

DUP AF Book 2
Biographical Sketch
of
Sarah Eckersley Robinson
wife of William Walker Robinson

by Fanny Robinson Williams, daughter

Pioneer Year 1853
Sailed on the Palmyra

Born 15 Feb 1844 at Oldham, Lancashire, England

Married 15 Dec 1867

Died 16 Mar 1929 in American Fork, Utah

Sarah Eckersley Robinson, daughter of William Hannah Hardy-Eckersley Crompton, was born Feb. 15, 1944 at Oldham, Lancashire, England.

Her mother's parents were good honest hard working people. Her father's people were also good, even though we know little of them.

Her mother's parents belonged to the Methodist Church, and were very devout and sincere. They persuaded my grandmother to go to church with them, but she came away unsatisfied with their way of teaching.

One night, when she was returning home, she uttered a prayer, "Father I am a stranger here." About two weeks later she heard a "Mormon" Elder preach and was soon converted to the truth of the gospel. She was baptized December 1841, when the ice had to be broken and steps made to go down into a pond of water. She was very hoarse with a bad cold, but when she went home after being baptized, she was well and her cold had left her.

My mother emigrated from England with her parents in 1845 on a sailing vessel known as "Palmyra". They were six weeks crossing the sea. She landed in St. Louis with her father, mother and three sisters. In 1846 a son was born to grandmother, but only lived six weeks and was buried in St. Louis. The father died in 1847, leaving the mother to support herself and four little girls. She worked at the Planter Hotel which was the largest hotel in St. Louis, and saved enough money to take them up the river to Council Bluffs, where she met and married John Crompton in 1850. A little girl was born to them there, who lived one year and buried there.

In the spring of 1853, they left Council Bluffs for Utah. Their journey across the plains was at last begun with one yoke of oxen and one of cows hitched to a covered wagon containing their few necessary valuables and provisions.

When they reached the Platte River in Nebraska a terrible storm arose. The lightning flashed, the thunder roared. It seemed as though the elements were no longer under control. The wind was so terrific that the wagons had to be chained to the ground. At twelve

o'clock that night my grandmother gave birth to a baby girl. Every sister was anxious to comfort this little mother, yet the care she and the baby should have had was out of the question on this terrible night. As a result she was very ill, so ill that she begged her husband to leave her by the wayside.

She had no nurse for the newborn babe, so milk from one of the cows was diluted and given to her. This seemed to poison the baby. For two months she was carried on a pillow and her life was despaired of. In September of that year, 1853, as they neared the valley, the mother's health improved and the baby was Aunt Emma R. Smith. She now lives in American Fork, Utah and has lived a life of service in the community.

In 1853 they arrived in Salt Lake City, living for a short time at Cottonwood, where another baby girl was born in 1856, and later they moved to Camp Floyd.

After the arrival of Johnson's Army they moved to American Fork, where my mother has since resided. They went though all the [blank]

Their first crop was barley, which was ground in a coffee mill to make bread. Their only sweets were beet and carrot molasses which they made themselves.

Mother spent most of her girlhood at Cottonwood with a sister Mary P. Erkson. She learned to spin and weave when but a girl and went from home to home doing this work, she also made straw hats.

She was married to my father William Walker Robinson Dec. 15, 1867. She was his plural wife.

They were married in the Endowment House, she was the mother of four girls and one son.

In the year 1876 father's first wife died and mother left her little to take care of the other family which consisted of two girls and five boys.

Mother had two children at that time, having buried her second. Two more were born to her. Although handicapped by loss of speech through deafness caused by illness when a small child, she

gleamed a remarkable spirit by her attendance at church and so great was her power of feeling that it seemed to more than balance her deficiencies. Her implicit faith was an example and inspiration to others. She was a loving mother and an industrious citizen passing thru all the hardships incident to pioneer life never faltering.

Being a lover of nature, she took great pleasure in everything that goes to make a home beautiful, so attractive were the flowers and shrubbery about her place that one could hardly pass by without stopping to enjoy their beauty. Their plants were always of the best and her joy in giving gained her many loyal friends. A prize was offered for the best-kept lawn and flower garden, and mother's and father's place took the prize.

Her oldest daughter, Sarah Ann Wrigley, died in Salt Lake City, November 13, 1925. Mother again showed her faith.

Mother was a good dancer and always enjoyed going to parties. Not being able to read she always found time to knit, crochet and do other fancy work.

Father died five and one-half years before Mother, she could never be induced to leave her home. She kept house until two weeks prior to her death.

She died suddenly March 16, 1929 at the age of 85, at the home of her son, Bishop Lot Robinson, in American Fork, Utah. She is survived by three children:

Mrs. Fanny Williams of Granger, Utah

Mr. Lot Robinson of American Fork, Utah

Mrs. Melinda Gough of Jerome, Idaho.

Also four sisters:

Mary Erekson, American Fork, Utah

Emma Smith of American fork, Utah

Fanny Brown of Manti, Utah

Elvira Steele, Idaho Falls, Idaho

She leaves a posterity of thirty one grandchildren and twenty seven great grand children.