

Sarah Jane Averett Adams Wertz Bailey

Sarah Jane Averett was born 1 October 1849 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory. She was the third of sixteen children of Elisha Averett and Sarah Jane Will. Sarah also had three half-siblings by her father's previous wife. Her father was the doorkeeper for the Nauvoo Temple and a member of the Mormon Battalion.¹ Sarah's family crossed the plains to the Great Salt Lake Valley, arriving in October 1847, two years before she was born.² On the 1850 and 1860 censuses, the family was living in Great Salt Lake where her father was a mason.³ Her father was called to Dixie in 1862 where he helped build the fort at Pipe Springs and worked on the St George Temple.

In 1866, Sarah married John Smith Page Adams⁴ in Long Valley, Kane, Utah Territory. They moved to Leeds when it was first settled and then to Washington City. John did well until he started freighting⁵ to Pioche, then started drinking and gambling. He took a load of freight to White Hills, Arizona Territory, and disappeared. They had three daughters together and finally divorced. After several months John took the older girls while the baby stayed with Sarah.⁶ On the 1880 census, the two daughters were living with John's adoptive parents. John remarried and moved to Pah Reah, Kane, Utah Territory. He eventually had fourteen children with his second wife. He died in 1935 in Sigurd, Sevier, Utah, and was buried in Annabella.⁷

About 1874, Sarah married George John Wertz in Salt Lake City. They had one daughter. Nothing more is known about George. In 1876, Sarah married Alvin Bailey in Salt Lake City. They had four daughters – so altogether, Sarah birthed eight daughters. Alvin was licensed to keep a bar and sell liquors in Ogden, Weber, Utah Territory.⁸ On the 1880 census, Sarah was living with Alvin (who worked in a quartz mill) and two children in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. Their oldest daughter was born in Silver Reef.⁹

Sarah died 10 February 1893 in Montpelier, Bear Lake, Idaho Territory, and was buried in the city cemetery.¹⁰ Alvin remarried in 1895¹¹ and had two more children. They moved to Colorado before 1900¹² and to Idaho by 1910.¹³ He died in 1930 in Idaho and was buried in Boise.¹⁴

¹ *Familysearch.org*

² Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868.

³ United States Census, 1850, 1860.

⁴ John was adopted by Orson Bennett Adams and Susan Smith Meeks, just a week after the murder of Joseph Smith in Carthage Jail. John's birth father took him to the Adams home and requested they raise him as their own, never revealing the identity of his real father. The Adams's signed an agreement that is still in the possession of family members (*Familysearch.org*).

⁵ United States Census, 1870.

⁶ Excerpt from John Smith Page Adams history, at *Familysearch.org*

⁷ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Veterans with Federal Service buried in Utah, Territorial to 1966; *Findagrave.com*

⁸ *Ogden Junction*, 15 December 1875, p. 4.

⁹ United States Census, 1880.

¹⁰ *Findagrave.com*

¹¹ Utah Marriages, 1887-1935; Utah County Marriages, 1887-1940; Utah Weber County Marriages, 1887-1941.

¹² United States Census, 1900.

¹³ United States Census, 1910.

¹⁴ *Idaho Statesman*, 13 August 1959; *Findagrave.com*



Alvin and Sarah Jane Bailey and four of their children;
Sarah is in the plaid dress (image from *Familysearch.org*)

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