

ALZINA LUCINDA WILLES. **Biography from the Lehi Centennial History**

Alzina Lucinda Willes, the wife of Wm. S. S. Willes, was born in Tunckhannock, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, March 4, 1834. She was the daughter of Cornelius P. and Permelia Darrow Lott.

Her father's family joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1838, moving first to Ohio and thence to Nauvoo, Illinois, where as a girl Sister Willes associated almost daily with the Prophet Joseph Smith. On account of her lively disposition and her ability to catch the Prophet's horse when no one else could do so, she became a special favorite of the Smith family.

She passed through the persecutions of Nauvoo and in 1848 crossed the plains, driving a team composed of two cows and two oxen the entire distance of 1,500 miles, arriving in Salt Lake Valley September 24, 1848.

For two years after arriving in Utah the family made their home in Salt Lake City, where her father died on the present site of the Kenyon Hotel. In 1851 she, with her mother and family, moved to Lehi and located on the shore of Utah Lake, where on April 23, 1852, she was married to William Sidney Willes by President Brigham Young, who was at that time passing through Lehi on a tour of the territory south.

When in 1852 the scattered settlers surrounding Lehi were called to move together for protection against the Indians, Brother and Sister Willes moved into the town, where she has since resided. In 1871 death deprived her of her husband, leaving her with the responsibility of a large family of young children. Over this family she exercised the influence of a loving mother and bravely assumed the arduous duties of a father as well.

She was the mother of nine children, two boys and seven girls. Two of the girls died in infancy, the other children are as follows: Mary Jane (Mrs. Robert Gilchrist), William Sidney, John Smith, Celestia (Mrs. George P. Schow), Achsah Permelia (Mrs. Janus Schow), Abigail (deceased), Florence (Mrs. George N. Child, deceased).

Sister Willes possessed a warm heart and her life was full of service. She died August 19, 1910.