

**CAROLINE CHAPPELL WOODWARD
NELSON BROWN**

1829 - 1908



GABRIEL M. BEE

CAROLINE CHAPPELL WOODWARD NELSON BROWN

Caroline, a contemporary of Queen Victoria, was born on the first of September 1829 to William Chappell and Ursula Harding in Malmsbury, Wiltshire, England. The time of her birth was a period of industrial expansion at home and a time of imperial expansion for England world wide.

On the year that Caroline was born, the Book of Mormon translation was completed by the Prophet Joseph Smith Junior.

When she was 20 years old, Caroline married Barzilla Woodward, the son of James Woodward, in St. Nicholas' Church in Gloucester, on the 10th of January, 1850. Barzilla was 25 years old at the time he married Caroline.

William, the only child of Caroline and Barzilla was born on the 24th of June, 1850 in London, England.

According to family tradition Caroline's first contact with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was with missionaries she met at her mother's home. After being taught by them, Caroline joined the Church.

Following her husband's death, Caroline and her son emigrated to America in order to be united with the main body of the Church. They embarked on the sailing ship "William Tapscott" in Liverpool as members of a company of 725 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints en route to Salt Lake City, Utah, the headquarters of the Church.

The "William Tapscott" was one of the largest full rigged ships of it's time.

Robert F. Neslen was president of the emigrant company with Henry H. Harris and George Rowley as his counselors.

Aboard the Tapscott the company was divided into 10 wards, 5 English and 5 Scandinavian. An Elder was appointed to preside over each ward to see that cleanliness and order were maintained during the voyage. The English and Swiss members of the company occupied one side of the passenger compartment and the Scandinavian Saints the other.

Despite the fact that nine different languages were spoken by the members of the company, peace and harmony prevailed throughout the voyage. Morning and evening prayers and church services were held regularly. Entertainment of several kinds consisting of both vocal and instrumental music was enjoyed during the journey along with games and dancing.

After an uneventful passage of thirty one days the "William Tapscott" docked in New York City.

Referring to the recently completed voyage President Neslen commented, "in the matrimonial department we did exceedingly well as we had nineteen marriages, five couples of which were English, one Swiss and thirteen Scandinavian, all of which were solemnized by myself. Two babies were born during the crossing and there was one death."

On May 14th, the day after their arrival in New York City the emigrants boarded the "Isaac Newton", a river boat, which transported them to Albany, New York. At Albany they obtained passage on a train belonging to the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad which transported them to St. Joseph, Missouri, where they boarded a river boat which took them to their destination, Florence, Nebraska. At Florence the 235 members of the original company who had been designated members of the George Rowley handcart company (the only handcart company to cross the plains in 1859) were obliged to wait impatiently for three long weeks until their handcarts and necessary equipment were assembled and the company organized for the journey to Utah.

When ready there were 60 handcarts and 6 ox-drawn wagons. The wagons were to haul the provisions for the company and any members of the company too ill to walk. All adult men and women were each expected to help pull or push the handcart they were assigned to.

Caroline was assigned to the same handcart with Mathias Nelson and Albertine Berthelson. Before leaving Florence, Nebraska, Caroline arranged with her cousin Sarah for her son William to travel with her in the wagon train that she was traveling with.

The people assigned to the handcarts were restricted to seventeen pounds of personnel luggage each.

By way of provisions each adult member of the company was allowed one cup of flour daily, with bacon, a handful of coffee, tea, rice and sugar if available. Four milk cows accompanied the company to provide it with milk and cream.

The prospect of walking across the plains to Utah did not discourage the emigrants. Before the coming of the transcontinental railroad, bullwhackers regularly walked alongside their ox-teams on the Santa Fe Trail and emigrants with covered wagons frequently trudged beside their wagons.

Traveling by handcart was a very economical way to travel. \$45.00 would cover the cost of traveling from Liverpool to Salt Lake City.

The George Rowley Company left Florence, Nebraska on the 9th of June, 1859. The first few weeks were difficult for the emigrants, fatigue and sore feet were the most frequent complaints, these disappeared as the travelers became accustomed to the hardships of the trail. They seemed to have more trouble with their handcarts and wagons than with physical ailments. After a difficult journey, the company reached the Salt Lake Valley on the 4th of September, 1859.

When they reached Salt Lake City, Caroline married Mathias Nelson on the 6th of September, 1859, Eli B. Kelsey officiated. Kelsey a prominent Tooele City resident hired Mathias to work for him in Tooele so the Nelsons moved to that location.

In Tooele Mathias and Caroline operated a hotel known as "The Nelson House." The hotel catered to mining men from Rush Valley when their business interests brought them to Tooele and to the passengers on the overland stage. It is believed that Mark Twain may have stopped there on the way to Nevada where his brother was Secretary of State.

One of the stories handed down by the descendants of Caroline and Mathias Nelson is that of a Chinese cook who worked in the Nelson House. Whose pastry was so delicious that the local women were anxious to obtain his recipe. Unfortunately the cook's English was so limited that they could not understand his description of how he made his pastry, so with Caroline's permission several of them decided to gather in the kitchen and observe what he did first hand. They watched eagerly his every action as he proceeded to mix the pie dough for which he was famous until near the end thinking that his dough was just a little too dry he filled his mouth with water and spit it into the dough. Seeing this the women lost all interest in learning more. Incidentally the demonstration cost the cook his job.

After the first justices appointed to the Territorial Supreme Court had had a falling out with Church Leaders, they abandoned their judicial positions in Utah Territory and returned to Washington D.C. which left the territory without federal judges. Utah's county courts out of necessity assumed many of the tasks that rightfully belonged to the federal courts. One of the duties of the federal courts which the county courts assumed was the granting of citizenship. A belief that was not challenged until the bitter election contest of 1874 in Tooele County, when Caroline was arrested for having voted illegally.

On the 25th of October, 1874, The Salt Lake Herald reported Caroline's arrest as follows:

"To the utter astonishment of Mrs. Nelson, the estimable hostess of The Nelson House (in) Tooele, a deputy United States Marshal appeared at her residence yesterday and arrested her on a charge of illegal voting at the August election, the lady having been indicted by the grand jury.

Mrs. N. was brought to the city (Salt Lake) last evening and released on her promise to appear for trial when called upon (by) the court. The lady has been indicted under the United States Statutes making it a crime for a foreigner to vote for delegates to Congress.

Mrs. N. was alien by birth, as was her husband, but we understand he has been naturalized. Of the merits or demerits of this prosecution THE HERALD has nothing to say at present, and will only remark that it appears strange that the powerful law engine - Third District Court- should be turned against a woman, when so many males are guilty of the same offense.

Messrs. Sutherland and Bates have been retained as counsel for Mrs. Nelson."

The SALT LAKE TRIBUNE issue of 3 April, 1875, attacked Caroline in it's columns under the heading of "A Woman's Wrongs." Mrs. Caroline Nelson, of Tooele, has a long story to tell, and being a progressive female, she selects the Woman's Journal to tell it in. She has an Iliad of woes to recount, and where facts are not tragic enough for her purposes, she resorts to a vivid imagination to piece out. In this judicially oppressed country she is gagged and bound, as the following statement will show.

"THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE is famous for not publishing much except falsehoods and blackguardism, consequently my case would not get a place in it's columns, and the SALT LAKE HERALD and DESERET NEWS are gagged by Judge McKean and the "Utah ring," for which reason they cannot take up a case in defense of a helpless woman."

Now what is this oppressed woman's case? She shrewdly gets in some cheap advertising (in which ruse we will aid her) by informing the public that she keeps a hotel. "All that wayfarers want," she says, "is a good bed and good meals, and that (what/which ?) they find at the Nelson House," astute female !

Here comes another grievance:

"A certain United States official formerly put up at my place, but now has ceased doing so, for some reason best known to himself. When he was last here, he turned round a picture of General Stonewall Jackson, and wrote on the back thereof, "We are not all rebels that stop here." At the time I thought nothing of it, but since that time I have found out why I got into the bad graces of "The Utah Ring."

Sorry for the complainant's case, but she should be loyal to the government that protects her.

Our correspondent "Boston," is next hauled over the coals. This graceless pagan said some very irreverent things of Mrs. Nelson which put her on her mettle, and she became clamorous for a chance at his scalp lock. A cordial invitation "to meet me face to face," was not responded to by this ungallant Babylonian, and in her long catalogue of grievances this gentle fair one enumerates the refusal of our correspondent, "Boston," to afford her an opportunity of leaving an imprint of her ardent affection upon his manly countenance.

Her indictment by the Grand Jury for illegal voting is given as another evidence of the determination of the "Utah Ring" to crush her. The indictment, she says was "based upon a quibble." Her husband is an unnaturalized alien, and he like all the rest of his pious brethren, had been voting on his first paper. "He supposed that we could vote on the first paper as legally as on the second paper, and I thought myself entitled to the right of suffrage."

Here Mrs. Nelson's "divine fury," betrays her into inaccuracy. She should have told the Boston editorial ladies into whose ears she pours the sad story of her woes, that great pains were taken by the Liberal committee of Tooele County to inform the misguided Saints of the provisions of the election laws. Voting on first papers and on certificates of citizenship issued by

probate courts was distinctly and repeatedly declared illegal. Mrs. Nelson voted knowing the act to be felonious, and that she subjected herself to punishment by fine and imprisonment for so doing. When indicted for this heinous offense and brought before Judge McKean for trial this judicial bete noir, whom Mrs. Nelson in common with all her disloyal brothers and sister Saints so cordially detests, instead of inflicting upon her (the) full penalty of the law, condoned her offense with a nominal mulct, and bade her go and sin no more.

She denounces this mild proceeding as "persecution" and "personal spite," and asks why Judge McKean did not send his deputy after any man in this place ? Mrs. Nelson cannot be so ignorant as to suppose that Judge McKean acts as grand jury, prosecuting attorney and United States marshal in addition to his own onerous duties. He sent no deputy, and this scalding virago well knows the fact. Then what justice there is in her pleading the immunities of her sex ? She claims and exercises the highest privilege of a citizen to which she has no title, and then because she is made amendable for her crime against the Republic whines at the ungallantry of the court and ministerial officers, and asks why did you not punish a man ? She, also, complains of the incivility of arresting her, The officer having in his possession a warrant for her husband also ! But this latter being in Europe, according to her own showing, it would have been quite inconvenient to serve a warrant upon this Fugocious Saint.

It is a matter of sincere regret to every friend of humanity in Salt Lake that Mr. Nelson's business should have been injured by the withdrawal of gentle patronage; but this female should have remembered in time, that loyal citizens when they stop at a place of entertainment have a violent repugnance to gazing upon the face of a uniformed rebel as they eat their meals, and cannot desire to support a hostess who breaks the laws to retain in public office a set of men who arrogantly and defiantly trample upon our rights and liberties.

Caroline was adamantly opposed to the practice of polygamy and when her husband married a second wife, (possibly because she and Mathias had had no children) she reacted at once. Realizing how strongly his wife felt about plural marriage, Mathias left his new wife in Salt Lake City and went out to Tooele to "smooth the way," for her arrival. Mathias placed a photograph of his new wife in the parlor of the Nelson House. Taking advantage of her first opportunity, Caroline took the offending photograph up into the attic and dropped it down between the outer and inner walls of the hotel. (many years afterward when the venerable old hotel was demolished, the ill fated photograph was discovered, however because the workmen were not aware of it's significance, it was discarded.

When Mathias brought his second wife out to Tooele, she was lodged in the Nelson House as a guest, and was not allowed to take any part in the management of the establishment while Caroline completed her arrangements to leave Tooele.

Probably because she had many friends and acquaintances among the Rush Valley mining men who had patronized the Nelson House before moving to the booming Montana mining districts, it must have seemed the natural thing to do to go up there also, so Caroline went to Butte, Montana after leaving Tooele.

In Butte Caroline supported herself by working in a hotel. On the 18th of March, 1882, Caroline married Lawrence A. Brown in Beaverhead County, Montana Territory. She was well acquainted with her new husband before moving to Montana. He had formerly lived in Rush Valley. He had been interested in mining affairs there and had taken an active part in county politics while living there.

In Montana Caroline and Lawrence lived on a ranch near Dillon. Lawrence had interests in Mining and ranching. Following her husband's death Caroline moved back to Tooele where she remained the rest of her life.

Bertha Nelson Tripp, Caroline's granddaughter remembered that after Caroline returned from Montana, that she and Mathias were like old sweethearts once more.

Afraid that somehow she might accidentally be buried alive. Years before her death, Caroline had a vault built in which she wanted to be buried. Her vault had a concrete floor and side walls and was closed by a marble slab.

In the days before Caroline's death, the Tooele Cemetery was watered by irrigation. Like other Tooele property, the cemetery was watered according to a schedule assigned by the water master. Watering turns were rotated and at times they came at night.

When one of the cemetery's night watering turns came one summer, members of the Tooele Mandolin and Guitar Club concealed themselves in Caroline's empty burial vault where they waited quietly until the unsuspecting sexton approached at which time they began to serenade him. Hearing the music, the panic stricken sexton exited the cemetery in record time.

Caroline died in Tooele on the 8th of June, 1908 and was buried in the Tooele City Cemetery.

March 1st 1901

My Dear Son

when I am Dead you
Take All The property I Leave
And do As you Like with
The Things so As you pay all
Debts And Put a fence around
My grave if there is any
money in Mc Cormick Bank
you Take it And pay The Debts
if anything over Give Ten Dollars
To The poor fund I cannot give
Anyone anything Because I do
not know how I will be fixed
at The Time of my Death but
will Leave it to your good
Judgment To Decide I might have
To Sell all I have before I die

Your loving Mother
Caroline M. Brown