

Emma Summers Call

1828-1912

Wife of Anson Call

Birthdate: August 5, 1828
Worcestershire, England
Death: September 18, 1912
Bountiful, Davis County, Utah
Parents: Thomas and Susannah Stockall Summers
Pioneer: November 9, 1856
James Willie Handcart Company
Spouse: Anson Call
Married: February 27, 1857
Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah
Children: Ann Call – March 20, 1858
Fannie Call – August 11, 1860
Lucinda Call – April 18, 1863
David Call – June 20, 1868
Sarah Call – December 6, 1870



As Emma grew up, her father worked in a rock quarry and her mother made shirts and kid gloves for the gentlemen of the parish.

Emma was a frail child but when Emma was fifteen, she hired out as a house servant. Missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints taught the gospel to Susannah and some of the children in the family.

Although her father protested, Emma joined the Church and planned to emigrate to Zion. She sailed on the ship, 'Thornton' from Liverpool and arrived in New York on June 14, 1856.

Emma became part of the ill-fated Willie Handcart Company. The company was beset by hazard, hardship, delays, hunger, starvation and death to many.

Emma endured crossing freezing rivers and sleeping with snow and mud frozen to her clothes and feet. The company finally reached Salt Lake on November 9, 1856, but her hands and feet had been badly frozen and she lost all of her hair.

She married Anson Call as his fourth wife on February 27, 1857, in Brigham Young's office. After their marriage, she lived a quiet life caring for her five children and helping those around her who were in need.

Her mother emigrated later and was cared for by Emma for the last seven years of her life.

Emma moved south with the Saints when Johnston's Army came through, then moved again to Call's Fort in 1859 with Anson to help build that town.

Emma did temple work for her dead ancestors. She was a Relief Society block teacher for many years.

She was a jolly, witty, lovable woman. Even the many years of trials and bitterness had not quenched her joy of life nor dulled the sparkle in her eye.

Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude – Daughters of the Utah Pioneers