

CHARITY LOWE BUTLER

Charity Lowe Butler was the mother of John Lowe Butler I. Charity was married to James Butler in Simpson County, Kentucky, and if I recall, it was the first marriage held in Simpson County, and was performed by the brides father, William Lowe, reputed to have been a very singular man, and one who felt that the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ was not on the earth.

Charity's brother, John Lowe, was like a justice of the peace in the Simpson County area, and was evidently held in high esteem. It was in his home that John Lowe Butler first heard the missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teach their doctrine, and where he had his beginnings in the Church.

James Butler was a frontiersman, a friend of Daniel Boone, and held Boone in such high regard that he took the steel straps from one of Boone's pack-saddles, and made them into fire tongs. They have been passed down from generation to generation, and are currently in my possession. James was evidently a blacksmith, and taught his sons the trade. However, due to John Lowe Butler's early rheumatic heart problems he spent more time in studying, and qualified himself to be a teacher. Later, John took up the trade.

Charity would have been born about 1780. Writing this from memory, and with no written records at hand I can only approximate. She had several children before John Lowe Butler was born in 1808, and had several children afterward. As I recall it was a large family, and many of them died near birth. The older children may have married and left the area, for we find in 1835 that John appears to be the eldest and one responsible for his mother and younger syblings, three brothers and a sister. We do not know when James, Charity's husband, died, but evidently previous to 1835.

James and Charity were evidently anxious to rear their family in the Methodist faith, which was evidently the faith of Charity's father, William. When their son, John, began to question the Methodist practice of baptism by sprinkling, and considered joining the Baptists, his father went to some extreme to get a Methodist minister to baptize John by immersion. However, when John's friends made fun of him for his being different, he was offended, and joined the Baptists.

When John and his wife, Caroline Farozine Skeen Butler, joined the Mormon Church in March, 1835, Charity chided her son, saying, "You were not satisfied with the Methodists, and you joined the Baptists; you were not satisfied with the Baptists, and so now you join the Mormons; now what will you do next?" However, a few weeks later, having heard the missionaries teach the gospel to the family, she was converted. When the missionaries left she wept, and stated that she knew what they were teaching was true. The missionaries returned, and Charity Lowe Butler and Charity Skeen, the sister of Caroline, were baptized.

In the spring of 1836 we find John and Caroline being joined by his mother, three younger brothers, and younger sister, as they move by ox team from Kentucky to Clay County, Missouri, to join the gathering of the Saints. By this time Charity would be about 56 years of age, and her family quite grown.

Apparently the sons, John Lowe, Edmund Ray, James Morgan, and Lorenzo Dow, looked after their mother, but I am sure she also looked after them. Lucy Ann, the younger daughter, married Reuben Allred, and was soon gone from home. Lorenzo Dow went to England on a mission during the Nauvoo period, and he was the youngest.

I think of the sacrifices that Charity must have made as they left Kentucky, were driven from Missouri, were driven from Illinois, and went west into the wilderness. She died on the western Iowa frontier about 1850, Pottawattomie Iowa. I would like to know more about this great, great grandmother!

Elder Ross E. Butler