

DANIEL OSBORNE

Born: 1825 England (died on Nov. 1, 1856, 15 miles west of Green River)

Age: 30

Willie Handcart Company



Susannah Rebecca

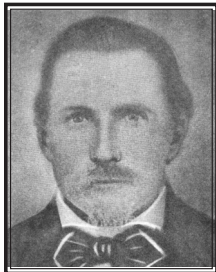


Martha Ann

Daniel Osborne was traveling with his wife, Susannah (age 33), and their four children, Susannah Rebecca (10), Daniel (7), Sarah Ann (3), and Martha Ann (1).

The daily rations had been cut several times, and then were completely gone when the first real snowstorm came overnight October 19-20. It effectively stopped the Willie company. The company journal recorded for Oct. 19: "Weather very cold. ... Some of the children were crying with cold. ... A snow storm came on, which lasted for about half an hour. The company rolled on again & were soon met by Cyrus H. Wheelock & Joseph A. Young & two other brethren from the Valley, bringing us the information that supplies were near at hand. ... During the day ... Daniel Osborn, from Norwich, Norfolk, England died. ... Travelled thro' the day about 16 miles; camped at dark on the banks of the Sweetwater. The teams mistook the road & did not get into camp till about 10 p.m." Little Daniel was unable to share the joy of the rest of the family two days later, as the first rescue wagons arrived and relieved their hunger and much suffering. He was, however, spared the ordeals of Rocky Ridge on October 23, through which the rest of the family were soon required to pass.

The father, Daniel Osborne, struggled on and came very close to his goal of reaching Zion. He died on November 1, 1856. The company journal recorded: "Rolled out of camp, met several teams to assist our company on to the Valley. Drove 15 miles and camped. Daniel Osborn, from Norwich, Norfolk, England, aged 35 years died in the evening. A snow storm came on after we camped but did not last long."



John Saline

Some time on the 4th of November, a 25-year-old Finnish rescuer arrived on the scene. His name was John Saline.¹ He inquired if any stragglers were behind. An older woman who did not speak English told him about the Osborne mother, her three daughters, and another woman traveling with them who were back on the trail. Because John could speak five languages fluently, he understood her. She told John they were too ill to continue and were left behind with the promise that someone would return for them later. John found them all huddled together, nearly frozen. He was able to give them food and place them in his wagon. The mother, Susannah, died the next day. It was now November 5, 1856. They were so very close to their destination! The company journal recorded a final heartbreak for the Osborne family: "Rolled on in the morning & crossed Yellow Creek, ascended a steep hill & then go down Echo Canyon & camped; travelled about 23 miles and camped. Peter Madsen, from Copenhagen, Denmark, aged 66 years, died during the day; Susannah Osborn from Norwich, Norfolk, England, aged 33 years died this day. A snow storm came on this evening. The people are much exposed to cold from lying on the cold ground.

On November 9, the three little Osborne orphans arrived in Salt Lake City. Bishop Silas Richards of Union took these three sisters to raise as his own. Bishop Richards wrote: "The children are very poor from suffering with cold and hunger and the want of proper nourishment and clothing. None of them were able to walk across the room without difficulty. Susannah's feet were badly frostbitten, their only clothing being some remnants of summer apparel. They had no shoes or woolen stockings; they were very feeble and required much care and attention. Young Susannah had to keep oiled rags between her toes to prevent them from growing together."

Susannah Rebecca grew up and married her rescuer, John (Johan) Savilaakso, whose surname had been changed to Saline. They had 10 or 11 children. Susannah died in Pima, Arizona, in 1925. Martha Ann married Elijah Elmer. She died in Safford, Arizona, in 1933. They did not have any children. Sarah Ann died on an unknown date in 1857.

¹ John had been working on a ship headed to America in 1853 when he met two Mormon Elders. They taught John the gospel and he was baptized aboard ship, then continued to Utah.