



## **Marietta Walker: An Example of Grace and Generosity**

Marietta Hodges Walker's life story reflects the blessings of grace and the act of giving generously to others. Marietta's life began in 1834 when church members, including her parents, were giving generously towards the building of the Kirtland Temple. Marietta did not have the opportunity to enjoy the newly built temple for long as the family left the security of a familiar life in Ohio to answer the call to gather to northern Missouri and eventually to Nauvoo, Illinois.

Throughout her young adult years, Marietta lived in several states while pursuing a higher education and caring for her sister Emmeline's family, following Emmeline's death. Marietta eventually settled in Sandwich, Illinois, where she was introduced to the reorganizing efforts of Joseph Smith III by her sister.

Despite her family's sacrifices and uncertainties throughout her childhood, Marietta continued to give generously as she immersed herself in opportunities to serve in the Reorganization. Her educational background allowed her to generously give of her time and talents as a publication committee member for the Inspired Version of the Bible. She was a relentless believer in education for youth and adults, often promoting her ideas while editing and writing for several church publications. In 1895, her educational vision became a reality with her generous donation of Iowa farmland for the creation of Graceland College. Today, Marietta Walker is traditionally honored as the mother of Graceland University.

Marietta's life is but one example of how grace and generosity can be experienced as a blessing to all.