

Sketch of the life of Sarah Ann Arterbury Church
written by her granddaughter Sarah A.

Sarah A. Arterbury Church was born May 4, 1824 at Dallas Co. Alabama. Her parents were Elias Arterbury and Matilda Wallace. Converted by J. Brown a missionary. She married Haden Wells Church April 1843 and they came to Utah July 24, 1847 with Brigham Young. She gave birth to first child while crossing plains. They were called to Dixie Mission in 1869 by Pres. Brigham Young and moved to St. George. My mother was then only 5 years old. Grandfather spent so much of time on missions grandmother made living. Grandmother not only reared a family of 4 sons and 1 daughter, but practiced as a Midwife at St. George for many years. She was a large woman, good natured and a hard worker. She was of a social attitude and humorous. She was a temple hand for many years. Mother told me she worked in room 8 (wash room) and advised me to go through that room when I attended the Temple.

Sister Lottie Carter knew grandmother well. She told me she was a reliable woman, with great faith and charity. She said she waited on her with her first baby. Sister Carter suffered so much was afraid she could never have another child. Grandma told her she would have another child and would suffer not pain. Very next baby came without pain. Was born before a Doctor could get there.

David Cannon said he was a friend of uncle Robert Church and visited Grandma's house many times. Said uncle Rob was born across the street from the Court House and as Grandma was giving birth to him a man was being hung just across the street. He said Grandma has a sister visit her from Tenn. but returned. He thinks the Arterbury family lived in Tenn.

Grandmother Church died July 29, 1889 just a few days before I was born. Mother told me she said the baby would be a girl and to name her after Grandmother. That is why I was named after Grandmother, at her request a few days before she died. At time of her death,

Grandmother gave my mother a blessing and told her she would never again be afflicted with the terrible sick spells she was in the habit of suffering with. Mother said she has never had one of those spells since that day.

Grandmother was a woman of great faith and foresight. She and Grandfather did many Temple endowments for their kindred dead.