

## Isaac White 1805-1880

Most helpful were the writings of Mary Louise Campbell Southwick which gave background for researching and documentation of Isaac White's life, with insights from Nephi Brown.

Compiled and researched by Alona S Perkes from 2007-2011

*"Isaac White was born at Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire, England, the son of Thomas & Ann Hart White, We know little of his early life except that he continued to live in the town of his birth until about 1840." ..wrote Mary Louise Campbell Southwick, the rest of her writings come from different people, all of which gave clues to unraveling the mystery's about Isaac and family.*

Isaac was born 6 April 1805 at Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire, England the son of Thomas and Ann Hart White. Just after his second birthday, Isaac was baptized 10 May 1807 at the Parish Church of Potterne, Wiltshire. He grew up in the area of his birth, with little opportunity for schooling but he worked hard to master his skills of agriculture and farming which would become his earthly lively hood.

*Isaac had a strong constitution and was no stranger to hard work. He had a fiery temper which was not always under complete control, but he mastered it and was regarded as a good Christian. There existed deep in his mind and makeup, a longing to have some land of his own and to be free. He toiled long hours for a terribly small remuneration and he did not have good health' .<sup>1</sup>*

Isaac fell in love with Mary Hancock, (the daughter of John and Elizabeth Andrews Hancock), who also grew up in the Seend, Wiltshire area and on Aug 1828 At Seend Wiltshire they were married.

*'Isaac White, Bachelor of this Parish and Mary Hancock, Spinster of this Parish were married in this Chapel by Banns this Thirty first Day of August in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty eight, By me, Wm Guidott Sealty, Curate. This marriage was Solemnized between us, Isaac White and X (the Mark) of Mary Hancock. In the Presence of: X the mark of James Hancock and J. L. Somner'.<sup>2</sup>*

Into their lives arrived three children, all Baptized at Seend, Wiltshire:

**1829** Sarah: 3 Mar 1829 & buried 10 Mar 1829 Seend, Wiltshire, England

**1831** Jane: 15 May 1831, Seend, Wiltshire, England

**1835** John: 24 Jun 1835, Seend, Wiltshire, England

**1841 Feb**, Isaac's sweet Mary became ill and died in 1841, being buried 26 Feb 1841 at Seend, Wiltshire, just 44 years of age.

**1841 Census** shows Isaac with his two children living at Seend, Wiltshire.<sup>3</sup>

*Isaac White, Male, 30, Ag. Lab. Yes born in county*

*...Jane, Female, 10, Yes born in county*

*...John, Male, 6, Yes born in county.*

**1842 Nov 26**, Isaac needed someone to help him with his children and he found just the person, Jane Eliza Bull, (daughter of Elijah & Jane Godwin Bull). Jane was born 1 Apr. 1821 at Steeple Ashton and became his wife 26 Nov 1842 at Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire, England. *1842. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Steeple Ashton in the county of Wilts. No 46. When Married: November 26th,*

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<sup>1</sup>Nephi Brown

<sup>2</sup>England, Wiltshire, Seend, 943579 Seend Parish Register, Wiltshire, England BMB 1680- page 40, #120.

<sup>3</sup>Seend Chapelry in the Melksham Parish, in Wiltshire, England (7 June (15 yrs upwards, round down to nearest 5 years, in 5 yr increments)), taken approx. June 8, 1841 Census, Film 464200, HO107/1182, Section 7/ ED 11, page 5.

Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

*1842, Isaac White, 35, widower, Laborer, Residence at time of marriage, Loppingen, Steeple-Ashton, Father Thomas White, laborer and Jane Eliza Bull, 21, Spinster, Residence at time of Marriage, Loppingen, Steeple-Ashton, father Elijah Bull, Laborer. Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church after Banns by me, A. McEwen, Curate of Lavington. This marriage was solemnized between us: The mark of X Isaac White and the Mark of X Jane Eliza Bull, in the Presence of us: George Bull and the mark of X Caroline Steer.*

Jane gave mothering care to the young children and soon gave birth to a little son whom they baptized Isaac, 10 Sep 1843 at Semington, Wiltshire. However, life was not simple for the White family. **1843 Dec 24**, Another heartache came when Jane Eliza died and was buried at Semington, age 22 years. Isaac still needed help with his surviving children, Jane & John both under age of 11, and infant Isaac. Life was extremely hard for Isaac, perhaps the extended Bull or White family helped with the children, as Isaac tried to care for his family, but the best of care didn't solve his problems.

**1844 Mar 24**, Little Isaac lived less than 7 months before he was buried on 24 Mar 1844 at Semington. During the past year of trials, Isaac had gotten to know the Elijah Bull family well, because of his wife Jane Eliza. At this time, it would seem natural that the family pulled together during this time and suffered with him the loss of his wife, Eliza Jane and son Isaac.

**1844 Dec 22** Before a year was over, Isaac married his sister-in-law, Mary Ann (Polly) Bull at Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England. Mary Ann was chr. 22 Mar 1818 at Keevil, Wiltshire, and would have been 26 years of age, while Isaac was 39. *1844. Marriage solemnized In Holy Trinity Church in the Parish of Trowbridge in the County of Wilts. No 75, Decr. 22, Isaac White, full age, Widower, Farmer, Residence at time of Marriage, Towbridge, Father: Thomas White, Farmer and Mary Bull, full age, Spinster, residence Trowbridge, father Elijah Bull, Farmer. Married in the Church by Banns according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by me, Geo Mansfield. This Marriage was Solemnized between us: James White his X mark and Mary Bull her X mark. In the Presence of us: Henry Marchant and Hester Styles. 'Isaac' on certificate, but signature listed at 'James' for his x mark.<sup>4</sup>*

Life seemed to be getting better as new children graced their home- followed by sadness as most died.

**1845 Oct 19<sup>th</sup>** First child, who they again named, Isaac, was christened at Semington but he died Oct-Dec 1846. Getting a namesake son was just not to be!

**1847 Jan 17<sup>th</sup>**, Another boy, Thomas arrived and was christened at Semington, but died before his first year was over being buried 23 Feb 1848 at Semington.

**1849-50** The Missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints arrived in Wiltshire, and it has been stated that Levi Jefferies and others came to their community and preached the Gospel of Mormonism. Isaac, (Mary) Polly, Jane & John and several of their friends accepted the principles. The plan of salvation and eternal life as a family unit surely touched the heart of Isaac who had lost so any of his immediate family members. Therefore it wasn't long until Isaac was baptized a member of the LDS Church.

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<sup>4</sup>Marriage Certificate - British Isles, 1279361, Holy Trinity Church, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, Parish Reg. 1838-1915, item 5, page 38.

Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

**1850 May 21**, *Isaac White, single, son of Thomas, born Steeple Ashton 10 Apr. 1805, baptized [LDS Church] 21 May 1850 by Alfred Bennett, emigrated to Utah Oct. 1854.*<sup>5</sup>

**1850** James, Isaac's last son, should have been born 1850, (possible June quarter, Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire, Eng - registered at Melksham 8 421).

**1851 Census** (30 Mar), Steeple Ashton, Wilts., England.<sup>6</sup>

*Isaac White, Head, Married, Male, 44, Ag Labourer, born Wilts, Pottern*

*...Mary White, Wife, Married, Female, 32, Ag. Labourer Wife, born Wilts., Keevil*

*...James White, son, Inf., Male, 1, at Home, born Wilts., Steeple Ashton*

*...John White, son, Unmarried, Male, 15, Labourer, born Wilts, Seend*

*Nathan Griffin, Logder, Unmarried, Male, 25, Labourer, born Wilts, Steeple Ashton*

Isaac's family decided to immigrate to Zion and started making preparations to leave their homeland of England.

**1854 Nov 27th**, Isaac, 3rd wife Mary Ann (Polly) Bull, and youngest son James, left England aboard the ship "Clara Wheeler" and arrived in the USA 1855 Jan. 11th., along with older surviving children, Jane & John.

**1854** Mormon Immigration Index finds Isaac and family gathering on the ship, Clara Wheeler:

*WHITE, Isaac, <1808>, Clara Wheeler1854, gender: M, Age:47, Origin: Steeple Ashton, Occ: Labourer*  
*Note: BMR, p.179; Customs #66.*

*WHITE, Mary<1818> Clara Wheeler1854 Gender :F Age:37 Origin: Steeple Ashton*

*WHITE, Jane<1832> Clara Wheeler1854 Gender :F Age:23, Origin: Steeple Ashton*

*WHITE, John<1836> Clara Wheeler1854 Gender :M, Age:19, Origin: Steeple Ashton, Occ: Labourer*

*WHITE, James, <1850>, Clara Wheeler1854 Gender: M, Age:5, Origin: Steeple Ashton*

*Ship :Clara Wheeler*

*Date of Departure:27 Nov 1854 Port of Departure :Liverpool, England*

*LDS Immigrants:422 Church Leader: Henry E. Phelps*

*BMR, Book #1040, pp. 172-89 (FHL #025,690); Customs #261 (FHL #200,181)*

*Liverpool to New Orleans*

*Ship: Clara Wheeler*

*Departure: 27 Nov 1854*

*Arrival: 12 Jan 1855 (differs some according to accounts given)*

*Church Leader: Henry E. Phelps*

*# LDS Passengers: 440*

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<sup>5</sup> 087,034 Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire, Eng., LDS Branch, 1849-1871, pg 2 #35)[Isaac was married to Mary at this time]

<sup>6</sup>, Steeple Ashton, Wilts., 1851 Census, HO 107/1842, folio 129, page 21, 87 Common  
Compiled by Alona S. Perkes 2007-2011 3

### Voyage of the Clara Wheeler<sup>7</sup>

*"DEPARTURE OF THE CLARA WHEELER. -- The Clara Wheeler, with 421 Saints on board, including infants, cleared for New Orleans on the 24th ultimo [Nov. 1854]*

*Fri. 24 Nov 1854 The ship Clara Wheeler, with four hundred and twenty-two Saints on board cleared the port at Liverpool November 24 , 1854, bound for New Orleans. Elder Henry E. Phelps was appointed president of the company, with Elders John Parson and James Crossly as counselors. "We were organized into 4 wards I was put to preside over a district...the passengers into messes of ten persons each, to expedite the cooking business."*

*Sat. 25 Nov 1854 The vessel taken out of the dock and lay out in the River Mersey, We under went a general inspection.*

*Sun. 26 Nov 1854 The vessel was expected to go but it lay all day. We had three meetings and the Saints felt to rejoice that they are began [beginning] their journey.*

*Mon-Wed. 25- 27 Nov. 1854. Our gallant ship started at 3 o'clock p.m. for to go on its way. In the evening I and wife got very sick which continued all night. I wrote a letter to Brother Allan president of the Auchencairn [Scotland] Branch. The steam packet took us down the river and then left us, but the wind was not in our favor, made but little progress. In the evening, during the night a tornado came up in the Irish Channel and the ship got lost, owing to the weather we were driven on the lee shore, and nothing but the power of God could have prevented our vessel, which was drifting on to the reefs, from being dashed to pieces, it struck a rock while at sea, but the boat wasn't hurt as others were which had started under much more favorable circumstances. The captain had to send out a sky rockets, during the night, we were burning blue lights, pilot, captain, officers, and crew had all given up hopes of our being saved; but the Lord was at the helm. We were almost wrecked on the Irish channel for a day and night, then an English pilot vessel came along side ours and informed the captain that it was not safe to stop where we were, as the sea was heaving very high and the wind was blowing very strong and nearly all of the passengers on board suffered more or less from seasickness. Was towed back into the River Mersey at Liverpool, in safety, where we laid wind bound, during this extraordinary experience the Saints suffered considerable with seasickness. We had to stay in Liverpool until fair weather, but on one could leave the boat.*

*Wed. 29 Nov. 1854. We was back at Liverpool about breakfast time and I and wife was still very sick and we had no bread to give our children which was one of the great trials that I have passed through but Brother E. Gibson was very kind in giving them a little. My child Janet said to Mary, 'wait till the good*

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<sup>7</sup> As I, Alona S. Perkes, tried to put the travel 'statements' in chronological order, for this voyage, I realized each person's account varied, particularly concerning the date or day. I could not tell which was correct as they also differed from the church accounts of starting and stopping dates, and locations. To make it more 'understandable' as to what the immigrants went through, I used the DAY of the week as most accurate or combined statements by 'event' from people aboard the ship who recorded their thoughts. They were: George Sant, John Eden, Thomas Crowther, George Thomas, William Stuart Brighton, Edmund C. Brand, John Parson, George Thatcher, Ralph Smith, Henry E Phelps. To see each personal account go to Mormon Migration, [www.lib.byu.edu/mormonmigration/voyage](http://www.lib.byu.edu/mormonmigration/voyage) Liverpool to New Orleans: Ship, Sarah Wheeler, Departure 27 Nov 1854-12 Jan 1855. Church Leader: Henry E. Phelps, # LDS Passengers 440. I found it a fascinating journey. Please overlook combining errors I've made, Note: "I" refers to anyone of the above authors.

Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

*man sends the baker and we'll get loaves'. These expressions caused my heart to feel that the spirit of the Lord was with us as a family. This day has continued very stormy and we are now 4 or 5 miles farther back than when we started on Monday at 3 o'clock p.m. We are well tonight and I feel to thank the Lord for it. We would have to wait for favorable winds.*

*Thur. 30 Nov. 1854. Our vessel was lingering [UNCLEAR, POSSIBLY lingering] for a fair wind to carry us away.*

*Fri. 1 Dec. 1854. Still waiting for a fair wind - this day I sent off a letter to Brother Allan. Brother F. [Franklin] D. Richards came on board and his presence seemed to cheer the Saints a great deal. He also informed us that he had heard that there had been two or three deaths on board but it was not so, as there had not been anyone dead. On his taking leave of us he stood on the bulwarks and took off his hat and blessed us and told us that we should yet have a good voyage. The kind manner in which he spoke, brought many tears to the eyes of many of the Saints. He told us if we would fast and pray, and keep the commandments of God we should have favorable winds and a prosperous journey across the ocean. This we did and the next day the wind turned in our favor and we started again.*

*Sat. 2 Dec. 1854. Still waiting on the wind changing, the wind still. Remained in the same quarter*

*Sun. 3 Dec. 1854. I am holding as a fast day so as that I may be strengthened to overcome my weakness and enjoy a greater portion of the Holy Spirit. In the afternoon we held meetings and also in the evening. Brother Parsons [John Parson] delivered a very interesting discourse in our ward. In the evening we heard that a vessel that left the port the same day as us suffered shipwreck and all the passengers and crew, lost, not far from the place where we turned back. It made me feel that the hand of the Lord was over us for good and it is my faith with all the rest of my brothers and sisters that we shall have a good passage.*

*Mon. 4 Dec. 1854. We was still waiting on a fair wind.*

*Tue. 5 Dec. 1854. Still waiting on the wind changing. In the evening we held a meeting when we was told that the Saints on board was to hold tomorrow as a fast day so that the wind might change.*

*Wed. 6 Dec. 1854. Held as a fast, we fasted and prayed. We had a fast day in order that the Lord might cause the wind to change as we felt that we had been lying in the [Mersey] river long enough. We had three meetings during the day. We held meetings which was lively in the evening. I wrote letters to Brother Morton and Brother Cruthers and Brother Allan.*

*Thur. 7 Dec. 1854. After receiving further supplies of water and provisions, the ship again put to sea with a favorable wind, and on fine wind in the morning, in our favor and we all looked for the captain coming every minute. When about 1 o'clock a tug steamer came for us and pulled us away. After we was drawn down past all the docks, the captain came in with a small boat and on we went. I then sent away my letters to the brethren before named. The wind became calm and we set sail at 2 o'clock. The pilot remains with us until Sunday morning. During the day we had a good view of Ireland. It was a very fine day. I wrote the last letter home on that day and we had two meetings. There was a infant [which] died in the evening and was buried in the sea.*

*Fri. 8 Dec 1854 We got along very well till Friday morning when I and wife was sick and could do nothing for our children. During my sickness I suffered much pain with a sore head. The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9 we had [it] very rough.*

*Sat. 9 Dec 1854, Saturday night and Sunday, the 10, fine. Then the wind was against us.*

*Sun. 10 Dec 1854 I got a little better and was able to go on deck but could eat no meat. In course of the day there was child died - and flung overboard. In the evening the wind was calm and the water smooth when we all went to bed, but through the night the wind arose very high and I was again bad with sickness and I nor wife was able to attend our children. I may say that I was able to do nothing for them till Friday 15<sup>th</sup> when I was again able to keep out of bed all day. Soon after leaving Liverpool the measles broke out in the company.*

Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

*Tue. 12 Dec 1854 There was another death*

*Wed. 13 Dec 1854 In the evening there was another ship past us and was very nearly running into ours. Every minute the cry was gone through the ship, but the Lord stretched out his hand and saved his people. We was first to give God the glory and prayed, we had fine wind long and hot days.*

*Thur. 14 Dec 1854 There was another death.*

*Fri. 15 Dec 1854 There was an English ship passed us. It came along side and asked us where we were going. There was a child dead that day.*

*Sat. 16 Dec 1854 There was a French ship passed us in the morning.*

*Sun. 17 Dec 1854 Measles made appearance on Janet and is now lying very bad. I do not know as yet what is wrong with Mary only she is lying very bad. During my sickness there was 4 children and 2 women died. A woman died next berth to us with fever. I now feel thankful to God that I am again able to look after my wife and children - and though they are all badly, yet I feel thankful that it is no worse than it is. I feel that the Lord will yet raise them from a sick bed and spare them to get to Zion our home which I long to see.*

*Mon. 18 Dec 1854, I and my wife was so bad that she could not be out of bed till Monday 18 when she got up to the deck with my assistance but soon had to return to bed again. My children has been very badly for a few days with sickness and a burning skin.*

*Tue. 19 Dec. 1854. Fine weather and a fair wind. My wife is again on deck with my assistance, my children is still lying very bad this morning. The ordinance was administered to my wife and children. The measles made their appearance on Mary this day.*

*Thur. 21 Dec 1854 This morning Brother Charles Ockey's [Oakey's] child died. Up to this time there has been 8 deaths, 6 of them are small children. The weather has been very mild and fine this last few days. We also [had] a fast day yesterday and in our meeting outdoors the weather is very warm. We begin to put on our summer clothes. The passengers do lie about on the deck as the children do in the month of May in England. We see fish sometimes the size of pigs jump out of the water. They call them porpoises.*

*Sun. 24 Dec. 1854 We held a meeting on deck. It was very fine and up to this time the sun shine nearly twelve hours.*

*Mon. 25 Dec. 1854 Being Christmas day, it was very fine, the warmest that I ever knew. We had a pork pie and some dumpling for our dinner and I felt to enjoy it much. Did enjoy ourselves on deck and finished the day with music. That night and the next day it blow fresh breeze but some rain.*

*Fri. 29 Dec 1854 Brother Gibson's child, Elisabeth, died 1/4 11 o'clock. My wife was very bad at the time and continued very bad and weak for the want of food. I went to the captain and asked if he would sell a little food for a sick person and he said 'why the devil, sir, I have no food for anyone'. So I came away from him [with] a little sorrow on account of the weakness of my wife, but she has got over it and is now getting strong again and my daughters, Janet, is now very well and I rejoice in the goodness of the Lord to me and family while there has been a great deal of death on board the ship and in my estimation a great deal of unbecoming conduct with a number of the people.*

*Sun. 31 Dec 1854, I was kept so busy attending my wife and children that I could not take an observation of our travels when at 1 o'clock on the 31st, my child, Mary departed this life. Both Elisabeth Gibson and Mary, both the children was sewed up in a bag and let into the sea at 2 o'clock. A very little after they died, I may say that no one could know my feelings upon that occasion, except a father. When I looked on the little ones laid side by side and then sewed up in a bag to be put in the sea . . . my heart was pained to see them thrown in the sea, though I looked forward to a day when the sea will give up its dead.*

Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

*Mon. January 1, 1855 Yesterday we held our meeting out on the main deck. Today Brother Ockey [Oakey] had another child die. Henry was his name.*

*Thur. 6-10 Jan 1855, There has been 20 deaths up to this time Brother Ockey's [Oakey's] youngest child died on the 2nd of this month. It was very wet on Thursday last. It rained nearly all day. The wind is blowing very hard this morning. I have been on deck with expecting to see land but am disappointed yet, but I expect to see it today or tomorrow.*

*We saw land at seven o'clock in the morning to our great joy, we passed through the West Indies. After inquiring we found it to be the Island of Abaco and the Hole in the Rock lighthouse. In the afternoon we saw the Island of Berry [ISLANDS IN THE BAHAMAS]. We lay to all night as it was not safe to go on there is so many rocks in that place.*

*We passed Cuba & saw a city of McKenzie in the Gulf of Mexico. It was so warm that some men slept on deck although it was winter time. We were stalled for two days because of no wind. The carpenter of the vessel got sick and the captain had Father take charge the remainder of the voyage.*

*We saw the island of Bemim and the lighthouse and a great many ships along the coast. There was a seize of whooping cough and measles. Several of the children died & had to be buried at sea.*

*We saw the island of Flornea [POSSIBLY, Florida] and the west Lighthouse [UNCLEAR] and Sunday we were in Providence Channel and Gulf Stream. Monday we were in the Gulf of Flornea. Today we are in the Gulf of Mexico. I and family are all well and rejoicing in the hopes of being in the River Mississippi today and being in New Orleans tomorrow. I may say that we have had a speedy passage but one of suffering and sorrow owing to sickness. We had no meetings wherein we received instructions to cheer us up from neither the president nor his counselors, which I thought strange - and more so Brother F. [Franklin] D. Richards said that every passenger would have three pounds of butter and two of cheese, and when it was given out the butter was 160 pounds [160 pounds is correct] short and the cheese was a quarter a pound short to each adult, which I thought was not [the] acts of Brother Richards.*

*Those who was married on board was charged £32/110 by the authority of the President Henry E. Philips [Phelps] Brother Gibson who came with me has appeared very distant to me though well he knew me but yet with all, I love him and family and I wish them well and I shall try to do good to all mankind which I know is a principle of Mormonism. There has been 22 deaths and 1 birth and 8 marriages on board the ship.*

*Wed. 10 Jan 1855 We see the America land! Morning At 10 o'clock we came in sight of the mouth of the Mississippi River and the steam packet was fast in on us, and 12 o'clock the steamer, came and took the ship. But it was not strong enough to pull us and we got fast in the mud and was obliged to have another to pull us off. We had luck and went across the bar safe. We soon got into the river and the steamer took us and two more up the river. On arrival at the quarantine ground, where with steamers with emigrants are compelled to stop and undergo medical inspection, causing a detention of one or more hours, we only stopped a short time, and succeeded in reaching this city on the afternoon of 22nd instant, just in time, for had we been detained a few hours longer, we should have not got up, as the river was soon after blocked up with ice, showing that the Lord was with his people.*

*Thur. 11 Jan 1855 It was a very fine morning and it was a fine sight to see the nice little cottages alongside of the river. The ship went about two hundred miles up the river and landed in New Orleans. By this time we were nearly out of provisions; we had no bread and had to eat hard tack or hard biscuits. Arrived in New Orleans at 3 o'clock, with hard work to get through the ice. On our arrival at New Orleans we were equally fortunate, we were met by Elder McGaw, the agent of Elder Erastus Snow. Through the voyage we had 21 children died in the measles and 2 women. The Lord was very good to his people and blessed us with a good passage. The captain said that he never had the like passage, many emigrants were*

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*on their way up the river. About the first thing we done after landing was to get some bread and molasses. It was the best bread I had ever eaten.*

*Fri. 12 Jan. 1855 On the twelfth of January, James McGaw, the church emigration agent at New Orleans, contracted with the captain of the steamboat Oceana, to take the passengers to St. Louis at the rate of three dollars and a half for each adult, and half of that for children between three and twelve years old. Nearly one half of the company had not the means wherewith to pay their passage to St. Louis; but the more well-to-do Saints who had more money than they needed themselves, were influenced to lend to those who had none, and thus all who desired to continue the journey were enabled to do so. Went on shore in the morning and went to the market with some of the Saints to get some things. Took breakfast in the market. At 2 o'clock the steamboat came alongside and after having our boxes inspected we put them on board of the steamboat. We took our passage on board the "Oceana" twenty-four hours after arrival in New Orleans the emigrants were on their way up the Mississippi River at 6 o'clock. Stopped at 50 miles up on account of the fog.*

*Sat. 13 Jan. 1855 The steamboats burned wood instead of coal so they had to stop & load up at intervals. At one stop I went with some other boys to a plantation house. The whites lived in a large house and the negroes in a small one. Many of us went on shore and had some talk with the Negroes and they give us some things and bought some butter and milk of the natives.*

*Sun. 14 Jan 1855 Past the city Natchez. There was a brother that was likely to be left ashore. They took in a number of mules and one of them got loose and knocked a man overboard and they stopped to pick him up. The poor man was most exhausted by the time the mate reached him.*

*Mon. 15 Jan 1855 There was a man missing and it was supposed that he had fallen overboard. Past Pittsburgh at 10 o'clock in the morning.*

*Tue. 16 Jan 1855, Went on shore at Columbia.*

*Thur. 18 Jan 1855 Evening, Arrived at Memphis. A woman died.*

*Sat. 20 Jan 1855 A severe frost set in and the river was nearly blocked with ice.*

*Sun. 21 Jan 1855 Stopped at shore in the woods. A number of us went on shore and made a large fire in the woods. It was very cold.*

*Mon. 22 Jan 1855 We arrived at St. Louis at 5 o'clock in the evening but we had to break through a great deal of ice. At St. Louis where the company arrived in safety, the emigrants were met by Apostle Erastus Snow and others, who gave the new arrivals a hearty welcome, and conducted them to comfortable quarters, which had been secured for their accommodation. Brother Snow and Andrus [POSSIBLY, Andrews] came on board the same evening. Our reception at St. Louis far exceeded all I could have expected, and indeed all that ever took place at St. Louis before, and we all realized the blessings of being within the organization of a stake of Zion. The majority of the company were taken into the basement story of our large place of worship, the sick were the first objects of attention, and they, as well as the whole company, were located in hired houses as soon as possible.*

*Wed. 24 Jan 1855 I went to seek for work. . . Father could find no work and not enough money to buy oxen to go on to Utah. Father told us they had the negroes walk across a platform, then they were [p. 4] examined by a doctor & a price was set on them as though they were horses. The wenches about 14 or 16 years old sold for \$14.00.*

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*Overview: This company, although leaving England in the latter part of 1854, really belonged to the emigration of 1855, in connection with which the Saints who crossed the Atlantic in the Clara Wheeler continued the journey to the Valley. (Millennial Star, Vol. XVI: pp.778, 815; Vol XVII: pp.10, 142, 184)."*



*"Monday. 27. [Nov. 1854] -- The ship Clara Wheeler sailed from Liverpool, England, with 422 Saints, under the direction of Henry E. Phelps. The company arrived at New Orleans Jan. 11, 1855, and at St Louis Jan. 22nd."*

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*Foreign Intelligence -- United States--The Clara Wheeler.-- On the 5th instant per mail from the United States, we received the St. Louis Luminary for January 27, and February 3 and 10, which contain, among much that is interesting, the report of Elder H.[Henry] E. Phelps, president of the Saints on board the Clara Wheeler. [p.184] From this report we make the following extracts, which we doubt not will be of interest to our readers--*

*"During the voyage we had one birth, eight marriages, and thirty deaths, seven of which occurred coming up the river. During the whole passage we were favored by our Heavenly Father in having fair winds, and in making, I presume, the quickest passage ever known at this season of the year. We arrived at New Orleans on the 11th January, where we were met by Elder [James] McGaw, our agent, making the voyage in thirty-six days. In fact nothing seemed to have the power of hindering us.*

*On our arrival in New Orleans we were equally fortunate. We took our passage on board the Oceana eighteen hours after our arrival. On arriving at the quarantine ground, where steamers with emigrants are compelled to stop and undergo medical inspection, causing a detention of one or more hours, we only stopped a short time, and succeeded in reaching this city on the afternoon of the 22nd instant.*

*The Saints are, on the whole, in good health and spirits; the deaths were, as you will perceive by the list handed you, almost entirely among children, owing to the measles having been brought on board. . . .[p.185] BIB: Foreign Intelligence [Summary of Letter], " Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star 17:12 (Mar 24, 1855) p. 184-85. (CHL)*

.....  
*Saturday, March 24, 1855.*

*To the Emigrating Saints.-- There is a subject of the gravest importance, pertaining to emigration, to which we wish to call the attention of the Saints, and that is, to let no consideration, no matter how important it may appear, ever induce them to embark on a ship themselves, or permit any of their families to do so, if they have been recently exposed to, and are thereby liable to be brought down by, the small pox, measles, or any other contagious disease, for in doing so they will not only greatly lessen the chances of living to those who have every reason to expect to be sick, but also be liable to be the means of spreading disease and death among all on board the ship. This is a great responsibility for anyone to incur, and we presume that no Latter-day Saint is so reckless in feeling as ever knowingly to run any risks in a matter involving such fearful consequences.*

*The Clara Wheeler was cleared as usual by a government officer, her passengers were examined by the doctor, and she put to sea apparently in a healthy condition. After being at sea some three days she was driven back, she lay in the Mersey a week, passed a second examination by the government doctor, and put to sea again in good condition, and yet 22 persons, mostly children, died of measles during the voyage, a mortality very unusual among a shipload of the Saints. This shows that no human sagacity can always foresee and prevent those evils.*

*We feel to urge upon the Saints the necessity of using the greatest diligence and caution in this matter, and expect the pastors and presidents of conferences to make it from time to time a portion of their instruction to the Saints pertaining to emigration.*

## Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

The family all made it to the United States, however, more trials awaited Isaac.

**1855 Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>** After the White's arrived in the USA, both Mary (Polly) & young James got ill, perhaps the last of the measles victims. Mary Ann died 20 Jan 1855.

**1855 Jan 21,** James White, age 5 years died Jan. 21, 1855.

Two more members of Isaac's family had died. Both Mary (Polly) and James were said to be buried on the banks of the Missouri River.

However: Something is just not correct concerning the Death dates and place and burial, for Mary Ann (Polly) and James White. From information handed down by family members Mary Ann died 20 Jan, and James died 21 Jan. 1855, aboard the Clara Wheeler and both being buried on the Missouri River Banks.<sup>8</sup>

### Organizing A Wagon Train to Zion

**1855 Jan-July** While encamped at Mormon Grove, Kansas awaiting the next step to Zion, 21 year old John, became very sick with cholera. John recovered enough to leave and accompany his father across the plains 1855 July 4<sup>th</sup>, leaving Jane to make her way at a later time.

**1855 July 4<sup>th</sup>,** Isaac and John left Mormon Grove with the independent Moses Thurston Company of 134 people and 29 wagons. They started early to cross the plains and after an arduous journey, punctuated with Indian threats and other problems, this train traveled part of the way to Utah with the Richard Ballantyne company, for safety reasons.

*Moses Thurston and many of the emigrants who would be part of his overland emigrant train left Liverpool, England, April 22, 1855, aboard the ship S. Curling (often called the Samuel Curling in Church records). Thurston was returning to Utah after serving a mission in England; the emigrants were Mormon*

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<sup>8</sup> Additional research shows possible errors:

1. According to the Clara Wheeler log and traveler's accounts the ship got to New Orleans on the Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 1855. If Mary & James died on board the Sarah Wheeler it had to be while docked at New Orleans, located on the Mississippi River Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. - They were Not deceased yet.
2. From New Orleans the group changed to a River Ferry named Oceana, according to the ship's travelers statement, which left New Orleans, on the Mississippi River, within 18-24 hours of arrival on January 12<sup>th</sup> 1855.
3. Jan 12<sup>th</sup> -Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 1855 The Oceana ferry group traveled up the Mississippi River and ended at St. Louis, Missouri at 5 PM on the Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>.
4. If family recorded death dates are correct, and passenger's statements are correct, the Oceana Ferry was on the Mississippi River, almost to St. Louis, when Mary Ann died, perhaps in the evening *Sat 20 Jan. 1855, A severe frost set in and the river nearly blocked with ice.....*, while James died on the Sunday 21<sup>th</sup>, perhaps early morning. That would explain why *Sun. 21 Jan. 1855 Stopped at shore in the woods. A number of us went on shore and made a large fire in the woods. It was very cold.* Although the deaths or burial is not mentioned in the 'journals', this could have been why they built a big fire as they needed to thaw the ground enough to bury the two deceased members of the White family, as they could not dispose of the bodies any other way. The Ferry arrived at St. Louis on the Missouri River, Monday 22 January 1855.

Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

*converts. After an exceptionally rough voyage of 30 days, the ship docked at New York. Next, the travelers went by rail to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and from there by steamboat down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis. Elder Thurston and about 100 passengers arrived in St. Louis on June 9 aboard the steamboat Gibson. From St. Louis they steamed up the Missouri River to Atchison, Kansas Territory--the Mormon outfitting point for plains travel that year. One of the emigrants described the country surrounding Atchison as wild and timbered.*

*Organized at Mormon Grove (just outside Atchison), Thurston's was an independent company, but it included many Perpetual Emigration Fund passengers. At least one of the English families, however, was wealthy enough to pay for the outfit of another family. A few of the emigrants who accompanied Thurston were from Ohio. The train started for Utah on July 4; it consisted of 148 individuals, 33 ox-drawn wagons, 234 oxen, 28 cows, and 12 horses. Because of Indian hostilities along the trail, this train traveled part of the way to Utah with the Richard Ballantyne company.*

*Along the trail, one female traveler reportedly put some of her milk and cream "in a tightly covered wooden churn and fastened [it] firmly inside the wagon; the butter was already churned when [the company] reached the evening camp." This same woman lovingly nurtured her yeast culture so that her family could have leavened bread, which she baked in "rock ovens built by previous pioneers." On August 24 the Thurston train was at the Upper Ford of the Platte, some 15 miles ahead of Ballantyne's company. All was well with the emigrants. They had lost no cattle or horses, and no one had died. Two young men from the company escorted Elder Erastus Snow and a companion (who were traveling to Utah unescorted) to Warm Springs; then they returned to the train. The company arrived in Salt Lake City on September 28 with the emigrants generally in good health and excellent spirits.<sup>9</sup>*

**1855 Sept. 28th** They reached Salt Lake Valley early in the fall before that terrible early winter set in. Soon after their arrival Isaac and his son, John, went to work in Cottonwood Canyon for Winslow Farr who was getting out building materials from Cotton Wood Canyon.

**1856** Jane did not go west with her father or brother in 1855, but has an interesting journey that is included here to give traveling insight as she left with the Canute Peterson Company in 1856 <sup>10</sup>.

***White, Jane***

***Birth and Death Date and Age Unknown.***

***Information: traveled with John Powell and paid for the outfit.***

***Departure: 27 June 1856***

***Arrival in Salt Lake Valley: 16-23 September 1856***

***Company Information:*** About 320 individuals and about 60 wagons were in the company when it began its journey from the outfitting post at Florence, Nebraska (now Omaha).

*Powell, John, Autobiography and journal 1849 June-1901 Apr., 45-55. **Read Trail Excerpt:** Brother Canute Peterson was in St. Louis with a company of Danish Saints. I agreed to go with his company up the river and cross the Plains with them. We chartered a boat to Florence at five dollars per head. Arriving in SLC Sep 16-23, 1856.*

*My company consisted of myself, my wife, Fanny, Mary, Fanny, Jessy, Thomas Gascoign, Mrs. Smith, her son, Joseph, and Jane White, nine in all.*

*We left St. Louis May 22nd, arrived at Florence June 1st. I paid \$33.50 passage for my company. We landed our luggage and wagons. I put up my tent a little distance from the river, and made things as*

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<sup>9</sup>Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel 1847-1868 Moses Thurston Company (1855)

<sup>10</sup>Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel 1847-1868 Canute Peterson Company (1856)

Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

*comfortable as I could, then went to the Church Store with a note I received from Brother J. H. Hart, calling for \$150.00 in oxen.*

*The oxen had not arrived. It was clouding up for a storm. Bishop Cunningham had a quantity of flour on the ground. He wanted it housed before the storm. He asked several of the brethern to help to carry the flour into the store but all refused. He then asked me. I and the Bishop packed these hundred pound sacks of flour 'till he gave out. While I was packing the flour, these brethern who were all ready on the camp ground were hauling those by the river to camp and charging \$1.00 each wagon.*

*After eating with the Bishop I returned to my tent. My little company had been left by themselves, because they had not a dollar to pay for hauling. I secured my wagon as well as I could to help it from being blowed in the river. The storm was upon us. Sister Smith, her boy, Joseph, and Jane White took to the wagon. I, with my family, went into the tent. The storm became so furious it blew down the tent. My wife and I had to hold onto it with all our strength to keep it from being blown into the river. It was thundering and lightning as I never saw before. The rain was running in torrents under us as we lied on the ground, keeping hold of the tent cover. I was listening between the claps trying to find or learn if the wagon had been blown into the river.*

*When it became light to my great joy I saw my wagon standing in the same place I left it the night before. Mrs. Smith and Jane White passed the night in great terror, but they were dry. The wagon cover resisted the rain, but I and family were drenched.*

*We got breakfast as soon as possible. The sun shone brightly. We put our bedding out to dry.*

*I then went to the camping ground.*

*Bishop Cunningham asked how it was my wagon was not with the company. I told him the reason. He said it was too bad to be left at the river by ourselves, but he would have my family fetched. He sent a man with a team, hitched onto my wagon and hauled it xxxx into camp.*

*Brother James McGore arrived. He had charge of the outfitting arrangements. I presented my order to him. He told me that Brothers G. Grant, and William Kimball were buying oxen in Missouri and would not be there for weeks, so I went to Omaha and worked on a building for two weeks. I got twenty dollars for my work which was a great help. Staying at Florence waiting for oxen twenty-five days we consumed quite an amount of provisions which the twenty dollars enabled me to replace.*

*Brothers Grant and Kimball came to my tent in the night, called me by name, and told me, in the morning to go over a little hill west of the camp. I would find three yoke of oxen. They were mine. He would let me have them for the \$150.00 because I had loaned that amount to the Church I was not to let anyone know the price I paid for them, seeing the oxen were \$75.00 and \$85.00 a yoke*

*The next morning bright and early I secured the oxen. Some of the brethern offered me \$80.00 a yoke for my oxen.*

*I had no yokes or chains. I told Brother Kimball this. He told me to go to the stack of yokes and chains and take what I wanted.*

*The camp was organized by Brother James McGore consisting of forty-two wagons.*

*Brother Canute Peterson was appointed captain. I was appointed clerk of the camp.*

*After receiving counsel and voting to assist each other and making up our compliment of provisions we were ready to start.*

*We broke camp on Thursday, June 26th. The first day we made four miles. Such fun to see the awkward teamsters and contrary oxen. After getting a number of cows and oxen mixed we camped. Camp called to prayer. We prepared for rest being very tired.*

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*Second day out was very hot. We lost by death through the heat and hard driving eight oxen. I saw my oxen had their tongues out and were panting and two bloating. I drove out of the train, let my oxen rest and feed and came into camp after dark, thereby saving my oxen.*

*Now many found they were too heavily loaded.*

*I dispensed with a number of things to lighten the load. Next morning we broke camp with lighter loads.*

*We arrived at the Elk Horn on July 1st.*

*Here we ferried over two wagons at the same time. I being Clerk, my wagon went over free.*

*We drove the cattle into the river. The current was so strong it took the cattle with it. I jumped into the river to head the cattle and soon found the water over my head. I had to swim with my ox whip in my mouth. The lash going with the current kept my head in that direction. After a good amount of labor we got all the cattle and wagons over safe.*

*July 8th, the Soup [Loop] Fork, and on July 16th, made Wood River. Here we were compelled to lay over on account of a Danish brother breaking his wagon axle-tree, and another breaking a wagon wheel.*

*I had some tools with me so I went to work and fixed the wheel and axle-tree. Wood River is a beautiful place. We gathered all the plums and strawberries we wanted. The captain called the Company to meeting. At the meeting, the captain said, "Brethern and sisters, we are about to enter the Indain [Indian] country. I wish every man to have his gun in readiness. Also the men not to undress but sleep with their clothes on and their guns under their pillows, so a moment's warning they will be ready to defend the camp. I also wish all the women and children to keep close to the wagons as we travel."*

*We arrived at the Platte River, July 18th.*

*Some of the brethern were very anxious to see the buffalo. President Canute Peterson told them if they will wait awhile they will see all the buffalo they would desire to see. In the course of the day two buffalo were discovered off grazing by themselves. Two brothers were determined to go and shoot them. Brother Peterson advised them to stay with the camp, but they would not listen to his advise [advice]. They armed themselves with rifles, knives, etc., and started. We watched them from the train. We saw them approach the buffalo, who, as soon as they perceived the brethern, raised their heads and walked slowly with their heads down towards the brethern. The brethren must have been frightened for they began to retreat. When the buffalo made for them, the brethern made for the train as fast as their legs would allow them to go. At the same time the buffalo were making for the brethern as fast as their legs would permit them. It was a very exciting race to the brethern at the train. Some were getting their rifles ready to go assist their brethern, but the buffaloes, perceiving the train, stopped suddenly and turned toward the hills. After a while the brethern came to the train all the worse for running.*

*We passed the North Bluff Fork, July 28th.*

*Celebration of the Twenty-Fourth of July on the Plains*

*On the evening of the 23rd, it was agreed to lay over and celebrate the 24th in commemoration of the Pioneers entering Salt Lake Valley.*

*On the morning of the twenty-fourth, after getting the cattle drove to the river, the camp was called to order, prayer by the chaplain. Some hunters were appointed to go and kill some buffaloes for the camp. They immediatly started. I was appointed butcher, to cut up the meat and to divide the same to the families of the camp. Some brethern were appointed to clear a place for a dance. The sisters were busy gathering buffalo chips, some were washing, some were cooking, some had on their best clothes, all seemed very busy.*

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*The hunters soon returned and reported they had killed eight buffalo. Some brethern yoked their oxen and went to haul the dead buffalo into camp. Soon we had eight in camp. Now was a busy time for me. We skinned and cut up and divided the meat.*

*In one hour the camp had the appearance of a camp of butchers, for each wagon cover was decked with fresh meat put on so as to dry by the sun.*

*Now everyone had buffalo steak for dinner.*

*After dinner as I was sitting on my wagon tongue I saw a buffalo making straight for our camp with his head down and roaring as he came. I called the attention of some of the brethern to him. One brother had a Sharp's rifle. He came to me and let the buffalo come within twenty paces of the wagon, and fired. The buffalo rolled over in the dust of the road.*

*In the evening, we danced to the music of a flute and violin. The flute was played by a Danish brother and the violin by an American. The moon was light. It shone very brightly. We danced and sung and feasted, and praised the Lord. Such was the way we spent the 24th, 1856, on the Plains.*

*We crossed the Sandy Bluffs doubled teams, August 1st. As the train was going quietly, we noticed a great number of buffalo traveling towards the camp. As they came nearer, we shouted. They came faster, and to my great surprise they came to the train. Our oxen became frightened and as the buffalo passed the train, our teams took after them. It was a very amusing sight to see a herd of buffalo going at the top of their speed, followed by the whole train.*

*The buffalo took to the hills on the right of the road. The oxen kept up with them for about two miles. They then slacked their speed and finally stopped.*

*As I was walking and sometimes running, I came to a woman lying on the road, covered with blood. She had been run over by a wagon. I next came to a boy who had also been run over. I could not stay with them for I was troubled about the safety of my children who were walking by the train when the oxen stampeded. I could not see any of them. My wife was in the wagon so I made for the wagons. I came to mine and saw an old lady standing at the head of the team, holding an umbrella before the eyes of the lead oxen. I thanked her for her kindness. I found my wife was safe in the wagon. The brethern were securing their teams and after patting and speaking kindly to our oxen we began to turn them toward the road.*

*After a good amount of trouble we made the road, took our places in the train. I informed Captain Peterson of the woman and boy I had seen back.*

*I found my children. They were safe. How they escaped being run over was a mystery.*

*I went back with several brethern and found the woman still lying in the same place. We bathed her face and arranged her clothes and carried her to camp. Her face was cut which made the blood run down her neck and on the clothes.*

*We then went to find the boy. We found him. He had been run over. The wheels passed over his legs. We carried him to camp. This was the first stampede I had ever seen. We travelled a few miles and went into camp. We corralled our wagons and had double guards out. The country seemed full of buffalo. They were in every direction. They were countless.*

*Passed Chimney Rock August 7th and reached Fort Laramie on the 13th. Here I bought some bacon at seven cents per pound. The officers at the Fort were very polite and obliging. We nooned here and replenished our stock of provisions. We reached Horse Shoe Creek the 15th.*

*Meeting With Indians on the Plains*

*As we were traveling by the Platte River on a beautiful, bright day, we were met by a large band of Indians, who came riding up. The Chief ordered the camp to stop. Captain Peterson came to see me and said he want-me to control the English and American brethern and he would control the Danish. The Chief wanted to have a talk with us.*

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*I went with the Captain but I could not understand what the Indians wanted. I saw they were well armed and they had their squaws with them. They were fine men and well dressed, had good guns.*

*We made out that they were going East to meet the Indian Agent supplies. The Chief said if we would give a pan of flour and a pint of sugar for each wagon, he would not allow any Indian to come to our camp in the night. They would camp on the other side of the river, and we were to camp on this side. He also promised the Indians should not interfere with our stock, so we agreed to give flour and sugar. The Chief called his men and talked to them. They then all set on the ground in a circle, the Chief being in the middle. We went to each wagon and got a six quart pan of flour, and a pint cup of sugar.*

*The Chief spread a blanket on the ground in the middle of the circle, and as we gave him the pans of flour, he would empty the pans into the blanket.*

*He made two heaps, one of flour and the other of sugar. When he had got all, he divided it amongst the men. Each one held open his blanket and received his portion. I did not hear a grumble. Each seemed perfectly satisfied with it. They all mounted their horses and camped. We went a little further up the river and went into camp.*

*We had double guards out during the night. The Indians made a noise all the night so we could not sleep, but not an Indian came to our camp. As soon as it was light, the squaws crossed the river, came to our camp, and began to carry off some buckets and some skillets. Our guards saw them running off with them. They gave the alarm. We were soon up and overtook the squaws and made them give up the things.*

*Soon all the Indians crossed the river and came to our camp. Captain Peterson told the Chief of the squaws stealing our things. He laughed and said his promise had been kept. No Indian had molested us or our cattle during the night. While the Chief was talking to Captain Peterson, the Indians were trying to thief all they could. One got into my wagon. I called to him to come out but he would not. I seized him by his legs and pulled him out. He then wanted my wife to give him her wedding ring. She asked if she should give it to him. I told her not to give it to him, and shook my head at the Indian. He then put his arm around her neck and kissed her, and laughing went to the next wagon. Captain Peterson made a trade with the Chief. He agreed if the Chief would have his band cross the river and free our camp of them, we would give some more sugar and flour. The Chief said we were Mormons. If we were Americans, he would not. He mounted his horse and in twenty minutes there was not one in camp. We felt great relief when they crossed the river. We gave them the sugar and the flour. They went East.*

*We crossed the Platte 18th; recrossed 19th.*

*Just as we started, William Godbe of Salt Lake City crossed the river on a mule. He had on a red overshirt. He came to the train on a lope. As soon as the oxen saw him they stampeded. The Danish Brethern, since the first stampede adopted a way of having ropes fastened to the lead oxen's horns, I suppose, thinking they could control them easily. When the oxen started to run at the sight of the red shirt of William Godbe, a Danish brother held onto the rope, was pulled down and the wagon went over him, killing him instantly. As soon as we recovered the teams, we stayed half a day to make the grave and bury our brother. He was a fine healthy young man. We all felt very sorry. He was killed instantly. He spoke not a word.*

*We arrived at the Bridge 22nd. Recrossed the Platte the 23rd.*

*Here we met another band of Indians, who had to have their toll. They were inferior to the others in number and arms. I believe they were Snake Indians. We gave them flour but no sugar. They detained us only a little while.*

*We struck the Sweetwater, 24th.*

*Rock Independence, the 26th.*

*Devil's Gate, the 27th.*

## Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

### *South Pass*

*This is the highest point of travel. The wind blew so strong we had to cover our faces to protect them from the gravel and small stones. The wind blew in our faces.*

*Crossed Green River, Sept. 7th.*

*Came to Fort Bridger, the 12th.*

*September 16th, as I was driving my team in Echo Canyon, I saw the wheel of my wagon off the track. I endeavored to get my oxen, when I fell over the ridge and landed on some bushes. As I looked up I saw my wagon come over. The wagon, in its fall, turned over, and landed on the bows. My wife was in the wagon at the time. The train stopped. The brethren came with ropes and pulled the wagon up and helped me to reload. I lost many things among the bushes and in the creek. I arranged my things as well as I could, and made camp after dark.*

*We arrived at Great Salt Lake City, September 21st.*

*We made the journey from Florence to Great Salt Lake City in eighty-seven days.*

### **Making a Home in Zion - Utah**

**1856-1857** The White family, Isaac, Jane and John were reunited and experienced those exciting times during 1857 on brought about by the threat of invasion of the Johnston Army.

**1857 May 13** Jane married Thomas Baker Brown in Salt Lake City and settled in North Ogden.

**1858-1859** Spring time Isaac and John acquired a fine piece of land fronting on what is now Washington Boulevard on the South side of Cold Water Creek, about a half mile west and a mile south of the present town of North Ogden. There they built a two-room log house, and started farming in the land of the free. Of necessity they farmed the land with pioneer implements, they plowed the land the first time it had ever been plowed, with a simple hand plow drawn by oxen. Later the oxen were replaced by horses. How they appreciated the freedom and the possibilities of ownership of property in this new land, compared to the conditions they had left in England

Isaac and John also helped dig the North Ogden Canal along with Jonathan and Solomon Campbell. John willingly gave his time and efforts as a teamster, in making a trip or two back to the Missouri River, to help bring emigrants to Zion, and also get equipment and supplies for 'home'.

**1858-1860** Isaac apparently married an Ann -- before 1860 census as she's listed with him.

**1860 Census** at Weber Co, Utah.<sup>11</sup>

*Isaac White, 53, male, farmer, real worth \$600, personal worth \$500., born England*

*...Ann, 60, female, born England*

*...Jns, 25, male, farmer, born England*

Weber County, Ogden, Utah, 1860 Census page 133, film # 805313.

**Summer of 1863** John made the trip back East to help with the Thomas E. Ricks Company, which departed 10 Aug 1863 from Florence, Nebraska [Omaha] with a company of about 400 individuals. In this company was John Brown, and his two children: Eliza 16, and George, 11. As they traveled, they made their acquaintance and Eliza soon spent spare time with John as they traveled the dusty trail. The company arrived in SLC 4-6 October 1863.

**1863 Nov 18**, John, now 27, was delighted with Eliza Brown, just sixteen years old. They had fallen in love during the journey and were married 18 November 1863, in Pleasant View. They lived in North Ogden

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<sup>11</sup>USA 1 June, 5 months to get data), Weber County, Ogden, Utah, 1860 Census page 133, film # 805313. #28,



Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

in the two-room log house John and Isaac had built about four years before. Before long John had 2 little girls, Mary Eliza and Sarah Jane, that Isaac delighted in.

Isaac & John farmed together and they liked good farming implements and machinery and were among the first to bring such articles to North Ogden, John going back East to purchase it. John also brought back household articles including a stove and dishes, cloth and sugar which was quite a luxury at the time. Isaac often sent away for large supplies of shoes which he kept in a large box. When he wanted to sometimes do especially nice things for his neighbors he would take them the box and tell them to select a pair that would fit them. Isaac's grandchildren (Mary White, Thomas Brown) remember receiving shoes as presents from him and the pleasure he received from making the gifts.

**1869 Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**, John was on a logging expedition in the canyon when he was suddenly taken very ill with appendicitis. He was rushed home and everything they knew how to do was done, they called for a doctor from Ogden but with no knowledge, experience or proper surgical procedure his appendix broke and John died of peritonitis or acute infection, some say he died the same day in North Ogden.

*Died: At North Ogden on the 11th of February 1869, after a few days illness, John, only son of Isaac White, aged 33 years and 8 months. He embraced the gospel at Steeple Ashton, Wilshire, England, in the fall of 1856, and emigrated to this valley in 1856. He has left a wife and two small children, and an aged father to mourn his loss. Mil. Star, please copy.*<sup>12</sup>

It was such a sudden and unexpected manner, leaving Eliza a young widow, just 22 years old, with two little children to care for, and a third one to be born four months hence. John was buried in the North Ogden Cemetery. Even with the deepening trails which often beset her way, Eliza felt that the "darkest hour precedes the dawn". Isaac and his wife helped to some extent take care of Eliza and her children as he awaited the birth of his next grandchild.

**1870 May 10<sup>th</sup>**, Isaac White paid cash for 80.53 acres of BLM land located at part 3 or NENW qtr & 4 or NWNW qtr, blk 5/ twnshp 6-N, range 1-W, in Weber Co., Acc# UTUTAA001855<sup>13</sup>

**1870** Isaac again widowed before 1870 census

**1870 Census USA**<sup>14</sup> at North Ogden, Utah, Isaac is again a widow.

*White, Isaac, 60, M., white, widow, farmer, real worth \$400, personal worth \$100, born England*

*Demes, James, 25, male, white, farm hand, born England*

*Jenkins, R., 25, male, white, farm hand, born Wales*

**1870-1874** Isaac apparently married a Betty who died 1874, and is buried in unmarked grave according to North Ogden Cemetery records, with a spot reserved for Isaac.

**1874, May 11**, Granddaughter, Celia Emily Brown was born to Jane, number 8 and the last for Jane.

**1874 May 19**, Jane, Isaac's only daughter, never recovered from childbirth and died when Celia was just 8 days old. Jane was buried in the North Ogden Cemetery, she was a good helpmate to her husband Thomas B Brown. This little granddaughter, Celia, has a story all in itself.

**1874 May 24**, Celia Emily was blest by her father, Thos. B. Brown. Celia was taken into the family of Lee Pennington, who were childless, to be cared for. In the middle of the night the Pennington's took off and disappeared, taking Celia with them. It would be years before the family would learn what happened to their Celia.

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<sup>12</sup>Deseret Evening News, Wed. Feb. 17, 1869 18:25

<sup>13</sup> [www.gloreords.blm.gov/search/detail\\_print.asp?accession+001855](http://www.gloreords.blm.gov/search/detail_print.asp?accession+001855)

<sup>14</sup> 1 June, 5 months to get data), North Ogden, Weber, Utah, 7 June 1870 Census page 453, film # 553112, #118.

Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

**1874-1880** Isaac remarried an Elizabeth by 1880 Census, Elizabeth (Betty?)

**1880 Census USA**<sup>15</sup> At North Ogden Isaac has some definite health problems to deal with.

*White, Isaac, white, male, 73, mar., Rheumatism, maimed/crippled/bedridden or other disabilities, self and parents born England.*

*...Elizabeth, white, female 89, wife, mar., self and parents born England. Cannot write*

**1880 July 19th**, As Isaac was hoeing his garden he walked to the house for a drink of water. He leaned against the wall of the house to rest and quickly passed away from a stroke. He was long remembered by the older residents of North Ogden as a pioneer who did his full share to develop the land and water resources of the community.

**1880 July 22**, Isaac was buried in the North Ogden Cemetery in an grave next to his wife Betty (1874) according to cemetery records, from an old upright sandstone marker broken off at approx. 10 inches.

Isaac had a tough life, but he never tired of living the gospel, helping others and leaving a legacy of honor and faithfulness to his posterity.

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<sup>15</sup> 1 June, 1 month to get data), Weber County, Ogden, Utah 1880 Census, Film # 1255339, page 494.

Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

Personal visit to North Ogden Cemetery 1999-2000 by Alona S. Perkes;  
Cemetery/Burial or Sexton Records, Film# 599290 North Ogden, Weber, Utah page 147.  
Known buried at North Ogden with no marker  
#5, Isaac White  
Born Apr. 6, 1809  
Died July 19, 1880

Known Buried at North Ogden with no marker  
# 6 Betty White (Elizabeth)  
Wife of Isaac White, died 1874

By Sept 2000, Isaac received a new headstone of flat gray granite insert in cement. The information for the new headstone appears to have been taken from an 'information seeking' letter approximately March 2000, received and answered by Alona S. Perkes from a relative, who in turn used the approximate (but un-documented) information to create a new headstone which now states;

ISSAC WHITE  
CHRISTENED 17 MAY 1807  
DIED 19 JULY 1880  
WIVES  
MARY HANCOCK DIED 1840  
ELIZA BULL DIED ABT 1845  
POLLY BULL DIED 1856  
MRS. BETSY WHITE DIED ABT 1876

Isaac apparently did marry 6 times.

1. Mary Hancock at Seend, Wiltshire
2. Eliza Jane Bull at Steeple Ashton
3. Mary Ann (Polly) Bull at Towbridge, Wiltshire, and she died on board ship coming to USA 1854
4. Ann White as wife listed on 1860 census at Ogden  
Isaac Widower in 1870 Census at North Ogden
5. Betty (Elizabeth) because North Ogden Cemetery records state unmarked grave holds Isaac & Betty who died 1874
6. Elizabeth listed as wife in 1880 census at Ogden

Currently I don't know what happened to 5th or 6th wife Elizabeth/ Betty - are they one and the same? Only clue is from the North Ogden Cemetery that they are different women if the old records are accurate and Elizabeth lived past the 1880 census

There are no North Ogden nor Ogden Marriage records in the state of Utah for this time period, thus making it impossible to verify or identify the 4th-5th wife in the USA. The only thing we will have is the census records where they are mentioned, thus far.

Isaac White (1805-1880) & Family, From England to North Ogden, Weber, Utah

Sourcing:

Census'

LDS Church records of England

Utah, North Ogden: **Our North Ogden Pioneers 1851- 1900** pages 502-503, Jeanette Shaw Greenwell & Laura Chadwick Kump (Watkins Printing, published 1998, FHL US/CAN 979.228/N1 D3o), pg 502-503.

Isaac White

(1) Mary Hancock White

(2) Eliza Bull White

(3) Polly Bull White

(4) Betsy-White

Just for the curious, Celia Emily Brown was discovered in the:

1880 Census at Petterson, Morgan, Utah,

Peterson, Morgan, Utah, 1880 Census, FHL# 1255336, To-1336, page 526B

Mary E. Pennington, self, married, female, white, 32, born IA, Keeps house, Father born Virginia, mother born OH

...Cecily E. Pennington, Dau., single, female, white, 6, born Utah, parents born England

1900 Census at Lawrence Ward , Douglas, Kansas, 4 June 1900 Census, Roll: T623 479; page 3A, ED 63, line 21, New Hampshire

Pennington, Hugh, head, white, male, born May 1834, 66, married for 35 years, born Illinois, father born Tennessee, mother born Tennessee, Carpenter, worked all year, can read, write and speaks English, rents home, not a veteran

...Mary W., wife, white, female, born Aug. 1846, 52, married for 35 years, other of 2 children 1 living, born Iowa, father born Virginia, mother born Ohio, can read, write and speaks English

...Celia E., daughter, white, female, born May 1894, 26, single, born Utah, father born Illinois, mother born Iowa, teacher, employed 9 months, can read, write and speak English.

1910 Census at Mt Pleasant, Labette, Kansas, 1910 Census, Roll T624\_443; Page: 6B; Enumeration District: 138; Image: 867, line # 81, #156, 157

Pennington, Mary E., head, female, white, 62, wid, mother of 1 child, 1 living, born Iowa, father born Virginia, mother born Ohio, speaks English, none occupation, can read and write, speaks English, owns mortgages house

...Celia E., daughter, female, white, 35, single, born Utah, father born Illinois, mother born Iowa, speaks English, teacher High School, worker, not at work on April 12 1910, not out of work during year, can read and write

Celia E Brown Pennington is said to have died 16 Sep 1952