

Sarah Shelley

Transcription: Judy Hansen

Sarah Shelley Conder Varney, daughter of James B. and Elizabeth Bray Shelley, was born in the Parish of Chaverly, Shropshire England. July 14th 1840. Being the youngest of the family of seven; five boys and two girls.

Her parents with their entire family except one daughter, Martha, embraced the Gospel and left England for the land of Zion in February, 1851, Sailing on the ship "Ellen Maria.": On April 6th, they landed in New Orleans.

April 13th, while sailing in a steamboat up the Mississippi River, her mother, in dipping a bucket of water was drawn in by the current and drowned. Which was a great sorrow to the family. Her mother was 51 years old.

They arrived Salt Lake Valley, Oct. 3rd, 1851, being nine months on their journey. In the same year, she, with her father's family, moved to American Fork, Utah, where she has since resided.

In a strange land and no mother was indeed a sad beginning for Sarah; she was 11 years old and the only girl in the family. But her cheerful disposition aided materially to the comfort of father and brothers in their loneliness until a stepmother, Sister Mary Bathgate entered their home.

In the year 1855 she entered into the Celestial order of marriage, with Edward Conder. To this union eleven children was born: Jane, Joseph, James, David, Alice, Ella, Ann, Eliza, George, Benjamin and Edward.

When 36 years of age she was left a widow with her 11 children. All of whom she has had the privilege of raising to man and womanhood, and is survived by all except their oldest daughter, Mrs. Jane Conder Dowden, who died two years after her father's death.

In 1906, she married Brother Jacob Varney, to whom she proved a comfort and blessing in his last days. Six months ago being again left a widow.

She was an assuming faithful Latter-day Saint. In the ward, which she lived, she was a faithful member and a teacher of the Relief Society. Often expressing in testimony her faith in the Gospel and desire to do the will of her Heavenly Father.

Her life has been a checkered one, but her loving cheerful disposition, which has so beautifully characterized her life, has helped her to bravely and cheerfully meet all that Father placed in her way.

She lived for others, cheered and comforted those in trouble. By lighting others burdens she has lifted her own. She was won the blessing of Heaven and the love and admiration of all who knew her. Her children have been ever kind and thoughtful of her, and since the accident to the time of her death, (April 14th, 1917) they never left her but were day and night by her bedside, anxious to do all that loving hands and hearts could do for her.

She leaves to mourn her loss, 10 children, 77 grandchildren, and 51 great-grandchildren, with numerous relatives, and friends. May Father bless and comfort them in this their hour of sorrow. May He help them to live each day as saints of God, which will insure them a joyous meeting with Father and Mother and loved ones gone before. May each be blessed to do their part in giving to mother the greatest desire of her heart, that of their family chain unbroken, and may He grant to each one here His spirit from above that we may live to bless and cheer, and banish ills, with love. His spirit from above Father comes, from earthly care released. Our lives may merit from his love, Eternal Lasting peace.

by, Sister M E Able

Written in love