

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WIFE OF ARMINDA HADDEN ROBINSON

Facts sent to Lula Bastian by Pearl McGuire, a daughter, and Elsie Robinson, a daughter-in-law. Arranged by Nora Lund of the Paragonah D.U.F.--1957.

Arminda Hadden Robinson was born 19 August 1859, in Beaver, Beaver County, Utah. She was the daughter of Alfred Sidney Hadden and Sarah Ann Carter Hadden. She was one of a large family.

She became the wife of William Robinson, son of John Rowlandson and Jane Coupe Robinson, who was seven years her senior. Their marriage took place in Paragonah in 1874. Her husband was a blacksmith by trade and supported his family from this occupation a good share of the time.

The Robinson family left Paragonah and moved to help colonize a new section of the country in Colorado, called Mancos in La Platte County in southern Colorado. Here the leaders of the Mormon Church were trying to establish a mission or colony of people. It was hard to pick up and leave everything that you had accumulated in your established home, but obedience was certainly the thing that kept the expansion of the Mormon Church going.

The trip from Paragonah to Mancos, by way of the Green River was especially difficult for Arminda at this particular time, for James Melvin, the youngest of her four children was less than a year old. Then in a month or two she was expecting her fifth child. The trip itself, had been hard enough, jolting day after day over rocks and brush and through sand, with a meager food supply, then to have no home to go into was a trying thing. It was difficult to care for her family in a wagon box until her husband could clear a place and chop cedar posts and make a crude shelter for them in their new place of abode. Of course, as soon as he could, he bettered their living conditions.

Wherever Arminda lived, she was an angel of mercy among the sick people. In her years of pioneering in out of the way places, as well as larger towns, her services as a nurse were much sought after. She seemed to be wise in her knowledge of just what to do for certain ailments to bring relief to the suffering. She was a beautiful seamstress and did a lot of sewing for others. The more well-to-do people of Panguitch for whom she sewed were proud to wear the dresses she made. Her husband moved the family around quite a bit, trying to better their living conditions and find suitable employment. From Colorado, they moved to Panguitch and from there to Joseph in Sevier County; back again to Panguitch in Garfield Co. and then to northern Utah. William died in Colton, Utah County 1 May 1909, at the early age of 57. Though he was young in years, he was old in experience, and had lived much in those 57 years, a pioneer in very deed to every locality he lived in. Arminda, ever at his side sharing in the hardships of pioneer circumstances, bearing and rearing their large family in adverse conditions, and sharing the pleasures of life, was left a widow at the age of 50.

In their notes, Pearl and John's wife, Elsie, both tell of the struggle she had to make a living for her remaining children at home. From Elsie, let me quote: "Mrs. Robinson ran a boarding house there at Colton for a while after Mr. Robinson's death. Then she went to Ft. Duchesne and worked for the government. After a few years she moved back to Colton again. Then she moved back to Price where she lived with Francis. When John and his family moved into Salt Lake City, she moved there also."

2--Arminda Hadden Robinson

Pearl says: "When father passed away, mother had it hard, as there were five of us to look after. We all did all that we could to help, but it wasn't enough so mother took in washings on the board to help take care of us." About 3 years later, when a dear friend of father's, William Littley, asked mother to marry him, so he could take care of her and her remaining family as long as she lived. She accepted, and we were sure glad, as he was very good to her, and we all like him very much. Mother died about a year before Mr. Littley did, 15 January 1935, in Price Carbon County. She was 76 years old when she left us. We were happy that her last years were easier and she didn't have to work so hard. She was a wonderful mother, always kind and loving to her family, as well as helping her neighbors and friends in sickness and in every way she could."