

1852

SEP 6 1997

## HISTORY HISTORY

T I T L E   P A G E

PIONEER NAME PHOEBE MALINDA BUTLER SEVY  
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE December 16, 1837 Caldwell County, Missouri  
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE August, 14, 1892 Panguitch, Utah  
 FATHER John Loew Butler  
 MOTHER Caroline Franzine Skeen  
 WHO MARRIED AND DATE George Washington Sevy Le January, 5 1854  
 YEAR ARRIVED IN UTAH 1852  
 NAME OF COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_  
 WHO WROTE HISTORY AND DATE Merle Proctor Stowell 1995  
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 SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND PAGE NUMBERS:  
Proctor Family records

HISTORY OF PHOEBE MALINDA BUTLER SEVY  
GIVEN BY GRANDDAUGHTER MERLE STOWELL AT DUP

A few months ago, a letter was found among Fay Lynn's treasures written by Ida Chidester. She tells of when Panguitch was divided into two wards...the Upper and the Lower. Hyrum Davis, Bishop of the Upper Ward and George W. Sevy, Bishop of the Lower Ward. In her letter she mentions that the two Bishops took their younger wives and moved to Mexico to avoid being picked up by the authorities because they were practicing polygamy. She said Phoebe Sevy only lived a couple of months and that she died of a broken heart. She could have died of a broken heart, but her death was seven years later.

This caused me a great deal of anxiety and provoking thoughts...because of the many stories my mother related and also the histories I had read or written.

When the opportunity arose to give a history in D.U.P. I decided to give a history of my Grandmother, Phoebe Malinda Butler Sevy. Paying a tribute to her for the great woman she was. A great deal has been written about my Grandfather George W. Sevy, and as it has been said, "Behind every great man is a great woman." To me, Grandma Phoebe was a very courageous, wise, and friendly, sharing and giving sister.

The early settlers of Spanish Fork were not sure they could trust the seemingly friendly Indians, hence during the early part of 1854, 19 families finished building the fort.

Among the families that finished the Fort and lived there the first years was the John L. Butler family which included his beautiful daughters and George W. Sevy, a tall, handsome man that joined the Saints after being abandoned by his associates, the gold seekers going to California.

The evenings were spent attending dances to the music of the violin and harmonica. They danced the schottische, Virginia reel and quadrill. George W. Sevy fell in love with one of John Lowe Butler's daughter, Phoebe Malinda, and chose her to be his bride. They were married Dec. 5, 1854. The first year they lived within the walls of the Fort.

In 1855 George W. Sevy, with his wife Phoebe by his side, built their first home in Spanish Fork, a one room cabin with a large fire place, where cooking was done on the hearth in a Dutch oven, frying pan and a kettle suspended by a hook over the fire.

The first fourteen years of Phoebe's life were very happy ones. She was very industrious and frugal. She soon had a garden, cow, and chickens. Phoebe said she had as good a straw bed as any one except for the tick.

While living in Spanish Fork, four children were born to this happy couple. Phoebe and George were surrounded by relatives and friends. They found a great deal of happiness in the small community...the friendships they made in Spanish Fork continued throughout their lives.

A story is told by a William Jex, a pioneer who moved on the opposite side of the river next to the Sevys. He said "If it hadn't been for George & his wife Phoebe his family would have starved."

In 1861, the Sevys, Paces, and Redds received an official call from Brigham Young to move to Utah's Dixie. They were asked to leave their homes and lands in Spanish Fork and go South to strengthen the settlement in New Harmony. Here they lived in a tent until they could once again build a log cabin. Phoebe helped in making the adobe for the house. It had a dirt roof, dirt floor, a quilt hung for the door and home spun muslin took the place of window glass.

It was not long until once again Phoebe had a garden, cow, chickens, and also sheep. She washed, carded and spun the wool, so she could weave it into cloth to clothe her family.

In 1865 George traveled to the towns of Pioche, Patison's mining camp and Ely, Nevada with produce raised from the garden, the farm and also her butter and cheese. At the mining camp he met Mr. Patison, who established a mercantile business in that locality. He induced George to set up a store in New Harmony, with the understanding that he would furnish the store items and take livestock and produce for pay. George accepted the offer and it is said it was the first store in that locality. This was an opportunity for the people to exchange their produce for merchandise, which was badly needed.

In 1868, George married a plural wife, Margaret Imlay, which was just three years before leaving New Harmony. This second marriage was quite a trial in Phoebe's life. However, she kept very busy with her large family.

In 18<sup>74</sup> George once again received an official call from Brigham Young to take his two families and others to re-settle Panguitch. The following announcement was printed in the Deseret News "All wishing to go to Panguitch to re-settle meet me at Red Creek (now Paragonah) March 14, 1871."

The first winter at Panguitch was very cold, a lot of snow, and provisions were very low. Wheat that was to be used for seed had to be used as food to sustain the settlers. Phoebe cooked the wheat so that none would be wasted. Mary Henrie, a granddaughter, said that Grandma had a small dipper from which she would give each person a dipper full of wheat. That was their ration for the day.

It was at this time the quilt walk took place. Seven men left Panguitch to go to Parowan to try to get flour and food for their starving families. They had two yoke of oxen and a light wagon, but they had to abandon both at the head of Bear Valley and proceed on foot. The only progress that could be made was to lay a quilt down and walk to the end of it, then lay another down, walk to the end of it, and in this way they finally reached Parowan. When spring came and the people were able to obtain flour, the children laughed and cried for joy to be privileged to eat real bread.

Phoebe's husband George presided as Bishop of Panguitch for nine years. Phoebe became the official hostess for the church in Panguitch as well as a counselor in the Relief Society and other church duties.

In 1885 George, her husband, after much consideration decided to go to Mexico, taking with him his plural wives. He now had a third wife. He wanted Phoebe to go with him and tried to make her see how important it was to have her by his side, but Phoebe reminded him that it would be necessary for some one to stay in Panguitch to take care of their property. Since she was older and her children were beginning to marry and settle in Panguitch she wanted to remain near them. She reminded George that she had already helped to settle and colonize three different localities and that she should be the one to remain in Panguitch. He could go to Mexico, then when the colony was set up, if he still needed her, she would go, or perhaps by that time he would be able to return to her.

Now it was Phoebe's responsibility, with the help of her family, to carry on and take care of the property which consisted of a farm, cattle, horses, and sheep in Panguitch, and a ranch and saw mill at Pangitch Lake. She was a hard worker. In the summer she ranched on Panguitch Creek, about 10 miles from town and the boys operated the saw mill.

Whenever the older boys took a load of lumber to Pioche, Nevada, Phoebe would also send her cheese and butter to sell. For the first she sent, she received \$400.00. She now said she could have a feather bed, which she had long dreamed of. In the beginning she had a straw bed with no tick, now she could have a feather bed with a good tick, for they were prospering.

Phoebe had fourteen children...she lost three babies, one three years old, and one fourteen years old. At the time George went to Mexico two of the older sons and two of the older daughters were married. Another daughter married the year he left, leaving her with one son, age eighteen, who married a year later, and three daughters, age thirteen, eleven and seven.

The story is told that Grandma would heat a pan of milk with toast, set it on a stool, giving each child a spoon and then go do



her morning chores.

*Martha*  
Merle's mother told of how she and her older sister Addie would milk forty cows each morning and night. They would start at sun up and finish about ten and then at three p.m. start gathering the herd for the night milking. I am sure this was just in the summer time. They had 100 pans to set the milk in. The cream was used to make butter and the milk to make cheese.

Granddaughter Mary Henrie said the older children would always go to their mother for advice and wisdom because of the faith they had in her.

A Mr. Topham told of finding Phoebe's daughters Martha and Addie stuck on top of Bear Valley. They were taking a load of butter and cheese to Beaver. He had helped them and told how courageous he felt they were, for two young girls probably fourteen or sixteen years old.

In 1889, just four years after George went to Mexico, Phoebe's daughter Addie died of meningitis. 1890 my mother Martha married, leaving Pearl the only child at home. Pearl was only thirteen at the time of her mothers death. She later went to Mexico to be with her father.

April 12, 1892, a married daughter Georganna died following childbirth...leaving her husband with two little girls and the baby. Phoebe took the baby and cared for it until she herself became ill and passed away in just a few days. The baby became ill and died also. The family had services for the two of them together. A beloved mother, grandmother, and community friend went to her final rest.

Phoebe is remembered for the helping hand she offered to many, many people in need. Not only her own family, but others who knocked at her door.