

Written by Charlotte Ann Edmunds Parry

A sketch of the Handcart company of which my Parents Nathaniel Edmunds & Jane Jones Edmunds & baby John came in in 1856 sailing from Liverpool April 19th on the ship Samuel Curling, with 707 Saints with Captain Dan Jones It arrived at Boston May 23rd 1856. I heard my Parents say how they had saved enough money to pay their way to Iowa. They were too independent to borrow from the Perpetual Emigration fund & they had bought enough good clothes to last for years realizing they were coming to a new country. They stayed in Iowa City 5 weeks getting the handcarts ready for the long journey & their trunk & boxes were piled up as high as the men could lift them. Mother said it looked like they were 2 blocks long, & they started on their journey & left all their clothing on the camp. They only took a few changes of clothing & things they had to wear on the journey.

The first 2 companies were led by Edward Ellsworth & Daniel D. McArthur The 3rd was by Edward Bunker company & the 4th & 5 were in charge of James G Willie & Edward Martin. The first two companies had nearly 500 souls each with 100 handcarts, 5 wagons, 24 oxen 4 mules & 25 tents, The most of the emigrants were from Wales & were composed of men, women & children. Some were aged & infirm yet they heroically walked the distance wading rivers crossing deserts & climbing mountains a distance of 13 hundred miles.

Ellsworths company left Iowa on the 9th of June & McArthurs on the 11th June & Edward Bunkers on the 23rd of June my Parents were in Edward Bunkers also Ann Parry my husbands mother & John Edmunds my Fathers uncle 75 yrs old The journey had occupied a little over 3 months from Iowa The first Co arrived in Salt Lake City Sep 26th They were met in Emigration

Canyon by Brigham Young Heber C. Kimball & General Daniel H Wells & many other prominent citizens.

On October 2nd Edward Bunkers company the 3rd of the season arrived along with John Ranks wagon company. I heard my Parents say that when they got to the big mountain they felt like they could never pull the carts to the top But they saw a man coming in a wagon with 2 span of mules & he asked them where they were going & they told him to Salt Lake & he repped out an oath & said he wished Brigham Young had all the carts tied to his coat tail & was made to pull them to the top But he turned his team around & told the women & children to get in the wagon & he pulled a load to the top of the mountain Mother told us of another incident that gave them a scare. One morning when she awoke up her baby wasn't in bed & of course they gave the alarm for the thought the indians had stolen him. But when they went around the tent they found him part asleep in the sun He had crawled out of the tent & the folks being so tired didnt hear him & another incident They said they saw a big herd of Buffalo & the men thought they would try to kill one as they were so hungry for meat so they started to follow them but the Buffalo traveled to fast for them & the men followed so far they didn't goet back till morning & of course the company thought the Buffalo had stampeeded & had killed the men.

My Parent first home was in Spanish Fork & my Father got work at Camp Floyd & They moved to Wales Sanpete Co & Father was the first man in Utah burn coke.