

(1)

**Daniel Osborn and wife, Susanna Rebecca Tillet Osborn(e) and Children
Willie Handcart Company 1856**

From the history written by Hazel Saline Tanner (Great Grand Daughter)
Research and additions written by Clinton Daniel (Danny) Saline (Great, Great Grandson.)

The name Daniel was passed down multiple generations from Daniel Osborn
The Osborn name is found mostly ending with an e in England and generally without an e when they came to America.

Daniel Osborn and his wife, Susanna Rebecca Tillet Osborn, were both born in Norwich, Norfolk, England. They were converted to the gospel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. When a branch was organized in their town of Norwich, Daniel was made Presiding Elder, as there was no bishop. He worked in a clay pipe factory, molding smoking pipes and also as a mason.

The Osborn Family joined a company of Saints prepared to sail to America. The family included:

Daniel Osborn, age 35, born 30 December 1821
Susanna Rebecca Tillet Osborn, age 33, born 9 December 1823
Susanna Rebecca Osborn, age 11 born 17 August 1845
Daniel Osborn, age 8, born 1847
Sarah Ann Osborn, age 4, born 28 April 1852
Martha Ann Osborn age 2, born 6 December 1854

All the family above was born in Norwich, Norfolk, England

They sailed on 4 May 1856 on the "Thornton" from Liverpool England, to the United States with Charles Collins as the captain. On board there were some 560 adults, 172 children, and 29 infants, mainly English and Scandinavian. While on the ship, a small boy became ill and passed away. A whale kept following them trying to upset the ship. They tried to keep the boys body until they could land. One morning the captain of the ship asked if any one had died and told them to give up the body before the whales upset the ship. The body was wrapped in canvas, services were held and the body buried at sea. They landed in New York on 14 June 1856 and continued on by train. They were jammed into smoky, over-crowded train cars and headed for Iowa City, arriving 26 June 1856.

When they arrived in Iowa City, nothing was ready for them. They had to wait for handcarts to be built and tents and food supplies to be gathered. They knew nothing of what was ahead of them. They never had cooked on an open fire, or slept on the cold ground or knew what it was

(2)

like to push and pull a handcart or have their food rationed or not have any food at all, or try to protect themselves from the bitter cold with inadequate clothing.

Around the middle of July they left Iowa City and traveled 277 miles to Florence Nebraska, which took 2 to 3 weeks.

Being so late in the season was a great concern, but as they were preparing to leave Florence for the plains, Capt Willie encouraged them not to go this late. But seeing their concession to go anyway he then exhorted them to go forward if this is what they wanted to do, but warned them of how great the sacrifice would be, and the dangers if they continued to cross the plains. He said they would be likely to have to wade in snow up to their knees, in bitter freezing cold and lay in a thin blanket and lie on a frozen ground for a bed.

On 18 August 1856 they started on their journey across the plains. The Willie Company started out with 404 Saints, 87 handcarts, 6 wagons, 32 cows and 5 mules. It was planned for the handcarts to make 17 miles a day, this would take 60 days to get to Salt Lake City; unfortunately, this never happened.

It is probable that they would have reached Salt Lake safely if circumstances had favored them. The chief hardships of the early part of the journey were the mid-summer heat with the dust and muddy roads when it rained. Before long, many of their handcarts needed repairing and soon the immigrants had to ration their food.

Yet the biggest obstacle which made tragedy inevitable, was the fact that cold weather and heavy snows set in much earlier than had been the case for many years previous. Snowstorms came, accompanied by fierce winds, piling snow on the trail. The weather was bitter freezing and the nights were unbearable. It was impossible for the Saints to keep warm with their scant supply of clothing; their load had to be reduced. Their food was running out and what they had was rationed. The men usually gave most of their portions to the women and children. Due to insufficient clothing and weakened by lack of food, many died and were buried by the wayside. The ground was so frozen that many could not be buried properly; they were wrapped in a sheet and covered with rocks to keep the wolves away.

The first tragedy came to the Osborn's on Sunday 19 October. From Levi Savage's diary. "Rolled on in the morning, weather very cold, some of the children were crying with cold, passed "Ice Springs." A snow storm came on which lasted for about an hour. The company rolled on. The condition was desperate. Levi reported that the last food had been given out and they had only six small beefs and 400 lbs of biscuits to provide over 400 people. The children, the aged, and the infants fell back to the wagons until they were so full that all in them were extremely uncomfortable. Some were so desperate that they hitched a handcart to the back of one of the wagons to haul more people. It was during this time that the son Daniel Osborn age 8 died in one of those wagons. He had been very sick, he died somewhere between Ice Springs

and the Willie Handcart rescue site. This would be a few miles west of Ice Springs. Five had died that day, never before had five died in one day."

(3)

*Daniel Osborn's name is on the lower monument at Rocky Ridge.
(To get to the lower monument travel on US 287 just over 5 miles from the Sweet Water Bridge, near the churches 6 mile crossings visitor center, to Hudson Atlantic City Rd. Turn left onto Hudson Atlantic City Rd and travel West on this gravel Rd for about 11 miles to a small sign identifying Sage camp. Turn left onto the Sage Camp to Tract Rd and travel two miles to the Lower Monument)*

Note; (There is a marker on the right side of the road identifying Ice Springs, which is about 10 miles West of Jeffrey City)

They traveled through the day about 16 miles, camped at dark on the banks of the Sweet Water.

On Oct 20th ,they were now out of food. Captain Willie knew that the rescue wagons were in the area and decided to go on ahead to find them.

On Oct 21st he arrived back in camp with the rescue party. Horses and mule teams arrived with flour, onions and some clothing for the camp. This made the Saints feel well. The next morning 6 wagons went on to meet the Martins Handcart Co.

On Oct 23 Rocky Ridge was one of the biggest tests for all. It was long, and steep, with freezing weather and blowing snow in their faces, and it was almost impossible to pull the handcarts over the Ridge. This took a great toll on all, as well as the Osborn family.

With much hardship, but with some provisions from the rescue party, it took around 7 treacherous days to arrive at Green River Camp.

On Oct 31st, they left Green River Camp, crossed Hams Fork and camped on its banks, traveling 18 miles.

The Osborn's next tragedy was on Saturday November 1. After going 15 miles from Hams Fork, they camped. This would be very near or at Church Buette. It was that evening that the father, Daniel Osborn age 35, died. He was very weak, and a few days before had crossed a river. After making several trips helping his own family, Daniel carried some additional young girls across the river. Later that evening in the freezing cold, it was his turn to stand guard while still in his wet clothes. He became quite ill and got Erythrasma in his feet. He worsened each day until he could not walk. His wife was pulling the hand cart begged him to ride, but he refused because of her weakness and knowing she would not be able too. For three days, he crawled on his hands and knees behind the cart. He died that evening of exposure, and excessive hardships, leaving his wife, Susanna and three girls to go on alone.

On Nov 2nd the company traveled on to Fort Bridger.

On Nov 3rd they moved on to Muddy Creek.

(4)

On Nov 4th stopped at Bear River and camped on its banks.

That morning they crossed Yellow Creek, ascended up a steep hill and then went down Echo Canyon and camped. This would be around 23 miles West of Bear River Camp. It was in the evening, in this area that John Saline, a team driver from the Rescue Party, met some of the Willie Hand Cart Company at the East end of Echo Canyon. John asked if there was any stragglers and was told that there were not. Then an old lady who could not speak English told him about a women, a mother, and three girls that were back a ways on the trail. John Saline could speak five languages fluently so he was able to communicate with her. She said, Mrs Rebecca Osborn and another women were too ill to travel on with the rest, so they and the three little Osborn girls were left behind with a promise that someone would return for them later. He then went and found them, and the other women traveling with them, all huddled together, nearly frozen in the snow. He gave them food and put them in his wagon. The Osborn children were badly frozen.

Sadly another tragedy happened, that left the Osborn girls orphans and dependant on the mercy of their rescuers and anyone that could help. Sometime during the night, or the next day on Wednesday November 5, The other women and mother, Susanna Rebecca Tillet Osborn age 33, died.

(This should be a mile or so East on the Hand Cart trail where it crosses I 80, going down Echo Canyon.)

All the Osborns who died were buried in unmarked graves along the trail. Little Susanna had walked all but two days of the trip.

The three little Osborn orphan girls reached Salt Lake City on 9 November 1856 with help from their rescuer, John Saline, who later married the daughter, Susanna Osborn. They were turned over to Bishop Hunter who asked Bishop Silas Richards of the Fort Union to take these three sisters and raise them as his own. Bishop Richards wrote of them in his diary, "*The Children are very poor with suffering from cold and hunger and warrant of proper nourishment and clothing. None were able to walk across the room without difficulty. Susanna's feet were badly frost bitten. Their only clothing, being some raiment of summer apparel. They had no shoes or woolen stockings; they were very feeble and required much care and attention. Young Susanna had to keep oiled rags between her toes to prevent them from growing together.*" For the rest of Susanna's life, she had serious health problems particularly with her feet.

About a year later the second oldest girl, Sarah Ann, age 5 passed away in 1857, from complications of their ordeal, leaving only two of the family of six who had left England a short time before. Sarah Ann was buried at the small Union Fort Cemetery In Salt Lake City.

(There is a small grave stone there, that some of the family had put up in recent years.)

Susanna was then about twelve and the baby, Martha Ann was three years old.

(5)

Susanna grew up, and at age sixteen, six years later, married John Saline, her rescuer. The wedding was a big affair, which took place at a dance at Fort Union on 12 February 1862.

John and Susanna lived in several towns in Utah, when in 1880, President Young asked him to go on a mission to help colonize the Gila Valley in Pima, Arizona, where they raised their 11 children and lived the rest of their days.

Martha Ann Osborn married Elijah John Elmer on 11 July 1877 at the St. George, Utah Temple. They also settled in the Gila Valley in Pima, Arizona. They never had any children. She died July 16, 1933 buried in Pima Arizona.

Susanna Osborn died May 7, 1925 buried in Pima, Arizona