

April 12, 1928

The following is a sketch taken from a book called "The Founding of Utah", written by Levi Edgar Young.

Three of the members of this company were Nathaniel Edmunds, his wife, Jane Jones Edmunds, and infant son, John Edmunds.

"The third company of hand-cart emigrants was led by Captain Edward Bunker, a hero of the Mexican War. He had marched with the Mormon Battalion to California by way of Santa Fe, N. M., and now was returning from a visit to England. This company was made up almost entirely of Welshmen. The party crossed the ocean in the steamer 'Curling,' and outfitted at Iowa City. Three hundred and fifty people composed the company, and they reached Salt Lake City Oct. 2, 1856 in safety. The company fortunately had a number of good wagons, and the health of the party remained good. One woman, seventy-three years old walked all the way from Iowa City to Salt Lake City.

During the year of 1857, people continued crossing the plains to Utah with their hand-carts, but there was a lull in the migration, due to the coming of Johnston's army to Utah in 1858. In 1859, a few other companies crossed the plains, and in 1860 Captain Daniel Robinson's company came to Salt Lake City. It was one of the last of the companies, and one of the most successful in its journey. It left Florence, Neb., June 7, and arrived in the valley August 27. Mrs. Hannah Lapish, one of the members of this company, had two little children, one of them a mere baby. She bravely undertook the journey, and at one time was able to purchase 700 pounds of flour, which lasted them until relief parties met them on the Green River. They arrived safely in Salt Lake City without further trouble.

In all, the hand-cart migration was successful, and resulted in bringing to Utah hundreds of people who added much to the industrial life of the growing communities. Among them were artisans and manufacturers from the best factories of England and Scandinavia. Mrs. Mary A. Hafen, a hand-cart woman from Switzerland, says: "My father was a carpenter and was able to make many things and do much mending of the carts on the way." Mrs. Elizabeth Horricks Kingsford in her memoirs says: "My father was a manufacturer in Lancashire, England, and I was the eldest of eleven children. In my native city I worked in a silk factory." It is interesting to note that Mrs. Kingsford took an active interest in the early-day silk industry in Utah.

Of the Scandinavian people who came by hand-carts, many went to Sanpete and Sevier counties, and helped to settle that part of the country. In almost every instance, the men became successful farmers, owned their homes, and built up a very healthy social and industrial life in the communities where they lived.

The Edward Bunker company left Old Wales in 1856 in the month of April."

Copied by Renee Epperson, granddaughter of Mrs. Sarah Edmunds Sperry who is a daughter of Nathaniel Edmunds, JR.