

John Barlow Salway



John (Jack) Barlow Salway

John is known to all as Jack and as Barney in his athletic years. He was born in Lyndhurst, England. Jack started school at the age of three. At the age of twelve, he was the first Salway son to do missionary work for the Mormon Church. Jack and mum rode their bicycles from Dorset to Wales and went door to door tracting. Why in Wales? Jack said he never knew.

During World War I his father was in France and mum took over the barbershop. Jack helped her. He had a little stool beside the two chairs in the shop. He would take the clippers and trim up the back of the soldiers' necks and lather the men's faces and mum would shave them.

Christmas in England was always exciting. Some years we got the biggest and the best. Other years things got really tough. We couldn't afford a Christmas tree, so they made one out of sticks covered with tinsel and colored paper and set it up in a corner. Mum then decorated it with small gifts, toys purchased for a penny or half-penny each. When the time came, the kids were blindfolded and a stick was placed in our hand. We were then twirled around and let to the tree. Any gift we touched with the stick was ours and then the next child tried.

It was during the war that Jack's brother, Alf, and sister, Millie, died of consumption.

On Sundays Dad or Mum would put a roast in a large roast pan with potatoes and carrots. Jack would take the pan to the ovens on the way to Church. After Church, Jack would pick up the family dinner.

Jack enjoyed sports and he played on the men's football and cricket teams as a young man in England. He always taught his children a sense of fair play. He would say, "It matters not if you win or lose, it's how you played the game."

The family came to Canada and settled down in a log cabin. At the age of 17, Jack left Cardston and went to work at the Union Bank in Irvine, Alberta. He also coached the volleyball and basketball teams at the school. His future wife was one of the students, but at the time she was only 13 years old. Irvine was a German community and Jack being solid English, knew no

German. One time, at a dance, he saw a beautiful German girl and wanted to impress her by speaking German. So he got some German boys to teach him how to say, "Will you dance with me?" He got his face slapped by the girl and went looking for the German boys.

Jack again met Martha while she was working for George Wolf in Cardston in the Hotel. Martha was very shy and their first date was a walk by Lee Creek. When they sat on a bench Jack tried to sit by her. She moved over and he moved closer. By the time she came to the end of the bench, she just got up and started over. They were married in the Salway home by Bishop Pitcher. They started their married life with a tablecloth and a pair of sheets and pillowcases from Mr. Wolff. It was during the depression and they used apple boxes for chairs and an empty telephone wire roller for a table. Their bed cost \$2.00 and their two burner stove cost \$1.50. They picked up coal along the railroad track.

Jack went to work in the storeroom at the Paliser Hotel in Calgary. He sold Life Insurance, worked at the Bay and then Eatons, where he made \$18.50 per week.

Their first child was a blond haired girl. Martha was in labor a long time. When Jack examined the baby, he counted out loud the number of toes and fingers. He was shocked to find two thumbs on the right hand. Martha simply passed out. The doctors removed the extra thumb and called Millie, "The little soldier."

Jack enjoyed fishing and playing pranks. One time when He was fishing with a friend, they came across some couples swimming in the nude. Jack and his friend, hid their clothes and chuckled about it for many years wondering how they got home.

Jack worked for the Canadian Pacific Railroad and in the early years the work was slow. He, therefore, supplemented their income by digging graves. He was surprised to find the man he was working with was an old flame of Eva's from Bovington Camp.

While living in Calgary, Jack's first son was born. He was named after Jack's father and Martha's father.

In 1939 Jack moved his family to Medicine Hat where he worked full time for the railroad as a brakeman. They bought their first home on the South Hill. Jack loved to garden and soon had a greenhouse, a large garden and lots of flowers. His father would send bedding plants each year from Cardston by bus. Jack would get the whole family out planting the seedlings as soon as they arrived, rain or shine. A second son was born and they named him John Edward. He had black hair and brown eyes.

Jack read a lot and tried to make up for his lack of formal schooling. Whenever his children needed a lesson taught, he would recall something he had read. One example of this was one day Jack sent Alf to the neighbors for something. When Alf came home Jack was very angry and waiting. Jack commenced to sit Alf down and tell him the story of the General who sent one of his soldiers with a letter to Garcia. The soldier went through many trials to deliver

the message. The moral of the story was when you are asked to do something, no matter how difficult, you find a way to do it. From then on it became a family saying when something important needed to be done right now, "Take a letter to Garcia."

Jack had several accidents while working for the railroad, but the most traumatic was when his conductor was pinned under the wheels of the train. Jack was the first to his friend and held him in his arms where he died before the ambulance came. Jack worked as a conductor his last then years on the railroad.

Jack always loved music. He played the banjo and the ukulele, and sang for his friends. Jack was the life of a party. He also sang to his children. Some of his favorites were "Bye Bye Blackbird" and "Does the old toad sit still upon the mat with the neighbor cat next door." The kids favorite was:

Chinaman

Chinaman no money makee
Allee lifey long
Washa Washa once me takee
Washa Wash wrong.

When me get ee steely colla
Policeeman he come
Me he finee fifty dolla
Muchee Muchee sum.

Chin Chin ee Chinaman
EEEEEEVelly Velly sad
Me alflay all aflay
Velly Velly bad.

No ee jokey blokee bloke
Makee shut ee shop
Chin Chin ee Chinaman
Chop Chop Chop.

Jack returned to activity in the Mormon Church when his wife was baptized. He was ordained a High Priest and was sealed to Martha in the Cardston Temple.

Jack retired from the railroad and had an import business. He sold leather purses from Mexico and trinkets from Japan. A favorite, which everyone loved, was Jack's kissing dolls.

Jack died Nov 6, 1983 in Calgary, Alberta Canada.

Jack Becomes a Canadian

Jack was sixteen when we left England to come to Canada. A difficult time of life at best. Jack was an important member of his group while in England. He was a patrol leader in the scout troop and a star player on the football team and other sports. he was a good boxer and in short was a popular young man. All that changes on coming to Canada.

Jack was the only member of the family who had to leave the far different English Education System and try to adjust to the Canadian System. However, he did make quite a name for himself when he took on the burley head master who was picking on a half witted boy in the class.

Jack learned to ice skate but not well enough to play the game. He was able to play in the goal where his football skills helped him. After two years of school in Cardston jack got a job in the Royal Bank. He was doing well and enjoyed the work when one day he made a mistake and gave away one hundred dollars too much. The man who received the extra money would not admit the error. Jack had to pay the money back out of his own pay check. As soon as it was paid off he gave up banking.

Martha Magdalena Helm Salway



Martha Helm Salway

I came from a long line of pioneers. In the 1970's my ancestors left Wurttensburg, Germany to travel by wagon and oxen to the southern part of Russia. They left in pursuit of religious freedom and freedom from wars. My mother and father were born in Russia and came to America with their parents when they were nine years old.

I was born in Ashley, North Dakota to Karoline Schaffer and Karl Helm. I was their first and only child as my father died before I was born. I had an older brother, Alvin, who my parents adopted when he was eight years old. Soon after my birth my mother went to Irvine, Alberta, Canada to live with her parents. My mother married Otto Deering and we moved to South Irvine on a wheat farm. I was around thirteen when I was told who my real father was. Alvin left home and I became the oldest of six brothers and three sisters. These were hard times. With many crop failures we survived by selling milk, butter, eggs and garden produce.

We had to walk three miles to school and during the winter we stayed in Irvine with our grandparents to go to school. We would trade off. One week some of us would stay at Grandma Schaffer's and the next week we stayed at Grandma Deering's. We always wanted to stay at Grandma Schaffer's as she was kind and a good cook. Grandma Deering was a terrible cook and made us eat everything. One day my brother poured his soup down the front of his pants so he wouldn't have to eat it.

In 1924 our house burned down while we were at church. We lived in a granary while pop and his brother went to look for farm land. When they returned they told of a beautiful land they had bought. The land had flowers and a beautiful church. Pop told us that someday we would all go to that church. (The Cardston Temple).

Our move to Cardston was one I'll never forget. Mom and Pop took the car and four kids. Two of my brothers were left with the livestock and I was to take my three brothers by train. Mom packed a lunch which we ate before we got to Lethbridge, (four hours). We transferred to a

coach to Cardston. One half of the coach was a cattle barn. The train was very slow, stopping at each little town for several hours. The boys became hungry and restless. I was around 13 years old and had never been away from my mom before. The conductor felt sorry for us and brought us some food. He was friendly and teased the boys. He told me there were Mormon's in Cardston and that they had horns. He warned me to watch out for the Mormons. I wondered why pop would buy a farm where people were so different. I was wondering if we would ever see mom and pop again. Finally the train stopped at Cardston I wasn't going to leave, when a man in a hat appeared at the door and said, "Are you the Deering children?" He said he had come to take us to the farm. I just stood and looked at him, wishing he would take his hat off, so I could see if he had horns. We finally got to the farm and I cried into my mom's apron.

I enjoyed those growing up years in Taylorsville. I played Topsy in a Church play, and went to some Church parties and dances. When I got older I went to work for Mrs. Wolff, taking care of her children and helping at the hotel.

Mom and pop moved back to Irvine and were soon back on the farm. During World War 1 the schools were closed as many people died of the flu. We had to wear masks when we went to town. After the war someone decided to burn an effigy of the Kaiser. The younger kids, my self included hauled wood up the largest hill in Irvine. It was so big. After I was married I looked at the hill and said it had shrunk. I could never understand why these Germans were burning a German Kaiser.

My stepfather liked to gamble, but never won because he didn't know how to play cards, even the boys could beat him. One time mom went to the place where they were gambling and threw a rock in the window.

The first time I met Jack, he, was working at the Union Bank in Irvine, and in his spare time he taught basketball to us at the school. When Jack left Irvine no one knew where he went. When we moved to Cardston I again met Jack. We were married in his parents home and moved to Calgary. Our first child was born during the depression, times were bad for everyone, but Jack always found work.

My family and friends always called me Martha or Marta,, (German) but Jack called me Mutch, which he said means I love you. From then on I became known as Mutch to everyone.

I made all our clothes, knit, sewed and crocheted, made quilts for beds and remodeled and sewed clothes for others.

Our second child was also born in Calgary. A son named after Jack's brother, Alfred, and my father Helm.

Every summer I took Alf and Millie to Irvine to help mom cook for the threshing crew. Jack worked for the railroad so we had free passes.

We moved to Medicine Hat and bought our first home and our third child was born. We called him John Edward after his father and grandfather.

When Jack retired from the railroad we moved back to Calgary to be near our sons. We traveled a lot visiting our children who lived in Kelowna, Montana and Oregon.

One morning Jack had a heart attach and died in his bed. I was alone with him but our home teacher from the Church arrived immediately to help me.

I have had a good marriage and a good family. I now live alone in Calgary and try to keep busy with my quilting, sewing, for my grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Martha died March 1, 2000 in Calgary, Alberta Canada.