



Albert Elias Maxfield

March 10, 1895 - December 20, 1982



- ***Albert Elias Maxfield was born on March 10, 1895***, in Vineyard, Utah. He was the oldest of eight children born to William and Johanna Olsen Maxfield.
- ***Raised on a dairy farm in Vineyard, he learned the value of hard work early on***, helping with chores like milking cows and hauling beet pulp for cattle feed. Candles and kerosene lamps were used for light, and water was obtained from a well. With no electricity or running water, he grew up in an environment where resourcefulness was key. Vineyard was located close to Utah Lake, so swimming in the lake was a great form of recreation.
- ***His formal education ended after the 8th grade***, which was the standard for that area at the time.
- ***At 17, he met Orilla May Brown, and they planned an early spring wedding***. His father, however, not pleased, feigned illness to keep him working on the farm. Refusing to be deterred, Albert and Orilla ran away and married on July 23, 1914. Orilla said their marriage license was nearly worn out, as Albert had stored it under his mattress all those months.
- ***To escape his father's influence, they moved to Magna, Utah***, where Albert worked in the Kennecott Mills. During this period, their first two children, Leah and Vard, were born. Leah was born April 13, 1916 and Vard was born February 3, 1918.
- ***In 1919, the family moved to Provo, where Albert and his brother Richard opened an auto top shop***. They specialized in making Eisenglass windows. This was a prosperous time for Albert, as documented in his journal, which showed him earning as much as \$32.75 in a single day. However, the business declined in the late 1920s when hard-top cars became common. Wendell was born November 11, 1919.
- ***There was very little money, and life was hard***. This was during and just after World War 1.
- ***Orilla and Albert were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple on June 15, 1921***. At that time, their three children, Leah, Vard and Wendell were also sealed to their parents.
- ***Despite the economic hardship, Albert always maintained a large garden*** and raised cows and a pig to provide for his family. Naomi was born on October 3, 1922, in this home. Albert was a skilled craftsman, excelling in upholstery. This talent became a cornerstone of his career, and he would later work for a furniture manufacturing company, as well as at Hill Field during World War II, where he utilized his skills with canvas and other materials.
- ***Their next move was to a home two blocks North of the Railroad Station, on 5th South and 3rd West*** (just two blocks from their old adobe home). This put them in the Provo 3rd Ward, and it was here that Ronald was born on November 22, 1928. They lived in this house until 1929, when they moved to Salt Lake City.
- ***The Stock Market crashed and things were tough again***. Leah had a few baby sitting jobs. Vard and Wendell passed out ads for H. E. Lobrot (Grocery across the street from us), and did cleaning work at the Tower Theater on 9th East & 9th South. Their pay for work at the Tower was in passes for free admission to their shows, which they shared with all of us.
- ***A couple of years later, William Albert Maxfield was trying his hand at selling homes***. He had made some deal that wasn't quite right (honesty wise), and asked Albert, his son to try and buy the duplex on Belmont Avenue to help keep him out of trouble. So, again the family moved to 1020 Belmont Avenue (about 10th East & 10th South) in Salt Lake City.
- ***In the mid-1930s, Albert traveled the Northwest in search of upholstery work***, sending home pine nuts from Tonopah, Nevada, a treat his children remembered fondly. After the war, he and his brother Richard opened a car upholstery shop on State Street in Salt Lake City, and he later worked as an upholsterer for Carlson Motor Company, from which he retired around 1960. He continued to do upholstery work in his basement well into his retirement.
- ***In 1946 they bought a home on Claybourne Avenue*** and Orilla and Albert were happier than they had ever been.
- ***For many years after his retirement, during the Holiday Season, he sold boxed chocolates and candy*** for the Maxfield Candy Company (Vard's Company). He developed a large clientele with businesses and friends, which grew consistently over the years. Upon his death Ronald took over these sales calls.
- ***Albert was an excellent worker and a craftsman who took great pride in his work***. He was also a devoted father. Although he was not active in the church during his earlier years, he became active in his later life, serving in his ward's High Priests Group. He was also an avid hunter and shared this passion with his sons.
- ***Dad's greatest pride and joy was his family***. In these later years, his children were all successful, by economic standards, and had all been instilled with a motivating drive to provide well for their families.
- ***After Orilla's death in 1977, Albert lived alone for five years***. He died on December 20, 1982. Throughout his life, he was a man of perseverance and skill, whose dedication to his family helped them navigate the challenges of the Great Depression and an ever-changing world.

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