

I Left for Zion When I Was 6.

Rose Zipporah Marsh was born in London, Middlesex, England 3 Mar.1882, to Edwin and Margaret Marsh. Her only other living sibling was an older brother Henry (Her sister had died in childhood). Unfortunately we do not know much about Edwin and Margaret's conversion, how they came to the knowledge of the truth, or what caused them to believe in the gospel, but we have clear evidence that they were, not only baptized, but truly converted.

It is evident from the information we have that the Marsh's understood the prophecies and believed the words of the missionaries that they should gather in Utah. Edwin had been injured in a streetcar accident and lost an arm, which made it extremely difficult to find work, and Margaret did what she could to help support the family. In this situation they were not able to get the means to travel to Utah, but an opportunity was presented for them to send their daughter Rose (at 6 years of age). I can't imagine what would go through a loving parents mind when faced with a decision like this. Do they follow the words of the prophet and let their 6 year old daughter go alone to Utah, or do they keep her with them and hope that at some time in the future they can all go together? Because of their love for her and their knowledge of the gospel, they decided to let her go. Rose also must have had great faith for at the tender age of 6 she left her family knowing that she may never see them again. (In reality she never did see them again.)

Below are words from the document they signed when she left:

This certifies that we, the undersigned, believing that God has determined to punish the inhabitants of the earth with great calamities and destruction because of their wickedness, and that He has called upon His people to gather out of Babylon unto the land of Zion, are desirous to conform to His will, and Whereas we are unable to leave this land ourselves through lack of means, an whereas an opportunity is presented that our daughter may go to Utah which we believe is the place appointed by God as a gathering place for His people; We do hereby consign our child Rose Zipporah Marsh to care of Elder James J. Chandler to be by him delivered to William and Sarah Beacher of Willard, Box Elder Co., and entrusted to their guardianship until such time that she shall become of age or get married, and --

In consideration of our thus surrendering our claim to said child, we desire that they will treat her with such love and respect as is and ought to be shown by the parents to the children and educate her in all things useful and practical, and especially in the faith and doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. We also desire that she shall be obedient to them in all things as is required of dutiful child.

In witness hereof whereof extend our hands this 16th day of May 1888

Edwin Marsh
Certified Signed

Margaret Marsh
Certified Signed

James J. Chandler
Certified Witness

Rose boarded the steamship "Wyoming" with a group of saints under the direction of Elder James J. Chandler, May 1888, and headed to Utah, never to see her parents again.

At age 8 (3 Mar. 1890) she was baptized in the “Old Mill Race”, a pond about 2 miles from their home. They had to cut a hole in the ice to baptize her.

There were many events to test her faith as she was growing up. Her adoptive father William Beecher passed away while he was on a mission in California in 1900, And so her and her adoptive mother took care of the cows on the farm. She met Heber Close Butler after his return from his first mission. They courted and were married in the Salt Lake Temple Feb. 11 1904. Not long thereafter (Mar. 21 1904) he was called and left on a second mission.

While raising 10 children of her own, she served in primary for many years. (1898 into the 1940's, During this period her husband served 2 more missions, 4 total) She would go about an hour before primary started to kindle the fires and warm the building for the children. In a letter her mother (Margaret Marsh in her 80th year) stated – that they were very lonely without her, but realized that it was the will of the Lord. The pain is great in my arm, but the Lord helps me. Thank you for the photos as it is such a pleasure to see because I don't suppose I will ever be able to see you in person. When I can afford it I will send a photo as I can't afford it now on my 5 shillings a week.

My grandmother Rose Butler passed away when I was 9½ years old, but the impression she left on me will live on forever. The love that she showed us grandchildren was so deeply implanted in my heart and mind that when I would think of doing something that was wrong I would remember her and feel that she was watching. I knew that it would break her heart if I would stray and I just couldn't bear to do that to her. What a great legacy she has left to her descendants. Even though I am married with children and grandchildren of my own she is still a strong force for good in my life. I cannot thank her enough. Yes I know she was truly converted for she lived it with every fiber of her soul. Through her I have come to a better understanding of what the love of God must be like.

Thank you grandma,
Leon B. Jensen

Not as we take, but as we give;
Not as we pray, but as we live—
These are the things that make for peace,
Both now and after time will cease.

Reference: Rose Zipporah Marsh Butler Autobiography 1882-1968
Letters from Margaret Marsh (Her Mother)

Picture of a card that she carried with her as she left her parents never to see them again. One of the few possessions she was able to take with her.

