

JOSEPH SMITH BARLOW

Born: 11 May 1849 England

Age: 7

Martin Handcart Company



Joseph Smith Barlow Ann Crompton Barlow

Joseph was the youngest in a family of eight children. He emigrated with his mother, Ann Crompton Barlow (age 50), and siblings, John (17), and Jane (15). Two older brothers, Oswald and Richard, had emigrated previously. His father, James Barlow, was one of the first to be baptized in their community of Prestwich in 1839, and they were active participants in the Manchester branch. One day James had just preached a sermon when the presiding Elder arose and said that James would be called to depart this life to serve a mission in the spirit world. James died soon after this event on July 22, 1849, at the age of 47. Joseph was just one year old at the time.

Joseph's mother continued the family dream and the handcart plan finally made emigration possible. Also emigrating with Ann was her sister, Elizabeth Crompton Haydock and daughter Mary; and Ann's oldest son's mother-in-law, Jane Nightingale and her children: Sarah, Jemima, and Joseph. Of these three families headed by single mothers, not one life was lost. Descendants of Ann Barlow remember her today as a true heroine who had the faith and courage to persevere.

Joseph and John may have been participants in the activities described by fellow traveler, John William Southwell aboard the train to Iowa City: "The seats were two inch plank with no back. In this miserable way we were conveyed to Cleveland, Ohio, at a very slow pace. The country along the track was studded with fine orchard, bearing fine apples and all kinds of fruit. The fruit was so tempting that at that rate of travel, the young men would jump from the train, fill their pockets, and overtake the slow moving institution." Upon reaching Iowa City, Heber McBride remembered: "Swimming was the order of the day with all the small boys in camp."

When the Barlow's reached Fort Laramie on October 8, Joseph's brother, John, enlisted in the army as a contract laborer. (John arrived in Utah in 1857.) Before arriving in the Valley, Joseph and Jane both became very ill. Joseph's feet and legs were frozen and Jane was not expected to live. Jane was left at Fort Bridger or nearby Fort Supply in hopes that she would recover or receive a decent burial. At least part of the time, Jane stayed at John Pulsipher's home at Fort Supply. Jane was nursed back to health and about four months later she married a Fort Bridger blacksmith, John Long, on March 15, 1857, at the home of John Pulsipher. Jane and her new husband later settled in Pleasant Grove. John Pulsipher recorded the involvement of the missionaries at Fort Supply in the rescue efforts: "As soon as we heard of their sufferings we sent out all teams to help the poor sufferers. Truly they were in a deplorable situation. Mostly women and children, poorly dressed, on foot and pulling their carts in the snow. Our teams would load with all they could take of them [to] the Valley and then go back and meet others and load again and do likewise. We that were at Ft. Supply saved the lives of many. ... [Feb. 8, 1857]: "The latter part of this winter I kept a girl that had no home - had lost her friends crossing the mountains in the late hand cart companies and she was wintering here. [March 15, 1857] ... In the afternoon meeting Br. [Lewis] Robison from Fort Bridger was with us and in the Evening we had a wedding at our house, the girl that we had kept through the winter was married to John Long the blacksmith at Bridger by Bro. Robinson."

Upon arriving in Salt Lake City, Dr. Anderson advised amputation of Joseph's legs. His mother would not consent, saying that if he died, he must die whole and not in pieces. She had faith that he would be healed. An older woman visited and told Ann to scrape raw potatoes and put them on his legs, which she did. Joseph walked again after 18 months, but was never very healthy.

Joseph and his mother eventually settled in Fairfield. Joseph married Amanda Morgan when he was 19 years old. She was expecting their fourth baby when Joseph died of appendicitis.

Sources: "James Barlow and Ann Crompton" book on CD by Kathryn Kimber Anderson; "William Ashton: Handcart Pioneer and Five-Year Foot Soldier" by Curtis R. Allen; "Autobiography of John William Southwell."