

HISTORY OF WILLIAM ROWLEY & ANN JEWELL

Written by Roberta Benson Rowley

William Rowley was born 31 Oct 1784 Grafton, Flyford, Worcester, England (21 Jun 1785 Cradley, Herefordshire)¹. He lived all of his life in Southern England, in Hereford, Worcester, and Gloucester. At the age of twenty-two years he married Ann Taylor, on 2 Jun 1807; To this union were born seven children, James, Christened 21 Mar 1808; Jane, 6 Feb 1811; Ann, 21 Jul 1813, William 28 Oct 1817; George. 6 Aug 1820; Eliza. 19 Oct 1823; and Hannah, 9 Oct 1826 (1827), all were born in Suckley England.

Ann Taylor died soon after the last child was born and left William with this large family of motherless children. He found a good mother for his children in **Ann Jewell**, whom he married 22 Aug 1836. She was the daughter of William Jewell and Sarah Hyde (Hide), she was born 5 Dec 1807, the same year that William married his first wife. This was quite an undertaking for Ann as her husbands older children by the first marriage were nearly as old as she.

In the year 1837, their first child, a girl was born on 8th May, at Suckley or Leigh, Worcester. This was a happy time indeed for them. They had a comfortable home surrounded by lawns and orchards. **Mr. Rowley** made a good living, by raising hops on his farm and selling hops and the fruit from his orchard. They were a happy and contented family, very devout in their beliefs. They had joined a sect known as the United Brethren, along with many other people in that section of England. The United Brethren was a group which had broken off from the Wesleyan or primitive Methodist faith, with a Mr Thomas Kington as Superintendent, they were becoming quite active at that time, this Mr. Thomas Kington and most of his followers later joined the Mormon Church. **Brother and Sister Rowley** were ever searching and seeking for more light and truth. They spent much time reading the Bible and in calling upon the Lord in Prayer. They were prospering and their family was also increasing. On the 14 Dec 1838 their second daughter was born and was named Elizabeth.

In 1840 Elder Wilford Woodruff of the Council of twelve, went to England on a Mission. He was welcomed into the home of **William and Ann Jewell Rowley**, where, they listened intently to the Gospel message and they recognized it as the light they had been searching for.

BY WILLIAM G. ROWLEY, GRANDSON

This is a story my Grandmother, **Ann Jewell Rowley** told me when I was a small boy, about, How and by whom they were converted to the L.D.S. Church in England.

While Elder Wilford Woodruff was on his first Mission to England, he called at their home and told them the story of Joseph Smith's prayer, first vision and of the restoration of the Gospel. They were very interested in his message and invited Elder Woodruff to make his home with them while in their vicinity, which he did. All of the family who were old enough were converted and baptized by him.

One night while Elder Woodruff was staying at their home, a mob of men came to their door and **Grandpa** opened the door and asked them what they wanted. They said, they wanted Woodruff, they were told that Brother Woodruff had gone to bed, this did not satisfy them, they said, "We want Woodruff and we are going to get him!" Grandpa said, "If you get him it will be over my dead body." Members of the Mob then took hold of Grandfather and dragged him out into the yard where they beat him until he was unconscious. While the Mob was dragging Grandfather away, he called to Grandmother, telling her to close and lock the doors, which she did. After they had beaten Grandfather, until they were afraid he was dead, and finding the house locked up, they departed being afraid to break into the house by force.

A testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel as taught by the Mormon Elders, grew in the hearts of **William and Ann**, and they rejoiced in the light of this new found faith. They started planing and saving in preparation for joining the Saints in Utah, or in Zion they called the land of America. More children came to bless this union. Their first son, **John** was born on 14 Jul 1841 and Samuel, born 29 Oct 1842. Richard born 10 Feb 1844. Thomas 11 May 1846, and baby Jane born 17 Jul 1848.

The next few years they had many hardships, disaster struck them for two years in succession their crops failed and they were forced to sell their home at public auction. They also lost their farm, then the greatest blow of all. **William** had a wagon tip over on him while going about his work. This put him in bed for a long time and his injury together with the worry and anxiety over financial circumstances were to much for him and he died on the 14 Feb 1849 (1848). This was a real blow for **Ann** for now she was left without a husband or home with seven small children of her own and some of the younger children of her husbands by his former marriage. Under these trying conditions may be seen the faith, courage and determination of this good woman, and the noble characteristics which were so necessary for **Ann Jewell Rowley** to possess to carry through the hardships she is to encounter later.

Ann went to work with her needle to help support her large family of growing children. The oldest child at home being Eliza, of the former marriage who was twenty-five years of age but a very frail girl. Her oldest was Louisa, then eleven years of age, and the oldest boy being **John** who was seven. The Youngest was baby Jane, who was but seven months old. **Ann** was a splendid sewer but prejudice in the community towards her because of her religion kept many customers from her door. With all she could do she was unable to provide for her large family and keep them fed and clothed as they should be and as she would liked to have them. She was totally unable to send them to school. This was always a great sorrow to her. She was at last obliged to seek help from her brother, Thomas Jewell, a tailor by profession. He hired her to

work in his Tailor Shop, making men's clothing. She became very efficient in this work. The oldest boys, **John**, Samuel and Richard worked at a brick yard, walking to and from work a distance of three miles each day.

Ann found time to teach her children to read and write and the fundamentals of arithmetic, and with what schooling they were able to provide for themselves as they went through life, they were able to meet the problems of life which faced them in their day.

The Saints in Europe were now pleading for ways and means whereby they could gather with the saints in Zion. In the year of 1854 President Brigham Young, expanded the Perpetual Immigration Fund Program of the Church to help the poor to come from the British Isles and from Europe, to America and on to Zion, by taking lower class, cheaper ship transportation and by using handcarts instead of teams and wagons to cross the Plains, many were able to come who could otherwise have not. In the year of 1855 the following invitation was issued by President Brigham Young. "LET ALL SAINTS WHO CAN GATHER UP FOR ZION, COME WHILE THE WAY IS OPEN FOR THEM, LET THE POOR ONES COME ALSO, WHETHER OR NOT THEY RECEIVE AID FROM THE PERPETUAL IMMIGRATION FUND, WHEN THEY REACH IOWA CITY LET THEM COME ON FOOT, PULLING HANDCARTS, SAVING THE IMMENSE EXPENSE FOR TEAMS AND WAGONS." This was glorious news for **Ann** and her family. They at once applied for Perpetual Immigration Funds and started preparing for the journey. Bidding farewell to relatives and friends left behind, they embarked on The Good Ship Thornton, for America and Zion. ☺

End of story by William G. Rowley

CROSSING THE OCEAN

On Thursday the first of May 1856, Captain Collins of The Ship Thornton received the Saints at Liverpool, England. There were 764 Saints including the Rowleys aboard the Ship. This Ship was only built to carry five-hundred passengers, so with 264 extra souls on board, it was very crowded. On the third of May. President F.D. Richards (who at that time was presiding over the British Mission), and the Government Inspector and the Ship Physician came on board, they examined all the saints and pronounced them in good health. President Richards appointed James C. Willie Captain of this Company. The Ship Thornton cleared for Liverpool on the third of May and sailed the following day.

Soon after leaving Liverpool the Immigrants were divided into seven Wards or Districts, a Presiding Officer was appointed over each. During the voyage there was much sickness among the Saints, even deaths occurred, they also had three births and two marriages on the ship. It took six weeks to cross the ocean, at one time the ship was in a calm for several days, the Saints on board fasted and prayed for deliverance, as they did also when the ship caught on fire in mid-ocean, both times their prayers were answered and they were delivered.

Captain Collins was very kind to the Immigrants, allowing them many privileges which were

appreciated by them. He also gave the Elders full liberty to preach and hold meetings on board as often as they pleased. Captain Collins and the Ship Doctor as well as other Officers were attentive listeners to the preaching, and often joined the Saints in singing songs of Zion. The Saints also had many entertainments and the Captain never allowed the Sailors to disturb them. Captain Collins complimented the Saints on their cleanliness, and said that he could never wish for a better or more orderly group of passengers.

Before disembarking, Written-testimonials were exchanged between the Saints and Captain Collins and also the Ship Doctor these testimonials expressed the good feeling, the pleasant and cordial understanding which had prevailed between all concerned, during the entire voyage, The Captain and Physician, in trying to respond to the written testimonies given them by the Saints, were overcome by their feelings and shed tears of emotion.

The Saints arrived in New York 14 Jun 1856 and were received by Elder John Taylor, they left New York on the seventeenth of June traveling by rail to Iowa City, arriving there on the twenty-sixth.

CROSSING THE PLAINS

It was on the fifteenth of July 1856, that Ann Jewell Rowley and Family, along with other Saints left Iowa City, in what is known as The Captain Willie Handcart Company. This Company consisted of five hundred souls, one hundred and twenty handcarts, five wagons, twenty-four oxen and forty-five beef cattle. The Saints were happy in the thought that they were going to Zion, and the first hundred miles all went well, the scenery being beautiful and game being plentiful, and the spirit of joy reigned in these Camps of Israel, However on the fourth of September, the Companies cattle were run off by a band of Indians, this proved to be a great calamity.

When this company reached North Bluff Creek, six hundred miles from Iowa City, their provisions were so low that Captain Willie was compelled to cut their rations. That night Elder Franklin Richards and a party of returning missionaries joined them and found the camp in serious conditions. They felt that the best way they could help the Saints, would be to hurry on to Salt Lake and report to President Brigham Young, the conditions that the Saints were in, and have relief sent to the Company.

One night when **Sister Rowley** and her family were to go to bed hungry, she got two very hard Sea Biscuits, that were left from their Sea voyage. She put the biscuits in their frying pan and covered them with water, and placed them on the fire to heat. She then ask our Father in heaven to bless them that there may be sufficient amount to feed her hungry children. When she took the lid off, they were all happy to see the pan full of food. They all thanked their kind Father in heaven for such a wonderful blessing.

On the twelfth of October, Captain Willie was forced to cut their rations again, this time to ten ounces for men, nine for women, six for children and three for infants. Their last

flour was used on the nineteenth and that night fell the first snow of the season. The next morning the Saints found eighteen inches of snow on the level. These Saints had discarded some bedding along the way that their loads might become lighter, it was very much needed at this time. Deaths from extreme cold, exhaustion and lack of food were frequent.

About the time Elder Richards reached Salt Lake and reported the condition found among the members of the Willie handcart Company, October Conference was convening and on Monday President Brigham Young addressed the Saints saying in part.[:]

There are a number of our people on the plains who have started to come to Zion, with handcarts and they need our help. We want twenty teams and wagons by tomorrow to go to their relief. It will be necessary to send two experienced men with each wagon. I will furnish three teams and wagons loaded with provisions and send good men with them and Brother Heber C. Kimball with do the same. If there are any Brethren present who have suitable outfits for such a journey, please make it known at once so we will know what we can depend on.

Conference was then adjourned and all Brothers and Sisters started preparing to help their friends on the Plains. That evening twenty-seven young men met and received final instructions in rescuing the Saints. Their instructions were in part, that they should not return until they had rescued the Saints, or accounted for every soul.

When the Rescue party reached Fort Bridger, they became alarmed as they expected to meet the Willie Company at this point. After deliberating, a decision was made to send Joseph Young and Cyrus N. Whedlock ahead to urge the companies on, if possible. Soon the snow became so deep and the wind blowing from the North so cold that they had to camp, for the men and animals were completely exhausted. It was here on the twentieth that Captain Willie and Joseph Elder, riding on two worn out animals, brought the news that unless immediate aid came the Willie Company would perish. The men soon prepared to start again and after a hard journey, arrived at the camp, where they found people who had not eaten for forty-eight hours. Immediately fires were lighted and food prepared. [T]o some the Rescue Party was to late, for that night nine more deaths occurred. Part of the Rescue Party stayed with the Willie Company, but most of them pushed on to rescue others along the way.

LIFE IN UTAH

After arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, The **Rowley Family** were taken into the homes of some of the Saints, and cared for, for a short time, then the family was broken up, **John's** hip was frozen so badly while crossing the Plains, that he could not work, so he stayed there until his hip was healed. Louisa and Richard hired out to a man by the name of Tate, from Tooele, Elizabeth married a man by the name of David Udall of Springville. **Sister Rowley** and the rest of the family went on to Nephi, Utah. Louisa left Tooele and went to Nephi, where she married Noah Guymon. After **John** recovered he also went to Nephi, where he married **Mary Ann Gadd**, he also married other wives, then later moved to Old Mexico, where he died and was buried. **Sister Ann Jewell Rowley**, married a fine man by the name of Bastain, whom she met at Nephi.

He paid her debt to the Perpetual Immigration Fund, and took her and family to Parowan.

Brother Bastain died, then **Ann** Married a man by the name of Ford. Both of these men were loved and respected by the members of her family, who seen to it that fine headstones were placed to mark their Place of burial.

Samuel married Ann Taylor of Parowan. They had a home in Parowan, when they called people to go settle the San Juan County, they with their families made the trek through the Hole in the Rock and helped to settle San Juan County at Bluff. Later after they had finished the mission to which they had been called to settle San Juan, they moved to Huntington. He died and was buried there. Thomas married Maggie Tattersoll, daughter of Aunt Alice Marsden. He also went with the company to San Juan and on to Huntington. Richard went as a young man back across the plains as a teamster to bring immigrants that were arriving from Europe and the British Isles. While on this trip he met Mary Ann Ray, whom he fell in love with and married in Salt Lake City, then he brought her to Parowan where they spent the rest of their lives. Jane married Charles Connelly of Leeds, and went there to live. ☺

1. All dates in parentheses are those originally printed in this history. Additional research has proven these dates incorrect. See family group records published by the William Rowley and Ann Jewell Family Organization for further information.

Roberta Benson Rowley was the wife of William Clair Rowley Sources: Family Members, Shipping File of The Church Historians Office and Millennial Star 8. This story has been retyped by John N. Rowley 2nd Great Grandson of William Rowley.

The William Rowley and Ann Jewell Family Organization plans to publish a history in 1992 containing more complete histories of William Rowley, Ann Jewell and their children than the one you have just read. The book will also include many pictures never before seen by most family members of William Rowley & Ann Jewell and their children. The book will be published on a subscription basis. Only copies that have been purchased in advance will be printed. I would strongly encourage you to purchase a copy of the book when it becomes available.

John N. Rowley.

[The Book, Rowley Family Histories, "Treasures of Truth from the lives of William and Ann Jewell Rowley," was published 1992, by the William & Ann Jewell Rowley Family Organization.]

[See: Ann Jewell's book for John N. Rowley's copy of this story and an older form of this story by Roberta Benson Rowley.]