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Biographical Sketch

of

Ellen Green

by Alice S. Campbell

Pioneer Year 1863

Captain William Haight Company

Born: 26 Nov 1846, Dundee, Ireland

Married: John Shelley, 1 Jan 1865

Died: 1 Dec 1926

Ellen Green, the daughter of William Gibson and Eliza Kennedy, was born in Dundee, Ireland, November 26th, 1846, the third oldest of a family of fifteen children. When a child, her parents and other members of the family moved from Ireland to Scotland where they resided for some time. While in Scotland, they came in contact with elders of the "Mormon" faith, and were converted to the same.

The family desired to gather with the body of the Saints in America. William Gibson, leaving his family behind, proceeded to the promised land, with the hope and expectation of paving the way for the wife and family to follow after. During the absence of the father, a tragedy happened to the family. The dread disease smallpox attacked them and two of the members of the family died, and while these two lay dead in the house, the eldest son was brought home dead, having been killed on the railroad where he was employed.

Finally in the year 1863, word came for the family to leave for America. Passage was arranged on a sailing vessel, the passengers on which were mostly converts to the new faith, and after a pleasant voyage, marred only by ocean calms, which made traveling slow and the weather extremely hot, they arrived in the chosen land.

When the family came across, Ellen was a girl of sixteen years. She was invited to act as cook for the captain of the vessel, and was thus able to pay her way over, which lightened the expense of the family's transportation.

Upon arriving here, they were met by the father and proceeded to cross the plains by wagon. The company was in charge of Captain William Haight and after some interesting experiences arrived safely in Salt Lake City in October, 1863. Ellen relates that she was disappointed upon seeing Salt Lake City, but the genuine kindness, neighborliness and unity of the pioneers soon caused her to overcome the feeling of disappointment.

Two weeks after arriving in Salt Lake City, Ellen Gibson came down to American Fork where she was employed for about a year in the home of "Brewer" Robinson, by which name he was commonly

known, the father of our respected townsman and pioneer, William S. Robinson.

American Fork at that time consisted mostly of a collection of log houses with a few adobe houses intermingled. Most of the dwellings were within the old fort wall. Conditions were much more primitive than they are today and Ellen was thus able to come in contact with and participate in pioneer life.

After about a year's sojourn with the Robinson family, she made her home at father Alphonzo Green's, the grandfather of President Stephen L. Chipman. The Green home was near the present residence of Erastus Green and was the stopping place of emigrants and traders.

On the first of January, 1865, Ellen married John Shelley, and by this union five girls were born – Eliza, Alice, Mary, Belle and Melinda. All but Alice have preceded their mother to the great beyond.

While residing in Provo Valley, Mrs. Green relates an incident of interest as illustrating pioneer days. Indians in that section were in an ugly mood towards the whites, a number of whom had been slain in the neighborhood of Daniel's canyon and their scalps taken. Ellen with her one child and a relative with three children were together in the home, the men folks being away, when one evening a number of Indians approached the house. You can imagine the plight of the mothers. An effort was made to hide the children by covering them with quilts. The Indians entered the house. A batch of bread had just been baked and the Indians were invited to it as also to some hams and bacon hanging on the wall. They proceeded to ransack the dwelling finally uncovering the children. To the great joy and relief of the women the Indians left taking some of the foodstuff with them but without harming any one.

Ellen was married to Alva Greene, May 2nd, 1884, and three children were born to them – Jane, Alphonzo and Rodney. Jane died in her infancy, the two sons surviving – Alphonzo residing in Salt Lake City and Rodney living in California.

Ellen Green was naturally of a cheerful, happy disposition and of a social nature. She was proud of her children and was happy when telling of their successes and achievements. During the latter part of her life she was sorely afflicted, and it is most pleasant to know that she was able to bear up so well under her many trials and afflictions. Death came to her relief Wednesday, December 1st, 1926. She goes to her reward at the ripe age of 80 years.

It might be incidentally mentioned, that her father, William Gibson, died only five years ago in California in his hundredth year.