

MY PERSONAL HISTORY

March 15, 2003

Full name: Richard Palmer Webster

Date of birth: 12 February 1935

Where born: Cedar City, Iron County, Utah

Family circumstances at time of birth: I was born during the great depression and during my childhood years, World War II ended. We lived in a very large brick house at 62 North 3rd East; built in 1890 by Grandfather Webster. Father acquired the home in about 1930. This is where my siblings and I grew-up until we were out of the family "nest." Dad died 4 Dec. 1964. At age 66, mother was left alone. It became evident that the big house and large lot was more than mother could manage so the property was sold and a smaller more manageable home was acquired on College Avenue.

My family was in the livestock (sheep) and farming business so there was plenty of meat and vegetables from a big garden. We did not want for the necessities of life. My childhood years were the days of horse-drawn farm machinery. We raised our own chickens, hogs, sheep and milk cows. I remember well gathering eggs, milking the cow, helping dad slaughter a lamb and driving a team of draft horses to mow and haul hay or haul supplemental feed to the sheep at the farm. We boys, working with our father, learned what hard work and long days were. I have no recollection of going without or not having enough. Our wants and needs were satisfied.

These were the days before TV and electric gas pumps. At the movie theater News Reel would provide updates on the War. This was also a time of rationing coupons for certain food items, tires, gas etc. And I remember mother spending much time helping with the salvage effort. At the Utah Parks Company commissary railroad siding on 1st West, she'd keep me in tow while loading a boxcar with paper. Tin cans, animal fat or grease were also collected for the war effort.

Miss. Wanda (Tolstrup) was my kindergarten teacher. My great achievement—my kindergarten pride and joy, is a chair I made from a wooden orange-crate. And thus I was launched into the academic world.

Father's name: Francis Parson Urie Webster, a.k.a. Parson U. Webster

Date & place of his birth: 22 May 1893; Cedar City, Iron County, Utah

His father's name: John James Godson Webster

His mother's maiden name: Eliza Ann Urie

Mother's name: Evelyn Palmer

Date & place of her birth: 18 Jul. 1898; Cedar City, Iron County, Utah

Her father's name: Jethro Rees Palmer

Her mother's maiden name: Mary Ann Middleton

Brother's & sister's: Names; dates & places of birth names of spouses & children; other information (such as missions, schools & occupations").

Rose Marie, dob 2 Sep. 1928, Cedar City, Iron County, Utah; died 6 Aug. 1929.

Marjorie, dob 17 Aug. 1930, Cedar City, Iron County, Utah; school: Univ. Utah (BS); married Daniel Emmett Nelson, (div.); children: Evelyn, Shealia, Melanie, Rose Marie; occupation: school teacher.

Francis Parson, dob 14 Jan. 1934, Cedar City, Iron County Utah; died 26 Mar. 1994, Morgan, Morgan County, Utah; married: Carol Ann Matheson; children: William, David, Curtis, Scott, Paul, Mark, Lee Ann, Janette, Sharon and Catherine; mission: Northwestern States; school: College of So. Utah, Utah State Univ., Univ. So. California (MS); occupation: electrical engineer and taught at Weber State Univ.

Daniel Alan, dob 25 Feb. 1938, Cedar City, Iron County, Utah, married: Wilma Vandenberg (div.); children: Bradley and Brent; school: College of So. Utah (AS), occupation: stockbroker.

Additional information pertaining to siblings on attached sheet, if necessary.

Blessings: when; where; by whom; where record is available:

Before my advent into mortality my oldest sister, Rose Marie, died an infant. In this life I knew her not. Now through reflective contemplation and years of maturity, I think of her; a part of the family. And want to envelope her in the warmth and love of the family circle. We will be united.

Francis and I were only 13 months apart. We shared many interests and activities. Being more mature, he usually took the lead—a big brother I looked up to. Physically, I became larger than he; and boys being boys, sometimes conflicts were settled physically. The day came when I was able to “take'em” physically; but it was a bittersweet encounter that I soon came to regret. I had encroached into his role of big brother; things were never quite the same. However, developing maturity eventually carried us past the physical relationship to one that included more acceptance and love.

We were into model airplanes together, Civil Air Patrol, Boy Scouts etc. It was his airplane but I could help him build and fly it. Together we attended a Civil Air Patrol encampment at Camp Williams. We both had an interest in flying and took flying lessons until our meager financial reserves were depleted. Mom and dad were not sympathetic to our interest in flying so no additional money was forthcoming.

We both participated in the huge Boy Scout Jamboree July 24, 1947, in Salt Lake City. This was part of the centennial celebration of the Mormon Pioneer's entrance into the valley of the Great Salt Lake and we witnessed the unveiling of *This Is The Place Monument*.

In our middle grades we were both involved in music. Francis was playing a violin. I took piano lessons from Mr. Van Cott for two years, played in a piano recital, then decided that was enough of that. Mother and Mr. Halverson decided my music might continue by learning to play a viola. That seemed more to my liking and it was a stringed instrument similar to Francis' violin. Eventually we both played in the Cedar High School orchestra and during the last years of high school we also played in the

college orchestra at 8:0'clock each morning.

We did well but beginning May 3rd each year it became rather imposing. Dad was a sheep rancher and this is when about 1200 ewes began lambing. The routine was to get up at 4:0'clock in the morning. Drive to the farm, ride a horse to a pasture where the "dropping bunch" was checked. Any ewe with a new lamb(s) that needed extra attention was taken to the shed. Here they received additional care and here we individually watered and gave a double hand-full of oats to each ewe. After chores, we'd return home, get ready and be to orchestra by 8:0'clock.

Academically, neither of us pursued music as a major or minor. However, we did enjoy the music activities. We continued to play in the college orchestra for operas and community concerts. We both played in string quartets and ensembles for a variety of activities. Professor Halverson took our quartet to outlying communities from where the college draws students and we'd present a programs. Also, College President Daryl Chase hosted occasional gatherings at his residence and our string quartet played appropriate background music to help entertain his guests. We became personally acquainted with President Chase. It was always a delight to pass him somewhere on campus and be greeted by him on a first name basis. He moved to Logan to become President of Utah State University. My academic pursuits eventually took me to U.S.U. Here again, when passing President Chase on campus he always remembered my name. It made me feel important.

Baptism: when; where; by whom; where record is available: Baptized 28 Mar. 1943 into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by Francis Parson Urie Webster. Certificate of Baptism and Confirmation is in my possession.

Confirmation: when; where; by whom; where record is available: Confirmed 28 Mar. 1943 a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by Francis Parson Urie Webster. Certificate of Baptism and Confirmation is in my possession.

Patriarchal blessing: when; where; by whom: Patriarchal blessing received 15 Sep. 1955, Cedar City, Iron Co., Utah, from George W. Grimshaw, Patriarch.

Schooling: date & place of first schooling; schools attended; teachers remembered best; certificates or diplomas received; outstanding experiences:

My education, K through 12, was in the schools of Cedar City, Utah. I graduated from Cedar High School in 1952. Thereafter I attended college at College of Southern Utah (C.S.U) studying Animal Husbandry. After my mission and marriage, I hadn't decided what to study. Helen was teaching in the elementary grades so I considered that and enrolled again at C.S.U. studying Elementary Education. During the summer of 1958 I worked for the U. S. Forest Service and thoroughly enjoyed the work so determined to study Forestry at Utah State University at Logan.

In March 1962 I graduated with a BS degree in General Forest Management and began a career as a professional forester on the Humboldt National Forest at Mountain City, Nevada. In December 1965 we transferred to the Ashley National Forest, Manila Ranger District and the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area at Manila, Utah.

In February 1974 we transferred to the Boise National Forest at Idaho City, Idaho. A year and a-half later, in November 1975 we moved into Boise. I commuted and continued to

work on the Idaho City Ranger District.

In 1980 I was encouraged then selected to become a Forest Service real estate appraiser, a part of the Forest Service, Region Four Real Estate Appraisal Group in Boise, Idaho. I began an accelerated training program and became a state certified general real estate appraiser in Colorado and Utah and was authorized to do Forest Service appraisals anywhere in the country. Appraisal training was provided by professional appraisal organizations and was taught in various workshops and universities throughout the country, i.e. University of Maryland, Indiana University, University of Georgia, and Boise State University.

This "lane change" resulted in considerably more travel, working more independently and on assignments in most of the western states as an appraiser and review appraiser. Being one of several regional appraisers; in 1995, I filled a vacancy on the Dixie National Forest, Cedar City, Utah. Two years later, On January 3, 1997, I retired in Cedar City. This is my ancestral hometown and where I grew up. Total Govt. service was almost 36 years. I had worked hard, accomplished a lot, and felt good about what I had done and felt good about the outfit for which I had worked.

Marriage: to whom; when; where; circumstances of courtship: Married Helen Tuft, dob 24 May 1934, Escalante, Garfield County, Utah, raised in Monroe, Sevier County, Utah. We were married 29 Nov. 1957, in the St. George Temple, St. George, Washington County, Utah, by Herald S. Snow, Temple President. Helen is the daughter of Leonard N and Bernice Shurtz Tuft. She graduated from Monroe High School in 1951 and from College of Southern Utah with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education in 1956.

On one occasion our string quartet performed at an awards assembly at the LDS Institute of Religion. Here students received scholarships and other recognition including the Mildred I. Sargent Womanhood Award. Professor David L. Sargent presented the womanhood award in honor of his wife; to the young woman student that best exemplified high standards of moral character, academic excellence, demonstrated leadership ability, achievement, etc. That year Helen Tuft of Monroe, Utah was the recipient. She was our student body vice-president and beloved of all. I was blessed to be present that day and with reverent respect honored this young woman. I had no idea then, but later she would become my wife, my eternal companion and the mother of our five children.

Our courtship lead to engagement, subject to a planned mission. She taught second grade in Richfield and waited patiently while I served two years in the Canadian Mission--Ontario and part of Quebec. Upon my arrival home we were married.

A year later we were at U.S.U. Here again Helen taught school and I began working toward a major in General Forest Management with the benefit of a music scholarship. The scholarship was conditional upon being enrolled in the U.S.U. symphony orchestra. I also played in the U.S.U. string quartet and was invited to play viola in the faculty quartet. I was honored by this invitation but declined feeling a need to give more attention to my forestry curriculum. In the viola section I always played principal or first-chair and was never successfully challenged by other violists.

Children: names; dates & places of birth; names of spouses & children; other information:

Margene, dob 6 Sep. 1959, Logan, Cache County, Utah; married: Randall G. Rich; children: Kimberly Celeste and Jared Webster (twins), and Amy Nicole; education: graduated Boise High School, Boise, Idaho, Brigham Young Univ. (Provo) BS and MS.; mission: South Carolina-Columbia Mission; occupation: teacher BYU, Ricks College, and High School.

John Richard, dob 28 Sep. 1961, Cedar City, Iron County, Utah; married: Kay Merrell; children: Chase Merrell, Erin Kay, Ryan Ilene, Sarah Jean, John Richard, Jr. and Mary Elizabeth; education: graduated Boise High School, Boise State Univ. (AS); mission: Chicago North Mission; occupation: hotel management.

Stephen Tuft, dob 20 Nov. 1963, Elko, Elko County, Nevada; married: Gillian Zaimi; children: Zachary Noah, Dylan Matthew, Mackenzie Luke and Jordan Alex; education: graduated Boise High School, Boise State Univ. (AS); occupation: retail sales and management.

Neal Parson, dob 15 Apr. 1969, Vernal, Uintah County, Utah; married: Holly Ann Sheley; children: Whitney Kate, Sadie Ann; mission: Korea Pusan Mission; education: graduated Boise High School, Ricks College, Idaho State University (BS), Virginia Commonwealth Univ. (DDS), Columbia Univ. (Post Grad. - Orthodontics).

Stacie Ann, dob 17 Aug. 1971, Ogden, Weber County, Utah; married: Curtis Reed Christensen; children: Mitchell Reed, Elizabeth Ann and Drew Curtis; education: graduated Boise High School, Brigham Young Univ. (BS).

Additional information pertaining to children on attached sheet, if necessary. Childhood memories: adventures, travels, accidents, thoughts, amusing incidents, friends, etc.

"Who Arc You Little Boy?"

I recall an experience with mother that wasn't too pleasant at the time but made a lasting impression.

In the 3rd and 4th grade, two of my classmates were Indian [native American] boys from the local Indian village on the northeast side of Cedar City. Somehow I found a friend in these boys. As far as I was concerned they were OK, *straight arrow*. Only the Indians in the movies were bad. In fact these guys were so good that I was sure that if they were to ride off into the sunset it would be on pure white horses and not on some "paint" or pinto.

Mother apparently thought I was spending too much time with my Indian friends. I suppose she thought I should chum around more with higher caliber kids. I'm not sure just what she thought but the plan she devised to cure me from spending so much time at the Indian camp apparently worked.

One evening as I returned home after having played with my "straight arrow" friends, I discovered the house was locked. I couldn't get in. The folks never locked the house even when there was no one home. Needless to say I was a bit upset. The lights were on and everyone was in but me. I checked all the doors. No luck. Finally I began knocking (I may

have done a little kicking and included some sound effects too - I don't remember).

Mother came to the door and said, "Who are you little boy? All my children are in for the night." Obviously there was some mistake. Surely she should recognize me and all should be well. Something was wrong. Any explanation I offered did no good. Marge, Francis and Dan were all at mother's side. They recognized me. They knew I was one of the family. When it became apparent to them that mother wasn't going to let me in they came to my defense and tried to persuade her that, "its Dick, and he's one of us."

Obviously mother had "flipped," she really had a problem if she couldn't recognize her own kid. At the time, however, that didn't enter my mind. What was on my mind was confusion not knowing how to deal with the situation. I knew I wanted in. I just wanted to be in the house with the family in my niche and have everything the way it always was.

I don't remember much of what happened after that. It must have worked. The lesson was learned.

Additional information pertaining to childhood memories, on attached sheet.

Faith-promoting experiences: personal; other family member's experiences that affected you; circumstances surrounding your conversion to the Church.

Health: record, including sicknesses, accidents & physical conditions.

Home life: duties in the home; home activities; relationships with brothers sisters; places lived; family trips and vacations; pets.

Hobbies & talents: musical, artistic, & creative abilities; lessons & workshops taken; things you like to do.

Goals and plans: things to accomplish in business (vocation), home life, education, Church service.

Other incidents: include Church experiences and calls.

Try not to leave anything out that will be important. Just attach additional sheets!