

ANN WADDELL STEWART



Born: Scotland 1825

Age: 31

Willie Handcart Company

Ann, an only child, grew up in Dalkeith, Scotland. At age twenty, she moved to Edinburgh. Ann and her husband, John, were both orphans when they met in Edinburgh, Scotland. They were married June 16, 1848. Four children were born to them in Scotland, of whom only two survived to travel with them to Zion—John, age 7, and Margaret Ann about 2 months of age when they left.

On May 3, 1856, the Stewart family sailed from Liverpool on the ship *Thornton* for America. They landed in New York, then went by train to Iowa City, Iowa, where they joined the James G. Willie handcart company. They suffered terribly with the rest of the members of this company.

On October 24 at the Rock Creek campground, fifteen people died—thirteen buried in a common grave. John Stewart, Sr. also seemed to be frozen to death. He was placed with the others on the ground awaiting burial when Ann discovered that he was still breathing. She dragged him to the fire and with the help of others revived him. Most of their remaining possessions needed to be thrown away to make room for John to ride in the handcart. Strapping her now six-month-old baby, Margaret, across her breast with a large paisley shawl, Ann was able to pull the handcart. Perhaps John (Jr.) was big enough to give his mother some help. The baby received severe frostbites which caused her to suffer the rest of her life.

Two days after their arrival in Salt Lake City in November, the family moved to Provo where four more children were born to Ann and John. Ten years later, on October 24, 1866, John Stewart died, leaving their six children fatherless. It was the youngest baby, Mary's, first birthday when John died. Ann was married again in 1869 to Edmund Dugdale, but she did not have any more children.

When the Relief Society was organized in Provo, Ann followed her calling as a teacher. After attending lectures in midwifery in 1873, Ann was set apart as a midwife by Parley P. Pratt, Wilford Woodruff and Joseph F. Smith.

In 1880, at age 55, Ann became the first woman in Provo to undergo cancer surgery. The cancer finally took her life six years later. She passed away at age sixty-one.

Source: "Ann Waddell Stewart Dugdale," *Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude*, International Society Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Vol. I, 850.