

A PIONEER MOTHER OF CALIFORNIA

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649017669

A Pioneer Mother of California by Elisha Brooks

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ELISHA BROOKS

**A PIONEER MOTHER
OF CALIFORNIA**

A
PIONEER MOTHER
OF CALIFORNIA

By ELISHA BROOKS

*Written for his grandchildren to show them how
the emigrants crossed the Plains, and also
what manner of person was their
Great Grandmother*

Copyright, 1922
By ELISHA BROOKS
HARR WAGNER PUBLISHING CO.
San Francisco
California

18

917.94

B872p

PUBLISHER'S FOREWORD

Early in the present year there was printed in San Francisco a modest volume bearing the title "Elisha Brooks." Its pages held this veteran educator's own story of his crossing of the plains in 1852 with his mother, Eliza Ann Brooks, and her little family. On the insistence of the friend who was responsible for the publication of the story, there appeared in addition a very brief biography of Mr. Brooks, with a few passages expressing the esteem in which he is held by his acquaintances.

Only one hundred volumes were printed, the entire edition going to personal friends. So instant was the response, however, from those who recognized its value both as an historical document and as a real contribution to California literature, that the author has been prevailed upon to allow the publication of an edition for wider distribution.

Under the Title, "A PIONEER MOTHER OF CALIFORNIA," this is Mr. Brooks' own story of his heroic mother as given to his grandchildren and friends in the original volume, save for such few corrections as he has chosen to make. The friend to whose interest and generosity was due the publication of the first edition modestly preferred to remain unknown. Believing the public entitled to know to whom California is thus indebted, Mr. Brooks has prevailed upon him to allow due credit to be given. He is here made known as "Clinton E. Worden, Patron and Friend."

HARR WAGNER.

DEDICATED
TO HIS MOTHER

IN MEMORY OF HER BRAVERY AND
HEROISM IN TAKING HER LITTLE
CHILDREN ACROSS THE PLAINS, AND
IN RECOGNITION OF HER SUPREME
DEVOTION TO HER FAMILY IN AD-
VERSITY.



ELIZA ANN BROOKS

AN INTRODUCTION

MR. ELISHA BROOKS of Ben Lomond, Santa Cruz County, California, has entertained many audiences in San Francisco, in various parts of the country, at Stanford University and in his Ben Lomond home with an account of his trip across the Plains in the early days; and for years he has had many urgent requests that it be published as a tribute to the brave mother who faced the wilderness alone with her little children, while strong men turned back in fear. Its publication has also been urged because of its historical value as the account of one of the actors in the drama who, a boy of eleven unable alone to lift the ox yokes, was called on to do a man's work.

Furthermore, Mr. Brooks' friends believe that a sketch of his struggles in the wild pioneer days—thrown as he was entirely on his own resources, and armed only with a resolute will that broke down all barriers—might rouse a spirit of emulation in many a youth now drifting idly into a useless manhood.

They ask leave to peer through the mists of three score years. First, they would show their hero, the young Elisha, a twelve-year-old cowboy, mounted on his Indian pony, riding the range through the cold Sierra storms for eighteen ~~hours~~

out of every twenty-four. Later, they would surprise him in his miner's cabin, poring over his books by a dim fagot-light through the "wee sma' hours," trying to catch up with the little fellows in pinafores, "who spelled him down and read him out," as he says.

In contrast to those days of hardship and painful effort, they would look in today, on the octogenarian, who, having outridden the storms, is resting peacefully in his beautiful home on the heights above Ben Lomond. His eyes are comforted by an amphitheatre of beautiful sheltering hills, and his ears soothed by words of affection and esteem—tribute of admiring neighbors and dear friends.

The inspiration of such a life—such conquering of obstacles, such accomplishment, such serene fruition—should not be denied, claim the friends of Mr. Brooks, to those to whom it might be the needed incentive, the mighty spur, inducing them to triumph over their own petty difficulties, or, mayhap, "to take up arms against a sea of troubles and, by opposing, end them."

Under the spell of this plea, Mr. Brooks has finally overcome his modesty and yielded to the entreaties of his friends, especially to one who asks the privilege of providing the means for the publication of this story, with the strict injunction that his identity shall not appear.

So there follows a short account of the salient points in this interesting career, together with incidents—contributions of friends—which serve to lighten and amuse. In it and through it, we may walk with our hero and ride with him and

laugh with him through a singularly alluring pilgrimage over the plains and mountains of a varied but successful life. And finally we may join his neighbors in the hope that he may long be spared as an inspiration to all who know him.