

## **Edmund Riley Shaw**

### **BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN RILEY SHAW (OF PLEASANT VIEW, WEBER COUNTY, UTAH ALSO OF OAKDALE, RIVERBANK, AND MODESTO, STANISLAUS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA)**

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Edmund Riley Shaw, John's father, was born 22 June, 1855, in Centerville, Utah. The home life of Edmund Riley, his parents and brothers and sisters is beautifully described in Jeanette Greenwell's history. Edmund married Elizabeth Rose in the Salt

Lake Endowment House in 1871. Then Elizabeth died in 1876 leaving two young daughters, Eva and Sarah. On 2 January, 1879, he married as his second wife, Sarah Jane Ward. Sarah Jane was John's mother.

Edmund received 160 acres which ran across the Ogden Valley near the small town of Liberty. He gave up this property. Then through an assignment given him to colonize new areas near Rexburg, Idaho, given by Church leaders, he established a new home there. His aunt Jenny Shupe had married Tom Ricks and they were living in Rexburg. Edmund lived there only two years. The Indians were troublesome. Then Sarah Jane became very homesick for her family back in North Ogden.

The Church Historian's Office has a record of Edmund Riley Shaw of Pleasant View, Utah, Weber County, being set apart September 27, 1895, for the Southern States Mission. He served until 1897.

Being a farmer and landowner, Edmund had a great desire to accumulate land holdings. Much of what he acquired was in North Ogden, Pleasant View, Liberty, and the Promontory area. Some property was given to his sons. His daughters were helped to continue their educational plans.

Some of the property given to the family members by Edmund is an area in Liberty. It was owned by his oldest son, James Edmund, and now by his descendants. (See the historical sketch written by James Edmund's son, Lawrence Shaw for a description of the land today. Appendix A-13.)

Another farm was west of Mount Ben Lomond. William and John, Edmund's sons, farmed the low dry farm in Pleasant View. Later they dissolved the partnership. (I found many items of record concerning the land of Will and John on file in the Weber County Recorder's office.) Will and his wife Elizabeth Johns lived the first eight years of their married life on the lower dry farm on Pleasant View Road. They then moved on the upper dry farm on Pole Patch for another thirteen years.

Edmund and Sarah Jane had twelve children. James Edmund, 1879, Dora Grott, 1881, and Harriet Higginbotham, 1883, were all born in North Ogden. William H., 1886, John Riley, 1888, Hazel Zerbe, 1890, Lawrence, 1893, (died 1901), Carter, 1896, (died 1908), Erma Jane, 1898, (died 1898), Clarice Green (Seager), 1900, Gladys Slater, 1903 and Stanley, 1906. Dora, William, Gladys and Stanley are still alive as of this writing. The last eight children named were born in Pleasant View, Utah.

Edmund Riley died 12 April, 1930. He had lived a full and active life. He is buried in the North Ogden Cemetery. At the time of his death, he was living in a small house next to John and Josie's home in Pleasant View. I was just three years of age but I have a recollection of my grandfather and of his last illness. It is probably my earliest recollection. John was 41 years of age when his father died. (There is a historical record of Edmund and Martha in the N. Ogden Ward History, 1905)

## SARAH JANE WARD SHAW



Sarah Jane was a stocky; five foot three inch tall woman with a light complexion. This is about the only description that her son William Shaw gives of his mother. She was the daughter of James Ward and Harriet Brown, the oldest of eleven children. Nellie Ward Neal describes the events of her birth in this manner.

Sarah Jane was born in a most rainy period. We have been told that it rained 21 days without stopping. Their crude shelter could not withstand the down-pour. It was impossible to keep a fire. Not an available thing could keep the rain from soaking the bed, bedclothes, mother and baby. Not a dry thread could be had for their comfort. It was only through the blessings and goodness

of the Lord that the two survived. Through His power, and some assistance they received from an Indian chief, the little family was able to survive through that first trying winter in Zion.

Nellie Ward Neal's history continues: Sarah Jane's parents put forth conscientious effort to rear their eleven children with a love for the gospel and in keeping with its standards. Time was set aside each evening for the reading of the Bible. Harriet Brown Ward was an extra good reader. She not only read the Bible, she read the newspaper to her husband and helped him in his related scholastic learning. Through all things, she stood by him. She was a wonderful helpmate, and to her children - the ideal mother. She had her share of the hard work and sacrifice, and did more than her share in making the family what it was.

All of the children, except Hyrum who died at the age of seven, were married in the temple and filled positions of trust and honor. Such was the family from which Sarah Jane Ward came. She died 21 December, 1925 when John was 37 years old (NWN)