

Edward Irvine's history  
by Sylvia Fern (Lindsey) Rust  
(sent to us from her daughter Kathy Bender, Edward's great granddaughter.)

My Grandfather, Edward Irvine, was the son of Alexander and Jane (Johnson) Irvine. He was born in Tyrone County, Ireland, November 29, 1838 while his parents were visiting there.

His parents came to America when he was two years old landing at St. John's New Brunswick after a voyage of several weeks in a sailing vessel. His baby sister, Catherine was buried at sea. His little brother, James died within a day or two after landing.

The long voyage, the spoiling of their food, the foul water, the cramped stuffy cabins all contributed towards taking a terrific toll of human life in ships that lacked in every convenience now considered so necessary.

After a short stay in St. Johns the Irvines moved to Woodstock, N. B. where Alexander Irvine fitted up looms in a factory and wove cloth. He prospered and his children were given a good education. Edward was sent to St. Johns to take his finishing course in schools there.

While attending this city school Edward and several of his classmates were coming out of school. "I'll dare you to take that rig and drive the teacher home" one of the boys challenged Edward. "All right, I'll take you up", said Edward. He untied the horse, climbed into the buggy and waited for the teacher. A young lady came out of the building, books in hand, turned and locked the door then came to her buggy. "May I have the pleasure of driving you home?" Edward made his best bow, face red and hat in hand. The teacher looked at him saw a gentle, manly, honest lad then glanced at the grinning boys who expected to jeer a crestfallen comrade. She assessed the situation at once. "Yes I'd be pleased to have you." This was Edward Irvine's first meeting with his future wife, Miss Deborah Rideout.

They were married in January of 1857. Their son Joseph A. R. Irvine was born November 2, 1857.

Mr. Irvine's wife died in 1860 in St. Johns N. B., Mr. Irvine took his baby boy to his mother in Woodstock, N. B. Then returned to his teaching at Windsor.

In 1865 Mr. Irvine took Joseph and came to California. He taught school first in Salinas and then in Monterey. He taught about a year in each place with Joseph as one of his pupils.

Hearing much about southern California he decided to go there and see it. Edward Irvine taught school for a year at San Juan Capistrano. Among his pupils

there were five children of Don Juan Foster who lived nearby. After school closed and the summer vacation commenced Mr. Irvine went out to Don Juan Foster's ranch to brand some cattle of his that were pasturing there. In galloping over the hills his horse stepped into a gopher hole, fell and rolled over Mr. Irvine breaking his left leg. He was taken to the Foster's home. It was six weeks before he could walk.

From the Foster ranch Mr. Irvine went to San Diego where he taught school and passed his Bar Examination. Here he became acquainted with the Rev. Alexander Grove. Talking over current prospects and seeing little chance to improve their lot in this older community they determined to try the newer settlements in Arizona. Mr. Irvine put Joseph to school to San Francisco.

Starting in the early Fall of 1870 they rode horseback from San Diego over the mountains and the desolate desert to Yuma. From Yuma they took the old road along the Gila River. This assured them of the vital necessity, water. They rode little Hardy Indian ponies and were three weeks making the trip.

Arriving in Phoenix late in the afternoon on a very hot day they came to a deserted adobe house and entered it's one room. They lay down on the dirt floor and enjoyed the grateful shade and coolness. A man looked in, and saw them and came inside. He proved to be Darrell Duppa, an eccentric but good hearted Englishman. "Lord Duppa" as he was familiarly called was a very clever well educated man. Something had happened in his life that caused him to denounce his former social station and live the freer life of the West. After talking for a short time he left them with the generous remark "well make yourself at home". The old adobe with it's dirt floor, cob webs and lizards made the invitation sound queer but Darrell Duppa, himself, was queer. Mr. Irvine and Reverend Grove took the advice, however, unpacked their camping outfit and stayed all night there. In fact they "batched it" for several days in this old adobe while they looked about them. This old adobe was on what is now the N. E. corner of Washington and Central Avenue.

They made some rough chairs, a table, and two cots out of some cottonwood trees nearby. These looked so good and were so comfortable that they made some more that were even better. They sold them for a good price where furniture could not be had. They supported themselves and even made a little extra by doing this work.

In a short time Mr. Irvine traded his little pony for a lot on the west side of 1<sup>st</sup> Street. It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> lot south of Washington and was next to the old post office which occupied Lot 2. Immediately he started building a little adobe store. When habitable he moved into it and started selling stationary, newspapers, magazines,

etc. It was the only store of its kind in phoenix. From the very first this business venture prospered rapidly developing into what ultimately became the E. Irvine General Merchandise Store.

The records of Phoenix show that on October 2, 1870 a mass meeting of citizens convened in the home of Mr. John Moore to choose a site for the future city. They choose the N ½ of Sec. 8. TpIN-R3 East and agreed to call the new town Phoenix. A name suggested by Darrel Duppa in memory of the old Indian Empire, the ruins of which were all around there.

This same evening The Salt River Valley Association was formed of which John T. Alsap, James Murphy and J. T. Perry were chosen commissioners. Among the signatures to this project was Edward Irvine. The settlement had about 500 inhabitants at that time.

The first sale of lots in the new townsite was held December 23-24, 1870. The first lot sold was the S. W. Corner of Washington and Montezuma St., now 1<sup>st</sup> Street. It was purchased by Judge Wm. J. Berry of Prescott for \$103.00. The lot next south sold for \$40.00. All of the facts were duly published in "The Miner" of Prescott through their Phoenix correspondent, Edward Irvine, under the signature "Bob".

On May 7, 1872 Edward Irvine, William A. Hancock, John T. Alsap and J. R. Barroche, were admitted to practice law by the District Court of Maricopa County.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1872, Edward Irvine was commissioned as Notary public by the governor. So in front of the little store on South 1<sup>st</sup> Street Edward Irvine hung out a sign as Attorney at Law and Notary Public.

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1874, a deed was issued by the United States government for the land occupied by the town site. It took about a year to adjust the ownership of the various lots that were bought, sold, or traded during the four years of migratory life in the valley.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1875 the first twelve deeds were issued to the proven owners of lots and on this date Edward Irvine received a deed to Lot 3, Blk. 22, the result of his pony trade.

He soon acquired Lot 2 and then the corner lot No. 1, which later became the first lot sold in the town sale.

In January of 1877, Mr. Irvine suffered much discomfort from a carbuncle on his neck. He heard that a new settler had arrived and was living on the Parker farm south west of town so, hiring a light spring wagon he put an easy chair in the box and was driven out to the Parker place while reclining as comfortably as possible in the chair. There he met the new comer, Malie M. Jackson, and his family.

As one of the trustees of the Methodist Church he welcomed them to Phoenix and invited them to attend the services of the Church which at that time were held in different homes as convenient. After a short visit Mr. Irvine returned to town. This was the first meeting of Mr. Irvine with his future wife, Izora Jackson.

Rapidly increasing business soon made his little store room too small and in 1879 Mr. Irvine built a two story brick building covering his three lots on the south west corner of Washington and First Street with 137 ½ foot frontage on Washington and 150 on First Street. This was the second brick building to be erected in Phoenix and when completed was the most pretentious building in town. The upper floor housed practically all of the professional offices in town. The doctors, lawyers, etc. The lower floor and basement was occupied by the E. Irvine and C. General. Merchandise Store. The brick work on this building was done by Ca. Cs. Foushes and the woodwork by Malie Jackson.

May 11, 1880, Mr. Irvine was seen standing in front of the old adobe Methodist Church dressed in his best suit, helping Izora Jackson out of a carriage. It had rained the night before and the path from the dirt road up to the church was a long strip of yellow mud. Izora looked in blank dismay as she looked first at the muddy path and then at her lovely white bridal dress and slippers. Edward Irvine quickly and effectively solved the problem by lifting her from the carriage and carrying her safely to the church steps, amid the applause of the spectators.

Lulu Cotton acted as bridesmaid to Izora Jackson while Eugene Jackson was the best man to Edward Irvine. They were married by the Rev. L. J. Hedgpeth. After the wedding ceremony, Mr. Irvine carried his wife back to the carriage and they were driven to Malie Jackson's home where a fine wedding dinner was served.

The newly weds eluded the serenaders and left on a honeymoon trip to San Francisco.

While the wedding dinner was in progress Mr. Irvine had a driver from Jants Livery Stable bring a carriage to the rear of the house. Izora and her "hubby" hopped in and away they went down to Maricopa where they took the South Pacific Train to the coast as there was no railroad into Phoenix until fifteen years later.

When the Irvines returned from San Francisco Izora acted as bridesmaid for Lulu Cotton and Edward as best man to Judge Porter at their wedding.

The Irvine home was a newly renovated and completely furnished house on the west side of Center Street between Adams and Monroe. The grounds comprised six lots and made the half block bounded by Center - Adams and First Avenue with the alley between Adams and Monroe as the north line.

Today the Dwight B. Heard business occupies the site of the old house. In

place of the orchard and vineyard now stands a prosperous store and office buildings. In this home their first child Janie was born.

In the spring of 1882, Edward and Izora Irvine went to visit Mr. Irvine's people in Canada. They took little Janie along with them. In Missouri they stopped to visit Izora's Aunt Harriet and then continued on to Woodstock, N. B. There Mr. Irvine met his sister Mrs. Sarah Beclair. He visited the graves of his mother and two sisters and at St. Johns, New Brunswick he placed flowers upon his father's grave. All whom he had known were gone with the exception of his sister Sarah and two brothers - law.

After a short stay in Canada the Irvines started back, stopping again in Missouri to see Aunt Harriet once more. They found that she had secured an option on a saw and grist mill for them to buy. It was a real bargain. Edward Irvine bought it and they lived there for about two years.

The place was called Guthridge Mills and contained 137 acres. This acreage Edward made into a town site. He laid the land off into streets, blocks and lots. He named the new town "Izora". It was in Izora, Missouri, that his first son, Edward, was born, October 6, 1882.

The Irvines were doing splendidly financially but the Missouri climate did not agree with either Mr. Irvine or his little daughter, Janie. He had to choose between Missouri with Malaria and an early death or Arizona and good health.

In 1884 the Irvines had sold out in Missouri and were back in their old home in Phoenix. Here James was born, December 1, 1884.

In 1885 Edward Irvine purchased ten acres of land just East of town. It extended from what is now Jefferson south to Jackson Street and from 7 to 9 Streets. It made four city blocks later.

Mr. Irvine bought this property from Jim Murphy for fifteen hundred dollars cash. Upon this land he built his home and when completed it was one of the show places of Phoenix. The garden, playgrounds and beautiful shade trees made it an ideal home for his family of children. Here Malie, Vera, Roy, Evangeline, Sylvan, Marguerite and Amelia were born.

Edward Irvine and Captain Hancock bought 160 acres running 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue south of Jackson Street. Later Mr. Irvine bought out Captain Hancock and subdivided the land into residence lots. He called it "the Irvine Addition" and put it for sale on the market. This property had formerly belonged to Captain Calderwood. It sold rapidly.

In 1911 the Irvines rented their home place and moved to Berkley, California. They returned to Phoenix in 1915.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> 1916 Edward Irvine passed away in his home and among the people he loved so well there in his beloved Phoenix.

My grand mother, Izora Irvine was the daughter of Malie Monroe Jackson and Amelia Jane Thompson. She was born in Jamesville, Wisconsin, November 17, 1860. At the age of twenty she married Edward Irvine who was twenty two years her senior. They spent the greater part of their happy married life in Phoenix, Arizona. They had a family of ten children five girls and five boys. Namely; Janie, Edward, James, Vera, Evangeline, Roy, Sylvan, Marguerite, Malie, and Amelia. Some of the middle names that my grandmother choose for her daughters were quite unusual (ie, Vera, Veronica, Isabellica and Evangeline Alameda). My grandmother said if she had had another daughter she would be named Marigold. Speaking of names, during my grandmothers childhood days several of her playmates made up an interesting little rhyme in which they used all of their first and middle names: Izora Elizabeth, Leora Diette, Caroline Anne, Susan Jaquette, Cynthia Melinda, Martha Jane, Little Louiza, Anna McClaim.

When my oldest sister, Elizabeth, was learning to talk she called she called her grandmother "Bama" and our grandfather "Bampa". These were the names that all of the members of the family called them throughout their life time.

The year after Bampa passed away Bama sold the family home in Phoenix and moved to Berkeley, California. She led a very interesting and active life. She became involved in the work of the W. C. T. U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union).

Bama, was extremely independent. She drove a model T Ford for many years and always insisted upon changing the oil herself rather than having her car serviced at a garage.

Bama, enjoyed traveling and she made several trips abroad to the Philippine Islands. On one such trip she became acquainted with Stanley Richmond and in 1923 they were married.