Sarah Anne Rice, daughter of Luther and Lucy Rogers Rice, was born in 1835 in Stockbridge, VT. Correspondence to Luther Rice shows that they later moved to East Middlebury. There is no information at this time on Sarah’s childhood or the rest of her family. It is known that Sarah had a sister who was engaged to Charles Partridge of East Middlebury but she died before they were married. After this he decided that he’d “just wait for Sarah”. Charles and Sarah were married in 1855.

Sarah is remembered by her family as being capable and forthright, regal in her bearing. She became known as the “Grande Dame” of East Middlebury. She joined both churches in the community; the Episcopal and the Methodist, making sure their chicken pie suppers didn’t conflict.

After spending the summers of 1903 and 1904 with Charles and Sarah, Louise Manning, an African-American who was soft-spoken and wore “quiet colors” joined the Partridge family in 1905 to stay and help household chores. These two ladies are remembered for their delights”. Her Sanborn, recall obvious pleasure. She for her pie, put the little saucepan, add total amount of sugar, simmer on the back of was baked she juices through the slits Doing it this way she didn’t bubble over in the oven. When Sarah’s son Frank was married he told his mother he’d pay her (the exact amount isn’t clear!) to teach his wife how to make this pie.

Sarah and Charles had five children, Frank Charles, Frederick Luther, Flora Lucy, William Asa, and Anna. Frederick and Flora were twins living only one year; William died at three; and, Anna lived until she was nearly eight. Frank, the eldest, was the only child to live to adulthood.

Sarah lived her entire married life in East Middlebury with her husband Charles and son Frank. Charles built their home, which later became the Episcopal Church parsonage. Sarah liked to rock on the front porch and would look beyond to the bank of land across the street, wishing she and Charles owned that also. She mentioned this so often that when the land became available, her son Frank bought a portion of the property in that he did not have enough funds to buy the entire piece. Sarah was frustrated about that, but Charles would rock and laugh and then say “but isn’t it nice that you can say that you own everything you can see”.

After Charles death in 1905 the house was taken over by their son Frank who added the second story by literally “raising the roof”. Sarah continued to live in the house until her death in 1919. She was eighty-four years old.