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Biographical Sketch

of

Sarah Shelley Conder

wife of

Edward Conder

by Lizzie Conder Earl

Pioneer Year 1851

Sailed on the Ellen Maria

Born: 14 Jul 1840, Claverly, Shropshire, England

Married: Edward Conder, 1855

Died 14 Apr 1917

Sarah Shelley Conder daughter of James Boyer Shelley and Elizabeth Bray Shelley was born in the Parish of Claverly, Shropshire, England, July 14, 1840. Being the youngest of a family of seven, five boys and two girls, Her parents with their entire family except one daughter Martha embraced the Gospel and left England for the land of Zion in Feb. 1851. Sailing on the ship Ellen Maria.

On April 6th they landed In New Orleans. Being on the ocean, two months. The drinking water becoming so bad they could hardly drink it.

On April 13th while sailing in a steamboat up the Mississippi river, her mother, in dipping a bucket of water was drawn over board by the current and drowned, which was a great sorrow to the family. Bishop William Bromley being the only witness. The ship was stopped but could not wait until the body was found.

The family coming on with the company. Afterward the body was found and grandfather Shelley sent the money back for her burial. Her mother was then 51 years old. Before leaving England grandmother Shelley's people turned against them because they had joined the Church. If she would go to their house they would turn their back on her and would not speak.

They arrived in the Salt Lake valley Oct. 3rd 1851, being nine months on their journey. In the same year, she with her father's family moved to Am. Fork where she resided until death. In a strange land and no mother was indeed a sad beginning for Sarah, but being but eleven years old, and the only girl in the family. But her cheerful disposition aided materially to the comfort of father and brothers in their loneliness until a stepmother, Sister Mary Bathgate entered into their home.

In the year 1855 Sarah entered into the Celestial order of marriage with Edward Condor. To this union eleven children were born: Jane, Joseph, James, David, Alice, Ellen, Ann, Eliza, George, Benjamin, and Edward. When 45 years of age she was left a widow with her eleven children, all of whom she has had the privilege of raising to manhood and womanhood. They are all living except the two oldest, Jane and Joseph.

In November 1906 she was married to Brother Jacob Varney to whom she proved a comfort and a blessing in his last days. Six months before her death she was again left a widow.

She was an unassuming, faithful Latter-day Saint. She was President of the Primary for a number of years before the wards were divided. She was a good story teller, holding the children's interest for hours, and they truly loved her. She also wrote quite a lot of poems.

In the ward in which she lived, she was faithful member and teacher in the Relief Society, often expressing in testimony her faith in the Gospel and desire to do the will of her Heavenly Father.

She did sewing for neighbors, friends and especially the poor, which she was able to do without using a pattern.

She was always pleased when she could bring cheer and comfort to those in distress or assist in taking care of the dead.

Her life has been a checkered one but her loving, cheerful disposition, which has so beautifully characterized her life has helped her to bravely and cheerfully meet all that Father placed in her way.

She lived for others, cheered and comforted those in trouble and in lightening their burdens she felt that she lifted her own.

She has won the blessing of Heaven and the love and admiration of all who know her. When Father called her April 14, 1917 at the age of seventy seven years she went to the rich reward of the faithful in the Celestial Kingdom of Our Father.

Written by Lizzie Conder Earl.