

## EARLY HISTORY OF SARAH OPAL MOFFETT TOLMAN

I was born on 21 September 1920 at Cambridge, Washington County, Idaho, the daughter of Golden Porter Moffett and Velma Thornton Moffett. I am the only girl of a family of four children. I have three brothers, Vard Porter and Alonzo Dean, who are older than me, and Dale Leon who is younger than I am.

My father, Golden Porter Moffett, was born 9 September, 1892, at Fairview, Wyoming. He is the son of Moses Simpson Moffett and Nancy Malinda Porter. My grandfather was born 16 January, 1858, at Ogden, Utah. He is the son of Armstead Moffett and Lucinda Emmett.

My grandmother, Nancy Malinda Porter, was born 1 April, 1863, at Porterville, Utah. She is the daughter of Lyman Wight Porter and Electa Mariah Kilbourne. My grandmother and grandfather Moffett were married December 12, 1878, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Temple had not as yet been completed.

My mother, Velma Thornton, was born July 21, 1897. She is the daughter of Nathan Moroni Thornton and Sarah Singleton. Nathan Moroni Thornton was born December 10, 1855, at American Fork, Utah. He is the son of Oliver Thornton and Mary Griswold. My grandfather died at Rigby, Idaho, at the home of my Aunt Cora Hayes. He died February 1, 1935.

My grandmother, Sarah Singleton, was born October 28, 1860 or 1861. (The exact year is not known.) Her parents are John Singleton and Hannah Binns. She died at the age of 38 in September 1900 at American Fork, Utah. My mother was only three years of age when she passed away. My grandmother and grandfather Thornton were married March 4, 1880, at the Endowment House. They later went through the Salt Lake Temple.

My mother and father were married in Albion, Idaho, on February 16, 1916.

My oldest brother was born April 25, 1917, at View, Cassia County, Idaho. He married Maxine Neilson, August 28, 1935, at Burley, Idaho. They have three children; Geraldine, Gary and Ranae.

Alonzo Dean was born March 5, 1919, at Burley, Cassia County, Idaho. He married Mary Noel at Ingelwood, Los Angeles County, California, in November 1941. They were later sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple. They have three children; Nancy Eileen, Judith Ann, and Randy Dean.

Dale Leon Moffett was born August 14, 1922, in Burley, Idaho. He married Josephine Barendregt in the Idaho Falls Temple on December 2, 1949. They have five children, one Kerry Dale, who passed away at the age of 2 during an operation at Los Angeles, California. Their living children are Deborah Ann, Bruce, Kristy, and Terry.

When I was born my folks had moved to Cambridge, Idaho. The doctor had come to our home and told my mother it would be several hours before I was born. Then, as he had another call to make, he left saying he would be back soon. He had been gone just a few minutes when I made my appearance into this world. My Aunt Maria

Jensen, Dad's sister, was with my mother at this time. She had come up from Burley to be there at this time.

The exact date I was blessed is not known but it was in July of 1921 at Weiser, Idaho.

When I was about four months, I came down with whopping cough. Later I came down with quincy and nearly died. My mother said that for six weeks, I never opened my eyes. I was two years old before I was well again. I weighed six pounds at birth and was 14 months old before I walked.

Another thing my mother told me was about a cat we had when I was small. I could lay on it, pull its ears or tail, and it wouldn't leave; but let one of the boys try to pick it up and it would run away.

The mosquitoes were real bad the summer of 1921, and mother said that at one time you couldn't put a pin head between my mosquito bites. The folks had moved to Weiser that spring. I was blessed at Weiser when I was about 10 months old.

Things didn't turn out very well in Weiser so the folks sold their cows, chickens, and farm machinery and moved back to Burley.

Grandpa and Grandma Moffett had moved to Cambridge and Weiser too. We moved back to Burley when they did. It took two days to drive to Burley in a Model T car my grandfather had. They had car trouble and had to stay in Boise overnight. This was in November of 1921.

When I was three, we moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, for six weeks while Dad went to barbering school. We lived in Ogden for a while before we moved back to Burley.

In June 1924 we went to the Salt Lake Temple where my father and mother were sealed to each other, and we were all sealed together for time and for all eternity.

I became lost while in Salt Lake and my cousin, Dorothy Porter, found me. Another incident happened while we were in Salt Lake. The street car passed by my great-uncle Joseph Porter's home where we were staying while in Salt Lake. My older brothers, who were 5 and 7, and myself were playing outside. We started throwing mud balls at the streetcars. This was great fun until one stopped. We kids ran very quickly into the house. We were frightened.

I started school in 1926 at the Overland School in Burley. The teacher, Miss Edwards, told my mother my hand was so small I could hardly hold the pencil to learn to write. I was always small for my age. Miss Edwards was also my teacher in the second grade.

My third grade teacher was Mrs. Terry. During this time, we lived in my Grandfather Moffett's place on Occidental Avenue in Burley.

I remember my cousin, Warren Jensen, who was about my age. We used to play together. I remember him getting sick and dying, but I don't remember what illness it was.

I had scarlet fever when I was in the third grade. I was very sick. The doctor came to our home. It was in the fall of the year and Dad was working at the sugar factory. Almost every night he would slip some burnt sugar from the sugar factory to me. He knew I liked it very well. I was quarantined for three weeks. During this time, Dad stayed at Grandma Moffett's and the boys stayed at Aunt Maria's who lived across the street from us.

When I was better, Mom and I were out of quarantine. They had to fumigate the house with sulphur in a tub or something and set fire to it. It would just smolder sending fumes around, and that was supposed to kill the germs in the house.

While the house was being fumigated, I was sent up to Grandmas and Grandpa Moffetts just south of us. I didn't want to go. I was afraid of Grandpa. He was always teasing me. I went to their home, and I was sitting in his chair when he came in. He sat on my lap, and I started to cry. Grandpa was of the opinion that "children should be seen and not heard".

Grandma Moffett's birthday was on April 1. And, of course, she always got more than her share of April Fool jokes. But she always seemed surprised.

Grandpa Moffett had been shot in the hip in his earlier years, and one leg was shorter than the other; and he wore a shoe that was built up 3 or 4 inches. Then he had lost an arm just below the elbow in a hay chopper accident. I think these things made us little children more scared of him.

I was baptized October 7, 1928, at the Burley Tabernacle font by Lynn Naise who was a Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood. I was confirmed the same day by Brother Albert Harper. I was now a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and lived in the Burley Third Ward, Burley Stake of Zion in Burley, Idaho.

The next year we moved to a place a mile east of Burley. It was a five acre place and had a small yellow house on it. We raised a few beans that year.

In the fourth grade, I went to the Southwest School in Burley. I had Miss Terhune for a teacher, and I didn't like her very well. I never made any friends here. The students were from families made up mostly from well-to-do families, and I thought they were snobs. But, looking back, it was more my fault than theirs as I was so shy I didn't go out of my way to make friends.

As I had been sick so much during grade school, I had to wear "long-legged" underwear, long heavy stockings and wool dresses. I only had two dresses to wear. One day a girl came up and asked me if that was the only dress I had. I usually wore one the whole week. Being so timid, I didn't answer and another girl came up and said to the other one, "Is that any of your business". I have forgotten the girl who asked me but not the one who befriended me. And that person is now Susie Baugh Chesley, wife of Verl Chesley.

We moved into Burley during the late winter, and we had to walk a mile to school for 2 or 3 months. We moved to what was then 1004 North Oakley Avenue. We lived in the L.D.S. Third Ward.

While we lived here, I became acquainted with Velora Hacking. We were always quarreling, but we also had some real good times together. We have always been the best of friends. (She is married to Ralph McCombs and lives in Heyburn.) At one time when we were mad at each other, I played with Luanna Mecham. We had a croquet set, and we always had a lot of fun with it. Luanna wanted me to go to her place to play, and my mother told me, "no". I had to stay home. Then Velora and I made up and Mom let me go play with her. Luanna became mad at me, and she wouldn't speak to me for several days.

I attended the Overland School in the fifth grade where Mr. Daniel Packer was my teacher. An incident occurred here which made me dislike him. I went to school one morning, and he said my face was red and gave me some powder on it. It was very humiliating, and it sure didn't help my shyness any.

And then another thing happened which didn't make me like him any better. They sent the sixth grade up to the Miller School, another grade school. I had always had good grades. In the Miller School, they had three classes for each grade - the A, B and C classes. Mr. Parker had put me in the C class, and those whose grades weren't as good as mine were put in the upper classes. He really had his favorites.

But, as it turned out, I was on the honor roll most of the time. We had a teacher for each subject.

In the seventh grade, I started into Jr. High School. I was very excited and a little scared. I had a hard time finding my rooms. I had to ask my brother, Dean, who was in the eighth grade to show me where my rooms were. In the seventh grade, I took Mathematics, English, Social Science, Science and Study Hall. I took Jr. Seminary once a week. At the start of the second semester, I took Physical Education.

In the fall of 1932 when I was a seventh grader, we moved to Unity about 3 or 3½ miles from Burley. We still went to Burley to school. Dad took care of the place and cows and horses for a fellow who had gone to college. We just lived here part of the winter. While here the snow was so bad the roads were blocked in for three weeks. I remember we had to walk one half a mile to catch the school bus through the deep snow before they were able to open the road.

This didn't work out too well for Dad, and we moved again to Declo, which was about seven miles east of Burley. We had to change schools, and we went to Declo to school. We lived here for a year, and I attended the rest of the seventh grade and part of the eighth grade in Declo. I didn't do too well while in Declo. The school was different than Burley, and it was harder. The girls played together in Declo, and so it was easier to make friends. I like the Declo School.

We lived on a 40-acre place, and Dad tried to farm it. We had a beautiful team of horses. But what with the while fly taking the sugar beets, it wasn't very successful. And the landlord re-rented it to the previous owner, so we moved back to Burley in the winter of 1935. It was one and a fourth miles south of Burley on the Oakley Highway. It was a 10-acre place and Dad bought it.

In the eighth grade, I took English, Social Science, Physical Education, Science and Mathematics. I took Junior Seminary once a week. I graduated from Seminary at the end of this year.

I continued going to Jr. High School in my ninth grade. I took Science, Sociology, Physical Education, Home Ec, and English. I went into High School in my tenth or sophomore year. I took English, Biology, Seminary, History and Business Principles. In my Junior year I took shorthand, typing, English, History, and Seminary. I liked shorthand and always got good grades in it. Typing I liked but didn't do as well as I would like to have done.

My Senior year was a lot of fun. I picked potatoes in the fall to buy my class ring and my activity card. It was the first year I had been able to go to the games, and I really enjoyed the excitement and fun of them. I also paid for part of my High School Yearbook. In my Senior Year I took Speech, Seminary, History, Bookkeeping, and Office Practice.

Our High School graduation was nice. I had a pretty pink formal dress. We wore gray caps and gowns. The Baccalaureate exercises were held on May 22, 1938. It was a nice program.

The graduation exercises were held May 24, 1938, at the High School gym. The students gave the program and the graduation speeches. There were 128 graduates. The diplomas were presented to the graduates by Mr. Redfield, President of the School Board.

Our Seminary graduation was held in May also. There were 26 graduated. The program was held at the L.D.S. Stake Tabernacle. The skit portrayed scenes showing the trials of the early Mormon pioneers. I was in one of the scenes. David O. Langlois, President of the Burley Stake, presented the diplomas. All of the lights were turned out, and all of the graduates had candles. I thought this was nice. Now we cannot have candles in our churchhouses.

Our Seminary graduating class went to Salt Lake City. We went to places of interest in Salt Lake. We also went to the Salt Lake Temple for baptismal work. I was baptized for 27 names. It was a fun trip, and I stayed in a hotel for the first time.

The summer of 1938 was a fun summer. I had some dates. We nearly always went to the dances held every Saturday night at the Y-Dell Ballroom east of Burley. A dance was our main thing to do. We really had fun at them, and we met a lot of nice fellows. We never danced with one fellow all evening. That was a sign of unpopularity.

Looking back over my high school days, I remember the names of

a few of my girlfriends - Velora Hacking, Theaa McBride, Anna Ferlic, Merle Zahl, and Elaine Roberts. The only one I know where they live now is Velora Hacking.

In the fall of 1938, our family went on a trip to visit Uncle Lee Moffett in Star Valley, Wyoming. This valley is situated in the mountains where Dad was raised. I also had an aunt there, Aunt Nettie Kingston. We went up in the mountains to a lake and went for a boat ride on it. On the way home, we stopped and swam at Lava Hot Springs. It was fun to swim and a fun trip.

On my eighteenth birthday, I was given a surprise party. It is the only birthday party I ever had as a young person. There were 12 present. It was fun.

During the summer months, I taught a Sunday School class and enjoyed it.

October 2, 1938, I went to the L.D.S. Business College in Salt Lake City, Utah. I worked for my board and room. I had a scholarship from Montgomery Wards on an order blank with my name on it. I would get so much money applied towards a scholarship. I had enough for tuition and books for six months. It was here I learned to like Accounting. But I didn't get to finish and returned home the first part of April.

I spent my first Thanksgiving away from home. The College had a dinner for some who couldn't go home. It was nice and helped the homesickness. I became acquainted with some nice people while there. I dated and had fun. I wish I could have finished. I enjoyed the school, and I know I learned quite a bit even if I have forgotten most of it.

I have always been active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I attended Sunday School, Primary, Mutual and Sacrament Meetings. I remember being in roadshows, giving 2½ minute talks, attending Junior Genealogical classes. As I stated, I was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church at eight years of age. I attended about three wards in Burley and the Sprinddale Ward when we lived at Declo.

I taught a Sunday School class during the summer of 1938 and again during the summer and fall of 1939.

It would be hard to visualize my life without the Gospel. It has always been an important part of my life. My testimony has grown and grown over the years. This I know - the Church is true and Jesus is the Christ and he died for us.

After I came home from Salt Lake City, I tried to find some work, but I had no confidence in my ability, so I didn't find much work. I worked temporarily for a real estate agent in Burley. Then in the winter of 1940, I started work at a place near the Burley Theater in Burley. It was an ice cream place that sold ice cream, hamburgers, etc. I worked there a few months before my marriage.

In January of 1940, we moved to Heyburn. Dad and Mom bought a little brick house there in which they lived the rest of their lives. It was a five-room house. One room was real small. This is the first time I had a room of my own. We always lived in a two-bedroom house, and the three boys used one bedroom and Mom and Dad the other one. I always slept on a couch in the front room. Later Dad remodeled the house putting a bathroom in the little room.

Dad was always good with his hands at mechanical things, remodeling, etc. There was never enough money to do the things he wanted to do.

I remember Mom always raised a good garden and flowers. She always loved flowers and always managed to have some. In Heyburn, her place was alive with flowers from Spring until Fall. She always had roses, gladiolas, asters, sweet peas, etc. She loved working outside. She raised a lot of raspberries and strawberries.

Dad worked at the sugar factory in the fall, then worked at odd jobs. He had been for quite a few years and enjoyed this. He loved animals - horses, sheep, dogs, cats, etc. He worked with sheep for a number of years going to California with them in the winter and herding them in the summer months.

Both Mom and Dad held various jobs in the Church. They did a lot of Temple work.