

HISTORY HISTORY

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PIONEER NAME Emeline Jane Strong Freeman
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE Feb. 6 1865 Salt Lake City, Utah
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE June 13 1906
 FATHER William Strong
 MOTHER Harriet Nooley Strong
 WHO MARRIED AND DATE Oscar Nathan Freeman
March 30, 1882
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 WHO WROTE HISTORY AND DATE Verna Freeman Salmeron
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LIFE HISTORY OF EMMELINE JANE STRONG FREEMAN

Written by Varla Freeman Salverson
as told by her father, Milton John Freeman

Emmeline Jane Strong was born February 6, 1865, at Salt Lake City, Utah. Her parents were William Strong and Harriet Nealey Strong.

Her girlhood days were spent in Salt Lake City, and in the summer, the family would move to her father's ranch in Emigration Canyon. This is where she learned all about farm life and the hardships, duties, and cares of the farm. This was of great benefit to her as in her later life she was of considerable help to her husband on their farm, having a greater knowledge of this kind of work than he did.

She was raised in and also attended the 10th ward in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was there she met and fell in love with Oscar Nathan Freeman. They were married March 30, 1882, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. A family of eight children were born to them. They are as follows:

William Nathan
Elva Emmeline
Ida Harriet
Milton John
Harold Heber
Maude (died as an infant)
Alice Lucinda
Agnes Strong

In 1888 Grandfather was working in the tithing office in Salt Lake City when he was called on a mission, as a teamster, by President Wilford Woodruff. Grandmother stayed at home with their family. She was always prayerful and humble for his return as he traveled in a very wild and unsettled part of the country. His mission included the Teton Basin area and he delighted in the good hunting and fishing there. He returned from his mission only a few weeks before their daughter Ida was born.

Her daughter, Alice, gives us a better insight into her pioneer life.

"Nathan and Emmeline Freeman left Salt Lake City, Utah with their four children, William, Ida, Milton and Harold in September 1892 to come to Idaho to live, and take a homestead. They came in a covered wagon and were eight days on the road.

They came to my mother's sister, Mary Dodge's place a mile below Ucon. They worked for a man who had a place where the Ucon cemetery is now. While there, my father and Uncle got lumber and built a one room house on the place they homesteaded at Milo. The house was made out of up and down boards and bats with sawdust in the dead air space.

My father has told me they were very poor, and especially so the year I was born 5 August 1897, between five and six in the evening. They sent the children off to a neighbors and then came and told them they had a new baby sister, which my brothers said pleased them very much. My mother lost several children and I was the fifth one to live.

In those days the Indians came around and bothered some, one time my mother and her children were home alone and they came, they rattled the windows, and believe me, we were pretty scared, but mother went out and talked to them, they wanted something to eat. And another time they came, and wanted to know if she had seen some squaws go by two or three moons ago. Mother gave them something to eat both times. This was told to me by my brother, Milton.

I remember mother taking us to Primary and a hollow place on the road where wild flowers grew, which I picked while she waited for me, johnny jump ups, pansies and violets.

When I was about six, mother took us to a circus in Idaho Falls, she drove old Pet, a white horse and a buggy.

When we started home some young fellows on horses came racing by and scared our horse, and she ran away. My mother and baby sister were thrown out, but not hurt. I was thrown onto the buggy shaft, and rode about a mile, I kept saying, 'whoa Pet' and got a hold of her tail. I was sure scared when someone finally stopped her.

I must have had all contagious diseases before mother died, as I can only remember having Chicken Pox.

We lived on a farm and walked or rode in a sleigh in winter, to school, a mile and a quarter away.

I was in the third grade when my mother died, we were so worried and Eva's mother told me to pray every little while for my mother which I did. I lost my childish faith when she died, and my father was made bitter at losing our mother.

On the afternoon the day before she died, each one of us children went in separately to bid her 'goodbye', she was so terribly weak. She passed away at 8:45 a.m. June 13, 1906."

When the Milo ward was first organized, sister Lettie Berrett Andrus became Primary president, with Grandmother as her assistant. As Sister Andrus states in a tribute to Grandmother, "She was really an aid and a help with her kind and pleasant disposition, which was a very outstanding quality about her. She did her duty as she saw it, both at home and abroad". Sister Andrus recalls Grandmother coming a long distance in a lumber wagon to do her duty in the primary and to bring her children where they could learn about their Father in Heaven and of Jesus Christ's Gospel.

Grandmother loved to work with children and directed several little plays, vaudeville and pageants. My father remembers plainly of the many water fights they used to have together.

Grandmother always made an effort for the little friends of her children to come into her home, because of her love for them. Her brothers and sisters and their families enjoyed many picnics and family gatherings at her home, as she and grandfather were very sociable and hospitable people.

She was a very good neighbor, always willing to help in time of sickness and always knowing just what to do to help the patient. She was loved by all who knew her and just being around her made one feel good.

She was always neat and tidy in her home. Touches of her handiwork were seen everywhere, from her apron of old overalls to her rugs made of old stockings, braided rugs, crocheted doilies and pillow covers. She had a wonderful way of turning a house into a home and her influence could be felt everywhere. She was patient, even tempered, kind, especially to children, industrious, determined to succeed and prayerful.

Everyone felt a great loss at her passing on June 13, 1906. The church was filled to capacity during the funeral services. The funeral procession was very long and consisted of buggies and lightwagons. The Relief Society sisters of the Milo Ward prepared the body for burial. Because of the rough roads and so much jolting, cotton was placed around her head. The casket was carried in a white top buggy owned by Wilber Huffacker. After the casket was in the grave the Relief Society remembered the cotton they had placed about the head. Immediately the casket was raised, opened and the cotton removed. Grandfather, standing near the grave and holding his three year old daughter, Agnes, murmured, "Good-bye Mama". The child turned and put her arms tight around his neck and sobbed hysterically.

Brother Heber Austin, Sister Josephine Thompson, Annie Andrus and Melissy Barrett told Grandfather that as the casket was lowered into the grave, joyful music was heard in the air, proclaiming her entrance into the everlasting Kingdom.