

SQUIRES FAMILY

Martin Handcart Company

Henry Augustus Squires (age 30), Sarah Minnie Catlin Squires (28), Sarah Augusta (8), Mary Emily (5), Catherine Harriet (4), Clara Annie (3), Rosetta Agnes (1), Echo Levina (born Nov. 26, 1856).



Henry A. and Sarah Minnie Catlin Squires

Henry Squires had been a Baptist Minister in England. A year after his marriage to Sarah Catlin in 1846, Sarah met the missionaries and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Henry followed her in baptism the next week and was later called to serve as the president of the St. Alban's Branch in the London Conference. Nine years after their conversion, the Squires family sailed on the ship *Horizon* for America. Two of Henry's brothers had emigrated earlier. These brothers cared for Henry's family while they recovered from their arduous journey across the ocean and the plains.

Sarah Augusta was only eight years old at the time of the emigration. Because her mother had such ill health, young Sarah walked so her mother could ride in the handcart. Sarah Augusta was sick most of the time herself. One day, as they were climbing uphill, with her father pulling and Sarah pushing at the back, her well-worn shoe came off in the mud. She could not stop pushing or the handcart would roll back, so her shoe was left in the mud. As Sarah told her mother that night about her missing shoe, her mother saw that Sarah's foot was bleeding. The other shoe was worn so badly, she needed a new pair. A man by the name of Booth [probably Edwin Booth, rescuer, age 23] heard her story and he made her a pair of moccasins out of buffalo hide. She wore these the rest of the way to the valley and said she never forgot the kindness of Brother Booth. On November 26, a new baby was born to the Squires family. Two members of the Martin company wrote about it:

"I well remember that when camped at Echo Canyon Sister Squires was confined in the morning. She had a lovely baby girl and they named her Echo. The morning she was born the father was running around camp inquiring of everybody if they had a pin to give him to pin something around the baby, but I don't think he was able to get one. The brethren fixed the wagon very warm and comfortable for Sister Squires." (Patience Loader)

"The next camp, on the 26th [of November], was in a small canyon running out of the north side of Echo Canyon, a few miles above the mouth of the latter. Here a birth took place, and one of the relief party generously contributed part of his under linen to clothe the little stranger.

The mother did quite as well as could have been expected, considering the unpropitious circumstances. So did the father who subsequently became a prosperous merchant of this city. The little new comer also did well, and was named Echo in honor of the place of her nativity." (John Jaques)

The rescuer who contributed his "under linen" was Robert T. Burton. In his biography, Burton's granddaughter, Lenore Gunderson, wrote: "After he had distributed all the clothing, Robert noticed a mother whose newborn baby did not have sufficient clothing to keep it warm, so he took off his own homespun shirt and gave it to the mother to cover the baby." (See painting of this event at <http://tellyourstory.com/fine-art-julie-rogers/rescue-me-robert-taylor-burton>.)



Mary Emily Squires

The family lived in Kaysville for the first two years, then moved to Salt Lake City where Henry and a business partner opened a large and successful mercantile business. Four more daughters were born to Henry and Sarah, then all but three daughters returned to England with their parents in 1866. Henry left the Church and returned to his work as a Baptist minister. Two more children were born in England, including their only son. In 1874, Sarah Squires brought several of the children to Utah for a visit. Echo was with them and was seeking to know for herself if the gospel her father had once embraced was true. Soon after arriving in Utah, Echo's decision was to be baptized. She and three more sisters stayed in Utah when their mother returned to England. Echo became a widow with five children at age 29. She endured great hardships, but later testified, "The Lord blessed us with great blessings and our storehouse was like the widow's cruse of oil. It never ran dry."



Echo Squires



Sarah Augusta and Rosetta Agnes Squires

Sources: Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files; *Life history and writings of John Jaques including a diary of the Martin Handcart Company*, Stella Jaques Bell, 1978; Sandra Ailey Petree, *Recollections of Past Days: The Autobiography of Patience Loader Rozsa Archer*, 2006, All USU Press Publications, Book 37. See also meredithroots.org, and "The Sanctifying Work of Welfare," Bishop H. David Burton, *Ensign*, May 2011.