

A short sketch of the life of Fannie Marilla Garner Tracy

Fannie Marilla Garner, born 2 July 1844 in Scotts Co. Line near Lima Adams Co. Illinois, the second child and second daughter in a family of nine, six daughters and three sons of David Garner and Dolly Durfee. She was born just five days after the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Louisa Ann Garner, the first daughter was born 12 July 1843 near Lima Adams Co. Illinois.

A mob burned down the town of Yelrome, burning Fannie's grandparents (the Durfee') home too, on 13 Sept. 1845. Wagons arrived from Nauvoo to gather up the homeless Saints.

A month later, 15 Nov. 1845, having received permission to return and harvest their grain crops, Edmund Durfee and others returned to Yelrome. They hadn't been there too long when a mob gathered again and started a fire to draw the Saints into the open to save a nearby barn.

While raking the straw away from the building the farmers heard two whistles from different directions, like a signal, and guns began firing upon them. A bullet entered Edmund's body just above the heart, killing him instantly. (Fannie's grandfather)

The mob deliberately killed Edmund Durfee on a bet of a gallon of whiskey, that they could kill him with one shot, and they did.

David Garner moved his wife and daughters, Louisa and Fannie to Nauvoo for more protection after the murder of Dolly's father.

David Edmund was born 10 January 1846 in Nauvoo to David and Dolly Garner.

The persecution in Nauvoo became so intense the Garner family gathered their belongings together in one wagon and team and moved with the body of Saints across the frozen river to the first camp at Sugar Creek, then on to Mount Pisgah, Iowa, later known as Council Bluffs.

The call came to Brigham Young to raise 500 able bodied men to help fight in the Mexican War. Fannie's father, David Garner, was enlisted as a Private in Co. A of the Mormon Battalion, and left his wife and three small children, all under the age of three years, in a wagon covered with canvas, on the banks of Mosquito Creek 16 July 1846. He was gone fifteen months, returning 21 October 1847.

Tracy, Fannie Marilla Garner 1844

The Garner family stayed at Council Bluff about three years. Two more children were born to them there, William Franklin, 12 December 1848 and Mary Marinda, 20 February 1850.

In the summer of 1850, when Fannie was six, the Garner family began the long trek to the Salt Lake Valley in the company of Capt. Luke S. Johnson.

One night Fannie got thirsty. Her father carried a barrel of water on the wagon back. She turned the tap to get a drink and found she couldn't stop the water. She was afraid to tell her father what had happened so she told her mother the barrel was leaking.

She also witnessed the capture of six buffalo for meat and was so frightened of them she climbed into the wagon.

Instead of staying in Salt Lake Valley, the Garners traveled on to Fort Ogden arriving there the 12th Sept. 1850. They moved to North Ogden in the spring of 1851.

After they were settled Fannie was in need of a new dress. Her mother took the canvas from the wagon and made her a dress. She was very proud of it.

They planted sugar cane and flax. Fannie helped to make sheets and all kinds of cloth from the flax. They made sugar from the cane in kettles over an open fire.

She helped to build a rock wall around their property; she also helped make tallow candles for light.

Fannie was required to spin four or five skeins of wool a day to knit and weave into cloth for their clothes, which they sewed by hand.

When Johnson's Army was on the way in 1857 Fannie moved south with her parents, returning when the trouble was over.

On March 9, 1858, Fannie Marilla became the third wife of Silas Horace Tracy at the age of 14. They were married in the Salt Lake Endowment House.

Her husband's first wife Almira, was about 12 years older than Fannie Marilla and had five children before Fannie Marilla moved into the home. They got along very good together.

Fannie Marilla bore her husband nine children, making a total of 21 children. Fannie took in washing to help support the family. They made their home on West 12th St., Marriotville, Weber, Utah, west of Ogden.

Moses Tracy died in Aug. of 1858 and grandfather was obliged to care for his brother's wife and family, with their farm. Nancy Naomi was not satisfied with this arrangement. Claiming the right, by the Law of Moses, she persuaded Silas to marry her. They were married in April 1860.

This arrangement made three families and two homes.

In 1869 Silas took Fannie and her children and a young girl named Annie Tracy, (an orphan) with him to lay railroad track from Ogden to Hot Springs. He stayed on as a laborer until the railroad track was completed to Corinne, Utah. They lived in a railroad car pulled by a team of horses.

Silas received \$2000.00 and worthless stock in the railroad for his labor. With the two thousand dollars he built a lovely big adobe house further East on 12th St. It is still standing today and in good condition.

Fannie didn't move into the new house, she lived in a house further west on 12th St. with her family.

She then moved to a home on a small tract of land owned by them located in the North West part of Marriott. This home was torn down later and the lumber used to build the home where Sara Ann Slater now lives. (Blanche Slater Gibby's mother)

Fannie Marilla divorced Silas Horace thru a Bishops court the 17 Sept. 1879 in the Marriotville Ward Bishops court. She was awarded the house and three acres of land \$150.00 and some 10 sheep.

Fannie Marilla moved her family to Park Valley Utah for a year or two, in the 1880 Box Elder Census Fannie was living in Park Valley, Utah then.

She then moved to Yost Utah, where her older boys took up homesteads. The Idaho line had been established, but the Utah survey had not been completed. This did not stop grandma, she started at the Idaho line, with one horse and buggy, she tied a white rag to a spoke on the buggy wheel and by counting the turns of the buggy wheel she was able to establish boundaries for the homesteads. Surprising as it may seem, when the Utah survey was completed, she was less than a quarter mile off north and south and almost perfect east and west. The Utah survey missed the Idaho survey Almost a quarter mile at this point north and south, leaving a wedge shape piece of land between Utah and Idaho at this point.

In 1882 Fannie married David Graham. At this time she was living in Yost, Utah where she had taken up a section of ground to farm.

A daughter, May Graham was born in Yost, Utah, 8 May to them (see note) in 1884 Fannie decided Mr. Graham wasn't the man she thought he was so she divorced him and took back the Tracy name.

Grandmother was a very hard working woman, and very conservative. She lived in Yost for a number of years then moved to Almo, Idaho where she kept house for her youngest son Albert. He had a general merchandise store there. May Graham died there in 1892 at the age of 8.

Fannie sold her property on 12th West to relatives on the Tracy line. She then lived with her daughter Sarah Ann Cutler in Murtaugh close to Burley, Idaho.

Fannie visited often with the Tracy families in Marriotville.

Albert purchased a home in Murray for grandmother. At the age of 94 she would ride a street car downtown to do her shopping, then ride it back home with her purchases.

She spent her last few years there. Her widowed daughter, Sarah Ann Cuttler lived with her until her death at the age of 96.

Fannie appeared in several articles in the Salt Lake paper over her longevity.

Relatives said Fannie was a dear sweet person, very energetic with a mind of her own. Fannie never sat and visited. She'd always help with the work as she visited. Fannie passed away 31 October 1940 at the age of 96, out-living 7 of her children. She was buried at Wasatch Lawn Memorial Park cemetery.

Excerpts from Dorothy Nadine Tracy Stevens (1977)

Excerpts from Hazel Garner's history of Fannie

Excerpts from Fern Devers (granddaughter of Tracy lines in Mariottville Ward), Yost Ward records, Almo Ward records, 1880 Box Elder census, History of the Church Vol. Vii pg. 429.

(Note) according to a letter written by Oscar Tracy, family genealogist, to Phyllis Tracy, May Graham was actually the illegitimate daughter of Sarah Ann Tracy and her stepfather David Graham. Sarah Ann was 12 or 13 years old when the baby was born.

Charlotte Judd Tracy (1981)

Bishops Court

Marriott Ward, Sept. 17th 1879

Bishops' court convened as per announcement.

Bishop James Ritchie presiding, Counselors, James W. Burton and Helon H. Tracy. Fannie M. Garner. Plaintiff. Silas Horace Tracy. Defendant.

Fannie M. Garner having appeared in said court (afore named) and made a qualified statement of the impudent and unbecoming conduct

of her husband (Silas H. Tracy) towards her as a wife.

She therefore wished to have a bill of divorce, and no longer be subject to his volition.

It was therefore decided that Mr. Silas H. Tracy give plaintiff (F. M. Garner) a bill of divorce, with three acres of land, on his west farm, or in lieu of the three acres of land one hundred and fifty (\$150.00) dollars lawful money of the United States, and ten head of sheep, for the benefit of the children.

Done at Marriottsville, Weber County U.S., this 17th day of Sept. 1879.

James Ritchie, Bishop

James W. Burton, Helon H. Tracy, counselors

Her children:

David Samuel	15 Aug 1860	11 Feb 1935	Rebecca H. Taylor
Joseph Franklin	1 Jun 1862	2 Feb 1940	Betsy Holden
William Edman	27 May 1865	12 May 1948	Mary Ann Holden
Mary Elizabeth	24 Apr 1866	At birth	
Charles Benjamin	19 Jun 1867	5 Jan 1919	Celestia Chadwick
James Alonzo	10 Oct 1869	27 Oct 1925	Margaret Whitaker
Sarah Ann	4 Feb 1871	16 Aug 1959	Delbert Cutler
George Andrew	24 May 1874	29 Nov 1957	Goldie Randall
Albert	24 Aug 1876	22 Sep 1928	Unmarried
May Graham	8 May 1884	1892	Child