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Biographical Sketch
of
Sinah Chipman Eldredge
by Anne C. Hoggard

Pioneer Year 1847

A. O. Smoot's Hundred

Born: 13 Sep 1831, Province of Canada North

Married: John Eldredge, 1849, Salt Lake City, Utah

Died: 27 Sep. 1895, American Fork, Utah

Sinah Chipman Eldredge, the second daughter and third child of Amanda Washburn and Stephen Chipman, was born in the Province of Canada North, September 13th, 1831. Here her parents owned a farm and were engaged in the farming industry. In 1837 they were converted to "Mormonism" through the missionary labors of Parley P. Pratt, John E. Page and others.

In the fall of 1837 they sold their possessions in Canada and with their family which consisted of Beulah, Washburn, Sinah and Henry, they moved into New York, remaining there near Oswego till the following spring.

From this point they moved westward joining the "Mormon" emigration at DeWitt, Carroll County, Mo. in the early part of October. They arrived just in time to be attacked by a ruthless mob, which a few days later succeeded in driving all the Saints from this place. The exiles sought protection in Far West, Caldwell County, Missouri, where they shared in all the grievous persecutions which the Saints there had to endure. Leaving Far West, they returned to DeWitt where they lived three years.

At this time the main body of Saints had gathered at Nauvoo and Sinah's parents sold their possessions in DeWitt and went eastward locating a little south of Nauvoo in Lee County, Iowa, just seven miles from Keokuk and five miles from Montrose at a place called Tanner's Settlement. Here Sinah enjoyed her first school days attending most of the time during the five years her parents stopped there.

While at this place, Sinah in company with her father and older sister, Beulah, received her endowments in the Nauvoo temple. They also attended together the funeral of Joseph and Hyrum Smith.

In the exodus of Nauvoo in 1846, Sinah and her parents, brothers and sisters moved with the main body of Saints to Winter Quarters, where they built a log cabin and remained all winter. Leaving Winter Quarters in the spring of 1847, they organized into companies on the Elkhorn River some twenty-five miles west and from here on they traveled westward in A. O. Smoot's Hundred arriving in Salt Lake, September, 1847.

En route to Salt Lake they were met on the summit of Big Mountain by John Eldredge, who had been sent out from Salt Lake to aid the immigrants. One of the hubs on Washburn's wagon had broken so John Eldredge loaded the provisions into his own wagon and thus greatly aided the Chipman family in completing their journey to Salt Lake.

This was their first meeting with John Eldredge, who was one of the original pioneers and who in about two years later became the husband of Sinah Chipman. They were married in about 1849 in the fort which surrounded Salt Lake.

They built their first log house just south of the spot where the state penitentiary now stands. Here they lived and farmed and John taught school until they moved to American Fork in about 1851.

In July 1850, John Eldredge, Ira Eldredge, Grandfather Eldredge, Arza and Barney Adams, and Stephen and Washburn Chipman came and surveyed the place which was later called American Fork. They took up many acres of land, setting apart a piece of land one-half mile square, dividing it into seven strips. Each surveyor was to own one of these strips upon which he was to build his home. John Eldredge built a two room log house on his property. In 1852 he was called on a four-year mission to Australia.

When the call came in 1853 to tear down their homes and build in the fort, Sinah's brother Washburn took down her two room log house and rebuilt it for her in the fort.

It occupied a place near the location where Alfred Dunkley built his home in later years. Sinah lived in the fort until her husband returned from his mission.

To her were born six children, Mary, John, Jedediah, Ann, Martha and Zina.

She was a thoughtful, patient, loving mother of a modes, unassuming, quiet make-up, yet many a pioneer woman knows of the valuable aid she rendered from time to time.

Sinah was an industrious home woman. She thoroughly understood and did all the different kinds of work which went to make up the life of a successful pioneer woman. She died in American Fork, September 27, 1895.