

*A life sketch of*

# Charlotte Spencely Woodhead

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1803 – 1985

Charlotte Spencely Woodhead, the daughter of Thomas Spencely and Ann Elizabeth Wright, was born June 13, 1803 at Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire, England.

As a child she was a skilled needle worker, completing a large cross-stitch “Adam and Eve” sampler before she was twelve years old.

On September 17, 1829, Charlotte married William Woodhead, who was also born and raised in England. They became the parents of three daughters and three sons all born in England.



Elizabeth Grace	born	July 14, 1830
George Thomas	born	July 3, 1831
Richard	born	September 10, 1833
Sarah Ann	born	August 1, 1835
Charlotte Elizabeth	born	October 19, 1837
Richard Spencely	born	February 7, 1840

About 1845, the family was introduced to missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Church records show Charlotte’s husband was baptized on November 9, 1845. Other members of the family were baptized in 1846. It is believed Charlotte was baptized with other members of her family during this period of time. After their baptism, the Woodhead family opened their home to the missionaries and entertained leaders of the Church as they traveled through their city for many years.

On March 26, 1855, William and Charlotte left their home in England and began their voyage to America. They traveled aboard the ship “Juventa”, under the leadership of William Clover. Three weeks after setting sail a terrible storm arose and the ship had to be battened down. This was a frightful time for all aboard. After a variety of delays, they finally arrived at Philadelphia.

The Woodhead’s then traveled by train and boat until they reached Mormon Grove, where they joined the Milo Andrus wagon train bound for Utah. The wagon train was part of the Perpetual Emigration Company, which had been organized by the Church to help those who wished to emigrate but did not have the funds to cover all expenses. Charlotte walked every step of the way across the plains and demonstrated the spirit of a true and dedicated pioneer.

When Charlotte and her family arrived in Utah on October 24, 1855, they moved in with her daughter, Sarah Ann at North Ogden. The winter of 1856 was extremely hard for these settlers and food was scarce. Charlotte and Sarah Ann knitted stockings for neighbors and took butter and cheese for pay. Sometimes the cheese was hard and dry. It had to be toasted and buttered before it could be eaten. They ate segos, which were cooked and creamed. Even though the times were hard and the circumstances were far from the best, they were grateful for what food they could find.

In 1867, the small community of Paradise, Cache County, Utah was established. William and Charlotte moved to Paradise and set down their roots. Their son George and his wife Caroline moved close to them and together they combined efforts to make this area their home. It was not long after George and Caroline moved to Paradise that Caroline died from complications of childbirth. Charlotte raised her newborn grand daughter, Harriet as her own daughter and provided the attention and needs her other grand children needed.

Charlotte suffered from rheumatism most of her life. While in England she could not wear ordinary shoes because her toes had twisted out of shape and were very painful. She wore ‘Lizet’ shoes because they had soft leather soles and cloth uppers. These shoes were not available in Utah. Her search for something she could wear led her to discover Indian

moccasins. She was able to acquire these soft leather footings from nearby Indian camps and gratefully became accustomed to them. Her fingers were also affected by the rheumatism and were drawn up into a most unusual position. When her fingernails needed to be cut, her fingers had to be pried open while someone cut her nails. This continued to be a painful, nuisance all her life, but never stopped her from working hard and caring for her family.

Because of her crippled condition, a grandson stayed with Charlotte after Harriet left to help her with her housework. A grand daughter, Charlotte Ann washed, ironed, baked bread, made beds and cleaned her house for her. In spite of her situation, Charlotte knit lace as well as stockings for many years until her hands became so drawn she could no longer hold the needles.

Charlotte was a small, slightly stooped lady. She had an abundance of long, almost white hair and bright gray eyes.

On October 3, 1884, Charlotte became ill and passed away on October 22, 1885. She was buried in the Paradise Cemetery at Paradise, Cache County, Utah.

She was always sweet and patient, although she was bed ridden for over a year. She died as she had lived – a loving and devoted companion and mother, and a faithful Latter-day Saint.

A description of the Woodhead home in Paradise, Utah –

The house faced the east and was in three parts. The north room, where they lived, was of squared logs. The south room was of round logs. The shop or hall between connected the two rooms and the front and back walls were made of perpendicular boards. In the north room the bed was in the north west corner, head to the west. The lounge was in the south west corner, head to the south. The table was between the two beds and under the window. The window had six small frames of glass. The clock was on a shelf over the lounge. The stove was in the middle of the south end, the pipe went straight up through a hole in the roof. The door was

east of the stove. A shelf on wooden pegs extended from the west wall almost to the door. This held the dishes. Between the door and east wall was another shelf for the brass water buckets. A dipper hung near. The shelf was about three feet long. In the north east corner was a large box the length being on the north wall. Two shelves were above the box. These held books, magazines, etc. Between water shelf and big box was a bench or seat. Over the seat was a window with nine panes of glass. In front of the big box was a stool and an old wash boiler used for a bread box. Charlotte's rocker and a few of other chairs were the furnishings. The front door was in the east end of the shop, with back door in the west end. A very large box was on the south wall. The cellar way with a trap door was on the north wall. The cellar was behind the house. A square box was between the cellar way and the door of the house. In the summer time tea was sometimes served on this box, between four and five o'clock. There was another room on the south. Uncle George and his family lived here at one time. It was later used as a grainary.\*

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*The author of this Life Sketch of Charlotte Spencely Woodhead is unknown. The original account has been revised and additions made to make it more complete from stories, documents and other records collected and kept in the Family History Library of K. Oswald.*

*\*The description of the Woodhead home in Paradise, Cache County, Utah was written by Nellie Lofthouse Tams.*