

HISTORY - HISTORY

DUP PREVIEW PAGE

HISTORY OF

Caroline Fairzion Skeen Butler
Farazine

*and Drawings
Pre - Book
Filed 1752*

PIONEER OF UTAH

Written by

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STORY OF
CAROLINE FAROZINE SKREEN BUTLER
1812 - 1875

DUPLICATE PREVIEW PAGE

My Grandmother, father's mother, was born in Simpson County, Tennessee 15, April 1812. In February 1831 she married John Lowe Butler I who lived just over the line in Simpson County, Kentucky. On March 1, 1835 the Latter Day Saint Missionaries came to Simpson County the first time and preached the gospel in the home of Grandmother's uncle and at a school house. Grandmother was converted the same time as her husband and baptised the same day, 9, March 1835. There was a lot of opposition to the elders and they had a lot of difficulty. A branch was organized but soon abanded by the elders and the few saints struggled along for awhile.

About the 1st of April 1836 Grandmother left by team and wagon with her husband and three children. They made a three hundred mile trip to be with the saints in Missouri. They arrived at Clay County and moved again to Ray County and found the saints there rejoicing in the new covenant. Soon the saints there were so severely persecuted that they laid out a county and called it Caldwell County. Then the saints all moved there and called it Far West. Grandmother's husband John Lowe Butler I assisted in making this settle ment. They stayed there two winters and then moved to Davis County. The persecution continued on and got so terrific that Grandmother's husband had to go into hiding.

At this time Joseph Smith told Grandfather that he was to move at once, not even wait until the next day, so he rushed to tell his wife that they were to get off the ranch at once and get moving on the road that the vicious mob would be apt to kill them. So she was left along with the children as her husband had to go in hiding again. She asked an elderly neighbor, Brother Smoot and his wife to go with them as they had no children or team and wagon.

Grandmother immediately sent her oldest son, a little fellow, to get the horses from the field while she hurriedly loaded the most needed clothes, bedding and food in the wagon. The boy came into the farm yard with only one horse. He said he had looked everywhere and couldn't find it. Grandmother sent him back to look and search again for the mare. Meanwhile Brother Smoot had loaded his belongings so he and Grandmother decided to hook the one horse to the end of the wagon tongue and get the wagon moving a little and felt that would be safer.

The boy came back and said the mare was no place to be found, so Grandmother and her children went into the house to take a last look at the most comfortable homthey had since they left Kentucky. They decided to pray. I can just picture my Grandmother and her children kneeling in the room, right in the middle of the upheavel left from the rush of packing, as she told the Lord they were without a Father and they needed help and to please help them find the mare as they would feel more secure to have a better way to move.

When they had finished with "amens and sobs" and raised up their heads they heard the mare neigh at the gate. Oh, what a joy it was to have their prayers answered.

They started out moving along the road leaving the animals and chickens and much of their needed possessions which were later burned, but they were on their way thanking the Lord that their lives were saved.

The weather was severely cold for the women and children and when they stopped at a house to see if they could warm the children the people refused as they too were afraid to harbor the Mormons while so many wicked men were near. One place Brother Smoot helped himself to a dry stick of wood to make a fire to warm the children and the owner chastised him for taking the fuel.

Now, I, Olive Butler Smith would like to say that the experience of Grandmother finding the horse in answer to prayer was omitted in Grandfather's journal, but it was told to me by my father many times. I will now write the exact words which Grandfather wrote in his journal concerning more of Grandmother's moving out of Missouri.

"One day they were going along, and Sister Smoot was sitting in the front end of the wagon and had my daughter Kisiza in her lap and they had a horse in that would kick once in awhile, and he began to kick and struck Sister Smoot on the knees and my daughter on the eyebrow. They both screamed loudly and my wife went running back to see what was the matter. She found them both bleeding most fearfully. There was a woman came out of her house, for they happened to be passing by a house at this time, to see what was the matter. She soon saw and she run into the house and got her camphor bottle, some brown paper and a pan of warm water and brought it to them and helped them all she could, and she said she was right sorry to see the Mormons suffer so much and be drove about from place to place. They were close to the mouth of Shariton River and there were lots of saints camped there and my wife went and got some Elders to go and lay hands upon Sister Smoot and my daughter Kisiza. They got some better. The cork of the horse shoe was pretty sharp and the kick was a heavy one. On another day as they were going along they got so very cold they did not know what to do, the children were all crying with the cold. They went up to a house and asked the woman within if they might come in and warm. She said nothing. They asked her again; and she made no answer, so they said let us go in and warm. So in they went, and the man went off into the next room and never spoke to them at all, but they sat there and warmed themselves and children good, and started on their journey again, but it was a hard trial for women and children to pass through, the severity of the weather, and the hard heartedness of the people, but they will have to suffer for the ill treatment of the Saints, and indeed they are suffering all at this time. God will cause the prophecies of His servants to come to pass to the very letter; they need not think that they will escape for the Lord is just and He will punish those that have ill treated His children and shed the blood of His servants the Prophets.

Written 4, February 1957
Olive Butler Smith