

DUP AF Book 1 page 214

Biographical Sketch

of

Eliza Maria Howes Trane

Written by Jean Chipman

Pioneer Year 1853

Sailed on the Ellen Maria

Claudius Spence Company

Born: 30 May 1849, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Married: Thomas F. Trane, 1869

Eliza Maria Howes Trane was born May 30, 1849, in Norwich, Norfolk, England. She was the eldest daughter of Henry and Eliza Howes. She was the eldest daughter of Henry and Eliza Howes. This splendid family were among the first to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ as preached to them by Claudious Spence, a humble elder of the Latter-Day Gospel, and believing his message of truth and the instructions of Brigham Young that it was for their self advancement to come to Utah and help build up Zion and make a commonwealth that would give to them and their children after them privileges of religious and political liberty, they had not enjoyed heretofore; they sold their belongings and with considerable means more than the average convert they left their native land. This was in the year 1853, Henry Howes and wife, two children and the aged grandmother Howes, set sail for America in the sailing vessel "Ellen Maria" landing in New Orleans and then proceeding up the Mississippi River to Keokuk, Iowa, where Bro. Howes purchased three complete outfits of oxen, cows, and wagons to make the long journey to the valleys of the Rocky Mountains. Being a mason by trade and not knowing how to handle cattle and oxen yoked together driven with a bull whip Bro. Howes began looking for someone to assist him and found a Brother Boythrope with a family of ten soul who were eager to get to the valleys of the mountains but who was unable to purchase the outfit to come in and how thankful this humble man was to give of his service to help his more prosperous brother, who was unlearned in the arts of pioneering.

They joined Cladius Spences company and began the long hard trek across the plains and up the mountain slopes of sand, sage, and turbulent streams; a journey of hardship, joy, and sorrow never to be forgotten, nor the like to be written again in history. How our hearts go out to them when we picture the suffering and the sacrifice of these noble, fearless and God praising people.

This family was called to give their baby sister up in death, and bury her by the road side, another mound to mark the way and stand to-day as a monument to the suffering, endurance, and trials of a people that loved their Gospel with all the zeal of human souls and established and suffered that we might enjoy. Oh, how they suffered

in the tempest and the storm, in traveling in dire poverty and distress and anguish of soul. Yet always there was "hope smiling brightly before them". They knew there was deliverance after all. After nine weary months the Howes family arrived in Salt Lake City in October 1853.

They remained there for one year and then came out to Lehi in the Fall of 1854, settling in the southwest part of the town where the family always remained. In the Fall of 1854 everything for the Saints looked very well, peace had been established with the Indians and Chief Walker was once more on peaceful terms with Brigham Young and his followers. Everything looked very encouraging for a more extensive plowing and planting another year, when nature seemed to try her cruel torturing power of starvation.

When the year of 1854 closed there were five hundred souls living in and around Lehi, and preparations were made for a more extensive activity in planting larger crops in 1855. The early spring growth promised a bounteous harvest, but their hopes were soon blasted; with the arrival of warm weather came the grass hoppers. Growing with astonishing rapidity they soon swarmed into the fields and began their work of devastation soon leaving but a desolate waste where once had been a promise of bounteous crops.

Although a little child of six years, well does Sister Trane remember the suffering of the people during the winter of 1855-56. The heavy snows and extremely cold weather continued until late in the spring. With so few comforts to offset the intense cold and a small store of food the people were subjected to deep and prolonged suffering. Sad indeed was such conditions and all were alike, none could alleviate the trying conditions of one another. Sego bulbs, thistle roots, and artichokes, together with pig weed "green" were the principal fare. Keen in her memory to-day is the sight of strong men staggering with weakness and being compelled to walk with the aid of a walking stick. During these trying times a baby brother and sister were born in the Howes home. A mother sick and weak, longing for nourishment and comfort; a father with plenty of worldly goods looking on with suffering in his soul and could not buy a comfort for

this suffering mother. There was neither food nor comfort that money could buy; it was not here.

Such are Sister Trane's early recollections until she was old enough to go to Mrs. Bassett's one room log school. Spelling, ciphering and reading were taught to all ages who desired to pay either money, garden products, flour, fire wood, or anything that could be used in the home to sustain life. Later she attending the school taught by Charles D. Evans. Her education also extended into the knowledge of how to build and settle a new country, when it was necessary for the women and girls to give of their time and strength in the fields, hauling and stacking hay and grain, milking and caring for cows, digging potatoes and hauling sage brush for fire wood. She learned the art of spinning and dying yarn for her own clothes. It has ever been her pride to look clean and neat in what ever she had whether home spun or the best that is obtainable to-day and it has been in her life to enjoy both. Her father brought a set of candle molds and a wash board with him to Utah and along with leeching, she was thoroughly taught to be a thrifty, careful woman.

In January 1869, she was married to Thomas F. Trane, a Danish boy who came her for the Gospel's sake and together they have become honorable, highly respected citizens of Utah and parents of eight children, six daughter and two sons.

She is one of our noble pioneers, who bravely worked and fought, with fruitless, barren soil and now who lives and reaps in joy, the harvest of her toil, lived to see a forsaken land, bleak and desolate transformed into an Eden, by the magic of the Pioneer strength and labors. You have wrought a miracle and leaving the heritage to us, and how you love your state and live for it and uphold its laws and the principles of your church is an example that is being instilled into the hearts of your family and your friends. And none in Sister Trane's presence can say there is a place on earth more beautiful nor full of richness as her own state of Utah.

What a pleasure to visit with this Pioneer woman, busy at her task of making her home clean and keeping it beautiful, attractive and in order, never thinking of laying her work aside for others to do,

or shirking her duties, but striving each day to spread as much sunshine and joy as the day will hold. Making herself in the evening of her life, honored and revered by her family and all who know her.

Bertha N. Sager

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