

LIFE OF MARY CONDIE LANEY

Mary Condie was born the 22nd of December, 1842, in Scotland. She was the oldest child of George and Mary Hunter Condie. Her father was converted to the Latter-day Saint Church but later apostatized. He was very bitter towards his wife and children because they would not leave the church, too. So her mother left and brought her eight children to Utah when Mary was about twenty, and the youngest child about three years old. Soon after they came to Cedar City, Mary's mother married Peter M. Fife and they moved to the old fort about one mile south of what is now Hamilton's Fort. As a girl, Mary was very strong and robust. She had a lot of beautiful, black, wavy hair of which she was very proud. While they were still in Scotland she had Scarlet Fever. This disease hit her real hard and she was never strong afterwards. In spite of this she was an extra hard worker, a clean, tidy housekeeper, very particular. She had such experience along this line, because she had the care of the family in Scotland while her mother worked in the fields. After she came to Utah she worked out a lot, helping wherever she could. She loved to knit and sew and did much very beautiful work. Mary was a spiritual girl and would have no outside element around her in any way. She never stayed in the same room where rough or unclean talk was being used. She always said that the man she married must be a man of God.

William Laney used to bring fruit up from Dixie. He would stop at the Fort. It was in the way that Mary met him.

William Laney and Mary Condie were married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. They lived in Harrisburg, where their first child was born, a girl, who lived only a few hours. Mary loved children and often said that she could think of nothing nicer than to have a large family and be able to raise them. She came up to Hamilton Fort to visit her mother. While she was there her second child, a boy, was born, December 19, 1875. As soon as she became sick, her half-brother, Joa S. Fife came to Cedar City, a distance of about six miles, on horseback to get help, but the baby was born and Mary died before help came—her husband not being able to get to her either. Ann Thorley cared for this baby about one month, then it was taken to its father by Jennie Condie, who was going to St. George to be married. This baby lived about four months. Mary died a faithful Latter-day Saint. Bishop Hunt said at her funeral: "I have always respected and loved her for her virtue and modesty." She is buried in the Cedar City Cemetery.

(Written by Ruth C. Laney, as told by Jennie Condie Corey, as sister of Mary Condie Laney.)