

# *History of Erastus Howard Egan and Alice Moss*

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## *Erastus Howard Egan Early Years*

ERASTUS HOWARD EGAN was born 10 September 1864 to Richard Erastus and Mary Ann (Minnie) Fisher Egan, at Ruby Station (in Ruby Valley), Lander County, Nevada.<sup>1</sup> He was the second of thirteen children. At the time of his birth, Ruby Station was an overland stage station. In 1865, when he was about one year of age, the family moved to Fort Ruby, which was a station where the U.S. Government sent troops to protect the settlers from the Indians. His father ran a store in that area for about two years.

In 1867, when Erastus was three years old, his parents moved their family to the Deep Creek Ranch, which was being homesteaded by Erastus' grandfather, Major Howard Egan. Here they lived for about a year when his father, Richard Erastus, took up a homestead in the Ruby Valley and moved his family there. While living in Ruby Valley, two sons were born into their family—Harry Orson, born 2 October 1866, and Horace Fredric, born 2 November 1867.

The next year Erastus' father, Richard Erastus, was called to serve a mission to England—from 1868 to 1869.<sup>2</sup> Again the family moved. This time Richard Erastus moved his family to Bountiful to his wife's family home to make preparations for his mission. His family stayed with the Thomas Frederick Fisher family while Minnie's father Thomas built a house in Bountiful (which he financed himself) for her and her children to live in while her husband Erastus was on his mission.

Richard Erastus Egan filled an honorable mission and returned home 16 September 1869. His father-in-law, Thomas Frederick Fisher, brought five-year-old Erastus in the carriage to Ogden to pick him up from the train. The train he returned on was the same one that made the very first trip to Ogden earlier that year on March 8th. His return was a very happy occasion, for it meant that the little family could once more be united, and that preparations could now be made to rent out their home in Bountiful and return to their home in Ruby Valley.

They lived at the Ruby Valley ranch until 1877, when Erastus was about thirteen years old. During this time, five more sons were born into their family. John LeRoy was born 4 October 1870, William Fisher and Willard Richard, twin sons, were born 5 April 1872, Joe Ransom was born 7

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Patriarchal Blessing of Erastus Howard Egan, film 392,649

<sup>2</sup> *Biographical Record of Salt Lake City and Vicinity, Containing Biographies of Well-known Citizens of the Past and Present*, National Historical Record Co., Chicago, 1902, page 412 (repository: LDS Church History Library 920.0792 B615.)

September 1874 but passed away a month later on 7 October 1874, and Ira Irvin was born 17 September 1875. While they lived at the ranch in Ruby Valley, they lived in a small three-room log house and they raised hay, grain, and cattle. Erastus Howard, being the oldest son in such a large family, carried a heavy responsibility.

At this time, the Indians were friendly and worked for the family on the farm. They were fast becoming subdued. However, during the era of the Pony Express and the stage coach which Richard Erastus and his father Major Howard Egan had been a part of, they had not been friendly. That was the time of many massacres.

The family of Richard Erastus and Minnie Egan was getting larger. Yet there were no schools or churches in the area, and the only playmates for his children were Indians. For these reasons, in 1877, Richard Erastus sold out his entire interests in the Ruby Valley area and the family moved back to their home in Bountiful so they might have better advantages, such as better education for the children. Here they lived for some time, engaging in farming and in the sheep business. Erastus was baptized a member of the LDS Church by Bishop William Brown on 7 July 1878.

It was while they were living in Bountiful, in the home Minnie's father had built for her, that the rest of the children were born. On 25 February 1878 a daughter, Linnie Jane, was born. Then a tragedy struck the family on 10 March 1879 when twelve-year-old son Harry Orson Egan passed away. A year later, on 5 February 1880, another daughter was born—Mary Adelaide. Two more sons were born—Charles Merritt born 27 August 1881, and David born 13 July 1884. There were now three daughters and eight living sons—two had died.

Tragedy again struck the family on 25 December 1887. Minnie Egan, the beloved wife of Richard Erastus and mother of eleven living children, died on Christmas day. The youngest child, David, was only three years old when his mother died and left Richard Erastus with a large family to raise alone.

Two years later, on 10 July 1889, he married a lovely lady named Mary Noble. This same year he was elected the Assessor and Collector of Davis County. He performed his duties so well that he was re-elected in 1900. He was a member of the first State Legislature of Utah from Davis County. In January 1892, he was sustained as the second Bishop of the South Bountiful Ward. He and his counselors, Joseph Hogan and John Perry Benson, were all set apart on the same day by Apostle Abram H. Cannon.

After the family left the Ruby Valley ranch and moved back to Bountiful, Erastus worked at odd jobs the first few years. When he was nineteen years old, he then went to Wyoming to work for

Beckwith and Quinn on a cattle ranch for about a year.<sup>3</sup> Then, in about 1884, he went to work for the Moss-Hatch Sheep Company, which was incorporated in 1890 as the Deseret Livestock Company. William Moss was the manager and Erastus soon met William's sister, Alice Moss.

## *Alice Moss Early Years*

Alice Moss Egan was born 21 November 1866<sup>4</sup> in a log house in South Bountiful, Davis County, Utah. She was the daughter of John Moss and Rebecca Wood Moss, early Utah Pioneers, and was the eleventh child in a family of twelve. Alice had blue eyes and brown hair, and a pleasant disposition. Although her health was not always good, she had a strength of character and perseverance that enabled her to get the things she wanted. For example, as a very small child she wanted a small tea set she had seen. Money was scarce in those days and what little they had went for more important things than tea sets. Nevertheless, her heart was set on obtaining it, so she went to work pitting peaches to be dried. The pay was small but she saved every penny she earned until she had enough to buy the dishes, which she kept throughout her life.

Alice's father, John Moss, son of Hugh Moss and Elizabeth Rushton of Newton, Yorkshire, England, was living near Preston, England, when he heard the Gospel. He joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the age of eighteen, being baptized on 27 January 1839 by his uncle David Moss, in Waddington, England. When the war in England ended, many left England to come to America. John emigrated to America in 1840 with a few of his uncles, they being numbered with the first 800 Saints that came to this country for the sake of this new Gospel. In the early part of 1844 he was living with the family of Daniel and Mary Snyder Wood in Pike County, Illinois, about twenty miles north of Nauvoo. John fell in love with their oldest daughter, Rebecca.

He married Rebecca Wood in 4 January 1844 in Pike County, Illinois. Their first little daughter, Mary, named after her grandmother Mary Snider Wood, was born in Pike County, Illinois the 16 November 1844. Religious persecutions were becoming so severe that the family was forced to move back to Nauvoo, where they stayed until February 1846 while they made preparations to make the great move west with the Saints. Then in April 1846, they began the trek west.

They first traveled to Winter Quarters, Pottawattamie County, Iowa, where they stayed for a year raising and storing food for the immigrants that would follow. They stayed here until their next child, a son Daniel, was born on 21 December 1847. When he was a few months old, they began the journey across the plains, following the trail Brigham Young had made nearly a year earlier.

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<sup>3</sup> *Snake River Echoes*, periodical, article "Erastus Egan and Alice Moss", by Margie Egan Farnes Stevens, p. 68.

<sup>4</sup> Patriarchal Blessing of Alice Moss

Rebecca wrapped her baby boy in her apron and carried him all the way—over trackless deserts, through the rivers, and up the steep mountains. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in August 1848, in the Brigham Company.

John and Rebecca remained in Salt Lake City until Rebecca gave birth to a daughter Elizabeth on 7 June 1849. The child lived only one month, and shortly after her death the family moved to Session's Settlement (later called Bountiful). Here on 10 August 1850, a son, Joseph, was born in a temporary shelter known as a dugout on the property John had selected for their home site.

Shortly after her birth, a substantial two-room log house was built with a large fireplace in one end of the kitchen-living room. Then followed additions to the family of John Hugh, William, Moroni, and Rebecca Jane. By the time Ellen arrived on 3 June 1862, Alice's father John Moss had built a one-and-a-half story adobe addition to the log structure. Three more children were born into the family--Nephi, Alice (the subject of our history), and last of all was Henry born 15 November 1869.

Alice was about four years old when the first train made its initial run from Ogden to Salt Lake City in 1870. She didn't have far to go to see it pass, since they had been laying the ties and the track right close to her back yard. The tracks ran through the John Moss property. As she grew older she was taught to do all the things that a girl should know in order to become a good housekeeper. She was neat and clean and an exceptionally good cook. She learned to spin wool and weave carpets and sew. One of the dresses she wore as a girl, she spun the yarn and wove it into cloth and made it into a dress for herself. She used to knit all of her own stockings, besides doing beautiful crocheting and fancy work.

In 1884, a twenty-year-old young man named Erastus Howard Egan came to work for the Moss-Hatch Sheep Company (which was incorporated in 1890 as the Deseret Livestock Company.) Alice's brother William was the manager, and she and Erastus soon met.

### *Erastus Howard and Alice Moss Egan Married Years*

During the years after Erastus began working at the Deseret Livestock Company, he and Alice Moss had fallen in love. On 5 January 1888 they were married in Woods Cross by Erastus' father, Richard Erastus Egan, who was also Justice of the Peace.<sup>5</sup> This was just two weeks after Erastus' mother, Minnie Egan, had passed away. The next year they were married in the Logan

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<sup>5</sup> Certificate of Marriage, at South Precinct, Davis County, Territory of Utah

LDS Temple on 27 March 1889, and received their sealing ordinance at that time. The ceremony was performed by M. W. Merrill.<sup>6</sup>

During the first two years after Erastus and Alice were married, they lived in Bountiful while he was working for Deseret tending sheep. But tending sheep meant he was away from home and from his lovely bride, Alice. She was staying with her sister, Ellie. This arrangement was not working well for them. They wanted a home of their own and a more substantial job for Erastus, so they considered homesteading. Erastus worked for the Deseret Livestock Company for about seven years, and most of that time he was a foreman responsible for about sixteen thousand head of sheep.

Erastus had previously been to Idaho and knew its possibilities. In 1884 he had gone to Oxford, Idaho, to take horses to the Fisher family, and returned to Bountiful in 1885 for the rest of that year and the next. In the spring of 1887 he returned to Oxford and hauled ties for the railroad company from the Oxford Mountains. Then he went to Squaw Creek (near present-day Bancroft) and hauled more ties on the railroad right-of-way, or survey. No railroad had been built yet, but the ties were for the railroad that was coming through.

Shortly after their marriage in 1888, he again went to Idaho to look for land to homestead. Then later in the spring of 1888 they went with six other families—including his brother Horace, Joe Bear, John Johnson, and Ed Brown—and each filed on a 160-acre homestead in what was then called the Willow Creek area, which was later known as Prospect, Bingham County, Idaho. In 1994 it was Shelton, Idaho. The warranty deed for their 160-acre farm was granted and filed on 3 December 1895.<sup>7</sup> During the summers, Erastus worked on the railroad and did other work he could find while they lived on the homestead and improved it as much as they could. Then when winter came, they would go back to Salt Lake City to work until springtime, when they would load their wagon and head for Idaho again. Idaho became a state in 1890.

In the fall of 1889, Erastus and Minard Heath (son of John Republican Heath) traveled by wagon to Bear Creek Flat to cut logs and raft them down the Snake River. From these, Erastus and his brother Horace (Hod), and Ed Brown built a small, two-room log cabin with a dirt roof. (Until then, they had lived in Bob Sermon's house across the road from Jim Heath's home in Willow Creek.) The next year Alice and Erastus went to live on their homestead in Idaho. For several years, because Erastus was bothered with pleurisy in the cold weather, they went back to Bountiful to spend the winter, where he worked in the brickyard until springtime.

They lived in their small log cabin in Idaho for twenty years, working to establish a home for themselves and their children. Later, two large rooms were added to the home. On 21 August 1891,

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<sup>6</sup> Marriage Certificate, Territory of Utah, County of Cache

<sup>7</sup> Land Grant Certificate

when their son Howard was fourteen months old, a daughter was born to their family. They named her Christie Egan and she lived to be 103 years old. A midwife was in attendance at her birth. Three more children were born into the family—Clifford John, born 25 January 1897; Minnie Rebecca, born 5 March 1900 (named after Alice's mother Rebecca Wood Moss); and Leonard Stuart, born 20 January 1904.

The family worked hard to make a living. It was a joint pioneering effort from the first. Each of the six families started from scratch, clearing the ground and building log houses. It took many years to completely level the ground, clear the land of sagebrush, rocks, and gravel and to dig canals and ditches to complete an irrigation system. Their farm was apparently once a streambed. For many years, as Erastus and his sons Howard, Clifford, and Leonard, prepared the soil for planting, more and more cobblestones (water-worn stones) would surface and have to be piled up and hauled away.

They made sheds for the cows and pigs, and they railed the sagebrush off all the farmland. Erastus and Alice planted orchards, gardens, berry patches and shade trees. They dug a well that had a bucket and a chain fastened to a ten-gallon barrel and framed or shored up with timbers as it got deeper and deeper to its 90-foot finish. Water was drawn out with a bucket and a rope on a pulley. On one occasion, in the evening after the family had returned home from Church, the bucket had gotten caught and Erastus had to climb down the well to loosen it.

Erastus hewed the middle out of logs for the animals to drink from and would fill the trough with fresh well water in the winter. The animals liked it better than the icy water. The well lasted many years, but one day as Alice and Christie were picking raspberries, Alice asked Christie to go to the well to get some butter that was being kept cool there. Shortly after, while they were eating, they heard a loud rumble. The well had caved in.

Alice helped in the fields as much as she could besides taking care of their children and the home. One time while Erastus was in Idaho Falls getting provisions, she, with her two small children, Howard and Christie, railed the land and burned the sagebrush on two acres. Sagebrush was railed by having four horses--two at each end of a 12- to 15-foot length of railroad track that was chained to a log for weight--drag the track across the ground to pull the sagebrush out by the roots. They would pull it into large piles and in the evening they would burn the piles.

In the summer, the stove was moved outdoors to make a summer kitchen so the whole house would not be heated when the cooking or canning was done. Alice did all of her own sewing, and made her own soap, butter and cheese.

Being a very religious woman, Alice Egan taught her children the principles of the Gospel, the powers of the Priesthood and the help and comforts of prayer. She always attended her Church

meetings when she could and her health would permit. She was very proud of her first grandchild, Merlin Howard Egan. He lived just down the road from them and visited them often.

Erastus spent the summer of 1897 in Prospect, Idaho, working on the Farmer's Friend Canal. Besides being a farmer, he was also a cattle rancher. He had bought and sold cattle, making a considerable sum of money. In the summer of 1898, he rented out the farm to a neighbor, Charlie Coles, and he freighted supplies to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He and two other men worked together on the undertaking that summer and made several trips. They took two wagons--one tied to the other--with four horses pulling the head wagon. They would put chains on the wagon wheels to take them down the steep mountains. On one trip, all the men took their wives. Alice, Christie and Howard got to go along that time and really enjoyed the trip. In the evenings they would build campfires and have singing and dancing.

On one trip to Omaha to sell cattle, Erastus bought Alice and his daughter, Christie, new dresses and coats and a gold chain necklace with a watch. On that trip they drove four head of horses and had a wagon with a short tongue hitched to the back of the front wagon. It took six weeks to make the round trip to Omaha. When they returned they found that someone had gotten into Alice's fruit and broken bottles and loosened lids and mixed fruit. In those days they dug a hole in the ground, squared it and put some timber across and some straw on and covered it with dirt and kept their fruit and potatoes down in it to stay cool.<sup>8</sup>

On May 23, 1900 Alice was called to serve in the Relief Society Presidency as first counselor to Sarah West Morgan. She held this position until 1908, when she was called to be President, with Ellen Swenson as first counselor and Josephine Newman (great-granddaughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Hughes Newman) as second counselor. Some time later, Ellen Swenson moved away and Margaret Williams became counselor in her place. Alice Egan was a very diligent worker, and with the same characteristics she showed as a girl, she was very dedicated to her responsibilities in the Relief Society work. When Relief Society members brought fuel to the meetings, Alice Egan always brought a little bundle of kindling to help start the fire.

Under her direction as Relief Society President, quilts were made and sold for \$4.00. The eggs gathered on Sunday were sold and donated to the Relief Society. Relief Society wheat on hand was 34,860 pounds, valued at \$871.49. In 1917, [while Alice was President], the value of wheat was \$1,131.81 for 38,826 pounds. The Temple Penny Fund amounted to \$8.00—there was no explanation of how this was gathered or how it was used.

While serving in the Relief Society, she was called upon many times to help prepare the dead for burial. This meant they would wash, dress and lay the bodies out. This work was always done by some of the ward members, as there were no undertakers at that time. She also made

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<sup>8</sup> From the *History of Christie Egan Heath*

temple clothes for the dead, and was asked to make and stitch many Temple aprons, which she did. Alice was always neat and particular with her sewing. She was never idle, and always had some fancy work handy to pick up when she sat down to rest. During the world war in 1917 and 1918, she knitted twenty sweaters and many pairs of woolen socks for the soldiers.

Older members of the Shelton Ward remembered that in times of sickness, many times a Relief Society sister—Mrs. Josephine Newman or Mrs. Alice Egan, or others—would walk through the field to the home of the afflicted. They would go in, take off their bonnets, and go to work cleaning the house and getting a good meal for the children, and then clean up. They would bathe and care for the sick person to the best of their ability. Then they would put on their bonnets and walk back through the field home. They came as sisters, helping friends in need.

The following incident is related of Alice:

For fourteen years she was president of the Shelton Ward Relief Society, and a life-long worker in the organization. One evening, Erastus, who had been out in the field irrigating, returned to the house to find his supper laid out on the table, but his wife was no where in sight. Thinking she had gone to visit a neighbor and would return soon, he ate his supper and sat down to read the paper and wait for her. It came bedtime and she still did not return. Thinking she would come soon, he went to bed. Next morning he got up, made a fire, and started out to do the chores. As he was leaving the house, he saw her coming up the walk. She had been up all night. There was a weary droop to her shoulders, but a gleam of happiness in her eyes, and a smile of triumph on her lips. She had helped a young mother bring a new soul into the world. Mother and baby were doing fine.

After years of hard work and much sacrifice, they were finally able to build a lovely home—one they had dreamed of for many years. It was a well-built home, one to last their lifetime and that of their children. They took much pride in how it was built. Erastus and his family, with the help of a carpenter, built the house using sandstone quarried from the Nielson Quarry and a Sears and Roebuck kit of plans and precut components. They drove a team nearly as far as Swan Valley to bring back loads of the beautiful rock from the quarry.

The house had five bedrooms. Christie, Howard and Minnie now each had their own bedroom. The home also had a spacious upstairs and a full basement to store canned fruit and vegetables, apples from the orchard and vegetables from the garden. It was built to include a modern bathroom, hot and cold water, and gas lights (Electrical lines were not yet near this area.) They planted beautiful trees all around the house. In about 1909 the family moved from the log house into their lovely sandstone-quarried rock house.



Erastus and Alice had many friends and enjoyed having socials and outings with them. The LDS Church meetinghouse was used for meetings as well as for dances. They would take Howard and Christie, when they were young, to the dances. The benches did not have backs on them, so they were stacked one on top of the other—like risers—for the musicians to sit on. Erastus' brother Horace (Hod) played bass violin, Ed Brown played the flute, and Herb Cleverly played the fiddle. Erastus would make a bed for the two children under the benches—or sometimes on top of the benches—and they would lay and watch the dancing. The dancers would bring their lunch and at twelve midnight they would stop to eat. Some would go home afterwards and others would dance on until later, but everyone enjoyed the evening. Sometimes they would have surprise parties at different homes. They would pack a picnic lunch and everyone had a wonderful time.

The family also enjoyed summer camping trips by horse and covered wagon up the Snake River to go fishing for several days. Fishing was always good. They would build a large bonfire at night and they always had a good time.

In 1913 another tragedy struck the family. Thirteen-year-old Minnie Rebecca died of appendicitis. She was their fourth child and second daughter. Minnie was dearly loved and this was a tragic blow to the family. The newspaper article in the Rigby Star stated:

“Minnie, the thirteen year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Egan, of Prospect, was taken down with appendicitis this week and was taken to Idaho Falls, where an operation was performed, but without avail, so far as saving her life, and she died Tuesday morning, shortly after the operation was performed.” [Printed 15 May 1913.]

After Minnie's death, the family picked up their life, determined to move on. Their home was finished and they were planting trees and flowers and their crops were doing well. Howard married Mary Ethel Wheeler in October 1920 and Christie was married to Grover Davies Heath in February 1917. Then in December 1923, Clifford married Margaret Blake. Now, Erastus, Alice and Leonard were at home and life seemed to be smoothing out.

Howard recorded the following about their life at home:

The first time I helped rail brush, Dad made me a chair out of boards so I would be able to hang on. They had a short piece of a railroad tie that the train ran on. I don't know just how they would cut them in small pieces--about 8 to 12 feet long. They put a log on top of them and then they would chain the log to the rail and put a plank on the rail and hook it up with a team of horses on each side. It was very dusty as we rode in the middle.

Dad and John Johnson would change work (help each other) railing brush. I can remember Brother Johnson saying to me, 'You stay there like you was glued to that seat.' I had to cling on or the rail would roll over me.

Sister Johnson and Ma were very good friends. They had a very gentle horse that my folks let me ride. Ma and Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Brown lived on the same street about a fourth of a mile apart. They had one washing machine between all three of them, so they would harness the horse and they would hook the tug on a lizzard. Then they would set the washing machine on the lizzard and I would pull it to each place when each of them needed it. Each house always had some goodies for me to eat when I left there. (A lizzard was two poles with boards nailed to the top of the poles, and the bottoms of the poles were cut flat so they would pull easily. A chain was wrapped around the top of the boards. All sorts of things could be hauled with this little lizzard. They also used the lizzard to pull water to the stock. It was a very handy thing to have around.)

When they would take the washer off, I would have to go get a barrel of water on this lizzard so they could have water to do their washing. They would then have to heat the water before doing the wash. I was quite small, and when I would get off the horse, I had to find a fence or something I could climb on to get back on the horse. There was a few times I had to walk back to get some help to get on the horse.

The horse got so it would not go all the way, just part of the way, and I couldn't make him go any further. He would just turn around and go home. Dad hid in the bushes and had a whip. He told me to just sit still and not try to get him to go on, so when we would get to about that place, and the horse started to turn around, Dad would step out of the bushes with his whip and give the horse a lash with the whip, and boy I had to really hang on because the horse really took off. When I tried to use the whip on her she would rare up and almost dump me. So Dad came down in the bushes and as soon as he would see Dad he would take right off in the right direction. Dad got me some cans and when she would start to turn around I would rattle the cans and she would really get up and go where she was supposed to.

Alice was a very gracious lady. She was called upon many times to take care of the sick. She did this willingly and pleasantly, always thinking of and doing for the comfort of those who were ill. In 1920, she was president of the Relief Society. However, because of poor health, she eventually had to ask to be released. She had been diagnosed with cancer, and now spent most of

her time in the hospital or in bed at home. The cancer had spread to her stomach. Then, when a tumor was found behind her knee and removed, the cancer again spread and it became necessary to amputate her leg. She had suffered with this condition for a few years, but her pain and suffering were more severe the last few months. During this time, she was always patient and understanding and never lost her faith in God. She passed away on 8 August 1924 and was buried in the Ririe-Shelton Cemetery.<sup>9</sup>

With the expenses of the operation, the hospital, and the doctor, there wasn't much money left. And with the death of his dear wife Alice, Erastus didn't seem to find any use for all the plans they had made together. Nevertheless, he was not daunted. Although his health was impaired—from the loss of an eye when a chip flew up into it while chopping wood, and from the lame leg he suffered when kicked horribly by a horse some years before—he continued to work the farm with the aid of his sons, Leonard and Clifford.

Erastus now found it necessary to either hire a housekeeper while they did the work outside, or do the work indoors when they finished their day's work. It was a lot of hard work to keep up with the housework in that large home, and to prepare the meals. While Alice had been ill, Miss Angie Balmforth had been hired to take care of the home, and now Erastus and his sons decided they would ask her to continue working for them. As time went on, Angie and Leonard fell in love. They were married in February 1926. They continued to live with Erastus and to take care of him and the home.

Erastus lived a long, active life at his home until 30 May 1950, when at the age of 86 he quietly passed away.<sup>10</sup> He had lived as a widower for twenty-six years. What a marvelous reunion that must have been with his sweetheart Alice, and his daughter Minnie. He was survived by three sons Howard Erastus, Clifford John, and Leonard Stuart, and one daughter, Christie Egan Heath, and by five brothers and one sister and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Erastus Howard helped build the first Shelton Ward Chapel, and served on the building committee. He had been the Superintendent of the first Sunday school in Shelton Ward which was organized 14 August 1892. John Shelton Howard was the first Bishop. Before the Shelton Ward was built, they met in the place known as the old Ryset home, which was at this time Horace Egan's home. Shelton Ward was created from the eastern part of Willow Creek Ward, Shelton Idaho. Erastus also served on the Stake Mutual Board, and was a ward teacher and held the office of a High Priest.

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<sup>9</sup> Death Certificate, Idaho State file No. 43168

<sup>10</sup> Death Certificate, State of Idaho, File no. 3350, Reg no. 211, Dist no. 611

## *Patriarchal Blessing of Erastus Howard Egan*

*Given by John Smith, Patriarch, at the South Bountiful Ward, Davis County, Utah*

A Patriarchal Blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Erastus Howard Egan, son of Richard Erastus and Mary Minnie (Fisher) Egan, born 10 September 1864 in Ruby Valley, Lander County, Nevada.

Brother Erastus Howard Egan, Thou art numbered with the Sons of Zion and an heir to the blessings of the New and Everlasting Covenant, with the gifts and privileges promised unto the Fathers in Israel. Therefore, I say unto thee, honor thy Father and Mother. Hold sacred their counsel. Study the law of nature and be prudent in thy daily walk and conversation. Seek also to inform thy mind in regard to the principles of life and salvation, for the Lord has a work for thee to do and it is thy privilege to become a mighty man in Israel.

It shall be thy duty to let thy voice be heard in the defense of truth and virtue among the nations of the earth and upon the islands of the sea and also at home. Therefore, reflect, as you grow in years, upon the past, present, and future and thy mind shall expand, the vision of thy understanding shall be opened, and thou shall see and understand things as they are. Thou shall have the gift of discernment, and through prayer and faith, thou shall heal the sick, cast out evil spirits, and also, if necessary, thou shall perform miracles in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The waves of the sea shall obey thy voice. Therefore, remember that there is a God in Israel in whom thou shalt trust.

Thou art of the lineage of Ephraim and entitled to the blessing of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and in due time thou shalt have a companion who shall be a helpmate unto thee. Thou shall have sons and daughters who shall be honorable in the land and shall bear thy name in honorable remembrance from generation to generation. Be upon thy guard and no power shall prevail against thee. Thou shall gather of this world's goods around thee, all which shall be necessary and no one shall be turned from thy door hungry, and thou shall be crowned hereafter with those who have fought the good fight, kept the faith, and won the prize.

This blessing I seal upon thy head in the name of Jesus Christ and I seal thee up unto Eternal Life to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection. Even so. Amen.

## *(First) Patriarchal Blessing of Alice Moss*

*Woods Cross, North Canyon Ward, Davis County, Utah, 7 December 1875, Recorded in Book G Page 677*

A blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Alice Moss. daughter of John and Rebecca Moss, born in North Canyon Ward, Davis County, Utah, November 21, 1866.

Alice Moss, by virtue of my office, I place my hands upon thy head and bless thee with a father's blessing which is also Patriarchal and I say unto thee, honor thy parents and hold sacred their counsel. Be obedient to the Priesthood and as you grow in years, grow in knowledge, study the law of nature and listen to the prompting of the monitor with in thee and thy days and years shall be many for thy guardian Angel will not forsake thee but will ward off the shafts of the adversary which may be hurled at thee. Deliver thee from evil, warn thee of danger, give thee power over evil, and unclean spirits and thou shalt have the gift of discernment that you may not be deceived by evil designing persons.

Thou shalt fill up the measure of thy creation and thy name be handed down in honorable remembrance and thy fame shall be known far and near. Truth and Virtue shall be the motto. Health and peace shall surround thy board and thou shall not lack for the comforts of life, for the blessings of the Lord shall be poured out upon thee, all of which shall be necessary, yea even the righteous desired of thy heart shall be granted thee. Thou art of the lineage of Ephraim and an heir to the blessings of the new and everlasting covenant with the gifts promised unto the daughters of Zion. This blessing I seal upon thy heard and I seal thee up unto eternal life to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection. Even so. Amen.

## *(Second) Patriarchal Blessing of Alice Moss Egan*

*Recorded in Book L, Bountiful, Davis County, Utah, November 26, 1888*

A blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Alice Egan, daughter of John and Rebecca Moss, born in South Bountiful Ward, Davis County, November 21, 1866.

Sister Alice, as thou hast desired it I place my hands upon thy head to pronounce and seal a blessing upon thee, and I ask God the Eternal Father for his Spirit to indite thy blessing and to fill thee with the influence thereof and to open the eyes of thine understanding that thou shalt see things as they are, and that you may realize your position and comprehend the blessing promised unto the daughters of Zion among whom thou art numbered.

Thou art of the lineage of Ephraim and an heir to the blessings of the New and Everlasting Covenant with the gifts and privileges promised unto the Saints. And I say unto thee, let thy faith fail not and be firm in thine integrity for the Lord has a work for thee to do which shall be made known unto thee from time to time as thou shall need, by the whispering of the Spirit. Therefore be prudent and upon thy guard and peace shall be in thy circle. Thou shalt be prospered in the labor of thy hands and thou shalt have joy in thy daily avocations.

Thy table shall be spread with the bounties of the earth and no one shall be turned away from thy door hungry. Thou shalt have a kind word for all and thy fame shall go forth among the people, Therefore, remember that there is a God in Israel and that His hand is over thee for good.

The blessings of the Lord shall attend thy labor and thou shalt have joy in thine offspring. Thy sons and daughters shall grow up around thee and be a comfort unto thee in thine old age and bear thy name in honorable remembrance. Thou shall be enabled through prayer and faith to heal the sick of thy family and hold the adversary [away], that health and peace may reign in thy dwelling, for the Lord knowest the secrets of thy heart and will reward thee as thou shalt merit.

Therefore be comforted and look forward to the future with pleasure for all shall be well with thee, both here and hereafter this blessing. I seal upon thee in the name of Jesus Christ, I seal thee up into Eternal Life to come forth in the morning of the First Resurrection with many of the kindred and friends. Even so. Amen.

## *Funeral of Erastus Howard Egan*

Funeral services for Erastus Howard Egan, pioneer resident, who died May 29, were held Friday afternoon at the Shelton Latter Day Saint ward chapel with Bishop William J. Sperry officiating. The invocation was given by Clarence Cleverly and the closing prayer by Bishop Sperry. Bishop H. Stanley Lee gave the benediction. Alice Egan, daughter of Clifford Egan, gave the obituary and speakers were Frank Brown and President James E. Ririe, Music included selections by the Shelton choir, "Come Come Ye Saints" and "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." with Edith Lovell directing and Wilma Chase as accompanist; vocal duet, "Sunset", Glen Johnson and Florence Moore with Dorothy Moore accompanying; vocal solo, "Bury Me Near the Old Home," Harvey Harmon, accompanied by Wilma Chase; quartet, "One Fleeting Hour," Edris Moore, Florence Moore, Josephine Howard and Flora Johnson.

Burial was in the Shelton-Ririe Memorial Park with Floyd Smith dedicating the grave. The pallbearers were Virgil Egan, Emery Heath, Wayne, Merritt, Ronald, Sidney, Dale and Merlin Egan. Flowers were under the direction of Edris Moore, Phyllis Brown and Florence Moore of the Shelton Latter Day Saint Ward Relief Society and were carried by the grandchildren.

A resident of Bonneville County for more than sixty years, Mr. Egan played a prominent role in the pioneer history of what is now Shelton. In 1888 with Joe Bear, Ed Brown, John Johnson and Horace Egan, he came to Idaho to look around. They decided to take up homesteads in the Shelton area where Mr. Egan lived until the time of his death. With his wife, they cleared the land of sagebrush and cultivated the land, residing first in an old log house. Later he built a two-room log house by floating logs down the river on a raft.

Interested in the development of the community, he helped build the Farmer Friend and Enterprise canals, helped build the first Latter Day Saint chapel and was on the building committee for the present church. Active in LATTER DAY SAINT church work, he was superintendent of the first-Sunday school at Shelton, organized the stake MIA board, served as ward teacher and held office in the high priest quorum.

Howard Erastus Egan, told these true stories to his daughter, [Margie Egan Farnes Stevens]; When Alice was so ill with cancer and had her leg taken off, the Doctor gave them a box with her leg in it and told his father to take it home so they could bury the leg with her as he said she wouldn't live too long. Howard put the box in the stairway going into the basement on a shelf. Alice his mother would tell her son Howard how bad her leg hurt, and he would say but your leg is gone Mother, and she would say it still hurts. One day Howard decided he would open the box that her leg was in and see if it was okay. He went down the stairs and opened the box and the leg was crooked and bent, sort of, he

straightened the leg and fixed it very comfortable in the box, and went back up stairs to his mother and asked her how her leg felt, she was smiling and said my leg doesn't hurt anymore.

Another time Howard was in the Temple, he was an officiator in the Temple, it was late in the evening and Howard said. It was his turn to go through the rooms and check to see if the lights were all out and he said he could hear the most beautiful music and singing as he walked through the rooms. He said, " I didn't want to leave, and as I came to the bottom of the stairs, I stopped and turned back to look up the stairs, and there was his Mother and Dad, [Howard Erastus and Alice Egan], standing holding hands and smiling." Howard said, "I know they are together and so happy".

Howard told of an incident that happened to his mother, Alice Moss Egan, "She was working in the house and a man came to the door and asked her if she could prepare him something to eat and mother hesitated as they had very little food to feed them selves. She decided to prepare him some scones and butter; she said her flour barrel was nearly empty. When he had finished eating he thanked her graciously, and told her she would be blessed for feeding him. She followed him to the door and he started down the stairs and disappeared. She stepped out onto the porch and he was nowhere to be seen, she said she went out into the yard and looked, but could not see him. As she told this story, she wondered if he could have been one of the three Nephites, which were given the opportunity of never dying. *(Written by Margie E.F. Stevens, from material gathered as she was doing research to document the Egan line, and write their family history.)*

### ***SHELTON MAN TO BE HONORED***

Shelton, Oct. 8, 1952. A farewell party will be held at the Shelton Latter-day Saint Ward Chapel, Friday at 8 p.m. for Howard Egan. Mr. Egan, who is 62, is leaving for a six month mission for the LDS Church in the Central and Western States. He will enter the missionary school in Salt Lake City on Oct. 13. An interesting program is being planned, which will be followed by recreation and refreshments. The public is invited to attend.

Mr. Egan has lived in the Shelton area all his life. His parents were one of the first pioneer families to come to the Shelton community from Utah in 1890. He has been active in Church affairs throughout his life, and is especially interested in genealogical and temple work.

*Written by Howard Erastus Egan, Son of Erastus Howard Egan*

*[Picture from newspaper article] Family Reunions brought two brothers together for the first time in 35 years, John Leroy Egan from Salt Lake City, Utah, and Erastus Howard Egan from Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho. They were rough and hardy farmers. The brothers last saw each other in 1901 in Salt Lake City, Utah. This was in 1936.*