

A life sketch of

Caroline Fidelia Calkins

Pew Tippetts

1804 – 1882

Caroline Fidelia Calkins was born July 24, 1804 at Bedford, Stanbridge, Quebec, Canada. She was the daughter of Amos and Huldah Marvin Calkins.

Caroline married William Pew, in about 1830. William was a ship builder. They were introduced to the Book of Mormon and became members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Shortly after their conversion, it was decided that Caroline should follow a group of Saints westward. Sariah was then expecting their



second child. William was under contract with his employment and could not leave at that time. Their plan was to meet as soon as his contract was completed.

Caroline took their few belongings, their 2 year old son Hyrum William and left with a group of Saints headed westward. William continued to work, writing to his family regularly. Five months after she left with the Saints, Caroline had a baby girl, who she named Sariah Fidelia.

After some time, the letters from William stopped and Caroline was left to worry and wonder what had become of him. One day she received his toolbox. It was customary that a man's toolbox be returned to his family if something happened to him. His tools were gone and so was he. All Caroline had was a box full of wood shavings and the memories they had shared together. She continued on with the Saints and tried to provide for the needs of her children.

Caroline teamed with the Tippet's Family and became close friends with Abigail. The two women pooled their energy and resources in an effort to care for their children. In March 1840,

Abby Tippetts, died in childbirth. Caroline had cared for her friend, but returned to Nauvoo after her friend's death. Later, John Harvey Tippetts went to Nauvoo with his cousin, Alva. There he married his friend Caroline Pew on September 25, 1840.

In the spring of 1842, a little baby girl was born, who they named Abby Jane after his first wife and Caroline's friend. She died four months later.

After the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 27 June 1844, Caroline went to her sister's home. The Temple was being pushed as fast as possible, so the Saints could get their Endowments before going to the West. On May 18, 1846, their son, John Harvey Tippetts was born. In August 1842, daughter Sariah F. Pew was baptized in the Missouri River by her step-father, who left for a mission soon after.

Caroline was with the Saints in Jackson County, Missouri during the persecutions that ensued. She endured perhaps the most trying hardships that were meted out to any of the sisters gathered there. She was driven out into the midst of a prairie by the mob during the month of January with a her small, helpless children. She was forced to sleep on the ground with only one thin quilt to cover them. The snow frequently fell three to four inches in a night

On 16 Jan 1846, before the Temple was dedicated a number of Saints were endowed. John Harvey Tippetts was sealed to his first wife Abby Jane Smith, to Caroline Calkins Pew, her sister Nancy Calkins, and to Abigail Sprague. Nancy and her wee baby were drowned when the boat they were crossing the Missouri River in capsized. Her efforts to save her baby were in vain and they both drowned.

In July 1846, John Harvey Tippetts joined the Mormon Battalion and was gone fifty-two days, arriving in Winter Quarters 15 Feb. 1847, with a sick detachment that he had been sent back. His family had arrived before him. In April, he went with Brigham Young's Company as far as Laramie, Wyoming and then went on with the next company. They arrived in Salt Lake in August. He stayed there for a time and then went back to Winter Quarters with Brigham Young to get his family and the rest of the Saints. In April, they left Winter Quarters for the long trek westward. William became sick with chills and fever and had only gone six miles when the tire

came off the wagon wheel. They all stopped, unloaded, fixed the wagon and then reloaded their possessions. Their journey resumed.

Most of the way there was no wood to burn, but they made fires with buffalo chips and little Ott, as they called him, would go with Sariah to gather the chips for the fires on the journey. They lost two cows and three oxen, leaving them with one ox and two cows. The trip was not only hard on the cattle, but on the people as well. They were going to a home where they could live as they desired and they did not complain, but sang and danced and made the best of everything. They milked the cows in the morning and put the milk in jars. By night there was butter for the new salt-rising bread. Caroline would set the bread in the morning. The 'emptings' were set in the morning, then mixed with the water and flour at noon and baked in ovens at night.

The Tippetts Family had a devout determination to follow the Prophet and serve the church, which required a sacrifice of their time together, but they faithfully did as they were called. They finally reached the Salt Lake Valley in 1848. Their first home was an underground shelter 10 feet long by 9 feet wide. By 1850 they were residing in a log house and had accumulated a real wealth of \$400 through their farming ventures.

John and Caroline had three children: Abby Jane, John Harvey Jr. and Caroline Precinda.

Caroline passed away July 15, 1882 at Richmond, Cache County, Utah. She is remembered as one of the most faithful of pioneer women

This Life Sketch of Caroline Fidelia Calkins Pew Tippetts was compiled from writings, stories, documents and other records collected and kept in the Family History Library of K. Oswald.

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.