

HISTORY OF THEODORE FARMER ASAY *Filed Jan 1985*

Theodore Farmer Asay seventh child of Joseph Asay and Sarah Ann Pedricks was born the 2nd day of January 1853 in Trenton County, New Jersey. He was about seven years old when his family migrated to Utah. He was named for an Elder by the name of Theodore Farmer, who had taught and converted the family to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints. The family lived in Salt Lake City, on property located on the same location where the New House Hotel once stood. As a boy he was a boot black for a time, was a very ambitious person finding odd jobs and saved his pennies to help at home. While his father and some of his brothers were at the Muddy Mission, Theodore stayed in Salt Lake with his mother, while she was taking a course in nursing. He was a great help to his mother, always being kind and considerate to her.

After his father came back from the Muddy Mission and settled in Mt. Carmel for a while Theodore lived there with his parents. Later he lived on Asay Creek with the Family. It was during this time when Theodore met and married Mary Jane Winsor born the 5th of June 1869 Rockville/ daughter of Anson Perry Winsor and Mary Nielson. To this union was born a son Theodore Farmer Asay Jr. Theodore and his wife Mary Jane only had three happy years to-gether, for on the 9th of January 1886 Mary Jane died. Marriage date to Mary Jane Winsor was the 5th day of July 1882. Theodore's grief was great, but he found solace in the little <sup>son</sup> whom he loved dearly.

1 year had passed, when Theodore grew restless, he dreamed frequently of his departed wife, it seemed that in these dreams she was always concerned about their son not having a mother to take care of him. In one of these dreams she told Theodore that she wanted him to marry a girl by the name of Mary. Theodore had gone to a dance in Hatch, Utah taking his son with him. He was sitting on his father's lap, watching the musicians very carefully. Mar. Probin Dutton played the violin, Mandolin, and sometimes the Organ for dances, with her father and brothers and sisters.

All at once Farmer pointed out to Mary Probin Dutton and said " Papa, there is Mary" he had never before <sup>seen</sup> Mary in his life, and nether had Theodore, and he knew without a doubt, that here was his future wife. He managed to met her that night, and after a short courtship they were married in the St. George Temple. He married 17 Nov. 1886 Mary Probin Dutton, born 27 Jan 1869 Cedar City, Utah, daughter of James Dutton and Harriet Coombs.

Theodore and his new wife lived at Asay Creek on the West Fork of the Sevier River. Five children were born to them there . They loved and enjoyed their children very much. They lost one little girl while living there.

In 1898 they moved to Hatch where they lived in a house belonging to Mary's father. Theodore was called Uncle Teets by his relatives. A short time later they decided to go to Green River taking his mother Sarah Ann Pedrecks with them. They only remained there five months; While there Theodore cleared land ,cut timber and built fence for a livelihood. Work became scarce, so they moved to Huntington to look for work, but there was no work to be had there, so on 25 March 1900 they left for Emery, Utah.

When they arrived, they were all sick with influenza, ans Theodore's mother was very ill. Theodore found a one room house, and moved the family into it. Mary was expecting her fifth child, who was born on 6 April 1900. Sarah Ann Pedrick. Theodore's mother passed away the 11 April in the same room where Mary layed in bed with her new baby. This was a very trying time for Theodore.

The next month they moved to Monroe, where Theodore worked in the hay fields. Here they remained until the first part of August, when they returned to Hatch Utah. Here Theodore and the boys helped to put up hay on Asay Creek.

Theodore became interested in the Big Horn Colonization Movement, and decided to join the group led by Jessie W. Crosby to make new homes in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming. They took thair furniture in wagons, driving their cattle to make the journey through Fangutch, Buckskin Springs, and Beaver to the railroad town of Milford. Here they loaded all thair worldly belongings, cattle, horses, household goods, farm implements, and their families, on the train. They arrived

In Bridger, Montana on 21 of Sept. 1900.

Their first concern was a place to live, so they went to Piney Creek at the foot of Pryor Mountain and hauled logs from the hills. Theodore bought a lot at the newly surveyed town of Cowley and there placed his logs for later use. Employment was given the new colonists by the Burlington Railroad, so Theodore moved his family to Pryor Gap where he could work on this new line being extended into Big Horn Basin. They lived there all winter in a tent. The next fall they moved to the cottonwoods on the banks of the Shoshone River a few miles from what later became Lovell, Wyoming.

Theodore bought eighty acres of land on Sage Creek and built a log cabin where the family lived during the summer months, going to Cowley in the winter so the children could attend school. He engaged in farming and worked on the Sidon Canal project. The years passed, Theodore and Mary were happy in their home with their children.

The 13th of January dawned clear and cold. The house hold was all a-hustle and a -bustle. Mary was expecting her tenth child and they knew this would be the day. Shortly after 10 A. M. Mary presented her husband with a baby girl. Theodore was sixty years old at that time. He seemed to sense that he would not be with his family long. In march he becamee ill with pneumonia. He wanted his family to be near him at all times. On 13 of March 1913 he grew steadily worse. He asked his wife to bring the baby to him. He held the baby across his chest for a few minutes, then gave her back to Mary. A few minutes later he was gone. At his funeral the speaker told of Theodore's honesty and how he had been a faithful tithe-rayer. He had called for the Bishop to be at his bedside just a few days before his death, so he could pay his tithing. Theodore was not a church-going man, but a more honest man never lived. If he promised that he would do something, you could be sure it would be done. He was laid to rest in the Cowley Cemetery. And greatly missed by all his family.

## Children by Mary Jane Winsor Asay

1. Theodore Parmer Asay Jr. born 27 March 1883 Asay Utah

## Children by Mary Probin Dutton Asay

1. Harriet Amelia Asay Born 31 Dec. 1887 Asay Ranch Utah
2. Andrew Dutton Asay Born 16 Oct. 1889 Asay Ranch Utah
3. Mindy Asay Born 5 Dec. 1891 Asay Ranch Utah
4. Martha Eliza Asay Born 18 July 1892 Asay Ranch Utah died 27 Jan. 1984
5. Leon Dutton Asay Born 15 Oct. 1898 Hatch Utah
6. Sarah Ann Asay Born 6 April 1900 Emery Utah
7. Clifford Dutton Asay Born 18 Nov. 1903 Lovell Wyoming
8. Leland Asay Born 5 Mar. 1906 Cowley Wyoming
9. Edna Asay Born 31 Mar. 1909 Cowley Wyoming died 22 July 1910
10. Mary Asay Born 13 Jan. 1913 Cowley Wyoming

Written by Ruby M. Asay