

History of Edmund Riley and Sarah Jane Ward Shaw

By Granddaughter
Venis Shaw Powell

I am proud to write a short history of my Grandfather Edmund Riley Shaw and Grandmother Sarah Jane Ward.

He was born 22 June 1855 in Centerville, Davis Co., Utah to Elijah & Martha Ann Thomas Shaw. He died 12 April 1930. He lived to be 75 years old.

He was married twice. His first wife was Elizabeth Rose, she was born 28 July 1854. They were married in Salt Lake Endowment House 20 Nov. 1871. She died 20 Nov. 1876 at Age 22.

They had two daughters Sarah Elizabeth Shaw and Eva Shaw.

Three years later he married Sarah Jane Ward my Grandmother in Salt Lake Endowment House 2nd Jan. 1879. She died 21 Dec. 1925. She lived to be 64 years old.

They had twelve children six sons & six daughters and my father John Riley Shaw was the fifth child.

When Grandpa & Grandma were first married they lived in Pleasant View Weber Co., Utah in a home where George Roylance lived. Later they moved to North Ogden and built a nice home. They also had a home in Ogden Valley.

He then sold both homes and moved to Rexburg. Fremont Co., Idaho. They drove a herd of stock cattle & milk cows, traveling in a covered wagon and encountered many Indians. While in Rexburg they had many hardships which came from pioneering new country.

From Rexburg they moved back to Pleasant View, Utah and settled near the Joe Barnett place. There they built their red brick beautiful two story home. It was carpeted and had beautiful furniture, always immaculate and well kept.

I remember when I was about four or five years old my parents left me for a few days to stay there. They put me in a large room at night to sleep and I get frightened and cry. I can't remember which aunt would come in and assure I was safe and console me & I would go to sleep.

This home of Grandpa & Grandma Shaw later became our home and we lived there for twenty years or more. We lost this place due to a mortgage and Dad & mother moved to Modesto, Calif.

Grandpa & Grandma Shaw owned lots of property and ranches from Promontory Utah to North Fork in Ogden Valley.

He owned lots of sheep and cattle and would travel from one ranch to another. When a severe storm hit the area he lost a lot of livestock and money.

Lutz Critchlow told us that one time he had a large herd of cattle in a coral in the foothills of Pleasant View when a big storm came up and caused a mud slide and covered the cattle. Mr Critchlow helped pull lots of dead cattle out of the mud and some that lived, Grandpa then moved the cattle up to the Simmons property which was higher up on the mountain.

When they got older and unable to work so hard they bought a home in Ogden at 1737 Parry St. on Washington Blvd. It was also a well kept home. I remember going there to visit and having delicious goodies, jam & cookies. Grandma Shaw was an excellent cook.

This home later became too much work and expense so she bought a smaller home at 296 15th St. She lived there until her death.

Grandpa came back to Pleasant View and lived in a small one room home close by our home. Dad & Mother took care of him, cooking & doing his laundry.

He had a bad cough and took heart medicine & I understood it was strong and he had to be careful how much he took or it would cause his death. He lived there about five years.

They were both faithful Latterday Saints, and were honest & good, setting a good example to our family and every one who knew them. We have a great Heritage - One to be proud of.