

A Brief History of
Deola Dutson Turner

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Deola Dutson Turner was born Dec. 29, 1920 to John Quayle Dutson and Eva Anderson in Oak City, Utah. She asked her mother where she got the name Deola. Her mother told her it was in the ERA-Church Magazine. Most of Deola's friends call her Dee. (Of course, of her best "little friends" call her Grandma). She was the first born in her family of ten children, having seven younger brothers and two younger sisters.

Deola was raised on a farm in Lyndyl, Utah. They raised pigs, calves, sheep, turkeys, and chickens. They owned and operated a small dairy to provide milk for the "Beanery" cafeteria there in Lyndyl, and also for the town of Lyndyl. Of course, with a family of ten children, they must have saved a little milk for themselves. She being the oldest, and a girl besides, had as her duty washing the bottles each day, which she got very tired of.

Going to school was a favorite getaway from washing bottles. She was a very good student, and loved to read so much that the school gave her a key to the library! Their family had to travel a distance of four miles to school. Her father would drop the children off to school in the morning as he delivered milk, but they walked home each afternoon. The walk wasn't too unbearable, but they had to keep a close eye and ear out for rattlesnakes. There were many other snakes around their farm, especially blow snakes, which the children played with as pets. Deola was not afraid of them as most girls are. She has even been credited to the killing of one or more rattlesnakes, herself, with a single shovel.

One of her favorites of the old-time country duties was getting ice blocks in the winter from the reservoir. Each block was cut into just the right size for the family ice box and hauled with a wagon and a team of horses to the icehouse, where they were stored with a sawdust covering. They kept their home-made rootbeer under the sawdust in the icehouse.

Whenever Deola could sneak away from her seven brothers, two sisters and household chores, she would head for the corn patch where she could usually red some of those good library books undisturbed. As she grew into womanhood, she was very popular with the young men, and could outdance the best of them.

After graduating from Delta High School in 1939, she came to Salt Lake City to work for a well-to-do family doing housework and caring for their children. She did this for a couple of years and continued to attend dances when she could. It was at one of these dances, she met Darell Turner from Bluffdale, whom she dated and married. When Darell and Deola went to get their marriage license in Salt Lake, she had to take one of their children whom she cared for. The man that issued their license looked at them as if to say, "It's about time you two got married!" They were married May 8, 1941 in the Salt Lake Temple.

Darell and Deola made their home in Bluffdale, near where they reside now. After they had been married for two or three years Darell was drafted to help in World War II. He went to the Philippine Islands as part of the Construction Battalion (C.B.'s). Life was filled with challenges for Deola. She had two young children, expecting another and no modern conveniences. (Unless a cold water tap in the kitchen sink, a wood and coal stove for heating and cooking, and an outdoor toilet are considered conveniences).

With her husband still away, in March of 1945, twin girls were born to Deola (Marilyn and Marilee). It was a surprise! Unfortunately, the medical practices of those days were not like now and the large of the 5 lb. twins died at three days of age. Deola was still in the hospital as little Marilyn was buried in Bluffdale. It had been such a joy for Deola to write a letter to Darell with the news of his twin daughters and then the next week, a solemn disappointment to write of the loss.

Deola has kept her focus in life to that of being a mother and homemaker. She and Darell have six children besides the twin daughter who died: Darell Lynn, Lana, Marilee, Jerry (Jake), Julie and Terri. Besides her homemaking duties, she was always busy in church work, serving in a Presidency or as a teacher in almost all organizations. She served as a Genealogy Teacher and ward checker for many years. As a family, they enjoyed camping, hiking and horseback riding, with Deola taking pictures of every event!

After most of the children were raised, Darell and Deola enjoyed attending dances every week. They have many, many friends they have met through that activity. Darell and Deola have been doing temple work weekly for more than 15 years, and Deola was involved in the German Name Extraction Program for about that long.

They accepted a call to serve in the Dallas, Texas Mission for the LDS Church from 1984-85, and did a wonderful job there.

Some of her other talents and hobbies in recent years have been quilting, embroidery, cross-stitch and ceramics (which she does weekly at Senior Citizens). She has blessed her children, grandchildren, and many friends with beautiful quilts and ceramic items.

Deola and Darell now have 24 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren. There will probably be many more great-grandchildren to come. But, that's a good start. They are kept busy attending birthday parties, blessings and such. And at Christmas time and other holidays, their home is often bulging at the seams with loved ones.

After living in their home for over 50 years, they recently moved to a beautiful new home, on some property they had behind their youngest daughter Terri's house.

No mention of DUP has been made of yet, but it has been a major part of Deola's life for 25 years or more. She attended the Riverton, Utah Camp for a while, then in January of 1976 she became the first Captain of the Bluffdale Camp, serving in that position until May 1978. After that she has served in numerous positions in the Organization:

Secretary of Bluffdale Camp 1978-1982
Building Hostess of the Museum for the county for about 5 years
Parliamentarian for Bluffdale 1985-1986
Secretary of the Bluffdale Camp 1986-1992
Helped as a Bluffdale Camp caller 1992-1993, and 1995-1996
Company 2nd Vice Pres. 1993-1994, and 1994-1995

Deola has always given her best in everything she has been involved in, and Daughters of the Utah Pioneers has been no exception. This service has been a great joy in her life.