ANDREW ALVIN AND ZEPHA LUND JENSEN

John Young Jensen, 18 Apr 1858, and Sarah Andrea Nielson, 31 Jan 1865, were married 3 Nov 1881 and had eight children: John Ray, Andrew Alvin, 27 Feb 1885, Francis, Sarah Blanch, Ernest Eugene, Earl Stanley, Ralph Edgar, Harold Lee, all born in Castle Dale, Utah. Alvin's grandparents were Niels Christiansen Jensen, Karen Seiersen, Andrew Nielson and Sarah Rasmussen, all born in Denmark.

Alvin spent his early life helping on the farm, barnyard chores, farming, gardening, hauling and delivering water from the river for 10 cents a barrel, and herding milk cows for the town people for 10 cents a head. As a young man, Alvin learned how to shear sheep by hand, traveling to Price, Cisco, Idaho and other places. He was working for the railroad in Price when he married Zepha Lund 7 Jul 1909.

Zepha was born 7 Jan 1890, Spring City, Sanpete County, Utah, to Joseph Parley Lund 2 Feb 1855 and Emma Cecelia Adler 13 Nov 1859 who were married 26 Aug 1878. They had eleven children: Joseph Lawrence, Elsie Cecelia, Susan Amanda, Ernest Eugene, Ada Jane, Zepha 7 Jan 1890, all born in Spring City, Utah. Niels Paul, Eva Nathalia, Leo, Ruth and Vesta, all born in Castle Dale.

Joseph's parents, born in Denmark, are paul Dedrick Soltoft Lund and Anna Maria Sorenson Larsen. Emma's parents born in Sweden, are Neils Benson Adler and Elsie Nilsson Hakansson.

Zepha spent her early life on a farm down the river about six miles east and south of Castle Dale every year from March until October, returning to Castle Dale for school. In 1900 the farm was sold and the family stayed in Castle Dale. She attended the Emery Stake Academy, the only school for higher education in Emery and Carbon Counties. As a young girl, Zepha did house work for the county attorney, A.D. Dixon, Judge Woods, and George Brandon in Castle Dale and for John Stanfield, a prominent Utah Artist in Mr. Pleasant, working for $1.50 a week. With this money she saved and bought a trunk for her hope chest. She returned to Castle Dale and worked in the telephone office until she married Alvin Jensen 7 July 1909, in Castle Dale.

Alvin and Zepha started their married life in Price, then moved back to Castle Dale where they lived the rest of their lives. Zepha spent her last seven moths in a nursing home in Ferron, Utah.

The summer of 1910 Alvin and Zepha pitched a tent on their property where they lived while building two rooms of their home. Their stove was set up under a big cottonwood tree and a little bowery built over this (kitchen) to their tent where their bed, dresser and other household and personal things were. Their tent had a board floor, covered with home-made rugs. When Alvin started to lathe and plaster he got the lathe too far apart (trying to economize, I guess) so the plaster wouldn't stay up. His friend,
John Bott, got on top of the ceiling and as Alvin put the plaster up, John would smooth it over real fast, then Alvin would smooth on the bottom which was the ceiling. This way they got the plaster to stick to the lathe.

When winter came they moved down to Jon Y.'s home. He was on a mission to the Manti Temple. On Christmas Eve 24 December 1910, Zola was born, a blue baby. In the spring they moved back to their property to work on their house. They had two more boys, Vaughn L. 2 Feb 1914 and Dean A. 17 Nov 1919.

Zepha was a primary teacher, Relief Society Teacher and ward Chorister. She organized the first harmonica band, sang duets, and sang with the choir and singing mothers for many years. She entered bottled fruits and vegetables, hand-made items, and fresh fruits and vegetables in the county fair and received blue ribbons on almost every entry for many years.

Alvin had many trades. He had the mail route from Price to Emery for some time, leaving Price with four horses, changing to eight head at Huntington, having dinner in Castle Dale at home while the horses rested, then to Ferron and on to Emery. He would stay there that night and go back to Price the next day changing horses at the same places. Sometimes Zepha would make part of the trip with him.

One of the first cars to come to Emery County was a 1914 Model T Ford belonging to lawyer A.D. Dixon. He was killed when his car turned over (23 Nov 1914). Alvin bought it, fixed it up and used it to make a living by hauling passengers, ball teams, orchestras, businessmen, and salesmen all over Carbon and Emery Counties.

In 1918 Alvin, Ray, Ernest Jensen and A. E. Wall bought a threshing machine to do custom work for the farmers. Alvin operated this machine. When he did work on the farms, the farmers would feed him. On some jobs he would be three or four days, never having to worry about taking a lunch. There was lots of grain grown in the County. In 1921 Alvin and Zepha moved down town to operate and maintain the telephone office. Alvin also built the line over the mountain to Ephraim. Alvin owned and operated a garage in Castle Dale and Helper.

In the 1930's he worked Civil Service, in the CCC Camps as a caterpillar operator and trained the boys. He worked for the County as a Cat operator building roads and ponds all over the desert and mountains, digging cellars, silage pits and ditches.

He raised rabbits and mink. (When Soni, his granddaughter, went to school at South Emery, one teacher made a statement about a stinky mink farm in Castle Dale. She was embarrassed and didn't tell him that was her grandfather.) He had apple and fruit trees. He had honey bees. He had all kinds of farm animals: cows, pigs, sheep, and chickens. Zepha said she always had some change in her pocket. Alvin said he bought the chicken feed and she sold he eggs. They raised a beautiful self-sustaining vegetable garden and beautiful flowers from early spring to late fall.

In May 1967 Alvin was awarded a ten year Merit Service Badge for having read the government thermometer and precipitation register for the U.S. Department of Commerce. He had not missed a reading once a week for the past ten years. The instrument is located in the Jensen back yard. A representative from the department came down from Logan and presented the merit award. This was a volunteer service on the part of Alvin.

Alvin and Zepha sold their first house in 1938 or 1939 to Henry Stevenson. They built another home and sold to Ted Wilberg in 1950. They moved downtown on the old Will Peterson property. They added a glass room, kitchen, and bathroom to the house that was already there.

Their children all married and had families. Zola married James Arthur Jeffs. They had four children. Divorced. Then she married Ruben Mark Brasher and they had one child. Vaughn married Geneal Litster and had two daughters. Dean married LeNila Mae Timothy. They had nine children.

Alvin and Zepha have 50 great-grandchildren. Dean was in World War II serving in the French invasion, then on to Holland and Germany working in the grave registration. He died 15 August 1972.

Alvin and Zepha celebrated their silver wedding anniversary 7 July 1934 at a lawn party at their home where long tables were beautifully decorated. Over 150 friends and relatives gathered for a delicious luncheon. Their golden wedding anniversary 7 July 1959 consisted of a dinner for family and relatives and an afternoon reception for friends from all over the county and state. For their 60th anniversary only the immediate family gathered (7 July 1969). Alvin died 15 Nov 1969 at age 84 in Castle Dale, and Zepha died 20 Feb 1973 at age 83, in Ferron.

I, Zola Brasher, pay honor to my mother and father for having had me, to raise and teach me right from wrong. They were hard workers, kind, loving and generous. They had lots of friends. I loved them very much and miss them very much.