

Sketch of Sarah Angeline Clarke

Sarah Angeline Clarke



Born 17 June 1861, Rhosllanerchrugog, North Wales

Blessed 1 Sept., 1861 by David M. Darus, Rhos., Wales

Baptized 6 July 1871 by Franklin Young at Newton

Confirmed 6 July 1871 by Thomas Back at Newton

Re-baptized 14 Aug., 1880 by Amos Clarke

Re-confirmed 22 Aug. 1880 by Jonas Beck

Secretary of Young Women's Assoc. in Newton, 1879

Endowed and married 28 Apr. 1881 to William

Frederick Rigby Jr., in the Endowment House, Salt Lake City.

Sealed by Daniel H. Wells

Served as President of Young Women's Assoc. being released 15 November 1885

Died 10 April 1919 at Newton

Buried 13 April 1919 in Newton Cemetery

Sarah Angeline Clarke, daughter of Amos and Ann Johnston Clarke, was born in Rhosllanerchrugog, North Wales, 17 June 1861. She was the fourth child and third daughter. Her parents left Wales with their five children, a boy and four girls, in April 1866 when Sarah was nearly five years of age. They were at sea for six weeks on the ship "John Bright", and the voyage was very rough. They landed in New York and then made their way toward Utah, traveling part way by railroad and part by wagon. After crossing the Missouri River they had to wait in Wyoming for two weeks for the teams to come to meet them, and to prepare for the journey. Some of the people slept in tents. Amos Clarke and his family had the opportunity of staying in an old building something like a big barn, for which they were very grateful as they had heavy rain storms. After these two weeks, they started on their journey westward.

There was a large company, 700 in all, crossing the plains. There were thirty wagons in each company. The wagons were drawn by oxen, however, the wagon of the Clarke family was drawn by horses. They had to cross the Platte River which was very wide and it took a whole day for the companies to cross it. They stopped to camp each night, in a circle fashion, made fires

and had supper. Then they had a short meeting of song, prayer, and some speaking, after which the young people enjoyed dancing.

It was a long and tedious journey and they were very glad when they reached Salt Lake, 11 September 1866, after traveling eight weeks. When they were nearing Utah some kind friends came out to meet them and brought them potatoes, which tasted very good, after being so long without them.

They lived in Salt Lake City for three years, during which time her oldest brother, Moses, died and another brother, Amos, was born.

About this time her father, Amos Clarke, received word that a blacksmith was needed in Newton so he went there to work at his trade. He also had a log house built. Sarah and her sister, Annie, accompanied him and cooked for him.

In the fall of 1869, John Godfrey and Franklin D. Young went by team to October Conference and they brought the rest of the Clarke family with them. So they began their life in Newton, enduring all the hardships incident to pioneering a new settlement.

Having no older brothers, Sarah and her sisters Annie, Elizabeth, and Mary helped their father, Amos Clarke, in all his work – milking cows, helping in the hay, going to the creek to help get willows to burn and any other work he had for them to do.

Sarah's younger brothers were Amos Richard, Lemuel George, Samuel, and David. She also had a sister, Eliza Josephine, who died at birth.

As a young girl Sarah went out to help different people in all their work, often washing on a board all day for 25¢ and ironing all day for the same. She also sewed, made hats and dresses, and men's pants. She helped with all the home sewing, too. She also made her father's garments which she continued doing almost to the time of his death.

Amos Clarke, her father, was a great lover of music and Sarah and her sisters spent a great deal of time singing with him. He also took them around to the different wards to help teach the songs for the Jubilees which they had at that time. Sarah had a lovely alto voice.