

new

# HISTORY HISTORY

DUP PREVIEW PAGE

HISTORY OF SUSAN STRONG MOWER

Born- 3-May 1825

Strongtown, Indiana County, Pennsylvania

Died-17 July, 1856- Union Fort, Salt Lake County, Utah

Married-Henry Mower Jr. 11 Dec. 1845.

Parents-Jacob Strong and Sarah Hill

All material for history in possession of

Anne Mower-Nible Park Camp-who filed history

South Center Salt Lake County, Utah

*Pioneer of 1849*

# HISTORY OF SUSAN STRONG MOWER

Information collected by Anne Mower- a great great grand daughter.

Susan Strong was born on the 3rd of May 1825 at Strongtown, Indiana Count Pennsyliavina. The story goes that Susan's grandfather, James Strong won the privilege of choosing the name for this pioneer settlement by drawing the winning 'straw'.#About 1820, James Strong moved his family into the virgin area in Penn and took up a large tract of land. About the same time, James Hill came to the locality with his family, others followed until there was enough for a town. They wo~~nd~~dered what to name the new town, In as much as James Stron~~g~~ and James Hill were the first ones in the locality, it was decided to draw lots to see which <sup>man</sup> ~~name~~ the town would be named for. James Strong drew the winning straw, hence the name Strongtown.

James Strong's son, Jacob fell in love with James Hill's daughter Sarah and they were married, thus uniting a long line of stalwart people. Jacob and Sarah eventually became the parents of the following children, all born in Strongtown. Sarah-b-1822, our Susan-b-1825, William-b-1827, Lucinda-b-1831 and John Albert-b-1836.

Susan was a bright ,happy child, quick to take responsibility in the home. She received the same amount of education offered other children there.

The Strongs' were good, hardworking, honest people. Relegion played a great part in their lives. They were members of the Luthern Church in Strongtown. The truthfulness of these relegious offiliations were challenged ,however, when they heard Erastus Snow, then a serious young missionary of 18 years, explain mormonism to them with such powerful convictions that they were converted to this new relegion. Elder Snow baptized the Strong family on Oct. 20th 1836. From that time on their testimonies never wavered, even tho. they endured untold hardships and persecutions for the Gospel's sake.

Susan was 11 years old at the time and fully realized the change in their lives. It was Sept. 24th 1839 when Susan's parents, her sister Sarah, and

brothers William and John Albert, (Lucinda had died Dec. 1837), left their home and Native state, bidding adieu to relatives and friends. They journeyed westward to join the Saints in the State of Illinois. They arrived there on the 18th of March 1840. Susan was a young lady of 15 years when they moved.

For a very short time, after gathering at Nauvoo, the Saints enjoyed a period of peace from their enemies. In 1841, the Saints, thru e revelation were ~~sin~~ instructed to build a temple. But the mobs soon became more violent than ever, and even took the lives of the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum on June 27th 1844. Brigham Young, the President of the 12 apostles was chosen by the Lord to carry on as the leader of the Saints.

In the Relief Society Handhook published in 1931, both Sarah Strong and her daughter Susan's names are listed as members of the Nauvoo Relief Society which was organized March 17, 1842.

Being of marriagable age, our Susan was being courted by a fine young man by the name of Henry Mower Jr. He was the son of Henry Mower Sr. and Mary Amick. He was born 22 Nov. 1824 at Bedford, Bedford Co. Penn. He and his family were also converts to Mormonism and had joined the Saints in Nauvoo, Ill. When this young couple were married on the 11th of Dec. 1845, she was 20 years ~~and~~ and he was 21. The Temple had been rushed to completion so the sacred ordinances for which it was build could be accomplished there-in. It was the 3rd of Feb. 1846 when Henry and Susan received their endowments in the Nauvoo Temple.

Soon after this, the great move started from their City Beautiful. The Saints took what little they could with them and crossed the ice clogged Mississippi River into Iowa where the homeless refugees gathered in temporary camps. One such camp was Council Bluffs or Kaneshville, in Pottaw<sup>awaromie</sup> Co. Iowa. It was here that Susan and Henry spent the next two years. It was here also where Susan gave birth to her first child, William Henry on the 24th of Sep 1846. The conditions under which this baby was born was deplorable and the little thing died the next day. By the time John Albert was

3-  
born on the 23rd of Aug. 1848, also in Kanseville, things were some better.

By this time the Saints were preparing outfits and food stuff to make the long trek across the plains to the Valley of the Mountains.

In 1846, Susan's brother William, had marched away with the Mormon Battalion. He was discharged from the Army in Calif. and came overland to Salt Lake City in the fall of 1848. He established residence in the 10th Ward in Salt Lake then he set out across the plains to assist his folks on to Utah. This was the summer of 1849.

Records show that Henry and Susan Strong Mower and their one year old son John Albert, along with her parents and other family members were assigned to travel in Silas Richard's company. This was a large group which left Kanseville, July 10, 1849 and arrived in Great Salt Lake City Oct. 12. Enroute they endured all the hardships of the trek, sore feet, scanty rations, hot sunshine, wind, rain and severe snow storms. Cattle also stampeded which caused considerable damage. They were ever on the alert for the roving Indians.

They were happy indeed, when they reached their destination -- Great Salt Lake City. They drove immediately to Pioneer Square which was the stopping place for the emigrants. The houses of the fort furnished a first home for many new arrivals. This was where Henry and Susan spent the first winter, <sup>as soon as possible</sup> they moved out into the city, though we don't know just where. Her parents and brother William made their home in the 10th Ward, perhaps the Mowers did to. Henry conducted a hotel for awhile. He also sold provisions for the gold seekers who passed thru Salt Lake City. Note- Family members of today says that Henry Jr. lived in Union Fort and operated a store there before he went to Springville.

Even though Susan's health was not good, she was overjoyed when she presented her husband with a baby daughter on the 10th of Oct. 1851. They called this precious baby, Sarah Elizabeth.

Then in 1854 Susan, her husband with their 2 little children moved to Springville where Henry's father's family were living. However, they didn't

stay there too long but came back to Salt Lake County, making their home in Union Fort.

Susan's health grew steadily worse, and on the 17 of July 1856, at the home of her dear friend Keziah Frances Brady Richards, wife of Silas Richards, in Union, she died. She was only 41 years old. Her remains were taken to the Salt Lake City cemetery for interment. Her little daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, who was only 5 years old was taken into the home of her maternal grandparents, Jacob and Sarah Strong where she lived until she was married to Joseph B. Alvord.

Her 8 year old son, John Albert remained with his father, who soon had other wives to care for their needs. They later moved to Fairview in Sanpete County where both father and son lived out the remainder of their days. John Albert married Sarah Matilda Brady in 1867.

Even though Susan Strong Mower didn't live to have a large family, from the two children she had a nice posterity. They are getting more numerous all the time and will always be proud to honor the name of their faithful pioneer ancestor- Susan Strong Mower.