

Life of Ann Smith Bailey

By

Beatrice Bailey Thulin (1)

Ann Smith Bailey was born 30 October 1800 in Charlottstown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, the daughter of Joseph and Catherine Andrews Smith. She was the only girl in a family of nine children. It is believed she grew up in the place where she was born. She grew to be six feet tall, very slender, with black hair and penetrating blue eyes. It is a legend in the family that she weighed 90 pounds but could lift a sack of wheat at any time. She idolized her brothers but they played jokes on her. One time they were returning from a hunting trip when she ran out to meet them. They dared her to hit a bulls eye with a heavily loaded gun which she did but the butt flew back and hit her in the face knocking loose her front teeth. The pranksters were severely chastised. It took weeks for the injury to heal.

On 18 July 1818, she married Joseph Brown Bailey, age 28, in St. Paul's Church in Charlottstown. He was an English soldier born in Avebury, Wiltshire, England. He had been conscripted into the Royal Army and was transferred several times between England and Canada. When permitted to follow they journeyed by slow sailing vessels which usually consumed four to six weeks time. On one voyage the vessel was "becalmed" at sea with no wind to carry it forward. The sun shone mercilessly. Rations became low and there was much anxiety. Then an adverse wind came up and for a time the ship was blown backwards but after four months they sailed into port. It was said Ann crossed the ocean five times. During the time the couple was stationed in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada three daughters, Mary Ann, Sarah and Elizabeth were born. They were transferred to Ennerskillin, Ireland where Ellen Jane was born. Robert, a son, was born in Templemoor, Ireland. He only lived six years. Caroline, born at Chatham, died at 7 years. The next three children, George Brown, William and Reuben Josiah were all born in Bath, England. William died at age 10

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le emigrants continued by rail to Pittsburgh, thence by steamboat on the rivers via St. Louis, Missouri to Atchison, Kansas. The family traveled with Captain Milo Andrus on migrant train³ which was the 3rd Perpetual Emigration Fund of the season and arrived in Salt Lake City 24 October 1855.

Ann was known as "The Comforter" on the ship. She was full of encouragement and cheer to all as they trudged across the plains. The wagons were so loaded the family walked all the way and forded most of the streams. She carried her grandson, William upon her shoulders when she tried to cross the Green River but was swept downstream and managed to grasp a few willows to save them.

She had hoped to stay with her son, George Brown, in Millcreek but food and space were limited due to grasshoppers and drought.⁴ Ann was a very independent spirit and a woman of action. She heard many people were living in dugouts so that's what she, Elizabeth, Reuben, and William built and lived in all winter. She and Elizabeth went and did sewing and Reuben worked on farms. Their food was mostly bran bread and boiled roots. The spring was kinder to them when they were able to gather sego lily roots, thistles and watercress. They obtained a small piece of land and some cows, made butter, cheese and had a vegetable garden. To be near George they stayed in Millcreek. Elizabeth married Luther Reed 23 April 1857. Luther was called by Brigham Young to go to Tooele to set up a sawmill. In 1858 Ann went to stay with the Reeds. Here she met an old Indian Chief Tabby who became her loyal friend.

When Johnston's Army came the family was transferred to Goshen for protection. When peace was restored they stopped off in Spanish Fork and decided to sell their properties in Salt Lake and Tooele and settle the families in log cabins on adjoining farms 4 miles from town. In October 1860 son Reuben was cleaning a gun when it accidentally discharged sending a wadding into his hip causing blood poisoning and his death. George brought his family to help his mother harvest her crops. They lived out on the north bank of the Spanish Fork River. The greatest drawback to t

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settlers was the unfriendly young Indian braves. Old Chief Tabby, being Ann's friend, usually warned them. Often he could come to Ann's house just to visit. She always shared her food with him. He particularly enjoyed huge slices of newly baked bread with butter and molasses which he ate with great gusto and grunts of approval. Sometimes he would come and sit on the floor and grunt and then Ann knew there was trouble brewing and she would warn the settlers. One night he was almost too late. Just as it was getting dark he appeared in the doorway saying, "They are coming. Hurry. Hide. " They snatched up blankets and hid in the willows but didn't have time to warn the people. The braves came and stampeded the horses and cattle and killed two men. Another time they were saved by a shot fired that frightened the Indians away.

Grasshoppers and crickets were troublesome, too. They worked hard to save their crops. The most effective way to get rid of these insects was to plow a ditch along one side of the field and fill it with straw, drive them into it and set fire to it. With much hard work they prospered. They were always able to get plenty of wild game. They had wheat to take to the mill.

Early in 1863 Luther Reed received a call to go settle Bear Lake country. It was decided that Ann and Elizabeth should moved into town in case of Indian trouble. The two women worked side by side gleaning the wheat fields and were amazed to find how much they were able to sell.

About this time the daughter, Ellen, who had remained in England sent word that her husband, John Lamborn, had died. Her oldest son, William, had come to America with his grandmother and she was anxious to be reunited with her folks. With proceeds from the grain sale Ann and her daughter Elizabeth bought cows, sold butter and cheese, took in washing and ironing and did sewing. In this way they finished paying their Emigration Fund plus paid to bring Ellen and her four children from England. Later Ellen married William Taylor. The children, now almost grown, continued to live with Grandma Bailey.

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In the Spring of 1866 Elizabeth's husband came back for' his family to go to Laketown, Rich County, Utah. Then Luther was transferred to Bloomington, Idaho to operate a mill. Ann missed her daughter who had been with her so long but two years later her Lamborn grandsons were called to Bear Lake so she sold her property in Spanish Fork and went up to Laketown with them. Later Ellen and her husband came, too. The boys took up land, planted crops and hauled timber for homes. They lived in a dugout at first and then a nice log cabin. Their main diet for the first two years were potatoes and suckers- fish from the lake. They were plagued with grasshoppers and crickets. A special fast day was held and the Saints petitioned the Lord to remove the pest. As an answer to their plea a strong wind came up and blew the insects into the lake where they drowned.

The Indians came by the thousands and camped by the lake where their ponies devoured all the grass. For protection the pioneer's stock had to be kept in a fort so they were thin and some died. The white men shared their food with the Red men because Brigham Young had told them it was better to feed than fight them. Ann was always a true friend to them. A story is told that one day Ann and her granddaughter were in the yard in Laketown when a caravan of Indians approached. Chief and his

son ran shouting "Grandmother Bailey" and embraced her. It was her old friend, Chief Tabby. He told how much he had missed her when she moved and still remembered her goodness to him. She invited them to stay to dinner and visited for hours before rejoining the caravan.

Ann Smith Bailey was a prayerful, kind and courageous woman, always living her religion by loving God and her fellowmen. She died 19 December 1870 and was buried in the Laketown Cemetery.

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Notes:

1 Note: This history was obtained from the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was compiled by Beatrice Bailey Thulin from histories written by Elizabeth P. Astle, Mary P. Stucki and Alice B. Stay. Beatrice Bailey Thulin is the daughter of George Smith Bailey who was the son of George Brown Bailey who was the son of Ann Smith Bailey. It was submitted to the the DUP Library January 13, 1975.

2 William Lamborn was the son of John Lamborn and Ann's daughter Ellen.

3 Captain Milo Andrus and his wagon train left Mormon Grove Kansas 5 August 1855. 41n a history titled "Life of Elizabeth Young Bailey" written by Ellen Maria Bailey Humphrey it states that Ann and her two children and nephew [Elizabeth Young Bailey's nephew] lived with George Brown Bailey and his family the first winter that they were in Utah.

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months. Joseph was a tailor by trade and taught his wife to sew and she was always grateful for the knowledge which she passed on to her girls. Their oldest girl eloped with a young man, John Stevens, and their grieved them greatly. She disappeared.

They tried hard to find her and only after a gypsy told them she was ill did she come home but she had been seriously burned and died. This left only four of the nine children. After serving for 35 years, Joseph left the Army. He became morose and drank too much. Ann found employment in a cheese factory and supplemented the income with sewing. Joseph died suddenly, 1 November 1850, and was buried in Bath.

Soon after, two Mormon Elders came preaching the Gospel. Ann was receptive and easily converted. She learned that her son, George, had joined about six months before his father's death. They saved money to go to Utah. George B. and his wife, Elizabeth, took the savings and sailed on the ship "Falcon" which left Liverpool, England, 28 February 1853. He became a school teacher in Millcreek, Utah. With the aid of the Perpetual Emigration Fund, established by the Church, George Brown was able to send for his relatives. The following record taken from the Emigration Files shows:

Ship: "Samuel Curling" of 1476 tons Register

Sanders Curling, Master; Franklin D. Richards, Agent

Ann Bailey, 56, widow No.8 Claremont Building, E. Co. , 43 Wallcott, Bath, England

Ticket No.78; Folio M.P .I.f.

Register 881, ordered from G.S.L.C.

Elizabeth Bailey, 31, spinster Reuben Bailey, 16, plasterer

William Lamborn2, 7, child

Left Liverpool 122 April 1855, came to New York 27 May 1855