

# Marie Felicite St. Vrain

(1823- 1902)



Marie Felicite St. Vrain is the niece of the well-known mountain man, fur trader, frontiersman and entrepreneur, Ceran St. Vrain. Her father was Ceran's older brother Felix St. Vrain - an Indian Agent, who was brutally murdered during the Black Hawk War of 1832. Marie Felicite was a mere 16 years of age when she traveled down the Santa Fe Trail with her Uncle Ceran, destined for Bent's Fort. The year was about 1839, well before Susan Magoffin's adventures in 1846. Interestingly, and something not spoken about very often, Kit Carson had a romantic interest in Ceran's niece, which developed quickly during her visit to the fort. Ceran and the family, however, quashed the romance. Feelings were still very tender over the murder of Felix by Indians and Kit was known to be looking for a wife to help raise his half-Arapahoe children. Marie was quickly shipped back to family in St. Louis and rumor grew that with a broken heart she became a nun -- but she didn't. She married in 1840, had 15 children in 25 years, and lived to the age of 78.

Marie passed away in 1902 - outliving her "first love" Kit Carson by 34 years. Marie did not leave a diary behind, and so, we are left to speculate about what was going on in her life to prompt her, at the age of 16, to be so bold and adventurous as to embark down the Santa Fe Trail. And, as one of the first white women to do so, she deserves to be remembered. [www.findagrave.com/memorial/152851160](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152851160)