

## **SYLVIA PORTER SESSIONS**

Written by

Sylvia Wills

Sylvia Porter Sessions Lyon Kimball was born July 31, 1818, at Newry, Oxford, Maine. the daughter of David and Patty Sessions. In 1838 she was married to Dr. Winsor Palmer Lyons in Far West, Missouri, who was a noted army physician. Dr. Lyon was a great and good man, who was zealous in his labors for the good of mankind. Sylvia and her husband went directly and according to a statement made by the Prophet Joseph Smith, Winsor P. Lyon was the first of the Saints to erect a building in that city. The structure was not large, but in it he established a mercantile and drug business in one section and resided in the other until Sylvia's brother Perrigrine and his family arrived. At that time each man built a large home.

The Lyon's welcomed their first child, Marian, on July 3, 1839, and all seemed to be going well for them at last. On June 11, 1841, Sylvia gave birth to her second child, Philofreen, but their joy was somewhat lessened at the death of little Marian on March 19, 1842. The next sorrow came on Christmas day when their first son was born and died the same day. For the third time death paid them a visit, this time taking little two-and-a-half-year-old Philofreen on January 2, 1844.

With full consent of Dr. Lyon, in Jan. 1846 Sylvia was sealed for eternity to the Prophet Joseph, and for time to Heber C. Kimball..."that these were special sealing for spiritual reasons that did not constitute a husband and wife relationship in this life."

In January 1849 Dr. Lyon passed away and left her with a daughter, Josephine, and two small sons. In the meantime, her mother and brother wanted to bring her to Utah , but as she had planned to marry Ezekiel Clark she decided not to leave at that Particular time. She married Mr. Clark January 1, 1850, but later realized that he was very intolerant of her religion and resentful of the fact that she was sealed to the Prophet.

When Perrigrine returned from his mission to England in 1854, Sylvia left her home and made her way to Utah with him. She received a goodly amount of money from Ezekiel which she used to purchase a farm in the Valley.

Her mother's famous diary contained the following: August 7th. Sylvia goes to see Heber. After discussing whatever problems she felt she had to discuss with him, she visited at the home of her brother, Perrigrine, in Sessions Settlement until a home could be built for her, and there she lived for the rest of her life.

Sylvia died April 12, 1882, at Bountiful, Utah. She was always recognized as one of Heber's wives.

Taken from book "OUR PIONEER HERITAGE"  
HEBER C. KIMBALL-HIS 'WIVES AND FAMILY pp 415?