

Filed Jan Head Feb. 13. 1985
1985

History of Aaron Asay

Aaron Asay (twin) was the eighth child of Joseph Asay and Sarah Ann Pedricks was born 6 Oct. 1855 in Trenton County, New Jersey. When the twins were very small boys, the family decided to follow the Saints to the Rocky Mountains and began the long trip across the plains by ox teams. In later years Aaron told his family that he remembered hanging on to his mother's apron while she gathered buffalo chips to be used in making fires while they were crossing the plains. One amusing experience which his children enjoyed hearing him tell, was the time when he lay down on the floor on top of a piece of denim cloth while his twin brother, Al, cut out a shirt for him. On another occasion, Aaron and his brothers, Isaac, were driving a wagon loaded with supplies and pulled by oxen. They came upon two Indians along the trail who begged for a ride. Aaron told them that they could ride if they would get off the wagon when they came to the soft sand or mud. Soon they came to a sandy stretch where the wagon wheels began to sink, and he asked the Indians to get off. They refused and tried to frighten him. Finally he took his whip and told them to get off or he would use it on them. They jumped off, as soon as the boys got the wagon on solid ground again, they stopped and waited for the two Indians to catch up. The Indians were surprised. They said "You heap good Indians". When the Muddy settlers moved to Long Valley, the Asay Family settled at Mt. Carmel, Utah. Aaron worked for a time in the Silver Reef Mine near Leeds. Here he met and married his first wife, Sarepta Earl. They lived in Mt. Carmel for awhile, and were found there in the 1880 Census with only one child, Eleazer age 5. They later moved to the head of the Sevier River, where other brothers had located. The Creek on which they settled became known as Asay Creek. Six children were born to Aaron and Sarepta, but they were divorced in May 1885. On 24 Sept. 1885 Aaron married Myra Hatch, in the St. George Temple., and they made their home near her father's ranch several miles down the Sevier River and closer to the Mammoth Creek. Here he had a farm and some cattle.

In 1892, the Church Authorities decided to make two settlements of Asay and Mammoth or Hatch into a ward. The Mammoth Ward was organized 30 Aug. 1892 with Aaron Asay as Bishop. He was the first one of the Asay family to hold the position of a Bishop. One of the things his sons and daughters remember about the years when their father was Bishop was that they always had a crowd for dinner, and they were never able to eat at the first table, but had to wait until after the company had eaten. Before being made Bishop, Aleazer Aaron's twin brother was called to fill a mission for the Church. Aaron helped to support him and cared for his second wife and two small children during his absence. Aleazer's second wife Harriet, was a sister to Aaron's second wife, Myra. Harriet and two children moved into his home, living with his family. In the spring of 1900 Aaron and two of his friends Joe Wilson and a Mr. McClosky, took their wagons and set out to try and find a better place to live. They went to Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada, but finally sold their wagons and returned home. When they arrived back in Hatch they found that Jessé W. Crosby was organizing a company to move to the Big Horn Basin in Northern Wyoming. They decided to join this company. The families started preparing for the move. They made quilts, dried fruit and purchased bolts of cloth and other necessities enough to last them two years, as they felt it would take that long to become established and grow crops in their new home. Aaron, Aleazer and Theodore, with several other families traveled by wagon to Panguitch where they were joined by other families, and then onto Milford where the company transferred to a train for the remainder of the journey. They left Milford on 17 Sept. 1900

The train included 45 cars loaded with cattle, horses, machinery and household goods. They took 600 head of cattle and 250 head of horses. There were three full cars of people, 83 in number. On 21 Sept. they arrived in Bridger Montana, where the railroad ended. The group traveled on to Scribner in the Pryor Gap where the camp was made. Aaron and his brothers went on down to the Big Horn Basin that fall to purchase land. Aaron and his brother Aleazer purchased a farm on the Shoshone River, which they owned jointly. This farm is owned today by the Great Western Sugar Company and is one of the most productive farms in the area.

Aaron with others of the colonists, worked all that winter on the construction of the railroad tunnel through Pryor Gap on the Indian Reservation in Montana. The Railroad was being built from Huntley, Montana to Frannie, Wyoming, in the Big Horn Basin. While they were working at Pryor Gap, some of their horses were stolen by outlaws. Eleaser had moved down earlier and built a log cabin. This had burned down, and with it most of the household goods, keeosakes, and supplies belonging to both families. In the fall, the men had cut house logs on the Pryor Mountain to haul down to the farm near Lovell. After the homes were built, they joined with other families in the area to build a small log cabin to serve as a school house. Ellen H. Jolley was their first teacher, and the children loved her.

Aaron sheared sheep that first spring and summer, so was away from home much of the time. Although he never accumulated worldly wealth he was always a wonderful provider for his family. He built a meat house where he cured meat for use during the summer months. They always had a large store of flour, and he was known for the big beautiful gardens which he grew for his own use and to sell, but he could never bring himself to except payment for it.

Aaron taught Sunday School for years after coming to the Big Horn Basin. He was a gifted speaker. His ready wit and his gift as a speaker has been passed down through his family. Aaron loved music. He bought one of the first organs in the country, all his daughters learned to play it. Aarons two favorite hymns were " Love at Home" and "High on a Mountain Top".

In 1918 , the terrible flu epidemic which was raging through the country, struck Lovell all of his family became ill with the disease. The oldest son Dave died on 25 Oct. 1918. Aaron stayed on his feet nursing the others as long as he could, but he was finally overcome by the illness, and on the 30 Oct 1918, he passed away, leaving his wife and nine living children, five of whom were unmarried.

Several of the family were too ill to be told of his death and did not know until many weeks later that he had died. He had just passed his 63rd birthday at the time of his death.

Aaron Asay. Md. (1) 12 sept. 1873 Sarepta Earl born 16 April 1854 Springville, Utah
daughter of Joseph Wilbur and Harriet Baird

Aaron Asay Md. (2) 24 Sept. 1885 Myra Isabell Hatch born 12 May 1870 Eagle Valley Nev.
daughter of Meltiar Hatch and Mary Ann Ellis. Myra died 2 May 1953

Children of (1st wife)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Eleazer Asay | born 24 Dec. 1874 | Mt. Carmel Utah |
| 2. Wilbur Asay | born about 1876 | Mt. Carmel Utah died before 1880 |
| 3. Fredrick Asay | born 1 Jan. 1879 | Mt. Carmel Utah died before 1880 |
| | blessed by his Granfather Joseph Asay 4 Mar. 1879 | |
| 4. Leonard Asay | born 25 Aug. 1880 | Asay Creek, Utah |
| 5. Daniel Ferguson Asay | born 24 Sept. 1882 | Asay Creek, Utah |
| 6. Elnora Asay | born 23 May 1884 | Asay Creek, Utah |

Children of (2nd wife)

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. David Asay | born 4 Feb 1887 | Mammoth (Hatch) Utah. |
| 2. Phoebe Asay | born 24 Jan. 1889 | Mammoth (Hatch) Utah |
| 3. Virginia Asay | born 26 Feb. 1891 | Mammoth (Hatch) Utah |
| 4. Aaron Elias Asay | born 2 Aug. 1894 | Mammoth (Hatch) Utah |
| 5. Isabell Asay | born 8 Mar. 1896 | Mammoth (Hatch) Utah |
| 6. Chloe Asay | born 30 Nov. 1898 | Mammoth (Hatch) Utah |
| 7. John Hatch Asay | born 8 June, 1901 | Lovell Wyoming |
| 8. Joseph Asay | born 8 June 1904 | Lovell Wyoming |
| 9. Elsie Asay | born 31 Mar. 1907 | Lovell Wyoming |
| 10. Ireta Asay | born 23 May 1910 | Lovell Wyoming died 4 May 1911 |
| 11. Delsa Asay | born 23 Nov. 1911 | Lovell Wyoming |

Written by Ruby M. Green Asay