

Life and History of Caroline Mellor Smith.

Caroline Mellor daughter of Joseph and Dinah Chorlton Mellor was born at Rushulme, England on November, 21, 1861.

My first schooling was very complete as the people of England believed strongly in the good education of their children. My first schooling was had under a private instructor, later we moved to Withington, Lancashire, England, and here for a year or so I studied under a Miss Graham in a Girl's school. I next attended the public school at Withington for awhile then I went to Barlmoore where I attended A Methodist school. At this time my Grandmother's sister Mary died and I went to live with my Grandmother at Chorlton Cum-Hardy and while here I attended the Protestant school the Professor being John Hyland. At this time I was to have completed the eighth grade but due to a break down of health I was unable to stay and complete my work so my parents had me study music under a capable Professor.

When but a girl of ten I was successful in gathering three pounds thirteen shilling and six pence as a donation toward the erection of a new Methodist chapel of which I was a member at that time. The day the corner stone was laid for this new chapel to be known as the Withington Wesley, Robert Burns presented me with a leather purse with my name and date engraved on it in gold letters. At the age of eleven I went with my Aunt Carrie a great deal in the poor districts of the cities and assisted her in administering to the wants of the poor and needy. This was of great interest to me and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute thus spent.

At the age of seventeen through the labors of the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, I was converted to the true and living Gospel and was baptized on September, 21, 1880, by Elder Thomas X. Smith. I was confirmed a member of the Church September, 26, 1880, by Elder Thomas Sherwood. Several times before this I went to the baths to be baptized but before this time something always came up to prevent it and I always felt it was because Elder Thomas X. Smith was to do it and for that reason it was not done before. When I was seven years of age Elder Heber C. Kimball while laboring as a missionary in England, prophecied that while I was still very young I would become a member of his church. His prophecied was fulfilled at this time.

On October the twentieth we set sail for America. Brothers John Donaldsen and Ben E. Rich were taking care of the transportation affairs in getting the company off at Liverpool. I was in Lyman Martin's company and we sailed on the ship Wyoming. It was a very trying ordeal for me to leave my parents at this time. My father was on his death bed and my Mother very much opposed to me leaving my native land for the Gospel. But by the power of faith and in spite of all oppositions I was able to come. I was unable to get my clothes or any of my belongings and not even money therefore I had to borrow money for my transportation which I later worked for an paid back including the interest to Brother James M. Cook.

We had a very pleasant voyage which lasted eleven days. During our voyage we had a bad storm this was while crossing the Irish Channel and on the banks of Newfoundland we encountered a dense fog. On October the thirty-first we landed in New York Harbor and here we spent some time in sight seeing here and in the surrounding country.

We then started on our journey westward by the early crude train accommodations, changed cars and had a short stop at Council Bluffs. At Cheyenne, Wyoming we had an encounter with train robbers. Spent a day in Ogden, Utah and arrived in Logan, Utah Friday November the eleventh 1881, late at night.

Our first Sunday we had dinner at the home of Bishop Thomas X. Smith. For about three or four weeks after our arrival I was quite sick due to the hard voyage and the change of climate it was bitter cold in Logan, Utah at this time.

In January I started to work at the temple which was then being constructed cooking for the men who were doing the work. This I worked at until November, 1882, and while here the Lamanites used to come and work for six weeks at a time and while they were there I used to take great pleasure in teaching them the songs of Zion, some of them learned very quickly while others of them were slower. I then went to work for Sister James M. Cook. who at that time had just had a young baby.

On January the fourth 1883, I was married to Fred Smith of Logan Utah at the old endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah by Daniel H. Wells. We then came to Logan and stayed for awhile and at that time my husband was called to come to Idaho and settle a new country and I remained in Logan where I again worked for Sister Cook for a time.

On May the third I in company with my husband and others came to Rexburg, Idaho, where they had decided to settle and make their home on their previous trip. During these early days we had many hardships to endure but we worked together unitedly and were happy in sharing one another's joys and sorrows.

I worked actively in the church I was one of the first Relief Society teachers and first counselor in the ward Relief Society as teacher in the Sunday School also as first counselor to the President in the ward Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association and as first counselor in the Stake. At that time the Stake was extended from Pocatello on the south to Lima Montana on the north and we had to travel over this territory by team in taking care of our work. I appreciated the interest shown by President Ricks in me by always keeping me busy in the church work as I was only one of the many he had to care for.

I also worked among the sick and the needy a great deal and assisted most always in the laying out of the dead.

While my husband was on a mission I and my two small boys worked the farm and provided for the needs of my husband so that he could carry on this work. This was very hard but I was blessed abundantly in health and success at this time. While he was away at this time I gave birth to a baby girl.

Since this time I have worked more actively in the Relief Society as counselor and as teacher also the washing and anointing of the sick and in doing this work I received much joy and satisfaction.

In October 1925 I had a most enjoyable trip to Los Angeles and vicinity where I remained until February 1926 when I was called home by the serious illness of my son Arial.

February 1928 and again in February 1930 I spent many happy days in Logan,Utah doing temple work.

I guess I've never quite grown up
I want my Mother Dear
Each day each night each hour I live
All through each passing year
I love her more as time goes on
And this my daily prayer
God bless and guard my Mother Dear
And keep her safe from care.
Written by Emily Smith Romish.

Read at the Daughters of the Pioneers meeting January,15,1931 by Lizzie E. Smith.

Transcribed by: Eileen Andersen
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