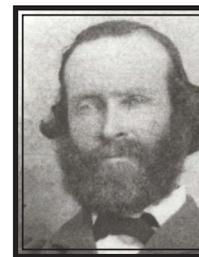


HENRY HAMILTON

Born: 10 December 1831 in Dundee, Forfarshire, Scotland

Age: 24

Hodgett Wagon Company



Henry was baptized a member of the LDS Church at age 17. With enthusiasm for his newfound faith, he accepted a call as a home missionary and taught the gospel to many others in Scotland. Henry worked in the textile mills as a young man, and served as a foreman there. He was also able to obtain some education. Henry worked as a cook aboard the ship *Horizon* when he sailed for America in 1856. Henry earned his transportation across the plains by driving a wagon team for the Tennant family. The Hodgett wagon company was traveling along with the Martin handcart company across the plains, helping them as much as they could, but also suffering along with them when food became scarce and the winter weather set in. Henry's granddaughter, Fontella Brimley, said "My mother said that her father did not like to talk about that journey as he said it was such a terrible experience he never liked to think about it." Henry lost a vest and jacket along the way, and finally lost a shoe when he was only 4 days from the Valley. He entered the Salt Lake Valley with his feet wrapped in rags.

After arriving in the Valley, Henry settled in Spanish Fork, where he worked hard and also taught night school. After two years he had earned enough money to get married to Janet Johnston. Janet had also immigrated in 1856, in the Daniel D. McArthur handcart company.

Henry had great faith and was known for his gift of healing. Family and neighbors often called on Henry to administer to them. Fontana Brimley wrote, "When a little girl, my mother had a bad tooth ache for several days. Her father had been away from home. Her mother comforted her with the thought that as soon as her father came home he would make it better. Just as soon as he administered to her the pain did leave."

Henry started a journal about two weeks before reaching the Salt Lake Valley. The following excerpts give a good idea of Henry's experiences:

Thursday 27th November, while on Green River I begin my journal again from this & I will give from May the 25th as far as I mind or as I feel to do. The first week on the Sea I was bound up in my bowels so I felt not right & was away almost from eating food, but I got some castor oil from Jessie Haven & I got right after that. The Captain got a hole in the top of the galley which made it a good deal better & got also 3 men to assist me in cooking, as there was such a number on board. There was 836 persons.

Edward Martin was President & Jessie Haven & Father George Waugh his Counselors. We had a pretty good time of it & a good voyage. We landed in Boston. from the time we left Liverpool in 35 days. There was little sickness among us. There was 2 marriages, 4 or 5 deaths & 3 or 4 births while on the voyage. We started with the train from Boston about the 1st of July, [then] went with the train about 1700 miles. [We] landed first in Albany [New York]. I was there about 3 hours, before the rest of the passengers on to me leaving the train, as I had to wait on 2 of the Sisters & bring them from the hostel to the train. The next place we landed at was Buffalo [New York]. I was at each place on the way mostly left to shift the luggage on the way along with a lot more of the boys.

In Chicago all the Saints stopped over night in a large shed. I was on guard the 1st part of the night. There was several men came along & was inquiring about the number of the Saints &c. & talking about polygamy & their hearts [were] as black as hell, but there happened to be a fire in the Town that night which took the attention of the people from the Saints a good deal. When we came up this length we found quite a different Spirit among the people, but to the worse they appeared to be far more wicked.

We stopped all night in Rock Island but the main body of the Saints went on before midday. There was some fellows came around to trouble us at night. Just as was going to sleep. I stood guard the 1st part of the night. The fellows came around making a pretense to see if the Wagon Wheels was right but they were desirous to get away a young girl we had with us, but they could not accomplish their design. We rode up the next day to Iowa, but I had to stop at the station all that day & got up next day which was the 9th or 10th of July. I found Mother Smith and family there all well and E. Mitchell. [Margaret Bain Smith and Euphemia Mitchell of the Willie handcart company.] I [was] truly glad to see them as they were also to see me. They took and washed all my foul clothes.

They started with their hand carts about the 16th of July & it was truly good to see them roll out. I wrote a letter for my Mother & 1 E Cooper & sent things off to Dundee informing them about when I was to start off for the City of Salt Lake, &c. I truly felt glad in getting the opportunity of going but the way opened up for me right. Elder Edward

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Martin being the President of the Company across the Sea I asked him if there was any way for me to go for to drive a team so he went & inquired of Thomas Tennent Esq. So he talked a little to me about it. So he paid my way up to Iowa camp ground about 2 pounds 4 shillings.

All the hand cart companies went off before we started on August 1st & camped $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile off. Before we crossed the 1st bridge, we left [William H.] Walker & his [freight] company. [It] took us fully 4 weeks to get up to Florence, a distance of about 300 Miles. We had very warm time of it & hard too with the cattle being so unruly & not being accustomed [to] driving a team. On the way we could have got all the plums we wanted. Yea, wagon loads of them. I lost my jacket & vest 1 day coming along and my journal was wet & other things too.

[We] Left Florence about the 1st or 2nd day of September. Brother Tennent had 3 wagons up to this. He then got another one so these 4 and Jessie Havens went from John Hunt's Company to Benjamin Hodgetts Company, as it was moved on a little. Brother [Thomas] Tennent & Wife [Jane Ayrton Tennant], & young boy [Thomas Tennant] & the Wife's Mother [Isabella Lambert Ayrton] took bad here with the fever & ague. The wife got better [but] he took bad with the Diarrhea & died just after we crossed Scotts Bluffs. I seen him die. It was $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 P.M. October 4th. Took and buried him at Fort Laramie. One of our teamsters took bad with a looseness & died on the 26th of the same month & was buried 10 Miles above the upper crossing of Platte where the first Snow came on us. His name is Henry Starlie. We was stopped here 10 days with the Snow. The cattle got so weak not getting feed. While we was here the express came on from Devils Gate which cheered our hearts. Our fourth and Martins Company of hand carts was both together that day. They were dying off fast & being buried 6 & 7 in a day with cold & hunger & fatigue. Together from that day we began to go a little each day till we came to Devil's Gate.

Sister Tennant's Mother died on October 30th & was buried at Willow Spring. We had to stop 7 days at the Devil's Gate on account of the Snow. There was a great many of the cattle died here for want of feed. When we came here we found George D. Grant & Robert Burton, C[yrus].H. Wheelock & a good many others. Joseph Young & another one [Abel Garr] went on express to the Valley to let the circumstances of the companies be known. When we came along passed by where A[lmon] W. Babbitt & party was killed by the Indians. We had come on where Margetts & party was killed by the Indians. I seen that place. [These Indian depredations were in early September.]

About the 20th of October when the 1st snow came on we had to go on allowance of flour. About this time the hand cart people was on a 4 ounces per day. And Companies left about $\frac{1}{2}$ of our wagons at Devil's Gate & $\frac{3}{4}$ of the goods as Jessie Haven had the charge of Tennant's Wagons. His and Tennant went separate from the time we left Devil's Gate from the rest. We got out of flour several times but generally had plenty of beef & coffee & sugar, &c. We stopped 2 or 3 days at Green River [and] secured several times a small quantity of flour.

Wednesday 26th November, did not get anything to eat this day till about 3P.M. then measly got some few Peaches, $\frac{1}{2}$ # of Bacon & some Tea between 7 of us. There was few Wagons came from Bridger with flour & with advice to leave all that could be left. The Heifers was all left here & several oxen, &c.

Thursday 4th December, landed at Bridger. Found those that had been assisted with teams from Ft. Supply there & others & little prospect of getting any as Brother Brigham had wrote to the effect not to come on in the present condition, but Elder Jesse Haven was to start out so he [text missing]

Friday 5th Elder Jesse Haven asked us boys if we would start with him & he would give us 1 lb of flour per day & the first night he would give them bread & butter so the boys consented to go, but I objected on account of Pres B Young's letter, but he got another man in my place & started on Saturday Evening, although Captain Hunt counseled him not to go. So after he was away a few hours an express came from the City that 60 wagons was on their way and plenty of flour & we give 3 cheers. After the boys getting there, all made ready to go to where we could get wood to make log houses for the winter.

Sabbath 7th We got 2 lbs of flour each & 2 1/2 lbs of good beef between 3 of us. There was a lot of wagons come in on Sunday, Monday & Tuesday.

Wednesday 10th I started off this morning with the Spring Ville Company. We landed at Bear River 38 miles off.

Thursday 11th hard pulling in the snow. Camped at the Weber. I lost 1 of my shoes today.

Friday 12th Went to Cottonwood Grove. Snowed, which made it worse.

Saturday 13th crossed the big Mountain. I traveled the most of the day's journey. Got some cloths on my feet.

Sabbath 14th crossed the little Mountain. Landed in the City about 3 P.M. It was hard pulling. I passed through the Snow on the Little Mountain about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet above my head. It was truly a happy sight for us to see the Valley. When I landed I seen Elder D[aniel] D. McArthur so he invited me to his house. I went with him and stopped over night. I had just to wear cloths on my feet for want of shoes, the way I never had to do before. Yet I was glad that the lord spared me to come to the Valleys of the Mountains.