

ELIZABETH WRIGHT

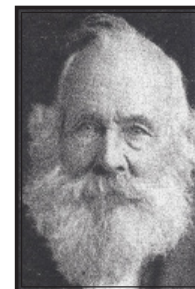
Born: 1833 England

Age: 22

Martin Handcart Company



Elizabeth Wright

William R. Jones,
rescuer, brother-
in-law

Elizabeth was born to James and Elizabeth Adamson Wright on 6 November 1833. Her father was working as a carpenter in a factory three months before her birth when he was struck on the head by a falling beam and died. Elizabeth's mother, also named Elizabeth, was left with four small children to support. Two years later, her oldest son, John, died at the age of ten.

In an effort to take care of her little family, Elizabeth Adamson Wright sent her daughter, Sarah, to live at the home of an uncle. Sarah did not do well there as she was mistreated and neglected so she went to work in a thread mill. The owner of the mill was a Mr. Morehouse, whose daughter, Mrs. Barrett, later built the Barrett Hall in Salt Lake City.

After Sarah met the Mormon Elders, she would sneak away to their meetings. Sarah's great faith and the Priesthood blessings given her by the Elders healed a cancerous growth under her chin. Sarah was very helpful to her widowed mother, as well as to her sister, Elizabeth, who was in ill health most of the time. Sarah emigrated to Salt Lake City in 1852 where she married William Roberts Jones. She continued to live a full life of great faith. She and William both gave away much flour to the needy. At one time her bin was blessed to never be empty. After that it was always more than half full, no matter how many pans of flour were given away.

Sarah's sister, Elizabeth Wright, and her mother, Elizabeth Adamson Wright, joined Sarah in the Valley in 1856 by traveling with the Martin handcart company. The mother was 64 years old, and miraculously survived this ordeal. Young Elizabeth gives some details:

I was baptised in the LDS Church 23 Oct 1848. Mother and I set sail [on the ship *Horizon* in 1856], from Liverpool to Boston. We were 6 weeks on sea, two on train from Boston to Iowa and [from] there we had to pull a cart across the plains. We had a hard time not having enough to eat. Our clothes wore out and we were badly frozen. ... We lost our way, 100 miles out of the way we should have gone. We stayed in a ravine. ... We had just 6 oz. of flour a day, each, to live on and nothing else. No water, no wood, no tents, nor beds, all having been burned. We lay on the ground which was covered with snow. A bare desert place. Nothing by snow and sky. We ate the flour with our hands.

Brigham Young sent three companies to find and help us for we were lost. Two of the companies failed to find us and went back. William Roberts Jones [husband of Elizabeth's sister, Sarah,] was in one of the companies. ... They brought us to Salt Lake City, 30 Nov at 12 o'clock noon, Sunday 1856, being 7 months on the way. We were all badly frozen. I could not walk for three months, my legs, fingers, and breast frozen stiff. My mother was so badly frozen that she could not walk for 6 months.

My brother-in-law, William Roberts Jones, cared for us, carrying us whenever we were moved. Mother was frozen black up to her knees. We were taken to my sister's home in the 15th Ward. She and her husband did all they could for us and helped us in every way possible.

My mother was healed by the power of God. She had faith in the ordinance of prayers and anointing by the Elders. My mother lived 23 years after coming to Utah and died a faithful Latter-Day Saint. ... I am here to praise His Holy Name. ... I could say much of our suffering of those who are dead as well as the living, all martyrs to the truth, of which I am one. I have suffered much and could tell a sad tale, but do not wish to complain. The Lord is with me and will help me through. I live to praise His Holy Name and thank Him for His blessings to me. I pray I may be faithful to the end of my days.

Source: "William Roberts Jones, Sarah Ann Wright Jones, My Grandfather and Grandmother," family history files of Mary Ann Carter Smith; "History of Sarah Ann Wright," family history files of Ron Schetselaar.