

### *Grace Emily Astle*

PLEASE SEE THE INTERVIEW FOR AN IN DEPTH OUTLINE OF GRACE, MY OLDEST LIVING RELATIVE.

Grace Emily Astle was born <sup>Grover Wyo</sup> and raised in Providence, Utah. Living only a few blocks away from Seth Clinton Frank, she met and played with him as a child. Before the couple began dating and going steady, Grace had moved out of her father's home and lived with her older brother, David.

### *Their Life Together*

Seth Clinton Frank and Grace Emily Astle had always been acquaintances and even friends since the early days of their youth. But that friendship didn't begin to turn into love until around 1931, when Seth and Grace began dating. They dated, fell in love, and eloped- without Grace's father even knowing that Grace and Seth were seriously dating- on April 16th, 1932.

About one year later, their first child, Laretta Frank was born on March 19th, 1933. The couple went on to have six more children who were: Yvonne, Brent Lon, Louis Seth, Effie, Collene (twin), and Charlene (twin). Seth and Grace had many fun and wonderful times together with their large family. Some of their favorite activities were: sledding in the snow on a sheet of metal attached to their truck, camping in the Rocky Mountains of Utah and Idaho, and just spending time together at church functions as a family.

Staying in Providence during the early years of the depression, Seth worked at many different, hard labor, jobs. These jobs were very difficult and earned Seth almost no money, but they were the only real jobs available in these hard times of suffering. Working in a nearby rock quarry for about \$1.00 per day, Seth struggled to make ends meet for his family. His children remember how hard times when they had to put cardboard in the bottoms of their shoes

when the soles wore out. Seth also worked at a factory, and at the Depot as a welder during WWII.

The family moved once, when times were tough, to the nearby town of Menden, UT where Seth worked days as a carpenter by day and a farmer for half the night. The large family lived in Menden for a few years and then moved back to Providence. By this time ( about 1955), their oldest daughter, Lauretta, was married to Doyle Tanner and making a life of her own. Their other children were growing up fast too. Grace and Seth became grandparents in November of 1955 when their first granddaughter, Sandra Tanner was born.

Grace was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints from a very young age as was Seth but they had not been active or found worthy to go into the sacred Mormon temples at the time of their marriage. Wanting to go through the necessary religious actions, Seth stopped smoking and the couple made themselves worthy so that they could both go to the temple. They were interviewed again and found worthy this time by their church leaders so they went in March of 1949. This was a very major event for the couple and their children. Sadly, a few years later, Seth took up smoking and his old lifestyle again.

As the couple aged and the children left home, one by one, Seth and Grace decided to take a nice trip to San Francisco, California to catch a glimpse of the famous golden gate bridge. This trip was not to be remembered with joy or fondness. Traveling with their son Brent and his wife Sandra, Grace and Seth were almost to the landmark and had stopped in Petaluma, CA when Seth died of a sudden and fatal heart attack on March 8, 1966.

## **INTERVIEW: Grace Emily Astle Frank**

January 2, 2000

For my interview, I called my great-grandma Frank, who is 88 years old and lives in Providence, Utah. I sat by the phone a while because I was nervous about calling her, even though I've met and visited her many times.

Grandma Frank, as we call her, is a mid-sized lady, with strong bones and many wrinkles on her arms, face and neck. Her head is crowned with delicate curly white hair and her eyes squint at you from behind large glass frames. Her chin is defined and her mouth usually stretches into a faint smile as she sits on her brown, flowery couch. She is completely sane and coherent, but she admits that her memory is not what it used to be. To me, she looks tough, and serious, as though she has been through more than anyone could ever understand. In the interview, I had hoped to discover some of these mysteries but, unfortunately didn't get as much as I would have liked. I recorded the conversation by speaker phone and it went like this (with me asking the questions, and her answering them):

1. What was your full given name at birth? Grace Emily Astle
2. When and where were you born? I was born in Grover, Wyoming. February the 19th 1912. I was born at home.
3. How many siblings did you have and what were their names? There was 13 of us but two died, one was just six months old and the other one was just a baby. Their names were John Francis, Jr., Klea Lauretta, Vernon Lenox, Arstanie Elvira, Clara Pearl, David Elmer, Eveyln Vilate, Doretta Alta, Angnes Lenora, Elva May, then me, then Jane Hepworth who died after six months, and Isaac who died after his birth. I vaguely remember them talking about him.
4. What are your parents' names? John Francis Astle Sr. and Lauretta Hepworth Astle. That's who your grandma was named after.
5. Do you know when they met or where they were married? Can't remember. They were married in the temple. (one of the Mormon temples)
6. What did you father do for a living? He farmed and raised foxes after we moved to Providence, he was just a farmer more or less-better say farmer.
7. And your mother, was a homemaker? Yes, she was a homemaker, course she died at forty-four.
8. What kind of education did your parents have? I think about six years, six grades for my father and I don't know a thing about my mother. I was too young when she died and I didn't find out all that about her.

9. Do you have any memories of your grandparents? My mother's mother I can vaguely remember her...she was a little old lady and had gray hair that she wore up on top of her head. 'Course she wore long dresses and an apron and that's about all I remember of her. She died when I was about five and the other grandma died before I even had a name.

10. What places have you lived through out your life? In Grover, WY  
Providence, UT and Menden, UT.

11. Do remember any neighbors or friends that you had as a child? Nope

12. What responsibilities or chores did you have around the house? I used to have carry wood in and fill this great big box every night, or help carry it in cause that was what we burned all the time. There was no coal- I never even seen coal until 1920.

13. Have you ever experienced a natural disaster, like an earthquake, flood, or tornado? Nope, I've seen a little earthquake but it didn't do no damage. But I've never seen no floods.

14. As a youth did you want to be an actress, fireman, etc. when you grew up? Nope, we didn't think about those kinds of things when I was a kid.

15. What were some of the hobbies you had or games you liked to play? Well we used to play fox and geese in the wintertime, and kick the can, and run sheep around, and that kind of stuff-That was under a streetlight.

16. Where did you go to grade school? One year in Grover, WY and the rest in Providence, UT

17. What was it like compared to schools now-a-days? Well I think we learned a heck of a lot more than kids do now days. We didn't have vacation every other day. Reading and Arithmetic- we didn't have all this art work and stuff like that, we just learned the main things you needed to get along in life I guess.

18. What was you favorite subject? Did you have one? No I don't think so, I know I didn't like Spelling. Math and Reading was alright, but I didn't like Spelling.

19. Did you enjoy school? I enjoyed school all my life.

20. Do you remember your first date, dance, or kiss? Oh I imagine in eighth grade when we kids used to-boys and girls- go sleigh riding with horses at night we had a lot of fun, we'd get about six or eight couples and we'd get in the wagon-er sleigh and go sleigh riding.

21. Did you go to high school? Yes, I graduated from high school in 1930.

22. Did you like high school? I loved it. Dances, the basketball games and everything they had if I had enough money to catch the train and go, we'd go.
23. Do you remember any unusual or funny stories from school? Not any unusual, we didn't have all these things that you kids do.
24. Where did you meet your husband? Playin' ball- I mean he lived just a block away from me and we used to play together when we were kids. Games like Run Sheep Run and all that stuff under the light on the corner- he only lived a block away from me.
25. And did you just start dating him in High School? Nope, I was out of High School.
26. Do you remember how he proposed? No, I can't tell ya exactly. It was on the front porch of my great big house that we used to live in.
27. When and where were you married? I was married in Farmington, on the 16th of April in '32. And then in '49 we went to the temple and had the family sealed to us. ("Sealing" is the Mormon belief that after death, if you are sealed on earth, you can still be with your family in Heaven).
28. Mom says that you eloped? Well, we just got in the car and went to Farmington.
29. Just a spur of the moment thing? We planned ahead a time
30. Did your parents want you to get married? No, I -My Dad didn't even know we was getting married at the time and I've had no mother since I was six years old.
31. Do you remember what the first years of marriage were like? It was hard because the Depression was on and you couldn't find jobs or anything. And you worked a whole day for fourteen hours for two dollars a day with horses. I worked for 25 cents, eight hours a day, and that was two dollars a day.
32. What kind of work did you do? Why anything you could find you'd do which you could make a little money. I made a quarter an hour when I was- after I was married even. Anything you could find you'd take.
33. When did you decide to have kids? We had a child in about a year after we was married and we just kept 'a havin some children.
34. How many children do you have? I have seven. Their names are Laurette, Yvonne, Brent, Louis, Effie, Charlene, and Collene.
35. What jobs have had throughout your life? I was a homemaker/ house keeper for most of my life and then I worked at a couple of stores for doing the Christmas rush and the Utah poultry, I would- they brought eggs in and I

would, well you kids don't know anything about cases of eggs, but the things they used to put eggs in, I used to have to put that in it. And then I worked in Store-it a little business, a bean factory that was not until after grandpa died. And then I worked up here to school's hot lunch program and that's all the working I've done away from home.

36. Did you like doing the hot lunch thing? Well I'll tell ya, that was hard work handling them big kettles.

37. What are some of your hobbies or things you like to do? I used to love to sew and I like to quilt- I mean, I don't-can't anymore, but I loved to quilt. I used to sew them for all the kids and did quite a lot of reading and.....but now I can't even see to quilt no more, I can't hold needles and stuff.

38. Backtracking here, what was it like living during the depression? We'll I'll tell ya, you didn't have no money. You just got by with just enough to keep ya eating and that was it. Nope, there was no money there was nothing. There was everybody without work. If you did work, you earned maybe two dollars, of course things was cheaper then-it had to be you couldn't have bought nothing. Nowadays you can make a million and they don't have no money neither, they just spend it all. I wish- I hate to say it, but you kids ought to have to go without things; you'd really appreciate then, what you got.

39. Can you think of any other historical events that may have affected or changed your life? No, nothing special, I can't think of anything. During W.W.II we worried all the time afraid that grandpa would have to go, but he didn't have to cause there was a family or he might have had to go. I was just a teeny girl when the first World War ended.

40. Do you remember when JFK was shot? Yes I was in Salt Lake and I don't remember what I did feel. I thought it was terrible what happened, I guess.

41. What did you feel when the first man walked on the moon? I turned the radio on the day to see if he ever got on. I was excited? But now, things like that don't phase me at all.

42. Do you remember the war with Vietnam? Nope I don't really remember that much. It didn't affect my family or anything, so I don't remember much about it.

43. Do you remember who immigrated to America on your side of the family? Nope, I couldn't tell ya

44. Do you remember having family reunions? We used to have them, but we sure don't anymore. Couldn't get your family to come when we used to have

the Frank reunion. You was there one year and I think that was it. They just fell through.

45. Have you ever had a favorite president of the United States? I believe I'll take Roosevelt. He brought the depression out, he was the one that helped us out that way, and that made a lot of difference.

46. How many Wars can you remember? Just the Korean and the second World War, the other one, I was just a little girl and I know Dad sold horses and said they was going to war and that's all I remember.

47. Can you remember any funny stories from your childhood? (she pauses, then answers, frustrated) I've been trying to write my life history and I can't even to that anymore!

48. What places have you traveled to so far in your life? Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, Arizona, and that's about as far-California, Oregon too. I've never been out of the country.

49. Did you ever want to travel outside the U.S? Oh, I would have gone after your grandpa (my great-grandpa) died if could have afforded to. I'd have went to Alaska or Europe, but I never got there.

50. If you could give me one piece of advice for my future, what would it be? Just study hard and get all you can out of school. . . on your own and keep doing it-you're the one that sings aren't ya? (yes) Well just take all the opportunities you can in going and doing your singing too. You won't regret it at all, you'll enjoy it all your life.

Thus concludes my interview with my great-grandma Frank. As you can tell, this woman has some very tough times in life as well as some good, happy times. She continues living today in Providence, Utah where she still gardens, visits with family, and attends church regularly. I thank her for this little window into her life and her past.

By: Stephanie Walton  
1999-2000

### Seth Clinton Frank

The last child of the 11 children that were born to Louis Frank and Ella Elizabeth Frank, my mother's grandfather, Seth Frank, was born on September 2, 1913. He came into this world in the "comfort" of his own small home in Providence, Utah. The names of his brothers and sisters were (from the oldest to the youngest): Louis Winfield (twin), Luella (twin), Anna Hazel, Caroline (stillborn), John Austin, Marie Haderlie, Ollie Lavenia, Genevieve, Wahnetta, Radah, and Charles Windsor (Seth's brother who was only three years older than him!)

Seth attended grade school in Providence and he was kind of a rambunctious kid. Being a little on the chunky side as a boy, his peers nicknamed him "Heavy", but Seth was a happy kid. Seth graduated from the eighth grade and grade school and then went on to High School. He did not attend college.

As a youth Seth loved to "tinker" with cars and all sorts of gadgets. He also enjoyed sleigh riding during the long Utah winters, fishing in the streams, lakes and nearby creeks, as well as camping in the mountains. Unfortunately, he picked up the unhealthy habit of smoking while in his youth also. Still he had a good childhood and he was lucky enough to live in Providence, Utah for all of his childhood, never having to experience the trial of moving a lot. I'm sure in his large family, Seth was hungry at times for attention, but his parents were good to him. They taught him many lessons about honesty and hard work that later helped define his personality and made him the good man that he was.