

HISTORY OF EDWIN ASAY *Filed Nov 1984 Read April 8, 1987*

Edwin Asay was born the 31st day of March 1846 in Trenton New Jersey.

He was the third son of Joseph Asay and Sarah Ann Pedrick.

He spent his childhood near Trenton New Jersey, no doubt attending Sunday School on Sunday, as evidenced by a Union Hymn Book, which has an inscription on the fly leaf Eddie Asay's Book. This Book is in possession of Mrs Delilah Asay of Lovell Wyoming.

He accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ when it was taught to the family by two Mormon missionaries, Elders Theodore Parmer and Elder Winchester at the age of fourteen years.

He left New Jersey with his family for Utah, Then traveled by boat to Council Bluffs Iowa, and by Ox team to Salt Lake City with Capt. Brigham H. Young's Company. We know very little about Edwin's early life, but assure it must have been spent working with his father Joseph Asay and his brothers.

When Edwin was 28 years of age, he met and courted, the beautiful black-eyed Christina Dollbell Riding, who was only 16 years of age. When the marriage took place at the home of her parents in St. George Utah 2 Sept 1874 it was a splended affair. A double wedding, One of Christina's brothers being married at the same time. Edwin took his new bride to live at the home of his parents, the first year of their marriage. Christina always said that it was here that her sorrows began, It seemed that grandma Sarah Ann was very exacting and refused to let Christina have any part in preparing the layette for her first baby Frank.

Christina was very teachable, however for she is remembered by all who knew her as a lovely homemaker and perfect housekeeper. The night before Frank was born, grandma Asay told her son Edwin that he had better get some wood chopped so that a good supply of hot water could be on hand. So Edwin and Christina walked out to the wood pile hand in hand. Christy as she was called by her loved ones, sat down on a log to watch Edwin while he chopped the goodly supply of firewood for

their nights need. It was not long after their return to the house that baby Frank was born. While the family was living in Mt. Carmel Utah and when Edwin was 31 years of age he was ordained an Elder in the Melchizedek Priesthood by Bishop C.O. Spencer on 29th of Nov. 1876. The following spring Edwin took Christy to the St. George Temple, where they recieved their endowments and were sealed for time and eternity .

The story is told of Edwin, While he was residing in St. George he was going to mutual one night in his work clothes, in order to see a man on business. He slipped into the meeting house very quietly and seated himself on the back row. He was spotted however by the mutual president, who invited him up to the stand to open the meeting . Edwin's advice after that to his children was never at any time leave the house dressed in a manner in which you do not want to be seen.

Edwin Asay's search for a suitable home for his family finally led him to Round Valley Apache County, Arizona, which place is now called Eger. At that time the Settler's biggest problems was the Apache Indian depredations. Christy often told the story of one night when she was weaning her third child and eldest daughter Addie, Edwin had gone to town for supplies in the company of other men. Of necessity they must be gone for several days. Their closest neighbors were a mexican family. The mexican woman who was a very kind friend to Christy brought her the word that the araches were raiding and pillaging their area.; and that she must not light her lamps or make a fire in her stove that night. Christy was frozen with terror, and tried to observe every rule of safety, but her baby Addie screamed all night long and refused to be quieted until her mother gave in and let her nurse. But in the cold blackness of night Christy watched the savages go to their barn, set fire to their haystack and buildings and drive off the cattle and horses but in her heart was only thanksgiving and gratitude that their lives and home were spared from destruction. In the first sign of early dawn Christy heard a scratching at her window it was the mexican friend checking to see if she was all right and offering her a pot of coffee. The little son Frank had been ailing so the kind mexican lady said. "coffee Wyno for frank " And in Christy's own words "I thanked my kind friend for

the coffee and when she was gone i threw it out".

Edwins family is found in the Arizona 1880 Census of Apache Co. in the village of Springerville

Edwin Asay 34 Farmer born New Jersey
Christina 22 wife born Utah
Franklin " 5 son born Utah
Aliza A " 2 dau born Utah
Sarah Ann " 4-12 dau born Arizona

Little Sarah Ann was the brown eyed baby of the family and considered the prettiest of the children. She only stayed with them barely two years when she contracted childhood disease and died. In the spring of 1884 Edwin had planted a good crop and his prospects for the future never looked brighter. The young couple was very happy working and planning and enjoying their new found independence. Edwin was extremely solicitous of his Christians who was expecting her seventh child and was feeling quite poorly. Disaster struck this young family on 5 June 1884 when Edwin died from an acute attack of appenpicitis having had no medical assistance. The hopes and dreams of this happy family had suddenly vanished. Addie was six years old at this time but she always carried a cherished memory of her father, and how he would stroke her beautiful brown hair and tell her to never permit anyone to touch it with the scissors.

A Mr. Jarvis of St. George Utah said of Edwin "When you think of Edwin Asay you are aware of an honest man". After the funeral of Edwin Asay, his wife Christiana made arrangements to sell her property in Arizona and leave for Utah. She was still weak from the birth of her baby but determined to go. She took her five children and her young brother Gerge Riding, as they went by wagon to brave the desert sands, waste lands, threat of Apache Indians, exposure and hunger to finally reach the home of her father Christopher Lister Riding in Santa Clara Utah. No greater courage could ever have been shown than was displayed by this noble woman.

The decendants of Edwin Asay, led by Wilford and Le Vonne Creson of Grem Utah Bert Asay of Provo, Utah and Mrs. Ruth Tebbs of Panouich, Utah, Organized a Trek to Eager Arizona in June of 1960, where they placed a monument to the Memory of Edwin Asay and his small daughter Sarah Ann who preceeded him in death. A short service was held at the grave with Dan Tebbs, oldest son of Ruth Tebbs officiating. Since the finding of their father's grave in the early 1900's this has been a great

satisfacion to the family

Edwin Asay Md 7 Sept 1874 Christiana Dollbell Riding born 8 Dec. 1857 Provo Utah
daughter of Christopher Lester Riding and his second wife Eliza Adelaide Dollbell

Children

1. Franklin Riding Asay born 29 May 1875 Asay Ranch
2. Edwin Asay born 18 Aug. 1876 Mt. Carmel died as infant
3. Eliza Adelaide Asay born 7 June 1878 Mt. Carmel Utah
4. Sarah Ann Asay born 10 Feb. 1880 Springerville Arizona died 1882 Springerville Ariz.
5. Adelbert (twin) Asay born 8 June 1881 Springerville Arizona
6. Albert (twin) Asay born 8 June 1881 Springerville Arizona die 21 April 1893 " "
7. Ruth Asay born 15 June 1884 Springerville Arizona