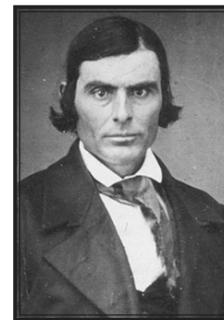


HOSEA STOUT

Born: September 18, 1810, Mercer County, Kentucky

Age: 46

Rescuer



Hosea Stout kept an important diary that chronicles the history of church, civic and government activities in Utah and the States and Territories of his day. He was a trusted militia officer in Illinois and Utah. He served as attorney general in Utah and as president of the house of the Utah Territorial Legislature. He wrote many interesting details about the proceedings of that legislative assembly and his court cases as an attorney.

Most of this biographical sketch for *Tell My Story, Too* contains excerpts from Hosea's diary during the weeks covering the rescue of the late 1856 pioneer companies to Utah. Juanita Brooks, as editor of Hosea Stout's diary,¹ wrote the following introduction to his life:

Hosea Stout was born September 18, 1810, in Mercer County, then the backwoods of Kentucky. His parents, Joseph Stout and Anna Smith, were first cousins, their mothers being sisters. Hosea was the eighth of twelve children, five of whom died young. By 1814 poor health and poverty had forced his parents to place Hosea and his four sisters in a Shaker home, where, with other unfortunate or orphaned children, they were provided with food, clothing, shelter, and education. Here Hosea was kept with the boys and given a rigid schedule of training, entirely removed from all association with his parents or sisters.

After nearly four years of living with the Shakers, Hosea was afraid of his father and so terrified at the thought of going home that he had to be taken by force. He soon adjusted, however, and had a normal home life until his fourteenth year, when his mother died. After that time he supported himself by doing farm work under one master or another, attending school whenever possible, and managing for himself as best he could.

In the face of great difficulty, Hosea did get a fair education for that time and place; at twenty-two he secured a position teaching school. . . . On the 25th day of August [1838], he was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Elder Charles C. Rich.

The following excerpts from Hosea's diary paint a picture of some of the challenges the Saints in Utah were facing as the 1856 immigration was beginning to take shape. It also chronicles Hosea's participation in the late 1856 rescue:

Saturday 1 March 1856. ... The Cal[ifornia] mail arrived but not much news more then the good people of Kansas were killing each other, on the quarrel for and against the [slaves]. ...

Monday 10 March 1856. There is a great scarcity of bread now in all the valleys and nearly every body are living on rations who are lucky enough to have any meal or flour. Today my family commenced on their allowance which is two pounds of flour and one pound of meal for the whole family consisting of seven persons. This is a scant portion considering that we have so many comers amounting to more than one constant boarder. Potatoes are also very scarce[,] in fact there is none in market.

Thursday 28 Aug 1856. The Eastern mail came in this evening The news unimportant Prospect dull for Utah to be admitted into the union Great excitement at Washington to see who will be next president. Dis-union rife. Kansas question warm

Friday 26 Sept 1856. To day the Hand Cart Company of saints arrived under the direction of E. Ellsworth and D.D. Mc Arthur The company was escorted in by Prest Young and a large concourse of Saints who met them in Emmigration Kanyon with a treat of melons, fruits and vegetables The[y] marched in good order & fine Spirits and seemed to be happy and in excellent health They have drawn their Carts from Iowa City a distance of 1300 miles. Thus men women & children young & old have been their own teams and performed this long journey far out travelling ox trains without incurring the expense for an outfit which would have taken them years of harder labor to procure than thus coming in Carts. This is a new and improved method of crossing the plains

Saturday 4 Oct 1856. On the second inst [Oct] elder Bunker's company of Hand Carts arrived To day 12 Elders returned home from different missions. G.D. Grant F D Richards Furgerson Jos A Young &c among the number They bring news that the Cheyennes have killed several apostate mormons returning to the states, and attacted Mr

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A.W. Babbitt's Train of goods killed several of his teamsters and himself is missing and supposed to be killed.

Monday 13 Oct 1856. To day President B. Young, H.C. Kimball, J.M. Grant and D.H Wells and several others started to Bridger to make a visit to the Shoshone Indians and to see and visit the brethren at [Ft.] Supply. And meet the immigration They expect to be absent some three weeks ...

Tuesday 11 Nov 1856. An express came in from Fort Bridger to the effect that C.N. Spencer & John Van Cott having been to the Sweet Water and haring nothing of the last train of Hand Carts had returned and returning had caused all the teams which had gone on the road to help them in[,] in all 77 teams which had arrived at Bridger and was now only waiting word from prest Young This news was very unexpected as the Hand Cart Company was in a suffering condition being beyond the south pass and destitute of clothing and provisions Immediately upon receiving the news the president sent W.H. Kimball, Joseph Simmons[,] James Furgerson & myself as an express to go and turn the teams East again and for us to find where the Hand cart company was, according we started about Sun Set and went to John Killians about 5 miles up emigration Kanyon where we staid all night

Wednesday 12 Nov 1856. Started this morning and after crossing the Big mountain we met Van Cott coming home about 200 yards from the top of the Mountain spencer having gone home in the night. Van Cott justified himself for returning and abandoning the Hand Cart company as he could get no information of them and had concluded they had returned to the states, or Stopt at Laramie, been killed by the Indians or other wise gone to the devil and for him to have gone further was only to loose his team and starve to death himself & do no good after all and as for G.D. Grant and those with him who had gone to meet them they had probably stoped at Ft. Larimie. So on these vague conclusions he had not only turned back but had caused all the rest of the teams to return and thus leave the poor suffering Hand carters to their fate.

Br. Kimball reprimanded him severely for his course and after hearing the President's letter he turned back and went with us. when proceeding a but a little ways our Wagon tire broke and we had to leave it & put our loading in Van's wagon went on to within about 8 miles of Weber we met Jos A. Young and John [Abel] Garr returning from the H. Cart company which was left at the Devils Gate in a suffering condition and here we met another team which we turned back and camped some 3 miles further on with Smoots company & Gilbert & Gerrish's train of goods all oxen. Snow here some five or six inches deep.

Saturday 15 Nov 1856. Arrived at Bridger about noon, staid four hours, took dinner had a beef killed and sent on to the company.

Here we learned to our surprise that the Ogden Company of some 15 or 20 waggons who after learning the whereabouts of the H. Carts some 4 days since were still tying up 15 miles below. We started on and arrived at the Ogden Company's camp at dark when they also started and we all went to Ham's Fork 30 miles from Bridger

Sunday 16 Nov 1856. Went on overtaking several ox teams and advised them to lay up at Green River until further orders also some horse teams who proceeded with us. Camped at Big Sandy with several teams from Centerville and a large number of oxen from Fort Supply, all who were hurrying on to meet & relieve the H. Carts

Monday 17 Nov 1856. Camped on Little Sandy here we found one team loaded with provisions. Our train now began to look quite large being some 30 wagons.

Tuesday 18 Nov 1856. The weather which had been clear and pleasant ever since I left home began to be cloudy and after noon comenced to snow and blow hard from the North. We overtook another team at Pacific Creek. When travelling on fastly we arrived at the Station on Sweat Water² just before night, the rest of the teams coming in shortly afterward. Here we met the advance of the Hand Cart Company who informed us that the company would be here to night. Several teams were dispatched to meet them and help them in Soon they began to come in some in wagons, some on horses some on foot, while some. hed to be lead or carried on the backs of men.

This presented a sad sight to see men women & children thinly clad poor and worn out with hunger & fatigue trudging along in this dreary country facing a severe snow storm and the wind blowing hard in their face.

The wagons could not accommodate the half of those not able to walk. Many were sick and many frosted and some severely. G.D. Grant when he met them left a company of 20 men at the Devils Gate at an abandoned Station where he left a very great portion of the loading of the ox train besides wagons, Hand Carts, and worn out cattle and horses, with provisions to winter them. The snow storm increased all evening but the tents were reared and the poor sick saints had many of them to be carried in.

Wednesday 19 Nov 1856. Still snowing this morning all hand stirring for a Start, With the addition of the teams which arrived last evening the entire company could be put in wagons as comfortably as the nature of the case would permit and travel at the rate of 25 miles a day. Some teams were sent back to the assistance of the ox train some

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Eight miles below. G.D. Grant & W.H. Kimball tarried here to see and arraigne matters with the ox train while all the rest proceeded facing the drifting falling snow and encamped on a dry ravine some 20 miles having no water for men or animals to night Some time after night William & Geo. arrived leaving the ox train at Pacific Springs

This evening I went with Eph Hanks to visit and administer to the sick and had an opportunity of seeing the suffering and privations through which they had passed. Some were merry and cheerfull some dull and stupid some sick some frosted & some lazy and mean but all seemed to be elated more or less with the idea of speedily arriving in the Valley.

Thursday 20 Nov 1856. This morning G.D. Grant, W.H. Kinball, [sic] G.W. Grant, H.P. Kimball and myself started for the City as an express meeting the Fort-Supply ox teams before we reached the Little Sandy who were going to the relief of the ox train & between the Little & Big Sandies met 3 good 4 horse teams who were also to help the ox train We took supper on our old camping on Big Sandy and travelled to Green River in the night and camped Late in the night Isaac Bullock & James Ivie over took us on their way to Fort Supply.

Friday 21 Nov. 1856. Travelled on to day quite Briskly, started on the ox teams on Green River and meeting several teams from the City with feed and provisions going to the relief of the ox trains We dined at the first crossing of Black's above Ham's Fork and proceeded on to Bridger travelling some fifteen miles after dark when arriving there ourselves and animals were nearly over done with fatigue, hunger, and cold For myself I could scarcely stand alone or keep awake.

Saturday 22 Nov 1856. After arrainging matters here with some fresh animals we about noon started on facing a severe snow storm and wind and the coldest and most piercing weather we have had during our journey, and camped at Quaken Asp Grove on the mountain side seven miles before reaching Bear River

Sunday 23 Nov 1856. Travelling on we camped at the mouth of Echo Kanyon with some ten miles night travelling and Breaking the springs of one wagon and leaving it

Monday 24 Nov 1856. This morning George D. Grant & William H. Kimball went ahead on horse back intending to reach the city this evening as our animals were fast failing and one wagon broke and left here our loading now all in one wagon we could not travel fast The snow deepened as we travelled to day and travelling became harder We encamped about one mile up the East side of the Big mountain the snow being here about Eighteen inches deep.

Tuesday 25 Nov 1856. This morning we commenced ascending the Big mountain on foot to save the team having six animals on the wagon still the ascent was very laborious for our team as well as our selves for the snow deepened as we ascended and several more who had come to break the road over the mountain Their trail greatly relieved us The snow on the mountain being waist deep but now we passed over with out any difficulty and decended with out locking passing another company with oxen about half way down & another at the bottom who came to break the road.

We had heavy travelling over the Little mountain and down Killians Kanyon the snow being very deep untill we arrived in Emmigration Kanyon when it became less and in the valley there was none to speak of

We arrived at home about sun set finding all well with the exception that President Jedediah M. Grant was dangerously sick

Thursday 27. C.H. Wheelock came in last night reports that the company will cross the Weber this after noon President Grant continues dangerously sick

Sunday 30 Nov 1856. The Hand cart companies arrived to day in the fore noon or rather the companies who went to the relief of the Hand Cart company brought them in wagons The train of wagons was very large

These poor persons were sent to different parts of the Territory immediately to be taken care of untill they could support themselves.

¹All of the material in this biography is taken from *On the Mormon Frontier: The Diary of Hosea Stout, 1844-1889*, Edited by Juanita Brooks, University of Utah Press, Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, 1964, reprint edition 2009, ix-x, 598-613. (Retyped by Jolene Allphin according to Juanita Brooks's edit.)

²This was the camp near South Pass where rescuer, Redick Allred, was stationed.