



SARAH ANN OBRAY
- 1859-1941



ORSON GURNEY SMITH
1853-1935

Sarah Ann Obray, the second child of Thomas Lorenzo and Caroline Brenchley Obray was born 27 Sept. 1859 at Wellsville, Cache County, Utah.

During Sarah Ann's growing-up years her family experienced many hardships and privations. During the grasshopper seige, the children used switches and bed cord, walking through the wheat fields to keep the grasshoppers moving. Thus with the help of everyone the Obray family saved their crops twice.

Her schooling was meager. The teacher held school in one room of his log house, where he taught the three "R's" reading, writing and arithmetic. Sleigh-riding and dancing were the only amusements the young people had, but their daily work had to be done first.

Sarah Ann always attended Church and Sunday School. When the first young ladies mutual was organized in Paradise, 10 Aug. 1878, she was made second councilor in the organization. This was her introduction into church activities.

12 Sept. 1878, Sarah Ann married Orson Gurney Smith in the Endowment House, entering into plural marriage. Orson was born 4 July 1853 at Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa, the son of Thomas "X" and Margaret Gurney Smith. At the time of their marriage Orson was the Bishop of Paradise.

Orson and his two wives, Caroline Mariah Carpenter and Sarah Ann Obray lived happily together, sharing with each other their children, often not knowing which was mother or auntie, as all were cared for alike.

They were prospering and getting along very well together when Congress passed the Edmund Tucker Bill, making it unlawful for a man to live in plural marriage. Rather than have Orson leave his home, Sarah took her youngest son, Lyman, and went to Hyde Park to live. When Orson left home to work for the Railroad, Sarah returned to Paradise to live with Carrie. In the winter months Carrie taught school and Sarah took care of the families.

During the following years, Sarah moved from one place to another so that Orson could remain at home with the family and not be persecuted.

In 1890, Orson was sustained as President of Cache Stake, so the family left the farm in Paradise and moved to Logan. Sarah was able to spend the Christmas of 1890 with the family, but had to leave shortly after. In March 1891 she returned to Logan to make her home, still unable to live with the family.

On 21 July 1894, Carrie Carpenter Smith passed away, leaving a baby of ten days. Sarah came to her home to care for the family of ten children, (seven of Carrie's, three of her own.)

Sarah Ann and Orson had many happy years together, both active in the Latter-day Saint Church, holding responsible positions throughout their lives.

Orson Gurney Smith died 5 Aug. 1935, Logan, Cache County, Utah, and is buried in the Logan Cemetery. Sarah Ann Obray Smith lived six years longer. She died 18 July 1941 in Ogden, Weber County, Utah. She is buried beside her husband in the Logan Cemetery.

Excerpts: "Our Large Family" by Margaret Smith Watson, and Biography of Sarah Ann Obray Smith, written by herself 17 Feb. 1932

Third Generation Children

Name	Birth	Death	Married	Date
Ezra-Obray Smith	14 Feb 1880	25 Feb 1951	Ella Jones Bailey	3 June 1903
Everett Obray Smith	29 Aug 1881	29 Oct 1956	Jemima Dands Wright	28 Oct 1918
Leonard Obray Smith	27 Oct 1883	23 Feb 1884		
Lyman Obray Smith	1 Apr 1885	16 Jan 1965	Golda Parson	5 Nov 1905
Hortense Smith	13 Apr 1890	4 Feb 1891		
Emma Obray Smith	2 Nov 1891		Leon Radcliff Stephens	5 Jan 1925
Melba Obray Smith	26 Apr 1899	21 Jan 1942	Frances Joseph DeBry	18 Mar 1925