

The Story of Sarah Sloat Burr

By: Heather Burr

Sarah Sloat Burr is my great, great, great grandmother. She was born January 6, 1821 in Leyden, New York. When Sarah was young she learned to cook, sew, and do many chores around her home. Sarah also helped with the family farm chores. She learned how to milk cows and make cheese. She learned when she was very young how to work hard.

Sarah fell deeply in love with a man named Charles Clark Bun and they got married. Sarah and Charles met some Mormon Missionaries in New York and decided to join the Mormon church. In 1844, the same year Joseph Smith the prophet of the Mormon church was killed, the Mormons decided to travel to Utah to get away from persecution and Sarah and Charles were encouraged to go.

Sarah and Charles had an 18 month old baby named Charles and a second baby on the way when they decided to sell all of their belongings and sail on the ship "Brooklyn" from New York around South America to San Francisco with the Mormons. The voyage took 6 months and was very difficult for Sarah. After 3 weeks at sea, Sarah had a second baby that she named John Atlantic Burr since he was born on the Atlantic Ocean. In another 3 weeks her first baby Charles died of dysentery. The baby Charles was wrapped in a blanket and lowered into the ocean to a watery grave. This was very heart breaking for Sarah and because she was so extremely ill from sea sickness and horrible food she could not watch her Baby be buried at sea. For most of the trip, Sara was sea sick and did not feel well. The sleeping area was very cramped and did not &Luta good and le food was not Very good either. Sarah was on the ship for 177 days.

When Sarah and Charles arrived in San Francisco, California they helped build a saw mill, dug for gold, bought a wagon and left with the Mormon Battalion to Utah. Sarah and Charles arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1848.

Sarah and Charles were asked to help settle some Southern settlements in Utah. They lived in Payson and Sarah's husband Charles operated a saw mill. Brigham Young then asked Sarah and Charles to move to Grass Valley to help settle the -valley. They both helped to build roads and canals and other things to help settle the valley. They made their living by farming, having dairy cows, and making and selling cheese. They also ran a saw mill. The town of Burrville was named after them.

During one summer, The whole family decided to go to Fish Lake. Sarah's daughter was taking care of Sarah's grandchildren. During their time at Fish Lake, a huge rainstorm began and soaked the sod roof of the big house they were staying in. Since the roof was so soaked, it fell in and Sarah's daughter and all of the children died. This might have been one of the hardest times for Sarah.

Sarah was a mother to 9 children. Her life was never easy. She died when she was 80 in 1910. Sarah was a very strong and kind woman. She had to go through a lot of heartaches in her life, but she still stood tall. Sarah was a very hardworking and talented pioneer woman. She made her own and her family's clothes, she grew her own food, and made homemade toys and rag dolls for all of her children to play with. She washed her clothes in a tub with a wash board using homemade soap she would make out of pork fat. Since they didn't have cars Sarah would travel by wagon, and horse and buggy. They didn't have electricity, so they would have to make their own candles to make light to see. I have learned a

lot from Sarah Sloat Burr and hope to become a strong woman like her someday.

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