

MARY ADELINE BEMAN

Mary Adeline Beman was born October 19, 1810, in Livingston County, New York. Her father, Beman, was born May 22, 1775, in Nevmolberry, Massachusetts. Her mother, Sarah Burtt, was born June 17, 1775, in Hartford, Connecticut. Mary Adeline was the 6th of 8 children. Her sister Louisa, who was the first plural wife of the Prophet Joseph Smith, was just younger than she, and Artemesia, who married Erastus Snow, was the youngest.

Mary Adeline attended a select boarding school and also grammar school, and just before she was eighteen years old she received a recommend saying she was well qualified for teaching in any school. She started teaching the next winter and from 1828 to 1834 she taught, during the winter months, near her father's home. In the summer she lived at home and assisted her parents in the work, which a farm of that day called for, making cloth, attending the dairy, etc.

It was during these years the Beman family became acquainted with Joseph Smith and his father's family. On one occasion Alvah Beman was in the home of Joseph Smith, Sr., when a mob of ruffians forced their way into the Smith home and demanded to see the Golden Bible.

It was about this time that Mary Adeline met Joseph Bates Noble. They were friends for several years and at one time they both boarded at the same home.

In May, 1834, Joseph Bates Noble became a member of "Zion's Camp." Before he left on that historic march he secured Mary Adeline's promise to marry him when he returned. They were married in her father's home on September 11, 1834. Joseph Bates had secured employment

with Joseph Coe, in Kirtland, Ohio. He was to get a house and lot and firewood sweepings of the mill, and \$300 a year. They moved to Kirtland immediately after the wedding and made a very comfortable home.

Mary Adeline's life thereafter was one with the Church. The leaders of the Church and their wives were her friends. She worked and helped with the erection of the Kirtland Temple and was there at the dedication.

Mary Adeline experienced much sorrow in raising her family. She bore nine children and only three of them lived to maturity. She was also confronted with the doctrine of plural marriage, and, being converted to it, she gave her consent to her husband obeying this principle.

The Nobles lived in Nauvoo for several years and left the city when the Saints were driven from Illinois. She, with her husband, her son, Edward Alvah, and her adopted daughter, Susan, spent the first winter in Winter Quarters. In the summer of 1847, on the trek west, "somewhere in Missouri," her daughter, Eliza Theodocia was born, and, miraculously, lived.

Mary shared her home in the Salt Lake Valley with her husband's other wives and children. In 1849 she bore another son, Benjamin. She became very much attached to Susan Hammond Ashby, who became her husband's fourth wife. When her health failed she left her children to the care of this good woman . who survived her by only three months.

Mary Adeline died February 14, 1851, in Salt Lake City. She was forty years old.