

SARAH ELIZABETH KENDALL

Sarah was the daughter of Levi Newell Kendall and Elizabeth Clements, born the 20th of December, 1855, in Salt Lake City, Utah. She married Jabez Erastus Durfee the 26th of January, 1874, in Salt Lake Endowment House. She died at Aurora, Sevier County, Utah the 33rd of January 1929.

It will be hard to give the picture of my mother, Sarah Elizabeth Kendall Durfee, in words, for words would fail me if I attempt to describe the wonderful character she was. In every way as far as I can see her's was a life of perfection. Always gentle, kind and patient, helping everyone along her way, never complaining no matter how hard her trials were to bear, and she had many trials and hardships in her life. She had a family of 13 children. Father was a man who liked to pioneer and build up new and out of the way places. Thus he kept my mother ever on the move. They would no more than get settled in a make shift home, and up he would pull and move again, so mother was continually on the move whether she felt like it or not. Yet I never heard her complain.

To her children she was an angel of mercy and love. Every act of hers was for their benefit and welfare. She was diligent in training them in the plan of salvation, teaching them the Gospel in every word and act.

She worked hard and long at her household tasks, and at any little job she could find to do along the way to help provide a living for her family. She corded the wool and spun the yarn that went into clothing for her children. Her hands were never idle as she walked along she was usually knitting and how her needles would click. She owned a loom and made a carpet to cover our floors. In this way we used up all our old rags by tearing and sewing them together. She also learned how to solder rims on cans so our fruit could be put up in them. We didn't have bottles as we do now. Her mother was a midwife and a pretty good doctor. My mother acquired much of this from her. She was very good with the sick and several were the lives that she saved. Even when the doctors gave up she would nurse them back to health and raise them from beds of afflictions when the doctors said they could do no more. Where other people, her own as well as neighbors were stricken with diphtheria, malaria, and pneumonia, she went in and in her quiet humble way she brought them through. She always sang about her work, especially if she was blue or worried, always trying to put on a brave front.

I remember all along my life in my girlhood days, hearing people refer to her as poor dear Sister Durfee, or dear Aunt Sarah. She was loved by everybody old as well as young alike. She lived her last few years at Aurora, Sevier county, Utah. Having been driven from the colonies in Mexico at the time of the revolution in that land in the year 1912.

She died and was buried in Aurora, Utah.

The above sketch was written by her daughter Cecelia Arthemias Durfee Tolman. 1963

Aurora, Utah.....December 16th, 1881

A blessing given by William McBride, Patriarch, upon the head of Sarah Kendall Durfee, daughter of Levi and Elizabeth Clements Kendall, born December 20, 1855 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sister Sarah Elizabeth in the name of the Lord Jesus I place my hands upon your head and by the authority of the holy priesthood I seal upon you a Patriarchal blessing, and I seal upon you all thy former blessings and say unto thee be thou comforted for thou art one of the daughters of Zion and art numbered among the daughters of Isreal and thou art of the house of Israel, and of the blood of Ephraim and an heir to all the blessings of the daughters of Jacob. And the Lord is well pleased with thee and thou shall be prospered and blessed in thy day and generation because thou hast yieded obedience to Sarah who was the mother of the faithful. And thou shalt become an instrument in the hands of the Lord in the bearing of the part of the salvation and restoration of thy father's house for many generations both for the living and the dead and together with thy companion thou shalt receive an everlasting inheritance for thyself, children, relatives, and friends, and receive thy part in the morning of the first resurrection for I seal this blessing upon thee in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Colonia, Dublan, March 31, 1905

A blessing given under the hands of Patriarch Charles Pulsifor upon the head of Sarah E. Kendall Durfee, daughter of Levi N. and Elizabeth Clements Kendall, born at Salt Lake City, Utah , December 20, 1855.

Sister Sarah, I lay my hands upon your head, and confer upon you a Patriarchal blessing. Thy lineage is of Joseph through the loins of Ephraim. Thou art entitled to all the blessings of the new and everlasting covenant. Therefore continue thy diligence and faithfulness and thy reward shall be great. Because of the many trials and afflictions you are called to pass through your reward shall be made up unto you abundantly and the Lord will strengthen you and give you power to overcome every obstacle and every weakness of human nature and have strength according to your day, that your pathway will be made clear before you, and press your way on for the building up of Zion. Therefore continue thy diligence and you shall have strength and ability to accomplish much good and have power to teach and rear your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, that when you get through you may look back with joy and satisfaction upon your labors, having accomplished a good work and led thine offspring back in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Therefore renew thy energies and press your way onward for the Lord has seen thy trials and your supplies will be increased unto you, that you shall have sufficient to meet all your necessities and there shall be no lack. I bless you with the riches of eternity, which you shall receive when you shall pass beyond the veil. These blessings shall be for thine aid and comfort, for I seal them upon your head and seal you up to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection by virtue and authority of my holy patriarchal calling in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Aurora, Utah, May 27, 1925

A blessing given by Moroni Lazenby, Patriarch, upon the head of Sarah Elizabeth Kendall Durfee, daughter of Levi Newell Kendall, and Elizabeth Clements Kendall, born Dec. 20, 1855 at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sister Durfee, according to your desires, I place my hands upon your head and by virtue of the Priesthood that I bear, confer upon you a Patriarchal Blessing, that it may be a comfort to you and a source of consolation. Your lineage is of the daughters of Ephraim, which entitles you to the blessings and promises of the Lord's covenant people. You came to this earth to assist in establishing the work of our Father, with a covenant and promise that you would be true and faithful, which covenant you have kept throughout all the vicissitudes of your life. You have been tried in the crucible of life's experiences and not found wanting. You have passed through many conditions that have tested the fiber of your soul and wrung your very heart strings with grief. You have had troubles and trials upon the right hand and upon the left. And you have at times been led to question the justice and purpose of the Lord in permitting these conditions to prevail. You are one of those who have passed through the fiery furnace of experience and have undergone conditions that would have caused the stoutest to quail, yet through it all, you have been true to the testimony of Jesus, and though you may have at times faltered you have never failed, but have always sought the Lord for assistance in time of trials and stress. You are beloved of our Father in Heaven for the integrity of your soul and the day will come, when you will thank the Lord for the experiences of mortality, for the trials that you have undergone, will make your Eternal rest more sweet and make you able to appreciate more fully the conditions of Eternal peace. You have much cause to rejoice, dear Sister, for though life has held many conditions of trial, the future shall make ample amends and you shall rejoice in the presence of God. You have been known for your charity and kind heartedness and a host shall greet you on the other side, who shall glorify your name for that which you have done for them, and you shall be surrounded by your righteous posterity and dwell eternally in their midst.

I seal you up against the sower of evil unto the day of Redemption when you shall come forth in a Glorious Resurrection and inherit Eternal Life. These blessings I seal upon you through your faithfulness in the name of Jesus Christ...Amen.