

## JEMIMA COOK

Born: March 10, 1828 in England

Age: 28

Martin Handcart Company



Jemima was the youngest daughter in a family of four girls and four boys. She received a few months of education each year, but also had to work at a young age to help support the family. Jemima was said to be “a bright little girl.” She worked hard and learned the profession of tailoress.

Jemima heard missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints preach the gospel and became very interested. Her family did not wish for her to participate in the Mormon meetings. Sometimes Jemima would slip out at night when her parents thought she was in bed, attend a meeting, and slip back in through a window. On one of these occasions, in February 1854, she was baptized.

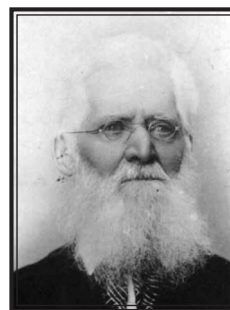
She had the tailor for whom she worked hold a little of her earnings back each week until she could leave for America. The night she left, she wrote her parents a note, then slipped quietly through a window. Her parents rushed to the harbor to stop her but the ship *Horizon* had already set sail.

After landing in America she joined with the Martin handcart company and started her journey to Utah. The journey was filled with many trials. Jemima often pushed her handcart through deep snow. At night when the pioneers stopped, their ice-stiffened clothes were sometimes frozen to their bodies.

When the company was at Devil’s Gate, the decision was made to move the company to a nearby ravine. John Toone, a returning missionary, was captain of a hundred in the Martin company. He asked Jemima if she was going to cross the Sweetwater River to get there. She said that she was. The river was deep with chunks of ice floating on top. As Jemima sat on the bank to remove her shoes in preparation to cross, John picked her up and carried her across to safety. He also helped with her handcart.

They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in November and four months later, 29-year-old Jemima married 44-year-old John Toone and became his third wife. They had seven children. Jemima loved the gospel. She lived to be 77 years old.

Source: Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files; See John Toone biography in Martin company section of *Tell My Story, Too*.



John Toone