

**Emery County Archives
Summary Description of Donation**

Archives Number:	ECA-2001-020c-pfh	Date:	August 17, 2001
Creator:	John Eden		
Title:	"The Life History of John Eden"		
Quantity: (folders, boxes, etc.)	1 folder - 8 legal typewritten pages		
Abstract:	A bibliography of John Eden, who joined the L.D.S. Church at the age of 8 and came to America in 1854.		
Topics:	John's memories of his childhood in England; ship experiences coming to America; family life in America; marriage to Harriet Allott on February 2, 1871; family life after marriage; working in mine at Scofield; setting Cleveland; death at age of 92.		
Places:	Worsley, Lancashire, England; St. Louis, MO; Pittsburg, PA; Allegheny City and Braidwood, IL; Provo, Scofield, Miller Creek and Cleveland, UT.		
Background Information:	<p>Scope and Content: John Eden, born in Worsley, Lancashire, England on December 16, 1845 - died Cleveland, Utah on January 11, 1938. Son of James Eden & Ann Molyneaux Eden. Married Harriet Allott on February 2, 1871 (Harriet born November 25, 1852 in Chester, PA, with her brother Moses. John and Harriet had 11 children (listed in this collection.) Information about going to the LDS church in England; sailing with his parents on the ship "Chara Wheeler" to America in 1854 and experiences while sailing; living in MO and PA while his father worked to earn money to go to Utah; sister Alice and father dying there; meeting his future wife and their marriage and children (listed); moving to Utah in 1882 and working at Scofield in the mine; son dying; moving to Miller Creek (Cleveland) in 1887 and life in Emery County; daughter, mother, wife and son dying; geneology and family history miracle; WWI; his own illness and Cleveland Town throwing a party in 1927 in his honor; his 92nd birthday and a note on his death in 1938 from his granddaughter.</p>		
Acquisition Information: (donor)	Margaret Fugate Swasey		
Restrictions on Use:	None		
Collection Processed By:	Kolene Durfee / Shirley Spears		
Container List:			
Box	Folder	Contents	
2	020c-pfh	Personal history: "The Life History of John Eden" 8 pages	

THE LIFE HISTORY OF JOHN EDEN

I was born in Worsley Lancashire England on Dec. 16, 1845 the son of James Eden and Ann Molyneaux who were two very lovely people. When but a few days old I was christened in the Church of England. I had one sister 2½ years older than I named Emma and one younger named Alice.

One of the first things I can remember is at the age of three when a boy by the name of Allen and myself went down to the creek to play, he became over balanced and tumbled into the water. I watched him for a few moments then ran home crying.

At the age of five I went to Bolton "a large city" with my Father. At this time I bought my first suit made of velveteen. At the age of seven I went with my folks to Worsley to see Aunt Betty, while there I saw Queen Victoria and the Duke of Wellington "who fought at Water Loo". They were on a Canal boat which was drawn by horses and driven on the bank, there were guards all around. People were seated on the banks cheering them as they went by. They were on their way to Manchester.

The English people were very religious it was a great sin to make any noise on Sunday. While at Aunt Betty's I was playing with the wheelbarrow, suddenly I took the handles and ran down the street with it, all the family ran after me nearly hysterical.

I remember at one time we went to conference at Manchester. We stayed with Aunt Mary (father's sister) in her parlor was a black stuffed dog. When I was eight years old father and Elder Daniel Stone one day after work took me across a big field and baptized me in a stream of water into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, I was confirmed the next Sunday. We went to church in a hall over an old blacksmith shop, at that time there were no organs, thus two violins and a big bass viola and a flute served as music, this /gand also brought singers with them. For the sacrament they used wine instead of water. Many times I have heard women speak in tongues during testimony meeting but never did I hear a man.

I do not remember when father and mother joined the church but I have a hymn book dated 1852, which is the oldest thing I own. Many times on Sunday evening people would gather at our home and study the gospel. We took the "Millennial Star" the first church paper which was published in Liverpool.

We went to Liverpool in Dec 1854 where we stayed for two days at a hotel then we boarded the ship "Clara Wheeler", an LDS vessel and started for America. It was a merchants ship with Captain Nelsen in charge. We started in the evening, during the night a tornado came up and the ship got lost. The Captain had to send out a sky rocket, then an English pilot vessel came and took charge returning it to Liverpool, it struck a rock while at sea but the boat wasn't hurt. We had to stay in Liverpool until fair weather and no one could leave the boat.

We were seven weeks on the ocean. At first I was quite sea sick, but the weather was good. The boys my age had a good time playing games and running from top to bottom of the deck. There was a seige of whooping cough and measles and several of the children died and had to be

buried at sea.

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We passed Cuba and saw the city of McKenzie in the gulf of Mexico. It was so warm that some men slept on deck although it was winter time. We were stalled for two days because of no wind.

The carpenter of the vessel got sick and the captain had father take charge the remainder of the voyage. The ship went about two hundred miles up the river and landed in New Orleans. By this time we were nearly out of provisions. We had no bread and had to eat (Hard tack) or hard biscuits. About the first thing we done after landing was to get some bread and molasses. It was the best bread I had ever eaten. We stayed threr for about two days then chartered a river boat to St. Louis. The steam boats burned wood instead of coal so they had to stop and load up at intervals. At one stop I went with some other boys to a plantation house. The whites lived in a large house and the negroes in a small one. At St Louis we rented a house. Father could find no work and not enough money to buy oxen to go on to Utah. Father went one day to a negro market where they were selling slaves. I couldn't go. Father told us they had the negroes wald across a platform. Then they were examined by a doctor and a price was set on them as though they were horses. The wenches about 14 or 16 years old sold for \$14.

We were in St Louis for about a month then went on up the river about 35 miles to Altons where father found some work but very little pay. My little sister Alice bacame very ill while we were here and soon died at the early age of five.

Father then went on to Pittsburg and got work at Allegeny City, in the steam boat yards. He snet us some money and we joined him in the fall of 1856.

There was a small branch of the church here. Thomas Barton was the Branch President and father was put in secretary. One time Elder Woolly of Salt Lake City came and stayed at our house for quite a while. John Taylor was the president of the Philadelphia Conference. He published a paper called "Wormon." We subscribed for it from Feb. 1855 to Sept 1857, in it we read about Parley P Pratt being murdered in Arkansas.

Father and another man had a contract to make barges on the Monongie river. Father was to be in charge of the Carpentering. It meant steady work the year around. The man kept his word. It was Wm Stones works.

At the time the great campaign was going on for John C Fremont and John Buchanan. We settled in Dravosburg which is just across road from McKeesport. Here I knew much happiness, I had many friends and we spent much time swimming in the river. I saw floods roaring down the river filled to the brim and run over filling the homes with mud and rubbish. Every one kept a boat tied to their house so they could leave if it got too high. Then when it was over they would clean up and start over. One time I went to a circus there and I saw a little man 2 ft. high named Tom Thumb.

The gang of boys I was with played marbles, ball and went skiff riding, and hunting. Then at berry season time we would get up about 3 o'clock and go picking berries. Sometimes we visited other churches

but never once did I desire to join them. I took a few music lessons from a German organist of the Lutheran Church. I also took a few lessons from a ministers daughter of the Methodist Church by the name of Beacon at McKeesport.

A great sorrow fell over us when father became ill with appendicitis and was taken away Aug 7, 1860 leaving mother, Emma and myself. I went to work in the coal mines although only about 14 or 15 years old. At first I had a partner and got 50 cents a day but later the boss gave me a room to myself and I got a dollar a day which was to keep the three of us.

I had some very dear friends there of the best were Daniel Stone, William Doves and William Leadbeater. We parted only when we married. Every sunday we would row up the river then float down as we sang hymns war songs and edt.

Every summer the members of the Church would go with their tents and camp for eight days holding three meetings a day also prayer meetings.

When I was about seventeen years old I yearned very much to join the army of which my mother did not desire. One night I had a dream, "I was in the battlefield among the dead men and horses. It seemed I was not hurt but the scene before merwas terrible." I felt this was a warning to me so I stayed at home.

I first met the Allott family in Dravosburg. Then they moved to Braidwood and later I got a job in Braidwood where I once more met the Allott family. It was then I knew the little cute white haired girl of Dravosburg was the choice of my manhood. I fell in love and married Harriet Allott on Feb 2, 1871, I was 26 years old and Harriet 17 years. She was the daughter of Henry Allott and Sarah Barnett, she was born 25 Nov., 1852 at Chester Pennsylvannia. Her brother Moses was married that same day. We were married by a Presbyterian minister, we each paid him five dollars.

Harriet and I made our home in Penn. for a short time, we were happier when little Annie our first child was born 6 Dec 1871. She was the prettiest baby I have ever seen with her fair skin, auburn hair and beautiful eyes. Not long after this we decided to go to Braidwood Illn, for a visit which lasted for eleven years. On Jan 5, 1874 a son was born to us we called him James after my father, but short was his stay only nineteen days until we saw him called home again 24 Jan 1874.

The Lord had been mindful of us and blessed us again with a lovely daughter Sarah Mae 2 May 1875. Then on 4 Oct 1877 a second boy was born. We called him John Samuel and how we love and enjoyed him. Again we were happy when on 25 Jan 1880 Harriet was born and again 19 Jan 1882 our sixth child was born another girl and her name was Bertha Emma.

It was in this year of 1882 I was to at last see my long hoped for dream come true, for I boarded a train to Salt Lake City Utah after so many years of waiting. When I got to Provo I got on the narrow gage railroad (which was before the Denver and Rio Grand railroad was finished) I went to Scofield which was a coal mining camp and found employment. I met Bishop Willimas who had come from Wales on the same vessel we came on from England twenty seven years before.

As soon as I could I sent for Harriet and the children. Harriet had never heard a Mormon Elder until after she reached Scofield. For a time she could not ~~except~~ of joining my faith, then one night she had a dream, "there was a very thin cow which as far as she could see had no chance of living yet it pulled through." She related her dream to a friend one day who answered her saying. "Harriet you should believe some things without seeing them." Immediately after Harriet joined the church, the first year of our arrival in Utah in 1882. One year later Mother came to Utah to live with us which made me so happy.

I was the organist for the Scofield Sunday School. One night I will remember in the winter of 1883 it was very stormy--sleet and rain falling fast. We had arranged for a choir practice at the Church house, our leader was Dick Thomas. The janitor Charley Greekland had lighted up the hall ready then went out to find more wood for the fire, I went to the door of my home two or three times then finally said to Harriet, "I'm not going over tonite"--all the other members had stopped to see George Richards for a few minutes. Suddenly a huge snow slide came and utterly crushed the church house but not one person was there--we all recognized the hand of the Lord in the safety of all the members of the choir.

We were blessed once more with a baby girl 7 Jan 1884 we called her Elizabeth.

In 1885 I and five other men decided to investigate some farm land down in the valley so we borrowed a pack mule from the Bishop to carry our supplies. We found what seemed to be fertile ground so we surveyed for a canal and started work on it. Then we returned to the coal mines again for the winter. The following spring we were again to feel the sting of death when our only living son Johnny was taken from us 17 May 1886. We buried him in the Scofield Cemetary.

I spent much time helping on the new canal in the valley. I sent to Salt Lake City and got a wagon then I bought a team of mules (Jack and Jake) from Johnny Edwards of Sanpete County.

In about one year after we had lost Johnny another baby boy was born to us 4 may 1887. We called him Henry. It was this spring that we gathered our few belongings, one of the most precious being a melodian, I had brought with me from back east and moved down to the valley to make a new home. We camped at Miller Creek for about three months while I cut logs for a home. There were two other families there, Sam and John Alger. As we were going down the canyon the wagon tipped a little and Harriet and Henry fell out. Since there no injury we had a good laugh. We lived in a dugout using the wagon for a bedroom and felt quite comfortable. The few settlers there called a meeting and decided to call this place Cleveland:

We went to church at the home of John Alger and William Cowley with Samuel N Alger acting as the presiding Elder. I worked on the land and house which was of logs at whatever time I could spare from working on the canal which was 15 miles long. During the first year a flood came down the flat and covered our farm.

We again knew the joy of a baby when Maude Edna was born 13 April 1889. Louis Whimpy and I made a trip down Price River to get some start of trees, big cottonwoods, our first shade trees.

We now had a post office with Henry Oviatt Sr. as post master.

Bertha became very ill and finally passed away 29 May 1890, how we missed her. I was busy helping on the new reservoir in Huntington Canyon. Sam Alger done the first work on it then Hans Marsden and myself went up second. The first night we spent up there we got an early supper then retired, about midnight we felt something cold and slimy crawling all over us only to find little mountain lizards so we shook our bedding and went for higher ground.

Our ward was organized on August 10, 1896. Apostal Anthen H Lund and Abraham H. Cannon came down from Salt Lake. Lars P Oveson was bishop with Henry Oviatt Jr. and Thomas Ferrish as Counslers. The Sunday School with Eniar Erickson Superendant. Lettie Johnson Sec. The primary with Jane Litster pres. On March 10 1891 the Relief Society was organized with Mary N Alger president and Louise Overson and Ann Eden counslers. Harriet Eden as Sec. I played for the Sunday School for many years also Sacrament meeting. Many times my little melodian gave music for our people. We had by now erected a little log building for community use. Church, dance and school. Our first teacher was a Miss Temperence Brasher.

Well do I recall our first milk cow (Old Rose) she was black and white. I bought her from Wilson Neversweat, Whenever she saw Saddle she would chase her and Saddle would run screaming. Indinas often stopped for feed of themselves and horses. The children would stand back with fear but peek at all corners with eager eyes to see the curious people.

We had a very new event to full our lives when Annie our eldest child chose her companion, Grover Lewis. They were married in our modest little log cabin home 27 June 1891, they were a lovely couple.

On Aug 20, 1891 another son was born to us, we called him George Arther and again tow years later one more boy and our baby arrived on his mothers birthday Nov 25, 1893, William Francis. What a comfort comes from a lovely family.

In the year of 1894 Nov the 29th Sarah Mae became the wife of Thomas T Lamph. To this union was born four girls and one boy. He had the misfortune of losing his right arm and for fifty years made a living for his family under this handicap but never failed to ever be a kind and loving husband and father.

By 1894 our little community had erected a frame building for a school house, which made it possible to better educate our children. I was chosen to be one of the first school trustees. I also held the office of Sec. for the Cleveland Canal Board Co.

We decided to form a Co-op store for the betterment of our community and chose Louis P Overson as the Manager.

Our little George was now seven years old--he became very ill and we were unable to withstand the hand of death in our home once more. On the 3rd day of Feb. 1898 he passed away and we felt again the sting of death only to occur again in the 3rd of June 1899 when my dear mother passed away.

It was Harriet who next had chosen her lifes companion, she and Alma Erick Larsen were married 20 Nov. 1901

Our little Maude was stricken with sever illness in April 1903 there wasn't a doctor near by so we had to take her in a wagon to Castle Gate. We were there one day then the doctor went her on to Salt Lake hospital by train. Harriet and Hattie went in with her and I went back home to take care of things, with a heavy heart not knowing what the results would be and there being no means of fast communication. My mind was in a turmoil as I retired to my bed that night. It was nearly morning when I suddenly awakened from my sleep to see sitting in the chair near my bed a woman, the ugliest I have ever seen, she was dressed in black, I arouse from my bed and went over to the chair. When I reached it the woman vanished. Then Maudes face appeared smiling. I knew then Maude would be alright.

Later I learned that her appendics had broken and the Dr. had kept in close touch with Harriet and Hattie all that night, I felt indeed grateful for such a manifestation when I was so much in need of comfort. Maude grew into maturity and raised a lovely family.

In June 1903 Harriet and I had a most wonderful experience, we went into Salt Lake City, and went into the House of the Lord where we received our endowments then were sealed for all eternity. Such happiness and joy we had never before known.

The year of 1904 we began work on our new house, a frame lumber building, of seven rooms and two nice front porches painted white. Henry and Will were a great deal of help. The pack rats often carried fruits and utinsels off but finally we found the rat and soon ended that difficulty.

In the spring of 1905 Maude graduated from the eighth grade in school which was the first graduating class in Cleveland.

Then in June 21st day 1905 Elizabeth and Thomas C. Potter were married in the Temple at Salt Lake City which gave us much happiness. Henry and Annie C Williams were married 11 June 1908 at our home. Maude and Edward C Jensen were married 18 Nov. 1909 in the Salt Lake Temple.

Our Youngest son William received a call to go on a mission for the church to the Western States. He left 27 Aug. 1916, this indeed gave us much happiness but the following June I was saddened beyond words. It was in the early hours of the morning that Harriet awakened me, I found her very ill. It was but a few hours and she was gone. It was the 13 June 1917, my sorrow was deep and hard to bear, but I was indeed blessed with such a wonderful family. Then too, the comfort I sought brought forth fruits for I was led to see Genealogy work. I hired a lady in Salt Lake by the name of Baird to help me and much was accomplished. We were however unable to locate the date of my Fathers ordination of an Elder or the membership of our family. This upset me greatly. One day as I walked up the road, I saw a piece of paper, I picked it up and went on to the house. Later that day I took it from my pocket and to my sheer astonishment/^Twas actually reading two certificates, one was my fathers ordination to the office of an Elder and the other was the membership of our family to the branch, they were written in Alleghany City Penn. In my fathers own handwriting, who was the secretary there at the time of these particular papers were made out.

I felt indeed humble concerning this incident, knowing it was the power of my Heavenly Father who brought about this great miracle. I went to the Salt Lake Temple 19 Dec 1917 and had the endowment work done for my father then had the endowment work done for my father and mother, and sealed in the temple together for all eternity.

I was indeed happy to welcome Will home again at the close of his mission 28 April 1919 for I had longed for him much after Harriet had gone. It was during this time that World War I had taken place and two of my Grandsons had gone to serve their country. Francis, Annies and Grover's eldest son and Thomas, Sadies and Thomas's only son. We were blessed though for they both returned home in safety.

Once more sorrow fulfilled the hearts of our family. On Saturday 30 March 1921 Henry's wife Annie died of after effects of the Flu, leaving four children. To be followed the following day 31 March 1921 by Hatties husband Alle. So great was the shock ti took some time before we adjusted to the effects of it.

In 1924 I became very ill and Dr. Hill sent me into Salt Lake to the hospital under Dr. Winters. After I was released I went to Lizzies again I became quite ill and the Dr. said there was a puss bag on my side. Lizzie phoned the Temple requesting my name be placed on the prayer list. The next day two Doctors came in, after giving me a thorough examination, declared there was no sign of a puss bag and no operation would be needed.

In Aug 1927 the community held a party in my honor. I had served forty years as ward organist, they presented me with a beautiful gold medal, in appreciation for what I had done. They had Henry's baby Elvertis pin it on me. My heart filled with joy at such friendship and love of my community.

On 25 Nov 1929 Will once more left on a mission for the church to the East Central states this time for only six months. While he was gone Annie my eldest child became very ill her health had been poor for years and now found her weak and unable to go on. She passed away 18 May 1930 leaving her husband and four children.

Will came home 2 June 1930 and then on 21 Dec 1930 was put in as the bishop of the Cleveland Ward. He then chose his companion Velma Mortensen, they were married in the Salt Lake Temple 11 Feb. 1931. I had known who would be Will's wife before as I had seen her in a dream before Will told me.

Grover had missed Annie greatly and lived only 13 months after her death he passed away 9 June 1931.

I had much joy in my family, they always remembered my birthday and met once a year in a reunion.

Hattie was keeping care of the house after the death of her husband, and Henry and three of his children lived with us. Hattie also had with her Ilene who was a niece and had lived with Hattie and Alle after the death of her mother in Nov 1920.

The morning of 23 Oct 1937, Thomas came into the house and told us Sadie had passed away. So once more we were to feel the sting of death.

It was in the fall of 1937 I decided to take a trip to Salt Lake. I had a wonderful time and saw many of my old friends. Soon after my return home it was my 92nd birthday. Many friends and the family came that day. Hattie had made a cake trimmed with 92 candles. The family gave me a beautiful chime clock. I always liked to hear a clock strike the hours of a day. On 4 Jan 1938 Will, Henry and Hattie went over to Manti to take Vernice, she took out her endowment.

In closing this life history of Grandpa Eden I add this:

On the night of Jan 5th 1938 Grandpa took sick having a cerebral hemorrhage. He lived for 11 days in which time he fixed up all of his property suitable to his children. I Vernice placed his name on the prayer list in the Manti Temple. He lived but a few hours after the prayer and his passing closed the life of a great and wonderful man. It was the 11 Jan 1938.