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Biographical Sketch

of

Margaretta Lemon King

By Lillian King Brown, daughter

Pioneer Year 1847

Session – Green Company

Born in Cass County, Indiana, 4 Oct 1839

Married 18 Mar 1855 to Robert Edson King

Died 25 Jul 1922

Margaretta Lemon King was born in Cass County, Indiana, October 4, 1839, the fourth child of Catharine Mayer and William McClure Lemon. Her parents had been born and reared in Pennsylvania, Cumberland Co.

From the first Margaretta was a great joy to her father. Incidentally, at the age of seven, she him the measles. While convalescing from this sickness he asked his wife to bring him something to read. She was not aware that he knew of the tracts and pamphlets she had purchased from a couple of traveling missionaries or Mormon Elders. It startled her to hear him ask if she had any Mormon literature on hand. Very reluctantly she passed it to him, wondering whether or not he would be pleased. During several days he studied the doctrines set forth by the Latter Day Saints. His mind was unbiased and ready to receive new truths. As a result he became a sincere believer in Joseph Smith as a Prophet, Seer, and Revelator in a new Gospel Dispensation.

In the Fall of 1846 both Wm. McClure Lemon and his wife were baptized into the L. D. S. Church. William was thirty-eight years of age. They began at once to make preparation to gather with the Latter Day Saints in their colony at Winter Quarters. They stopped at Nauvoo on the their way but found that city almost deserted. Margaretta never forgot her visit to the Nauvoo Temple and the massive brass key with which the caretaker unlocked the door.

At Winter Quarters the Lemon family planted a garden and commenced to build a log cabin, but Brigham Young advised them to keep moving. He pointed out that they were better equipped for the journey than many of the others. They owned two wagons and two teams and were provided with several boxes of "hard-tack". Complying with Brother Brigham's council they joined the Session - Green Emigrant Company leaving their garden and log cabin for the benefit of later arrivals.

Little Margaretta was proud of her father's leadership and indeed the whole company had cause to be grateful. Often, his two teams and Bro. Session's, linked four abreast, would drive ahead breaking a path for the others.

Margaretta was eight years old when the family reached the Great Salt Lake Valley. Her mother was enfeebled and worn out by the journey. Picture little Margaretta carrying coals in the iron baking pan from the camp fire to the covered wagon to keep her mother warm.

As soon as possible the family moved from the wagon into their new cabin. It had dirt floor, no windowpanes, and a quilt for a door. But this was much better than living in a wagon and they rejoiced in their humble beginning.

Brother Lemon's daily associates were Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball. They reposed great confidence in his ability as a surveyor, and he helped plan and lay out the blocks of Salt Lake City and the surrounding territory.

The death of William McClure Lemon in the Spring of 1851 was greatly lamented by the people of Utah Territory. To his family it was a severe blow. Little Margaretta mourned his loss during many years. Yet she could not give way to sorrow and repining. There were three younger children to look after in the family and she was anxious to do her part well.

Oct. 4, 1851, on her twelfth birthday, Margaretta was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Her testimony was very precious to her and she was careful to keep it bright by good deeds and faithful service. At an early age she was set apart as a Relief Society Teacher, a labor of love, she magnified during forty years.

At the age of sixteen, March 18, 1855, Margaretta was married to Robert Edson King. The ceremony was performed by Pres. Brigham Young in his own office. In the Fall of 1856 the young couple were sealed for time and eternity in the Endowment House, Salt Lake City.

During the first few months of their married life they resided with Robert's parents, John Morris King and Sarah Ann Jewel King. Robert assisted his father in his labor as stonemason on the Salt Lake Temple. Their wages were drawn from the Tithing Store House. Handling this "tithing pay" was often an inconvenience. They

sometimes had too much of one commodity and not enough of another.

Feb. 1856 their first child was born in Salt Lake. In March they moved to American Fork, Utah County. Their home was a log cabin rented from Steven Mott. Aunt Melissa Mott endeared herself to the young mother by her gentle sweet ways and many acts of kindness.

Margaretta's second home in American Fork has historic significance. It was the first house to be built outside of the mud wall that protected the white settlers from the Indians.

Margaretta became the mother of ten children (two died in infancy). She and her husband were converted to the order of plural marriage as practiced by the Latter Day Saints. With Margaretta's consent her married two other wives, each of whom reared eight children. She was greatly beloved by these wives, lived in harmony with them, and they and their children called her "blessed". She believed with all her soul in the divinity of Celestial Marriage.

A glimpse into Margaretta's home reveals her a true pioneer. During many years her only stove was a bake-kettle or Dutch oven. Though she was justly proud of the Step-stove that came to take its place, she always declared that no sweeter bread could be made than that which she so many years baked in her "Dutch oven". Home lighting in that era consisted of tallow candles, which were made in the home. To obtain sweetening for food they boiled sugar beets and used the syrup.

To supply her family with stocking, etc. Margaretta washed and carded wool, spun it into yarn and knit socks, mittens, scarfs, and shawls. Every moment of her time was taken up with household cares.

For years this mother made hats for her children. First, the straw was gathered, next sorted for long, even stems, after which it was soaked and bleached. Then came the braiding and sewing. In one instance she used all her spare time during two weeks in making a hat for Eddie, her eldest child. The very first time Eddie wore it, the wind blew it from his head into the pigpen and the swine tore it to pieces.

Among sterling characteristics that endeared Margaretta King to her family and friends were unselfishness, industry, firmness in the right. She was spiritual minded and cultivated the gift of healing. This was a source of comfort to each and all of her children. She excelled in deeds of charity and was every mindful of the poor and needy.

Grandmother King & Auntie, as she was affectionately called, lived to the ripe age of eighty-three. She died July 25, 1922 an honored citizen and faithful Latter Day Saint.

At this writing (March 1937) her living descendants number 4 children, 28 grand-children, and thirty-six great grandchildren. One son, 4 grandsons, and 2 great grandsons have fulfilled missions.

CHILDREN

John Edson King

William King

Thaddous Constantine King

Mortimer King

Eva Margaretta King

Catharine King

Lillian King

Laura King

Martha King