

## CHARLES MARTIN HERBERT

Born: 22 April 1853, Worcester, England

Age: 3

Willie Handcart Company



Ann Herbert (Rynearson)

Charles came to Zion with his mother, Ann Herbert (age 25), and her sister, Hannah (age 16). They sailed from Liverpool to New York City on the ship *Thornton* and traveled mostly by train to their first outfitting point in Iowa. With the other members of the Willie company preparing to leave their campground, Ann Herbert was a busy mother. On July 14, 1856, the Willie company journal records: “The Captains of Hundreds and all hands are busy carrying out the instructions of Prest. Willie given last night namely of weighing all luggage to be paid for the valley & taking an Inventory of all surplus property with valuation of same—All are in first rate spirits and more for the hand carts than the waggons.”

Hopefully the Herbert’s were among those in first rate spirits! Ann had a 1300-mile daunting task ahead of her. Charles would have to be carried or ride in the handcart much of the way. (Hannah would also need to ride in the handcart sometimes, as she became ill on the journey.) Whether Ann made the following decision as a matter of convenience, or to obtain assistance, the company journal noted her decision of July 15: “We finished weighing the luggage today. Sister Eliza Hurren was delivered of a daughter about 6 a.m. yesterday; also Franklin Richins was born this day to John and Charlotte Richins of the Cheltenham Conference, & Richard Godfrey of Worcester Conference was joined in matrimony to Ann Herbert of the same Branch by Bishop Tyler.”

The Herbert family made it through the trials of the Willie company trek and arrived in Salt Lake City on November 9, 1856. Charles’s mother soon found work, something she had been accustomed to as a child working to support her parents’ family. She made trimmings for dresses, collars for coats, and many things by sewing down from ducks and geese into these articles. Ann apparently never lived with her new husband. She obtained a divorce from the state of Iowa, and on March 15, 1857, she married Andrew Jackson Rynearson. Ann and Andrew provided nine brothers and a sister for Charles.

Several years after living in their new home, one of Charles’s neighbors, Thomas Russell, served a mission in England and converted his Herbert grandparents and two of their sons. These family members immigrated to Utah in 1864 in the Joseph S. Rawlins company.

Charles had a little schooling. He did go on to Morgan College in his teens. He grew up in the Mill Creek Ward and held many positions in the Church. In 1873 he was called to help explore Arizona for settlements. He worked in the lead mines to earn extra money so he could marry Martha Ann Wells in 1878.

Charles worked hard and was able to send seven of his twelve children to Brigham Young University. He had one of the largest bee apiaries in the state at the time of his death, following the agricultural types of careers of his step-father. (Andrew raised the first strawberries and budded the first peach trees in the Salt Lake Valley and also introduced different kinds of shade and ornamental trees.) Andrew Rynearson deeded part of their land in Millcreek to Charles’s mother in 1879. She then deeded it to the Church in 1886. This is where the First Millcreek Ward Chapel was built at 602 E. 3900 S. It is marked by Daughters of Utah Pioneers marker #307.

Charles and Martha Ann became the parents of 12 children. On the day Charles died he had planned a welcome home dinner for his wife and her sister returning from a trip to Canada. As they drove home from the train depot, Charles died suddenly. His obituary states: “In the death of Mr. Herbert, Salina loses one of its best and most useful citizens. He always took an active part in religious and civil affairs. ... Mr. Herbert is survived by a prominent and good family.” His son, Jedediah M. Herbert, was serving a mission in Kansas City at the time of his father’s death.

Sources: Daughters of Utah Pioneer history files; Willie Company Journal; *Through the Board Gate: A History of the Family of Ernest William Herbert and Emma Jane R. Herbert*, by Neda Herbert Gyllenskog, 1995; Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel website; letters, emails, and photos from Dorothy Hein, Feb. 2007, and Alison Webb, Aug. 2004; *A Genealogy of the Reyniersen Family*, by Peter M. Rinearson and Arthur P. Rynearson, 1997; familysearch.org.

Charles & Martha Ann  
Wells Herbert