

DUP AF Book 2
Biographical Sketch
of
Mary Ann Child Parker

Written by Mary Ann Chipman Hansen

Her grand-daughter

Pioneer Year 1852

Born 5 Jul 1821 in Idle, Yorkshire, England

Married to William Parker 25 Dec 1847

Died 28 Jan 1892

In the little town of Idle, near Bradford, Yorkshire, England was born July 5, 1821, Mary Ann Child, daughter of William Child and Elizabeth Battersby. She was the second child in a family of ten. Her father, William Child, was born in the village of Idle near Bradford, Yorkshire, England, April 19, 1787, and died in the year 1848. He married Elizabeth Battersby who was born February 20, 1797 and died February 4, 1846.

At sixteen years her father, William Child, enlisted and became a soldier in the 52nd regiment of the British Army. He was wounded twice, once while in the Battle of Waterloo. His father bought his discharge when he was about thirty years of age. He was a quarryman by trade. He was a member of the Wesleyan Methodists until he heard the gospel in its fullness as taught by the Latter-Day-Saints. After hearing the gospel he obeyed it and was a member of the Church until his death.

The family of William Child were fairly well to do, enough so to make their home in England comfortable. Mary Ann and Sarah, her older sister, were the only girls and they, like all girls in their teens, were proud of their clothes. The style being very different than that of today, there was much material in them and of very good quality. Many of Mary Ann's clothes she brought to America with her and made them over for her babies. Very little is known of her girlhood days. We can only surmise that she had the opportunities of the girls she associated with.

She was baptized April 8, 1843 into the Latter- Day Saint Church and emigrated September 16, 1844. She was married to William Parker, [25 December] about 1847.

They were located with the Saints at Iowa from 1847 to 1851. It was here that their two oldest children, William Henry and Martha Alice were born. They came to Salt Lake City about 1852. Before they were located and while they were still living in a covered wagon her next son Thomas was born October, 9, 1852. Between the years 1852 and 1854 they came to American Fork; we have no record of the time only that the next son Franklin was born in American Fork, July 23, 1854. They made this town their permanent home and here their

other four children were born, making eight in all, five sons and three daughters.

She went through all the hardships that the Pioneers did in building up a new city and country.

Their home was built on the lot where Rulon Nichols' home now stands. They also owned the property on which the Alpine Stake Tabernacle and Tithing Office is located. Their home consisted of one log room. A dirt roof with weeds growing on it, when it rained it would become soaked and then would leak through, pans would be placed on the bed and floor to catch the water. They had a fireplace in one end of the room with an iron kettle to hang over it. This was the only way of cooking for several years. In the summer they often used a bowery in front of their house. Their furniture, at first, was mostly boxes. Her bed was made of boards with rawhide stretched across to hold the straw ticks and bedding. There were no screens in those days, and when they sat down to a meal they would get a branch from the tree to keep the flies off the table while they ate. She made the candles for their family use. Sage brush was used for wood, piling one corner to the ceiling to use during the evening, while some of the children were bringing it in others "tromped" it down so there would be enough to last. Later, when the boys were bigger, they went "out west" for cedar wood which they used for winter. They never had a clock until the children were grown.

They had their feet measured and their shoes made by the shoemaker. In order to make them last longer as soon as the weather would permit, the children were compelled to go barefoot until cold weather came again. The girls did this until they were big enough that they were ashamed for anyone to see them and would stoop down to cover their bare feet when anyone passed. When they had a stove they would use soot to blacken their shoes.

One time when she had no flour and her husband and boys were out on their farm working she took the flour sack and shook it, and had enough flour to make three pancakes and there were six to feed.

To help out the food supply, the children gleaned grain and as fruit was scarce ground cherries were gathered and dried. As one means of support they would cut and dry peaches to sell in the winter; peaches were drying during the entire season, nothing was allowed to go to waste.

She was an extra good sewer, she made men's shirts by hand, putting small pin tucks down the front, she did her own as well as for other people and would take anything they could spare for the pay.

She also knit the stockings for the entire family and when she had grandchildren she would knit stockings for them.

She was an excellent quilter; she would take quilts home to do, on account of her family duties it would sometimes take her as long as three weeks to complete one quilt. To keep it clean she would keep a cloth covered over it and when working on it would lay the cloth back while she quilted. She would let her girls quilt too, and from watching and helping their mother they learned to be very good quilters.

She went to meeting in her stocking feet to have one of her babies blessed.

When her oldest boys grew up they built two adobe rooms on the front of the log one, making it much more convenient for the family.

She was a great lover of flowers, having them blooming nine months of the year.

She was a well-built strong woman, very energetic and ambitious enjoying good health most of her life.

Her family all but one boy James, who died at the age of two, married and lived in American Fork.

A year or two before her death, when her health was failing, she went to live with her youngest daughter, Elizabeth, and remained there until her death January 28, 1892. She had reached the age of man; three score years and ten and had lived a good life, a hard worker and left a good family.

She has a posterity of eight children, namely William Henry, Martha Alice (Mrs. Ebenezer Hunter), Thomas Battersby, Franklin Maximillian, Mary Ann (Mrs. Tobias Serenus Boley), Lafayette, James, and Sarah Elizabeth (Mrs. William Henry Chipman), seventy grand-children, one hundred thirty-three great grand-children and twenty-one great great grandchildren.