

MY PERSONAL HISTORY
BY WESLEY N. RICE

I was born on October 22, 1902 at Almo, Idaho, Cassia County. I was born at home. I was born with one front tooth which was a little black one. When I was little my uncle Jake Bruesch got me to let him tied a string around it. He gave a jerk and out it came.

I was the 7th of eight children. My father was Nathaniel Rice. My mother was Alice Jane Durfee Rice. I had five sister and one brother.

William Hyrum Rice	23 July 1891
Olive Emily Rice	2 March 1893
Jane Isabelle Rice	11 September 1894
Ida Rice	7 May 1896
Estella Rice	23 June 1898
Violet Rice	21 April 1901
Wesley Nathaniel Rice	22 October 1902
Luetta Edverda Rice	26 September 1904.

My mother's name is Alice Jane Durfee Rice. She was born on 23 January 1872 at Beaver Dams, Box Elder Utah. Her father's name is Henry Dennison Durfee. Her mother's name is Jane Isabeel Barker Durfee. Some memories of my mother are that she was left with seven children to raise. My dad died when I was two years old he was pawed in the back by a horse, which left him paralyzed, he was taken to Salt Lake, but never recovered. He bought mother a hand loom. She wove carpets for a living. It was hard work for her. She had ulcers of the stomach. She would weave a little then would have to go and lie down,. When I was about 14 years old I decided it was to hard on her so I took part of the machine and threw it away. I got odd jobs, riding a horse for haying, anything I could do help out such as milking cows and raising gardens.

My father's name is Nathaniel A. Rice. He was born on 30 July 1869 at Farmington Utah. His father's name is Hyrum Smith Rice. His mother's name is Olive Emily Smith Rice. He died when I was two years old so I can't remember him. When my father and mother were married he worked at the Vipont mine for years. Then he homesteaded the place where I lived and grew up.

I was blessed on December 18, 1902 by Charles Ward in the Almo Ward in Almo, Idaho. I was baptized on my eight birthday by Thomas Richardson in the Durfee Hot spring. I was confirmed on 15 January by Bishop David O. Allen. I graduated from Primary on my 12th birthday. I helped my mother with her primary work, she use to show pictures of her lesson. I helped her build a roll around that turned by hand that she used when demonstrating the pictures. I was superintendent of the Sunday School in 1962 for seven years until 1979. Bert F. Tracy was Bishop.

I played the Scrooge in a primary play, I played basket ball and hardball for the Almo ball club. I was the shortstop. We played baseball every Saturday with other town teams, Elba, Malta, Yost, Park Valley, Grouse Creek and Strevell. We had baseball and won the tournament and were invited to Payette. Joe Tracy took us there in the school bus. We didn't win any games, but had a lot of fun.

I started school at the age of six years attending the Almo Elementary School at Almo Idaho. I went horse back for about three miles which was up in the Cove by Uncle Hermes Place, for a few years until they consolidated and went to Almo. My favorite teachers were Mrs. Chadwick and Henry Belnap. We use to have a teacher called John Rothery. He had only one hand the other was wooden hand. If you had to be disciplined, he would make you hold out a heavy dictionary a certain length of time, if you waved you got a ruler.

I have held the following church position. 1 Superintendent in 1962 until 1969. Bert Tracy Bishop. Secretary in the mutual in 1947 until 1951. Arthur Taylor Bishop.

I milked cows, put up hay raised grain, plowed with three horses, one time my neighbors tied a tin bucket to a wild horses tail. The horse ran down the road and came through the fence to where I was plowing. It got in the middle of the horse. I put the plows in the ground as far as it go and held them. My neighbors came to the rescue.

I played on the Almo baseball team for years from the time I was 18 we played every week on Saturday with teams from Elba, Yost, Strevell, Park Valley, Grouse Cree, and Malta. The Almo town had a basketball team that played with the same towns. 1 When I got older I coached Basketball, soft ball, and hardball. We won Sake soft ball twice, and basketball once.

There are some certificates of Awards that I have received through the years.

I was ordained a deacon on May 4, aged 16 by Bishop Lorenzo Durfee. I was ordained a teacher on May 18, age 19 by Bishop John T. Horne. I was ordained a priest on November 22 by Bishop Orlando J. Bateman. I was ordained an elder on 10 or march at age 27 by Bishop John T. Elison. I was ordained a high priest on May 6, 1990 at age 86 by Stanley Spencer.

(Include the plaques presented to Wes and the information on the newspaper clipping from Wes's 80th birthday.)

Stories of Wes Rice
January 5, 1994

Bill Bruesch and I were up in the canyon hunting deer and it started to rain, lightening and thunder. We went under a big pine tree and Bill said that there's a bigger pine over there, let's go to that. We got about half way there and the lightening struck the tree were we had just been and splintered it all to pieces. And I asked him what made him want to go to that other tree and he says, "I just, I don't know, I just wanted to go there." [Wes] I don't think that either one of us would be alive if we hadn't moved.

Another time we was hunting with Steve Cahoon, Leo [Durfee], and Edwin [Durfee]. We got into a bunch of deer and all starting shooting and we had one to many. We was cleaning them and the dogs started a barking and Leo said, "I'll get up on my horse and ride up and see what their barking at." He got up there a ways and he turned his horse around and come down just as fast as his horse could run and he hollered at us "Game Warden". We had one too many deer and so I jumped on my horse and Edwin he got on his and we took off and went down the canyon down a ways and Leo started a laughing, he said it was just an old horse that they were barking at. And Steve had never got to us and we went back up to there and he said, "I couldn't get on my horse, I had my coat and every time I'd go to put my foot in the stirrup I'd hit that coat and I couldn't get on." Leo pulled one on us. 1950's. hunting up in Almo canyon.

One time we was hunting again there was Dave Jensen, Leo [Durfee], Edwin [Durfee], Steve [Cahoon], Cleon [Durfee] and I. A game warden rode up there to us and started checking our license. We all had license but Dave and I see he was getting quite fidgety . He got around about were he was going to ask him for his license and he [Dave] says, "Well boys I gotta get back to the sheep" and he called the dogs and got on his horse and there was a band of sheep right up there on the hill and after that we called him Shepherder. So he got out of that pretty easy. He had his gun and horse he had been just gonna clean them deer.

Well there is a lot more stories on hunting but them are poaching stories.

One time I took Debra [Ward], Ilene [Ward], they was little kids and Steve [Ward] and he was about six years old and I took them up to the Lynn Reservoir. They were catching a lot of fish and they were catching the fish on my license and they was just fishing on my license and I was just baiting the hooks and letting them catch fish and they was having a great time. I took a count and we had to many but they were having a good time and didn't want to stop, so I told them that "We had better go and I'll stop at the Tracy Store and buy you an ice cream." They didn't want to quit, but I had too many fish. I stuck some under the seat and Bert Tracy was running the store then and we got down to the store and Bert, he says to Steve, "Well, did you catch any fish?" and he [Steve] says, "Yes, we caught quite a lot of fish, we got too many and Wes stuck some under the seat." He was just a little boy.

Another time we was fishing up to the Lynn Reservoir there was a bunch of us and we were all lined up there and Ellis Parish was with us, Cleon

[Durfee] and we was there fishing and the Game Warden came up looking at our fish and Ellis Parish was fishing with two poles and the Game Warden says, "Well who's pole is that?" Ellis said, "Well I don't know, some kid was fishing here and I don't know where he went to, he just left his pole."

And the Game Warden says, "Well I guess I got a pole then." So he took the pole and Ellis said it was his best pole. After he was gone we had a good laugh. And Ellis said, "He would take my best pole." Good fish , rainbow, fat, red meat, trout best fishing hole. We had to buy out of state license. Really liked to fish that reservoir.

Zen Taylor and I were up to Magic Reservoir once. I had a boat and we were out in it. We went out a ways past were people could cast and we got to catching fish and I says to Zen "We'd better count these fish, we might have to many." And when we did we had to many. so we didn't know whether those people was watching us or not I told Zen we'd better give them those extra fish and he said "No, we'll put them under the hood." And we got down on the road and he said they might be getting pretty warm under that hood and he pulled off the side on a turn out and he got the fish and handed them to me and I was putting them under an old tire we had there and a Game warden pulled up right to the side of us and Zen had the hood of the car up and he says, "What's the matter? You having trouble?" Zen says, "Yeah, It got kind of hot and I was just seeing if it was low on water." And he says, "Hand me that jug of water and I'll fill it up." So I handed it to him and the Game Warden says, "Well I just thought maybe you was having trouble." (Fish got too hot and they were out of water.) I put the right number of fish in the cooler we had and throwed the others back under that tire. We was scared all the way down.

There used to be good fishing up Almo Canyon. When Steve Cahoon was alive we use to go up fishing there all the time. There used to be fish in all these creeks around here year ago. Even the little creek where I used to live, there on Stines. My sisters used to go up there and I'd to go with them and they'd take a bucket and put it down below a pond and poke around in there and fish would go down the creek and they'd jerk up the bucket and it'd have 2 or 3 fish in it. Water got to low and fished out. Almo Creek.

fish used to come up the river. Several years ago , I went up Grape Creek and dropped off Linda (she used to tend Janie) and her sister from Pocatello and brought Janie back down and fished from the truck and I caught fish about a foot long on the way back, cut-throat trout , I had 12 of them. (Linda) She was mad at me when she got back down here and I had them fish. She said, "You knew where them there big fish were.", and I didn't. We had a lot of water that year and they came up the river. Clear from Snake River I guess.

Grandma Durfee, Grandpa was a character, I stayed with them when I was 12 years old. Mom stayed with them and helped Grandpa do chores. One time we went after a load of fruit, we went every year with a team and wagon. I rode on the wagon back and we had straw in the back so the fruit wouldn't get bruised on the way back and down there by Snowville this side and he went down into a place and they charged him to water his horses. He wanted to buy some hay for his horses and they wouldn't let him have any so at night he called to me "Come and go with me" and I said "Where are you going?" and he said "I'm going after some hay." So he took a little rope and took it down there and tied up a little bundle and brought it back and

fed it to his horses. Lived there where Elbert lives. Had milk cows, regular cows that gave a lot of milk. He raised a big garden all the time he was the one that showed me how to raise a garden. Grandma was a good cook and housekeeper. Aunt Anne,

Grandma Durfee was active in the Church and was Relief Society President.

Steve [Cahoon] and I were buddies together hunted and he gave me a ford truck. It was just a kind of , still got part of it, just the wheels-- wooden. He, Bill Bruesch and I went up to American Falls in it. We had pair of deer horns on front and a big cow tail on back. They was building the road and had big dips and a detour, they was going by us on that highway and honk and when we got up there Bill he turned out right there in the brush and took out around them and honked that old horn. We had it so it kindof bellered and we could go out through the brush better than they could. We just turned out around them and honk that horn as we'd go by them and they would catch up to us on the other side wave and honk their horn. We had a good fishing trip that year. We went up there

Lightening stories.

I was up in the field once getting my cows when I lived up there and lightning hit one of those big trees there right along the creek there and my mare went right down on her knees and that old mare she would fall down with me a lot of time. So I knew when she was going to fall I would jerk my feet out of the stirrups and try to get out of the way. That time she rolled over on my and I got my one arm back of the saddle and the other on the withers on front and I couldn't get loose. She just laid there and I thought she was killed or broke her neck or something and I finally kept working and working until I got one hand loose and there was a little stick laying there so I wiggled her ear so I hit her on the head with that stick and she rolled over and got off of me. I thought I was going to be there forever. I hollered and there was nobody that could hear me. I was clear up in the top of the field by Brueschs was pretty close. It was in the evening. Hoagland's lived up in the top of my place where those tall trees are. Mrs. Hoagland she was Phyllis Tracy's grandmother.

Rabbits, snow was deep, I reached over to hit the rabbit and she fell down and knocked me out. And Bill Bruesch was headed up to Elberts after a load of straw when I fell off and when I come to he was coming back with his load. I finally got out and got on that old mare and rode down to Art Taylor's, he lived where Ivan does now.

Tractor and saddle story. [Belnaps]

Working for Belnap herding cows story.

Fishing with Uncle Herm and coyote story.

Chain story with horses.

Funeral Services

Invocation: Melvin Wheeler

Benediction: Marvin Wheeler

Family Prayer: Virel Wake

Life Sketch to be given by Janie Rutschke. Daughter of Jeannine Wake Harris.

Songs to be sung: "Beyond the Sunset" and "O Divine Redeemer"

Songs to be sung by: Tonya Ward and Bruce and Kent Durfee

Speakers to be Ivan Darrington, Gene Wheeler and Bob Ward. Alternates Garth Wake and Jean Wheeter.

Kathleen Durfee to play the organ.

Dedicatory Prayer: Oriel or Seth Tracy

Active pallbearers:

George Brackenbury, Jr.
Jerald Brackenbury
Cecil Rice
Kirby Rice
Garth Wake
Thales Wake

Honorary Bearers

Eldred Wake
Virel Wake
Wally Taylor
Zennith Taylor
Seth Tracy
Orel Tracy
Rex Ward
William (Bill) Olsen
Bob Ward