

Born in England

Sobrina Smith Lamb was born April 29, 1847 in Eaton-Bray, Bedfordshire, England to George William Smith and Catherine Wooten Smith. She was their first child. Her sister, Jane was born the following year on October 4, 1848. Another sister, Maria Elizabeth, was born on September 18, 1852 but lived only a month and died on October 1st. A brother, Marlon Lehi, was born on March 8, 1854 and died the same day.

Sobrina's parents, George and Catherine, were married on December 21, 1845 and they became members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with George being baptized on October 29, 1848 and Catherine was baptized on December 15, 1848 shortly after Jane was born. They were the first members of the Smith family to join the Church.

Migration to Utah

Sobrina immigrated to America with her parents and younger sister Jane, five and one half years after her parents joined the Church. They sailed from Liverpool 24 April 1854 (1) to America on the Clara Wheeler, a tall-mast square-rigger in a company of 29 Mormon immigrants. After 70 days at sea they arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana 3 Jul 1854 and sailed up the Mississippi River to St. Louis Missouri and then onto Council Bluffs, Iowa. The family spent one year in Council Bluffs and then departed with the Milo Andrus Company on trek to Salt Lake Valley. They arrived in the Valley October 24, 1855, and then moved on to Farmington where the Smith's established their home. (2) The following spring, Sobrina and her sister Jane were baptized on April 24, 1856.

Youth and Plural Marriage

“Sobrina was a quiet, likeable child of 8 years when she took up residence in Farmington. She soon found new friends among those of her own age. She went to school when she could be spared from home, but it could be said that most of her education was from the School of Experience. Her duties were many at home. Being the oldest child, it fell to her lot to take on added responsibility when each baby was added to the family. They were Annie Merintha (who was born near Devil's Gate in Wyoming while the family was crossing the plains), Georgina,

George Fred, Ida, Minnie, Lucy Evelyn and Alonzo Bray. She worked outside her home for other people of the community receiving a very small wage for long hours of hard work. Consequently, she was well prepared to take on the responsibilities of a home and family at 18 when Lisbon Lamb asked her to become his second wife. The following is the only available picture of Sobrina's polygamous husband, Lisbon Lamb.



Lisbon Lamb
1827-1880

The Church leaders were preaching and practicing plural marriage quite extensively at that time. The young girls were encouraged to marry these older men. So it was that Sobrina received her endowments on the 3rd of February 1866 and was sealed in the Endowment House to Lisbon Lamb, son of Abel and Almira Merrill Lamb.” (3)

To this marriage were born seven children. Sobrina was twenty years junior to her Mormon Battalion husband Lisbon and his first wife Sarah who had three teenage children.

Seven Primary Children

“In the summer of 1878, Aurelia Spencer Rogers, a Farmington, Utah, mother, who felt the need for a united effort to help parents teach their children the gospel, voiced her concerns to Eliza R. Snow, president of the Relief Society of the Church: "Could there not be an organization for little boys, and have them trained to make better men?" (Rogers, p. 208). Sister Snow presented the matter to President John Taylor, and he authorized establishment of the organization.

Under the direction of local Church leaders, the first Primary was organized on August 11, 1878, with Aurelia Rogers as president. On August 25th, the first Primary meeting was held in Farmington, where 224 boys and girls met to be taught obedience, faith in God, prayer, punctuality, and good manners. The girls were included to make the singing "sound as well as it should" (Rogers, p. 209).”
(4)

Sabrina and Lisbon’s children were among those who attended the first primary.



Farmington Rock Chapel – Site of First Primary

Widowhood at Age Thirty-three

When Lisbon died suddenly, at the age of 53 in 1880, Sobrina was 33 years old and was basically alone in Farmington with seven children under the age of 14 and the youngest 15 months old, living in a one-room house, and no inheritance.

“How we existed is something, I do not quite remember, some help from the Relief Society. I call to mind that they brought Mother a sewing machine. She did some sewing, but more washing on the old washboard. A full days wash for 50 cents. The children had very little schooling. Everyone as soon as could get out to work had to do so - at an age of 10 or sooner. I started to herd cows before I was 10 and from that time on supported myself for everything I had to wear, and spending money was out of the question. At age 15, I worked for \$15 per month and was glad to get that much.”

Charles William Lamb

Sobrina's Hard Life

Early independence, self-sufficiency, individualism, search for work, learn to do on the job, cling together to survive, honesty; they all framed Sobrina's home. Of necessity, it was come and go, say hello and say goodbye - but always try, try to help each other. (5)

Grandma's life was a hard one, as was often the case with the young plural wife in those polygamy days. The living with a man old enough to be her father would be rather difficult to adjust to. I have heard that he always took his evening meal with Sarah and spent the nights with Grandma and the children. (3)

Polygamist Family

Brigham, the youngest son, tells of the home they lived in.

“Our home was that of polygamist father - two wives, our Mother, Sobrina being the second wife. We were taught to call the first wife Aunt Sarah. Her family consisted of 3 children, much older than we. Our family consisted of seven children:

	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
George Francis	19 Jan 1867	05 Mar 1923
Anna Mariah	2 Sept 1868	15 Feb 1935
Lucy Jane	29 Oct 1870	18 Jul 1946
Charles William	27 Jan 1872 or 1873	09 Jan 1900
Katherine or Catherine	4 April 1874	10 Feb 1890
Alonzo Bray	27 Apr 1876 or 1877	29 Mar 1960
Brigham Frederick	15 Jul 1879	04 Dec 1962

Sobrina chose the names of her children and named them after her brothers and sisters. The following are pictures of the children in their adult years. No picture of Catherine is available as she died just before her sixteenth birthday.



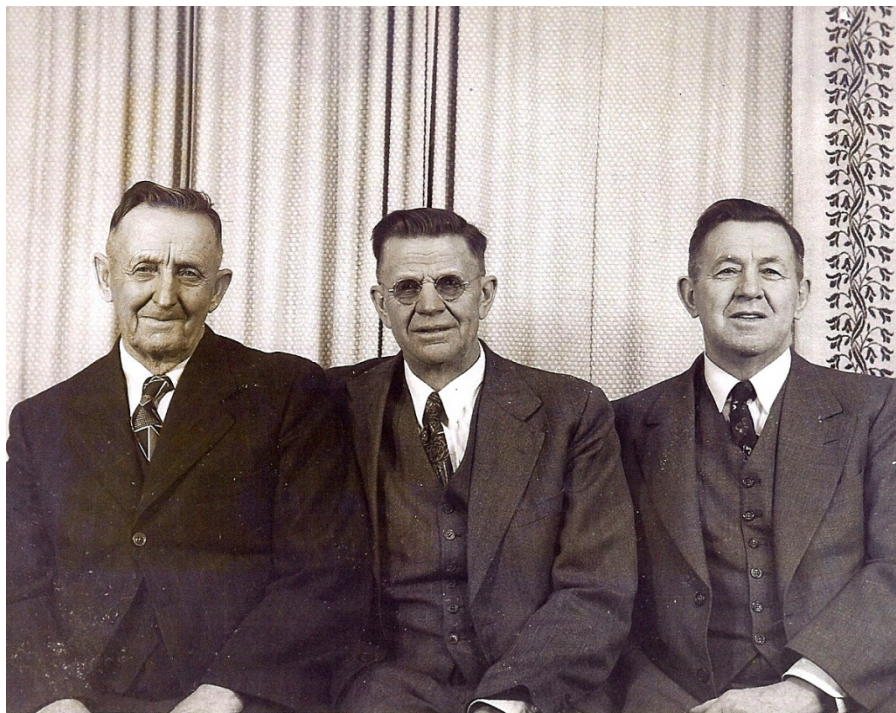
George Francis Lamb



Anna Maria Lamb



Lucy Jane Lamb



Charles, Alonzo, and Brigham Lamb



Alonzo Bray Lamb

Catherine Lamb only lived until just before her sixteenth birthday and no picture of her is available

Our house was located some two blocks south of what is now called “Lagoon”, a pleasure resort in Farmington. We all lived in the same house, that is no inside entrances but each served by an outside door so it was more private. Our side consisted of one room, and a second room made available after Father’s death.”(6)

Mother Sobrina

“Sobrina was said to be a beautiful woman, but with all her responsibilities and hard work she was old beyond her years. She always set a wonderful example to her family in every way. She taught them to live close to the Church and its teachings and to live the Golden Rule. She taught the value of work and to do an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay.”(3)

Sobrina died March 27th. Records disagree on the exact year. Some show 1890, 1893 or even 1894. She was laid to rest in Farmington Cemetery, Davis, Utah USA.

References:

- (1) <http://www.lib.byu.edu/mormonmigration/voyage.php?id=94>
- (2) George William and Catherine Wooten Smith A Brief History, Smith Family Reunion Aug 15, 2009 by Keith A. Poelman plus editing and added photographs.
- (3) History of Sobrina Smith Lamb Information taken from family records in possession of a grand-daughter Cordelia Smith Gregson - Also books searched by Nora Lund---DUP historian who arranged this history for Cordelia ---February 1973
- (4) http://www.lightplanet.com/mormons/basic/organization/Primary_EOM.htm
- (5) Inez June - by Jack Hicken December 2000 (Grandson of Charles William Lamb)
- (6) Brigham Fredrick Lamb History by Brigham Lamb (son)

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