

HISTORY OF ELEAZER (AL) ASAY *Filed 25 Feb 1985*

Eleazer (Al) Asay (twin) ninth son of Joseph Asay and Sarah Ann Pedrick was born the 6th day of Oct. 1855 in Trenton County, New Jersey. He and his twin brother was not yet five years old when the family made the trip from New Jersey to Utah.

What little schooling he obtained must have been during the years the family lived on the Jordan River south of Salt Lake City, and it was here he was baptized about 1863 by Edwin Wooley. When the call came for Joseph Asay and his Sons, to go to the Muddy Mission the twins, who had just turned twelve years of age, accompanied their father and brothers to the south. Eleazer was around the Muddy, Virgin and Colorado rivers so much that he learned to swim, even the swift Colorado, on his back. He was never afraid of the river.

When the settlers of St. Joseph and St. Thomas, Nevada, abandoned their homes on advise of Brigham Young, the Asay family was in the group traveling toward St. George and Long Valley of Southern Utah. Eleazer stopped at Pipe Springs, where Bishop Anson P. Winsor had been sent in 1868 to build the fort and care for the tithing cattle of the Church. The L.D.S. Church had purchased the land and desired a fort to be built there. Bishop Winsor and a crew of men constructed two tall buildings of red sandstone across a courtyard. One building was built over the spring, the water running through both buildings. The fort was sometimes called Winsor's Castle as the Winsor family lived there, and were milking nearly one hundred cows. Some of the rooms were used for dairy purposes, butter and cheese being made there and supplied to the workers constructing the Temple at St. George.

Eleazer hauled much of the rock or stone used in the last part of the Pipe Springs construction. Here Eleazer met his first wife, Emmeline Zenetta (Nettie) Winsor. Eleazer was working there when the Deseret Telegraph Company line reached Pipe Spring and began operation in 1871. He learned the telegraph code and was the first operator there. Of his youthful marriage, his mother Sarah Ann wrote to her son William and his wife Jane: " (Al) talks of bringing the young bride home to see us. He is seventeen and she is turning fourteen. What do you think of that?"

He has three hundred and fifty dollars coming to him clear and a horse, saddle and bridle. Al had married in Sept. before his seventeenth birthday. in October. Nettie would not be fourteen until January.

The young couple soon came to live on Asay Creek. Eleazer's parents had only lived there during the summertime, but the young people began year-round residence. As soon as the St. George Temple was opened for sealing work, Eleazer took his wife and two children to the Temple to get their endowments and have the family sealed to him, 30 March 1877.

The Asay Creek area was in a rather high altitude, and the season not long enough for wheat to ripen. Some oats could be raised and much wild hay was cut, making it a ideal place for raising horses and cattle. Eleazer is listed in the Utah 1880 Census, Hillsdale precinct at the Asay Creek location, as a stock farmer, age 24 with wife Emmeline, age 21, Aaron age 5, Ida, age 3, and Maud, age 3 months.

In 1885, Eleazer, or Al, with the consent of his first wife, took a second wife, Hattie Hatch. Harriet went with her sister Myra Hatch, and Eleazer's twin brother Aaron, in a wagon to the St. George Temple. Eleazer went horseback over the mountain to meet them there. Both couples were married the same day. It was the following winter that Al nearly lost his feet from frost bite. A storm had covered the valley with a very heavy blanket of snow. A valuable yellow mare had not come in with the other horses so Al went horseback over to Strawberry to find her. It was nearly night when he found her, and the snow was so deep, he could not get home that night. He found an old dead tree, from which he broke limbs, to dig a hole in the snow. Using some of the smaller branches, he finally made a fire, and with his saddle blanket for cover, he managed through the night. Next morning he started for home. Going proved very slow, as he had to break trail for the two horses. He knew his feet were freezing, but could do nothing about it. He came over the mountain, leaving the horses in the meadow at the righthand fork, where his brother later lived. When he finally arrived home, with his clothes and boots frozen on his legs and feet, he could hardly walk. They tried to pull his boots off, but had to cut them, and the skin and flesh came off with them. He suffered terribly. Every one thought he would lose his feet, but through faith, prayers and care, the flesh began to grow back on his feet, Except the ends of his big toes.

Hattie said they used cream mixed with flour which helped the tender flesh to grow.

The U. S. Marshalls were busy hunting for the Marmon men who had plural wives. Eleazer and his brother Joseph both having two wives, decided to move over the mountain eastward, to a place near Cannonville, a few miles southeast of Bryce Canyon. Here Seth Johnson, former bishop of Hillsdale, had laid out some lots and started the small town of Georgetown. Al bought a farm in Monroe, and moved his first family there. He acquired a lot and some farm land at Georgetown where he moved his second family.

At Monroe, the children had their first chance to attend school. One Marshall had boasted that he was going to take Al Asay dead or alive. He had gone to Georgetown entering Harriet's home, scattering thing all over, searching every corner and potential hiding place, frightening her nearly out of her mind. A freind of Al's, Wolf Holiday who lived at Tronic, a rough old cattle man, told this marshall, "If you are man enough to take Al Asay, you take him but don't you ever let me hear of you frightening his wife again, or I'll full you full of lead". Hattie was never bothered again.

While living at Georgetown, then a branch of Cannonville, Eleazer was sent as a missionary to the Southern States. He was the first missioary of the family. Whether at that time New Jersey was included in the Southern States, or that he was transferred there is not known, but he spent part of his time in New Jersey among his relatives. His Grandfather accepted him into the home, until he learned that his granlson was a Mormon Missionary. Then he becamee quite bitter and even said he would help the mob who had threatened to tar and feather the young man.

While laboring in New Jersey, the Grandfather Isaac Asay died 10 Dec. 1889. His will provided for his children, leaving one dollar to the children of his deceased son Joseph, with the explanation that "my son Joseph had received his share". This may have been true, but the family always felt that Joseph and family were cut off because Joseph and his wife had joined the Mormons.

The Grandmother had died many years before but his Aunt Thebe Hunt was very kind and generous to the young missionary Who like all L.D.S. missionaries, was self supporting, or was sent funds by members of his family. Aunt Thebe gave him some of the grandfathers clothes and did what-ever she could to help. Eleazer's wife Nettie and family had returned to Monroe to live during this time. The Second wife

Hattie, and two children were taken into the home of Eleazer's twin brother, Aaron and his wife Myra, a sister of Hattie's. They lived near the old Hatch place, which later became the town of Hatch. Upon the return of the missionary, the first family continued to live in Monroe, where Al farmed and another son was born to Nettie but the second family returned to Georgetown where they lived for several years. The climate was good, but the farming land was limited; the water was very hard, and decidedly scarce for extensive farming. Excellent gardens could be grown, and many varieties of fruit. About 1896 Al traded his place in Georgetown to James Dutton for his house and lot in Hatch. Water was more plentiful, and more land available for farming and grazing. The house and lot was situated right on the bank of the Sevier River. A dirt dam had been built up the river a short way. The pressure of the water was too much for the dirt dam, pushing it down stream a few inches at first. Al moved the house upon higher ground on a vacant lot between Grandma Hatch's home and the home of his brother Aaron. He was able to get the barn moved, and also the fence for the corral upon higher ground in the northwest corner of his lot, before the reservoir broke.

The Manifesto of Pres. Woodruff of the L.D.S. Church, advising the Saint to refrain from any marriage forbidden by the laws of the land, was sustained by the Oct. 1, 1890 Conference of the church. "After the church officials offered a petition for amnesty in Dec. 1891, Pres. Benjamin Harrison on Jan. 4 1893, issued a proclamation of amnesty to the polygamists, limited to those who entered into that relation before Nov. 1, 1890. Eleazer had made sacred covenants with both wives, and he did not want to sever those bonds with either wife. But the stress and strain of polygamy finally disrupted the first marriage. They were divorced some years later. Nettie was built a house and given the Monroe farm machinery and animals which were there.

In the fall of 1900, Al joined the Big Horn Colonization movement, and made plans to take his second family to Wyoming. Hod Carter was going to take Al's horses, and some were excellent ones back east to sell. So much time was spent rounding up and corralling them. A few days before Hod was scheduled to leave, the horses, about sixty of them broke the fence, and back to the hills they went. As there was not time to round them up again; they were left. Al only taking one milk-

5. cow and only one old mare, Nelly. Hattie had been given two teams, three head of cattle, and fifty head of sheep, as her share of her father's estate. The sheep were traded for cattle and all were driven to Milford along with the horses and cattle of the other colonists.

Fleazer and Aaron his brother bought a farm together west of the place that later became Lovell. They felt thankful for their blessings. They attended church in Cowley where the main body of the colonists had settled. They had not been inside the church too long when Jacob Englestead came to the door telling them that their home had burned down. Upon their return some of the logs were still burning and a five gallon of honey was boiling away. Every thing was gone. Whatever other families could spare was given to them, back into the tent they moved, until another cabin could be built. Al had developed a skill with the sick. This made him in demand among the pioneers, other doctors were difficult to find. He remained for hours, days, or even a week when needed. The family remained on the farm as the town of Lovell grew, until 1911. He invested in a Mercantile business, and also bought a home in Lovell. Here he farmed again for a number of years. Eleazer had little formal education, but he was a avid reader. He especially liked books of religious nature. He loved his children and grandchildren. Stomach trouble had long troubled him, while out at the farm he had another attack which resulted in his death from ulcers. Truly Fleazer loved God, honored and obeyed Him.: just as much as he loved his fellow-man. He died the 13th of October 1932, seven days after his seventy-seventh birthday.

Eleazer had md (1) 15 Sept. 1872 Emmeline Zenetta Winsor born 9 Jan. 1859 Provo, Utah, dau of Anson Perry Winsor and Emmeline Zenett Brower.

He md (2) 24 Sept. 1885 Harriet Hatch born 19 Sept. 1867 dau of Meltiar Hatch and Mary Ann Ellis.

Children of first wife.

1. Aaron C. Asay born 26 Dec. 1874 Asay Creek, Utah
2. Ida Delight Asay born 9 Sept. 1876 Asay Creek, Utah
3. Maud Asay born 16 Sept. 1878 Asay Creek, Utah
4. Edith Asay born 15 Mar. 1881 Asay Creek, Utah
5. Anson Perry Asay born 9 Aug. 1883 Asay Creek, Utah
6. Ernest Asay born 9 Mar. 1886 Monroe, Utah
7. Emmeline Zenett Asay born 27 Jan 1888 Georgetown, Utah
8. Eleazer Asay born 8 Feb. 1892 Monroe, Utah

Children of second wife.

1. Myra Asay born 10 Dec. 1886 Hatch, Utah
2. Eleazer Hatch Asay born 29 Dec. 1888 Georgetown, Utah
3. Arthur Asay born 2 Aug. 1892 Georgetown, Utah
4. Myrtle Asay born 22 Feb. 1895 Georgetown, Utah
5. Leah Asay born 7 Dec. 1897 Hatch, Utah
6. Ellis Hatch Asay born 7 Jan. 1900 Hatch, Utah died 2 Apr. 1900
7. Irvin Asay born 7 June 1901 Lovell, Wyoming
8. Mary Asay born 17 Feb. 1904 Lovell, Wyoming
9. Doil Asay born 2 Aug. 1906 Lovell, Wyoming died 19 Jan. 1907
10. Edna Asay born 11 Dec. 1907 Lovell, Wyoming died 15 Mar. 1908
11. Twila Asay born 26 Sept. 1911 Lovell, Wyoming died 25 Dec. 1915

Written by Ruby May Green (Olsen) Asay