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Biographical Sketch

of

Prudence Bourne Dean

Wife of Samuel Dean

Read by June Shelley Wright

Native Pioneer 1854

Born 23 Apr 1854 in American Fork, Utah

Married 18 June 1871 in SLC Endowment House

Died 27 Nov 1932

Prudence Bourne Dean was born April 23, 1854, the first white child to be born in American Fork. She was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Johnson Bourne. At the time of her birth, the old fort wall was being built to protect the settlers from the Indians.

She grew to young womanhood attending the early schools and taking part in community activities. Since her youth, she was hard of hearing; consequently, was somewhat handicapped in participating in church organization. However, she always tried to do the best she could. She was so keenly interested in music that at one time (we are told) she journeyed by team to Salt Lake so as to be able to sing in the Tabernacle Choir with other singers of this city.

At the age of seventeen, she was married to Samuel Dean of American Fork. They were married June 18, 1871 in the Salt Lake City Endowment House. President Brigham Young bestowed a special honor on them by accompanying them through Endowment House. President Young had a special interest in Mrs. Dean inasmuch as her grandmother had been set apart by the Prophet Joseph Smith in Illinois for a special mid-wife service and was therefore well known in Utah. This couple lived for sixty-one happy years together - a record not easily surpassed. For years they enjoyed the distinction of being the couple wedded for the longest time in this city. For several years, Mrs. Dean was the oldest living woman having been born in American Fork. Eleven years ago, they celebrated their gold wedding anniversary at their home. Seventy-five relatives and friends were present to pay them honor.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Dean showed her love for beauty by gathering many beautiful objects such as: vases, pictures, mirrors, and all kinds of china ware. It is doubtful if another private collection in the state could compare with hers. She loved flowers and birds. Even during her sickness she saw that they were not neglected.

Prudence Dean died Nov. 27, 1932. She was the mother of ten children; five of whom are living, two daughters and three sons having preceded her in death. She was survived by her husband, five sons: Samuel Jr., Oscar, Lenard, and Owen Dean of American Fork and Elijah Dean of Garfield; a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Ladd of Lehi, a

foster-sister, Mrs. Mary E. Duncan of Salt Lake, forty-seven grandchildren and thirty-three great-grandchildren.