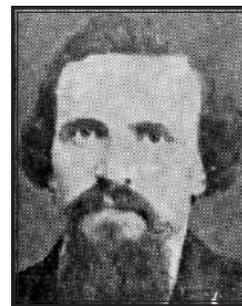


WILLIAM BROOMHEAD

Born: 20 November 1833 West Bromwich, Staffordshire, England

Age: 23

Rescuer



William's participation in the rescue comes from his diary which he kept on the rescue trail, excerpts here with light editing (mostly punctuation) by Jolene Allphin for readability:

october 5 at meeting Brigham called for teamsters and I volunteered to go back to meet the hand carts. went to find out when to start. went to meeting in the morning. afternoon got a wagon. Tuesday morning [Oct. 7] fixed the wagon. Start from the City at noon, tonight, camp between the mountains, from 10 til 11 onlook on guard.

wednesday, 8th Prayer by Br. Beckstead. started at 7:00 o'clock, going up the Big mountain it came stormy and snowed in the evening, on guard from 7 to 11.

in the morning of that 12 sunday came to brigger and campd at 4 in the afternoon. <prear By ___ [illegible]> snow thru the night.

mondy 13 started at 8 about 20 miles north met up by Smoot and David James. hey stayed with us all night, prear by C. H. Welock [Cyrus H. Wheelock], singing.

started in the morning at 8. tuesday 14 went with J Peck to see sum anchant looking mountains [?]. camped under hams fork at 4 o'clock. went out hunting to be back in the evening, singing and prayer by B. Smoot and some remarks by him and J. Young. 3 [or 8] more wagons came up and travelled with us.

started Wednesday 15 at 8. J Peck came up and traveld with us. J. Young, wile¹, and sum outhers, went on ahed to meet the comp[anies], but we catched them and camped with them that night on Big sandy at 8. prear By C. Welock

thursdy 16 started at 8. met P. Rockwell and his train. campd on Big Sandy at 4 went out to hunt antelope with sum outhers and we kiled one. B. Smoot company came up at dark and camped with us. killed a beef. on gard from 2 till 7. had a dance in the eveng.

friday 17 started at 12 smoots company and 18 of our hands went with him and we came to little sandy. we met the frieter [freighter] of gilberts [freight train] ahead and lerned from him the peticulrs of babit [Almon W. Babbitt] and outhers that were kiled By indians.

saturdy 18 at 9 [?] and came to sweet water and it snowd from 11 in the evenig we killed a beef.

on sundy morning 19 snowed till 10 started at ½ past 10 left 7 [or possibly 9 or 4] men and 4 waggons and 4 beef oxen 17 horses and most of the flour. it was very coald. we traveled 15 miles and camped on sweetwater. at 1 we met gilberts train of 15 waggons. camped at 4 singin in the evenig and prear by [illegible John Welby?] it snowd in the eveng and it looked like as if we wear going to have a heve storm but the clouds Devided to the right and left. it clearde up again about 10 and in the morning thear was about an inch and a half.

mondy 20 snowed in the morning and the wind was very high and coald. we stayed there all Day. it snowed all Day. in the evning Brother willy and another man [Joseph Elder] came from the train and told us that they wer 23 miles from us and that they were out of provisions that night.

tusdy 21 started at 8 camped with wiles company at 5. the day was cold and in the evening it snowed. they buried 4 that night and 5 the night before. the capten gave them flour and cl[o]thing and some teams to help them in. w. kimbl went back with them. we by had wood.

wednesdy 22 drove 18 miles it was a bitter coald day and snow was from 8 to 12 inch Deep. camped at 6. <on gard from 1 till 8.> Singin, prey by Wm Broomhead. snow that night.

thursdy 23 stayd there all Day.

friday 24 started and 12 drove to the three crosing. we saw two herds of Buffalow. in the evening gathered round the camp fir and had singing and prear. captain Grant gave us som good instrouctions on prear and said that if we was unighted as one man that the lord would hear and answer our prears. remove the snow so that we could be a help to those on the plains and so he cald on Br wilk [probably Cyrus Wheelock] to be mouth in prear and ask that for thos things that we need. layed hands on two of the Brothers that was sick and restored.

saturdy 25 fin morning though the wind blew high. the feed for the anemals was all coverd with snow and it was hard on them as well as on us to gard them wher the snow was so Deep and the roads so bad to travell but the Lord bled the anemals, the waggons, our food and us and we had caus to rejoice all the time for we are children of his care and he takes care of his children if they will listen to his word. started at 9 the river was hard to cross the ice was so thick and yet it was not thick anuf to cross on. we traveled abot 12 mils and camped abot 5 oclock. after supper singin, prear by captain grant. I sang sum songs for the boys. had a good time as we had every night. retired abot 9 oclock.

(William Broomhead - Page 2)

sunday 26 fine morning all is well. traveled to within 2 miles of the Devils gate and camped. the express was at the gate had been there 4 days and had heard nothing of the carts. they came up to our camp. singin after supper, prayer by J Young singin.

mondy 27 the wind blew very hard. blowed sum of the waggon covers off. the capten sint an expres of 3 men to go as far as the plat[te] brige. they started at 9. the camp moved about half a mile nearer the mountins to get out of the wind and to get wood hander [handier]. spint that day in cooking and geting wood and fixing ways to break the wind off. singing after supper prear by [illegible]. three of us set up singin and talkin till half past 11. the wind was rather high all night.

tusdy 28 fine morning but some wind. spint that Day in singin, remarks from sum of the Brethern and getting wood and snowbaling. at Dusk it clouded over and snowed hard and it seemed as if we was going to have a Deep snow. the cap[tain] caled the camp togethr and made sum remarks on the goodness of god and that we was in his hands and wished us all to be one, and caled on C H Wilock [Wheelock] to be mouth in Prear.

wednsdy 29 clouded. the snow that fell in the night soon went. saw a herd of antelope. sum of us went out. two of the boys kiled one. in the after noon the captin red sum for us. on gard at night from 5 till one. prear by cap grant.

thursday 30 fine morning. after Breckfast prear by Jahall [Joel] Parish, E[dwin] Peck and mysilf went on the mountins at Devels gat[e] with the spiglass to see if we could see anething of the Boys or the handcarts coming. But we could not. it was about 4 miles from camp to the top. wether fine. in the evening Joseph [A. Young] and the Boys returned from the compnes an gave thear report. they were on the Plat[te.] prear by B Ch Wilock. started next morning at 9.

Saturday 1 of Nov Bro Wilock, D Jons and myself was ap[po]inted to go to Cap Hogigt [Hodgett] compney and hury them up. we met the company at the Bad Slough. campd with them that night. caled the company together and talked to them. prear By D Jones.

started in the morning on sundy [Nov. 2] C H W[heelock] and myself to go to Hunts comp[any]. it snowed and rained from 11 till 12 at night. met them about 7 [miles?] from plat river. camped without wood in the snow.

started in the morning at 9 came to willow springs. it was very cold sum of the sisters froze thear feet. camped ahead at large camp fire made and caled the camp together and spoke to the sa[i]nts. I was caled on to speak and I spoke with the spirit. it was as cold a night as I evir seen. that night the saints felt well and promised to do as they wear toald. prear by welock and outhers Spoak. helped them up prospect hill and then started for the Devels gate. got thear after dark.

tuesday 4 fine. in late some of the waggons of Hoggets [Hodgetts] for the hand cart compny. the hand cart camp started that day we[n]t about 3 miles. the last wagon left at sundown. we had a meeting that night. the Brethren spoke well and with the spirit. prear By E[dward] martin.

wednesday 5 the wind [2 or 3 words illegible] our teems could not face it [2 or 3 words illegible] river[.] sum of the Boys came back from the cart compney and they could not face it. went with H[arvey] cluff to get sum wood from the mountin. Wednesday 5 very coald 11 Degrees Bellow zero fe[t]ched sum wood from the mountin on a cart. Brouther Hunts compny came up after Dark. we had a meeting at night prear By [illegible].

thursdy 6 the wind blew the snow so that we could not get up the cattle. We had a meting at night of the valey Boys of those that had the induments [instruments?]. the Brethren spoke well and with the spirit. I was caled on to speak and did so. Prear By C [Huntington?] [Clark Allen Huntington?]

fride 7 verey coald and windy. meting at night. I was not thear.

saturdy 8 fine morning got sum wood on a cart from the mountins. we cam up the river on the ice an loaded up hunts waggons. prear at night By R T Burton.

sunday 9 got up the cattel to start. grat many of the cattell frose to Deth it was so coald and stormey. started at 11. Drove B[rother] [John] godsalls teem.² traveled 5 miles. Saw Som Bufalows.

menday 10 fine all Day. Drove to the willow Crick and camped. eframe [Ephraim] hanks came to us from the valey and reported that 2 hundred teem had started but he did not no if they had not turned Back on account of the storm and that c spencer [Claudius Victor Spencer] and van cot [John VanCott] came to our post and scared out and turned back. prear By E hanks.

tusdy 11 fine mornig but the wind Blew very coald. camped on Bitter cottonwood crick. Prear by c[harles] Decker.

wednesday 12 fine. met the middle[?] of the 3 crossings a fals alarm By a fire on the mountain. [This entry in Broomhead's diary is mostly illegible now. This and some other entries have been made by previous transcriptionists.] camped at the 3 crossings.

thursdy 13 met 3 teems from the valy. fine. came to the 16 mile drive. prear By M[oses] Cluff.

[Correct campsite and date verified by Robert T. Burton's diary: "13th Verry pleasant morning. Companys all moving on finely. Camped again on the sweet Water at the lower end of the 16 mile drive." Broomhead then gets a day off in the next week. Other diarists' accounts have been added in a few places for clarification.]

(William Broomhead - Page 3)

friday fine. met 3 more teams. traveled 12 miles. prear By b wilkins. <camp on sweet-water>
[Date and place confirmed by R. T. Burton: "14th Weather very pleasant. all the Co moving on. Camped on the 16 mile drive about 4 miles from sweet water. good fuel not much feed. no deaths in Camp to night. Capt Hunt Co ahead, Hodgett near." (12 miles into the "16 mile drive" was 4 miles from the Sweetwater. Although Broomhead said the camp was on the Sweetwater; it was actually on Warm Springs Creek.) "b Wilkins" may not be a correct transcription.]

saturday 15 fine. camped on the rocky reges met sum teams that day.
[R.T. Burton: "15th Weather continued fine & Warm. traveled on 8 miles & Camped on Sweetwater. not much Wood, not very good feed." Eight miles from their last camp puts the company at the Sweetwater about 4 miles west of 6th crossing, not yet to Rocky Ridge, but in an area where a later Pony Express Station was called "Rocky Ridge Station," as well as "Foot of the Ridge Station." It was later named St. Mary's Station.]

sunday [Although Broomhead wrote Sunday here, he did not write the date, which was Nov. 16.] passed hunts company. camped on strbry creek. prear B[y] E hanks.

[R.T. Burton: "16th met 10 teams from the valley. Br [Anson] Calls Co, on the Rocky ridge. Camped in a little Cottonwood grove. Good wood & feed. (The "little Cottonwood grove" is on the north slope of Strawberry Creek]

monday 17 [Tuesday, November 18] met teams all Day. camped at the post. Ferguson and kimbel met us [three words illegible, possibly "and" "one" "outher"] prey By J ferguson snowd that night.

[Burton and Stout accounts verify this is really the 18th and Broomhead is now one day off the rest of the way to the valley. R.T. Burton: "18th Cloudy. Snowing in the afternoon. Met several Teams. wm Kimball, Ferguson, J Simmons, Stout etc. Camped to night at our Station on Sweetwater." Hosea Stout: "Tuesday 18 Nov 1856. . . . we arrived at the Station on the Sweat Water 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 had to be led or carried on the backs of men."]

tuesday 18 [Wednesday, November 19] traveled to Big sandy river [illegible] captin grant and kimbel and fergsen started hom on express. met sum oxen goeing to [illegible] wag com. camped on Big sandy <rod> <C welock>

wednesday 20 [Friday, November 21] fine but cold camped on green river. that was my Barthdy My 23. <prear J Simons>

thursday 21 [Saturday, November 22] very cold. i frosted my nose that Day. camped on Blacks fork.

friday 22 [Sunday, November 23] it snowed. we came to Brigger [Bridger] had a weding there that night.

saturday 23 [Monday, November 24] camped 11 miles from Briger. met sum team that night.

sunday 24 [Tuesday, November 25] camped on Bear river it was very cold.

monday 25 [Wednesday, November 26] met Joseph young and others. camped in eco canon. snow 13 [or 15] inches Deep. sister squirs was confined that night. the child lived and both come in safe.

tuesday 26 [Thursday, November 27] camped on webber [Weber].

wednesday 27 [Friday, November 28] camped in est [East] canyon in the cottonwood grove.

thursday 28 [Saturday, November 29] crossed Boath mountins the snow was from 1 to 23 feet Deep and in kilians kanoun snow 18 inches.

friday 29 [Sunday, November 30] Day of november. the day was fine. i was great hom By my wife and frends with joy. went to meting that night and heard sum good instrouctains.

December monday 1. i was at home in the mornng and very early i was informed that Jediah [Grant] was Ded i was much suprired to hear of his Death as i Did not no that he was verely sick. verlum Dives [fellow rescuer] was at my house. at home that Day.

William died January 1, 1877 in Paris, Bear Lake, Idaho. He was the father of at least 13 children whose descendants honor him still.

Sources: "William Broomhead Diary," Church History Library, MS 6952, transcribed by Jolene Allphin, October 2017; familysearch.org; *Robert T. Burton Diaries*, MS 1221, Church History Library; *On the Mormon Frontier: The Diary of Hosea Stout, 1844-1889*, Edited by Juanita Brooks.

¹ William alternately spells what seems to be a man's name as Wiles, Wilkes, or Willes, in his diary. It is difficult to determine who this is, but may be any one of the known rescuers whose name starts with "w" or some other man whose name is close to the spelling of Willes. It appears here, however, that he meant "meanwhile."

² John Godsall and his family were members of the Hodgett wagon company. John was also the official chaplain for that company. His wagon had been unloaded at Devil's Gate, and turned over to the rescue party.