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Biographical Sketch

of

Sarah Clegg Shelley

by June S. Wright, her daughter

Pioneer Year 1866

Sailed on the St. Mark

Captain Andrew Scott Company

Born: 21 Aug 1851, Sagarfold, Lancashire, England

Married: Stephen Shelley, 21 Feb 1870,

Endowment House at Salt Lake City

Sarah Clegg Shelley, daughter of Thomas and Susannah Redman Clegg, was born August 21, 1851 at Sagarfold, Lancashire, England. She was the third child of a family of four. All daughters, Mary Ann, Sara and Eliza.

Soon after the birth of Eliza her mother died at the early age of 26 years and 7 months.

This was a great trial to their once happy home, their oldest child being only six years old and Sarah only three years.

In his sorrow the father was forced to leave his little family to provide for their wants.

One year after the mother's death, sorrow again came into their home. Eliza their youngest child died January 14, 1855.

As soon as the older girls were old enough to work in the factory they did so and Sarah was left alone to do what her little hands could do in keeping house for her father and sisters. She was thus deprived of schooling which in the whole was but a few short months.

She became attached to home and home life which characteristic has remained with her and thru which she has become greatly endeared to family and friends. The family were impressed with the message brought to them by the missionaries and were converted to the truth. Sarah was baptized June 13, 1864, by Thomas Myers, and confirmed June 19, 1864 by Thomas Geenhalgh.

Two years later, June 1, 1866 they left England on board the ship St. Mark. Their people were so bitter toward them for joining the Latter Day Saints that they even went so far as to wish the ship that was carrying them away would sink.

While on the ship Mary, the oldest girl, was married to Bro. Ambrose Myers, a young man whose family had left the same town and, too, were coming to Utah for the Gospel's sake.

They crossed the plains in Captain Andrew Scott's Company. While at Green River, Ann, the second girl, who had been suffering with mountain fever, died in September 1866, and not being able to

get lumber to make a casket, she was wrapped in a bed tick and was buried by the side of the river.

They were four months on the way, arriving in Salt Lake City October 8, 1866. Mary, with her husband, went to Farmington to make their home, thence to Tooele and finally located in Ogden, Utah.

Two days after arriving in Salt Lake, Bro Clegg with his daughter Sarah, then 15 years old, came to American Fork, Oct. 10, 1866, where they permanently resided.

Soon after his arrival here, he met and was married to Mrs. Susannah Proctor, then a widow with whom he was well acquainted being raised together in England.

February 21, 1870, Sarah then between 18 and 19 years old, was married to Bro. Stephen Shelley in the Endowment House at Salt Lake City, by Daniel H. Wells.

Bro. Shelley was a young man who had emigrated with his family from England about 15 years before. To this union five children were born: Eliza, Jane, June, Amy and Stephen T.

About the year 1919, her husband's health began to fail and on August 11, 1922, her husband was called from her and she was left a widow. This was the first time the numbers in their happy home had been broken into, but one year after her husband's death, Jane the wife of Bro. John M. Thornton and the mother of 7 children was also called by death.

Her posterity numbers at the present time 5 children, 13 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

We, her children, feel our Mother has had a checkered life and although she has been called many times to taste of sorrow she has put her trust in the Lord and has filled her children with sympathy and love, and faith in their Heavenly Father.

We are happy that our Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother is here with us, and although her life has not been a public one she has surely been a queen in her own home.

We truly love her with a love
That we can ne'er express
But we hope to fill her life on earth
With joy and happiness.

That she may feel that thru it all
Her life has brought her joy
By children's kindness, and the love
Of each grand girl and boy.

That her last day may be her best
We, each one, humbly pray
That Father's choicest blessings
May crown each passing day.