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Biographical Sketch

of

Sarah Binns Chipman

Wife of Henry Chipman

Pioneer Year 1852

William Field Company

by Myrtle R. Seastrand

Born 15 Nov. 1842 in St. Louis, Missouri

Sarah Binns Chipman, the subject of this sketch was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the 15th day of November, 1842. Her father, John Binns, emigrated from old England, bringing with him his second wife, Mary Covala, and two children Isaac and Ellen, son and daughter of his first marriage (and Hanna their 1st child). They settled in St. Louis, Missouri, where four other children were born *Sarah, Thomas, Mary Jane, Louis), Sarah being father Binn's fourth child. When cholera swept the Southern states, Sarah's mother and the four younger children were stricken with this fatal disease, and within a short time mother Covala, her new born babe and three others were laid away. Sarah was then about nine years of age. A little later he father married Jane Creer, a very religious woman, who had been converted to the Gospel in Old England by Orson Hyde, and no woman ever filled a mother's place better than she.

Orson Hyde visited them on several occasions. Jane Creer had to put forth a great effort to convert her husband to become a member of the L.D.S. Church; but her prayers and Orson Hyde's influence prevailed and Father Binns was baptized in St. Louis about 1843. Later, the Saints were moving westward and Jane Creer let nothing stand in the way of their preparing to join the Saints in that great move. It was a big sacrifice for Father Binns to break up home again, for he was well established in St. Louis working at his trade as a stone mason. He had just completed a contract of the first big concrete sewer in St. Louis, which extended from Franklin Avenue to Showder's Pond. Therefore, they had plenty of money to purchase the necessary supplies for the journey with the Saints.

They secured nine head of oxen and plenty of equipment. Mother Jane insisted they provide for and take with them her brothers, who were also in St. Louis and to this day the Creer boys express their appreciation to father Binns for his generosity and to their sister's faithfulness, which were the means of their coming to Utah. The brothers were Mathias, Orson and William of Spanish Fork, sons of William Edward Creer.

They all joined the William Field Company, which started for Utah in the Spring of 1852. With father Binns' splendid equipment and mother Binn's good planning and the Creer boys as expert

teamsters, their journey was looked forward to with great expectations. Similar to other journeys of the pioneers, there were many difficulties to overcome. At Fort Bridge their oxen gave out, and they were forced to leave their faithful animals behind and purchase new teams. Sarah, however, owned a little pony which she rode most of the way to help drive the loose stock among which were several fine cows. At Fort Kearney they stopped to have a general wash day. They did not stay long as Indians were troublesome. Sarah says she had little fear of the Indians and found great joy in the new adventure. The children loved to loiter and play in the sand banks and hated to hear the word, "move on," when they camped along the sandy rivers.

The companies were well armed against enemies and took great care in arranging camp and corralling their animals for the night.

Captain Field became a little extravagant and purchased a pair of fine peacocks, which you know make a showing, but were of little use. He kept them in a fine cage tied to one of the wagons. A Frenchman who was driving, stopped to kill a rattlesnake, his oxen became frightened and ran away into the Platte river and drowned those proud birds.

They travelled through several rain storms, but generally the weather was delightful – a wonderful Spring and Summer. The middle west looked green and beautiful and Sarah wondered why the other Saints had gone on farther into more desert looking land; but when she beheld the beautiful Rocky Mountains and the glorious Salt Lake valley, she doubted no more.

They arrived late in the Fall of that same year, 1852, and when their caravan pulled into the Public Square, there was great rejoicing and they had a fine treat of luscious melons which the Saints had just harvested. They camped here for a few days, then father Binns purchased a little log home in the vicinity of the present 19th Ward. Captain Field persuaded him to buy the site of the Warm Springs, which he did, and erected the first tannery. After five years at this occupation, father moved his family again to American Fork

where he purchased the Richard Robinson farm, as Richard had been called to settle at St. John, Arizona. Here he proved to be a very industrious farmer and during spare moments, he did much stone mason work, some of which can still be seen around the town of American Fork.

Life on the farm helped to qualify Sarah for her great life mission. She left her father's home at the age of eighteen years, well experienced in the art of home-making, marrying William Henry Chipman, whose father had accepted the gospel in Canada and had helped to settle American Fork in 1850. Sarah had always believed the Gospel and showed her great faith and love when she became the third wife of this splendid man. A pretty tiny little girl not weighing more than ninety pounds, measuring four feet six inches in height, "a small bundle of great value," for this little woman proved astounding endurance and became as perfect a home-maker and as shrewd a manager as one could find anywhere, caring for her own fourteen children as well as raising nine children of her husband's second wife, who died when her ninth child was born.

Artists struggle for years to attain fame; poets seldom gain recognition without strenuous effort, but no field of endeavor takes greater perseverance, more patience, or more premeditated tact than rearing a family especially one numbering 23 souls. And yet, a mother's name is only known in her small circle, but that is part of the beauty of it all. Her joy comes through silent service, service to her Creator, her husband, and the little souls, whom she has privileged a material body for life on this Earth. Only our older mothers can realize the endless efforts it would take to care for such a household, especially in the days when there were no modern improved homes; when women put up with colonizing in general; where they raised, washed, corded and spun their own wool, made their own candles, soap and starch in the old three-legged caldron, and cleaned the family laundry on the rub board.

Grandmother's life, however, was made much easier from the fact, that her husband was a splendid provider, a shrewd financier and a great disciplinarian.

The children had respect for their father's word, which was law. In his household his occupation afforded an opportunity to have the boys with him much of the time, where he was a great companion to them, making him a practical teacher.

Grandmother's schooling was one of absolute practice, one that will remain with her throughout all eternity. Perhaps her kind, sweet way, that everlasting patience, are part of a result of that which she has endured and overcome. She was left a widow at the age of forty eight years, with twelve children still unmarried, the youngest child but an infant. Her full life has been devoted to her family and each of the children as well as the forty-five grand children and the forty-seven great grand children, show their great love for her by constant interest in her welfare. Her husband's comfort was her utmost concern in his last illness; and all honor be to the names of both of them as well as his two other wives, who have preceded grandmother beyond. May she still enjoy good health such as she has had up to her eighty-fourth birthday; may the Lord still continue to bless her through her old age.