

JOHN ROWLEY

John Rowley was born at Mars Hill, Worcester, England to Ann Jewley and William Rowley Jr. July 14th, 1841. They belonged to United Brethern broken from the Wesleyan faith. Wilford Woodruff converted them in 1840. The Saints often held their meetings in their home which was a very comfortable one, surrounded by lawn and a fine orchard. The Rowley family made their living by raising and selling fruits and hogs. They loved their religion and were very happy. The fruit crop failed for two successive years, so they were forced to sell at public auction. Brother Rowley died Feb. 14th, 1848, leaving seven children under twelve years of age. Sister Rowley obtained work through her brother Thomas Jewell, making mens clothing. The Saints met at old Storidge. Sister Rowley was very faithful in going and sending her children to the Church Meetings. She was unable to send them to school. The older boys walked three miles to work at carrying brick. In 1856 through the P. F. Fund they emigrated to Utah. They left their home in May and embarked on the ship "Charles Thornton". They took their half sister along with them. Several deaths occurred crossing the ocean. Once the ship was in a calm and the Saints fasted and prayed and were delivered. Also in a fire which occurred during a storm, the Lord again saved them from harm. The Captain was a very cruel man to the sailors and was sentenced in New York not to go to sea again.

Leaving New York they went by train and boat to Iowa City and thence to Council Bluffs. The Saints were light hearted and worked with zeal preparing their handcarts. One at devotion, Brother Livi Savage spoke and portrayed the intence suffering they would endure if they started so late in the season, the thoughts of which made him cry like a child. Captain Willie rebuked him sternly and told the Saints if they would do as he told them, winter would be turned to Summer. A few of the Saints stayed until spring.

They started to pull their handcarts from Council Bluffs to Salt Lake City. Sister Rowley was sick the first day and did not recover good health all thru the journey but did not leave her place at the handcart. The weather was so hot their feet blistered.

They saw the Indians who killed Mr. Babbitts Company. A Squaw had the murdered woman's blanket. They saw the place it took place, with clothing, hair and blood strewn around.

Because their food was limited, they boiled rawhide for nourishment.

A herd of buffalo stampered their cattle. One hundred pounds of flour was added to their cart and no beef was issued. The little ones would trudge along day after day until their little feet would bleed. Eliza, with others died on the way. At the Sweetwater they were met by Cyrus H. Waseelock of Dan Jones' party with provisions. Many were unwise in eating and died from the effects of it. One night fifteen froze to death. John gave out before reaching camp, laid down on the ground. He had one hip badly frozen. He was brought to consciousness by a kick from the captain. Thomas's hands were frozen. On Nov. 9, 1856 they arrived in Salt Lake. Sister Rowley never complained but her one great wish was to bring all her children to Zion.

Sister Rowley with the three younger children went to Nephi. She married Brother Baston in the spring. He paid the emigration fund for herself and the children.

John stayed in Salt Lake, disabled from frozen limbs. Louisa and Richard went to Tooele with a man by name of Gate. Later they all joined their Mother Nephi.

In 1864, John married Mary Ann Gadd. He operated the plaster mills, in 1889 he went to Mexico. He went on a mission to England and found his relatives. He lived in Colonia Dias. His wife Mary Ann was in the same Pioneer Company crossing the plains. She also endured the many hardships.

John had five wives and a large family who helped pioneer many settlements. He died in 1893 at Colonia, Pacheco, Mexico and buried there.