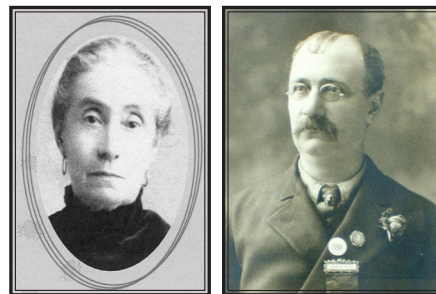


SARAH ANN WRIGHT

Born: England 1825

Age: 30

Martin Handcart Company



Sarah Ann and son, Thomas B. Wright

Sarah Ann Brett Wright joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when she was seventeen years old. In 1856, she traveled to America with her three children: James (age 11), Thomas Brett (4), and Emma Maria (18 months), and her mother, Sarah Upstone Brett Alcock (66). Brett is Sarah Ann's maiden name. The father of her son, James, is unknown, but when Sarah married Andrew Wright in 1849, James took the name of Wright and went by it for the rest of his life. Thomas and Emma were born to Sarah and Andrew Wright.

Andrew Wright left the family in 1854 or 1855 and Sarah had to work in a factory to support her three children. They were in very poor circumstances, and at one time the officials came and put them in the "Poor House." It was a terrible trial for Sarah and nearly broke her heart. However, they were only there for nine days because a good friend of the family, who was also a member of the Church, heard of her trouble and helped her out. The friend was Edward Chappell.

Sarah and her loved ones came to America with the help of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund. Sarah Ann's mother, Sarah Alcock, died of "flux" on May 31, 1856, aboard the ship *Horizon*. She was buried at sea. A fellow traveler, Thomas Normington, wrote about the night Sarah Alcock died: "I had to go on guard at 12 o'clock. Was like a drunken man and had to lay on anything for support. When I had spent about one hour and a half I heard a cry, "Oh, my mother is dead," which was true. She was 66 years of age and was buried the same morning."

Sarah and the three children arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, then took the train to Iowa City, arriving July 8, 1856. They left Iowa City at the end of July with their handcart.

In the beginning of the trek, it was hot and they were plagued with mosquitoes. Their shoes wore out and their feet became swollen and blistered. Later, Sarah had to protect her children from the cold. Snowstorms began on October 19 at the last crossing of the Platte River. They made round beds with their feet together in the center to try to keep them from freezing. Little Emma Maria had her feet frozen and she limped the rest of her life. James remembered living on roots and weeds. He also had a frightening experience one day. He fell asleep on the trail and was accidentally left behind. When he woke up, he was surrounded by wolves. He said he thought for a moment that they were angel eyes. Some men from the company came back and found him.

One day, Sarah could see that James was becoming ill. She got a little stick and began to run him around the campfire until he was perspiring freely. Then she rolled him in a blanket and he was well the next day. Many times they had to shovel snow to make their beds. At one time, their rations dropped to 4 ounces of meal a day for little cakes or hotcakes.

They arrived in the Valley on November 30, 1856, stayed with friends for a short while, and then were sent south to Payson, Utah, to help settle there. Sarah married Thomas Corbett. When he died, she married Samuel Phillips. They moved to Nephi where her son, James, helped to build the mud fort around the town. They lived on roots and weeds for a time. Sarah saw the seagulls eat the grasshoppers and save the crops. She delighted in telling the story. Sarah Ann was a faithful Latter-day Saint all of her life. She lived to be 69 years old.



Emma Maria Wright James Brigham Wright

Sources: Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files; familysearch.org; Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel website.