

## HENRY JAMES NEWMAN

Born: 1829 England

Age: 27

Hunt Wagon Company



Henry J. and Maria Louisa Penn Newman

Henry Newman was a tinman by trade. He was already a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when he married Maria Louisa Penn in 1851 at the St. Giles Parish in London. Soon she became converted and was baptized. They were both disowned by their parents for joining the Church.

Maria and Henry had three children before they were able to join the other Saints in America. As they were preparing for their journey, Henry tried to persuade Maria to purchase a bolt of silk so she could have a lovely new dress in the new country. They returned to the store three times to look at the cloth, but Maria chose a bolt of warm Welsh flannel instead.

In May 1856, Henry, Maria, and their three children, Maria Louisa (4), Henry James (3) and Priscilla Penn (1), left England on the ship *Horizon*. Maria was about two or three months pregnant when they left England. While on the ship, Maria made everyone in the family some coveralls which had long arms and legs with drawstrings that closed over their hands and feet. After they landed in Boston, the family traveled to Iowa City where they joined the John A. Hunt wagon company. Throughout their 1300 mile trip to the Salt Lake Valley, they followed fairly closely behind the Martin handcart company and assisted them as much as possible.

At one time in their journey, the Newman's oxen broke loose, scattering their food and belongings from their wagon. This caused some lack of food and warm clothing later in the trip. Maria gave birth to her fourth child, Hannah, on November 13, 1856. The baby died the same day. This was just one month before the Newman family reached the Salt Lake Valley. The company was between the "Three crossings" and "Fifth crossing" of the Sweewater River on that day, having traveled only four days from Devil's Gate, where they left many of their belongings. They still had 300 miles to travel.

When the last of the Newman's cattle died, Brother William Spicer took the Newman family into his wagon. According to family records, this crowded wagon is where the new baby was born. When Maria was most disheartened, more rescue parties arrived from the Salt Lake Valley with food and blankets. The last place the Hunt company became stranded was at Green River, with most of their animals having died. Most of the Hunt company wagons were abandoned there. Hundreds of rescuers kept the roads open through 20-foot snow drifts over Big and Little Mountains as they assisted the Newman family into the valley, where they were warmly welcomed by the Saints. The Newman family arrived with no frostbite damage. Maria was confident the warm Welsh flannel had protected her family.

During their residence in Salt Lake City, Henry took his tin repair kit from house to house trying to find someone who needed repairs on their metal household items, but many times he returned home with no earnings for the day. After an attempt at farming in Lehi and then again in Plain City, they moved to Ogden where Henry opened a successful tinsmith business.

Henry and Maria eventually had 13 children, including a set of twins. A faithful pioneer couple, Henry and Maria were both known for their spiritual gifts of discernment as well as healing. One of Henry's children said, "Father never spent an evening at home because of the many calls to administer to the sick and afflicted." Maria was set apart to go among the sick and comfort the distressed.



Henry J. Newman (Jr.)

Sources: Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files; "1856 Rescue Timeline of the Smoot, Willie, Martin, Hodgett, Hunt companies," yet unpublished MS (2017) by Jolene S. Allphin; familysearch.org; Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel website.