

Sara Ann Rogerson 1843

By Macall Adams

Sarah Ann Rogerson was born in Preston England on Aug. 15, 1843. Sarah Ann was the youngest girl of 13 years old. All of their belongings that they could bring with them were put on these carts with their tents bedding and cooking utensils. The quilted petticoat that grandmother wore across the plains was made out of two layers of material quilted together in which were quilted things they would need after they got to Utah. Things such as thimbles, needles, thread, crochet hooks, breast pins, handkerchiefs, scarves, pieces of lace, etc. My mother had several keepsakes that were quilted in that petticoat.

The Martin Company was the last to start out on the trip to Utah, and they hadn't gone very far before the cold weather started and the snow began to fall. Before they got to Casper, Wyoming, they got in a blizzard, which lasted 3 days and 13 members of their party died in one night. That was when the snow blew under the side of the tent where grandma was sleeping and the next morning she couldn't get out of her bed — the snow had drifted in and had covered her braids of hair and it was frozen down. Her brother, Josiah, took his pocketknife and cut her hair off. They said she was really proud of her long hair, and cried when she had to leave it in the snow.

When president Brigham Young heard about two handcart companies starting out so late, he sent men with teams and wagons, food and bedding to meet them. It was the 28th of October when the first rescue party came to meet them. Their handcarts made it to Devil's Gate on the 9th of November and they rode in wagons from there on. They arrived in Salt Lake Valley on November 30, 1856 with some of them sick and others with frozen feet, legs and hands.

Mary, Sarah Ann's mother, suffered a lot of pain and would have to stay in bed. Two of her children had quarreled and wouldn't speak to each other. She was living with her youngest sons at that time, and she told them that she couldn't die until they would speak and be friends. It is said that on her 90th birthday, her children all went to see her and it made her very happy, and just as the last ones were leaving, she died. She and Grandmother are buried side by side in Parowan Cemetery in Iron County, Utah.

Grandmother stayed in Salt Lake the rest of the winter and came to Beaver where Josiah stayed and married and raised a family. The others came on to Parowan, where Grandmother married John Henry Ward Lister on the 3rd of Feb. 1859. She was 16 years old. She lived in Parowan the rest of her life. She was mother of 11 children — 5 boys and 6 girls. Sarah Ann Rogerson Lister died 11 January in 1884 at 41 years old.