

History of Abigail Mead McBride

Descending from a long line of devout Quakers, the Mead Family, Pilgrims of America, first known in Greenwich, Conn. in 1635, Abigail inherited a very religious, true and undaunted faith and courage, which characterized the lives of her children and countless posterity in the entire world.

She was born January 29, 1770, at Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York, the daughter of Gideon and his wife, Martha. Eventually, she married the very Reverend Daniel McBride, authority of Stillwater, Saratoga Count, New York. At LeRoy, Genesee County, New York, she was bereft of the earthly companionship, for time only, of the devoted husband, September 1, 1823.

As the spiritual minded Reverend Daniel McBride and his saintly wife, Abigail, strolled from the church, he said to his family: "There is something lacking,--I feel that I have not the authority, as the prophets of old--if only I could say to the people: "Thus saith the Lord." This prophetic vision remained with his family. Therefore, when Evan M. Greene, secretary of the prophet Joseph Smith, Amasa M. Lyman and William F. Cahoon toured New York, as missionaries, they were royally entertained in the homes of Abigail, her son Reuben, David Crandall and his wife, Margaret McBride. They held their meetings in the various homes. Evan M. Greene's handwritten journal states that after the baptism of "Sam McBride, Betsey McBride, Eliza Crandall and Bess, Brother Amasa Lyman and William both bore testimony, in the gift of tongues, and the Lord poured out His holy spirit, then we gave out

appointment of a meeting at a (?) McBride's". So great was the enthusiasm in the McBride settlement, at these gospel meetings that the Presbyterian and Baptist ministers gave the Latter Day Saint missionaries an opportunity to speak in their assemblies.

Resulting therefrom were the following baptisms recorded of this family, together with others, in Journal History, as follows:

April 16, 1833. Page 2 Journal History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Church Historians office, 47 E. So. Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah.

In part, "Following are the names of those baptized in the town of Villanovia, Chautauqua Co., New York, by the hands of Amasa M. Lyman (*) and William F. Cahoon (x) from May 1 to June 28, 1833:

Sam McBride	*	June 13, 1833
Betsey McBride	*	"
Eliza Crandle	*	"
Maria Crandle	x	"
David Crandle	x	"
James McBride	*	"
Margaret Crandle	x	"
Reuben McBride	x	June 16, 1833
Abigail McBride	x	June 25, 1833
Roxanna McBride	x	"

Book A, Evan M. Greene's handwritten journal from above office, the secretary to Joseph Smith, the prophet:

May 1, continued travels into the world, visited saints in Fayette, Chautauqua Co. N.Y. until the 16th when we arrived among

our friends in Perrysburgh, N.Y. We preached here the following Sabbath. On the 17th we found Elders Amasa Lyman and William F. Cahoon at Fayette, also Brother Wakefield from Jefferson Co. and Smith and Brown from St. Lawrence Co. on their way to Kirtland, where we had a glorious time worshipping the Lord and enjoying the out pouring of His Spirit. On the 18th we held a meeting on the village of Fayette and Brother Lyman preached. On the 19th I filled my appointment in Perrysburgh, Brother Lyman being with me. We had a full house and spoke with great power. On the 20th we held a meeting in Handover(?) and on the 21st we preached at another place in the neighborhood. We continued to labor in this region until the 26th of June.

On Tuesday, the 25th, we met with the Church at Villanovia, N.Y. to organize it. Brother Boynton presented me with a letter to read to the Church, which gave instruction to go East until he found me and then we should proceed to his father's house. This took me from my mission to the Black River.

In company with many other New York and Massachusetts citizens, they sold their thriving farms at great sacrifices and journeyed 135 miles to Kirtland, Ohio, by stage coach and canal boat. Included in the party were Maria Crandle, Newell Knight, Lydia Goldthwait, Vinson Knight, his wife Martha (Abigail's youngest daughter) Martha's daughters, Rizpah and Adaline.

The all donated liberally to the building of the City of Kirtland and first L.D.S. Temple (now standing in a fine state of preservation), Abigail's son, Reuben McBride, (the grandfather of

Wells R. McBride, of the editorial staff of the present Ogden Standard Examiner) became custodian of the Kirtland Temple.

The family enjoyed many of the wonderful spiritual manifestations given at the dedication of the first House of the Lord in this dispensation. Of the glorious manifestations the Prophet thus Writes:

"The heavens were opened upon us, and I beheld the celestial kingdom of God, and the glory thereof, whether in the body or out I cannot tell. I saw the transcendent beauty of the gate through which the heirs of that kingdom will enter, which was like unto circling flames of fire; also the blazing throne of God, whereon was seated the Father and the Son. I saw the beautiful streets of that kingdom, which had the appearance of being paved with gold....

We then invited the High Councilors of Kirtland and Zion into our room....

The visions of heaven were opened to them also. Some of them saw the face of the Savior, and others were ministered unto by holy angels, and the spirit of prophecy and revelation was poured out in mighty power; and loud hosannas, and glory to God in the highest, saluted the heavens, for we all communed with the holy ghost."

The original manuscript of a patriarchal blessing given to Abigail McBride by the first patriarch, Joseph Smith Sen., called Father Smith, now in possession of the Belnap family follows:

Abigail McBride, born in Nine Partners, Dutchess Co., N.Y., age 66 years on the 29th day of January.

My aged sister, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world, and by the power and authority of the priesthood, I lay my hands on thy head; and on the heads of thy posterity, confer a blessing.

Thou hast had sorrow and affliction, out of which the Lord is delivering thee. He has established thy faith. Thou hast obeyed the gospel of the Savior. Thy name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Thou art of the lineage of Abraham. If thou holdest on thy way, the time will come when thou, like Job, shall see God, in the flesh, standing upon the earth.

Thou shalt see angels, and receive the communication of the Holy Ghost. Thy children shall stand in the covenant by the power of God. Thou shalt go to Zion, and be in good health. Thy mind shall be strong and rejoice in thy God. Thou shalt not want for the things in this life. Give up thyself to God and thou shalt see thy Redeemer whom thou desireth to know. Thou shalt be a member of the celestial world.

I seal these blessing upon thy head. I seal thee up to eternal life. Amen and Amen."

Joseph Smith Sen.

Kirtland, Ohio, Jun 8, 1836"

Abigail endured the persecutions attending the 12,000 membership of the Church in their migration to Nauvoo, Ill. There her granddaughter, Rizpah, married Andrew S. Gibbons, who afterwards became a member of the pioneer company of Brigham Young, which arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, July 24, 1847. Her

granddaughter Adaline, married Gilbert Belnap, who was selected to be the first sheriff, attorney and assessor and collector of Weber County. Her son, Reuben married Mary Ann Anderson. Her daughter Margaret married David Grandall.

After experiencing the terrible incidents connected with the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith at Carthage, Ill., the driving of the saints from their homes, she suffered nobly the hardships of crossing the plains to the tops of the Rocky Mountains, in the open rugged west.

History of Church by Orson F. Whitney, Vol 1, page 359. When Brigham Young was making his first trip back across the plains from Salt Lake, he met Daniel Spencer's first company and camped on Green River... They were organized on the Elk Horn in June, 1847.

Journal History P 17 & 25 21 June 1847

Second Hundred, Edward Hunter, Captain First
Fifty, Joseph Horne, Captain

Name	Birth	Place
Samuel McBride	25 Aug 1789	Stillwater, Dutchess, N.Y.
Lemira "	29 Jun 1793	Newmilford, Litchfield. Conn.
Lydia "	9 Feb 1832	Villanovia, Chautauqua, N.Y.
Samuel "	29 Jan 1836	" " "
Abigail "	5 Jan 1770	Nine Partners, Dutchess, N.Y.
John "	29 Jan 1788	Dutchess, N.Y.

Arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah. Sept. 1847

History of Utah by O.F. Whitney P 359

The company was organized as follows:

John Young, brother of Brigham Young, immediate command
John Van Cott, Marshal

Four captains of hundreds, viz:

- (1) Daniel Spencer, under Ira Eldredge and Peregrine Sessions, captains of fifties.
- (2) Edward Hunter, with Jacob Foutz and Joseph Horne captains of fifties.
- (3) Jedediah M. Grant with Joseph B. Noble and Willard Snow, as sub-captains
- (4) Abraham O. Smoot, under whom were captains G.B. Wallace and Samuel Russell.

There was also another company, having with it several pieces of cannon. It was more or less distinct and independent in organization. It was commanded by General Charles C. Rich. As usual the divisions of fifty were divided into tens. Parley P. Pratt traveled with Daniel Spencer's Company; John Taylor with Edward Hunter's; George Q. Cannon with his uncle Apostle Taylor. In Capt. Grant's Company was Eliza R. Snow. Other notables were Father John Smith, Lorin Farr, Harrison Sperry and others. The first left Elk Horn June 18, 1847, consisted of 560 wagons, 1500 men, women and children and 5,000 head of stock. The wagons were drawn by oxen.

Sept. 4, 1847 Brigham Young met companies at Sandy. Three days later they met Edward Hunter's wagon on the Sweetwater. It was snowing but the weather continued mild. A feast was prepared

by Apostle Taylor and Edward Hunter for Brigham Young. The tables were richly laden with nature's bounties and tastefully prepared. They were set in a grove under a bowery on the banks of the river. "A rare sight", says Wilford Woodruff, "in the heart of the wilderness, to see tables well spread with the good things of life. Roast beef, broiled beef, pie, cakes, biscuits, butter and peach sauce." 100 people sat down to a table. The ceremonies were concluded with a dance. An Indian attack followed. It was the latter part of September that the companies began arriving in Salt Lake Valley. Early in October the last of the trains had reached the Valley in safety. Conference was held at the Fort, October 3. (See p 364 Whitney's History of Utah)

Note: It is a fact, according to Andrew Jenson, church historian, that inasmuch as Abigail McBride was listed in the second fifty of the second hundred, with Edward Hunter, Captain, that she remained with him and was at this feast, and arrived in Salt Lake Valley in September 1847, accompanied by her sons, Samuel and John McBride.

She was cared for by her own children, Gilbert Belnap, the husband of her grand-daughter, Adaline Knight.

Some of the McBrides, including John, her son, pioneered Cache Valley, her son Samuel, Millard County, and her son Reuben, was a very prominent character in Fillmore, Utah. Others went to Springville, Utah, with the Crandalls. Reuben made two trips across the plains to escort pioneer companies enroute to Utah. Then he accompanied the Millard County pioneers.

Her great grandson, Gilbert R. Belnap, recalled her assistance with his mother, Adaline Knight and other ladies in bandaging the bleeding feet and frozen hands of the members of the Handcart company, among whom was Mary Blanch Gibson, a trained nurse from London, upon their arrival in Ogden. He described her as being a short, rather stout, fine old lady, with a square face and a fair complexion. Her faith in her Maker was reaffirmed when she fully realized, after a lapse of nearly twenty years, the fulfillment of the words of Father Smith, the patriarch, that she should go to Zion and have good health.

She passed away at Ogden, Utah, March 12, 1854, at the ripe old age of 84 years. Her mortal remains were interred in the family burial plot of Gilbert Belnap in the Ogden City Cemetery. A suitable marker and monument, erected by her great grandson, Hyrum Belnap, designates her final resting place.