

Name Isla Bleazard Teacher Mrs. Cottam School South

	5 - Completely	4 - Pretty much	3 - So, so	2 - Kinda	0 - Not at all
The essay is enjoyable to read and is well written		X			
The essay is original and the student has done own work (sounds like a fourth grader)	X				
The student exhibits knowledge about the pioneer		X			
The student illustrates ancestor's qualities		X			
All required visual requirements are met, i.e. at least 300 words, handwritten or typed, etc.	X				

Score 22 / 25 Possible

4<sup>th</sup> place



# **Joyce Esplin Wasden**

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## Joyce Esplin Wasden

Joyce Esplin was born December 9, 1934 in Shelly Idaho during a winter storm. Her dad called for the doctor, but he could not get there in time and had to deliver her. She was born early and was so small they didn't think she would survive so they put her in a box next to the stove to keep her warm. She was born during the great depression and they did not have much.

Joyce had to grow up early. When she was young she wasn't allowed to play outside or with friends. Her mom had cancer twice, so she was in charge of the cooking, cleaning and washing the clothes. She was a good student and loved her studies. She was so smart she skipped a grade in high school and graduate early. After high school she started studying to become a nurse.

While working as a nurse, Joyce met Leonard Berrett Wasden in 1953. He was from Idaho Falls. He was a patient of hers. He had broke his nose for the third time and needed a pain shot in the bum before surgery. Joyce was supposed to give it to him, but she didn't because she was embarrassed because she thought he was really cute. They ended up dating and they got engaged. They got married on November 18, 1955. Joyce and Berrett had 4 girls. Twins Kelly and Karyn, Whitney and Holly. Joyce worked a lot of long shifts and it was hard on her to be away from her family.

Joyce was always helping other people. She was serving as the Relief Society president when she heard about a family that was homeless and the mom had cancer. Joyce would drive out to the desert where they lived and give the mom pain shots for free. Eventually the mom died and her daughter Laure, who was 16, came to live with Joyce and her family. She was like another daughter to them. They raised her until she was an



adult. Joyce and Berrett were always helping people in need and I look up to them for being such kind people.

Berrett was in the air force and they lived all over. While living in New York he decided to go back to school and got his business degree. In 1966 Barrett and Joyce went on to franchise Hallmark stores. They had 28 stores in total all throughout Nevada, Utah and California. He sold all the stores in 1982.

Joyce had a hard few years as Barrett was diagnosed with diabetes and eventually died from complications in 1998. Three years later her youngest daughter Holly and her grandson Benjamin passed away sadly from a car accident.

Joyce was an amazing great grandma. She would always tell me stories and she loved being around her family. She loved chocolate and salty foods, especially butter! One thing I remember about her is whenever I would go in her room she would always give me candy. Joyce has 20 grandchildren and 55 great-grandchildren and counting. She was loved and she is missed. She died from heart failure on May 12, 2018.