

HISTORY HISTORY

WILLIAM WALSH

Born: Oct. 10, 1825...Accrington Lancashire England

Died: 1856...Along the Trail

Submitted by.....Edith Walsh

Aurelia S. Rogers Camp

South Davis ~~Company~~ County.

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WILLIAM WALSH

William Walsh was born Oct. 10, 1825 in Accrington Lancashire England. The son of Robert Walsh and Ann Whittaker Walsh. He married Alice Berry in England in 1848. He was the Father of three children, Robert, John, and Sarah. William Walsh joined the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in England.

In May 1856 William Walsh with his wife Alice and their three children sailed from Liverpool England on the Ship "Horizon". While on the ocean the eldest child Robert had the measles. The Mother was so ill during the ocean trip she had to stay in her berth. This left the care of the three children to their Father. After six weeks on the ocean the "Horizon" docked at Boston, Mass. From Boston, the Walsh family with other immigrants traveled on flat cars to winter Quarters. The riding on the flat cars was very uncomfortable as they were so crowded that it was impossible to lie down.

The company was delayed at Winter Quarters six weeks, as the hand carts were not ready for them. This wait made them very late in commencing the trip across the plains, Aug. 25, 1856 the journey was begun.

The Walsh family was assigned to the Martin Company. The first great sorrow to come to the family was the death of Robert. He was ill during the entire journey. He became so ill he could not eat the food provided. So his Father took one of the blankets and walked a long distance to a settlement and sold the blanket to buy food that the boy could eat. Robert died and was buried somewhere along the trail in the year 1856.

On Oct. 19, the first snow fell, and winter commenced in earnest. From then on the misery of the handcart Company cannot be described no covers had been provided for the handcarts the carts being made of unseasoned timber they broke down often. Owing to the weakness of the immigrants the baggage had to be limited. Blankets and supplies had to be thrown away. Shoes gave out and they were forced to walk barefooted in the snow. Food supplies grew short and were rationed.

Alice Walsh wife of William tells of the suffering of her family especially her husband in this way.

The weather was getting bitter cold and the men had to stand guard every other night, not having much to eat, they could not endure it. The men would come into camp looking wild for the want of food and clothing. Our suffering was intense half frozen and starving my husband William died and was buried at Devil's Gate. The ground being so hard the morning he died they could not dig a grave so they buried him under the snow.

I was left alone a widow with two small children to finish the journey to Zion which we had planned and started together.