

AN OLIVE LEAF

“... plucked from the Tree of Paradise, the Lord's message of peace to us.”
(See History of the Church 1:316 and D&C 88.)

“WE BLESSED AND GOT BLESSED”

By Patty Bartlett Sessions

Famous pioneer midwife, “Mother Sessions” was baptized in 1834, joined the Saints in Missouri, and journeyed with them to Nauvoo and Utah. This excerpt from her famous diary, which is a remarkable blend of things temporal and spiritual, begins at the end of May 1847, just as she and her husband, David, are about to leave Winter Quarters. Her diary is in the LDS Historical Department, excerpts are in *Women's Voices: An Untold History of the Latter-day Saints 1830–1900* (Desert Book, 1982) and *Covered Wagon Women: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trails, 1840–1849* (Bison Books, 1995).



“Mother Sessions”

Photograph probably taken near her death in 1892.

SATTYRDAY 29 PACKED 1:36 POUNDS of pork for the mountains I then went to collect some debts got nothing then went to a meeting to Eliza Beamans with many of the sisters, sisters Young and Whitney laid their hands upon my head and predicted many things that I should be blessed with that I should live to stand in the temple yet to be built and Joseph [Smith] would be there I should see him and there I should officiate for my labours should then be done in order and they should be great and I should be blessed and by many and there I should bless many and many should be brought unto me saying your hands were the first that handled me bless me and after I had blesed them their mothers would rise up and bless me for they would be brought to me by Joseph himself for he loved litle children and he would bring my litle ones to me &c &c my heart was fild with joy and rejoicing Sunday 30 sister E R Snow and others had a good time at sister Buels with a few then all went to sister Tomsons many more came had feast of the good things of the kingdom there in the evening we went to sister Kimbars had a glories feast of feeling and hearing Monday 31 pack and loaded our waggon and slept in it Tuesday June 1 sister E R Snow is here the girls wash some for her she lines Carlos hat we had a feast in the afternoon at sister Millers . . . there we blessed and got blessed & I blesed sister

Christeen by laying my hands upon her head and the Lord spoke through me to her great and marvelous things

at the close I thought I must ask a blessing at sister Kimbals hand but it came to me that I must first bless her and show Herber girls the order that duty caled them to perform to get any blessings from her upon them I obeyed layed my hands upon her head although it was a great cross and the power of God came upon me I spoke great and marvelous things to her she was filed to the overflowing

she arose and blesed the Lord and caled down a blessing on us and all that pertained to her sister Hess fell on her knees and claimed a blessing at my hands I then blessed here sister Chase claimed a blessing of sister Kimbal she blessed her with me, she spoke great things to

her the power of God was poured out upon us E R Snow was there and with many others thank the Lord.

Wednesday 2 it rains Thursday 3 fair weather we expect to start to morrow for the mountains I caled to Sarah Ann this evening with E R Snow sisters Whitney and Kimbal came in we had a good time things were given to us that we were not to tell of but to ponder them in our hearts and proffit thereby before we went down there E Beaman E Partrige Zina Jacobs came here laid their hands on my head blesed me, and so did E R Snow thank the Lord Friday 4 we do not go today Mr Sessions and I went to Br Leonards to a party we had a feast of good things both temporal and spirital when going there I caled to sister Kimbals and with E R Snow blesed Helen and Genette then in the gift of toungues E R Snow sung a blesing to all the rest of the girls then we went to Br Leonards Saturday 5 we start for the mountains and leave winter Quarters or a resting place ten years to day since we left our home and friends in Maine we now leave many good friends here and I hope they will soon follow on to us I drive one four ox team go 4 miles camp.