

Strong Like Margaret

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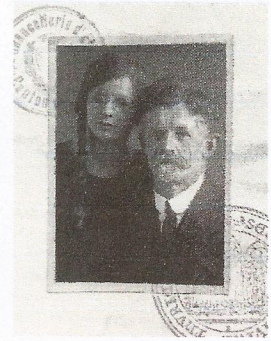
Dora Margaret Heppley Strasser

Born in Zurich, Switzerland 1912

Died in Bountiful, Utah 2011

My great-grandmother is Dora Margaret Heppley Strasser. I'm named after her. My middle name is Margaret, too. She died 9 months before I was born so I never got to meet her, but I've heard stories about her and she is one amazing lady!

She was brave. I've seen pictures of Switzerland and I don't know if I could leave all those pretty mountains and all that yummy chocolate, but when she was 12, she left it all behind to come to America. Her family had joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and they wanted to gather to Utah. In 1924, she boarded a big ship to start her new life in a new country. She moved to Logan and started 6th grade right away not knowing any English. That would take a lot of courage and hope! Thankfully her teacher had served a mission in Germany so he knew German and helped her learn the new language. Her bravery gives me courage to try hard, new things.



She was strong. In 1918 when Margaret was 6, her mother wanted to come to America, but knew she couldn't yet because she had an enlarged thyroid gland, or a goiter. She couldn't pass the physical exam for immigrants. She decided to have surgery to remove the goiter, but she died three days after. Margaret remembers seeing her mother in the casket. That would be so sad and hard. Her family helped each other and her oldest sister, Elise, who was 20 years older, helped to care for her. Eventually, Margaret, her two sisters, her two brothers and her dad all made it to America. I can be strong like my great-grandma and keep going even when life is sad.

She was a hard worker. Life was hard during the Great Depression. At first, she started babysitting neighborhood children and earned 50 cents per evening. When she was a senior in high school, she was lucky to get a job at the ZCMI store in Salt Lake. She worked there for 6 years only earning \$12 per week. That wasn't much, but every little bit helped and she was glad she could work. I can be grateful for what I have and learn to work hard, too.

Even though I've never met her, I love my great-grandma. I know if I can be like her, I'll be okay.

