

Autobiography of Sarah Jane Darrington Rasmussen

I, Sarah Jane Darrington Rasmussen, was born November 3, 1889, at Elba, Cassia County, Idaho. I was the second child of John Darrington and Sarah Marie Perry. I was my father's first daughter and was named in honor of his first wife, Sarah Jane Lowe. My childhood was a very happy one. I went to district school in the old rock church and graduated from the eighth grade when I was fifteen (1904) in a class of four girls and one boy, my brother Edward. Mr. Tracy of Payette, Idaho was our teacher. I attended the old Academy at Oakley, Idaho in 1905 and 06, until Christmas time. In 1906, we stayed at George Clark's old house the first year and in John Millard's the next. I kept house for my two brothers, Edward and Fred. A. M. Merrill was the principal of the school.

I became engaged to Edward Rasmussen in 1907. He took the missionary course at the Academy that winter and left in April 1908 for a mission in Norway. He came home the spring of 1910 and on Dec. 21, 1910, we were married in the Salt Lake Temple by Brother Lund.

In March 1911, we went to Ucon, Idaho to work for Mr. Bibee. In August, we came back to Elba to care for my husband's mother and run her place. Edward built a two-room house for us on his mother's place. Our first son, Joel Edward, was born at my parent's home October 18, 1911. I had Mary Durfee, a midwife from Almo.

We lived in Elba until the fall of 1913 when we moved to Declo on a ten-acre farm, part of Walter Bunn's place. There was no improvements on the place so we lived in a large tent loaned to us by my father. Edward had gotten out another set of house logs while in Elba. He hauled them to Declo and built us another two rooms that fall and winter. The winter was very cold; he froze his hands while shingling. We moved in just before our second son, Floyd Hans, was born, March 12, 1914. Ralph Waldo was born May 3, 1917 and Elmo, May 11, 1919, both at Declo. We bought part of the George Ward place to go with the ten acres we had, then in March 1920 we sold our place at Declo and bought the west fifty acres of the old Fred Beecher place at Elba, then owned by Wells Hadfield. Edward put up a large one room of lumber on this place and we lived in it until 1922, then he added another lumber room that fall.

On January 2, 1923, twins Roberta and Robert came to bless our home.

In the years that followed, Edward cut and hauled another set of house logs out of the mountains after having them sanded at the saw mill, enough for four rooms. With the help of his young sons he dug a large basement, hauled rock and rocked it up, then built the four rooms above ground and a porch on the south. Later he got out lumber and built a large screened-in sleeping porch on the north, which was changed into two bedrooms after most of our family had married; the south porch was glassed in later.

We have always tried to do our part in the church. We donated of our means to help build the new church at Declo, also the first stake house in Burley, the Idaho Falls Temple and the Relief Society building to be built at Salt Lake, also the Primary Hospital there, the new church at Elba and since his death (Edward's), I have donated to help build our new stake and ward house here at Oakley. We have as a family helped in research work on the Rasmussen and Darrington lines.

I was secretary in Primary at a very early age, also teacher and secretary in the Sunday School. I have been a president, counselor, secretary, teacher, class leader and on the stake board in the Relief Society, worked in religion class, and was a counselor and class leader in Mutual. Edward and I have both worked in the Ward Genealogical (sic); he was chairman. We have chaperoned a number of junior temple excursions, and also went on adult excursions. I

served as ward clerk from May of '36 until December '39.

All our children in their turn went on the baptism excursions. We have all had our patriarchal blessings. Joel, Elmo and Waldo graduated from the district school and had some high school. Floyd, Roberta and Robert graduated from high school. Robert went to Weiser and took carpentering. Floyd took a correspondence course in electric engineering and attended college for one semester, then joined the army.

The boys all held offices in the Aaronic priesthood.

Edward has been a teacher in some department in Sunday School almost all our married life, a counselor in the Elba Ward Bishopric from December 1936 to November 1939. He was then put in as bishop from November 12, 1939 until July 19, 1943, when he asked to be released on account of my health. The members of the ward presented us with a beautiful floor lamp. He was a ward teacher, Stake Superintendent of the Sunday School, also a counselor. He had a great sense of humor and was always being asked to give jokes. We have all taken parts in theaters. He was a member of the Raft River High priests' quorum at the time of his death March 23, 1950. He died of a heart condition.

After his death, I sold our home in Elba and moved to Oakley to be near some of the children.

At present, I am a secretary and block teacher in the Marion Ward Relief Society and assistant teacher in the missionary class in Sunday School.

Mother passed away October 16, 1964, at Cassia Memorial Hospital of a massive heart attack. She was honored, respected, and beloved by her posterity.