

## Charlotte Serber by Libby Lampert

In 1943, Charlotte Serber, with her husband, physicist Dr. Robert Serber followed J. Robert Oppenheimer to Santa Fe, New Mexico where they were part of the first wave of young scientists and their families who founded Los Alamos, home of The Manhattan Project. The birthplace of the atomic bomb, which just 2 years later would kill over 2 million predominantly Japanese civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Ending WW2 and beginning what would become a never-ending debate over the morality of using such a weapon.

But back in 1943, Charlotte was one of many Los Alamos wives who worked on site at Los Alamos in a variety of capacities. Oppenheimer appointed Charlotte to her job as the sites only Librarian – a “Scientific Librarian” whose role included tracking and storing top secret government documents. When Charlotte accepted her role, the library was virtually empty. She and her staff would fill it with books and documents, and it would become known as a bustling social hub.

*From Oppenheimer's Thank You letter to Charlotte:*

“Certainly, it would be right that you take pride in a job well done – an integral and a most important one, in this strange, but rather heroic undertaking.”