

Life Story of Susan Vera Chidester Barton Written Dec. 26, 1939

I was born in Panguitch, Utah, June 23, 1898. The daughter of Almina Worthen & John Foy Chidester. When I was 7 years old, my father was elected judge of the Sixth Judicial district, which meant we had to move to Richfield, Utah.

We had one of the finest homes in Panguitch so we all felt quite bad when my father sold it. We moved to Richfield in a covered wagon & a white top buggy, as there wasn't any railroad that far south. We had a good time camping out and cooking our meals over a camp fire. It took us several days to make the trip. When we got to Marysvale, my father took the train which left early in the morning, and went on ahead to get the house ready where we were to live until our new home was built. We made friends easily and it soon seemed like home to us.

I was baptized on 4 May 1907 at the little house situated at the north west part of town by the spring ditch, the water from this ditch was warm enough to use without being heated.

My father's court stenographer (Geo. Cope) came to live with us the day the day we arrived in Richfield. He lived there for several years, then he went to Germany on a mission. (During this time we had moved into our new home) When he returned he lived with us again until he married. Then my oldest brother Sam & my oldest sister Mina were married just a few months of each other, both being married in the Salt Lake Temple. When my brother Sam's baby was about 1 1/2 yrs old, Sam went to Germany on a mission and was gone 3 years. When he came home he knew everyone in the family but me because I had grown up so much, I was very insulted and had a good cry over it.

Soon after this I entered High School which I enjoyed very much. During this time our gymnasium teacher had been teaching us the one step dance. During one of our quarterly conferences there was a lot of talk about these dances so President Grant who was there, asked for a demonstration. I was chosen as one of the dancers and was quite thrilled to think I could be chosen.

During this time my sister Louise was called on a mission to the Central States. Apostle S. O. Bennion was president of the mission while she was there.

When I was 16 years old I sang in the M.I.A. Chorus and contested against all the Wards Choruses in the southern part of the state & won a free trip to Salt Lake City to sing in the contest there where we won second place. I then had about the most fun I ever had on that trip. Going to "Salt Air", Lagoon, Wandamere and other resorts.

During the next few years I played in my brother's dance Orchestra. At one time we went over to Wayne Co. in a sheep wagon, it was so cold we had a fire in the stove most of the time. While we were there it stormed quite a lot & we had to stay two weeks. We had a very good time, the people in those small towns were very friendly.

Soon after this the World War (II) broke out, my brother Fenton was one of the first boys to leave our town. We all felt very bad about him going, and especially my father because he had had a nervous breakdown and wasn't very well. My father passed away July 7, 1917, this surely left a vacant place in our home because he was a very wonderful man. Always considerate of every one, he also had a keen sense of humor, every one

liked him, our friends were always welcome in our home. I can not remember my Mother and Father ever speaking harshly to each other.

Soon after the death of my father my sister Louise went to Ogden to work in the president's office at the Union Station, later she sent me money to come and visit her. While there I received a job and stayed on working.

In October 1919 I met Frank M. Barton. I was introduced to him in Sunday School in the 10th Ward in Ogden. We were both invited to dinner at the same place that day (This had been arranged ahead of time by a mutual friend.

We went together then until June 16-1920 when we were married in the Salt Lake Temple. We were in the first group to go through the Temple that day, there were 500 in this group. 75 couples in this group getting married. We were the 71st couple and were married by Joseph Fielding Smith.

We lived in Ogden several years. The first four years we (Mr. Barton and myself) worked at the Industrial School. He had charge of 45 boys. I had the class work for all of the girls (47) for several months then with Mr. Barton I had charge of a large building and this group of boys. On June 6 - 1921 Keith was born at the Dee Hospital in Ogden, he weighed 8 pounds. When he was just six weeks old we took him and went on a trip to Idaho to see Mr. Barton's folks and then up thro. Yellowstone National Park. Then Mr. Barton decided to go to school, so he entered Weber Academy at Ogden. Among other things he had charge of the College Orchestra. We made many friends & always had a good time & always took care of our Church duties.

On Dec. 29 - 1924 Joycelyn Vera was born at the Dee Hospital in Ogden. She weighed 7 pounds 16 ox. This was the coldest winter I can remember.

The following spring we moved to Salt Lake City where Mr. Barton worked until fall at which time he entered the University of Utah where he studied one year.

After this he worked at Auerbacks and the Z.C.M.I . During this time we went to the Keys & Moogh Beauty School but I didn't work until after we came to California in 1929. We had a nice trip but we were very disappointed in Los Angeles. But we are glad now that we stayed here.

In 1930 we opened our own place of business in Huntington Park. We stayed in the same location seven years. We did very well & bought a lovely home in Huntington Park. In 1933 Mar. 10, we had the big earthquake. Rachel Swenson a dear friend of ours was killed. About 1935 we opened a place of business in the Lowes State Bldg. & stayed there one year, we also had a place at 1747 E. Florence Ave. L.A.

Then Mr. Barton went to work for Sears Roebuck & Co. in Glendale so we sold our places & moved to Glendale. We were there about two years & opened our Real Estate office in North Hollywood. Nov. 8 - 1937 Harmon Bruce was born at the Physicians & Surgeons Hospital at Glendale.

Soon after we moved to North Hollywood Mr. Barton was put in as President of Y.M.M.I.A. Keith President of the Junior Genealogy & Me President of the Relief Society. I am enjoying my work very much. We have a wonderful group of women. I hope that I may be able to do some good in this work

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