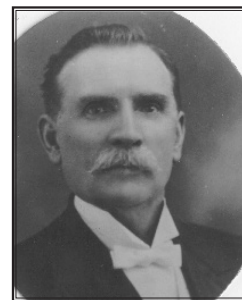


## ELLEN JACKSON CARTER

Age: 40

Born: 18 May 1812

Martin Handcart Company



Ellen Jackson Carter and son, John Carter

Ellen Carter traveled to Zion with her parents, Charles Jackson (age 60) and Mary Loxam Jackson (62); her brother, William Jackson (21); her son, John (10), and her deceased husband's brother, Luke Carter (45), who was a widower.

Ellen's mother died on October 18, 1856, at 2:30 a.m. She was buried that morning and the company then traveled 17 miles. She was spared the terrible ordeal of last crossing of the North Platte River and first early winter storm on October 19. The Martin company was stranded near this crossing for the next nine days before the first rescue party found them.

Ellen's father managed to survive these difficulties as well as the terrible cold and storms that sent the company into a cove near Devil's Gate, two miles off the trail, for another waiting period—November 4-9. Charles Jackson then joined his wife in death on November 19. The Martin company had reached "dry Sandy" that day and recorded the weather as being cold and snowing. Ellen's life story indicates that "the ground was so hard that they couldn't bury him. They just covered him up with rocks and snow. They could hear the wolves howling near where he was buried as they traveled on their way."

Ellen's brother-in-law, Luke Carter, also died some time in October or November, possibly at Martin's Cove. Family accounts indicate that he had been helpful in digging graves for others.

Bereft of all but her son and brother, Ellen faced her trials with much courage. She had known heartache before as her husband had died when their little son was only a few weeks old. Her parents were among the first converts to the Church in England, being baptized in the River Ribble by Heber C. Kimball and Orson Hyde. Her father, Charles, was promptly disinherited by his own father who was quite a wealthy man. Charles was a gardener and also raised birds, but was not a strong man and he had been unable to do much hard labor.

Ellen's mother, Mary, had been sought after for her beautiful singing voice. A man once requested that Mary sing while he was dying which she did. She also worked hard at weaving to help earn the living for the family. When she was baptized in January 1838, it was a very cold day and it was necessary to break a hole in the ice of the river. She had been ill with an arthritis siege at the time. She was very crippled from this disease and unable to walk. She had to be carried to the river for her baptism. Immediately after the baptism, in spite of the inclement weather and cold water, she felt much better and was able to walk home, something she had been unable to do for some time, even in good weather.

When Ellen decided to emigrate to Utah, her parents insisted on coming with her, even though neither of them were in good health. Ellen and her brother, William, probably had the full responsibility of tugging the handcart along. Perhaps John was also able to help with this when he wasn't assisting his grandparents. Ellen remarried when she got to Utah. She and William Stuart Seeley had two sons. Ellen died in Mt. Pleasant, Utah, at the age of 92.

Sources: Family records of Gayle Hunting and Melanie Hunting North; "History of My Maternal Great Great Grandmother" by Louise Madsen Watts, files of Melanie North, Riverton, Wyoming.