

## LARS GUDMUNDSSON VENDIN

Born: 1796 Sweden (Died Oct. 23/24, 1856, buried at Rock Creek in the common grave)

Age: 59

Willie Handcart Company

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Lars was from Sweden.\* He was a watchmaker who apparently joined the Church after moving to Denmark. According to some accounts, Lars had carried with him a treasured silver watch. After the trek across Rocky Ridge on October 23, Lars could not continue and he lay at death's door. Rather than be buried with his watch, Lars reportedly asked that it be turned over to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund in order to cover his expenses. Others in the company may have also benefited from this donation.

It appears in the company records that Lars was traveling by himself, without other family members, but surely not without friends.

According to analysis done by Jolene Allphin, Lars was housed in the same tent with the Jens and Elsie Neilson family, the Ole and Ane Madsen family, the Peter and Ane Larson family, and the Rasmus P. and Anna Hansen family. Ole Madsen died the same night as Lars and was buried in the same grave at Rock Creek Hollow. Peter Larson and Rasmus Hansen also died in October, along with two of Peter Larson's children. Two other children: Neils Neilson (son of Jens and Elsie Neilson), and Bodil Mortensen (who was traveling with the Neilson family) also died the same night as Lars Vendin and are buried in the same grave. No doubt Lars did all he could to assist these other families in his tent group before he died.

\*The Scandinavian Mission Record lists him as Lars G. Vendin, age 59, from Sweden, watchmaker. His "receiving number" on this record is "34," directly following the Wicklund family, numbers 28-33. The Wicklund family was also originally from Sweden. The British Mission Record for the ship *Thornton* also shows Lars G. Wendin, age 59, from Sweden, watchmaker, and PEF passenger.

[This biography has been updated by Jolene Allphin, 9 May 2014, from the biography in the 8th edition of *Tell My Story, Too*.]