LIFE AND JOURNAL

OF

ELIZA MARIA PARTRIDGE LYMAN

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Be it remembered that on this first day of July A. D. 1869 personally appeared before me, Edward Partridge, Probate Judge in and for said County, Eliza Maria (Partridge) Lyman who was by me sworn in due form of law, and upon her oath saith, that on the eleventh day of May A. D. 1848 at the City of Nauvoo, County of Hancock, State of Illinois she was married to Joseph Smith, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by James Adams, a High Priest in said Church, according to the laws of the same regulating marriage; in the presence of Emma Hale Smith and Emma Dor Partridge Eliza Maria (Partridge) Lyman

Subscribed and sworn to by the
said Eliza Maria (Partridge) Lyman
the day and year first above written

Edward Partridge
Probate Judge
I was born in Painesville, Geauga Co., Ohio. My parents' names were Edward and Lydia (Fitch) Harris. At a very early age I was sent to school where I acquired a very good common education. At the age of eight years my parents went on a visit to their friends in Massachusetts taking me and my sister, Lucinda, (then a baby) with them. The other children, my sister Harriet and Emily were left in charge of my Aunt, Eliza Lee. We went to my Grandfather's farm in Litchfield, Berkshire Co., Massachusetts where my Aunt, Eliza, her husband, and children lived. While I was left to visit my mother's friends in the eastern part of the state, they returned in a short time bringing my mother, sister, and other children with them. Although I was very young, yet I remember many things that I saw on this journey. My Grandfather's nice brick house, and the orchard and the farm as all plain in my memory also the cities that we passed through and the Erie canal with its locks. I visited Niagara falls in the distance, the crossing of the lake, my sickness while crossing and many other things are still fresh in my mind. I do not remember anything of note except that I was sent to school until I was about thirteen years of age on a short time before this. The Book of Mormon was shown to my father, but he did not accept it at first in being what it was represented to be, but after making a journey to New York where the Prophet Joseph Smith lived and making inquiry of those in the church and of those who became convinced that the Lord had commenced to set up His Kingdom on the earth and embraced the opportunity of becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and was ordained to the office of a Bishop there.
having been more ordained in this dispensation until
that time, he then returned to his home in Ohio, and
after a time was called to leave his business which was
in a most flourishing condition and go to Missouri to
attend to the business of the Church. He went and
left his family to get along as best they could, I was
at that time very sick and he had no expectation of
seeing me again, but the Lord had called and by
suicide. He showed his faith by his works and the Lord saw
my life and the lives of the rest of his family for many
years. He never went back to sell his place or settle up his affairs but
left it for others to do which was done at a great sacrifice, he
had accumulated a handsome property which went for a very
while as we learned at a time in later years. His family very
moved up to Missouri in company with others who very
journeyed to that land, which was quite a task in my
mother, as her children were small and the children of all the
children were small and the weather was so cold that I
were obliged to come to Missouri river at a place called
Iron Rock about one hundred miles from Independence
and wait for my father to come with wagons to meet us.
We procured a small dark room of a family of negroes, our
only light being what came down the chimney, and in one
week or 10 of the room except we were not occupied by the negroes. He occupied this delightful place about
a week when my father came and took us in. The weather was
extremely cold so much so that we had to burn by one day
not to be in danger of being frozen. We however arrived at
Independence in safety and occupied a small brick house
which my father had rented for the winter as he had not yet
had time to build. It lived very poor and inside and the
people of my country did not want much but corn bread
and bacon and raised but very little of any thing else consequently
there was but very little to be bought, but I remember at
had a barrel of honey and a good stock of vegetables we could get, but no
wheat to eat as wheat was not to be bought in the land.

The next spring we moved into a house that my father rented of
Lieutenant J. W. Young where we lived until he was taken, and
built a house in his own land, here we lived while he lived in that
county. In July 1833 a number of armed men came to our
house in the afternoon and took my father to the public square
where he administered to him a coat of tar and
feathers and ordered a whip with the intention of whipping
him but a friend to humankind interfered and prevented it.
I well remember how my father looked with children very
very much frightened, my brother was very neat having a baby
very named for his father but nice and me. The brother
were very kind and assisted my father to hid himself of
the town, but the clothes he had on were spoiled. The people
of that place had been acting in a mob towards our
people for some time and still continued the same way
until our people agreed to burn the county which they
did in the following November. It was one of the most
uncomfortable and uneasiness at that time of its real and a great amount
of not all of our provisions that we had laid up for the
winter must be lost and our horses left with many of
our things in them, our land and orchards and improvements
of every kind lost to benefit there who have driven us away.

We traveled three miles and encamped on the bank of the
Missouri river, under a high bluff. The rain during the
night poured down in torrents which wet ourselves and our
things badly. This was the first insight that I ever slept out
of doors. The next day we crossed the river into Clay county.
Here my father laid up some house rags and shodded a tent
on them so that we could stay, but until it could go and
find a house. The weather was very cold but we were in the
woods and could have plenty of fire. It was here that
we saw the blare fall. They came down almost as thick as snow.
flakes and could be seen till the day light bid them from sight. Some of our enemies thought the day of judgment had come and were very much frightened but the sunk rejoice and concluded that as one of the signs of the latter day. When my father had done what he could to help the brethren across he went out with others to see if they could find some houses to move into as there was already snow on the ground. He found a miserable old house that he could have with one fireplace in it which he and a brother by the name of John Borrill moved their families into. I think my mother and sister Borrill must have had their patience tried very much during this winter. The house often and cold and their cooking and children and husband and others all around the fireplace so that in use then I did what work I could get for almost any kind of pay but there were so many wanting work that there was very little chance to get any. We lived in the old house and were and in the county which was about two years. While here my father went on a mission to the eastern states. After his return he with others went to look for a location for the Saints as the people with whom we lived began to be somewhat uneasy about us. My father and those who were with him decided that a good place could be had in Caldwell. They (our people) bought land there and removed their families there thinking to live by themselves in peace which he had for a while. While here I went about thirty miles from home and taught a school for three months not hearing a word from home while I was away and did not see a person that I had ever seen before but the Lord watched over me and returned me in safety to my parents again. I would never advise anyone to let a girl go away as I did then with entire strangers and to dwell with strangers.
It was no uncommon thing in those times for our women to go out among the missionaries and teach their children for a small remuneration. I received but thirteen dollars and my board for the three months that I was gone. I think the people were not as sick as they are now—nor it would not have been safe for me to go about as we did. I was at this time about seventeen years old. We remained in Calhoun two or three years when we moved west where we remained in Illinois, first at Quincy, then at Pittsfield, then to Mason, and finally to Illinois, which was the gathering place for the Saints. In consequence of the persecutions of apostates my father was obliged to leave the Missouri and his family and arrange with Mr. King to take us to Illinois. He had a very uncomfortable time as the weather was cold and he were badly acquainted with the wagon although he had done every time that we moved left the most of our things. We crossed the Mississippi partly in a boat and partly on the ice, then met us and took us to a house where it was more comfortable than we had been while travelling. We staid here but a short time as my Father thought he could do better somewhere else and the church were scattered in the no place of gathering. However it was not long before he went to Kansas as the Prophet James as he was yet in prison had said he thought was the place to gather. It was hard nearly all sick with ague and fever and even family to have a share. My two sisters Harriet and Emily died of ague about a year. I did not have it as I had once it out when we lived in Ohio. As we were by this time much reduced in circumstances (having much so many times and my father, having gone into the store, it was thought best for me to take a school at time a small term about twenty-five miles away which I did and my father rented rooms for his family in a large stone house where several other families resided one
Dr. Payson Smith, and his brother in law Dr. Thompson and two more families as they had not time to build yet. While I was teaching at home I boarded with a gentle family and was well treated but suffered painfully with head aches. About two weeks before my school was out my father was a man for me saying my sister Harriet was dying at rode all night and arrived at home about sun rise my sister was still alive but died during the day. My poor took this trouble to hear very much and my father one. She was his pet child but no one knew it till then and I do not think now that she knew any difference in his children, but I believe when a child or friend is taken from us we are to think as loved them more than other. This was in the spring and my father was making garden on his lot which was distant about a mile. He his roads was very poor and he did not feel able to walk so far to his work (he was also building a house) he concluded after the funeral of my wife that he would move home and prepare a cow house that he had put up for a stable but had not been used, and then he could work at his house and garden with more ease. He commenced to move but had to give up and take to his bed before he had the last time moved. He was sick about ten days when he also left us most uncompliedly situated. It was too sick to attend the funeral. He was completely worn out with the hardships and fatigue of moving and exposure caused by our enemies who never slackened their hands but prosecuted us continually. He was firm and steadfast in his religion and tried to the very best of his ability to attend to every known duty as Bishop in the church at Latter Day Saints. We were in very poor circumstances at the time of his death, the handsome property that he had when he joined the church having been spent in the church and he
not having had the privilege of staying in one place long enough to remain more. After his funeral Dr. W. D. took us to his house to stay till our house was finished. He and his wife were very kind to us and declared me and also my sister Lydia who was very sick at that time. In about three weeks we were able to move to our own house which was finished. I forget to mention that while I lived in the West I had learned the tailor's trade as far as sewing and which I found of great use to me and I now could get work at the tailor shop and was paid three dollars a week which was a great help to us.

After a year or two my mother married again as she could not get along without some one to provide for her. She now had three daughters besides me, and had one about eight or nine years old. Her husband's name was Wm. Huntington a very good man and kind to my mother and his children. After a time my sister Emily and myself went to live in the family of Mr. Joseph Smith. We lived there about three years. While there he taught me the plan of celestial marriage and asked us to enter into that order with him. This was truly a great trial for me but I had the most implicit confidence in him as a prophet of the Lord and not but believe his words and as a matter of course accept of the privilege of being sealed to him as a wife for time and all eternity. We were sealed on 1843 by Mr. Smith in presence of witnesses.

I continued to live in his family for a length of time after this but did not reside there when he emigrated which was about the 1st of June, 1844. I was then living in my own family by the name of Osborn. I lived in the town for a year or more until I was married to a man by the name of James Lewis one of the Missouri emigrants. I then went to live with my mother for a while and after that lived with him and his wife Miss Lewis. James were not then as they were now in 1847 but a woman living in Independence does not let it be known and mother but a farm
desire to keep the commandments of the Lord could have endured a great temptation in that way. I thought my first experience was in the time and I am often led to wonder how it was that at a season of my impression could get along with it and not resist, but I knew it was the Lord who kept me from opposing his plans although in my heart I felt that I could not submit to them, but I did and I am thankful to my Heavenly Father for the care he had over me in these troublous times. After I married the second time we remained in Nauvoo for a few months having a part of the term in the back part of my mother's house. In Feb. 1846 we left Nauvoo and crossed the Mississippi river with many of the Saints and started to go to the Rocky mountains where we hoped to be free to serve the Lord as we thought best. While crossing the river the ice came down in large pieces and threatened to sink our boat, but at this time as well as many others we were preserved by the hand of God. We went to Weber John Danner and started several days as the weather was very cold and we were not in a hurry to camp but until we were obliged to. After a few days we left the river and joined the camp of the Saints on engineer's rest. The weather was very cold, the snow deep and we could not but be very uncomfortable as we were very poorly fitted out for such a journey at that time of the year. On the first of March 1846 the camp of Israel began to move. There were about four hundred wagons.

After traveling about five miles they camped for the night, scraped away the snow and pitched their tents. Fortunately for us there was plenty of wood and the brethren made large fires in front of the tents, which kept us from freezing but we could not possibly be made comfortable under such circumstances, but did not complain as we were leaving the land of our enemies and hoped for better times.

I think it was near the last of March that the camp reached a place called by our brethren Deseret. Here they concluded a part of the camp might stop and raise some crops of grain as all were not prepared to go on much farther. We thus had thus far had a most unpleasant journey. After the snow
came rains almost without cessation making the ground very muddy and some of the more exposed places had to remain in camp much more than we wished to for we were anxious to get to some place where we could make homes again. At Lyday I left my mother and sisters Emily and Sarah and little brother Edward with my mother's husband in the Huntington to stay until the next year or until there should be a convenient opportunity for them to come. My sister Emily was then President Brigham Young's wife and had one child, a boy named Edward. Jim Johnson was one of the wives of my husband and traveled on in the... 

When we had traveled some one hundred and fifty miles from Lyday we came a requisition from the landed militia for five hundred men to be taken from our camps to go to its aid to help there the nation who has driven us out from their midst. The people respond to the call and send the 800 men. Of these left their wives and children in their wagons and knapsacks, they would settle and find a home, left them to the care of their brothers and friends and many of them never met again some of the men died during their absence, others returned to find that their wives had sunk under the weight of care and disease and their children scattered, but the prophet of the Lord had said go and they went trusting in him. One woman was living with us whose husband was in the battle, when it was time for them to return she was very much elated and rented a room and made no preparations for housekeeping. But the sentinel on guard warned her, when the company came and she then felt her happiness nearly complete. She told her he was dead and had been for months. At the agony that she endures. I cannot be described. They were asked for her but I could not comfort her.
I will go back to the time that I left Hurricane on the 9th and write from my private journal. It will not perhaps be very interesting to anyone but myself, but it shows more particularly how we were situated and the hardships we endured in accomplishing the journey. On Feb 9th, 1846 I bade adieu to my friends in Kansas and accompanied by my husband Amasa Lyman, Daniel D. Clark, and his wife, Nancy Rollins, and Deodatus W. Lyman (one of my husbands' wives) started westward for some place where we might worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. We went about one mile to the Mississippi River, waited about three hours, then succeeded in procuring a boat, upon which we put our horses and wagons, and as there was no prospect of Father Huntington crossing the river that night, we took my brother, and sisters, Caroline and Lydia and Mr. Edward with us and crossed the river. When we were about midway we saw a boat at some distance from us, sinking, with no one means to assist them, but fortunately for them they were near a sand bar so that they were not drowned, and soon a boat reached them and took them safely to shore. Our boat got into the ice which hindered us about an hour but did no damage. We went to Dr. Lyman Tanner's, where a part of us stood all night and the rest stood at Nathan Tanner's.

Tuesday 10th. We are all alive and well. Caroline, Caroline and I slept in one bed and as I was very tired I did not sleep much. Dr. Lyman is going back over the river to assist his wife Maria. I cut and made a dress for sister Tanners.

Evening. Dr. Lyman has just returned bringing his wife Maria with him. I was heartily glad to see her. I went (by invitation) with them to visit her father, Father Huntington. Mother and brother Edward also came there and stood all night. Brother Tanner prepared an excellent supper for the company.