

HISTORY OF ALONZO GREEN, WRITTEN FROM INFORMATION PROVIDED BY HIS FIRST CHILD ELLEN GREEN SWENSON AND SOME INPUT AND INFORMATION FROM CLAYTON GREEN HIS 13th CHILD

Alonzo was born December 28, 1884 in Butlerville Utah to Alvin Washington Green and Alice Maria Jane White Green. He was the fifth child of nine. He came from a strong pioneer family who helped settle the Salt Lake valley during the early years of the L.D.S. church history. His great grandmother on his mothers side was Maria Christmas White, A lady who came across the planes with the Martin and Willey hand cart company. This group was stranded in Wyoming because of high snow and unpassable trails. When Brigham Young heard of their dilemma, he was conducting general conference and immediately dismissed conference and told the brethren to leave that day with horses, equipment and food to go get the stranded party. When they finally reached the party, several had died because of hunger and exposure. Grandma White who was with the Willey party was weak but still alive and was brought to the valley.

Alonzo's family lived on a piece of land which was homesteaded in the foothills of the mountains in the southeast part of the valley near the mouth of Big Cottonwood canyon. It was a dry acreage about 10 acres. The only water came from a nearby canyon called Hughes canyon. It supplied enough water to have a small garden in the early summer and fill a cistern for water for the rest of the year. This cistern was dug by hand, it was about 20 feet deep and cemented to hold water for the rest of the year. A hand operated pump was used to bring the water up as needed. Big Cottonwood creek was about a mile down in the hollow which was a small river in the spring. The force of this stream in the spring would roll large rocks along its path. The source of this stream was the Big Cottonwood canyon. This stream provided water for many valley residents throughout the summer even though it was small in the fall.

Not a lot was known about Alonzo as a young boy growing up, but a sister Alice told Ellen at one time that he was not a very strong child. The children were 1- Alberta called Burt, 2-Ruben called Rube, 3- Sylvester called Bess, 4- Earnest called Ern, 5- Alonzo called Lonnie 6- Alice, 7-Iva, 8- George called Dord and 9- Harriet Gladis who went by the name of Gladis. All of the children settled in the area except Alberta who married William Reynolds and moved to Idaho to raise their family and Gladis who went to Denver Colorado. Alonzo always said he was upset that William Reynolds took Alberta to Idaho because she was like a second mother to him. Gladis was a different sort from the rest of the family, she moved to Denver and said she wanted nothing more to do with the family. So no one ever heard much more of her again.

Alonzo's father Alvin had a sawmill up in Big Cottonwood canyon which was about four miles below Brighton and the family spent most of the summers up there. The mill made the family a pretty good living. The three older boys, Ruben, Sylvester and Earnest were old enough to be a big help to their father running the mill. The younger family helped what they could because there was much work to be done, they all had a great time playing in the mountains. There was a big demand for lumber at that time and there was lots of work to do to meet that demand.

When Alonzo was 12 years old, his father Alvin was robbed and killed after taking a load of lumber to Salt Lake. Upon returning from Salt Lake Alvin had forty or fifty dollars in his purse which he received for selling a load of lumber. He and another man stopped at a tavern in Murray for a few drinks. He did have a liking for alcohol. He made the mistake of showing the money, which was a lot of money in those days, to the bar maid who was a woman by the name

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of Rose Browning. She decided to give him a "mickey" to make him pass out so she could steal the money. She put drops in his drink and it killed him. She was never prosecuted for the deed because Alvin's wife did not want anyone to know he was in a bar. There was write up in the paper but she was never prosecuted. This left the boys and their mother to run the mill which they did for a while but eventually had to sell it. They sold it to a man named Cook.

Ellen said she remembers hearing of his growing up days, some Halloween pranks and things that young boys do. Like all boys he was mischievous and full of fun but a good boy who never got in any serious trouble.

When Alonzo was young, he went to school in a building on top of Butler hill on the north side of the road. The building was built around 1849. In later years the school district and the church exchanged properties and the school was built on the south side of the road where it stands today and the church built a new building on the north side. The church our dad attended was about half way between Butler and Granite. This school and church was the one which both our father and mother attended. Our mother Henrietta and our father Alonzo were 4 1/2 years separated in age with my father being about four years ahead of her in school.

Both our father and mother tell of the fun they had sleigh riding and building bonfires in the winter. Much more fun than kids have today sitting on a chair at the computer. These winter sports and summer fun playing baseball is probably where the romance between our father and mother blossomed and they were married on the Nov 19, 1904. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. After their marriage they moved into one of the paper mill houses. At that time there were four brick houses built across the road from the old mill. There were a few trees around them and a little stream ran down in front which was taken from the river away up.

Alonzo worked at any job he could find, he worked for a while in Murray and rode his bike or his horse to Murray. The hours were usually longer than the eight hours we work today. He worked building a conduit to carry water along the mountain from Big Cottonwood canyon to the people living farther north toward Salt Lake. Mother always said that was one of the best paying jobs he had and they were able to get caught up somewhat. Much of our fathers summers were spent in the canyons building roads and working in the mines. Dad would haul lumber up to build a floor and walls about four foot high and on top would pitch a tent. Ellen recalls he fun they had, dad would cut pine boughs for their beds and they had a stove and table inside. Dad would make willow whistles for the kids and dig out pine gum from the trees. It was bitter but good.

In the winter of 1911 in January Alonzo was working at a mine called the Michigan Utah mine in mill F south fork in Big Cottonwood canyon. At about four o'clock in the morning, a snowslide ran and took out most of the cabin where the men were staying. Three men in the bottom floor were killed and eight including our father was buried until late afternoon. It was a terrifying experience, one which our father never really recovered completely from. Our mother told us that dad never was the same after that ordeal. Ellen mentions she remembers many men and wagons going up the canyon to rescue the men trapped.

Six children were born while they were living in the paper mill house. Ellen, Clifford, Rex and a child named Belden Edward who died. Also two other girls, Vesta and Fay. About this time dad's mother left the house she was living in up northeast of the paper mill about a half mile and went to live with her daughter Alice. Grandma suffered from alzheimers at the time and dad

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moved the family up into her home. This was the home where dad was born. After living in that house for a while, he built a home on a hill just below where was living. He dug a cistern to catch spring water for their winter use. They had a small garden and They acquired some animals, a cow, a pig and some chickens. He dug a cellar and put a sod roof on it to keep the heat and cold out to some extent. Into this went the milk, vegetables and fruit. Mother canned what fruit they could get. All and all, it worked pretty good. Most of the jobs he worked on paid about a dollar a day, I don't know how they managed to raise such a large family. We were never hungry and always had as nice of clothes as most of the other kids. Mother sewed a lot of our clothes. Three children were born here, a girl Lela Maxine who died and Winona and Lamar.

A few years later about 1924, Mother's uncle Billy Mcgee died and left mother 10 acres of rich farmland down on 2300 east and about 6800 South. So they sold the house dad had built, (and incidently never got paid for), and built another home on the new property. Because people were poor Clayton said he remembers large rocks being put in the cement to take up room so they would use less cement. The day that they moved into the home on 2300 east, Mark was born. This was March 24, 1925. With more ground and better soil, dad was able to raise more food there. He also raised peas for the cannery a few years. At this time, Ellen was not living at home, she had taken a job as an in home housekeeper and lived in Salt Lake.

Things were tough at this time. A depression gripped the nation and jobs were hard to come by. Dad was able to get a job as a janitor at the Butler school. In 1941, world war II broke out and jobs were easier to find. Dad worked Summers for the school district which helped supplement their income. It was very hard for dad at this time because he suffered from arthritis. Clayton adds he remembers how the children loved Alonzo and followed him around the school. Also because of pain, he couldn't lift his arms above his head and if he threw a rock or a ball, he had to throw underhanded. Alonzo had this school job until he retired.

Dad always was there for his children, he helped Ellen and Virgil to build both of their homes on 23 east, he helped Winona and Bill to build their home on 23 east.

He always tried to teach his children economics, turn out lights when leaving a room, don't leave water running, keep doors tightly shut. He never went outside without a hat on and the same rule applied to all his children.

Three more children were born in the home on 23east, Zane, Jennie and Clayton. In the last 2 years of dad's life he suffered much from arthritis and sirrosis of the liver. Usually liver problems are brought on by drinking, but dad didn't drink to any extent, he couldn't afford it if he wanted to.

Dad died Nov 3, 1954. Clayton was in the army and Jennie was serving a mission for the L.D.S. church at this time. Clayton was able to make it home for the funeral but Jennie though grieving stayed on her mission.

Alonzo was buried in the Murray City cemetery along side of his two children who died as infants. Now mother is also buried along side of him. Ellen mentioned that her husband is buried there along side of them and she will soon be joining him.

A few interesting things are told by Sharon and Clayton Green. When Winona died, Clayton and Sharon took Ellen, Vesta, Fay and Jennie to Las Vegas for the funeral in their motor home. They enjoyed the opportunity to talk over old times and how mom and dad struggled to provide for them. A friendly argument broke out between the 4 girls as to who was dad's favorite

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daughter. Each one knew that they was the favorite and gave reasons why. Later Jennie confided to us that she was the favorite and the other girls just thought they were. Sharon mentioned she remembered when Alonzo worked at Union Junior High as a fill in for Bill Obern who was dying and her brother Reed worked for him. The young men who worked for him admired him for the love he showed them. She also remembers that the kids followed him around that school during lunch and recess also.

Another interesting story happened during the war. People were encouraged to give soldiers a ride if they were thumbing. Dad used to stop and give them a ride on the running boards of the car which was a common practice at the time. One rime he stopped to give a soldier a ride and it turned out that it was his grandson Dee Swenson.