

Edgar Edmund Shumway

Edgar Edmund Shumway was born in 1862 in Portland Prairie, Houston Co., Minnesota, two years before his father was drafted for service in the Civil War. He grew up on the prairie, and studied for a time at the University of Minnesota in Saint Paul. He was by far the tallest of the Shumway boys, and quite handsome. He relocated in 1882 with the rest of the family to Lyons (Everett Precinct), Burt Co., Nebraska, and married in Dec 1883 to Nona Wyatt of Lyons. The couple married, however, in Wakefield, Nebraska, probably at the home of his brother Herbert.

Edmund was ambitious. He tried at least one business in Nebraska but expressed discontent with that project to his father. His wife Nona gave birth to three children; Ralph in 1884, Mary Winterrowd in 1887, and Nona Emma in 1888 after the family's move to Denver. The move to Denver was

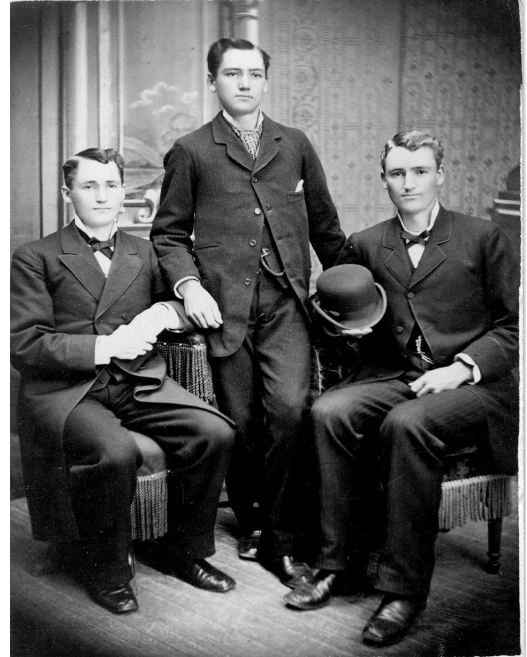


successful for Edmund's business.

He opened a concern selling hay and coal, but as the business improved, his

wife's health, never robust, declined. Nona passed away in 1894, just as Edmund's enterprise, The Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, was becoming more successful.

In 1899 Edmund married Emma Hubbell Coberly¹, a divorcee with two sons. After the marriage, in 1900, all the children were



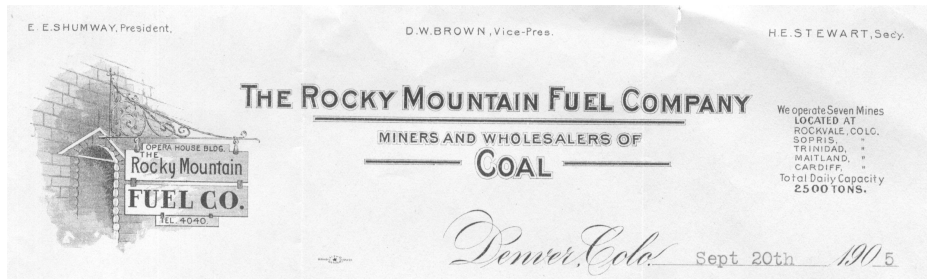
Burt PORTRAITS, MINNEAPOLIS.



Emma and Edmund Shumway, 1906

¹Emma Hubbell was a teacher as a young woman, and in 1882 married Joseph Coberly, who in 1880 was described as a "stockman." They had two sons; Carrol born 1833 and Royal born 1885. It is unknown when Emma and Joseph divorced. Emma seems to have retained the sons.

living together with Edmund and Emma. In 1910 Royal had married and lived elsewhere, but Carrol still lived with the Shumways, as did Emma's aged mother, so the family seems to have been pleasant and cooperative.



The Rocky Mountain Fuel Co. was very successful, but it was a time of labor unrest (the United Mine Workers were on strike in Colorado) and the mining

business was hazardous, and in December 1913 the company's mine in New Castle, the Vulcan Mine, exploded, killing 36 men. Edmund went into the mine to help in the rescue efforts, and may have inhaled poisonous gases. He became ill and died about a month after the blast. He was buried in Denver's Fairmount Cemetery

After Edmund's death Emma Shumway seems to have been active, perhaps teaching Sunday School, sometimes living with her son Carrol and sometimes taking in roomers, including a granddaughter.

In the 1930's an old associate materialized. Fremont Everett, the widower of Edmund Shumway's sister Eva, was at loose ends. He was now 73, and pretty much unemployable. He did get a few odd jobs, and for a time moved around the Portland area and was sponging on family, but during these years he sent rather expensive presents to Emma Shumway.

He had obviously had an eye for Emma for a considerable time. As a member of the family Fremont had known her for many years. After he became a widower he began to court her by letter. She put him off for a considerable time, but about 1935 - he was then nearly 80 - she agreed to marry him. He had at that time some money which he said he was going to use to build a house in Denver. He went to Denver, married Emma, and started to build his house.

But they had been married only a few months when he became ill; he never recovered, dying in the fall of 1936. Some time afterward Emma wrote to Fremont's family to say that because she had so long been identified as Mrs. Shumway, and had been married to Fremont such a short time, she was taking back her former name, and hoped they would understand.

About 1950 a relative called on Emma. He described her as "probably in her nineties, and a most personable old lady."

Emma died in 1953, aged 94, and is buried near Edmund.