

Charles Etta Dunlap Thompson

Born in Comanche County in 1898, Charles Etta Dunlap went to school in Proctor, Texas, and later trained to be a teacher. As was traditional for the times, her teaching career ended when she married Cicero Taylor Thompson.

They lived in Dublin, Texas, where their seven children were born. After the Great Depression hit, the family first moved to the Roch Community near Proctor, and then to Rotan and Sweetwater.

Her youngest son, Alan Thompson, said, "I can't imagine how she was able to cook and keep house for a family of nine, and still crochet and make quilts." She also wrote poetry.

Her husband died in 1947. To support herself and her children still at home, Charles Etta took in laundry.

When she died in Sweetwater in 1958, Charles Etta left a legacy of quilts, doilies, crocheted and tatted trims, and embroidery. The doilies shown here are in the collection of her grandson, Gary L. Wade.



Leaf-shaped doilies or table mats like the one above are unusual.

The pattern for the Black Eyed Susan Doily at left was published in January 1949 in Coats & Clark O. N. T. #258 Floral Doilies leaflet (pattern #D-207). The pattern also appeared in a leaflet called Floral Doilies for Crocheting.



The ruffle around the edge of the doily above can be starched or pressed flat to look like flowers. The color stripes are very crisp, because some of the rounds are crocheted "in the back loop only."



One edge of this towel has a knitted trim (at left), while the other side is trimmed with crochet. Charles Etta Dunlap Thompson was not known to knit, but she may have tried it once. Or maybe this towel's trim was made by someone else among her friends or family.