

A life sketch of

Mary Hutton McMurray

1801 – 1896

Mary Hutton was born November 6, 1801 in Warrington, Pennsylvania to Simon and Mary Underwood Hutton.

In 1820, John McMurray went to work for Simon Hutton in Warrington as a farmhand. The Hutton's were Quakers. Mary married John McMurray on August 18, 1821, at Warrington by a magistrate. Mary was censured for marrying outside the church. After their first two children were born, the family moved to Hogestown, Cumberland, Pennsylvania. Here their two children died. Their third child, a son, was born there also, but died six days later.

In 1826, John was on the tax records of Silver Springs Township, Cumberland, Pennsylvania, as a tailor and had no property.

In 1827, Mary was admitted to membership in the Silver Springs Presbyterian Church, in Pennsylvania. Their fourth child, a daughter, was christened at that church. Four more children were born there.

In 1830, the family moved to Ohio, but moved back and forth across the border of Ohio and Pennsylvania for the next few years. They built a home, and seemed to have prospered. John worked at farming, while his wife ran a hotel, a wayside inn or tavern as they called it.

It is not known when or where the family joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or when they left Ohio. Their son, James, was baptized in Beaver County, Pennsylvania in March 1844. The parents joined the church, sold their possessions in Ohio and arrived in Nauvoo just at the time the bodies of the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were brought to Nauvoo from Carthage, where they were martyred. They lay in state in the Nauvoo Mansion House, viewed by a constant throng of people who filed in and out of the mansion rooms. James took care of the family's household goods while John and Mary went to see the bodies of the martyred church leaders.

Mary often spoke of attending the meeting where Brigham Young was sustained as President of the Church, and of how he looked like Joseph Smith as he spoke. Everyone at that

meeting said that the mantle of the Prophet Joseph had fallen on Brigham. That meeting was held August 8, 1844, when Brigham Young, then president of the twelve apostles, was chosen to lead the church.

John and Mary received patriarchal blessings from John Smith, uncle of the Prophet, at Macedonia, on September 23, 1844. They were endowed in the Nauvoo Temple, February 6, 1846. This family experienced many persecutions with the saints in Nauvoo, and they took their refuge in Council Bluffs, Iowa, with thousands of other homeless saints. They built what shelter they could, and made the best of their conditions until such time as they could leave for the valleys of the mountains. They left Kanessville, Iowa in June of 1852, as a part of the Warren Snow Company. The hard and tiresome journey was difficult, but Mary rejoiced that she, her husband and her family of six living children came safely through and made it to the Great Salt Lake Valley, arriving early in October 1852.

Mary's husband, John, passed away October 4, 1853, in Salt Lake City, Utah, just one year after their arrival. He was a stalwart in the church, holding the office of High Priest at the time of his death. Following his death, the family moved to Grantsville, where a daughter was living. Apparently, Mary stayed with family in Ogden and Oakley, Utah and Liberty, Bear Lake, Idaho, through her remaining years.

Mary passed away, May 31 1896, at the age of 84, at Liberty, Idaho and was buried there. Mary Hutton McMurray was a true Mormon Pioneer woman, and should always be honored for her faith and fortitude, having given up much for her religious beliefs, and living as a widow for 43 years. She experienced the development of Utah from its very early years until its statehood in 1896. A great heritage is passed on to her posterity.

Children of John and Mary Hutton McMurray

Ann	21 July 1822
Sarah	12 March 1824
William	3 October 1826
Arabella	4 November 1827

James Hutton	24 December 1829
Joseph	13 April 1832
Mary Janet	23 May 1834
Matilda Jane	17 July 1836
Charles K.	24 June 1838
Harriet Lucinda	18 July 1840

The author of this Life Sketch of Mary Hutton McMurray is unknown; a similar account is available through Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

Names, places, and dates have been verified with family genealogy information and records in possession of K. Oswald, and family history records in possession of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.