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SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF MELISSA K. ROLLINS LEE HEYBORNE

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For Old Fort Camp, Cedar City, Utah

I was born July 13, 1851, at Cajon Pass, California. My parents Eveline and James Henry Rollins were camped for the winter at Cajon Pass where Father was teaching school. The following spring Father moved the family to San Bernardino. We lived there seven years. Father owned a beautiful vineyard and had started to build a home but it was never completed. He also was part owner of a large store there and was doing very well when President Brigham Young sent the call "To you Tents, O Israel." Seven days from the time the word was received Father and a company of other Saints were on their way to Utah. The store was left to the mercy of the people, but Father took five wagon loads of goods with him. I was only seven years old when we left, but can remember well how San Bernardino looked at that time.

On our way to Utah in company with Moses Thatcher we had no trouble until we reached Mojave. My brother, John Henry, was driving a wagon and three span of mules. Mother and Brother Watson, a baby about a year and a half old, and myself were riding with him. We were ahead of Father and the rest of the company and as we rounded a point of a mountain, two Indians sprang out from some rocks and drew their bow and arrows. They were all painted and wore feathers in their hair. John Henry coiled his big black whip to strike them when Mother told him not to touch them for fear the Indians would kill us all. The Indians caught hold of the lead mules and turned them so as to cramp the

wagon. Mother and I were terribly frightened and both jumped, Mother with the baby in her arms. Just then the rest of the company drove in sight and the Indians ran off. We were not bothered again.

The fright made Motner so sick that Father had to stop in Cedar for a week.

He received word from President Young to help colonize Minersville. We went on to Parowan where we lived ~~two~~ years. I was baptized there by Brother Daniel Page.

Father was bishop of Minersville for eleven years and there I spent my girlhood days. They were happy ones for me and I made many young friends.

When I was sixteen, I met John Nelson Lee from Panaca, Nevada. Two years later he came to Minersville for a load of flour. He spent the Xmas holidays with us and we were married December 30, 1867.

We then moved back to Minersville where my Daughter Ema Cox was born and where my son John Raymond was born.

I was set apart as president of the first Retrenchment Society of Minersville, 1875, by Bishop McKnight, and worked in that calling for four years.

We moved back to Panaca and four years later I was chosen as President of the Primary and set apart by President McAllister of St. George. Thomas Terry of Enterprise, and Sam Lee of Panaca. I worked in this calling for seventeen years and then was released to be chosen immediately as first counselor. I was counselor for five years and then was set apart as second counselor of the Relief Society October 22, 1905. Five years later I was made First counselor, August 7, 1910, and on September 3, 1911, I was set apart as President of the Relief Society by Bishop N. J. Wadsworth. I worked as president until I was called to labor in the St. George Temple.

My husband and I were Ordinance workers for two years. We had been home only a few weeks when my husband was stricken with Paralysis and died eleven days afterward.

I soon returned to the St. George temple and worked for ten years as an Ordinance worker, doing the work over one thousand dead who had not had the privilege of going through the temple while living.

I have worked as a Relief Society teacher in Panaca, St. George and Cedar. I have been a daughter of the Pioneers in St. George and Cedar for several years.

I have had eleven children, six boys and five girls, and all of them lived until grown. Two of my daughters, Jennie Eveline Lee Wadsworth, and Ada Melissa Lee Ronnow died in Childbirth. Three boys, James Henry, Peter LeRoy and Angus Melvin have gone.

The remaining children Ida D. Hollingshead, Mary Etta Cox, John Raymond, Luverna Edessa Mathews, Lester Eugene and Porter LaFayette are all living.

I am a grandmother of 52 and great grandmother of 42.

I was married to Brother Charles M. Heyborne, October 31, 1921 in the St. George temple for time and have lived in Cedar City since then.