

Name Julie Porter Teacher Mrs. Komarek School South

	5 - Completely	4 - Pretty much	3 - So, so	2 - Kinda	0 - Not at all
The essay is enjoyable to read and is well written	X				
The essay is original and the student has done own work (sounds like a fourth grader)		X			
The student exhibits knowledge about the pioneer	X				
The student illustrates ancestor's qualities	X				
All required visual requirements are met, i.e. at least 300 words, handwritten or typed, etc.	X				

Score 24 /25 Possible

2nd place

Sarah Thompson Phelps, My Ancestor

Julie Porter

South Elementary

Mrs. Komarek

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Sarah Thompson Phelps was a pioneer, and my great-great-great-great Grandmother. Her daughter was Amanda Angelia Phelps, who had Charles Morris Dana, who had Joe Robinson Dana, who had Kathleen Jo Dana, who had my Mom, Emily Nelson Porter who had me, Julie Porter. Sarah was born Monday March 20, 1820 in Pomfret Chatauqua, New York. When Sarah was four her father died leaving her Mother with 7 small children to face the world. She was 11 when they joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Friends of the family turned against their family because of the membership in their church.

When Sarah moved to Nauvoo with her mother, she became a teacher to help with finances. During this time it was normal for school teachers to board with students and their families. She learned many of the schemes of the mobs and she shared the information with Church leaders. On one occasion she came to learn that a mob of angry men wanted to gather a group of members of the Church together so she got on her horse to warn them. She was followed for 5 miles but she had the faster horse and got away. I feel that this showed courage because she was probably scared, but knew it was important to warn her friends.

Another example of her courage was when she was washing clothes with other women and a painted face mob in disguise came up to them and were going to harm the women. While other women fainted around her, one of the mob asked Sarah if she was afraid of them and if she recognized them. She said she was not afraid of them and did not know who they were. The mob said that they were old neighbors and were going to kill everyone on the creek, and were just following orders. Luckily nobody was harmed and the mob went away. I think it was funny that Sarah said that she was not afraid of the mob while other women were fainting around her.

While Sarah was brave and courageous, she also experienced a lot of hard times in her life. On a cold night on February 26, 1846, Sarah and her husband Morris were forced to move out of their home and had to cross the frozen Mississippi river in terrible winter conditions. It was on the bank of the river that Sarah delivered her son Hyrum Smith Phelps, along with nine other women that night who also had babies. This was her 3rd child, and her first two daughters died when they were young. I think this event was a miracle, that Sarah could have her first son in such hard conditions.

Through her life, Sarah showed a lot of faith in her challenges and stayed firm in her beliefs. She was called to be the first Relief Society president when they

were in Idaho for her church. One of the Apostles of her church called her to be a midwife and promised her that if she remained faithful she would never lose a mother to childbirth. Sarah went on to deliver 580 babies without a mother ever dying.

In 1851, Sarah's family made the hard journey to Salt Lake City. Sarah was very inventive when times were tough. As Sarah walked besides the wagons she would collect the green buffalo bones and collect ashes around the campfires. With those she would make soap. Sarah would also collect straw, soak it in water, and make straw hats to keep the hot sun off their faces. She knew how to weave and also would make men's and women's clothing. She helped make the furniture, beds, and mattresses in their home when they settled in Alpine, Utah. At Christmastime Sarah would gather berries in the canyons to decorate and make the holiday a little more special. I feel that my personality is similar to her in this way because I enjoy crafting and decorating.

In May of 1876, Sarah's husband Morris Charles Phelps died at age 75 of pneumonia. Sarah continued to live her life in Mesa, Arizona with her oldest son Hyrum. She died at age 75 on January 31, 1896 of asthma. She had 7 children, only 3 of them lived to adulthood. I am so grateful that she was my ancestor!



Sarah Phelps

SARAH THOMPSON PHELPS

20 MAR. 1820

31 JAN. 1896





helps, My Ancestor

Project

History

with Komarc

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