

JABEZ ERASTUS DURFEE

by Cecelia Arthema Durfee Tolman

Jabez Erastus Durfee was born at Ceder City, Iron County, Utah, on the 11 day of May in the year 1854. Four children were born in Ceder City and then the family according to records moved to Springville, Utah. Here the rest of the family was born.

Grandfather Jabez Durfee built them a large home on main street in Springville. The home still stands and is being used at the time of this writing, 1963. It is in good shape. It stands on the north side of main street in Springville just before you go under the viaduct going south. See picture of family home at the end of story.

Grandfather was always busy here in Springville as usual. He bought a large tract of land which he planted into orchards, vineyards, and gardens. He raised cattle, bees, chickens, pigs, and the family was kept busy on the farm. He was talented and made many useful things such as wagon making, surveying, etc. There wasn't anything he could not do. He learned somewhere along the line to pull teeth, which he did a lot of. He served as the town dentist almost every place he lived.

Both father and grandfather were real wheel wrights. While in Springville they worked together most of the time. While here they built a little wagon about half as large as a big wagon. This they used to haul fruit in or anything else that needed moving. It was used by neighbors far and near. When grandfather died, the wagon went to my father, and it was a prized possession of the family. It had a short tongue where two people could take hold and pull it very handy. Sometimes we would put a long tongue on it and hitch a horse to it and let him pull it. I remember sometimes when the wind was blowing right we would put a sail on it load it with people and away we would go with one person sitting in the front holding the tongue up and guiding it. It was a lot of fun until we had to pull it back home against the wind, which was a great struggle. See picture of wagon filled with us kids.

Some time while they lived in Springville, another family by the name of Kendall moved there and built a home just south of them on the same street. The father was Lievi Newell Kendall, and the mother, Elizabeth Clements. They had a large family of boys and girls. See picture of Kendall family.

By dates of births of these two families, they lived in Springville about the same time and raised their families. They became good friends and neighbors, and I suppose had things in common. As the years went by, Jabez Erastus Durfee and Sarah Elizabeth Kendall became fast friends that finally ripened into true love and they were married on the 26th of January 1874, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah.

They continued to live in Springville for a time and worked as always with his father on the farm. Their first child, Sarah Annie was born there, but by the time the next child was born, Erastus, they had moved to a place named Willow Bend in Sevier County, Utah, which is now changed to Aurora. When William was born they were back in Springville, perhaps to dispose of their belongings. Celestia was born by that time. Both families, Grandfather Durfee and father had moved to Willow Bend, where they started all over to make a new home. They worked hard and made good headway. Grandfather Jabez died at Aurora and Grandmother Celestia Curtis Durfee died there also. They were both buried at Aurora, Utah.

The next four children were born at Aurora, Elizabeth, Eleanor, Deuvaldia, then myself Cecelia Arthema. About this time my father married two more women, and the law got on his trail, and to get away from the marshals, father pulled up stakes and made another move south to a place named Aldridge. Here he went to work and as always planted, orchards, vineyards, gardens, etc. He worked very hard and soon had things going in that place, but our only home in that place was under a ledge in the side of the hill, the ledge serving as our roof. The next member of the family was born there, and he was named Perry. It was such an out of the way place, and no doctor close by. I wonder how mother and baby survived. Father liked the place for somehow he had caught the spirit of pioneering, and from then on he was ever on the move. He would just stay in one place long enough to get things going good, then he would be on the move again. Another son, Charles was born at Aldridge, Wayne County, Utah, then a sister Ruth. Soon after this, father moved to another place called Sand Creek, just a little further south, in fact, just around the bend. Here he started all over again. He built flumes, tunnels, and what not to try and get water on his place. We all worked hard here. We had sad times and happy times here. We had no neighbors in miles of us, so the family had to be contented just living as a family. We had good times as well as bad. Father planted an orchard, a vineyard, and put in beautiful gardens. He always planted a watermelon patch, one for us and one for the Indians, and at watermelon time, the Indians would come in big groups and camp along the river and feast on the melons. We thought it great sport. It was at least something different, some company. We learned many things from them.

We had such a time getting water on our place, so father gave up and moved again. This time to a nice little town called Cainsville. Cora May and Alvin were born there. Here we had neighbors, the Pestols, Carrols, Ames, Hanks, and many others. We liked it here and soon were settled in a nicer house than we had ever had. Soon we had an orchard, vineyard, and garden stuff, and everything went fine. We made many friends here and had many good times together. The little town was a garden of Eden, nestled down between the mountains. Father built several houses here along with a meeting house. We just got it finished when father was on the move again. This time to far away Mexico. He got two big wagons, a little wagon, and a white top buggy and loaded them to the brim. We bade goodbye to our dear old friends and left. It was a sad day. We went by team and wagon for many a day in the hot sun and rain until we reached El Paso, Texas. Here we chartered a car on a train and went the rest of the way by rail, landing in Colony Dublan late one afternoon in the early spring of 1895. We stayed there only a short time, then moved on to a place called Galeana, where some of father's brothers lived. We helped there for the summer with the farm work, then we went back to Dublan where father bought a piece of land, on which he built us a brick home, but we lived in our wagons while father made the brick and built the home. The last child Lydia was born in Dublan in 1899.

We soon got acquainted here and went to work with a will and had things fine. Father and mother spent 14 years in Old Mexico. He had a blacksmith shop and farmed part time. He helped build reservoirs and a canal.

In 1909 the revolution broke out around the Mexican border and in 1912 we were forced to flee for our lives. We went to El Paso, Texas. After staying two months, hoping we could go back to our home, father finally gave up hope.

Jabez Erastus Durfee - continued

The United States Government paid our train fare to Aurora, where father wanted to go. They spent the first winter in Idaho with mother's folks, whom they had not seen for a long time.

Father bought a small home in Aurora and a sawmill and ran a blacksmith shop part of the time. He went to the Colorado River to pan for gold but had bad luck. He and his two sons, Charles and Alvin, nearly starved to death before they arrived back home. Father ran his sawmill for several years then sold it to Ezra Curtis and helped them move it to Wayne County.

Father was a church worker, serving two years as a missionary in the Eastern States. He was a seventy at the time of his death.

He worked on a thresher in the fall of 1925, taking grain and wheat to the flour mill. One evening on his way home from the mill, his team ran away from him and he fell from the wagon and was run over. He lived for 12 hours and passed away at Lyman, Utah. He was buried in the Aurora Cemetery in November, 1925.

Family descendants now:
ZEBER and GE and
DANIEL and LORI and
CHARLES and HE and
DANIEL and ERIN and
DANIEL and ERIN and DALE

and their spouses and
and their spouses and

Married 26 Jan. 1874

Salt Lake City Endowment House



Jabez Erastus Durfee
born 11 May 1854
Ceder City, Iron, Utah
Died 15 Nov. 1925
Lyman, Wayne, Utah
Buried Aurora, Sevier, Utah



Sarah Elizabeth Kendall
Born 20 Dec. 1855
Salt Lake City, Utah
Died 31 Jan. 1929
Auroara, Sevier, Utah
Buried Aurora, Sevier, Utah

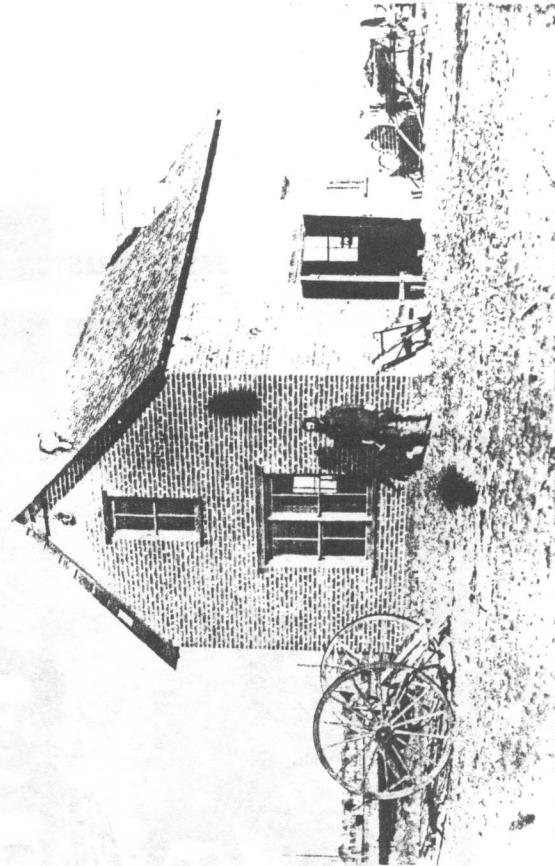
JABEZ ERASTUS AND SARAH ELIZABETH (KENDALL) DURFEE
WITH THEIR SMALL FAMILY. Cainesville



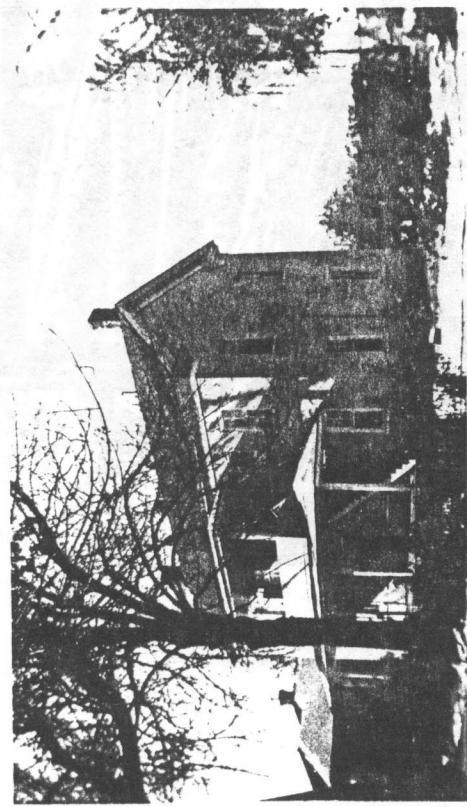
Celestia, Elizabeth, Deuvaldia, Cecelia
Estella, Perry, Charles, Ruth, Cora, Alvin



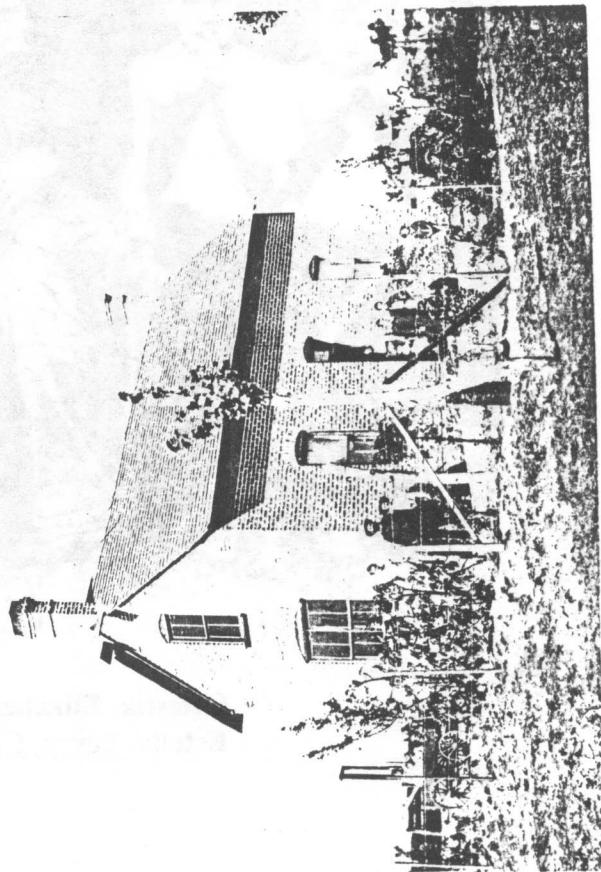
Wagon filled with us children when we
were in Dublan Mexico



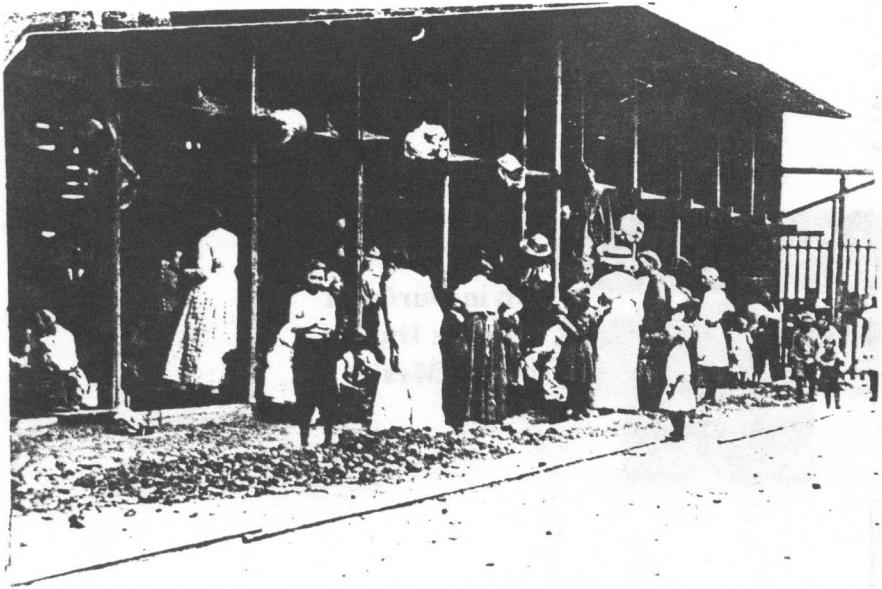
Jabez Erastus Durfee's Blacksmith Shop
in Dublan Mexico



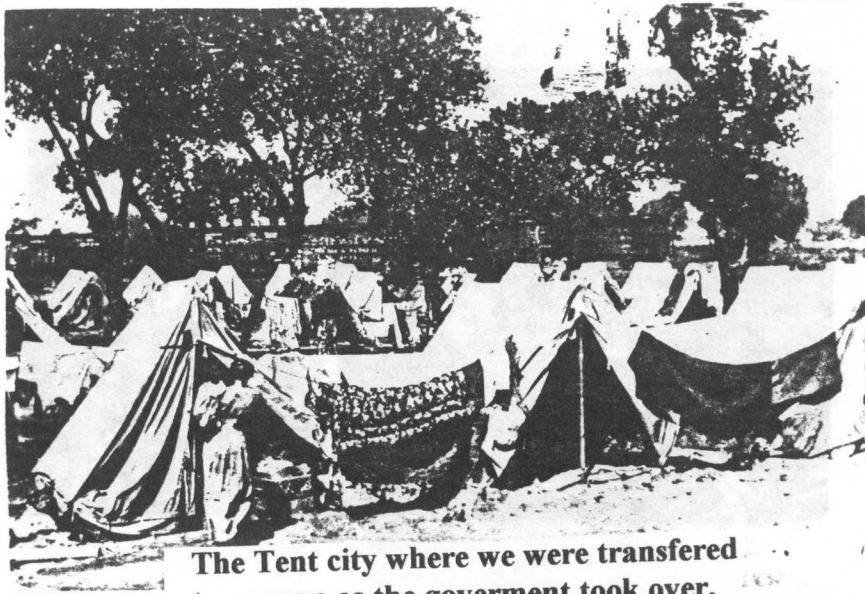
Fathers boyhood home in Springville
as it stands in 1962



Jabez Erastus Durfee's home in
Dublan Mexico



The lumber yard where we were put, when we got to El Paso, TX.



The Tent city where we were transferred to as soon as the goverment took over.

Our family tent in El Paso Texa





**Alvin Durfee at
Colonia Dublan
in Old Mexico**



**Our exodus from the
Colonies in Mexico**



A blessing given by Moroni Lazenby, Patriarch, upon the head of Jabez Erastus Durfee, son of Jabez Durfee and Celestia Curtis Durfee, born May 11th, 1854 at Cedar City, Iron County, Utah.

Brother Durfee, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as a Patriarch in Israel, I place my hands upon your head, and according to your desires confer upon you a Patriarchal Blessing, and pray the Lord that He will make clear to your understanding that which He would have you know at this time. Your lineage is of Joseph through the loins of Ephraim. You are therefore an heir to the promise and legal heir to the Holy Priesthood. Your life's labors here upon the earth are before our Heavenly Father, ad He has approved of every righteous deed that you have performed. Your prayers and earnest desires have ascended up to Him on many occasions and have been accounted unto you for righteousness. Your course in life has in the main been approved of the Lord and there awaits you an exaltation in His Kingdom. Lucifer has been permitted to try you from many angles and has seemingly thwarted many of your righteous desires, and the experiences which have come to you by reason of this has many times brought sorrow to your soul, but I say unto you that no righteous desire of your heart in the past has failed, but the day will come that they will receive fruition and you will rejoice in the experiences that have come to you, for the trials and troubles that you have met while in mortality, shall prove a rich heritage to you in the future, and your name shall be numbered among the Redeemed of our Father's children and after your earthly mission is closed you shall be remembered for the charity that you have manifested for the children of men, for you have ever been ready, according to your means and ability to succor those in need, and though at times your motive have been misunderstood, our Heavenly Father has always been cognizant of your desires, and has been pleased with your willingness to serve Him under all circumstances.

If you shall continue faithful you shall be blest with the blessings of this earth that you may not be brought to want, but shall always have those things that are necessary for your sustainance. Inasmuch as you shall desire it and ask the Lord in faith, the way shall be opened whereby you may do work in the Temples of our God both for the living and the dead, whereby you may become a savior upon Mt. Zion. You may yet have the power in the Priesthood in greater abundance than you have had in the past, so that you may administer with power among the afflicted of our Father's children, and your influence shall be for good continually, and when the time comes for you to leave this sphere of activity, you shall go to your reward, with peace in your soul and be welcomed in the side by those who have gone before. Rejoice therefore in the mercies of the Lord, for His hand has been over you and His blessings will continue with you, and of your posterity many shall arise who shall be righteous, by whom your name shall be honored.

I seal you up to come forth in a glorious Resurrection and inherit Eternal Life, to rule and reign in the house of Israel forever, and then you shall see the desires of your heart, and the righteous longings of your soul will find full fruition, and you will be satisfied with your mortal life. These blessings shall be yours if you continue faithful for I seal them upon you in the name of Jesus Christ.....Amen

Blessing pronounced upon the head of Elder Jabez Erastus Durfee, prior to his going on a mission to the North Western States under the hands of Apostle Franklin D. Richards and Elder John Jacques, -- (Brother F.D. Richards being mouth) -- at the Historian's office, Salt Lake City, Utah, Wednesday, January 21st, 1885.

Brother Jabez Erastus Durfee: In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we lay our hands upon your head, and we set you apart to go upon a mission to the United States, to the North Eastern States and to any and all such places, where your lot may be cast, that you may preach the Gospel to your fellow creatures and warn them of the judgments that are to come, and to teach them of the acceptable year of the Lord our God. And we ask God our Father that He will bless you at this time and from this moment forth with every blessing that you shall need, both temporal and spiritual. And we say unto you, Brother Jabez, seek of the Lord and open your heart and receive ye the spirit and the power of this holy calling, that it may be with you, that it may dwell in you until it shall permeate all your nature and hallow every emotion, and faculty and sense of your being into the full and acceptable and perfect service of the Lord our God. Now therefore seek from this time on that you may have the spirit and power of this calling burning in you and working in you to the uttermost, and humble yourself with mighty prayer before the Lord and call upon him daily and continually for his Holy Spirit, for without this you can do nothing of any value to build up His Kingdom, but with this ye can be made and shall be made mighty from God unto the rebuking of immeasurable prejudice and darkness and blindness of mind which is upon the people; for truly they are given up many of them to believe lies that they may be damned, because they have pleasure in inrighteousness, therefore, Dear Brother, gird up the loins of your mind and put on the whole armor of God, and your boldness and faith shall increase, you shall go in safety and be preserved from all great dangers by land or by water, in all ways that you shall have to journey, and the Lord shall give you grace in the eyes of all those whom you meet and with whom you have to do. And His angels shall go before you and be on either hand and be your rearward, and they shall preserve you safely in the midst of dangers, threatening and terrible, and the salvation of our God shall be given to you to the uttermost for your blessing, the blessing of the Lord our God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the blessing of your fathers and grandfathers

shall be upon you, and you shall realize and know that their blessings and care and watch be over you to do you good and guide you to those persons and to those places where they will receive your testimony. Therefore, Dear Brother, search the scriptures, treasure up knowledge and understanding of them and the Lord shall give you the revelations of his Holy Will to understand those scriptures and to bring forth out of the treasures of your heart in the very moment and time just what you shall say to the proper persons, and how you shall say it, and the testimonies of the Holy Ghost shall go with your testimonies to the hearts of the honest and virtuous and the good, and they shall know that you are a servant of God. They shall know that you teach the principles of the everlasting Gospel for God will make them to know it by dreams, by visions and by your testimonies and by the working of the spirit in their hearts.

And be nothing daunted, trust in the Lord, who has promised to make the ignorant and the feeble to be learned and strong, and full of wisdom, for he will make the wisdom of the wise to perish and the understanding of the prudent to be hid, through the faithfulness of His servants in the Latter days. And teach them the faith of the Holy Gospel, teach the restoration of the Gospel and of the church and Kingdom of God on the earth, teach them of the renewing of the work of God to establish righteousness on the earth and to put away iniquity from before His face, and teach them of the great and mighty work of the gathering which the Lord is doing that He is making to Himself a name and a praise great and glorious in the earth that no man can gainsay in building up a government of men and teaching them the way of the Lord that they might walk in His paths having learned of His ways, and, Dear Brother, you shall be mighty inasmuch as you seek unto God earnestly every day, and the gifts of the gospel shall be abundantly shown forth in you. You shall be mighty in word and doctrine and none shall have power to gainsay you nor the instructions that you shall give. The blessings of the Gospel shall follow you; you shall heal the sick in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be able to turn away evil spirits and they who come into your presence full of wrath and indignation shall be turned away and their spirits softened because of the influence of the Son of Righteousness shining forth from you to take away that evil spirit, and thus you shall feel that those spirits are subject to you in the name of the Lord, and you shall be blessed with all needed good. You shall not go hungry nor

naked nor destitute, but you shall have faith to ask and He will open the hearts of the children of men to minister unto you. And remember, Dear Brother, that it is your duty thus to go leaning on the Lord, trusting in the goodness of the people that you may prove them who are the children of God and who are not, for thereby you shall know his disciples for they will feed and clothe you and give you money. And you shall be blessed with all needed blessings of understanding truth and things temporal and spiritual, so that you shall be able to do a good mission, and rebuke a great deal of prejudice and shall bring souls into the Church and Kingdom of God, that shall rejoice with you in His Eternal Kingdom in the Latter days. Remember, Dear Brother, that whatsoever you shall ask of the Lord that you shall need to advance His work you can ask of Him and He will grant it unto you, and now I seal upon you all of your former blessings and ordinances that you have received at any time, and promises by any of the servants of God that they shall be and abide with you. And I say unto you go forth in confidence trusting in God, then though you go trembling, bearing precious seed, you shall return after many days after the time allotted and you shall bring the sheaves with you, and you shall rejoice when you return with songs of everlasting joy. Dear Brother, remember the evils that are in the world, you are going out from the fortress of Zion into the warfare of a wicked and unfriendly world. Let not your heart be moved in the least toward women, nor toward wine, nor toward anything that can violate your faith or impair your power of usefulness. Keep the commandments of God, keep your covenants and walk holily and worthily before Him, and He shall do better for you than you know how to ask, and when you have proven yourself a faithful minister of the Gospel in the earth you shall labor in Zion and prove yourself a savior upon Mount Zion and bring many sons and daughters to God, and we bless you with these blessings and with all whatsoever you need whereby you shall bear a faithful testimony and be at the head of a worthy race and generation which He will give unto you, that you may live to glorify Him in this world and in the world which is to come. And these with all other blessings that your heart can desire, and that will be beneficial for you, we seal upon you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by virtue of the Holy Apostleship.....even so....Amen