

Salt Lake Women Served as Nurses in the Civil War

RECENTLY a new organization, the Paysonian society, met at the home of Mrs. Emma Ramsey Morris, who is one of its members, and the program proved to be something exceptional in its way. Introducing as it did two women who not only remember the Civil war, but took active part in incidents and scenes of the great struggle. They were Mrs. Amanda Ramsey, mother of the hostess, and Mrs. Mary E. Lacey. The latter was a nurse in the war, serving five years under Clara Barton, and carries vivid memories of her service in the wards of hospitals and in the field.

Every heart in those days was aflame with patriotism, and Mrs. Lacey, then a girl of 15, but a bride, could think of



MRS. MARY E. LACEY.
From a Picture Taken Several Years Ago.

nothing so dear as to render some service to the cause. A new impetus came when Sumter was fired upon, and a few days after that momentous event, Mrs. Lacey went to Dorothy Dix and offered her service as nurse.

"Go home, child," said Miss Dix, "you are too young for such work."

The young girl turned away, but not to do the other's bidding. She went to Philadelphia and offered her services to Anna Morris. This time her attempt was more successful. She was accepted, and in May, 1861, commenced service with the army of the Potomac, her work continuing through five years. Her last service was in the general hospital at Philadelphia. During the war there was no lack of arduous, no risk so perilous, that this girl, still in her teens, would not undertake. After the battle of Gettysburg, she, with other nurses, spent six hours on the battlefield, among the dead and dying.

The battle of Antietam is another vivid memory of Mrs. Lacey's. Here she was on the field shortly after the close of the struggle, and the scenes she will never forget. The dead and dying soldiers, she said, were intermingled with the horses, an inextricable mass.

MINISTERED TO WOUNDED.

Mrs. Lacey helped to nurse many of the wounded of this great array. Clara Barton was herself present during that trying time, and Mrs. Lacey said that a characteristic incident happened after the battle. That night tents and places of refuge were scarce, and the commander, desiring to have Miss Barton comfortably housed, directed that her tent should be fitted up with all things procurable for her comfort. Present-

ly a boy came in, bearing a roll of carpet. This unusual luxury awoke Miss Barton's suspicions.

She questioned him closely, and found that the roll had been stolen from one of the neighboring houses. "Take it back immediately," she directed, and it was taken away. Not even in the stress of the discomforts of war did her integrity fail. Asked for personal impressions of the famous war nurse, Mrs. Lacey says that during the struggle, Miss Barton was not an actual worker, but superintended the work, planned for and visited the various hospitals, and directed all.

PEN PICTURE OF WOMAN.

"Clara Barton," said Mrs. Lacey, "was eminently fitted to oversee this work; the trouble was that she was perhaps too dictatorial, her manner being overbearing and intolerant. In later years this trait led her into many difficulties, among them with the Red Cross society, from which she was recently dropped. She is a good woman, but it is very hard to get along with her. She has a home in Washington given her by the government, which she made a sort of Red Cross headquarters. When I saw her last, something like two years ago, I had to help raise her from her seat, as she was too feeble to move."

Mrs. Lacey's own practical work gave her a glimpse into some of the worst horrors of the war. "I had to care for some of the soldiers who had lain in Libby prison, and no tongue can describe their condition. Mrs. Lacey's extreme youth made her ordeal all the more marvelous. She was a surprise to all those who knew of her experience."

She well remembers the day when her husband, to whom she had been only a short time wedded, came home and told her that he thought of enlisting for the war, and asked her what she thought of it.

"I think if you don't, I will," was her reply. Sumter had just been fired upon. Her husband was a captain in his state regiment, and the young couple in their different capacities served in the war five years to a day, their releases being signed at the same time. Capt. Ruby went out of the struggle with a wound which eventually killed him, and later the young widow was again married, this time to the man whose name she now bears.

SIGNED FAMED DOCUMENT.

Mrs. Lacey's ancestors number a line of distinguished patriots. Abraham Clarke, her great-grandfather, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. James Clark was the English clergyman who sent Paul Revere on his eventful ride. The family originally came over in the Mayflower, and their names are on Plymouth Rock. Mrs. Lacey is a native of Plymouth, Mass.

Some of the civil war's great heroes came under Mrs. Lacey's care. Gen. Hancock and Gen. Meade were among her patients, and she knew well Lincoln, Grant and Sheridan.

"I remember how Lincoln would come to our ward, and bending over the cots where the wounded soldiers lay, would speak words of encouragement. And how they loved that great man."

Mrs. Lacey states that she met in Salt Lake City a short time ago a man she nursed at Manassas.

Mrs. Lacey came here from New Jersey three years ago, and has become so attached to Salt Lake that she will not return east again. She is enthusiastic over the efforts made by Senator Smoot to obtain pensions for the nurses of the war.

LOOK TO SENATOR SMOOT.

"The G. A. R. people have found him noble and upright, and we believe that with him to champion our rights we will yet win them from Congress. Many a woman," said Mrs. Lacey, with



MRS. AMANDA RAMSEY.

bears in her eyes, "who has given years of devotion to the cause of the wounded soldiers, never received a cent's pay, and died in the poorhouse." Mrs. Lacey says that words would fail to recite all the thrilling experiences of the old war days, but in spite of all hardships she has never regretted her part in the momentous days.

Mrs. Lacey lives at 22 Delmar avenue, and is an officer both in the Red Cross and local Relief corps. She is looking forward with great expectation to the G. A. R. encampment here next summer.

SOME REMINISCENCES.

Mrs. Amanda Ramsey, a member of the Woman's Relief corps and Ladies' Auxiliary of the G. A. R., has also interesting reminiscences of the Civil war. Mrs. Ramsey has always been an ardent patriot and has taught her children to honor and respect the flag of their country above all others, and to show on all occasions due reverence for the brave men who defended the nation during its greatest peril. She was one of the many women of that time who willingly sacrificed their loved ones on the altar of patriotism.

She watched her stalwart young husband of a few months march away at the head of his company playing merrily "The Girl I Left Behind Me," on the life he carried through the entire engagement and which stirred the hearts of the boys in blue many times in the weary line of march, on the battlefield and in camp. Years later, when those same boys met as old men in their national encampments, the sweet strains of the same old life brought back memories of the old days.

Mrs. Ramsey saw her husband return from the war after three years' hard service, bent, partially gray and deaf from the terrible roar of the cannon on the gunboats, and felt as if the years of his youth had been cruelly swept away. Nearly all of her male relatives who were of the right age at that time enlisted to fight for the Union. Many of them fell on the battlefield. Others languished in southern prisons, so there is hardly a phase of that terrible war that she is not familiar with. Of course there were many incidents of an amusing character which she remembers. Following are some of those which Mrs. Ramsey related to the club members:

"During war times we were all thrilled with patriotism. The Three Months' Boys' imagined that the Rebellion could be stamped out in 90 days. Not only were they anxious to perform the brave acts of the soldiers, but the girls of our city were also filled with the spirit of the times. We were determined to make for Capt. Wainwright and his company of Nobleville, Indiana, boys a fine silk flag. So we set our wits and nimble fingers to work and soon had a beautiful banner and a no less beautiful presentation speech ready. The flag was presented with all maidenly patriotism and the speech delivered in the finest feminine eloquence, but lo! when the flag of our country was unfurled, it

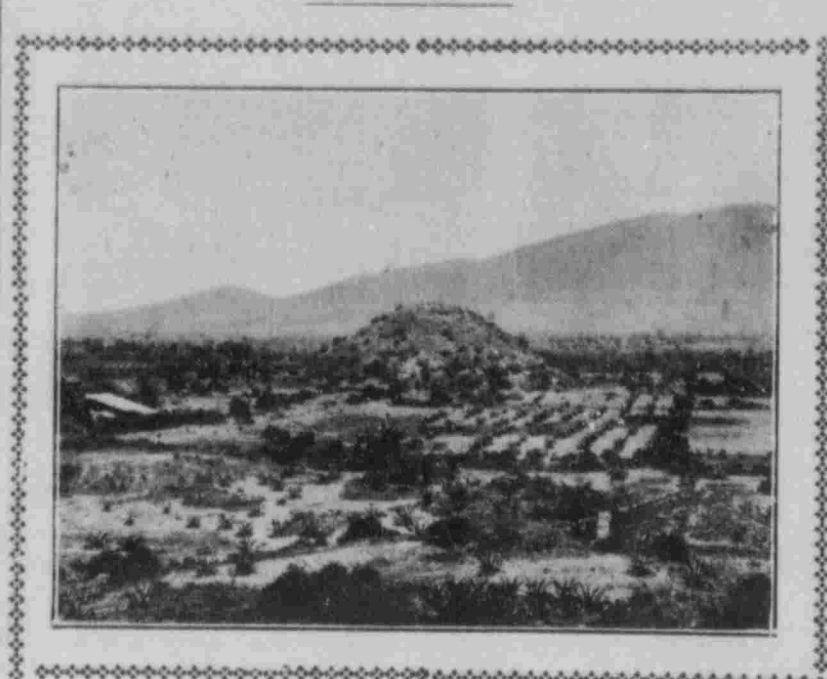
was not of the pattern designed by our ancestors, but was made up of red, white and blue stripes. The flag was most gallantly accepted by the officers and the boys and its deficiencies were not noticed until the soldiers went into camp at Indianapolis, from which point it was returned and with some little chatter and a great deal of glee, we had to undo our work, take out the blue stripes and put the flag together again. This particular flag went to the front with the regiment. Many times we made clothing, good warm socks and mittens for our boys and sent them into the field.

"One Sunday morning a regiment of blue coats came into town on their way to the front. They had not received any rations and were pretty hungry. So we all ran to their aid with the Sunday dinners we had cook-

ing on our stoves. I took a big kettle full of chicken and dumplings. Other girls took pans of baked beans, spareribs, baked potatoes, etc., and many a pancake griddle was pressed into service.

"On another occasion some traitor in our midst turned a switch so as to reveal a trait that was carrying a regiment of Union soldiers to the field. The sight of the dead and dying was so terrible that I can never forget it. Those were days that tried the stoutest hearts. Not only did the boys on the battlefield give up their life's blood for their country, but the aged men at home, the wives, children and sweethearts were called upon to make great sacrifices for the flag we hold so dear. Honor and respect it always, and all honor to those who defended it."

Colossal Pyramids of San Juan Teotihuacan



PYRAMID OF THE MOON.

OUR last letter dealt with the question as to whether the Nephites could be credited with having built the pyramids of Mexico and Central America and the designers of the once great pieces of architecture now found in ruins there. The conclusions of the writer were stated negatively in the proposition.

The Jaredites will now be considered as to the same question. A careful perusal of the history of this people, as contained in the Book of Mormon, leads to the belief that they were more advanced in the scale of civilization, yet at the same time a more turbulent people than were their successors, the children of Lehi. The Jaredites had one advantage over the Nephites, they came from stock nearer Noah, hence nearer a purer and more perfect age. The writer contends that civilization has degenerated since Adam, or, in other words, the highest form of civilization and the most perfect moral age of the world was the Adamic period. From Adam down, man has degenerated, despite the claim of the learned of the world that man has struggled out of a dark barbarous condition to his present high standard. Sacred history and revelation teach differently, and we may as well turn the leaf down and read history aright, rather than to trust to the guidance of those who reject the revealed word of God.

POINTS OF VANTAGE.

Besides the advantage of being a stronger race, the Jaredites had other

knowledge that the Nephites did not possess, except as they received it by revelation. The Jaredites left the descendants of Noah less than 300 years after the flood. They lived contemporaneously with Noah and Shem and other descendants of Noah, and evidently had a very general knowledge of conditions before the deluge. That they were not in the land of their forefathers is evident from their wish to return. Jared told his brethren to ask the Lord to carry them to a land choice above all other lands. It requires no stretch of imagination to believe that the geographical and historical knowledge of the earth before the flood was well known to Noah and his sons, and that they related these things to their children, if, indeed, they were not written in their records. It is also well to note that they possessed a very perfect form of phonetic writing, as shown by the ability of Ether in putting so much history and prophecy upon only 24 plates of gold.

NOT NATIONALLY STRONG.

Beyond this information, which stood them in good hand in finding their way down into the formerly thickly inhabited country south from their landing place, now southern California, they do not seem to have developed any great national character in the form of a stable kingdom. They went down into southern Mexico or northern Central America and located their headquarters or capital in a place called Moran. Around this place clustered their main centers of government.

It was to them a bone of contention, as Zarahemla and the land of Nephi were to the Nephites and Lamanites. They fought and dislodged each other time and again. At one time their rebellions led them nearly to the brink of annihilation, and they were only saved by a righteous man named Omer, who was warned by the Lord to flee to a country somewhere east in the state of New York. Such a people could not build pyramids and cities containing millions, nor develop the fine arts possessed only by cultured nations. I therefore conclude, after a careful study of their history, that they are not the builders of the monuments of wonder found so profusely in the republic of Mexico and in the Central America states. My reasons for feeling sure that the Jaredites did not contribute materially to those ancient buildings are based upon the following grounds:

NOT PYRAMID BUILDERS.

Firstly, when they landed and for a long time afterwards they were too few in numbers to do more than develop the resources of the country to provide a living, or possibly to possess and use some of the ruins found in the country.

Secondly, they exhausted their strength numerically from time to time, so that they were little more than roving brigands, except as to the few who obeyed the Lord. These latter would not spend their time chiseling out images and idols for worship. The others were too much engaged in roving and waging warfare to attend to the details of the construction of castles, miles in length, cities 40 miles in diameter, pyramids covering 20 acres of ground, with a base equal to a square city block in Salt Lake City.

Lastly, and most important of all, it is known that the ruins here, with the sculptures work uncovered, are of the same date or age as the Egyptian pyramids and ruins of the upper and lower Nile and the ancient Syrian and Assyrian arts of antiquity. The date of the building of these stupendous works must have been earlier than the Jaredite epoch or national existence. To find the solution of the mystery we must go back in history another step, to the races that populated the earth before the flood.

PYRAMID OF THE MOON.

First, however, it is well to make a few general observations relative to the pyramids of San Juan Teotihuacan. The mound shown in the cut is known as the pyramid of the moon. This mound is covered with lava rock and ashes, decomposed and reduced to a condition that it can sustain vegetation and is covered with shrubs and pepper trees. So was the pyramid of the sun, shown in a former article, until the covering was torn off by the Mexican government. In the days of the conquest it was not known whether or not these mounds were natural or artificial, but later investigation proved them to be artificial, that is, constructed pyramids. Some time in the past one or more of the many volcanoes in that region belched forth hot ashes and lava and covered the whole country, hiding or destroying the many minor pyramids and buildings in pyramid form in the great city of Teotihuacan. Researches have proved that three different races have possessed the land. That a later race than the original builders occupied the ruins of San Juan Teotihuacan is well attested by the following discovery.

ANCIENT TEOTIHUACAN.

By observation it is discernible that the ancient city was laid out true to the cardinal points of the compass. Facing the pyramid of the moon and running due south is a street approximately five miles long, paved with cement, visible everywhere when uncovered. The street is six rods wide and is faced on either side by a row of pyramidal buildings apparently from 50 to 100 feet square. Such buildings line the street for a mile and a half south of the pyramid of the moon. A couple of these have been opened and found to contain chambers of various sizes, which were at one time beautifully finished in cement plaster, painted and frescoed. Some of the walls still

show fine hand-finished surfaces smooth as glass, the nearer the pyramid, seen to this. In the cut, from the covering over an excavation, is called the temple of agriculture, from beautiful fresco work found on the walls representing perfectly the forest varieties of tropical trees, temperate zone fruits and flowers. These ruins seem to have been connected with the others by subterranean passages, and here is where is found proof of the later people who possessed the palatial pyramids. By cleaning out the chambers, excavations revealed that a number of the sub-passages were walled up in a crude way, quite different from the work of the original builders, showing plainly the difference of handiwork.

LOOTED THE CAVERNS.

After the less civilized people had possessed the buildings and rifled them of their values, the rooms have been filled with volcanic matter, which has penetrated everywhere, as in the case of the buildings of ancient Pompeii. My conclusion of this is that the first builders of the ruins were the Jaredites, and possibly some Nephites, until the death of the Savior, the cross, when the whole face of the land was in commotion and many cities were covered up. Possibly some time prior to that event, three distinct periods are discernible, that of the original builders, the usurpers, and later the time of the Jaredites. The city must have contained more than 1,000 inhabitants. There are now more than 100 minor pyramids, dwellings and governmental buildings, surrounding and facing the two great pyramids. To the east from the main road and facing the large pyramid is the citadel. In the middle of the court was a handsome pyramid. The court itself was about 40 rods square and surrounded by 16 pyramidal buildings, four on either side. All these ruins are plainly visible and intensely interesting.

P. F. HINTZ.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 25, 1908.

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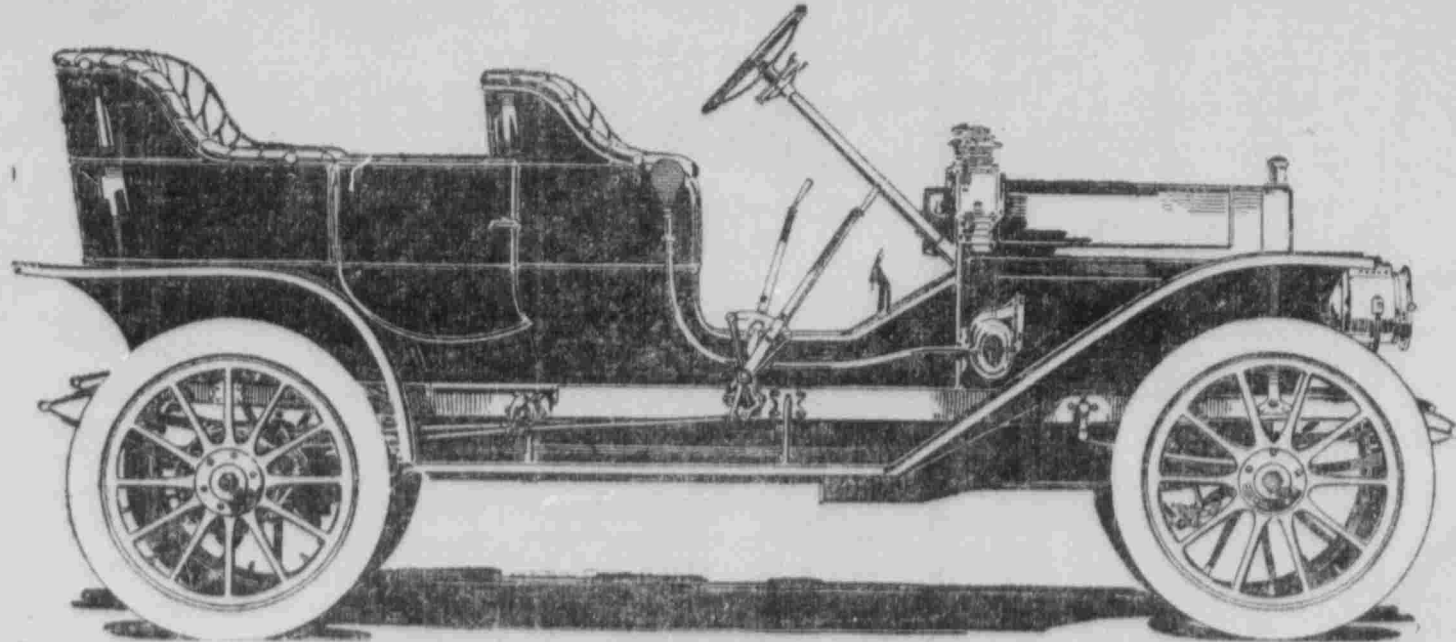


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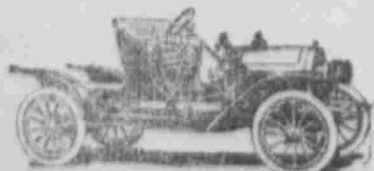
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