

Alice Nelson Carter 1868 -1931

Alice Nelson Carter was born in St. George, Washington County, Utah, on August 18, 1868, the third child of 11 children born to Aaron Nelson and Selina Palfreyman Nelson. She was born in the Thompson home, and small house located on the same block the Aaron Nelson home was built.

Alice was a premature baby and was very small and at 2 years of age when her sister Mary (Polly) was born, she wasn't walking. The Nelson family had just moved into their new adobe home at the time of Mary's birth. Alice's mother and the new baby lay on a clean, freshly filled straw mattress on the floor and Alice would crawl onto the bed to be with her mother and baby sister.

Aaron's first wife, Mary Staniforth Nelson, suggested that she take Alice to live with her in the cotton factory in Washington, a small town near St. George, until Selina was stronger and able to care for her 4 children.

Alice lived with her "Mammy", as she lovingly called her new mother, until Mary Staniforth died on April 24, 1880. At the age of 12 Alice moved back into her home in St. George where she joined several sisters and one brother.

Alice had many pleasant memories of the years in her Mammy's home. She told of the many times they walked to St. George and back to their home in Washington. After moving to St. George she spent much time with her father in the fields helping him cradle grain. For many years her father was sexton of the St. George cemetery and Alice would help him by carrying the water jug so her father could have a drink as he worked. She even helped him dig the graves.

At a very early age she was to know the value of work and helping people in need. Alice's half brother, Will Nelson, was married and lived near their home. His wife had very poor health and several children to care for. Alice often went into their home to help care for the children.

Alice and her sister Mary, worked very congenially and did many odd jobs together in order to help with the family's living. They cleaned school houses and the Court House in St. George, besides going to people's homes to do their weekly washings. Then in 1888 she spent some time working in a boarding house at Silver Reef, a mine located between St. George and Cedar City. She helped cook for the men who worked at the mines but her earnings were very meager, 50 cents a day.

While at Silver Reef she received a letter from her father dated at St. George April 22, 1888. In this letter he told her that Sam Judd wanted her to work for him and had promised to pay her \$4.00 a week in cash, not in store pay. In this same letter her father told her that he felt that she was working too hard. Another time she cooked for 30 men who were building a dam on the Virgin River. Adolphus Whitehead was the contractor on this job. Years later Vera worked for Whitehead when he contracted cutting and stacking of hay at 3C Ranch. Alice also worked in the Anthony W. Ivins home and for 6 months she worked for Mahonri and Addie Snow in Provo.

These years of hard work certainly prepared her for the future when she would work beside her husband in the fields and at home to help provide for her own family.

On May 23, 1895, Alice Nelson was married to Henry Lafayette (Lafe) Carter in the St. George Temple. They lived in the back room of Lafe's parents' home in St. George until after their first child, Vera was born March 14, 1896. When Vera was a baby they moved to Delamar, Nevada, where Lafe worked for a while at the Delamar Mines.

Their second child, Arthur Nelson, was born at their home in St. George on March 9, 1899 the same night that Lafe and his brother James arrived at Lund, Nevada, to put in the spring crops on the farms they had secured the year before.

When Arthur was six weeks old Lafe moved his family to Lund. At that time Lund was little more than an alfalfa field but many young couples moved her at about the same time. A few families of the original families moved back to St. George or other places but most of them planted their roots here and have continued to grow and prosper in this Nevada desert.

Lafayette Nelson, Alice and Lafe's third child, was born on October 23, 1902 at the cabin in Lund and their fourth child, Selina was born May 3, 1904 at Lund. Four years later twin girls, Harriet Nelson and Helen Nelson were born July 11, 1908 at Lund.

No parents could be prouder or happier with the arrival of each new baby and if the children ever lacked for material needs the love each received from their parents more than compensated. A favorite story Alice loved to tell was this: One day she took Lafayette to visit a friend, Sabra Oxborrow. She said, "Sabe, I'll bet my baby has the most hair." Sabe replied, "Oh, of course he would have the most. You always think your babies are the prettiest and the best." Alice took Lafayette's hood off and he was as bald as an egg.

At best, life in a Pioneer Community, is hard but Alice had to work harder than most of the women in Lund. Lafe's health was poor and he was subject to fainting spells. It was necessary that someone remain with him constantly so Alice worked with him in the fields and as Arthur grew older he went with his father on the freight wagon or on the horse as they rode for cattle.

In August, 1911, the Carter Family, along with other families, were making plans to go to St. George to the Annual Fruit Festival to be held on the 10th of September. Lafe had been ill for some time and passed away on the August 25, 1911. Before his death he told Alice that he wanted her to plan to go to St. George to the Festival. That year Lafe's brother James drove the family to St. George in their two seated buggy.

Vera says she remembers some of the ladies coming to their home to help our mother with sewing so we would all have a new dress to wear at the Fruit Festival.

Lafayette recalls an experience on this same trip. He said he went to sleep and fell from the front of the buggy down onto the "double trees". He said he wasn't hurt but he could remember this happened when they were between Diamond Valley and St. George on a rough, rocky part of the road they called the "Ladder".

Lafayette recalls another time after his father died he drove his mother in a wagon with a team of horses to Current Creek at the Cazier Ranch to get the family's winter supply of apples. Joe, Ed, Edsel and Hyrum Cazier lived on the ranch at the time. He said that while his mother was visiting with the Cazier women he went out into the wagon box and went to sleep. He mother missed him so started searching for him. When they found him he was about frozen it was so cold.

As Vera recalls some of her early memories of Mama she said that our Mother and Father had been so close to each other and each had depended so much on the other that after Papa's death our Mother leaned on her. We younger children too depended on Vera, not only for material things, but for the spiritual strength she gave each one of us and our Mother.

Vera told of one trip when two women, our Mother and her friend, Rebecca Sinfield, decided to take us children to St. George and Pinto to visit their families. Mama drove the team as far as Pinto, where Sister Sinfield and her daughter LaPreal stayed there with her family and Mama continued on to St. George. At Chad's Ranch they met Delworth Snow, Mama's sister's oldest boy. He was riding their family horse, Old Trog. Delworth drove the team from there to St. George and Vera rode Old Trog.

Arthur's memories of Mother: After our father's death before reaching his 50th birthday, Mother was left the responsibility of managing and working the small farm and a few cattle. I, her oldest son, was 12 years of age, so she did much of the farm work, cleaning ditch, planting potatoes, hoeing weeds, irrigating and pitching hay. Her oldest daughter was 15 years of age and could do much of the house work and care for her 3 year old twin sisters.

I can remember one time when Mama hired Rod McKenzie to help put up the hay. Mr. McKenzie pitched hay onto the wagon from one side of the wagon and Mama pitched from the other side. I tramped the hay on the wagon.

After Papa's death there was a small amount of insurance and Mama put it in the hands of her brother-in-law, Edward H. Snow, who bought bonds. The bonds were cashed in 1919 and put into materials for a new home. Before the home was completed she sent me on a mission to British Columbia, Canada, but my mission was cut short at ten months when I was called home because my younger brother, Lafayette, had fallen from a horse and broken his arm.

In the summer of 1923 I had the pleasure of taking Mama and the twins and my wife, Winnie, in my Model T. Ford to Enterprise, Utah to visit Uncle Alma and Aunt Rose and their large family and Uncle Heber

Harrison and Aunt Lettie and their family at New Castle and many relatives in St. George. We also made our first trip to Zion's National Park. From there we went to Mt. Pleasant and Springville where Mama and the twins visited with Great Aunt Pollie and Great Aunt Annie while Winnie and I climbed Mt. Timpanogas with Louise Reed and Maggie on BYU's annual hike.

Cherished experiences of my Mother by Harriet Carter Ivins: I am sure each one of us as the years pass think and regret the things we could have done to make life a little easier and happier for our Mother. There are many lessons Mama has taught me, that have been guiding lights in my life.

Mama had a hard life because of the inconveniences she had to put up with. I can see Mama trudging down the path with 2 buckets of water that she carried from the main ditch that ran through town.

On the day she would plan to make soap, which would take all day, I have seen her have three big tubs of scrap fat, lye and water up by the big ditch. We four girls would take our turns helping to stir the soap so it wouldn't boil over. We would have a pitcher of water in one hand and add a little at a time to keep it from boiling over.

I can think of so many fun times that we as children loved to do with Mama, going visiting out to Aunt Ann Reid's, Aunt Sabe's, Aunt Belle's, Sister Fawcett's and many others.

One of the trips Helen and I always have fun about is when Arthur, Winnie, Mama, Helen and I went to Zion's Park. Each time we went around a bend in the road we would see the Virgin River, Mama would say, "There's the Virgin River girls," and in another few minutes she would say again, "There's the Virgin River girls." Mama love to ride in a car and did so appreciate the trips she took with her family.

Mama loved her grandchildren but they were so young when she passed away. At the time of her death she had only 6 grandchildren--Philip Carter, Lois Oxborrow, Tony Ivins, Richard Reid, Max Reid and Elbert Gardner.

Lena married young so experienced many trips home to see Mama and Lafayette, Harriet and Helen who were still at home. Lena said, "Mama always took me into her fruit cellar where she showed me the shelves of fruit, vegetables, and meat she had bottled."

Lena also shared with our Mother a few joys and pleasures on her last trip to Salt Lake City, just two weeks before her death. Lena was going to MIA Conference in June 1931, and had asked Mama to go with her. She enjoyed the MIA pageant then she became very ill with dysentery and died July 1, 1931, at her home in Lund.

Memories of Mama, by Helen Carter Gardner: As I have written down the thoughts of my brothers and sister, I feel that I must tell of a few impressions I have of our Mother.

She wanted her children to take advantage of educational opportunities that she had been deprived of and encouraged them to accept every call that came to them in the church.

I can't remember of Mama ever serving in any church positions except as Relief Society Teacher, but I know she was faithful in that assignment, also in her attendance at Sacrament Meeting.

Mama was called into homes where there was illness, and gave many hours of service to those who were sick.

The years of 1928-29 and 1929-30 I taught school in Lund and lived at home with Mama. Lafayette and Harriet were there the first year I taught and Lafayette was there the second year.

In the fall of 1929 I was quarantined for 30 days because I had scarlet fever. I wasn't very ill so Mama quilted and I read to her the Book of Mormon. This brought us closer than we had ever been before and I wouldn't exchange that month for any in my life.

In the year 1952 Lena was President of the Reno Stake Relief Society, Vera was President of the Lund Ward Relief Society, Harriet was President of the Lund Ward Primary, and Helen was President of the Lund Ward M.I.A. Vera is our record keeper and gave me the above data to include in Mama's History.

I believe if there is one quality that characterizes the life of Alice Nelson and Lafe Carter it is probably the great love they had for their children. It is this love that bound their family together as very few families are. If people only would, this same love could unite the whole human family.

Compiled by Helen Carter Gardner
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William Carter Genealogy Book

At the time this book is being assembled, March 1970, Alice Nelson and Henry Lafayette's six children are all living within 35 miles of the little town of Lund where they all grew up.

**Typed by Beverly I. Leavitt
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