

Sarah was born 5 Aug 1813 in London Middlesex Yorkshire England. (Her husband's journal says that she was born in the St. Giles Parish, County of Kiddle-see, England)

She married Joseph Beecroft in the Parish Church in Caverly 14 Oct 1832 (records say Bradford England). They were the parents of two sons and two daughters who grew to adulthood and immigrated to America to join with the Saints in Utah. They had two young daughters, 6 and almost 4 who died of measles 3 days apart in 1848. They also had a stillborn child. She was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 4 Oct 1843 by Robert Parker, in Bradford. She operated a power loom in the factory where her daughters and Joseph worked. Her young son cared for the smaller children.

Sarah had a long bout with rheumatic fever that went on for many months during a period of time around 1850-1851. She was bedridden and had to be given a lot of care. There was a great deal of joy in the branch when she was finally able to attend a meeting, by way of a cab, that was paid for by friends so that she could be with the Saints again. She eventually regained her health.

In 1856, they received word that she had been chosen to immigrate to Utah along with Joseph and their 9 year old son, John. Their two older daughters were married but she was very saddened to discover that they would be unable to have their 19 year old son accompany them. They would all come to America at a later time.

After arriving in Iowa and being assigned a handcart with the Martin Handcart Company, they hadn't gone too many days on the trek until Joseph became ill with ague (a malaria type illness caused by mosquitoes). They tied their handcart to the back of a wagon for a few days and had him ride inside. They got left behind near Des Moines. Sarah cared for him for the next few months while he recovered and she took in washing and eventually got a place to take in boarders until Joseph recovered. It was while in Iowa that Joseph learned the typesetting trade.

By 1859, their other children had also joined them from England and they were given instructions to go onto Utah. They moved several times, trying to make a living after reaching Zion. Sarah had worked hard and lived a difficult life with a cheerful spirit. She died in Holden, Millard, Utah
3 Sep 1882.

By Yvonne Tarwater Jarvis

Joseph Beecroft Diaries 1844-1883

