

HISTORY OF

CAROLINE FAROZINE SKEEN BUTLER

pioneer of

1852

written by

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CAROLINE FAROZINE SKEEN BUTLER.

Caroline Farozine Skeen was born 15 April 1812 in Sumner County, Tennessee. She was the daughter of Jessie Skeen and Kezia Taylor, being the seventh child of the family of ten children. On 3 January 1831, at the age of nineteen, she was married to John Lowe Butler. To them thirteen children were born, one being Keziah Jane Butler, who married Lemuel H. Redd, he being the Great Grandfather of Preston Lyman Redd.

One evening they were invited to a cottage meeting, given by two Mormon Elders. They felt that this was an answer to their prayers, for they were thirsting for some knowledge of Spiritual truth. The message of the Elders filled their hearts with joy and after the meeting, Caroline and John Butler both applied for baptism. This was what they had been looking for. From then on Caroline answered every call to to assist the Saints in all their trials and persecutions. She cast her lot with them in Illinois, Iowa and was a pioneer to Utah.

John Lowe Butler was very close to the Prophet and was a body-guard and close friend. During the building of the Nauvoo Temple, John was away from home most of the time, because Joseph Smith was constantly threatened with death and needed protection. Caroline did most of the work on the farm. She and her children did the tasks to keep the home and support the Saints.

The women of Nauvoo were asked to contribute their labor and dimes to the building of the Temple. A committee was formed to collect the donations. Caroline saved her pennies for this fund. One day, on finding two dead buffalo, she pulled the long hair from the manes. She took it home and washed it and carded and spun it into coarse yarn. She knitted eight pair of mittens. She gave these heavy mittens to the rock cutters. They were working in the cold of winter in order to complete the Temple. The women of Nauvoo donated the money which bought all the nails and the windows for the temple. This was during of great want and poverty, when there was scarcely enough to feed the children; yet they found the time and money to build a magnificent temple to the Lord.

When the Saints started west, John Lowe Butler stayed to help get the wagons repaired. He was a wheelright and blacksmith by trade and knew the help and repair needed to get the Saints on their way. By the time the Butler family was ready it was winter and they were soon in Indian country. Caroline made friends with the Indians. The Emmitt's company did not want to proceed into that unknown desert, during the winter cold and storm, so they stopped and built cabins for a stay in Indian territory. Some of the necessary food gave out. The flour and salt became scarce and the people lived mostly on meat. Caroline became very sick on this very meager diet. The old Indian chief gave the little girl, Keziah, a pan of flour and told her to make one biscuit a day, for her mother and she would get well. This she faithfully did and her mother recovered. Many times the Indians taught Caroline how to heal wounds by using the herbs available. They showed her many useful ideas which she used during her pioneer life.

In the Spring, Caroline tapped the maple trees for sugar, to make syrup. She spent much time boiling the precious fluids until she has a small trunk full of sugar to help feed the family. On their way west they met a wagon train and she traded the sugar for a sack of flour. Right away she made some bread and gave a piece to each little child. Adeline dropped hers in the soft soap barrel, in the back of the wagon. She was very hungry for bread, so she fished it out and ate it anyway.

On arriving in Utah, the Butler family settled in Spanish Fork, about 1852. John Lowe Butler surveyed the site and laid out the town into blocks. They lived in a small house there and Caroline set out to help the Saints get established in that rugged country. She was a good manager and they always had something to eat even though it was meager. She served often as a nurse and a doctor for those in need. At one time she used her buckskin needle to sew a bad cut on a neighbor's hand. She helped in the beginning of Spanish Fork and latter Panguitch and paragoonah.

Many years of unselfish giving of herself to her family and her friends and those who needed her, endeared to all who knew her. Most of her large family was reared during the time of privation, mostly in wilderness places. Being driven with the Saints from place to place, with none of the comforts of life.

She supported her husband during his association with the Prophet, Also during the time he was away on a mission to the Indians, when starvation seemed at their door. She always praised God for leading her to the Gospel. Her faith was strong, never wavering in her belief. Her posterity is numerous and they honor her name.

She died 4 August 1875 at Panguitch, Utah, and is buried in the Old Redd cemetery at Spanish Fork, beside her life's companion, John Lowe Butler.