

CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH SMART PARKINSON

Charlotte Elizabeth Smart "Parkinson" was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on the 6th of November 1849, the daughter of Thomas Sharrett Smart and Ann Hayter. She came to Utah in 1852 with the family and located in American Fork, thence to Provo where her father made a very successful business from a newly founded tannery. In the spring of 1860 at the request of Peter Maughan (presiding bishop of Cache Valley) the family moved to Franklin, Idaho.

HOME LIFE BEFORE MARRIAGE

Charlotte was the oldest daughter of the latter marriage and was given responsibilities of trust at a very early age. She was ambitious and very dependable, never wanting to shirk her work or hand it over to an older sister, but she took great pride in doing all the work which was expected of her. While her older sisters helped outside with the work on the farm Charlotte helped her mother with the sewing, weaving, blankets, and housework in general.

She was to marry Samuel Rose Parkinson, but at her father's advice, she waited an entire year after the original marriage date, preparing herself for the countless duties of marriage in polygamy. She told Mr. Parkinson that she would not court him during the year for she knew it would be too hard on his other wife. They agreed if at any time during the year either of them changed their minds, they would meet to let each other know.

INTELLECTUAL INCLINATIONS

Charlotte was of an intellectual nature and became quite conversant in many subjects, although she had only a few short winters of actual schooling. The main amusement of the time was dancing and she became very proficient, taking extreme pride in this art and was classed as one of the leading dancers of the locality.

On December 8, 1866 she married Samuel Rose Parkinson as his second wife in polygamy. She was always extremely thoughtful of the other wives throughout her life, displaying a character which she always possessed—one of self sacrifice, never thinking of herself first; a woman unselfish of her own interests, charitable to all and was ever thinking of the welfare of others, ready at any call to assist in sickness or sorrow, leaving her own family of small children any time of night or day, never afraid of contagious diseases, interested in everyone's trouble, and loved by all.

SPIRITUAL INCLINATIONS

Charlotte even in her youth was of a religious turn of mind and devout in the religion, keeping the word of wisdom until her death, an ardent temple worker for over twenty years of her life, doing some 600 names for her father's family alone. She assisted also with the Parkinson names. She was true and loyal to the Church as she was also to her husband to whom she was sealed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. She always saw the good in everyone, and never saw the bad side, a real counselor in times of trouble.

Charlotte was well built, about 5 feet 4 inches, weighed about 130 pounds, was dark complexioned. She talked and walked with a straight carriage. She was proud as to character, but never vain. She was strong in personality and passion when aroused, but was quick to forgive and make up, and would meet the offender more than halfway every time.

She believed in the natural governmental order of the family, with the husband at the head, which was appealing to her inward soul. She dressed with good taste, always becoming to her age.

While working in the temple, she was seized with a stroke which finally resulted in her death two years later. She died in Logan at the home of her daughter Annie, on the 14th of June, 1929, surrounded by a number of her family. She was buried in the family cemetery at Franklin, Idaho. In her coffin, as she lay, she looked queenly—like a bride going to meet her bridegroom.