

## MARY WOODRUFF



**Born:** 26 Oct. 1867, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, daughter of Wilford Woodruff and Sarah Brown

**Died:** 15 Feb. 1903, Provo, Utah, Utah

Mary was just 3 years old when her family moved to Randolph, Utah in May 1871. In November 1876, Mary had just turned 9 when the family relocated to Smithfield, Utah. Growing up in these small pioneer communities, she helped with the daily chores of family life, however, her education was not neglected. Her mother, Sarah, was an educated woman and a school teacher in her own right. She was also a talented seamstress and known for the gloves and hats that she made. She undoubtedly passed on these skills to her daughters. Mary also had three older brothers – David Patten, Brigham and Newton – and two older sisters, Arabell and Sylvia. Whenever, her father, Wilford Woodruff, came to Randolph or the Cache Valley, she enjoyed his company.

Mary attended schools in Randolph and Smithfield, and then in 1885 enrolled in the Brigham Young Academy in Logan. She graduated in the spring of 1888 and (like her mother) became a school teacher. After teaching a year in Smithfield, she moved to Coalville, to teach there. Her mother went with her. The next

year the two of them went to Farmington where Mary taught for two years. In 1892, they moved to Provo, where they lived in a cabin home that had been built for Mary's mother. Mary graduated from the Brigham Young Academy and then taught there nine years.

When her father visited them, he was impressed with Mary's intelligence and ambition. He wrote: "I found Mary very highly educated. She was good in German and Latin and had received the highest diploma given in the institution." She also painted and played the piano.

While she and her mother lived in Provo, they welcomed into their home Sarah's grandchildren, who had come to study at the college. Mary never married, but she always cared for her mother. She gave her both emotional and financial support. In 1903, Mary passed away suddenly at the age of 36. This was a severe trial for her mother because she had come to rely on Mary so completely.

[Alan J. Hill & Sharon Meikle, 7-30-20]

## **SOURCES**

Family Group Sheet, Wilford Woodruff and Sarah Brown.

Handley, Sylvia Moses, Sarah Brown Woodruff, 4<sup>th</sup> Wife of Wilford Woodruff, published in Our Pioneer Heritage, Vol. 10, page 235 and 236.

Handley, Sylvia Moses, Life Sketch of Sarah Brown Woodruff, March 1, 1941.

Daughter of Pioneers had photo family group sheet of Wilford Woodruff and Sarah Brown,

## **Discrepancy**

In two of Sarah Brown's stories they place Mary's death as 1891. This could not be correct, so Family group data is used. One of Sarah Brown's stories say Mary went to school at the B.Y. College, the other story says it was at she went to Logan A. College.