

DUP AF Book 2

Biographical Sketch

of

Alice Mitchell Steele

by

Ivy G. Stelle, her daughter-in-law

Pioneer Year 1861

Born 4 May 1860 in Nottinghamshire, England

Married 7 Aug 1877 to Richard Reese Steele

Alice Mitchell Steel was born in Nottinghamshire, England, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1860. The daughter of George Henry and Ann Clayton Mitchell. Shortly after her birth her parents heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached in this foreign land by two humble Mormon Missionaries. They believed this message and accepted it.

They left their relatives, friends and home and joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and immigrated to America in 1861. Alice being one year old.

The journey was a long and tedious one. The voyage across the Atlantic Ocean required about six weeks. They crossed the plains in an ox-team being forced to walk most of the way. Alice who was then about one and a half years old, was carried most of the way by her mother. They endured many privations and hardships to be numbered among the Saints.

The family came directly to American Fork. Their first home was in a dugout between American Fork and Pleasant Grove, Utah.

The family consisted of three boys and two girls, Jack, Martha, David, Richard, and Alice. They moved from this humble home to the Arza Adams farm, the land just below the Sugar Factory, known then as Spring Creek. Here they passed thru many hardships incident to pioneer life, spinning cloth, cording wool, making candles, and soap. A third sister, Annie, was born at this home. Alice worked very hard on the farm, helping her father. She and the other children would cut the entire crop of wild-hay with a scythe and rake it with a hand rake. She would go with her father and brothers and sisters to the farm, taking with them for lunch 1 loaf of dry bread and sitting by the side of a stream, dip the bread into the water. This was their midday meal. After living here several years, the family moved to Salt Lake City, where her father, George Mitchell, took care of the hay market.

Two years later they returned to American Fork, where her Father took up One Hundred Acres of land on the North West Bench, known now as the Mitchell Hollow. Here Alice with her brothers and sisters helped her father clear the land of sagebrush and rocks. At night for amusement, and the only amusement they knew, they

would burn the brush they had pulled during the day, and be very happy by doing so.

Alice lived here until Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1877, when she married Richard Reese Steele, son of Richard and Mary Ann Reese Steele. She went to live at the home of her husband's parents. Living here until the birth of their first son, George, they then moved to the old Steele home on the site formerly occupied by the Bonneville Lumber Co. where their second son, Roy, was born. Two years later they moved to the place north of town which has since been the family home, except for our years, spent at the home by the Chipman Flour Mill, where her husband acted as Assistant Miller.

Alice is the mother of nine children, six of whom are still living: George, Roy, Moral D., Nellie, Alfred and Fay. Three who have passed to the great Beyond: Annie, Leonard and Lilly. She has devoted her life to the happiness of her family and to being a real helpmate to her husband, finding time beside her household duties to help her husband and boys on the farms.

Her unselfish disposition has endeared her to all who knew her.

My first impression of her was to know her first duty was to her husband and children. I marvel now at the quiet way in which she secured co-operation and kept the home machinery working. Her home was always open to acquaintances and strangers alike. No one was ever turned from her door hungry; [she was] always thinking of others before herself.

It was very common to see her, the day she baked, running to take each of her children, who lived close by, a pie, a cake, or a loaf of warm bread. She has ever been ready to lend a helping hand to the sick and sorrowing, without compensation. She was never too tired or busy to stop her work to pop corn, make candy and give entertainment to her children and her companions. Her home was a playhouse for all neighboring children and she has always been a favorite with children. For six years she served as a Relief Society Teacher of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward of American Fork, taking Sunshine and love to those to whom she visited.

She has six living children and Twenty-one Grand Children  
and Nineteen Great Grand children, who all honor and love her, for  
her life of sacrifice and motherly love.

I hope your day is happy, just the way it ought to be.

Because you are the mother of some-one dear to me.

I hope that great good fortune and every kind of cheer

May bring you the sort of pleasure you ought to have each  
year.