

## Joseph Johnson Alger

Joseph Johnson Alger was born 10 December 1853 in Trenton, Grundy, Missouri. He was the third of seven children of Thomas Hancock Alger and Sarah Ann Edwards. In 1860, the family was farming in Trenton.<sup>1</sup> Joseph's father died of disease in the Civil War<sup>2</sup> when Joseph was nine years old. Joseph and his siblings were farmed out with other families. At age thirteen, Joseph, with his mother and four siblings, crossed the plains to the Great Salt Lake Valley with the Peter Nebeker Company, arriving 29 September 1866.<sup>3</sup> They travelled with his uncle John Alger and his mother and uncle married after their arrival, in 1867. They divorced shortly and his mother remarried in 1872. Joseph gained three half-siblings from these marriages.

In 1870, Joseph was living with his mother and siblings in Clover Valley, Utah Territory. [now in Elko County, Nevada].<sup>4</sup> In 1880, he married Mary Jane Mangum in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, where Joseph was a teamster.<sup>5</sup> They had four children. By 1892, they had moved to Circleville, Piute, Utah Territory. After 1896, Joseph went back to work in the silver mines at Silver Reef, leaving his wife and four children at home and never came back (Information from granddaughter Amy Hall).

In 1900, Joseph was a logging laborer, living in Belmont, Coconino, Arizona Territory.<sup>6</sup> He married Nancy Mahala "Nannie" Gaines in 1905 in California (she had eight children by two previous husbands). Joseph was registered to vote in Nuhioso, Apache, Arizona Territory.<sup>7</sup> In 1910, they were living in Simi Valley, Ventura, California, where Joseph was a teamster and did odd jobs.<sup>8</sup> By 1917 Joseph was living and farming in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.<sup>9</sup> In 1920 he was living with his daughter's family in Alunite, Piute, Utah,<sup>10</sup> but still registered as a voter in California until 1924, when he was living with his wife in San Fernando, Los Angeles, California.

Nannie died in 1926 in San Fernando and was buried in the Oakwood Memorial Park in Chatsworth, Los Angeles, California.<sup>11</sup> Joseph lived in San Fernando<sup>12</sup> until his death on 4 January 1932 in San Fernando. He was cremated.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United States Census, 1860.

<sup>2</sup> Roster of Company D, Wisconsin Volunteers, p. 292.

<sup>3</sup> Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868.

<sup>4</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>5</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>6</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>7</sup> Arizona Voter registrations, 1866-1955.

<sup>8</sup> United States Census, 1910; California Voter Registrations, 1900-1968.

<sup>9</sup> US City Directories, 1822-1995.

<sup>10</sup> United States Census, 1920.

<sup>11</sup> California Death Index, 1905-1939; *Findagrave.com*

<sup>12</sup> United States Census, 1930; US City Directories, 1822-1995.

<sup>13</sup> California Death Index, 1905-1939; California County Birth and Death Records, 1880-1994.