

SARAH FRANCES STEERS BROADBENT

Sarah Frances Steers Broadbent was born the 3rd day of December 1838, at Thompsonville, Sullivan County, New York. Her father, William Steers was born 1810 at Oldham, Lancashire, England. Her mother, Eliza Taylor was born 17th March 1817 at Mt. Pleasant, New York.

Grandmother had four sisters and one brother, Harriet, Elijah Minerly, Catharine Louisa, Mary Virginia and Emma Jane. Harriet, Catherine Louisa, Mary Virginia and Emma Jane all passed away when children. Elijah Minerly married Mary Ann Allen and Sarah Frances married Frances Greenwood Broadbent. These children were all sealed to their parents 18 October 1946 in the Alberta Temple.

Grandmother was baptized 29th day of April 1857 On the 24th day of December 1860 she married Francis Greenwood Broadbent and on the 23rd of March 1861 they were sealed in the Endowment House at Salt Lake City. They had nine children.

Grandmother told of an experience she had when she was a very young girl. They lived by a wooded area which was infested with cougars. One day their milk cow strayed into the woods. Grandmother was sent for the cow, the bell on the cows led her to it, she could hear the cry of a cougar and not wanting to leave the cow she took hold of its tail and hitting it with her sun bonnet ran all the way home.

Grandmother was baptized when she went to Montrose, Iowa, with her Mother to see her Grandparents. Her father had passed away and her mother had married a man by the name of

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Jessie Gallian. Her mother had also joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Grandmother wanted to come to Utah and was preparing to do so, her mother did not want her to go that distance alone so wanted to come with her. Mr Gallian would not give his consent for her to do so. She prayed earnestly that the way would be opened up for her to go. The day before the Company which Grandmother was to go West with was ready to leave, Mr. Gallian came home very angry and told Great Grandmother he was through with her and all her Mormon friends and told her to get out. She said it was an answer to her prayers. She brought both her living children with her, Elijah Minerly and our Grandmother, Sarah Frances.

They crossed the plains in Captain James Brown's company, Grandmother drove an ox team for her mother. Elijah drove an ox team for a lady who had lost her husband.

After arriving in Salt Lake City, Utah, Grandmother told of this incident.

They were having a dance and she wanted to go, but she had broken her hoops, (hoops were very fashionable at that time, they wore them under their skirts to make them stand out.) Her mother persuaded her to go without the hoops. She went and shortly after she arrived President Brigham Young came and ask her for a dance. He led her out on to the floor and stopped the music, and drew the attention of all the people and said she was the most beautifully dressed lady in the hall and hoped they would do as she had done and leave their hoops at home. Grandmother was very happy she had gone to the dance without her hoops.

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After Grandmother was married and had a home of her own and lived in Wellsville, her friends said she was very generous and helped many needy families there. In those days the Indians came around to the homes begging for food and clothes, they never went away empty handed from Grandmother's door.

When they moved to Canada she drove a team of horses on the democrat (a two seated buggy) all the way. She was the first woman to have a home in Buffalo Flats (Leavitt) After she and grandfather built their five room home they piped the water from a spring, west and a little south of their home, into the house which made it easier for them instead of packing it in buckets from the spring.

She worked in the Presidency of the Relief Society, was a Visiting Teacher for many years. She was a faithful Latter Day Saint and faithful in attending her meetings, was always kind and loving to all.

The one big event we as grandchildren all cherish in our memories of our grandparents was our Christmas celebrations. We were all invited to come. The merry greeting of "Christmas Gift" as each family arrived, the big Christmas tree, the lovely dinner which each family had helped to prepare. Then after dinner the grandchildren would go skating and sleigh riding on the lakes near by.

As Grandmother grew older and it was hard for her to do her work we as grandchildren would go over on Saturdays and help her.

We do not remember of Grandmother ever wearing a coat. She wore a white or dark blouse with a long black skirt

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or a dark dress with a heavy dark shawl around her shoulders in cold weather, and a light weight dark or light colored one in warm weather.

We loved our Grandmother and was always thrilled when she came to visit us. Each one of us has many happy memories of our Grandparents, the fine example they set for us to pattern our lives after. The kind advice and loving words they spoke will always be cherished by each grandchild.

Grandmother passed away the 25th of October 1919 at her home in Leavitt and was buried in the Leavitt Cemetery.

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The following brief biography of Grandmother Broadbent tells of the love and esteem the people of Leavitt had for her:

Funeral services over the remains of Mrs. Sarah Frances Steers Broadbent were held in the Leavitt Ward Meeting House October 29th. ¹⁹¹⁹ This good woman was the first to live in Leavitt. She came directly from Utah in 1893 with her husband Francis Broadbent, who died in Leavitt a little more than two years ago. She would have been 81 years old next December 3rd, and was born in Thompson ^{Ville} ~~town~~, Sullivan Co., N.Y. in 1838. She came to Utah in 1859, driving an ox team across the plains. She married Francis Broadbent in 1860, and both lived to see their Golden Wedding in 1910. They had a family of six sons and three daughters, of which four sons and two daughters are still

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living. Besides her children, Mrs. Broadbent leaves 45 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Of the latter 13 are boys.

Mrs. Broadbent's second son, Elijah, recently came on a visit from Pima, Arizona, to see his mother in her old age. Thirty years had elapsed since he last saw her. During that time he had travelled to well nigh every port in Europe. He was in the U.S. Navy during both the Spanish-American and Manilla wars, at the conclusion of which, he spent several more years in travel. He eventually married and settled down in Arizona, where he now owns and operates a farm. In all probability he will return to Alberta next spring and make this his home hereafter. Another son Hyrum, served for 3 years in the great war and arrived home safely. Two grandsons, George Spence and Charles F. Broadbent, Jr., served in France, the latter being killed in action during September 1918 just previous to the signing of the Armistice, after having passed through some of the largest battles uninjured.

All members of Mrs. Broadbent's family are highly respected members of our community and stand as living tributes to the memory of that good lady. Her funeral services were conducted by Thos. R. Leavitt. There was an exceptionally large attendance of sorrowing and sympathising friends. In spite of the bad roads Pres. Edw. J. Wood and a company from Cardston made the journey to attend the services. All speakers were filled with the desire to honor the memory of the dear old lady, and although, at times, tears would come, still everyone present felt that such a sublime life is not to be mourned for. It should

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rather be thought of as a light upon a hill to which all may turn their eyes and feel more sure of their ways in their travels through life, Mrs. Broadbent was deserving of all good praise. She had been a mother to the people of Leavitt, for more than a quarter of a century. Being the first woman in Leavitt, she is doubly entitled to the name "Mother". She mothered all who came, whether from far or near.

All members of the family desire to thank the many friends who have so kindly helped during the illness and death of their beloved Mother.

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