Individual Record

Sarah LAWRENCE (AFN: 8R65-X0)
Sex: F

Event(s):
Birth: 13 May 1826
Pickering Tnsp, Ontario, Canada
Death: , , Ca

Parents:
Father: Edward LAWRENCE (AFN: 8R65-VM)
Mother: Margaret (AFN: 8R65-WS)

Marriage(s):
Spouse: Joseph SMITH (AFN: 9KGL-W2)
Marriage: Abt 11 1843 May
Spouse: Heber Chase KIMBALL (AFN: 41K9-D8)
Marriage: 12 Oct 1844

Submitter(s):

About Ancestral File:
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“My soul doth magnify the Lord, 
And praise Him for His holy word, 
For He hath blessed me from above, 
And filled my soul with light and love; 
My body, too, He hath renewed, 
My path with blessings He hath strewn. 
My Lord, go with me through this day, 
And may I never cease to pray 
For wisdom, faith and righteousness, 
And may I never ask amiss.”

I have barely touched upon the scenes that came under my notice during the absence of the pioneers, but am able to testify to the enjoyment of many happy seasons after the mighty struggle with the destroyer was over, and we were again in the enjoyment of health, a blessing that some could appreciate more fully than myself. Some of the little circle that met often one with another to obtain that solace which the comforter alone could give, have passed on to another state, leaving one here and another there to testify to the outpourings of the Holy Spirit that sustained and cheered them during those trying scenes.

Two are still remaining in the family of the late brother John Pack—Sisters Julia and Ruth, who will bear witness to these things, and that there were no repinings such as we read were indulged in by the children of Israel. We could say with one accord as did the prophet Job, though reduced in worldly circumstances or reproached and cut off because of our seeming wickedness, yet in the midst of all our sore calamities we were buoyed up with a holy hope, and were confident of a glorious reward from Him who is the searcher of all hearts and has promised that the meek shall inherit the earth.

The unbeliever may scoff but we know that it was the Holy Spirit—the Comforter, and that faith born of it, that sustained and buoyed up the drooping spirits and lightened the cares and toils of the weary under the varied and trying circumstances that were calculated to dishearten any but Latter-day Saints, who possessed that living faith that enabled the soul to look forward to a glorious future, trusting to that Mighty One whose power had preserved and led them thus far and had delivered them “out of the seventh trouble.”

It is a sad thing to record the apostasy of any who were once so highly favored as to receive the great spiritual manifestations which were enjoyed by Frances Swan and Sarah Lawrence. Both were sealed to my father over the holy altar in the temple at Nauvoo. The latter named had been the wife of the Prophet Joseph, his first wife, Emma, having given her and her sister to him as his wives for time and all eternity. Sarah made choice of my father to stand as proxy for Joseph in this life. But she allowed a jealous nature to have full sway. She and I became warm friends after she entered my father’s family, and even after she became disaffected and thought to better her condition by marrying another we were still friends and she met nothing but kindness from father and his family, he with mother, and other members of his family went by invitation to spend an afternoon at her house, after she was married to her last husband.

But the man she married had proven truant to one wife and her little ones, leaving them to struggle for existence in this valley through the hardest times experienced here. And not until they had found friends to succor and help to keep the wolf from their door, did he make his appearance, and then he had very little of the gospel though he, at first, professed to be a “Mormon.” He had come from the gold mines of California where he had made what was then considered quite a fortune. It was not long before he proved the truth of my father’s predictions as he denied the faith and returned to California, taking Sarah with him. But it seems she failed to find happiness even in monogamy, as he turned out a dissipated character, and it was only a few years before she was divorced from him. She had lost every spark of the gospel, which had once been her guiding star, and was finally left to herself. She became so wicked that when paying her last visit to Salt Lake she denied emphatically ever being connected to Joseph or to my father, and was very insulting to those who dared to dispute her word. She abused her brother Henry’s second wife most shamefully, when meeting her in his store, laying to her the most humiliating and abusive accusations, which proved her to be a most vicious and heartless woman. Her brother, Henry Lawrence, was so annoyed by her unprincipled course, that he was among the most thankful when she left here and returned to California, where she soon died.

Woman’s Exponent, vol. 14, no. 18, 15 February 1886, p. 138
Joseph Mount came to the valley in 1853, and married Sarah Lawrence.

1st husband: Joseph Smith
2nd husband: Heber C. Kimball

(John Tanner and His Family, pp. 403-4)