

Joseph Alva Rooker (Dwelling #700)

Joseph Rooker was born on January 22, 1818 in Granville, Delaware County, Indiana. His parents were John L. and Dolly Torbet Rooker.

Joseph married Emeline Samantha Jordan on November 1, 1840 in Granville, Delaware County, Indiana. She was born on May 6, 1825 in Pleasant, Brown County, Ohio. Nathan and Barbara Curtis Jordan were her parents. Barbara was the sister of Benjamin Gardner Curtis (dwelling #692) and Uriah Curtis (dwelling #698).

Not much is known about their lives before their marriage. It is not clear whether the family went to Nauvoo. Their first two children, Barbara Elsie and Almira Larue, were born in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Barbara only lived 3 years.

The couple was in Big Pigeon by the birth of their third child, William Edward. He was born on October 8, 1846. Joseph was a member of the Brigham Young Vanguard Company to the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847. He returned to Big Pigeon and another child was born on Christmas Day in 1848. He was called after his father, Joseph Alva Rooker. Another daughter, Lucy Ann, arrived on July 24, 1851.

The Uriah Curtis Company departed from Kaneshville on June 28, 1852 for the Salt Lake Valley. Joseph, Emeline, and four children were among that Company. Eight more children would be added to the family. Three were born in Utah, Eliza Emeline, Cynthia Elizabeth, and Sarah Jane. However, the 1860 U. S. Census placed them in Washington, Alameda County, California. The rest were born in California—Jessie Eva, Isaac, George Nelson, and Ida Louise.

Temporarily the family was found in Oregon at Linkville, Lake County, according to the 1880 U. S. Census. By 1900, as listed, in the U. S. Census they had moved to San Luis Rey, San Diego County, California.

Joseph Alva Rooker, Sr. died on November 12, 1901 in Oceanside, San Diego County, California. Emeline died at the same place on May 1, 1906. They are buried at the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Fallbrook, San Diego County, California.