

## A SHORT SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF ORSON B. AND SUSAN SMITH ADAMS

Susan Smith Adams was born May 30th 1819 in Grayson Co., Kentucky. Her father died before her birth and she was reared by a step father. The step father being unkind she had a hard battle with life until she married Orson Bennet Adams. She gave birth to two children at different times, both died at birth and she adopted a son of Finley Page who grew to manhood. On the 16th of July 1846, the Mormon Battalion was called and O.B. Adams volunteered. This was a hard blow on the saints, as they had been driven and mobbed so many times, they feared to trust any one. They were loyal citizens but they never expected such sacrifices to be required of them to prove their loyalty to the United States. Their leader Brigham Young was a wise leader and advised them to go, and told them their families should have as well as his own. He also told them they would not have to fight anything but wild beasts, that there would not be as many bullets whistle around them as did around Willard Richards in Cartage Jail. It was a very trying time for the saints, but the spirit of god was with them and those that were called went with prayerful hearts. They left their wives and children camped in wagons while on the road to Utah and safety. Susan Smith Adams, learning that five women for each company could go as laundresses, volunteered and started on that long and tedious journey to California, leaving her three year old baby with her mother, to come to Utah. The journey was one constant hardship. She walked much of the way, sometimes walked all night. Her husband O.B. Adams being 1st Sargeant in Co. C. was not with her very much, as she had so much work to do. She was cook for a mess and it kept her very busy. At one time when she went to the river to get water she saw a man with his feet in the water, the water was bloody with the blood from his feet, he had walked with no soles on his shoes until his feet were very sore. At another time they passed some of the old ruins in Mexico and her husband went down in one and could not get out, the men had to get ropes and pull him out. At this place there was a fire burning and they were told the fire had not been out for one hundred years. They met with many strange and wonderful testimonies of the truthfulness of the gospel. They traveled as far as Santa Fe and there Orson Adams and many that were weak, sick and disabled were sent back and ordered to winter at Pueblo, with this detachment the laundry women were also sent back. Mrs. Adams, being reared in the home of a Doctor did much to relieve the sick and afflicted of this company. They endured such suffering that winter, their way was thru a trackless desert where nothing but wild beasts had trodden. They arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley a few days after the first pioneers of 1847.

Mrs. Adams met her mother and baby in a short time, they having arrived the 2nd day of September in Jedediah M. Grant's company. Her hardships did not cease here, for the food was very scarce, they had nothing but what they had in their wagons. The Government, as good their word, gave them the team and wagon, and all they had with them as their own. The next summer, 1848, Orson Adams paid \$50.00 for one hundred lbs. of flour and 100 lbs shorts to leave with his family and started with others for the Missouri River, with only bread enough for their dinner, depending on wild meat for the remainder of their food while on the trip, which was to obtain food for their families. He was gone six months. As he was nearing home Mrs. Adams went to meet him with two yoke of yoked and chained together. She took with her a small boy nine years old. She camped out four nights with only the boy and cattle for company.

She went thru the cricket war and for six weeks at one time they

had no bread. She carded and spun all they wore. She with her husband was called Jan. 6th 1851 to little Salt Lake, now known as Parowan, Iron County in Apostle George A. Smith's Company, here they suffered much for food, caused by grasshoppers and other pestilence. By this time she had become a professional nurse and spent much of her time with the sick. They were again called on what was called the cotton mission to Washington County. While there they grew cotton, she picked, carded and spun it. She sheared sheep, carded and spun the wool, grew the madder, dyed the wool and wove a coverlet that took the prize in the fair at Salt Lake. She also wove many coverlets that sold at \$20.00 each. She gave birth to one daughter at the age of forty years. She stood high in society, being President of the Relief Society, took a great part in women's rights and was a faithful latter day saint till her death.

Written for the daughters of the pioneers June 24th 1921 By Mary E. Adams, wife of John S. Page Adams, the adopted son of Susan Smith and Orson B. Adams.

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