

JOHN AND HARRIET EDEN HISTORY

Harriet Eden was born 25 January 1880 at Braidwood, Illinois to John Eden and Harriet Allott. She was the 5th child. The oldest sister, Annie, was born 6 Dec 1871; the second, a brother James, born 5 Jan 1874. He only lived for nineteen days. The third child, a sister Sarah (Sadie) was born 2 May 1875. A brother, John, the fourth child, was born 4 Oct. 1877 and then Harriet born 25 Jan 1880. The sixth child was another sister, Bertha, born 19 Jan. 1882. It was at this time her father read in the paper about some job opportunities in Utah. It had been a long awaited dream. He had left England with his parents and two sisters, Emma and Alice, to come to the United States and to Utah in 1854. When they got as far as Pennsylvania, they didn't have sufficient funds to go on so his father, James Eden, found employment in the ship yards. Shortly after their arrival baby Alice became very ill and passed away. Then in 1860 his father got appendicitis and died. So her father, John, had to get work and support his mother and sister Emma.

Now in 1882, twenty-eight years later, he was to finally go to Utah. As soon as he found work at the coal mines in Scofield, Utah, he sent for his wife and family to join him. So her mother and five children made their way by train to a new home and environment, settling in Scofield, Utah in a little gulch known as Eden's Gulch. Her mother had never heard of Mormon Elders and very little about the LDS religion until she got to Utah, but she accepted it and was baptized in 1882, the same year as her arrival. The following year Grandma Eden, her father's mother, Ann Molyneaux, followed them out to Scofield and made her home with them the rest of her life.

On 7 Jan. 1884 the seventh child was born, Elizabeth (Lizzie), the first born in Utah. Her father had always felt he would like to own some land and a home, so when a group of the men heard about some land down in the valley could be homesteaded, they left to go and look at it. They liked the location and possibilities so took up some homesteads in 1885 for the next few summers, he went down often to help work on a canal to bring irrigation water to their farms.

On 17 May 1886 the family had to feel the pangs of death when John passed away, the only living boy and so much loved especially by Harriet. He was her pal and playmate. He was just enough older to take care of her. She recalled many things they would do together, especially when they went

up to where some parked railroad cars were to play. As usual, they got in trouble that time.

Even the things that seem impossible to stand can be made sweeter for the family was to be blessed with another member, the eighth child, another boy born May, 1887. His name was Henry and he was so welcomed after the great loss. Life has its changes and when Henry was six weeks old, the family loaded their belongings in a wagon and moved down to Castle Valley and made a little settlement they named Cleveland. Her father made a dugout, and using the wagon for bedrooms, this was their first home on the new farm. It was not too long until her father was able to secure enough logs to build a log house which had an upstairs in it. This made a more comfortable home for the family.

One thing that was a lasting memory was the family's first milk cow. They called her Old Rose. She would watch for Sadie to come around then start after her just enough to get her to run and scream and then she would stop and look as though she were laughing at her. Another memory is when the indians would come around. They would put their horses in the corral and feed them good, then come to the house to get as much food for themselves as they could carry off. One day the children were home alone when the indians came and so hid. The indians wated for quite a while and then left. The kids were really frightened.

The ninth child was born on 13 April 1889, a sister who was named Maude Edna. But the following year our little Bertha became ill and died 29 May 1890. A new experience now came to the family when Annie married Grover Lewis on 27 June 1891. The tenth child, another boy, was born 20 Aug. 1891 and they named him George. The eleventh and last child was born 25 Nov. 1893, which was his mother's birthday. They named him William Francis. The second wedding was Sarah (Sadie) to Thomas T. Lamph 29 Nov. 1894.

On 2 Feb. 1898 little George passed away and was buried by Bertha in the Cleveland Cemetary. Then the following year on the 3 June 1899 Grandma Eden (Ann Molyneaux) passed away and was buried there too.

The family of Eric Larsen and Annie Elizabeth Ericksen had moved to Cleveland. Their son Alma Eric and Harriet Eden, met, fell in love and were married on 20 Nov. 1901. He had two brothers, Peter and Joseph and also three sisters, Emma, Zina and Nancy. Alma and Harriet first made their

home at the Castle Gate mining town where he worked for a while. Then they bought his father's farm which was located on what is now known as the South Flat in Cleveland. One thing she often talked about was the two little kittens she had that loved to get up on her dresser and look at themselves in the mirror. In April 1903 her sister Maude got real sick with appendicitis and they had to take her into Salt Lake to be operated on. So Harriet took time to go and stay with her mother in Salt Lake to help her through their ordeal so her father would be free to care for things at home.

In 1904 work began on a new frame house a ways north of the log home. Elizabeth and Thomas C. Potter got married on 21 June 1905 in the Salt Lake Temple. Then Henry married Annie Williams on 11 June 1908 and Maude married Edward C. Jensen 18 Nov. 1909.

To make a living on the farm many things had to be done, so Alma and Henry often loaded produce from the farm into a wagon and would go to the coal mining camps to sell it. This helped as a cash income. One time when Alma and Harriet made a trip to Hiawatha, they saw a woman by the name of Lizzie Barney. She knew they hadn't had any children so told them about a woman with a family that lived down in the cedars East of Hiawatha. This woman was giving her children away. So on the way home they stopped. One little boy about five or six years old really won Alma's heart so they took him. His name was William Howard and his birthday was on 22 Feb. 1908, so this would have been about 1913 or 1914.

On 10 April 1915 her sister Annie had a baby girl. They named her Ione. Annie's health was very poor and the baby was what would be considered premature today, so Harriet took the baby home for several months and tenderly cared for her until both mother and baby were well and strong. Then she took her home to her family and was once more lonely for a baby's love.

Another new experience came to the family now when the youngest brother Will received a call to go on a mission for the LDS church. He left for the Western States Mission 27 Aug. 1916. The following June in the early morning of the 13th, 1917, her mother awoke in great pain and before anyone could do anything, she was gone. Will was permitted to return home for the funeral service and then go back to finish his mission.

For the months and years that followed, Harriet and Alma, and Henry and Annie took turns staying on the farm with their father to help with the

work and to ease his loneliness. Will came back on 28 April 1919 which was also a comfort to his father.

In Nov 1920 Geneve, Joseph's wife passed away leaving a husband and four small children, two boys Lavon and Verdell, and two girls Selma and Ilene. So Alma and Harriet went to Joseph and asked for permission to take the baby, Ilene and so they took her into their home and their hearts. The two boys stayed with their father and Selma went to live with Geneve's parents, Grandma and Grandpa Oveson. Joseph was the Bishop of the Cleveland Ward, had been since 7 Aug 1910. Ilene's name was Sarah Ilene, born 29 Aug. 1918.

Life has a way of changing many dreams and plans, the flu epidemic had taken its toll. In March Alma and Annie, Henry's wire were stricken with it. Annie passed away about 5 o'clock in the afternoon of 30 March 1921 and Alma the following morning about 11 o'clock 31 March 1921. So both brother and sister were left to face the trials of life. Harriet had Howard and Ilene in her care so Joseph went to her offering to take Ilene back home, but Harriet pleaded with him to leave her there. She often said, "In the months that followed I don't think I could have stood up under the loneliness had it not been for the love of those two little chubby arms around me and the sweetness a child can bring when they say 'don't cry, I love you'." On June 15, 1921 she made her way over to the Manti Temple where she had her endowments and was sealed to her dear companion.

By summer her sister Annie Lewis had become so sick the doctor insisted she go where the climate was lower. She consented if Harriet (Hattie) would go with her, so the two sisters with Ione and Ilene left for Needles, California for several months. When they returned, she made her home with her father and for the next thirty-three years was the homemaker for a large family. Within the walls of that house lived her father, two brothers-- Henry and Will, two nephews, Henry's boys Allott and Jack, Henry's girl Vernice, Ilene and Howard and herself. Also George Easterbrook, a friend of the family, was there most of the time. Then too, this was were all of the children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews came for vacations, reunions, etc. Aunt Hattie was a beacon light in the lives of every member of her family and it even extended into the whole community.

She didn't lack for responsibility of a family now for there were two small girls, Ilene and Vernice with only five months difference in their ages,

to raise. She also had all the boys and men to cook, wash and clean for. She owned a treadle Singer sewing machine and many were the hours spent making beautiful special dresses, not only for Ilene and Vernice but very often for Maude's two girls about the same age, Leora and Lindora. She had the north-west room downstairs as hers and the two girls bedroom and place of private retreat. In it was a nice heating stove with izinglass which let the flickering flames dance around the room, giving a warmth more needed than just heat. So many winter evenings were spent by that stove, she in the rocking chair with a girl on each side, eating apples and reading stories of character building as well as spiritual people and events. Then by the side of the bed would kneel three individuals, each to talk to their Heavenly Father in their own way. She was very spiritual in her nature. She would take both girls to sacrament meeting, to conferences and wherever the gospel could be made a stronger influence on their lives. She served on the genealogy committee in the ward and because of its influence helped teach the desire to do genealogy in the lives of both girls.

Her work was never too easy, the clothes were scrubbed on a washboard in a #3 tub, then boiled in a boiler full of lye water which was an oblong tall tub, then rinsed, rung out by hand and hung on clothes lines out in the yard to dry. On these days the noon meal was planned well in advance and in the oven would be baked potatoes and often a custard. One thing she really enjoyed was the well done skin of a baked potato with butter and salt and pepper on it. She could make bread that just melted in your mouth. Nine loaves at a time were placed in a large square black pan and baked to perfection. The butter she churned was delicious. This was done in a large wooden churn, turned by hand, carefully washed and salted and formed into one pound squares of butter many times enough for the family and extra to sell for cash. In the fall you could smell the chili sauce and indian relish cooking long before you got to the door. She took such pride in her canning.

The days she would choose to make cookies were really special as the ginger snaps and coconut cookies piled in heaps on the kitchen table. The men, kids or whoever might be around could never wait for them to cool, so it took a lot of cookies to have a few left. It seemed she had so many specials. Another was her Christmas plum puddings that found their way to the table for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and sometimes just because some one ordered it. This had to be boiled, not any short methods

that would spoil the flavor.

The year of 1924 her father had to go to Salt Lake to the hospital so she went in and stayed with her sister Lizzie so she could go and see him every day until he was enough better that they were sure he would be all right. About the following summer her Aunt Emma Watson and daughter, Dora, came to visit from Nebraska. This was her father's only sister and it was her first grip to Utah so the family really worked to have everything just right. The house was painted inside and out, new floor coverings and all. Even the yard had to be cleaned. She was determined to have their visit a memorable one and it was. While they were still there, she was doing the washing out in the yard under the trees. She went to step over a ditch and turned her foot crooked, stretching the ligaments in her leg and the rest of the summer was spent in pure misery. She often said it was the worst pain she had ever had unless it was the times her shoulder would slip out of the socket.

About the summer of 1926 she and Bert Nielson each took covered wagons with a team of horses and a group of MIA girls over to the Manti Temple to do baptisms for the dead. They had to go up the Huntington Canyon and over the top of the mountain. It took two or three days each way. This meant taking care of the team of horses, feeding, watering, harnessing and all. They cooked meals for everyone on campfires, made beds and disciplined about 15 or 16 teenage girls. The one night all the people who were on the excursion camped on top of the mountain and held a testimony meeting. The trip took ten or fourteen days. They came back through Straight Canyon.

In the spring of 1928 Maude was going out to their farm South of Cleveland in a buggy. It hit a ditch or something and threw her out. She was hurt quite bad with a concussion so they took her up to the farm where Harriet cared for her until she got better. Elroy was the baby born Dec 1927 so she took care of him too. She kept him for awhile after Maude went home. One night their sister Annie and family came to see Maude and the rest of the family. Since Maude was in so much pain all of the kids were told to stay in the other rooms and to keep real quiet. Annie's granddaughter, Violet, (this was Elsie's girl) was with them. She was afraid they had gone and left her so she opened the door to peek in and check. Henry loved to play with the kids so about the second time Violet opened the door, he jumped at her and said, "Boo!". This went on for three or four times then the door

opened, Henry jumped and said, "Boo" and to his surprise was met with one big hair-raising scream. A neighbor, Mrs. Hurst, had come to visit. Well, the family had a good laugh, even Maude couldn't help but get a kick out of it. Only Henry and Mrs. Hurst questioned the real joke.

In November 1929 her brother Will received another mission call, this time for six months in the Eastern States. In May 1930 Annie passed away and in June, Will returned home from his mission, In the fall he was put in as the Bishop of the Cleveland Ward. Bp. Joseph J. Larsen, Ilene's father had held that position for twenty years. The following 11 Feb. 1931 Will married Velma Mortensen. It was decided the entire town should be invited to the wedding reception and dance, so Hattie made enough cookies to serve everyone and her efforts were well rewarded. The evening was a great success.

Around this time she decided to change her hair style. Up to now she had worn it long and in a bob in back, but a new style called the shingle bob came out. It was about what is the neckline today, short and shaped in back. She went over to a neighbor's place, Florence Jensen, and had it cut. It really made her look different. Later when permanents became popular she had one in her hair which she always wore from then on. She enjoyed new clothes and spent many hours looking in catalogs for style ideas. It was fun to receive packages from the post office filled with nice clothes and surprises.

The family life sort of changed some now, too. Howard left to find work and Allott and Jack made their home down on the washboard, Henry's farm east of Elmo, Henry lived both places. Will continued to work on the farm although he and Velma lived in Harriet's house that was down in town.

One morning as the family were at the breakfast table in 1937, Thomas Lamph walked in to let them know Sadie had passed away. These experiences were always difficult.

Ilene had graduated from high school in 1936 so by this time was going to college in Provo. Then in 1937 Vernice graduated from high school, each event changing the patterns of life. One of the biggest changes came when her father at the age of 92 passed away 11 Jan 1938. By May, Bill and Velma were ready to move their family into the home on the farm, so two rooms were made out of the front porches and Harriet took the big room that had been her father's room all these years for her front room and the new built-on rooms were her kitchen and bedroom. This was her home. Henry moved

down on the farm with his boys and Vernice lived between the two places. The fact was that after so many years of so many people she was to find herself quite alone. By the time 1939 was finished both of the girls were married, Ilene to Kenner Killpack and Vernice to Loren Wells. This, however, started a new and rather interesting change for soon she was to be the special Grandma Larsen and as in all other eras of her life proved to be one of the most loved and adored found anywhere.

And the years slipped away. She spent quite a lot of time with Ilene and Kenner, which really took the loneliness out of her life and helped the time pass more quickly as well as happier, the joy of Kay and Paula was wonderful.

In July, 1954 her sister Lizzie passed away. This was indeed a hard knock because through the years Lizzie's home was always open to her. This was where so many vacations from all the work and tension were spent. As summer days drew near each year, she would take her two girls and go to Salt Lake to her sister Lizzie. The days were spent visiting and going down town where she would shop for hours, then have dinner and to to a show. Her life wasn't permitted to be dull, she was a person who could always see interesting things and then do them.

By fall she was faced with a most serious decision when Thomas Potter came to her with a proposal of marriage. After careful thought she accepted him and they were married 15 Dec 1954 in the Salt Lake Temple for time. She was 74 years old but a more excited, beautiful and youthful bride could never have been found and their honeymoon must have never ended because they were always finding fun things to do.

In April 1960 her brother Henry passed away. This was hard on her for they had shared the good and the hard times of life together. Their lives were so very closely woven and now it seemed she was very much alone.

In the spring of 1961 Vernice and Loren's oldest son, Dan, was called on a mission. The day he was to leave Salt lake she had Ilene and family and Vernice and family all to her home for dinner, the one and only time for this family tie to be together as one.

In the fall of 1964 her brother Will passed away and sorrow again filled her heart. Now only she and Maude were left of a large family. She seemed to feel its weight. Life was becoming more of a burden. Little could one have guessed that her time was so near for on the 9 Sept 1965 she too was to

take her journey back home. She was laid to rest by the side of Alma, in the Cleveland cemetery and the life of a very special and wonderful daughter of our Heavenly Father came to the close of a most successful mission here on earth, to leave many people to love her for her gift of service to others.

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