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Biographical Sketch

of

Harriet Wood Robinson

wife of William Walker Robinson

by Rose R. Penrod, daughter

Pioneer Year 1851

Born 2 Jun 1839

Married William Walker Robinson

Died 12 Aug 1876

Buried in American Fork Cemetery

The home of John Wood and Rosanna Dashley was made happy on June 2nd, 1839, on the arrival of a baby girl whom they Christened Harriet. And as she grew in status she also grew in the hearts of her parents, she being their only child. Her father worked at the ribbon factory. The scissors he used at this factory we have, at the present, in our "Daughters of the Pioneers" collection of relics, also a Bible of Harriet's mother that was given to her as a token of love for her faithfulness as a Church member as in this Bible was recorded data that has helped us greatly on Grandmother's line.

Harriet's parents heard the Gospel message brought to England by the humble missionaries. They were convinced of its truthfulness. They embraced it and rejoiced in its principles. They soon received the spirit of gathering. So, when Harriet was about 12 years old, she with her parents, in the year 1851, commenced the arduous journey to the land of Zion to be with the Saints of God.

When they reached Nauvoo they became close friends with Brother Edward Robinson and family, also emigrants enroute to the valleys of the mountains. While here Sister Robinson gave her life in giving birth to a baby boy. Harriet's mother was very pleased when Brother Robinson felt he would like her to take care of their baby, having only one child of her own. But before the mother was laid away the little one died and was buried with the mother.

Harriet's father and mother rejoiced to be able to enter the Temple in Nauvoo and receive their endowments in the year 1846. After their arrival in Salt Lake City they were sealed to each other in the year 1853. They began their journey westward from Nauvoo July 1st, 1851.

A captain was placed over 50 wagons and another over each 10. Captain Gordon was over the 50 and George Spratley over the 10 that Harriet and her parents were members of. The roads were poor and the weather very hot which was hard not only on the Saints but on the cattle, some of them giving out. Under these conditions 15 miles seemed a good day's journey. On August 10th, 1851, while the company was camped at Ash Fork, a daughter was born to Mr. and

Mrs. Richard Steele. Harriet and her mother took great joy in assisting Sister Steele with this little new comer.

They arrived in Salt Lake City the morning of October 2nd, 1851, after a long and tedious journey lasting 93 days.

Soon after their arrival they came to American Fork and made this their permanent home. Harriet's father was the first violin player in American fork.

Harriet's advantages in schooling was very meager but she was trained to love the Gospel and to have faith and confidence in her Heavenly Father which was a great help to her through life. She met here and was united in marriage to William Walker Robinson, whose parents had also emigrated to Zion for the Gospel sake.

To this happy union 11 children were born; seven of which she was privileged to raise, Am Wood, John Alma, George Edward, Harriet Elizabeth, Joseph, Alfred, and Rose W.

Harriet's mother died soon after she was married and her father came to live with her. Harriet remembered and often spoke of the first sack of white flour they had after coming to the valleys. She made some biscuits for breakfast one morning but her father would not partake of this luxury until he had shared with Bro. John Wrigley and family, dear friends of theirs. Showing the brotherly kindness and unselfishness of our beloved pioneers. Although money was scarce yet they loved to share what little they had with each other.

In the year 1856 her father was again united in Marriage to Margaret Kirkwood, a widowed lady with 2 children who also came to Zion for the Gospel sake being one of the hand cart company. She proved a real helpmate to him and a mother indeed to Harriet. Harriet won many friends by her cheerful jovial disposition. That proved equal to the labors connected with pioneer life in the raising of a large family.

She had the first sewing machine in American Fork "The Howe" which was up to date at that time. She was so happy to have this help in the sewing necessary for her large family.

In the year 1867 her husband took to himself another wife, to which union 4 children were born, Sarah A, Fannie, Hannah Elizabeth, Malinda and Lot.

Harriet, our beloved Mother and Grandmother, died at the early age of 37 – August 12th, 1876.

Our Grandfather, William W. Robinson, died in his ninetieth year September 23rd, 1923, both in American Fork, Utah.

They died faithful Latter Day Saints, beloved by all who knew them.

We appreciate being born of such goodly parents and trust that we, their descendants, may prove ourselves worthy to meet and live with them throughout the eternities to come.