

# Biography of Sarah Jane Coulam

Information taken from Biography of Sarah Jane Coulam by Chloe Welch Monk

Autobiography of Bryant Heiner Croft

Biography of John Heiner by Chloe Welch Monk

And an Autobiography of Daniel Heiner

And family bibles

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Sarah Jane Coulam was born January 19, 1845, in Louth, Lincolnshire, England, daughter of John Coulam and Sarah Cordon. Her father was a cabinet maker, a trade he learned in England. Sarah Jane's family consisted of her father, mother, four brothers (John, Charles, Henry and George) and her sister (Fannie).

They were all small children when their parents commenced their journey to America, Sarah was only 4 years old. They left England with her family on January 29, 1848 on the Zetland, arriving in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 2, 1848. Her family then traveled by boat to St. Louis. Sarah's mother had been ill the entire voyage and died two days after leaving St. Louis on April 22, 1848. The Lord provided a way for the family to bury their mother properly on land instead of dropping her overboard, by having part of the boat break. This forced the captain to stop the boat long enough for the family to bury Sarah Cordon Coulam on the banks of the Missouri River. Sarah Jane was left without a mother early on. Her father continued his journey to Utah with his small children. Ann Atlass Robinson, who was also traveling with the company, helped her father take care of the baby, George. John later married Ann a few years after they reached Utah. Sarah walked across the plains with the pioneers in the Orson Spencer Company that left Florence on May 28, 1848, and arrived in Salt Lake City on September 23, 1848.

Her father and her siblings settled in the Salt Lake Eleventh Ward living on South Temple between Seventh and Eighth East. She was baptized when she was eight years old by Elder Rhumel on January 19, 1853. When she and her sister, Fannie were older, their father married again. It is said that their stepmother didn't treat them very well. She made them work very hard. They would go out in the fields to glean wheat and to gather weeds and thistles to cook for greens. They also gathered sego lillies to eat. Each one was only able to have half a cup of milk a day. She was not able to eat the greens because they made her so sick. Her sister, Fannie would give her the milk she was allowed so Sarah wouldn't go hungry.

Fannie married a Mr. John Baker and left their home, so that left Sarah with more work to do. Her stepmother would go out to her neighbors to visit and get a good meal. One day, Sarah went with her stepmother to visit a neighbor. She went out and gathered weeds for the lady to make greens out of. When she returned the lady gave her a piece of bread and butter, something she didn't get at home. As she was going out of the house, her stepmother followed her out and told her to take it home and put it in the cupboard for her. Sarah obeyed because she knew it was the only things she could do. She did all the washing for the family by hand as they didn't have anything to rub the clothes on. It was very hard on her hands and made them rough and sore. She was also the one to scrub the

board floor on her hands and knees with sand, so it would be nice and white, while her stepmother returned from her visiting.

In 1857, Johnston's Army was ordered to Utah to wipe out the Mormons or drive them from their homes. Brigham Young ordered the Saints to move south and called for volunteers to stay in the city and guard the homes. They were instructed that if the Army came they were to set fire to everything so there would be no provisions left. Since the Coulams lived downtown, they were compelled to move Provo, Utah County, Utah, for a short while until the situation was safe to return. In the process, Sarah, who was only 13 years old, helped plant crops and helped construct a temporary shelter at their home in Provo. In 1859, the family moved back to Salt Lake City and resided in their home near South Temple and Seventh East. Her father lived here in the 11<sup>th</sup> Ward until his death on May 20, 1877.

When she was twenty-one years old, she met John Heiner, son of Johann Martin and Adelgunda Dietzel Heiner. (There are not a lot of details to how Sarah Jane and John Heiner first became acquainted). Sarah and John fell in love and were soon married on March 23, 1867 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah. They moved to Morgan and made their home. At the Salt Lake City General Conference in the spring of 1867, Brigham Young called them on a mission to help settle the Muddy, which is in southern Utah near the state lines. They made preparations and left that fall. While moving to the Muddy River, John contracted cold which developed with pneumonia in December of 1867. Sarah continued to drive the team to St. George, while she attended to her sick husband John. When they reached St. George they were taken in by a family, George Ashley, and given a room. John died on January 12, 1868 in St. George, never making it to the Muddy, leaving Sarah alone with an unborn child. John was buried in the cemetery in St. George. She was young and alone, and was very discouraged. She felt she didn't have much to live for.

On February 10, 1868, in St. George, Washington County, Utah, a baby girl was born to her. It was a hard labor. After her baby was born, the midwife laid the baby beside Sarah Jane and left the room. She was alone there among strangers but her faith was in her Heavenly Father. Many descendants claim that John, Sarah's dead husband held her hand during her labor and later appeared to her. She had a dream or vision where she saw her young husband. He put his arms around her and the baby and told her not to be discouraged, and if she would try to go on and raise their child they would have a wonderful posterity. This renewed her faith and gave her courage and consolation to live for what he had promised her.

She named her daughter, Sarah Coulam Heiner. Sarah Jane had to be happy, for when she cried, the baby cried too, and she wouldn't stop until she saw a change on her mother's face. One evening when the baby was six weeks old, Brother Jessie W. Crosby came to the house. "Sister Heiner," he said, "I am leaving for Salt Lake with some other people in a few days. Do you want to go along?" "Do I want to go back home? There isn't anything I'd like better. Thanks so much for the invitation. The baby had whooping cough, but her mother, Sarah Jane left St. George driving her own team and wagon to Salt Lake with Jessie Crosby and some emigrants.

In the spring of 1868, she came to Morgan to live where he husband's parents had located. She stayed with her parent-in-laws, Martin and Adelgunda until, her brother-in-

law, George Heiner, built her a one-roomed log house, which she lived in until 1876, at which time her brothers built several rooms on to it. She did everything she could to sustain herself and her daughter. Sarah and Daniel soon fell in love; but since she was already sealed to Daniel's brother John, Daniel would not marry her unless he had a wife sealed to him for all eternity in the temple. So Daniel began his search for a wife who would accept polygamy and live with him and Sarah. Martha Ann Stevens was the companion he chose. He took Martha and Sarah to Salt Lake City, where they were married on March 31, 1873; and where he was sealed to Martha Ann Stevens for eternity. It cost one dollar to be married in 1873, and he had only two dollars, which paid for the two marriages.

Sarah bore Daniel a total of six children: Adelgunda, John, Daniel Hanmer, Fannie, Henry and George Sylvester.

Sarah's brothers, George and Henry Coulam did a great deal of carpentry work in the Salt Lake Temple and also on the Heiner home. When it was near completion and only a few workers were allowed, they were there. They made the whole arch and basket of flowers in the Celestial Room, as well as a lot of cabinet and finish work. Their father had taught them the trade.

After Sarah's marriage to Daniel and bearing him her third child, John, she was very sick and her blood turned to water. She said, "Go get, Grandpa Heiner, quick. I'm going as fast as I can go." When he got there she was nearly dead. He along with her husband, administered to her and promised her that she would get well, after which she testified that she felt her breath and life go back into her body as plain as she ever felt a drink of water go down her throat. They got Caroline Conley, a midwife, to take care of her. She ordered a tub of snow and a sheet. She laid the sheet on the floor and rolled Sarah in it and the chill, accompanied by the blessings of the Lord, brought about a reaction which caused the water to change back to blood. She went delirious and thought huge animals were coming after her. They had to move all the furniture and pictures out of the room to ease her mind. Through her faith she was entirely healed.

About two years later her children had diphtheria. The two youngest ones were very sick and their father and grandfather administered to them. Their sister, Sarah, was sitting in the window and saw a ball of fire come down from the ceiling and move up and down over one child's head, then over the other as a balloon on an elastic. She was very much impressed and told her mother, "I know they will get better because I saw a ball of fire come down from Heaven to heal them." They both got well and it is a wonderful testimony. (It is also reported that, Sarah Coulam Heiner, the oldest child, is one of the children who had diphtheria. She told her daughter that her father, John Heiner, came and she went with him but he told her that she had to go back because she had a mission to do and a family to raise.)

In the winter, when they had dances in the school house across from her home, she would prepare hot dinners and serve to the young couples. In this way, she would earn a little pin money. She did a great deal of handwork such as knitting and crocheting. At one time she crocheted a pair of curtains for her bedroom as well as several that she sold.

Her husband, Daniel, owned a ranch in Echo Canyon. They milked a number of cows and churned and made many pounds of butter which they shipped to Jennings

Brothers in Salt Lake City. Then in the fall they would send down and purchase shoes and material for clothing for the children. They could not choose the kind and colors of material they wanted, but had to take what they sent to them.

During the ranching season, one Mother would go to the ranch and take care of the milk and butter and the other mother would stay at Morgan, making clothes and preparing for both families for the following winter with the same impartial affection. The following season they would change places.

Their house in the Canyon was built about one-fourth mile from the railroad track with only one room for each family. Being so close to the railroad, a lot of scary characters would hang around their home and ask for food. One of which set their home on fire. Luckily Daniel listened to the prompting of the Holy Ghost and came back in time to put the fire out.

When the time came for the boys to go to school at Logan, Sarah went there and kept a home for the older boys of both families and the younger ones were under Martha's care.

After the manifesto was signed and plural marriage was unlawful, Daniel Heiner continued to support Sarah Jane and her children, but he lived with his first wife, Martha, who had six more children afterwards. It is reported that Sarah Jane was sealed to John Heiner in the Endowment House and that all of her children will belong to John in the hereafter.

Sarah was President of the North Morgan Primary for a number of years, with Rachel and Margaret Robinson as her Counselors. They did not have the Children's Friend at that time, so they had to prepare their lessons and stories from the books they had. She also served as President of the North Morgan Relief Society for a number of years.

Sarah was very kind and considerate of others. She was always neat and clean in her house and with her appearance. She worked hard to help provide for the seven children she was blessed with. When the Heiner Brothers built the Hotel in Morgan in 1889, she went there to live, and took over the management of it. She spent the last few years of her life with her daughter, Fannie.

Before Sarah died she requested that "Aunt Martha" prepare her and her clothes for burial, thus showing in the last moments of her life the great love and esteem she held for Aunt Martha. (Quoted from a talk from her funeral minutes by George Sylvester Heiner.) She died at Fannie's home in Morgan in the parlor room, on April 30, 1918 from a flu epidemic during the first world war. The funeral service was held in the home parlor room, where she was soon afterwards taken to the Morgan Cemetery to be buried on May 2, 1918.