

GRANDMA SARAH PEDRICK ASAY
[by Elnora Asay Thompson]
[Digitized by April Coleman - July 2005]
[Bold, underlining are mine - akrc]

FORWARD: I have no talent, nor have I had experience in writing but for years I have felt a strong desire to write some of the important incidents in the worthy life of my grandmother Sarah Pedrick Asay. It is probable too that our children, and possibly others may in the years ahead, benefit from and be grateful for this writing. I am indebted to John C. Houston for assistance. Elnora Asay Thompson.

Sarah Ann Pedrick was born March 18, 1818 in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. We know little of her parentage. I haven't her parents names nor the names of the other children in the family. It is known however, that her parents were wealthy and that she was so reared. In their home all work was done by servants, however, she was taught to cook and to do other skilled work. She told of an incident in her childhood. Her father was going to take her for a ride in a "Coach of Six" attended by footmen and as she came down the marble steps out of the home the rattle of her silken skirts frightened the horses and they ran away.

When she was twenty two years old she married **Joseph Asay** and lived in Philadelphia until after her first child **William Pedrick Asay** was born. Then they moved to Trenton, New Jersey. The home of **Joseph's parents, Isaac and Phoebe Asay.**

Grandfather [Joseph Asay] invested here in a manufacturing business and prospered for a time. They too lived in a fine home, rode in a "Coach of Six", and were considered wealthy. **Grandmother** liked to cook and would go into her kitchen and, while planning meals with the cook, would put on an apron and peel potatoes or do other simple chores. On several occasions, **Grandfather**, upon coming home bringing home a friend to meet her, would have to go to the kitchen to find her, and being quite annoyed would tell her he did not want to find her in the kitchen again.

(p 2)Ten children were born to them while they lived in Trenton. Nine boys and a girl. making in all a family of eleven children. [? There were 10 children]

It is not known just when the Mormon Elders first began calling on them, but one of the first to call was an Elder Marble. **Grandfather's** entertaining the elders was very annoying to his parents and other relatives. When **grandfather and grand mother** and the children were converted and told their relatives that they were going to be baptized, **his father** told him he was through with him and handing grandfather a dollar he said, "I am obliged to give you this but you will never receive a penny of my estate." and he never did. **Grandfather** was a mild mannered good natured man and loved his parents and kindred and their bitter opposition was to him a terrible blow.

Deciding to move west, **grandfather** sold everything and told **grandmother** they were going to the Mississippi Valley. For some reason he never told her they were going to the Salt Lake Valley to join the Saints. When they arrived at the Mormon Camp on the Mississippi River and saw Brigham Young's train of wagons and oxen and saw

printed across the covers of these Prairie schooners the words "Salt Lake City" **grandmother** was terribly upset. President Young picked her up in his arms and blessed her telling her she would never regret going to Utah. When she was 73 years old she told a daughter-in-law of this instance and added, "**Though I left a beautiful home and had never sat on any but soft cushioned chairs and since have had to sit on nail kegs, goods boxes etc., I have never regretted coming to Utah.**"

(3)It did require a lot of faith and courage to take a family of eleven children, the youngest a babe of two years and cross the plains not knowing what lay ahead. When they all got into the wagon and started the oxen, **Grandmother** was frightened and cried out- "Oh! No Lines."

one time they were without water and the thirsting baby cried until it could cry no longer. The men rode on ahead on horse back in search everywhere for a green cluster of growth, thinking possible to find some moisture beneath the roots, but were not so rewarded. **Grandmother** had them bring her a cactus. She split it open and held the cut side on the baby's tongue while enough moisture oozed out to keep it alive until water was found.

They arrived in the "Valley" in 1861 at the time the Saints were excited over the coming of Johnston's Army. Because **Grandmother** was naturally able in caring for the sick, she was asked to work with Dr. Anderson, one of the best doctors in the city at that time. The Church was calling people to a mission of settling and building up the out-lying areas. Five years after **Grandfather** entered the "Valley" he too was called to go onto the Colorado River in Northern Arizona.

Grandmother soon sensed the indispensable need in these out-lying far distant settlements of **women trained in nursing and in obstetrics**, and she returned to Salt Lake City and took a course in **Midwifery** which afterward proved a blessing to the pioneer settlements where she lived.

(4)Later the **Asay family** was called to the **Muddy Mission** in Nevada where the people lived in dugouts and underwent severe hardships. When they were released from this Mission they were allowed to settle where they pleased.

On their way to the "Muddy", however, the family visited in the settlements around St. George, Harrisburg, Leeds and Silver Reef where romance began for seven or eight of the grown boys. Upon their way back to these settlements the sons secured their wives and all followed their parents to Long Valley, settling at Mt. Carmel and Orderville. Some of the sons joined the United Order.

The Church was now establishing settlements in Central and Southern Arizona and the **Asay families** were called to move a few miles north onto the head waters of the Sevier River **where they could render assistance to the Saints going south into Arizona**. The creek became known as **Asay Creek** and their settlement as Asay's Post Office.

As in other settlements, **Grandfather** kept a little store. The **Asay families** settled here in the seventies and thru the eighties and nineties they prospered even after terrible livestock loss shared by everyone during the awful hard winter of 1886-87.

Very often **Grandfather** would ask individuals home to eat with him and **Grandmother** never knew who or how many she might have for dinner. One of her most embarrassing moments came just that way. Having been left again without stovewood, she decided she would have to do something to make **grandfather** remember. (5) She prepared her vegetables and put them on the cold stove, arranged the kindling in the grate, set the table with the dishes and food which needed no cooking, then placed the ax in the center of the table. **Grandfather** came in at noon with two strange men. He gave a quick embarrassed look at the table then said to the men, "excuse me" and returned soon with fire wood. **Grandma** said years later, "that was the quickest meal I ever prepared." **Grandfather** never did say anything to her about the incident and never again forgot to leave wood.

Grandfather Joseph Asay died October 3, 1879 and for a decade there-after she kept the sons clustered in the settlement on Asay Creek. It was especially during this period that **grandma Asay was the Ministering Angel** to the settlements and in particular at the births in the homes of her own children. Many people testified of the healing touch of her kind hands and those same hands had so many kinds of hard work to do in the daily routine of pioneer life. But she never tired of doing or giving and hundreds of babies came safely into the world through her tireless efforts.

It ment loss of sleep, going in all kinds of old time vehicles, and in all kinds of weather. Sometimes away days from her family and all for a sum so pitifully small it is not worth bering and many, many times she received nothing at all.

Grandmother always remained slender, tall and erect, had a soft pleasing voice and disliked loud laughter. She was modest and chaste in her thought and speech and the principles of honesty and virtue were planted deep in her heart. The dearest impression she left with me was how hard she tried to teach her grandchildren(6) the necessity of living a clean, virtuos life. As I remember her she was a woman of few words, spoke straight to the point. and told the truth whether one liked it or not. Yet she was loved by all who knew her. I remember well as a child, (and she was past seventy), how I loved to visit her and was thrilled when she asked me to comb her hair and pullout the few gray hairs.

Toward the close of the century, her sons grew restless and one by one moved away, to again, a few years later, come together in the pioneering of the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming. **Grandmother** now in her eighties, went with a son and family into eastern Utah where on April 11, 1900 at the age of eighty three, she died at Ferron, Emery County, UTAH. And thus the curtain dropped on the life of a worthy Christian woman who was born and reared in a mansion which she sacrificied for a life of hardship and service. We very fittingly close with this tribute paid her by all her daughters-in-law. "She was a grand old lady and the best cook we ever knew!"

[This was given to me by Claudia Shideler.]