

To LEON 6/4/94

Elden

Mary Louise Pile

A brief history of her life

Rewritten from an earlier script of unknown authorship

Way back in 1835, on July 27th, at Medford, Sommerset, England, a blue-eyed girl was born, destined to become a Utah Pioneer of outstanding but inconspicuous importance; her name was Mary Louise Pile, a daughter of Alexander and Sarah Clark Pile, of Bath, England. Mr. Pile was a member of the Town Council.

The little girl developed a wonderful personality of natural energy and intellectual ability; keen to learn everything she could by insight, passionate inquiry into all high ideals--with deep interest in religion.

When about 14 years of age the Mormon missionaries visited her home town with their alluring teachings of the truths as expounded by Elder Dorr P. Curdis. He was among the first to turn her attention to the Gospel and convert her to it's merits.

Much against her parents wishes she attended the meetings. She employed her charming voice in singing the hymns of the new dispensation. Imbibing with zest and enthusiasm every tonet as taught by the Mormon Elders. This created an estrangement with the family, resulting in Mary being driven from the home of her parents. On the 2nd day of August, 1849 she was baptized by Elder Abraham Merchant at Bath, England.

About this time the new convert met a lady of high rank known as Lady Fairbush, who invited the discouraged girl into her mansion. She not only gave her a home but installed her as a companion, replacing a daughter who had recently died. Lady Fairbush took great pains to teach the girl many new things that enhanced her natural character pointing her to a marvelous future. She also changed her rather formal name of Mary to that of "Polly". This name followed her through her life among her intimate friends.

An incident of remarkable confirmation of Polly's faith occurred when she became dangerously ill at her new home. Every possible care was given by physicians and nursing, and when at a crisis the Elders were called in to administer to her, which resulted in a marvelous healing and immediate recovery.

When about 17 years of age, with a party of converts under Elder Dorr P. Curdis, and chaperoned by William J. Silver and family, she embarked on the SS Gondola leaving Liverpool, England on February 4, 1854. They arrived in New York on March 18th after 43 days at sea. Soon after arrival at mission headquarters she was given a position as helper. Here she met Elder Nathaniel H. Felt whom she later married.

Polly had now become a beautiful girl with lovely brown hair, a generous mouth which curved easily into smiles or compassion. She had strength in the firm chin and keen

interest in her new surroundings. All combining to make her popular and finding her way in the world and meeting the many adversities that were her future heritage.

This splendid young woman arrived in Salt Lake City with the A.G. Smoot caravan. Herself driving a buggy across the plains and arriving November 9, 1856.

Immediately upon her advent in the valley, with her indefatigable energy, she secured employment at the home of T.B.H. Stenhouse, whose wife was an expert milliner where Polly soon learned the art of a first class artisan, still maintaining her devotion to religious duties and participating in local affairs.

Among her friends and close associates were Brigham Young and family, Heber C. Kimball family, James Cummings family, and T.B.H. Stenhouse family. Their children were life long friends. They remembered her as "Aunt Polly" with deep reverence.

On December 7, 1856 she married Nathaniel H. Felt and became the mother of David Pile, Nathaniel Henry, and Mary Adelia (Young). All her children have served as missionaries.

She became an enthusiastic member of the Tabernacle Choir under Charlie Thomas and also George Carless. Subsequently she was appointed leader of the Salt Lake Stake Relief Society Choir where she served 14 years. Among her prominent associates were Eliza R. Snow, Emilline B. Wells, Basheba Smith, Isabella Horne, Lizza Thomas Edwards and many others.

On October 12, 1870 she married her old friend William J. Silver formerly of England. With this union she bore a son William P. Silver and a little girl May who drowned when about 3 years of age.

Soon after this marriage she took up a deep study of homeopathy and later became a doctor, receiving her certificate to practice. Here her range of usefulness became extended to thousands who remember her as Dr. or "Dear Aunt Mary". Her special forte being to minister to women and children. With authority from the Church to wash and anoint the sick with particular reference to prospective mothers.

In her home life she maintained the same enthusiastic devotion to her religion, training her children as a true mother should. All of her children were married in the Holy Temple. Her home, though humble, was the Mecca for hundreds who assembled to get advice, gather flowers from her bounteous garden and fruit from abundant trees. Always a cheery welcome from "Aunt Mary" for everyone.

In all these years she always found time to attend her duties in the Church, Relief Society and lead in social functions, Temple work, Stake and Ward activities.

This illustrious pioneer died May 11, 1912 at her modest home at 65 Peach Street. A most impressive service was held in the 19th Ward meetinghouse where eloquent tributes were offered by President Charles W. Penrose and other prominent speakers. They told of her outstanding qualities and attributes. Twenty years later in 1932, reference was made of the event in the Deseret News titled "20 Years Ago".