the years to friends and family. Her gardening skills were legendary in Newcastle as well as her pie and bread-making.

Shirley met Charles Edwin Hart, Jr. in Newcastle. The Hart family had come to southern

Utah from southern California in 1925 to manage a sheep herd out by Beryl in the Escalante Valley. They married on June 9, 1953 in Orderville, Utah with a sealing in the St. George Temple the following year. To their union was born six children. One of their children, Carolyn, died at 4 months of age, November, 1964. Shirley's husband, Charles, passed away on April 16, 1997 in Newcastle. Their daughter Amy returned home to care for Charles and Shirley in 1996 and is still living in the family home in Newcastle.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Lucy Esplin Sorensen (DeMoin, dec.), her daughter Carolyn Hart and a granddaughter, Whitney (Hart) Christensen. She is survived by her siblings: Lynn (Juanita) Esplin, DeLoy (Grace) Esplin, Jeanette (DeRay) Hugh, Jerry (Lana Gale) Esplin, Carol Esplin Murphy and Verla Esplin Galloway. She is also survived by her children: Nellie (Jan) Doornbos, Lynn Charles (Kaye Beckstead) Hart, Keenan (Jeannine Judd) Hart, Amy Jayne Hart and David (Michelle Molyneaux) Hart as well as sixteen grandchildren, thirty-six great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at the Newcastle Ward building on Main Street in Newcastle on Feb. 9 at 1:00 pm. A viewing will precede the funeral from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Burial will be in the Newcastle Cemetery. The family would like to express their appreciation to the many friends and extended family who have visited her and sent cards and letters, especially the past three years while she has been at the care center and for the employees of the care center for their loving attention to Shirley.

# Events

---

**FEB** **Viewing** 11:00AM - 12:30PM

**9**

---

Newcastle Ward Chapel

North Main Street, Newcastle, UT, US, 84756

**FEB** **Service** 01:00PM

**9**

---

Newcastle Ward Chapel

North Main Street, Newcastle, UT, US, 84756

# Comments

---



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Brent Hugh** - February 12 at 01:36 AM

---



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Brent Hugh** - February 12 at 01:32 AM

---



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Brent Hugh** - February 12 at 01:28 AM

---



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Brent Hugh** - February 12 at 01:09 AM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Video Shirley Hart



**Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah** - February 08 at 12:11 PM

---



“ Shirley was a dear friend during our time living in New Castle. She was always fun to be around.

We had great conversations on our daily walks with two other dear friends, Carma Beacham and Peggy Hilliard. Those were great times and I will always remember them fondly.

I love you, Shirley, and look forward to spending time reminiscing with you on the other side of eternity.

Launa (Charles) Larson.

Snowflake, Arizona.

**Launa Larson** - February 05 at 12:17 PM