

Samantha Sessions Smith

By

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My maternal grandmother, Samantha Sessions who married David Howe Smith, was born as the ninth of eleven children in Bountiful, Utah to Perrigrine and Fanny Emorett Loveland Sessions on February 9, 1874. Unfortunately, we don't have much information about her childhood, but we do know that Samantha was raised in a polygamous home with Lucina Call Sessions, who was the first of seven wives of our great grandfather Perrigrine, and Lucina was also Emorett's Aunt. The house Perrigrine provided for them was a three-story building with thirty-six rooms, and also served as the only hotel between Ogden and Salt Lake. In addition, it served as post office, dance hall and Pony Express stop, making it an outstanding building for its day. The home was built of adobe and red brick and still stands, painted white and divided into four apartments. It was probably a good experience to grow up in a community where your parents were considered to be the pioneer founders of the area. The town was first known as "Sessions Settlement", only later to be named Bountiful.

Samantha's Involvement in Education

Samantha would have had a very good exposure to formal education, partly because of her Grandmother Patty Sessions, a name that may be familiar to many of you as the "Mormon Midwife" who delivered some 3,997 babies in New England, crossing the plains in covered wagons, and later in Utah – a person I am pleased to have as my Great Great Grandmother. It was Patty who in 1884 paid for the construction and operation of the Patty Sessions Academy in "Sessions Settlement" or Bountiful. She was reasonably affluent and developed the academy for the schooling of her grandchildren and the children of the poor, who would pay no tuition. Samantha would have been nine years old when this facility was dedicated. This legacy may have contributed to Samantha becoming a schoolteacher. She received her certificate for the grammar level from the Davis County District Schools. She would have been about 20 years old. She taught mostly in Bountiful for many years in the elementary grades, and was used to having several grades in one classroom. Grandma Samantha had prepared herself at an early age to be financially self-supporting and she continued her work in the schools while she lived in Bountiful and did not teach after moving to Logan.



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Science
 Monday - 1st hour and 1/2
 Tuesday - 2nd hour
 Wednesday - 3rd hour
 Thursday - 4th hour
 Friday - 5th hour
 Saturday - 6th hour
 Sunday - 7th hour

Quizzes
 History - 1st hour
 Math - 2nd hour
 English - 3rd hour
 Science - 4th hour
 Social Studies - 5th hour
 Physical Education - 6th hour
 Music - 7th hour
 Art - 8th hour
 Foreign Languages - 9th hour
 Latin - 10th hour
 Greek - 11th hour
 Hebrew - 12th hour
 Spanish - 13th hour
 French - 14th hour
 German - 15th hour
 Italian - 16th hour
 Japanese - 17th hour
 Chinese - 18th hour
 Russian - 19th hour
 Polish - 20th hour
 Czech - 21st hour
 Slovak - 22nd hour
 Hungarian - 23rd hour
 Romanian - 24th hour
 Bulgarian - 25th hour
 Serbian - 26th hour
 Croatian - 27th hour
 Slovenian - 28th hour
 Macedonian - 29th hour
 Albanian - 30th hour
 Greek - 31st hour
 Turkish - 32nd hour
 Persian - 33rd hour
 Arabic - 34th hour
 Hebrew - 35th hour
 Yiddish - 36th hour
 Russian - 37th hour
 Polish - 38th hour
 Czech - 39th hour
 Slovak - 40th hour
 Hungarian - 41st hour
 Romanian - 42nd hour
 Bulgarian - 43rd hour
 Serbian - 44th hour
 Croatian - 45th hour
 Slovenian - 46th hour
 Macedonian - 47th hour
 Albanian - 48th hour
 Greek - 49th hour
 Turkish - 50th hour
 Persian - 51st hour
 Arabic - 52nd hour
 Hebrew - 53rd hour
 Yiddish - 54th hour
 Russian - 55th hour
 Polish - 56th hour
 Czech - 57th hour
 Slovak - 58th hour
 Hungarian - 59th hour
 Romanian - 60th hour
 Bulgarian - 61st hour
 Serbian - 62nd hour
 Croatian - 63rd hour
 Slovenian - 64th hour
 Macedonian - 65th hour
 Albanian - 66th hour
 Greek - 67th hour
 Turkish - 68th hour
 Persian - 69th hour
 Arabic - 70th hour
 Hebrew - 71st hour
 Yiddish - 72nd hour
 Russian - 73rd hour
 Polish - 74th hour
 Czech - 75th hour
 Slovak - 76th hour
 Hungarian - 77th hour
 Romanian - 78th hour
 Bulgarian - 79th hour
 Serbian - 80th hour
 Croatian - 81st hour
 Slovenian - 82nd hour
 Macedonian - 83rd hour
 Albanian - 84th hour
 Greek - 85th hour
 Turkish - 86th hour
 Persian - 87th hour
 Arabic - 88th hour
 Hebrew - 89th hour
 Yiddish - 90th hour
 Russian - 91st hour
 Polish - 92nd hour
 Czech - 93rd hour
 Slovak - 94th hour
 Hungarian - 95th hour
 Romanian - 96th hour
 Bulgarian - 97th hour
 Serbian - 98th hour
 Croatian - 99th hour
 Slovenian - 100th hour

SAMANTHA SESSIONS - TEACHER



Marriage in Logan

I do not have information about the meeting and courtship of David Howe Smith and Samantha Sessions. Both were seasoned young adults before they married on January 4, 1905 in the Logan Temple. They were married by Thomas Morgan, an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. It is thought that he was one of the faithful counselors to Bishop Thomas X Smith, David's father. He would have been known and loved by the family. At the time of their marriage, David would have been 28 years old, and Samantha almost 31. After the ceremony, the young couple returned to Bountiful where they established their home.

The following Timeline of Samantha's young life includes various entries pertaining to Samantha, their children and parents:

Timeline on the early/young life of Samantha Sessions

Born on February 9, 1874 to Fanny Emorett/ Emmorett and Perrigrine Sessions. (First generation pioneers, her father was the first to settle Bountiful, first called Sessions Settlement, then Sessionsville.

She was ninth of eleven children. She had five brothers and five sisters. She was one of 54 children of her polygamous father who had eight wives.

She likely attended Patty Sessions Academy that her grandmother opened in 1884. She would have been 10 years old then.

Samantha became educated and received her teaching certificate from the University of Utah after two years. (She accomplished this by the time she was 20, perhaps even sooner.)

Taught elementary school in Utah, including Helper and Bountiful, total time not known, but more than 11 years. She had prepared herself to be independent and self-supporting.

She had a number of talents, including being artistic (she did oil painting of flowers and did some wood burning) & she wrote poetry. She was quite intelligent, being skilled in human relations and resource management. She was a competent, hard worker, and had a flair for fashion.

Patriarchal Blessing given on December 12, 1897, in Bountiful

Marriage to David Howe Smith in the Logan Temple on January 4, 1905.

First child born on November 27, 1905. She was a strict mother – the main disciplinarian, as David was away a lot as a salesman. They had a total of seven children (14 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren):

David Clyde,	born November 27, 1905	
Chester Ronald,	December 4, 1907	
Lucile,	October 16, 1909	
Raymond	January 19, 1912	Died March 20, 1912
Robert Sessions	February 22, 1913	Died March 29, 1914
Horace Sessions	June 12, 1916	
Charles Reed	May 19, 1919	

Samantha died one month short of 67, on January 24, 1941

Impressions and Memories of Samantha by her Children

Prior to marriage and in her early married years she took pride in being stylish and well-dressed with her friends. She was active, vigorous, competent and a hard worker until her late years. She was a busy person and there was little time for hobbies, but she was interested in art, especially oil painting of flowers of which she finished several very nice pictures. Early on she did considerable painting of china and worked with wood burning. She was an enthusiastic flower, small fruit and vegetable gardener. Her brother was a Rhode Island Red fancier and she became interested in raising them also. This became a productive sideline business for her with the children's help. (I think my Father must have caught the "bug" here, because he had my sister & I helping him raise Broiler/ small chickens also, to sell to friends & neighbors and to keep our freezer full!) Another hobby became the hosting of many people from Salt Lake City, especially on weekends, who came in the season for cherries and peaches. Since the visitors were mostly friends and repeaters and shaded lawn and refreshments were provided, this was a social season.

The oldest son Clyde remembered his mother Samantha was very interested in her brothers and sisters of the several families of her father Perrigrine. While living in Bountiful and with a large house, she looked forward to April and October General Conferences of the LDS Church when relatives

might come to visit. Only one brother and family lived close by. At Conference time the house was overflowing and Samantha was kept busy with housing and feeding problems of adults and children. She was always interested in news of family and friends and was an information center in this regard. She also liked to reminisce and talk about the early days. She was very defensive of family life as she remembered it, including the practice of polygamy and its acceptability and operation in her family.

Since Samantha & David had about four acres of sweet cherries and two acres of peaches on their town property, fruit was sold in season and she was responsible for supervising the picking and shipping when David was away. This was during the period 1905-1922 when the family resided in Bountiful. Samantha would have been between 31 to 48 years old during that time. David was a salesman and traveled considerably then. (During 1922 – 1925 he was also involved in the lease and operation of farms away from the family home center, but that would have been after the move to Logan.)

Moving to a Strange New Town

Samantha loved Bountiful, the home of the whole Sessions family. The thought of moving away from all the family to a new town was hard for her, but she is the one who suggested it, and they packed up and made the move to Logan in September of 1922. She was determined to see that her children got a college education, and Logan was the home of Utah State Agricultural College, now known as Utah State University. It was also the family home of David's youth, and the Smiths must have welcomed them with open arms! She achieved her goal for her children to be college educated, with the exception of her daughter, Lucille who attended two years and then fell in love, married, and moved away before graduating. But more about that later! One son received a Ph.D. Degree, two earned the M.D. and one completed the M.S. requirements. Samantha was especially close to her only daughter who did not complete the work for a 4-year degree.

1922 was the year that son Clyde started college, but the youngest son Reed would have been just three. While Logan was the Smith family's hometown and David knew many people there, it was a strange new place for Samantha. David had several sisters with families there. During her 19 years in Logan, Samantha and the family lived in three different houses. During much of that time she kept student boarders. This came about due to financial reverses in Bountiful and the family needs. It was largely due to

her efforts that four sons finished college. Clyde also recalls that he doubts that she was entirely happy about leaving her hometown to live in Logan.

Now in Logan in a rather large home, the Smiths would take in 4-6 college student boarders at a time to supplement their family's income. They each paid \$25.00 per month for their room and board. One of the boarders was Ammon Hansen and it wasn't long before he began courting Lucille. Her Father may have been fairly strong in his verbal opposition to the marriage, as Ammon and his family were not members of the Church. But Samantha was always close to Lucille, and she felt her support here, even though marrying Ammon would mean moving to his farm in Idaho. An important part of the problem was that Ammon and the Hansen family were not then members of the Church and our Smith grandparents were worried about the immediate and long-term spiritual and family consequences for their only daughter. I am happy to report that Ammon did finally join the Church and became a strong member, bringing great joy to Lucille and their four children who had been raised in the Church.

While raised in the LDS Church, Samantha was not as strict and orthodox as David. However, she worked in the Relief Society and in other ways supported the Church program. The children attended Sunday School and "Junior Activities" (Primary) at her urging. She was an active member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. She was strict as a mother but inclined to be indulgent of her husband and was generally cooperative. She was neighborly, helpful and solicitous when needed. Since David was away very frequently, the responsibilities of family and child decisions often rested on her. Both parents were protective of their children and supportive and encouraging.

Her youngest child, Reed, remembers a few things about his Mother's kitchen. She had two stainless steel bowls that were used for making bread. He says his Mother took in boarders, and that meant another four or five men for meals. This meant baking a lot of bread. She also raised chickens (special blue ribbon prize-winning Rhode Island Reds) and that was one of their principle sources of protein. Other meat was purchased from the store. The main supply of fruit and vegetables all came from her garden, berry patch and fruit orchard – she was an avid gardener, and because David's work often took him out of town, Samantha and the children did most of the work in the gardens.

Reed continued, we had a big wood-burning cook stove in this kitchen. Though wood stoves lack the precise heat controls of modern stoves, you could regulate cooking temperatures on them. Heat output depends upon the amount and kind of wood burned and how much air mixes with the fire. More fuel generated more heat and you needed an open draft to get started, and then less draft to hold the heat.

Wood burns differently. In general, pine burns quickly but doesn't give off much heat. Tamarack makes a hot fire that burns at a moderate rate. Birch and oak burn slowly, producing strong heat. We used wood from our fruit trees, and sometimes coal, in our stove Reed reflected.

The stove was also used to heat flat irons, with which the ironing was done. Bath water was heated on the stove. Also water was heated for doing the laundry. Mother (Samantha) used a washboard to do the laundry until washing machines were invented. The teakettle was always on the stove, for uses where not too much hot water was needed.

Our kitchen did not have wallpaper, but was painted with calcimine. It resembles a white wash, only in different colors. We ate all our meals in the dining room. Mother served it all from the kitchen. One day Ammon was there for lunch with his brother Enoch as a guest. The soup had just been served, and without thinking Enoch was holding the bowl up to his lips instead of using a spoon. Ammon hit the back of his head, and this broke the bowl and soup spilled everywhere! I'm sure Ammon was trying to make a good impression on his girlfriend's family. It really wasn't very funny. The kitchen was always a source of cookies and other "goodies". Reed reported that his Dad was a "candy freak" and he often made fudge and popped corn for his family and the students. It certainly made studying much easier.

In about 1935 Samantha's activities became more restricted because of severe varicose veins in her legs and probably some arthritis. In retrospect Clyde is quoted as saying his mother may have kept too busy and worked too hard to have enjoyed a happy married life, though she did not complain and completed her role as a loving mother and wife. Samantha wrote the following to her daughter Lucille on January 3, 1941:

"This is a trying time for most people and we are too prone to expect and want too many luxuries in life. We have traveled a hard, crooked road and often wondered why our lot was so but now it is quite clear. Had we

continued to be prosperous it is doubtful if any of you would have been as fine intellectually and morally as you now are. Sometimes it is the hard knocks that prepare us for the future.”

Coincidentally, just three weeks later, Samantha died unexpectedly of a gall bladder attack and infection (according to Clyde) or of an Intestinal Hemorrhage (to quote Reed, a GP/ Internist). She was just one month shy of 67 on January 24, 1941. Her Funeral was the first service to be conducted in the new Logan 5th Ward, before it was dedicated, and we are privileged to have a copy of most of the Service. Her husband David Howe Smith died just eleven months later the day after the Chapel was dedicated, and his was the first service to be held after the dedication. They are both buried in the Bountiful Cemetery in the Family Plot.