

CAROLINE BRENCHLEY

Born: 1830 England

Age: 26

Hunt Wagon Company

Caroline's mother was a strict Methodist. Her father professed no religion. They taught Caroline and all their children good moral principles based on reading from the Bible. Caroline did not receive much schooling as she was obliged to work at an early age.

About 1850, a friend of the family came to their home and told them about the new religion that was being preached in a town two miles from their home. Soon afterwards, the family heard the message of the missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The whole family was converted and baptized by a young man named Thomas Obray.

Family records state that as a young woman, Caroline went to London to care for the "blind daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Wiseman." This may have been Ruth Billington, age 64, who was traveling with the Wiseman family in the Hunt company. Ruth was blind. The Wiseman's do not appear to have had a daughter with them. Caroline came to America with this family on May 25, 1856, on the ship *Horizon*. They landed in Boston, then went by steamboat and rail to Iowa and joined the John A. Hunt wagon company.

Due to the late start from Iowa and the early winter weather, many immigrants suffered. Caroline walked the entire distance across the Plains, arriving in Salt Lake Valley in early December of 1856. Her feet were badly frostbitten, but she suffered no ill consequences regarding her feet after reaching the Valley. The Wiseman's, however, lost their two little sons to death on the trail.

After arriving in Salt Lake City, Caroline renewed her friendship with Thomas Obray, the young man who had taught her family the Gospel. She and Thomas were married on August 2, 1859, in the Salt Lake Endowment House. They settled in Spanish Fork after their marriage, and subsequently lived in Tooele, North Ogden, Wellsville, and Petersburg, which is now known as Paradise. (All of these towns are in Utah.) They became the parents of nine children.

Caroline was said to be a faithful, true Latter-day Saint, always willing to do a kindness to others. She bore her trials patiently and lived righteously all the days of her life.

Source: Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files; letter to Jolene Allphin from Paul Brenchley, Mesa, Arizona, 2004.