

JANE HAYNES



Jane Haynes was born January 1, 1815 in Bricklehampton, Worchester, England to James Randall and Celia Haynes. Married William James June 15, 1836. They had eight children: three sons and five daughters. Died August 11, 1911 in Provo, Utah, Utah.

Jane's her mother died when she was just a child and her father left her in the care of her grandmother. She knew absolutely nothing of the love and care of her parents. She was reared in poverty, having no education but learned early to work and care for herself.

At the age of 21 Jane was married to William James. They lived on a rented farm, as their fathers had done before them, but her husband's health began to fail until he was almost an invalid. At this time Jane, with the older girls, was compelled to help support the family. She was an excellent The Indians were a great danger to the pioneers, driving away the cattle that was allotted to their company. Thus they had

needle woman and was an expert at making kid gloves. Apart from her duties of wife and mother, she made these kid gloves, selling them in the town at the end of each week, receiving in pay the articles needed for the family.

It was under these conditions that the Mormon elders visited the family. Having always been a member of the Church of England and a faithful, prayerful woman, her heart and soul were alive to the truth when it was presented to her. Faith, repentance and baptism, the apostasy and the final Restoration of the Gospel, were as food to her hungry soul and she and her husband were baptized into the Church in 1854. Their home was at once made the gathering place of the saints until they left to join the saints in the Salt Lake Valley.

On May 3, 1856 Jane, her husband and their eight children left England in a sailing vessel called "The Thornton", along with seven hundred passengers. It took six weeks and two days for the trip.

The first great trial came when their little baby named Jane was taken sick and died, having to be laid to rest in a watery grave.

Landing in New York they traveled by train to Camp Iowa. The company was forced to spend three weeks in Iowa waiting for the handcarts to be finished for their trip across the plains. They had carts for the baggage and provisions and for the aged and the very young to ride, but all who were able were to walk. They started in good spirits on July 15, 1856. The first part of the journey was filled with pleasant memories, but the cold weather soon came. Early in September the frosts of winter began and their trials and sorrows increased.

no meat for food. At times the buffalo would stampede, and all would be in danger of their lives. The provisions were getting

very scarce. For many days each person was only allowed a half teacup of flour a day. The poorly-made handcarts were nearly worn out with the terrible roads, and gave much trouble. The storm increased, and their progress was necessarily slow. Many were sick and many died from exposure to the ice and snow. This happened daily.

Jane's husband was feeling the effects of the hardships and she had to take charge of the family. Early in the month of October a storm more severe than any other came upon them and the strength of her husband was almost gone. The girls, with the lightest cart, went on with the company while Jane, her husband and eldest son, Ruben, aged 14, followed behind. It was snowing and blowing — the father's strength gave out — he tried to continue on but could not. He said to the mother, "You go to the children, we will get in if we can." She went on, found the girls and the little ones by the side of a creek waiting for her. She waded through the creek and back again to see that it was safe, then helped them across. Their dresses, now wet, froze about their body, and what shoes they had, froze on their feet. However, they reached camp in safety and sent help back for their father and brother.

And what of them — the son helped his father over a creek and then lay him down on the snowy bed to rest. He then spent the time trying to keep his father alive and keeping the hungry wolves from devouring them both. At last help came, but too late for his father. He was taken to camp frozen to death and Reuben was brought in unconscious. They worked over the boy and he eventually recovered and then continued on with his mother.

Jane was only 41 years old, the seven children starved and freezing, and their father taken from them. They witnessed his burial with fourteen others the next day in a shallow grave on a trackless plain.

Two days later help came from Salt Lake

City and the journey continued. It was a terrible march and was ended on November 9, 1856, when they arrived in Salt Lake City.

Thus ended one of the most memorable journeys recorded in history for trials and hardships, faith and endurance unequalled by any other.

In a short time Jane moved with her family to Springville. Here she found places for the older children to work and in her very independent way got a small place for herself and the younger children to live in until spring. After about a year she moved back to Salt Lake and lived there for four years. During this time she was married to Mr. Maud. Her troubles were not yet over, for her husband soon left the church and went off leaving her to care for a child who was yet unborn. This child was a boy named William Maud. When he was two months old, Jane, with the younger children, moved to Provo where she resided the remainder of her life. She left two of the girls in Salt Lake City where they were working in good homes. As the boys grew older, they were able to help her and she soon got a comfortable little home.

During her entire life, filled for the most part with sorrow, she never murmured against her Maker, was always full of charity, and ready to serve wherever she could. Jane was not a public woman but was a faithful, good Latter-day Saint.

Jane was 96 years old when she died.

Note:

Jane Haynes (James) and her family were featured in Gerald N. Lund's book Fire of the Covenant, a novel of the Willie and Martin Handcart Companies.