

## LOVINA SMITH WALKER

Lovina, oldest child of Patriarch Hyrum and Jerusha Barden Smith, was born September 16, 1827, at Manchester, New York.

When Lovina was about a week old, Jerusha's sisters came to visit the new baby. During dinner, Don Carlos, Hyrum's young brother, ran suddenly into the room. Hyrum left the table and ran to the bedroom to get a small wooden chest, turned it upside down to clear it, raced out of the house to the Smith home with the chest on his shoulder. Jerusha assured her astonished sisters that Hyrum had thought of something he had neglected. (The promised box to house the plates when they were brought home). That box has been handed down through the Smith descendants and is in the possession of Patriarch Eldred G. Smith.

The following December, Joseph and Emma bid Hyrum's family goodbye and moved to Harmony, Pennsylvania. The past months had been filled with much concern for the safety of the plates. Joseph needed friendly place to work on the translation. This separation was difficult for both families.

Hyrum's household was one of peace for a period of time, it was touched tragically by the death of Joseph's first son in 1828, then again by the loss of the pages of the manuscript. The Hyrum Smith family was closely involved with that of his father's family. He quit his business, Cooper's Trade, to spend full time to take care of affairs and run the farm.

Lovina's father, Hyrum, was privileged to be one of the eight witnesses to see and handle the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated. He was numbered among the six original members at the organization of the Church, April 6, 1830, and served as Associate President in the absence of Joseph, and later, ordained Patriarch to the Church. He was a respected citizen, a hard worker, and on the school board. The scriptures and the journal of Joseph speak highly of the character of Hyrum as humble, teachable, and deep sense of family commitment.

Lovina's mother, Jerusha Barden, was known for her singular beauty and fine character. Mother Smith wrote, "My oldest son formed a matrimonial relationship with one of the most excellent of women, with whom I saw much enjoyment." They were married November 20, 1826.

Lovina's sister, Mary was born June 29, 1829, at Palmyra, New York. The family suffered the loss of Mary in Kirtland, Ohio, May 29, 1832 when Lovina was almost five. Hyrum recorded his sorrow and grief in his journal. Comfort came when John, first son, was born September 22 of that year. Kirtland was their home after the Saints moved to that area.

Hyrum had to leave his wife, still in childbed after the birth of their second son, Hyrum, to recruit volunteers for Zion's Camp. Lovina, seven years old, was a great help taking care of her brother John, now three.

In 1837, Lovina, now ten, helped lift the house responsibility when Hyrum had to leave his family for another trip to Missouri, and her Mother was expecting their sixth child. John was almost five; Hyrum, Jr. was three; and little Jerusha was 20 months old. The parting was difficult and he was never to see his beloved wife again. She died October 13, 1837, eleven days after Sarah was born. What grief for a ten year old and her little brothers and sisters to endure. Journals record the praises of her mother's character.

Joseph encouraged Hyrum to take another wife, Mary Fielding, and they were married December 24, 1837. Lovina and her siblings now had a new mother.

The family endured the move to Missouri, persecutions, their father and her husband, with Joseph, imprisoned in the Liberty Jail, the move to Commerce, and countless experiences. Lovina contracted malarial fever in Commerce and almost died.

Lovina was to suffer another loss when her little brother, Hyrum Jr. died September 25, 1841 at age seven. He is buried in the Nauvoo Smith Family Cemetery.

Her new mother and her father had two more children, Joseph Fielding, born November 13, 1838, in Far West, Missouri, and Martha Ann, born May 14, 1841 in Nauvoo. Journals record Lovina was now sixteen and was a reliable dutiful daughter.

She had several suitors, one, Joseph Jackson, could not get permission from Hyrum to marry her, and became an enemy to the family and joined a conspiracy to murder the whole Smith family, but was exposed.

Lovina was doing a weekly wash when her father, Hyrum came home from one of his trips with his brother, the Prophet Joseph. Hyrum asked Lovina when she planned to be married. She said that they had been waiting for him to perform the ceremony. The Patriarch said if she wanted him to marry them, it would have to be that day. So Lovina removed her apron and went to find her lover, Lorin Walker. They were married with the humble family as witness to the ceremony on June 23, 1844, at Nauvoo, Illinois. Four days later the Prophet Joseph and her father, Patriarch Hyrum, were martyred at Carthage Jail.

Lorin had been nicknamed "Edwin" by the Prophet during the years he and his brother and sisters lived with Joseph and Emma when the Walker children's mother died and their father was sent on a mission. Lorin and William were employed by the Prophet in getting supplies and doing errands. In 1842-3 under the direction of the Prophet, Lorin and William took an active part in supplying the poor with wood, clothing and provisions. This was the introduction and origin of the Young Gentlemen and Ladies Relief Society organization. William was President and Lorin as the treasurer.

Lorin and Lovina remained with Emma and her family at Nauvoo until she married Major Bidamon. They moved to Macedonia and lived with the Prophet's sisters, Catherine and Sophronia, both widows.

Lorin's brother, William, and Lovina's brother, John, encouraged them to move to Utah. They moved to Farmington, Utah in 1860. Lovina died from childbirth on October 8, 1876. They were the parents of 13 children. Her body has been re-located in the Smith Family plot in Salt Lake City.

Their oldest son, Hyrum Smith Walker, was born in Nauvoo, Illinois, September 26, 1845. He was fifteen before traveling to Utah. He described his experience of playing hide and seek-go in around the mummies which were kept in a closet of the family home.

A history of Lovina Smith Walker taken from the published books of

"Hyrum Smith Patriarch" by Pearson H. Corbett

"Ancestry and Descendants of John Walker" by Rodney W. Walker

Donna Lee Frogley, second great granddaughter of Lovina. Hyrum Smith Walker is her great grandfather.

#### LOVINA AND HYRUM

In this connection will also suitably appear Sister Elizabeth Drake Davis, who served her people well while in the Treasury department at Washington. She was born in the town of Axminster, Devonshire, England, and was an only child. Having lost her father when she was but ten years of age, and not being particularly attached to her mother, her life became markedly lonely and desolate. In her extremity she sought the Lord in prayer, when a remarkable vision was shown her, which was repeated at two subsequent times, making a permanent impression on her life, and, in connection with other similar experiences, leading her to connect herself with the Church of Latter-day Saints. After being widowed in her native land she crossed the Atlantic and resided for two years in Philadelphia. In May, 1859, with a company of Philadelphian saints, she gathered to Florence, for the purpose of going thence to Utah. An incident there occurred that will be of interest to the reader. She says:

"We reached Florence late one evening; it was quite dark and raining; we were helped from the wagons and put in one of the vacant houses myself, my two little daughters and Sister Sarah White. Early next morning we were aroused by some one knocking at the door; on opening it we found a little girl with a cup of milk in her hands. She asked if there was 'a little woman there with two little children.'

'Yes,' said Sister White, 'come in.'

She entered, saying to me, 'If you please my ma wants to see you; she has sent this milk to your little girls.' Her mother's name was strange to me, but I went, thinking to find some one that I had known. She met me at the door with both hands extended in welcome.

'Good morning, Sister Elizabeth,' said she. I told her she had the advantage of me, as I did not remember ever seeing her before. 'No,' said she, 'and I never saw you before. I am Hyrum Smith's daughter (Lovina Walker); my father appeared to me three times last night, and told me that you were the child of God, that you was without money, provisions or friends, and that I must help you.'

It is needless to add that this excellent lady and myself were ever thereafter firm friends, until her death, which occurred in 1876. I will add that previous to her last illness I had not seen her in thirteen years; that one night her father appeared to me, and making himself known, said his daughter was in sore need; I found the message was too true. Yet it will ever be a source of gratitude to think I was at last able to return her generous kindness to me when we were strangers."

The Women of Mormondom, p.452 - 453