



Most Anxious

Eliza Chapman Gadd did not belong to the Church when she joined the Willie Handcart Company with her husband and eight children, but she wanted her family to remain together and followed the desires of her husband, Samuel, to emigrate from England to America in 1856. The Gadd family left behind their fairly prosperous living, and the branches of the Church where Samuel had been the presiding elder during the 15 years since his baptism in 1841.

Samuel Gadd, Sr. caught a cold in Iowa City, Iowa, as the family prepared to walk the last 1,300 miles of their journey. Samuel's cold turned to pneumonia as he took his turn staying up nights on guard duty and assisted his family and many others in the numerous crossings of the Platte River. Ill and broken-hearted, he buried his little toddler, Daniel, on October 4. He would succumb to death himself 5 days later, leaving his family to face the first winter blasts on October 19. Express riders from the advance rescue party sent from Salt Lake City would also meet them on this day, bringing the first rays of hope.

As the Gadd family crossed the Rocky Ridge in a blizzard on October 23, Eliza became snowblind, in which condition she remained for three days. She became dependent on her 7-year-old daughter, Mary Ann, to hold her hand and lead her up the steep trail as she assisted the older children in pulling the handcart with her other hand. The Gadd family biography states: "*Mary Ann, with only rags covering her feet, led her snowblind mother for three days as she pulled the handcart. During this time she carried an ox hoof and at each camp she would roast it and eat the part that was roasted. This was all she had to eat during those three days.*"

Samuel Gadd, Jr., age 10, assisted his family all he could at this time, carrying and helping save the life of his baby brother, Isaac, who was surely feeling the loss of his twin brother, Daniel. After crossing the Rocky Ridge and reaching their camp at Rock Creek Hollow, Samuel left his sightless mother and precious siblings in the hands of God and made his final sacrifice. He was buried at Rock Creek with three other children and nine adults who had made similar sacrifices. Samuel's mother later made the statement that of all her children, "*Samuel was the most anxious to reach Zion, but it was not to be.*"

Eliza Gadd reached the Salt Lake Valley safely on November 9, 1856, with her remaining children and a softened heart toward her husband's religion. She requested baptism one week later and remained a faithful member of the Church for the rest of her life.

1 Samuel 1:15; 2:1,2,4,9 "*I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit . . . but have poured out my soul before the Lord. . . . My heart rejoiceth in the Lord . . . I rejoice in thy salvation. There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. . . . they that stumbled are girded with strength. . . He will keep the feet of his saints . . .*"

Eliza Chapman

American Genealogical-Biographical Index (AGBI) GADD Eliza (Chapman) 181? Gen. Column of the "Boston Transcript". 1906-1941. (The greatest single source of material for gen. Data for the N.E. area and for the period 1600-1800. Completely indexed in the Index.): 26 Dec 1935, 1308 Our Pioneer Heritage Volume 2 They Came Alone Zion-Their Goal A Tribute Eliza Chapman was born March 13, 1815, at Croydon, Cambridgeshire, England, the daughter of William Chapman and Mary Pentlon. On April 13, 1836 she married Samuel Gadd who was born in Whaddon, Cambridgeshire, England. Between the years of 1836 and 1854 they became the parents of nine children, the last being twins. Her husband joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints October 14, 1841, and on May 1, 1856 the family started for Utah to join the Saints in the valley of the mountains. When they arrived at Iowa City they joined the belated handcart company of Captain James G. Willie. Eliza Chapman Gadd was not a member of the Church before she left England. She came with her husband as a dutiful wife should when her husband decides to move on. During the month of October, when winter had descended upon this ill-fated company, Eliza lost her husband and three sons. Once she became snowblind and her eight year old daughter led her by the hand as she pulled the lowly cart mile after mile along the road. On November 16, 1856, just one week after their arrival in Salt Lake City Eliza Chapman was baptized. The family settled in Nephi and lived there for many years. She was set apart as a midwife and continued in this capacity until the end of her days. After staying two weeks to help a family where she had delivered a baby, the husband and father said to her: "Sister Gadd, I am sorry I haven't anything I can pay you for all you have done for us. I will try to pay you soon." Grandmother Gadd saw two eggs on the table and picking them up said, "That's all right Brother ... , I will take these eggs for my breakfast and we will call the bill paid." Bless her sweet memory. Eliza Chapman Gadd died in Nephi, Utah, January 24, 1892 at the age of 77 years.

Born: Croydon, Cambs., England *13th Mar 1815* **Baptised:**

Died: Nephi, Juab, Utah, USA *24th Jan 1892* **Buried:**



Figure 1 Eliza Chapman Gadd is depicted crossing the Rocky Ridge with the surviving members of her family. Her husband and 20 month old son Daniel having died in the previous weeks.

	<p>Samuel Gadd rides in the handcart because he is much too weak to walk. He holds the shoe of Daniel. Mary the daughter of Eliza stays close to her mother to help guide her. Samuel is among the children buried in the common grave after the descent over Rocky Ridge.</p>
	<p>Wrapped tightly to shelter the young child from the fierce wind, Jane carries Isaac. Sarah age five and William walk and push from behind.</p>
	<p>Alfred uses all of his strength to help bring the family safely into camp. The family settled in Nephi, Utah. Eliza She lived to be 76 years old living a long resourceful and serviceable life.</p>