

ALICE ADELINE SOUTHAM COOK

Funeral Biographical Sketch

By
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Alice Adeline Southam Cook was born the 20th of July 1889 to George Henry Southam and Jane Elizabeth Hacking in a one room log cabin on Ashley Creek in Vernal, Utah. There was not doctor present so she was delivered by her grandmother Southam who was a midwife. Because of a difficult birth, she was not expected to live and was blessed and given a name immediately.

In the spring he father moved the family to Fort Duchesne where he was employed. It was there on July 12, that her mother passed away just eight days before her first birthday.

Shortly after the death of her mother she became seriously ill and at times they doubted that she would live. One evening just as it was dusk her father sat holding her in his arms and wondered if she too was going to be taken from him. When she was grown her father told her, "I still felt keenly the loss of your mother as I sat there in the dusk, my heart was born with sorrow for fear I would lose you too. Suddenly I felt the presence of your mother. I did not see her, as she stood behind me. She knew the question in my mind and she assured me that as long as I tried to live a righteous life I would be permitted to keep you. This experience gave me a lot of courage and comfort."

After her mother's death her grandmother Hacking from Cedar Fort came to see their children who lived in Vernal and could see that she did not have a permanent home, so asked her father if they could take her home and care for her. It was very hard for her father to let her go, but he could see the wisdom and the benefit it would be to her and so he consented and she was taken to Cedar Fort. The following is a quote from her life sketch:

"The next thing I remember was the day we reached Cedar Fort. About two blocks from the Hacking home we met a group of young people taking a Sunday stroll. My mother's eldest sister Harriet, Aunt Hattie as we all called her, was among them and she took me in her arms and carried me home. From then on she was mother as much as one could be mother to another woman's child. Grandma was in the home but it was Aunt Hattie who sewed my clothes, nursed me when I was sick, gave me my nickles for the 4th of July, scolded me when I was naughty and took my part when she thought I was mistreated. She did all the things that a real mother would do."

When she was about four years old her father remarried. Alice stayed in Cedar Fort, but when she would go to Vernal to visit her father she was included in the second family as one of them.

Her school days were spent in Cedar Fort and she graduated from eighth grade. At that time graduation exercises for the whole county were held at Spanish Fork. The following is another quote from her life history:

“When a student graduated from the 8th grade, as we did, they were ready for the B.Y.U. or some other higher school. If you were lucky you went on. I could not go then and grandpa and grandma said, ‘you were better off in school and could still learn’ so I went back to school in Cedar Fort part of the time for the next two years. My chum, Ivy Berry, had been held back because of rheumatic fever and was graduating and wanted me to take the examinations with her. I thought, ‘what is there to lose and a lot to gain,’ I would get a new dress and hat, a trip to Payson and a lot of fun out of it.”

She spent many carefree and happy hours with the young people of Cedar Fort and never lacked chances for dating, but her special date always seemed to be Barnes Cook. Quoting from her poem “Our Life Story”^{*} she tells how he proposed to her.

We were sitting on the porch steps
I remember the night so well,
Just how he proposed to me.
Now the story I will tell. He sang:

“Alice, Alice, sweet as the sugar can,
Alice, Alice, will you be mine?
For the moon am a shinnin
And my hear am a pinin.
Please meet me pretty Alice
At the water melon vine.”

He said, “I am in earnest,
I want you for my wife
To be with me, to stay with me
And love me all my life.”

After going together for more than two years they were married the 27th of April 1908 in Provo. Then on the 18th of June the same year they were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple.

They first moved into a small adobe home, but after the birth of their second son they were asked to move into the Cook family home due to the death of Barnes’ mother and so his father would not be alone. This is the home where the following eleven children were born. One sad event was when they lost their 10th child a baby daughter age one.

Many people will remember the batches of homemade cookies, small pumpkin pies, homemade bread baked every day but Sunday and ice cream. There was always an extra place at the table. After a holiday dance you never knew how many extra people you would find had

spent the night.

All her life she had a happy disposition. You could hear her singing or whistling as she went about the house doing her work or walking along the street.

While rearing a large family she was still active in church. She held various positions in Primary for 28 years. She was chorister in Relief Society for 12 years. She also organized the 1st girls 4-H club in Cedar Fort in 1927. She wrote many poems and just recently they were printed in book form.

Her life was not the same after the death of her husband May 21, 1973. Quoting again from her poem "Our Life Story."

Now I sit in lonely silence
Waiting for his steps to hear
As his daily walks are ended;
Memory takes me back for years.

Suddenly I know he is not coming
But is waiting there for me,
Waiting there for me to join him
Through the great Eternity.

After his death she stayed at home and kept herself busy writing histories, genealogy and writing letters to family and friends. About two and a half years ago she had a fall and it was decided that she shouldn't be alone so she lived with members of the family.

Wherever she stayed she would go to church and Relief Society and report her attendance to her home ward at Cedar Fort. She was proud of her missionaries. She had two sons, one granddaughter and twenty-five grandsons who served missions. Two of which are still in the field.

On the 29th of December at the annual family Christmas party, 91 family members met including her twelve living children and their husbands and wives and many grandchildren. The morning of January 9th she was taken to the American Fork Hospital where she passed away seven days later. She is survived by her twelve children and sixty-seven grandchildren, one hundred sixty-two great grand-children, four great-great grand children, four brothers and two sisters.

* Poem found in her book "Through The Years"