

Biographical Sketch of Matilda E. Loveless

A few incidents in the life of Matilda E. Loveless, wherein she remembers Joseph Smith, the Prophet, in the city of Nauvoo where she lived for six years.

Sister Matilda E. Loveless says:

I am the daughter of James and Cynthia McClellan, was born in Nashville, Tennessee, December 15, 1829. My parents moved to Nauvoo in 1840, the year I was eleven years old, losing their wight cows and other valuable property. The first winter we suffered very much from want and sickness, still we did not murmur, but were thankful we had gathered with the Saints in the beautiful city of Nauvoo.

My parents were very industrious and through the blessings of God we were soon in comfortable circumstances again. I can remember very distinctly the appearance of Joseph and Hyrum Smith.

Joseph always used a black horse and Hyrum a white one, whenever riding horseback.

I very often saw Joseph and his wife, Emma, at meetings, out walking and riding in their carriage with Porter Rockwell at coachman on their way to Joseph's farm passing by our house. This farm of Joseph's was superintended by a man whose name was Lott.

I always attended Sunday School in the morning and meeting in the afternoon in a grove near the Nauvoo Temple. Joseph was usually present. My happiest whildhood remembrances are those spent in Sunday School, and many scriptural passages I learned at that time. I remember often seeing Emma Smith singing in the choir.

At one time when Joseph was taken to Carthage for treason, on his return Emma and many of the brethern and sisters left Nauvoo on horseback to go and meet Joseph. On their return, Joseph came in a carriage, while I together with many other children were very much

interested in the return of our Prophet, and great rejoicings were among the people, The feelings of the people when Joseph returned after having been arrested, cannot be described, for it was heavenly. Down on the plat, a place south from the city of Nauvoo, I have often seen the brethern drill and Joseph take the lead. I can remember Emma being present at these military drills.

How well I can remember being very pleased when my mother would let me take father's dinner to him while he worked on the Nauvoo temple. I seemed to understand the importance and holiness of that building and father was always so pleased to have we children come with his dinner and would tell us about the temple of God he was assisting to build. Being a blacksmith he had a shop nearby where he worked when necessary at all kinds of labor.

I can remember my father coming home in the night, having been on guard, to make bullets in our fire place. In those days we were always in dread of the mobs. Father occasionally wore a red coat and we children spoke of him as belonging to the red coat company. I was present when the capstone was placed on the Nauvoo Temple and remember the rejoicing of the people, also the song that was composed for the occasion. In those days we children would work and do anything so as to have the rivelege of meeting in the gathering of the Saints. Our very souls were enthused over the Gospel. We delighted in understanding all that was said and done in the Church.

I was present at the dedication of the Nauvoo Temple. That day my brother Willian and my parents received their endowments. On their return home, how happy they were over receiving these blessings and they spole to me about having my endowments, but I said, "No, I will wiat until I am married." Which I did. I was present and heard Josphe speak to the Indians on the lawn by the old white house right across the street from the Mansion house. Many Indians were seated

around, others were standing. Many of the people of Nauvoo were present. I have many times drank water from the well at Carthage Jail where Joseph lay when the man wanted to strike off his head and was prevented doing so by the light from heaven. My father owned a farm beyond Carthage so we would stop and get a drink from this well when going to our farm as the water was very cool and fresh, but we never drank there after our Prophets death.

The last time I saw Joseph, was the day he delivered his last public address. When he said, "I call upon God and the angels to witness that I have unsheathed my sword with a firm and unalterable determination that this people shall have their legal rights and shall be protected from mobs, violence, or my blood shall be spilt upon the ground like water and my body consigned to the silent tomb." I can remember so well that day, it looked so cloudy and as we thought it would storm so my mother sent me to my father with his coat. I remember so well the scene and how attentive my father was to the remarks of Joseph so I listened and became equally so.

Everybody was so interested that they did not notice the storm. I shall never forget the confusion among the people. A number of we children ran to the cornfield and prayed for the safety of our parents. I saw the murdered bodies of Joseph and Hiram laying in state in the mansion house. I saw the coat and other clothing Joseph and Hiram wore when killed, also the pillow Hiram's head rested on and the stains from the wound on his face. Even now I cannot think of that sight but with the most terrible feelings.

I was present at the meeting held in the grove when Brigham Young stood up and spoke with the voice of Joseph and his very appearance was like that of Joseph's. And with one voice the people sustained Brigham as their leader. The feelings that thrilled my soul gave me testimony of the truth of this Gospel that has never left me through many trials for I learned then, and know God is leading this Church.

and this testimony I can bear to the whole world if needs be.

We moved with the Saints to Council Bluffs where I was married to James Loveless on March 9, 1847. I attended the party that was given to the Mormon Battalion and dances there for the first time. I had two children before crossing the plains, arriving in Utah in 1851.

Sister Loveless was the mother of 10 children, two sons and 8 daughters. Her grandchildren number 66, great grandchildren 56, great great grandchildren 3. Her living descendants of today are 111. She joined the Relief Society in 1868 and was one of the efficient workers.

Matilda E. Loveless, after passing through all the hardships of pioneer life died March 1, 1909 in Provo, Utah. She died as she had lived, a faithful Latter Day Saint.

after marriage

They left for Utah in the Spring of 1852, arriving in Salt Lake on September 2, 1852. The wagons being heavily loaded, Mother walked nearly the entire distance. They were counceled to go to Provo to help settle that section. They took up land and started farming and soon built then a little house.

She went through all the hardships of pioneer life. Her faith was tested when she had to make that sacrifice of dividing her husband for second and third wives.

At the time the Eastern women started to slander about the Mormon women, she was one to sign the reply that was defending the Mormon doctrine.

When the Provo Second Ward Relief Society was organized in 1867, she was First Counselor to Sarah Ann Scott and she acted in that capacity until after Sister Scott retired in 1903. After which she took charge until a new president was put in, making a period of thirty seven years of service. During her active life she was ready to help the sick, lay out the dead, and assist the living.

open the time, that she make burial clothes out of her
r influence for good was felt by every one in the com-
in sickness the saints had implicit faith in her. In
cas. poverty she would share her last cent or crust.

During the year of 1852 to 1862 when the Indians were so bad and
the big move from the north took place, she assisted in taking care
of the saints in general and opened up her home to two families by the
names of Campbell and Goodman. She did washing and carded wool balls
for quilts and spun cloth for their winter clothes, She assisted her
husband in making a living in every way possible.

She was not a public woman, but she took care of affairs at home,
so her husband could put all time necessary with the affairs which
he was interested in as being Bishop of the Second Ward for over thirty
seven years, as City Councilman and Alderman, as road supervisor. He
was with the Walker and Blackhawk wars, a member of the territorial
Militia, and served a six months term in the State penitentiary on
account of the Edmunds-Tucker law.

She was a true and faithful companion to her husband, sharing in
all the trials and hardships of making a home and livelihood for their
family. She gave birth to ten children, eight daughter and two sons,
nine of which grew to womanhood and manhood. She taught them the
principles of the Gospel. Her everlasting council and advice to them
was that they would always be true Latter Day Saints.

She died March 1, 1909, leaving a larger posterity and well spent
life. She died as she had lived, a faithful and true Latter Day Saint.

Filate Alice Loveless Farrer
Born June 2, 1867
Provo, Utah