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Title: **HISTORY OF NATHAN FORD CLARK by
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Person: **Nathan George Clark**
Date:

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Nathan Ford Clark was born in Centerville, Davis County, Utah, on May 31, 1899. He died on July 3, 1978 in Mesa, Arizona. He was the oldest of fourteen children born to Nathan George Clark and Esther Laurretta Ford. His early years were spent in Farmington, Utah. He attended high school in Preston, Idaho and Logan, Utah, where he graduated in 1916.

Ford had always been taught to work; while a young boy, he could handle a team of horses and do a man's work. At the age of 14 he plowed and seeded 140 acres by himself. At the age of 17, Ford was ordained an Elder. On January 25, 1917, he left for a mission to Hawaii, where he labored on the Big Island of Hawaii for three years and nine months.

Because of a stammering problem, Ford had some difficulty learning the Hawaiian language. He had read that the Greek philosopher, Socrates, had the same problem, and tried to overcome it as Socrates had. Ford would take his Hawaiian Book of Mormon down to the beach and read it out aloud for hours; and through his prayers and great faith in Heavenly Father, he became fluent in speaking the Hawaiian language. During his mission, Ford developed a great love and respect for the Hawaiian people, their customs and cultures. He had acquired and practiced that same simple faith of the people he loved so much.

After he completed his mission in 1920, he attended the University of Utah working his way through by operating a hotel switchboard at night and attending classes by day. He majored in business and graduated in 1924.

He was married on July 20, 1923 in the Salt Lake Temple to Andrea Montess Brimhall, daughter of Hyrum and Johannah Jensen Brimhall, of Ephraim, Utah. Ford was employed in The Seven Presidents of Seventies Offices in Salt Lake City until he and his wife were called on a mission to officiate in the Hawaiian Temple in 1925. After being released from their mission, Ford and Montess moved to Honolulu. There, he was employed as a salesman for Wakefield and Sons and worked in that capacity until June, 1941. He was then called to active duty as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and assigned to the 14th Naval District in the Pacific area. He retired as a Lieutenant Commander in 1951.

In 1971, he moved to Tempe, Arizona, where he was an active member of the Tempe Second Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Wherever Ford lived, he lived for opportunities to serve others.

Ford Clark is survived by two daughters; June B. Ellis, who resides in Escondido, California, and Norma Jean Rosa, who lives in Fresno, California. Other surviving family members include two brothers, nine sisters, twelve grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. One of his last requests was to be buried in the Islands that he loved so much.(handwritten at the end) "in the Punchbowl National Cemetery by his wife Jean."