

Albert Elias Maxfield: A Life of Craftsmanship and Perseverance

Albert Elias Maxfield was born on March 10, 1895, in Vineyard, Utah, the oldest of eight children born to William and Johanna Olsen Maxfield. Raised on a dairy farm, he learned the value of hard work early on, helping with chores like milking cows and hauling beet pulp for cattle feed. With no electricity or running water, he grew up in an environment where resourcefulness was key. His formal education ended after the 8th grade, which was the standard at the time.

At 17, he met Orilla May Brown, and they planned to marry. His father, however, feigned illness to keep him working on the farm. Refusing to be deterred, Albert and Orilla ran away and married on July 23, 1914. They were later sealed in the Salt Lake Temple on June 15, 1921.

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. In 1919, the family moved to Provo, where Albert and his brother Richard opened an auto top shop. 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.

Despite the economic hardship, Albert always maintained a large garden and raised a pig to provide for his family. He 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.

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 Carleson Motor Company, from which he retired around 1960. He continued to do upholstery work in his basement well into his retirement.

Albert was an excellent worker and a craftsman who took great pride in his work. He was also a devoted father, often taking his children to watch the circus unload its animals from the train, a vivid memory for his daughter Naomi. Although he was not active in the church during his earlier years, he became an engaged member in his later life, serving in his ward's High Priests Group. He was also an avid hunter and shared this passion with his son Wendell.

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.

Albert Elias Maxfield's Accomplishments

- **Pioneer of Small Business:** Co-owned an auto top shop in Provo, successfully operating it until the rise of hard-top cars.
- **Marriage and Family:** Married Orilla May Brown on July 23, 1914, and was sealed in the Salt Lake Temple on June 15, 1921.
- **Skilled Craftsman:** Maintained a successful career as an upholsterer, working for various companies and even starting his own shop.
- **Dedicated Provider:** Supported his large family through the Great Depression by finding work in various places, including the Kennecott Mills and as an automotive upholsterer.
- **Military Contribution:** Applied his craftsmanship skills at Hill Field during World War II, a crucial wartime effort.
- **Community Involvement:** Became an active member of his church in his later years, serving in the High Priests Group.
- **Successful Entrepreneur in Retirement:** Built a large clientele selling boxed chocolates for his son's company after his official retirement.
- **Devoted Father and Grandfather:** Was proud of his family's accomplishments, was actively involved in his children's lives, and became an avid hunter and shared this passion with his children.
- **Later Life:** Passed away on December 20, 1982.