

**A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF SARAH HEWLETT WILDE
WRITTEN BY HER GRANDDAUGHTER
MARGARET E. CARRUTH RHEAD**

Sarah Hewlett was born September 25, 1817, at Otterbourne, near Winchester, Hampshire, England, the only daughter of Andrew Hewlett and Sarah Alder.

She had three brothers: Thomas, Andrew and Henry. Henry died when a young man. Andrew was one of Queen Victoria's body guards and to attain this position he had to be over six feet tall. Thomas worked for the telegraph department of the London and Southwestern Railroad for twenty-seven years before his death.

Grandmother worked as a maid in the homes of wealthy people for seven years; four years at one place and three at another. She married Henry Brown Wilde and they both joined the church, grandmother being the only one of her family who did so.

The following children were born to them in England; Thomas Hewlett, Sarah, Henry and Emma, and with this little family they left England in 1851 for America. On March 28, 1851, while they were passing between the Islands of St. Cuba and St. Domingo, a daughter was born to them. The sailing vessel on which they were traveling was called the Ellen Maria, so they named the baby Ellen Maria Martha. They were nine weeks on the water at the end of which time they landed at New Orleans. They remained in the East until the summer of 1852, when they left for Utah, traveling in their own wagon with a team of oxen and bringing one cow.

On August 20th, near the Platte river, their six and a half year old son, Henry, fell from a tree and was killed. They buried him the next morning and then had to drive on and leave him alone on the plains. Grandmother has told me about it many times and said that of all the trials she ever passed through, that was the hardest of all. To leave that precious body there, buried in a grave she knew would be dug open by wild beasts, was almost more than she could bear. Our pioneers were certainly blessed by a kind and loving Heavenly Father or they never could have kept the faith and gone on the way they did.

They arrived in Salt Lake in September of 1852, and that fall they went to Provo for the winter. They returned in the spring of 1853 and settled in Sugar House, so named from the sugar mill that was built there. It was the first sugar mill built in Utah and grandfather helped to build it.

Grandfather had ten acres of land and his son Thomas and daughter Emma (my mother) herded cows where the town of Sugar House now stands. They walked from there to the Tabernacle block to meetings, over two and a half miles. There were no sidewalks and not very good roads, and grandmother made herself cloth shoes to walk in and carried her others to put on when she got there.

While at Sugar House they experienced all the hardships and privations of that time. They dug roots and gathered greens for food and were hungry many times. Here their youngest son, Joseph H. was born 21 August, 1853. During the move south they went to Spanish Fork, but came back to Sugar House in the fall, where they remained until October, 1859, when they moved to Coalville, Utah. Grandfather and William Smith came out during the summer and each built a log cabin before bringing their families. The Wilde cabin was on the site where the Coalville Co-op now stands and the Smith

cabin where the Summit Furniture and Mercantile Company store is located. There were only two other families here at that time but others soon came.

During the building of the railroad down Echo canyon, grandfather had a contract for a piece of work, and grandmother cooked for the men who were working for him.

Grandfather was the first bishop of Coalville, and grandmother kept the first ward records. She also taught the first school, which was held in her own home.

The Coalville Relief Society was organized by Stake President W. W. Cluff on the 9th of January, 1868 with Mary Ann Walton as president; Ann Cluff and Jessie Boyden, counselors; Sarah Cahoon, secretary and Jessie Boyden acting as treasurer. In 1869 President Walton resigned on account of ill health, and on January 8, 1869 Sarah Wilde was appointed president with Ann Cluff and Jessie Boyden as Counselors. On June 3, 1874 Ann Cluff resigned and was succeeded by Margaret Robinson, and in December, 1874, Jessie Boyden resigned and was succeeded by Eliza Rhead.

In 1872 grandfather and grandmother went back to England on a visit and during their absence Eliza acted as Relief Society president. They returned in 1873 and grandmother resumed the office of president, which position she held over a period of twenty years. During this period the first pound of sugar bought by the Society cost \$0.87; Tea \$4.00 and soap \$0.30.

In 1870 a millinery and dressmaking department was established, with Ann Cluff as superintendent. In 1873 she resigned and Eliza Rhead took her place. Then in 1877 was again in charge with grandmother assisting her. Grandmother did beautiful needlework and was noted for the perfect button holes she made while working at the millinery store.

Grandfather died on February 23, 1875, and from then on grandmother had to make her own living, not only for herself but for two granddaughters whom she raised. Her eyesight began to fail when she was about seventy-seven years of age and at the time of her death, at the age of eighty-six and ten months, she could scarcely see light. This was a sore affliction to her because of her love of needlework, reading, and her industrious habits.

On March 17, 1892 when the Coalville Relief Society was celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the first society by the Prophet Joseph 'Smith, it was resolved to seal up in a galvanized box, minutes of that meeting, together with financial reports, pictures and letters, to be kept intact for fifty years, and to be opened on the one hundredth anniversary of the first society. The box was kept by George Beard in the safe of the Coalville Co-op store. On March 17, 1942, at our annual day celebration the box was opened. In it was a letter to me from my grandmother. I was so thrilled when it was handed to me that I could have cried for joy. To think of her having written to me fifty years before and just receiving it made me feel as though she was right there with us.

In 1895 she went to live with her daughter, Emma Carruth, on the Carruth farm about two and a half miles north and west of Coalville, where she died in 1904. Her son-in-law, William Carruth, built a room on the south end of the farm house for her, where she could have her own things and where she could go if she wished, as she lived right in with the family.

Her early training in her homeland, England, and the hard times she passed through here taught her to be very frugal and saving and to make the most of what she

had. In memory I can still see around her coal house door; there wasn't even one little piece of coal or stick of wood lying around. When she undressed for the night every article of clothing had to be placed just so; her bureau drawers were never untidy, everything folded smoothly and in its exact place.

My grandmother was a perfect gentlewoman. She had a very sweet, even disposition and was kindly and gracious to everyone. I never heard her use a vulgar word or say an unkind thing of anyone.

For the Gospel's sake she left father, mother, brothers, relatives, friends and home. She experienced all the privations of pioneer life, buried her son on the plains and suffered mentally and physically, and through it all she never complained or regretted the course in life she had taken. Her faith in the gospel never wavered and was just as firm at the time of her death as it had been ever since she joined the church.

I honor her memory and am proud to be her granddaughter.

The story of the Wilde family coming to America. Henry came first and the mother started for Utah but died in Jackson Co., MO., on 9 May, 1851 and was buried there. Her husband passed away in England. She came to America with her son Henry and daughter, Mary Snelgrow. Mary Snelgrow was put out of her home when she joined the church, so she came to Utah. She lived much of the time with William Wilde and was sealed to Willet Harder. She passed away at the home of Thomas Wilde, and is buried in the Coalville Cemetery.

The mother Jane was baptized 25 June, 1852 (we had no record of her baptism in England). She married John Wilde, son of John Wilde and Sarah Andrews on 29 October, 1795. To this union four sons and four daughters were born.

Hannah-christened 28 May, 1797 Owslebury, Hants, England.

Sarah-born 15 December, 1799 in Owslebury, Hants, England.

John-born 8 August, 1802, in Owslebury, Hants, England.

Mary-born 9 December, 1804, in Owslebury, Hants, England.