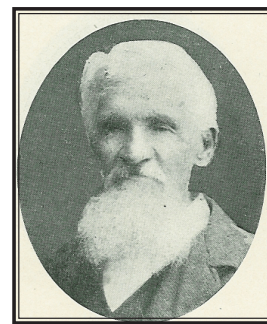


HANS ULRICH BRYNER, JR.

Born: April 29, 1827 Illnau, Zurich, Switzerland
 Age: 29
 Hunt Wagon Company



Hans was an artist who had painted his grandmother's life-size portrait, but had to leave it hanging on the wall in Switzerland when he immigrated to Utah. He had to leave behind many other things as well, since baggage costs were expensive and each traveler was only allowed to bring a limited amount. Hans and his wife, Anna Maria Dorothea Mathis (28) left Liverpool in the sailing vessel *Enoch Train* along with their daughter, Mary Magdalena, called "Maria" (5), and Susannah Bryner (66), wrongfully indicated in some places as Hans's mother. (Her relationship to Hans is not known at this time.)

Hans and Anna had lost a one-month infant in November of 1855 before they left Switzerland. They had another child, Henry Gottfried (3), that Hans had never seen because he had become blind due to an accident some time after his daughter was born. Hans and Anna felt that Gottfried was too young to make this long trip so they left him at home with his grandparents, and trusted that all would be well with him. Gottfried and his grandparents immigrated that next summer (1857) in the Jesse B. Martin wagon company.

Hans was not blind in his faith, however, as he was shown the route he would take through Massachusetts, Illinois, and Iowa in a dream before he left Switzerland. Hans's siblings, Casper and Barbara, had come the year before on a different route through St. Louis. Casper had made arrangements for the wagon and teamster for his brother's family.

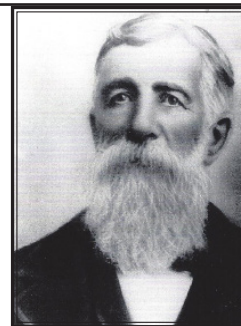
Even though Hans was furnished with a wagon and ox team, he walked. He would hang on to the back of the wagon for guidance and if the wagons got stuck he was there to push. Hans said that he did this often as there were many bumps to drive over. The middle of the road was especially rough and many times Hans was dragged off his feet, so he learned to cling tightly to the wagon for support.

On October 7, the cattle in the Hunt company stampeded and a Sister Esther Walters was killed. Hans had two yoke of oxen on his wagon and it was the usual thing for the lead pair to be led. They couldn't be guided like horses. In the case of a stampede the driver would jump on the back of one of the lead yoke and beat him over the head with a whip he always carried. This caused them to shut their eyes and then they would slow down. On the occasion of this stampede, Hans's teamster and Swiss friend, Alowis Bauer, reportedly broke his arm and the wagon was upset. The Bryner history reports an old woman was riding in the wagon. She was sitting on a stove and holding little Maria on her lap. When the wagon tipped over it put Maria on the bottom, then the old lady, then the stove and lastly the wagon. The old lady braced herself up on her arms to protect the child from the heavy weight. She was so badly hurt that she died from the injury but saved the child's life, although Maria had "nervous unconscious" spells after that. Hans said, "We called the elders and they administered to my child; they promised that the Lord would not take my child for she should be my guide."

As the weather turned bitter cold, and the snow became very deep, Hans and his driver's feet were frozen. Little Maria also became frozen to the point of death, but Hans patiently rubbed life back into her little cold body. Much of the work fell on Hans' sweetheart, Anna. Anna was said to be "little and active and fast and she devoted her life to be eyes and a help and a comfort to her husband. Her girls learned early to take care of the house and she went to the gardens and fields with her husband. People who knew her said she was sweet and charming and that she was very efficient."

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Hans's brother, Casper, had previously settled in Lehi, Utah. It was late when he learned of his brother's troubles, but he loaded up and headed East to find him. He began meeting teams of rescue coming in to the Valley. Family records indicate that "He spoke so little English that it was hard for him to make them understand so he'd ask, 'Has anyone seen a blind man?'" He repeated this many times, but no one knew anything about him. "Finally, someone told him that the blind man had gone into Salt Lake over the other road down through Ogden Canyon. Casper had to turn around and go back to Salt Lake City and start all over again. He arrived in the city the same night that [Hans] did. Kind people in the city had opened their hearts and their homes and taken in the cold and hungry ones. ... Casper went from door to door and asked 'Has anyone seen a blind man?' He finally came to the door where [Hans] was. Great was their delight when they recognized brother's voices. ... They fell on each other's necks and wept for joy and thanked the Lord for His goodness."



Casper Bryner,
brother of Hans Jr.
(Rescuer)

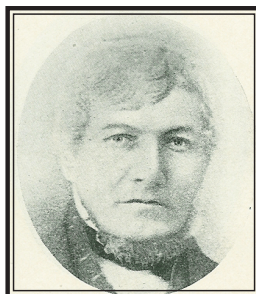
Hans's feet were healed from a Priesthood blessing he had received, as well as following the instructions of Brigham Young. He advised the people to gather wild sage and pulverize it and mix it with snow to poultice and rub the frozen parts. Hans "and members of his family were persistent with this treatment for a long time and eventually they healed and he could walk without difficulty."

When Hans's parents, sister, and son emigrated that next summer, they had a joyful reunion in Lehi. They also had many stories to share. Their wagon train had also experienced a stampede where their team ran away with Hans's mother and little Gottfried in the wagon. His father was picked up for dead, but brought back to consciousness. His arm was broken and his back badly hurt, from which injuries he never fully recovered. Hans's mother helped as much as she could.

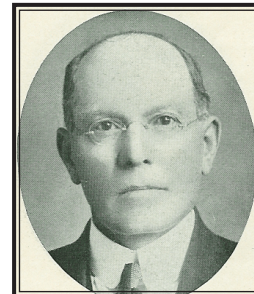
The family stayed in Lehi for a time, where they had another baby born to them in November 1857. The people of Lehi were good to them and helped them as much as they could, although they had little themselves due to the grasshoppers and drought of that previous year. A Sister Zimmerman came to their home in the Spring with a hen and eight little chickens in her apron which she presented to Anna. Anna would cry later in her life whenever she remembered this kindness.

The Bryner family was called to settle in Ogden and then in St. George, Utah, where their primary mission was to establish a settlement and build a temple. Hans called it "an endless mission because there were millions to redeem and the Latter-day Saints were numbered but few." From St. George, the Bryner's moved to New Harmony (about 1865), where they raised their family of now seven children. In 1868, Hans married Margaretha Kuhn, a widow who had been married to Hans's mother's brother, and they had ten children. Hans died in 1905, and is buried in St. George along with his parents.

Sources: "Alovis Bauer," by Jay A. Aldous; letter from Jay A. Aldous to Jolene Allphin, March 25, 2009; familysearch.org; "Elizabeth Ann Bryner Wood," by Elizabeth Ann Bryner Wood, 1934; letter from Lori P. Brockbank to Jolene Allphin, October 10, 2005; Bryner family history by Verena Hatch; photo, family histories, and letter from Brent F. Bryner to Jolene Allphin, December 3, 2007.



Hans Ulrich Bryner Sr.



Albert Bryner
Son of Hans and Maria