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SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JANE BIRKBECK

UTAH PIONEER OF 1850

Prepared by Ella Thorley, a Neighbor  
For the Old Fort Camp, Cedar City, Utah

Jane Birkbeck was born July 13, 1822, at Durby England. In 1850 she came to Utah with her husband, Richard Birkbeck. She was a faithful worker in the church that meant so much to her. She was called as an officer in the Relief Society. Rachel Whittaker, President, Annabelle Haight, first Councilor and Jane Birkbeck, second Councilor. It was then called the Benevolent Society and later changed to Relief Society. These officers were released in May 1875. She was then called to the office of teacher, in which capacity she served for many years but due to poor health was released November 21, 1895.

Jane was a good neighbor and did much good among the sick. She and her husband did a great deal of temple work. They were hard workers and through the hardships of pioneer life always had a smile. They owned three lots on second west. One was where Sam Heyborne's home now stands. They had a fine orchard of many kinds of fruit trees, berries and grapes. She was an expert at making jellies. They fed cows on the carrots which they raised in their garden. Much of the work she was unable to do because she was so sickly.

They were never blessed with any children of their own but took a couple that was brought from the Mountain Meadows. Later their relatives came for them, once more leaving the home empty. Later they took Ella Cumbs which they raised to womanhood as one of their own.

During their life time they accumulated quite a little

wealth which they left to the church at their death. Jane dying  
November 5, 1905, went to the other side to meet her beloved husband  
who had gone the year before.