

Sarah Walsh
Written by Son, Thomas Henry Lewis
Portland, Oregon
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This being the birthday of my mother I will try in my weak way to write a life history of her as I am able to record from facts and things that I well remember.

After much research and with the help of others for which I am very thankful, I am still unable to do justice to the life of such a wonderful and choice spirit of our Heavenly Father.

Sarah Walsh Lewis was born in Market Drayton, Staffordshire, England, January 31st, 1849. Being the daughter of Joseph Walsh and Maria Holding Walsh.

There were born to Joseph and Maria Holding Walsh the following children:

Oliver Sylvester Walsh	23 Mar 1833
Maria Walsh	16 Apr 1835
Elina Walsh	20 Apr 1838
Joseph Walsh	14 Feb 1839
Mary Walsh	09 Sep 1841
Emma Walsh	29 May 1846
Sarah Walsh	31 Jan 1849
Ruben Walsh	1851

The above marriage brought together two wonderful family's histories. Maria Holding was the daughter of Richard Holding of Steel Head Shropshire, England. My grandmother Holding's family carries a coat of arms.

It was my great privilege while on my mission to England for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to visit with this wonderful family. I also visited Eliza Harding, Mother's sister, and with her brother Ruben. The last two being faithful Latter-Day Saints.

Through the influence of Richard Holding as one of those presiding at the Ministerial Association Conference where more than on thousand ministers had gathered together in the town hall of Birmingham, I sat on the platform beside him and was called on to speak. In making mention of this I do it to give the back ground of these religious families. Richard was not ashamed to call me a Latter-Day Saint. He will be awarded. This only briefly touches their religious back ground.

The true gospel was restored. Faithful Latter-Day Saints accepted the call to carry the restored gospel to the British Isles. Mother, only a teenage girl heard the testimonies of these faithful men, received the answer to her prayer that these men were true servants of God, obeyed the call of the shepherd and was baptized.

She received a testimony that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Her Testimony was a moving, driving conviction that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God.

Mother heard leaders of the church explain the sufferings of the Saints in Utah, they told of crop failures and of a rough desert to overcome, explaining the lives of the pioneers.

The spirit of gathering came to her so strong nothing seemed to turn her face from the western world, and the mission she had before her in the work of the Lord, as she often told us of the Latter-Day Saints conference, just before she left England for the valley of the Great Salt Lake, the wonderful words of advice and instruction given by that great Apostle Franklin D. Richards.

We spent many interesting hours listening to mother tell of her days on the ocean. In those days it took many days by sail to reach America. In sickness and health each one helping the other, all working together like one family.

Landing safely on land they began the long trek across the barren wastes. Leaving civilization, one last look back brought the thought of Mother, Father, Brothers and Sisters, and all the comforts of home and plenty, yet she was glad and happy she was on her way as the spirit of the Lord came over her.

Passing on through the brush, the high brass and the sage they pressed on to their destination. Her company was hand-cart driven, and mother being a young woman she walked most of the way. Shoes soon played out, from then on she walked barefoot to the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

How Mother enjoyed telling us about the end of each days journey and how they gathered around the camp fire where they offered prayers and thanks to God for the gospel and for this tender care. They danced and sang songs. They administered to the sick, cared for all who needed help. The songs they sang gave them new hope and strength to go forward. She said her testimony became stronger every day they plodded along.

How often in Mothers life I have seen her eyes brighten up when she would take her little hymn book and sing; Come Come Ye Saints, No Toil or Labour Fear but with joy wend your way. Another Hymn was; O that each in the day of his coming may say I have fought my way through, I have done the work thou hast given me to do, O that each from his lord may receive the glad word, well and faithfully done enter into my joy and sit down on my throne.

I have in my possession mothers little hymn book given to her by the Elders in England, out of which she sang until the day of her death.

Landing in Salt Lake Valley in fall of 1865 in company with her sister Mary. They settled at Kaysville, Davis County, Utah. There she met and married William Swansea Lewis who was an old friend in Market Drayton, England. Mother said he visited their home while he was captain of the police there. They were married in the Salt Lake Endowment House in December 1868.

Mother began her great mission of bringing spirits of our Heavenly Father from their pre-mortal state into this world. The following children were born into this wonderful marriage for time and all eternity.

William Emanuel Lewis	12 Dec 1869	North Ogden, Weber County, Utah
Susan Lewis	Dec 1872	Kaysville, Davis County, Utah
Benjaman Hopkin Lewis	16 Dec 1873	Kaysville, Davis County, Utah
Oliver Llewlllyn Lewis	16 Nov 1875	Kaysville, Davis County, Utah
Thomas Henry Lewis	14 Oct 1877	Kaysville, Davis County, Utah
Joseph Richard Lewis	19 Feb 1880	Kaysville, Davis County, Utah
Morgan Elias Lewis	31 Dec 1882	Wilson Lane, Ogden, Utah
Sarah Elizabeth Lewis	1885	Died 1886
Margaret May Lewis	1886	Died 1887

A tragic thing in mothers life was that she lost all her girls as babies at only a few years of age.

Mother lived to serve day and night for her family, her great pride was her boys. She lived to see three of them called on missions, one to Northwestern Mission, another to England, and still another to the Eastern States mission. All returning back to her with certificates of release from a work well done. Four of these boys worked in many ward and Stake callings. Two served in Ward Bishoprics. Four filling from one to four Stake missions.

Her life was not always a rosey one, she was tried beyond the life of most women and it took mighty strong faith to go through what she did. She having entered into plural marriage in 1868. In 1889 the trouble began.

The government passed the Edmond Tucker Law, the church carried it to the Supreme Court of the United States of America and it was declared constitutional law. The church obeyed. The manifesto was declared by President Woodruff.

We children, along with mother moved out to Birch Creek south of Ogden about three miles. While there we

lost our little sister Sarah Elizabeth. Then there were three of us boys who lived alone with mother in the hills, one and a half miles to the closest neighbor. Us boys would run over the hills and prairie, dig sages to stay our hunger.

I remember one afternoon two U.S. Marshals walked in and was going to take mother to jail, but she fought so hard for us not to be left alone. Mr. Whetstone, one of the tow marshals talked McClland into leaving it to her to appear in court in Ogden. McClland was a very wicked man, and met his death at the hands of another U.S. marshal along about that time.

Part Four

Being true through it all, when father's wife died in 1890, we moved into Ogden and lived again as one family. Father's first wife had no children. And the sun shone through the clouds and mother knew how to appreciate it.

Now another change came we moved to Baker, Oregon, where the boys had employment. Father being auditor of the Sumpster Valley Railroad Company. Here we all belonged to the Oneida Stake in Idaho. It was the first branch in Oregon.

I never knew of a fast meeting going by but what mother would bear her testimony. "She knew Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and that this was the work of the Lord. I have had my prayers answered, and my dreams come true." She said.

Her husband, William S. Lewis, died in September 26th, 1906, at Baker, Oregon, and was buried in the family plot. He had a letter in his records from President Joseph Smith that all his former blessings were restored on his head.

Mother continued to live with her children until she passed away in peace and happiness with her son and daughter, Thomas and Minnie Lewis. She said she would like to spend her last days with her daughter-in-law Minnie, and that is just what happened. She lived with her three years.

She always had a host of friends, a smile for every one if she had pain we knew nothing about it. She would hide her own troubles for the troubles of others who seemed or was tired and sick. This was true to up to the night she died. These were the last words I heard her say to my wife Minnie, " You go lay down I will be all right." Minnie stayed out of her sight to keep mother quiet and content.

She laid down and went to sleep and her breath became shorter until she passed away. We stood by her bed when the Doctor turned and said, she has simply worn out her mortal body.

She leaves a large posterity which I will add to this when I obtain more information. This ends the life of one of the great mothers of this dispensation. Thus she passed from the mortal into the immortal where she joins her companion and girls because she obeyed the commandment of the Lord, and was married in the house of the Lord for time and all eternity, and though the stars fade away, the sun himself grows dim with age, and nature sinks in years, she shall flourish in immortal youth, added upon forever and forever.