

# HISTORY HISTORY

## PIONEER HISTORY TITLE PAGE

(Please submit a completed title page with each history submitted)

MAY 09 2000

1852 Garfield Company  
DATE ARRIVED AND COMPANY

NAME OF PIONEER Phoebe (Phebe) Malinda Butler Sevy  
(Complete name, including all married names of women)

BIRTH DATE & PLACE Dec. 16, 1837 Caldwell County, Missouri

DEATH DATE & PLACE August 14, 1892 Panguitch, Utah

SPOUSES (1) George Washington Sevy

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS John Lowe Butler Caroline Franzine Skeen  
FATHER MOTHER

WRITTEN BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY Gwen Frandsen  
ADDRESS Box 625 Panguitch, Utah 84759

CAMP NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CAMP HISTORIAN \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY NAME Garfield COMPANY HISTORIAN Larue Spencer  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Escalante, Utah 84726

SOURCES OF INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby give this history to the International Society Daughters of Utah Pioneers with the understanding that

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HISTORY

PHOEBE (PHEBE) MALINDA BUTLER SEVY

Phoebe (Phebe) Malinda Butler Sevy  
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On Feb. 3, 1831, John Lowe Butler was married to Caroline Franzine Skeen. One year later they accepted the gospel as taught by the Mormon Elders (March 9, 1835). John Lowe Butler, along with others, went into Illinois ahead of his family to make plans for a home. He rented a farm about ten miles from Quincy and planted a crop. As soon as the seed was in the ground he was called upon a mission to preach the gospel in Illinois, from which he did not return until January of 1840. Later they went to Nauvoo, where they built a home and lived for a short time. While there Mr. Butler was one of the bodyguards for the Prophet Joseph Smith. It was during his wanderings that their daughter Phoebe Melinda was born Dec. 16, 1837, in Caldwell County, Missouri.

In the spring of 1852 the Butler family started to cross the plains, their destination, the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. John Lowe was appointed blacksmith of the company. His family was fortunate, for although cholera was taking its toll not one of their number was left buried by the wayside. After arriving in the valley the Butler family went to Spanish Fork. Phoebe Melinda was 15 years old at this time. Soon Mr. Butler acquired some land, put in crops, and then went to Green River to work at his trade. The family suffered from loss of crops by the grasshoppers. They knew the want of bread, and were rationed to a half pound of flour per day per person.

On the fifth of January, 1854, Phoebe Melinda Butler was married to George Washington Sevy. They lived in Spanish Fork for a time and the hardships of building homes in a new country were many. Their house was a single log room with a fireplace. The cooking was done by hanging an iron kettle on a hook suspended from the fireplace. Phoebe said she had "as good a straw bed as anyone, except for the tick." She was very industrious and frugal, and it wasn't long until she had a garden, cow and chickens. Four of her children were born in Spanish Fork; Hannah Caroline, James William, Joseph and Hyrum.

Phoebe made many friends. She was a hard worker, assisting her husband in every call that was made of him. In 1861 they were called to Utah's Dixie, their destination Fort Harmony. Her daughter once said, "Mother would have preferred staying in the little home in Spanish Fork, but when her husband received his call from the authorities in Salt Lake that they must go. A few of their neighbors and friends went with them, including the Pace and Redd families." Phoebe helped in making the adobes that went into their new home, and was ever at her husband's side doing her part. They had a few sheep and she washed and carded and spun the wool, then wove it into cloth to clothe her family. Her husband made their shoes whenever possible. Being thrifty peoplea prosperity rewarded their efforts.

In 1871 George received another call, this time to take his family to Panguitch, where he presided as bishop for nine years. Phoebe became the official church hostess. They took three days to reach Panguitch Valley. Their first winter was very cold with lots of snow, poor roads and their provisions were very low. Wheat that had been saved for seed had to be used to sustain the settlers. They killed some of their cattle and finally some of their men went over to mountain to Parowan on horseback, returning with some flour.

Phoebe was a hard worker. She milked cows and made butter and cheese, and kept a beautiful home. Her son Tom once said, "She used to get up in the morning, warm a pan of milk, put bread in it, give each child a spoon and the children would eat the bread and milk for their breakfast, while she was out doing the morning chores."

A short time before leaving New Harmony, George had married a plural wife, Margaret Imlay, which was a great trial to Phoebe. However, she had a large family, was a counselor in the Relief Society and had other church duties. In the summer she ranched on Panguitch Creek about ten miles from town where her husband operated a sawmill. Whenever the older boys took a load of lumber to Pioche, Nevada to sell, Phoebe would send her cheese and butter to. The first she sent netted her \$400.00.

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One day while the family was living at the sawmill Phoebe's son James, who was 14 years old, was driving some horses and when he was crossing the bed of the creek, the hammer of a gun he was carrying caught on some willows and discharged. The bullet entered the calf of his leg. The family tried in vain to get a doctor and after six weeks of terrible suffering, the boy died in spite of all their efforts to save him.

In 1885, her husband George decided, after much consideration to go to Mexico, taking with him his plural wives. He now had a third wife. He wanted to take Phoebe and tried to get her to see how important it was to have her with him, but Phoebe reminded him that it would be necessary for someone to stay in Panguitch and look after their interest there. Since she was older and her children were beginning to marry and settle here, she wanted to remain near them, and said she had already helped to settle and colonize three different localities, and now she felt that she should be the one to keep up the properties they had in Panguitch. He could go to Mexico, then when the colony was finally set up and if he still needed her, she would come, or perhaps by that time he could return to her. So it was now Phoebe's responsibility with the help of her family, to carry on and take care of the property which consisted of a farm, livestock, cattle, horses and sheep, a ranch at Panguitch Lake, and also the care of the younger children.

In December of 1889, Phoebe's daughter Sarah Adeline, a lovely brown-eyed young woman of 18 died of meningitis. Phoebe lost four children earlier in infancy...George W., her second when he was eight months old, The twins Hyrum at eleven days and Joseph at four months, and Mary May, three years old. On April 12, 1892 a married daughter Georganna Cameron passed away following childbirth, leaving her husband and two little girls, and the new baby girl. Phoebe took the baby and cared for it until she herself became very ill, passing away in just a few days. During her illness the baby became ill too and died, so the family had one service for the two of them. A beloved mother, grandmother and community friend went to her final rest.

Phoebe was the mother of fourteen children. At the time of her death on August 14, 1892, all of her living children were married except her youngest daughter Pearl, who was thirteen years old. Pearl later went to Mexico to be with her father. Phoebe is remembered by the helping hand she offered to people in need, not only her own family but others who knocked at her door.



George W. Sevy and wife, Phoebe.

Panguitch, Garfield Co., Utah,  
August 22, 1892

Editor Woman's Exponent,

Dear Sister:

It is with sad feelings that we announce the death of our beloved sister and co-laborer, Phebe Malinda Sevy, daughter of John L. and Caroline F. Skeen Butler.

Deceased was born Dec. 16, 1837, in Caldwell Co., Mo. She was baptized in 1846 by her father and Dec. 5, 1854, was united in Marriage to George W. Sevy, in Spanish Fork.

Sister Sevy, - although not an aged woman, not having filled up the allotted time, - passed through many trying scenes. She was the mother of fourteen children, seven of whom preceded her to the grave.

She had been quite poorly in health for several weeks; and on the 14th, after two days intense suffering with cholera marbus, quietly passed away, surrounded by all her living children except John L., her eldest son now on a mission in Tennessee. One sister and many friends were also present. Two sisters arrived in time for the funeral.

The occasion was made more solemn by the death, a few hours later, of an infant granddaughter which Sister Sevy was raising for a deceased daughter.

Both funerals took place at 10 A. M. the 16th at the Meeting House. The service was conducted by Bishop Allen Miller; the speakers being, - M. M. Steele, Patriarch Joseph L. Heywood and Pres. Crosby.

Sister Sevy, having been born at an early day in the Church, remembered many of the trials incident to those days. She was one of the first settlers in southern Utah, and in connection with her husband shared the trials and hardships endured by those who settled this part of the country.

In fact, we can hardly think of anything in the line of woman's trials that she has not tasted, and has proven herself worthy. She has been Counselor in the Relief Society of this Ward since its first organization, twenty years ago. Was very charitable and was noted especially for her hospitality.

She leaves a husband (who is now in Mexico), seven children, sixteen grandchildren, two brothers, five sisters and a host of friends to mourn her loss.

RHOANA HENRIE      President

MARY B. HEYWOOD    Counselor

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