

Susannah Warner Wood

By her daughter Nora W. Carter

Susannah Warner (or Susan, as she was called) was the daughter of William and Mary Reynolds Warner. She was born 21 August 1852, in Gosberton, Lincolnshire, England. Her parents came to St. Louis, Missouri some time between August 1852 and October 1853.

The family located in St. Louis and later the father went to Utah, reaching Salt Lake City in September 1854. He went to prepare a place so he could send for his wife and children.

It was at St. Louis where there hardships commenced. Being left with but little money, the mother soon had to seek work to supply her children with the necessities of life. At first she could not get work and they suffered hunger. The mother was so discouraged she would have given up if it had not been for her faith in the Gospel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

At St. Louis the children had the smallpox, which added worry to their other troubles; as, at that time, it was a dangerous disease.

The mother was successful at last, in getting work and by 1857 had saved enough to bring her three children, Susan, James and Mary, to Utah. They made their home in Spanish Fork.

At the time of the arrival of Mary Reynolds Warner and her three children; they found hard times in Utah and, as the children grew older, they were required to glean heads of wheat in the fields. The wheat was threshed with clubs, sifted in the wind to separate the kernels from the chaff, and sold for flour or other necessities.

Susan's mother became a weaver and the children learned to hand the threads as they were put through the harness of the loom. It was also their duty to turn the spinning wheel, to place the threads on spools before warping and wind the thread or rags, whichever was needed, for weaving; when the cloth or carpet was ready to be woven.

Susan attended the Silas Hillman School. Besides a little Geography and English; Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Spelling were taught. School was paid for by the term of a certain number of weeks and she had to work to pay her teacher. Susan received a good education for that time. She was a good writer and reader; and enjoyed the spelling matches they had at school.

She learned to card wool, spin yarn, knit, weave, and sew. She also assisted in molding candles from tallow for their own use. She worked for the neighboring families to get clothes and pay her schooling.

Susan grew to be about five and a half feet tall, and weighed about a hundred and twenty pounds. She had dark, blue-gray eyes and long, dark-brown hair.

Susan Warner was married to Wellington Wood, 10 July, 1871, in the Endowment House. She was the mother of nine children, five living to have families. Those living to become parents were Wellington, Sophronia, Nora, Lettie, and Abbie.

The last four years of her life, she was an invalid, but she did all she could to help with the work, even though she could walk very little. She knit stockings, sewed on buttons, darned stockings, mended clothes, and peeled fruit or did any work she could do sitting in a chair.

The greatest work she accomplished, at this time, was the teaching of the Gospel to those around her. She was very religious. Besides teaching the children their religious duties; she read, to them, stories of the Book of Mormon and stories from the Juvenile Instructor. She subscribed for the Juvenile Instructor from the time it was first published until her death, and had them bound into books.

She often worried about being an invalid; but what she accomplished in religious teaching was greater than the work she could have done, if in good health.

She was honest, truthful, kind, generous hearted, and was loved by all who knew her. After coming to Utah, she lived at Spanish Fork until her death, 26 August 1892, at the age of forty years.



Spanish Fork Sun 1 September 1892

Another Death.

Died:—In Spanish Fork, Friday morning, August 27, 1892, of child bed fever, Susannah Wood, beloved wife of Wellington Wood, Sister Wood was the daughter of William and Mary Warner and was born in Lincolnshire, England, August 21, 1852. Her parents left England when she was but fourteen months old immigrating to this country. They stopped three years in St. Louis and then came on to Utah, reaching here during the Johnson Army trouble. They located in Spanish Fork where they have since resided. The deceased was married to Wellington Wood July 10, 1871, and was ever a loving and faithful wife. She was the mother of 9 children, 6 of whom are now living. She was taken with a spell of sickness in February, 1890, from the effects of which she never fully recovered. We sympathise with the bereaved family and relatives hoping that our Heavenly Father will give them strength to bear the burden of their grief.