

PERSONAL HISTORY  
OF  
EDGAR CECIL EDWARDS

I, Edgar Cecil Edwards, was born Sept. 19, 1912 in Manderfield, Beaver County, Utah, of goodly parents. Philip Edgar Edwards and Kathleen Twitchel.

1919-1932- Attended school in Beaver, graduating from Beaver High School in 1932.  
1920- My mother died.  
1923- My father married Julia Greesman.  
Sept. 21, 1933- I married Norma Rose Bradshaw.  
1930- Counselor in Sunday School at Manderfield, Utah.  
1934- Sunday School Superintendant. Sunday School Teacher at Manderfield Branch.  
1941- Moved to Caliente, Nevada.  
1942- Counselor in Sunday School Supt. in Caliente Ward. Fireman on U.P. Railroad.  
1943- Moved to Milford, Utah.  
1945- Promoted to Engineer on U.P. Railroad.  
1950- President Second Quorum of Elders, Beaver Stake.  
1952- 1st. Counselor to Bishop Evan Richard Jones, Milford 1st. Ward, Beaver Stake.  
1954- 1st. Counselor to Bishop Richard B. Banks.  
10 March 1957- Became Bishop of Milford 1st. Ward, Beaver Stake of Zion. Released June 14, 1970.

Edgar C. Edwards was Bishop of the Milford First Ward from 1957 to 1970. In 1970 he was called by Pres. Paul Neilson to be on the High Council of the Beaver Utah Stake, where he served until Nov 9 1972, which was the day of his death. Bishop Edwards loved the Lord with all his heart, might, mind and soul. His only wish was that he could be well once more and able to attend to his church assignments. He died of a heart attack. He loved and cared for his family deeply. Oh how we'll miss him. I love him so much. We were so close. I don't know how to go on without him. Only with the help of my Father in Heaven can I do this. I love my children so much. I hope and pray I'll never be a burden to them.

President Neilson, speaking at Bishop Edwards funeral, said it had been a choice experience to be associated with him. We have served for years together as Bishops and then again in the High Council of Beaver Stake. The Brethren of the High Council have learned to love this man and appreciate the spirit and wisdom he brings with him. We'll miss his great influence and because of this influence strive to do better always. In the eyes of Bishop Edwards the things that were nearest to him would be what he wants us to know and hear. His son, Larry, has just born a great tribute to his father. He spoke of many things that run along with my thoughts too. I am sure, as Larry is, that his

father knew that he stood in that Great Council in Heaven, that he knew he was one of those sons, as Jeremiah knew and Abraham knew. He knew the important mission Christ came to earth to perform, and what a great sacrifice he made for each of us. Larry knew his father always wanted to keep the commandments and be able to overcome all things, to overcome selfishness, and all others in order to return to his Father's presence. E.C. knew without a doubt that Christ and the Father in Heaven appeared to Joseph Smith and restored that Gospel of Jesus Christ. He wanted to be engaged in all of the work of the Lord. He always wanted to do the will of his Father in Heaven and spent his life in his service.

This was the great testimony he had. This individual has qualified himself for the Glory of the Father, and is right now preparing a Mansion for his family. This family must learn those things and be prepared to go on as he has. Search the scriptures as he has. Be able to overcome all things of this earth. Sacrifice some of the things of this life, that we may want, for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Be able to live as he would want us to. Bishop Edwards lived as he believed and taught. Be faithful to the things that will bring you the happiness your father would have for you. Continue in searching and studying the scriptures and serving as he has done. Draw even closer as a family than you are now. Be faithful to the end.

Bishop Briggs said: Bishop Edwards expected a lot of things that was hard for all of us to do. He did when he called on his son to speak at this time. He expected much and he got it. He also had a great sense of humor and could always see the lighter things of life. He was a joy to be with whether it was remodeling the Church or working out on the Church farm. He was always found doing those things, and taking care of Church business, that he was called to do by his Father in Heaven. He has been called to a Higher Council now to preach the Gospel to those who have gone before, and didn't have the opportunity here. He will be exercising this Priesthood beyond.

The Bishopric and wives called at our home one evening. Brother Nichols, our home teacher, had also called. They administered to our daughter, Becky, that was having eye surgery the next day and because of it she was able to see.

I know, as his wife, he seemed to have the power of healing. There were many times when he was called to the bedside of the sick and they were healed. Some, Doctors had given up on, were able to go home the next day. Doctors could find nothing wrong with them. I am sure as a family we were truly blessed to have him as a husband, father and Priesthood Leader. Alma Sonne, the General Authority Leader, who set him apart as a Counselor in the Bishopric, told him he was one of those noble and great ones that stood in the Council with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and was called for his position on this earth at that time. It was a beautiful blessing and some commented on it later. We seemed to feel that though just a Counselor he had truly received a Bishops Blessing. When Joseph Fielding Smith, set him apart as Bishop of the

Milford First Ward, he started out by saying he had already received his blessing as a Bishop, so he would just set him apart as Bishop, which was mostly what he did. He was a great Bishop and was loved by the people. He taught many Temple project classes and was able to go with many of those he taught to the Temple. He loved the youth and taught them as missionaries. He always talked to them about when they went on a mission, not if they went on a mission. He loved the people and they loved him. Milford First Ward really grew when he was Bishop and many missionaries were called and served great missions.

Edgar C. Edwards was a great father and husband, we as a family love and miss him so much. He has mentioned that we were married 21 Sep 1933 in the Salt Lake Temple. We have four children: Larry Cecil, Sally Norma, Pamela Ellen and Jeffrey Edgar. All of whom we are very proud of and love very much. He and I spent many hours and days with our children. He loved to fish and hunt and loved to go on trips with his family. We have even camped out in snow storms together. One trip we were over to Posy Lake fishing and woke up one morning with snow on the ground. Posy Lake was in the Escalante Mountains.

We also took a trip to Yellowstone Park the summer that Larry graduated from High School, and Jeff was born that summer, 19 June 1953. We wanted to take one last trip while we had them all at home. Jeff was just six weeks old, but we really had fun. Yellowstone was so beautiful with all the foliage and the bears, elk and animals all over the place. We enjoyed the Geysers and especially "Old Faithful", a spring where columns of boiling water and steam gushed into the air at intervals. A beautiful sight, but looked very dangerous. We also took a trip to California and spent time with Bill and Elretta Miller, my sister, while Bill was serving in the Air Force. We spent time at Knotts Berry Farm and enjoyed the food and park there. We had our pictures taken at a place where it shows Cecil and I and Bill and Elretta ballroom dancing. Larry also had his picture taken riding a bucking horse. It was fun.

Larry, our son, attended B.Y.U. for a year and then on Jan 1956, he received his mission call to the Northern States, and served until Jan 1958. While on his mission we had the opportunity of visiting the mission and attending a missionary conference in Nauvoo, Illinois. Edgar C. Edwards was Bishop of the Milford First Ward at the time. We had met his Mission President, Isaac A. Smoot, up at General Conference and had a good visit with him. Pres. Smoot died and Pres. Richard C. Stafford replaced him. Larry had been called with another missionary to travel the mission and help implement a new program of teaching the Gospel. They needed a car to do this, which the mission didn't have, and so we bought a used car for this use. Larry said he ran all over the mission with it and then he and a companion drove it home to Milford. When he went out to start it the next morning, it wouldn't start. It was a missionary car and just gave out when the mission was over. We were grateful to have had this opportunity to help. While Cecil and I were out there we spent time visiting the Hill Cumorah and the Sacred

Grove. We visited Joseph Smiths' Home. We saw the Kirtland Temple, and many other places of interest at Nauvoo. What a great joy filled our hearts as we stood in the Sacred Grove where Joseph Smith knelt to pray and saw the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Our hearts and eyes were full as we stood on that sacred ground and had a word of prayer together. Our testimonies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints really grew while we were on this trip. We felt so close to our Father in Heaven and His Son at this time and I know it has continued to grow. I am ever so grateful for the privilege that has been mine of being the wife of Bishop Edgar Cecil Edwards and the mother of his children. We attended all of the General Conferences while he was Bishop and met many of the General Authorities of the Church. Pres. Hinckley was praising Bishop Edwards at a Stake Conference one day and he put his arms around us both, and told us of his love for us and said to me that behind every good man was a good woman. I only hope and pray that I will always be that deserving.

Jeffrey, also grew up to be a young man we can be proud of. He also attended B.Y.U. and served a mission in the Tallahassee, Florida Mission for two years. His experience as a missionary was a little different than his brothers.

Jeffrey felt, at the time he was to go on a mission that he shouldn't leave at that time. He knew his father wasn't feeling well and felt he should stay around at least until fall. Cecil told him no, to not put off his mission for anything or he might not go. Jeffrey left for his mission in June and was in the Tallahassee, Florida Mission by 19 Jun 1972 which was the day he turned 19 years old. Cecil went into the hospital Sept 26, 1972 and died of a heart attack on Nov 9 1972. It was really hard for me to call and give Jeff, Pamela, Sally, and Larry the news. We contacted his mission president. President Osborne asked that he be the one to tell Jeff, and then he would have him call us. President Osborne said he was attending a conference that evening with Jeff and that he knew Jeffrey was a good strong missionary and would be able to handle the news. He also said that if we wanted Jeff to come home it was up to us, but he felt missionaries could serve a better mission if they didn't go home and get more upset. That it would be hard for him to leave his Mother and family a second time. We talked with Jeff and though he had a way home, I guess I felt like if he came home, I wouldn't be able to let him go. I felt so lost at the time. Jeff had written home about every two or three days, especially after his Dad got ill. Bishop Briggs, at Cecils' funeral said he had read a letter Jeff had written his Father and that Jeff had a strong testimony of the Gospel and had assured his Father that he was in the Lords' hands and that he knew they would be together again one day. Larry, Sally, and Pamela were all married with families and lived in California at the time. They were all home within twelve hours. Their Dad had died so suddenly, there just wasn't time to get them home before.

Though Jeff stayed in the mission field and served a wonderful mission and held about every office as a missionary and

made his family and President Osborne proud of him. I know how it must have hurt Jeff to be so far away. I still feel I made a mistake to not have him come home for just a few days. I loved him so. All of our children lived far away from Milford and wanted me to return to California with them. I couldn't leave home at that time, so Pamela stayed with me until Thanksgiving when Denny Belliston, her husband, came for Thanksgiving and took her back with him. Larry and Mary Beth drove up the 20th of Dec and I went down for Christmas and New Year's. I know I was more happy with them, but I still needed to be where I felt close to Cecil. Cecil always told me that though I loved my children dearly, no woman could love them more than he did. He truly was a great husband and father. He was the Grandfather of twenty children and Great-Grandfather of thirteen children, with two more on the way. He truly loved his grandchildren. We had them around a lot as they grew up. I recall when Jeff was about to go on a mission and Larry and Mary Beth, Sally and Marv and Pamela and Denny and families were all home for his farewell. The next day we all went to Disney World and on to the Lions' Safari. We had a wonderful time and one of the few times we could all be together. Mary Lee, a little granddaughter, had asked to go on the ride where all the little dolls were and they sang the song "It's a Small World". Her grandfather took her, and as we were walking back to the family, she noticed some little Indian dolls at a booth. Cecil could tell she would like one, but he said if he bought one for her he would need to do so for all. So we passed them by. The next day as we were going to Lions' Safari, Mary Lee, who had diabetes, went into shock. We thought we were losing her. She was really sick but Larry was able to bring her our of it. Cecil, her grandfather, was in tears. He told me if anything happened to Mary Lee, he wouldn't be able to forgive himself for not getting her the doll. He said he would never pass up the opportunity again, that he would buy her anything if it cost his last penny. Yes, I can truly say that he had a great love for all of us. I know he would have like to see all of his grandchildren grow up. He would have been so proud of each of them, as I am. Yes, we truly had a great family.

Our family all grew up and went to Milford High School where they graduated. They also graduated from Milford Seminary. Sally married Karl Merryweather, her last year of High School. Why? I don't know. She could have had her choice of at least three other guys. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple, Nov 20, 1956. They moved to Salt Lake, where Karl was working for the Union Pacific Railroad. Sally went to work for Garrett Co. Karl started chasing other women and it was a very sad time for all of us. It was at the time Sally way carrying her second child. The only good thing that came out of the marriage was two beautiful children. Kristen was born Dec 24 1959. Shauna was born Oct 10, 1962 after Sally and Karl had separated. Shauna to this day does not care for her Dad. Sally married Marvin Lee Wright when Shauna was about a year old and she never knew any other dad. The kids dearly loved Marv as we all did. He was so sweet and kind to everyone. They were sealed in the Washington Temple. They had two son, Melvin and Eric, and two adopted kids, a boy, Manuel, and Anna. Manuel is still at home and is planning

a mission. Marvin and Sally were so good for each other and so happy. Their son, Melvin, also served a mission. He was in the Chili Mission. His father also died while he was in the mission field. Marvin Wright died five years ago and Sally has a store she takes care of and it has been good for her to fill her time. It's not a great life being alone. Sally married Tony Alworth on Mar 29 1992. He called me one day before they married and told me he wanted marry my daughter. He assured me he was the man for Sally. I told him I had been praying for Sally to meet a good man and if he was that man it was alright with me. They seem to be good for each other and I'm very happy for them.

Our daughter, Pamela Ellen, attended Southern Utah College for a year and then married Dennis Belliston. They eloped to Pioche, Nevada. We didn't find it out until later when she wanted to do it over and have her Dad, who was the Bishop, perform the ceremony, and have a reception after. She and Denny later were sealed with their three children in the Salt Lake Temple. Their children are Mark, Keri Ann, and Stacy Lynn. Pamela developed a brain tumor for a second time and died June 5 1982. She was a special spirit and wasn't active at the time her father died. He asked her on his stay in the hospital to get herself active. She told me after she got active that she just wanted to see her Dad and have him hold her in his arms and tell her that he loved her just once more. Pamela worked as Secretary to the Relief Society in her ward in Salt Lake and also was asked by her Bishop to do some missionary work with the inactive. She not only did this, but found some non-members that became good friends to her. She loved teaching and told me she would like to be called on a real mission. Her children were young and I told her she would need to wait until they were older. Stacy was 7, Keri was 10, and Mark was 12 years of age when she died. I assume her father needed her as much as she needed him, so she was called home. The children are now grown. Their father is still living and Dennys' folks have helped him take care of them. I just get to see them and love them now and then. I loved Pamela dearly and I stayed with her through her sickness both times. We became really close. I miss her terribly, as I do all of my children when they are out of my sight.

Larry married Mary Beth Salmond after his mission and they have six children. Brent, Gregory, Mary Lee, Robert, Darrin and Terry. He has a beautiful family and all have served missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, including Mary Beth, who served a mission in Canada at the same time Larry served in the Northern States. They have a TechKnowlogy business that they all more or less work at in Salt Lake City, Utah. Terry, their youngest son, is still on his mission in California and will be home May 1993. The other boys are all married and Larry and Mary Beth have eight grandchildren. Mary Lee is attending B.Y.U. and will soon be finished. She hopes to teach.

Jeffrey married Robin Jo Anderson after his mission and they have five children. Three girls: Cecilia, Jennifer, and Emily. Two boys: Shaun and Jeremiah. He has a lovely family and are also all active in the Church. Jeffrey at this time is Sales

Manager of Precision Builders. He loves his job and sells lots of houses. His children are all quite young. Cecilia is the oldest and will be sixteen in Feb 1993. They live in Pennsylvania and are having a new home built. They should be in it by June 1993, so his boss tells him. If I haven't said so before, I want you to know I'm very proud of my children. I love them all dearly and love to spend time with them. I still live in Milford, Utah and love it. I'm still living in the home my husband, Edgar Cecil Edwards, had built in 1943 for our family. I think he would be very proud and pleased with his family. We are all busy doing the things he loved best. Working in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. I hope I haven't made too much mess of your history. I'll have you know, Edgar C. Edwards, you should have finished more of it before you left us. Love you anyway and so do your children. We are all working toward the day when we can all be together again.