

## JEMIMA BROWN ROGERS

Born: 1803 England

Age: 53

Willie Handcart Company



Jemima was born on April 13, 1803, at Earlstoke, Wiltshire, England. Jemima had very little education as a girl. Many children were put to work in factories instead of being sent to school. Jemima did participate in the local celebration of the coronation of Queen Victoria in June of 1837.

Jemima married and had a son named Thomas who was born in 1824. Her husband died when Thomas was just a child. Jemima later married Francis Baker Rogers, but was left a widow the second time when her husband died in 1854.

The elders found Jemima in her native land and she was baptized in 1844. She faithfully saved all she could during the next twelve years in order to join the Saints in Utah. Her son, Thomas, had emigrated to Utah earlier, and with his help she was able to sail on the ship *Thornton* with her adopted daughter, Elizabeth (8) for their promised land in Utah.

Jemima and Elizabeth joined the Willie handcart company to cross the plains. They faced many complications from their carts falling apart, the lack of adequate food and warm clothing, and the early winter storms. This was a very hard trip for the 53-year-old Jemima and her young daughter. Jemima said that when their food was gone, all that was left were unground kernels of black pepper, called peppercorns, which only kept their stomachs warm but did not stop hunger.

Jemima used all the extra clothing and covering she had to keep little “Lizzie” from freezing. Jemima suffered such exposure herself that her scalp was badly frozen and all her hair fell out. She wore various little black lace caps the rest of her life.

Jemima and Elizabeth survived this difficult journey. Jemima raised her daughter to be a very fine young lady. Elizabeth married the honorable James Sharp, mayor of Salt Lake City. Jemima lived with them in a mansion on Brigham Street until about 1885. She then moved to North Ogden and lived with her son and his family until her death on January 25, 1891. She was 87 years old. She had done much good in Zion and her faith and testimony were unwavering.

Source: familysearch.org; Daughters of Utah Pioneer history files. There is also a Bible that belonged to Jemima on display in the history room at the DUP history museum in Salt Lake City.

Commissioned by descendants of Jemima, *Closely Knit* depicts Jemima training “Lizzie” in home arts.



Lizzie, about age 5



*Closely Knit*  
©Julie Rogers  
used by  
permission