

# Family Group Record

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## Husband Alvin DURFEE

Born	3 NOV 1896	Kanesville, Wayne, Ut	Bapt	3 NOV 1904
Blessed			Endow	14 AUG 1911 SLAKE
Died	1 MAR 1957	Holladay, S-Lk, Ut	SealP	BIC
Buried	5 MAR 1957	Gardens of Vallee, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah	SealS	16 AUG 1922 SLAKE
Married	16 AUG 1922	Salt Lake, Salt Lake, Utah, USA		
Father	Jabez Erastus DURFEE	Mother	Sarah Elizabeth KENDALL	

## Wife Minnie Meleta TOLMAN

Born	25 NOV 1903	Chesterfield, Bannock, Idaho, USA	Bapt	25 NOV 1911
Blessed			Endow	16 AUG 1922 SLAKE
Died	19 JUN 1995	Hurricane, Washington, Utah, USA	SealP	BIC
Buried	23 JUN 1995	Sandy, Salt Lake, Utah, USA	SealS	
Father	Judson Adoniram TOLMAN	Mother	Jennie CALL	

## Children

1 M	Judson Alvin DURFEE	Spouse		
	Born	17 JAN 1924	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah	Bapt 17 JUL 1933
	Blessed			Endow 16 APR 1965 SLAKE
	Died			SealP BIC
	Buried			SealS
	Married			
2 F	Meleta DURFEE	Spouse		
	Born	3 JUL 1925	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah	Bapt 17 JUL 1933
	Blessed			Endow 8 NOV 1945
	Died			SealP BIC
	Buried			SealS
	Married			
3 F	LaJuana DURFEE	Spouse		
	Born	11 OCT 1927	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah	Bapt 30 NOV 1935
	Blessed			Endow 20 JUN 1946 SLAKE
	Died			SealP BIC
	Buried			SealS
	Married			
4 F	Conna DURFEE	Spouse		
	Born	7 JUL 1929	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah	Bapt 5 FEB 1938
	Blessed			Endow 19 DEC 1949 MANTI
	Died			SealP BIC
	Buried			SealS
	Married			
5 M	Milo Vaughn DURFEE	Spouse		
	Born	15 JUL 1931	Lyman, Wayne, Ut	Bapt 14 JAN 1940
	Blessed			Endow 23 JAN 1953
	Died	19 NOV 1973	Salt Lake, Salt Lake, Utah	SealP BIC
	Buried	21 NOV 1973	Taylorsville, Salt Lake, Utah	SealS
	Married			
6 M	Tolman Leon DURFEE	Spouse		
	Born	13 JUN 1933	Loa, Wayne, Ut	Bapt CHILD
	Blessed			Endow CHILD
	Died	13 APR 1940		SealP BIC
	Buried			SealS
	Married			
Prepared 1 DEC 1997 by:		Comments:		
Marcia D. Chisholm 302 West 1850 South 181-9 Hurricane, Utah 84737 435-635-9205				

**Family Group Record**

Husband Alvin DURFEE  
Wife Minnie Meleta TOLMAN

**Children**F **Nathella DURFEE**

Born	26 SEP 1937	Spouse	Sept 29 SEP 1945
Blessed			Endow 2 DEC 1960 SLAKE
Died			SealP BIC
Buried			SealS
Married			

F **Marcia Drucilla DURFEE**

Born	2 APR 1940	Spouse	Darrell Edward CHISHOLM
Blessed	5 MAY 1949		Sept 1 MAY 1948
Died		Hurricane, Washington, Utah, USA	Endow 15 JAN 1960 SLAKE
Buried		Hurricane, Washington, Utah, USA	SealP BIC
Married	15 JAN 1960	Salt Lake, Salt Lake, Utah, USA	SealS 15 JAN 1960 SLAKE

Prepared 1 DEC 1997 by:

Marcia D. Chisholm

Comments:

A HISTORY OF THE LIFE OF



*Alvin Durfee*

written by his daughter  
Marcia Durfee Chisholm

Alvin was born on Nov. 3, 1896 to Jabez Erastus Durfee and Sarah Elizabeth Kendall at Cainesville, Utah. He was the 12th child in his family. His mother was the first wife. His father practiced polygamy and it appears he had two other wives at the time of his birth. His father moved the family around a lot. He would settle and farm a place and just when it began to do well he would move on. After the manifesto was signed, he moved his families to Mexico. This was in 1898. Dad would have been about 2 years old at that time. It was about a 6 weeks journey. They were short of means, so they would have to stop along the way in every little town where their father would help farmers repair their wagons, plows and farm implements, for which he would take as pay such things as milk or any kind of food stuff, perhaps some cash. When they came to a river they would camp and do their washing, take a swim for their bath. When their father took fruit for pay, they would stop by the roadside and bottle some of it, so they could use it later on in the journey. When they passed through a pine forests, they would camp and gather pine cones and build a fire to roast the nuts, these they would eat along the way. Often their meals consisted of wild game, such as rabbits and quail, shot along the way. They stopped in El Paso on Oct. 5, 1898 and stayed for a week while their father sold one team and buggy and chartered a freight car to take them on to Dublan by train.

Jabez built his shop and started doing blacksmith work for the public. He also acted as a dentist there as well as other places they lived. At Dublan, they bought a piece of land and they lived in their wagons and tents while their father built an oven and made the bricks so he could build a home. Jabez also bought some land on the out-skirts of town and started to farm.

Alvin had another sister while they lived in Mexico making 13 children in his family and apparently his father married at least one more wife or possibly two while in Mexico. His father had 7 or 8 children by 3 or 4 other wives. A total of 24 children

When the civil war in Mexico got bad the Latter-day Saints were advised to leave that land, at least until conditions were better. They had beautiful homes and farms, everyone was prosperous and happy. The Government came and took their guns and ammunition, and all their best horses, and worst of all would not promise them protection. There were six colonies of Mormon people, all with fine homes, but under the guidance and council of the United States Government and the leaders of the church they all left. This was Sept. of 1912. They were only allowed a trunk full of

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clothes to a family, and they all had big families. They packed , stored and hid things so the Mexicans wouldn't find them until they could get back.

They were told to be ready to take the next train, however all trains were cut off along with communications. After several days a train finally got through. They had two hours to gather together their belongings and go to the train station. It was one o'clock in the morning, but no train came. The people all stayed assembled although it had started a slow drizzling rain. Some of the brethren were called on to speak to the people to ease their tensions. The remark was made that "even the heavens wept on this night" when they were all turned from their homes.

All livestock had just been turned loose because all the boxcars that were there had all ready been loaded with trunks. Along about 5:30 in the morning the priesthood was called together to pray that whatever was holding up the train would let it come and take the people to safety. In about 30 minutes, the message came through that the train had reached Pearson and that it would be on to Dublan within the hour. When the train arrived the train crew told us they had been stopped by rebel soldiers on the other side of Pearson. The rebels were going to hang the crew but a fear came over them and so the crew was turned loose. They knew this and been an answer to their prayer.

The women and children and old men were allowed on. The older children especially the girls were told to climb on top of the train or hang on to the sides of the train. The men and older boys were left to make the 150 mile journey on their own. My father was 15 years old at this time. His older sister Cecelia and his brother Charles both stated that they rode on the top of the train and so I assume father did also. The train moved very slowly. They went to El Paso, Texas, where the government had a lumber yard to house them until other arrangements could be made. A tent city was set up while families waited for the men and boys that were left behind on foot and horseback to arrive. After about a week of great concern, they heard the men were safe and would be coming in a few days. A few brave men sneaked back to see how things looked, and found all the places ransacked and many of them burned and the things of value were all carried off. Many of their homes were being occupied by the Mexicans. Dad's father took his family to Aurora, Utah. From there the family scattered in search of work never to return to the homeland. His mother and the younger ones went to her mother's place in Oxford, Idaho. We are not sure where Alvin went at this time, however his sister Ruth told about a time when Jabez with two of his sons, Charles and Alvin, went to the Colorado River to pan for gold but had bad luck and nearly starved to death before they arrived back home.

Meleta remembers a story about Dad being inducted in the army during World War I . As she remembers it, a truck was sent to pick up all the new inductees. They were put in the back of a large open bed truck with rail around it. They had loaded everyone one aboard and were just putting the guard rail on the back of the truck when they received word that the armistice had been signed. So they took off the rail guard and told the men they could go home. History tells us that the armistice was signed Nov. 11 1918. He would have been 22 year old at that time.

His education was limited to the 8th grade, which was normal for that time period. He would have liked to have gone to school longer , but his father needed him on the farm. He had a great gift for math. I have been told he could figure out difficult problems in

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his head. However, when he tried to help his children with their math homework, they discovered that his methods of calculating was not like that which they were taught in school. His method was unique to him, apparently one he came up with himself, but it was accurate and fast.

We know when he was a young man he visited his sister Cecelia who had married Judson Adoniram Tolman a widow with 4 daughters. While there Minnie, the oldest daughter, caught his eye. She was very young, about 7 years younger than he. At some point he decided to wait for her to grow up so he could marry her. He must of said something to her because it was reported that she was heard to say she would never marry him if he was the last person on earth. A story is told that he told Mom that they would marry on the same day, and if they didn't he would built her a home. He claimed he had to marry her because he couldn't afford to build two homes. He must of won her over because just before her 19th birthday they married on Aug. 16, 1922 in the Salt Lake Temple. Dad was 25 at that time.

Their first home was on the out skirts of Salt Lake City in a place known as Chesterfield, Utah. There they spent their first winter and summer. Alvin worked for a contractor the following winter. He went to work at Bingham in the copper mines. Their marriage was fruitful, however Minnie had several miscarriages before prematurely giving birth to Judson, on Jan. 17 of 1924. As I understand it he was born in a hospital in Salt Lake City. Mother was so unhappy with her hospital experience that the rest of her children were born at home.

They then moved to Wayne County where Alvin's brother lived. Minnie was so home sick that she went back to Salt Lake City. After a few weeks he followed. They lived with Minnie's Aunt Charlotte up until Meleta was born on the 3rd of July, 1925. When she was three weeks old, they left Salt Lake City and went back to Lyman, Utah, Wayne County where he was working for his brother.

Alvin bought an interest in a sawmill on Thousand Lake with a fellow by the name of Paul Christenson. They lived at the sawmill in the summer and in town in the winter. They lived in Lyman two years, Minnie was pregnant with LaJuana and her father was worried about her, so he came and got her and took her back to his home until the baby was born. On the 11th of October, 1927 La Juana was born and it was good that she was in Salt Lake because there was problems with the birth. As soon as Alvin could, he came to Salt Lake. They stayed and helped Minnie's parents make candy part of the winter, and then they went to Aurora and lived the rest of the winter. When summer came, they went to work out at Johns Valley for a man by the name of Penny. They stayed the summer there, then Alvin went to Wyoming to work on a contracting job, and when spring came, he went to work on the gas line.

On July 7th 1929 Conna joined the family. After Conna was born, the depression hit, and there was no work to be found in the city, so they were forced once more to move back to 'Wayne County. Here Alvin could work on farms and get enough to live on. It was while they were there that Milo Vaughn was born on the 15th of July, 1931. Then in the year of 1933 on the 13th of June their 6th child arrived. They named this baby Tolman Leon.

By this time the depression was really bad, and there was no money anywhere. President Roosevelt was elected and he made some projects, which put the men to

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work that didn't have a job. Alvin joined the C.C.C. camp, so he could have work while they got started in a new part of the country, which they had seen on our way on a trip to California after oranges with his brother Charles. This little town was Hurricane, Utah. They liked Hurricane very much. The people were friendly and soon they felt right at home.

After they had lived there for about a year, Alvin got out of the C.C.C. camp and went to work for Bishop Johnson on the sawmill. They bought a piece of property from Brother Labaren and, with the lumber that he worked for, they built a home. It was a two room place with one room upstairs. They had to keep a tent, that they had lived in on Robert Callahans place while they were building, outside for a bedroom. The weather never got too cold so it was all right. He also worked at the Church Cannery at some point and any place he could to earn money for the family needs.

It was while they were here that they were blessed with their 7th child which was a little girl. They named her Nathella, and she was born on the 26th of September, 1937.

When Nathella was about one year old, they sold their place and bought a place by the Covingtons, a friend. In fact, it was on some of their property. This time they built a larger house with two stories - four rooms and a bath on the bottom floor and space to build three bedrooms up stairs. After they had moved into the new home they had their 8th child. This one was another little girl, born the 2nd of April, 1940. Her name is Marcia Drucilla. It was during the birth of this child that the doctor thought for a while that Minnie would never make it, but our Father had heard her prayers and she came back to life. It was while she was in bed with this child that their youngest boy, Tolman Leon, took sick with quick pneumonia. They were so concerned about Minnie that they didn't notice he was so sick until it was to late to save him, so they laid him away the 13th of April 1940, in the little cemetery of Hurricane, Utah. Minnie wasn't able to go to his funeral, but they took it all down in shorthand and had it typed up for her to read afterwards.

After Marcia was a year and a half, Alvin left Hurricane and went back to Salt Lake City, Utah to find work. During that time, World War II broke out, and he sent for his family to come to Salt Lake, which they did. They moved into an apartment owned by one of Minnie's aunts on her mothers side.

After this, Judson was called into the army and was taken into the far east. Alvin and Minnie both worked at the Arms Plant. They sold their home in Hurricane, and bought a new home on Hartford Street and 27th south

When Judson married, They sold him the home on Hartford Street and moved out to Holladay, in Minnie's fathers home, where they could be near Cecilia, so she wouldn't be alone. She built on to her garage, making it into a nice little home where she could be by herself a little.

Alvin was working at this time at South High School as a custodian. He was well liked by the students because of his pleasant nature. He was a tease and enjoyed people. After their move to Holladay the Stake President approached him and asked if he would please consider becoming the custodian for the new stake center. He made that change and was close to his work. Again he was greatly loved by those he served. He was very willing to meet their need and very pleasant to work with.

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He didn't like to discipline his children. Apparently his father was very strict and he felt he was too harsh. He wanted his children to love him and was afraid to be too strict, so he left the disciplining to Minnie. However, if you got him mad enough he took action and you didn't forget it. He was known by his children to be a gentle loving father.

He loved to plan trips. He would get a map out and study all the possibilities. He said the planning was as fun as the trip itself.

He loved sporting event especially basketball and would sometimes attend the BYU basketball game with Milo who was attending school there. It was the evening after attending one such game that he died suddenly .It was March 1, 1957. Probably from a heart attack. It was a shock to his family because he seemed very healthy and active at the time.

A point of interest: Alvin has an ancestor Benjamin Franklin who is the uncle of the Benjamin Franklin in History.