

# HISTORY OF LORENZO BABCOCK

COMPILED BY ELVEN E. HARDY

These men had traveled miles ill equipped and hungry. After leaving their homes in Nauvoo with what little they could carry in that few wagons they had. How could one keep their patience after such an ordeal? But the Battalion did. Before they had traveled far they found what they were to put up with, from the start the officers of the army started their persecutions of the Battalion. They suffered hunger, exposure, and abuse by the officers. When they became sick they were administered a gagging dose of arsenic and colomel, by the Battalion surgeon doctor George Sanderson who soon wads known as the doctor of death by the Battalion.

When they arrived in Sante Fe, they had seventy three sick on their hands, which they sent back to Pueblo for the winter. Captain Allen had taken ill in Leavenworth and was left there for his recovery, but they received word Captain Allen was dead. The men liked and respected Captain Allen as he did them, his death was a heart break to the Battalion for now they were left without any help from the army.

The farther they went the tougher it got, their rations had been cut several times, the men were worn out, their feet was getting bare, they had little outer clothing. With so little to eat the winter winds seemed to penetrate their bones. They would their own oxen that had become too poor and weary to travel, many of the men were dying from exposure and hardship, and through the murderous drugging of Doctor Sanderson. A number of the Battalion took sick with chills and fever, and was administered a medication by Doctor Death from a old iron spoon which he had acquired somewhere in his travels. After this it was customary for the sick to be marched to the tune of "Jim Along Joe" to the Doctor's quarters, for their portion from the old iron spoon. And as always the same old dose of colomel and arsenic. Word got around the doctor thought a new spoon would be too good for the Mormons, I sear the old iron spoon appears in the Battalion History as the men themselves.

After traveling three hundred miles beyond Pueblo there was fifty five more sick to be sent back to Pueblo. Among these men was Lorenzo.

On the tenth of November eighteen hundred and forty six of the sick was ordered back to Pueblo for the remainder of the winter. They was put under the command of Lieutenant Willis. They continued there march from day to day, traveling through snow from two to four feet deep, with cold and piercing winds. Before reaching the top of the mountain Lieutenant Willis detailed a rear guard of the most abled men to aid and encourage those who began to lag behind, and felt unable to proceed farther while others he marched at the head of the column to break trail through the deep snow banks. After sever frost bites and great exertion they succeeded to the top. They looked into the valley of the Arkansas below where the ground was bare. The drooping spirits of the men came to life. They soon decended to the plains below where they were comparatively comfortable. From here they had good traveling and pleasant weather to Pueblo. They arrived in Pueblo 24 December 1846.

They left Pueblo the following spring on June thirteenth eighteen hundred and forty-seven. On the night of 16 June 1847 they were camped within one mile of Fort Laramie, about five hundred forty miles west of Council Bluff.

When in Laramie they found Brigham Young with his party of pioneers were making their way westward, they had passed there just twelve days before. With a view of overtaking them they made an early start on the seventeenth and followed their trail. The road was bad, almost impassable in places, this made the traveling necessarily slow and tedious; they gradually gained on the pioneers, whose journeying they learned by finding a post set at camping place, with writing on it, showing when they had passed there. They gained within a day of the Pioneers, they had to have their animals shod, this delayed them so they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley three days later on 27 July 1847.

When Lorenzo received his discharge, he made ready to return to Council Bluff for his family. While he was enroute to Council Bluff his son died on 8 August 1847.

The history of Juab County states: "Lorenzo Babcock returned with his family in 1848." I have to disagree with this; they had their second child in Missouri in 1848, I believe they returned to Utah in 1853 or thereabouts. Never the less he settled in Mona, Juab County, Utah, he had a big hand in the settling of Mona.

Lorenzo seemed to live in most places in the state from Spanish Fork South Ward.

Lorenzo and his wife went to Price shortly after Price was classed a town rather than an outpost. They lived there some time, then Lorenzo received his pension for service in the Mormon Battalion. Amy Ann Marble Babcock must have died while living thereabouts. I have been told by several people she died at Price and was buried in the old Price Cemetery. I have found no record stating such.

After Lorenzo was granted his pension of thirty six dollars every three months, he moved back to Mona. His first check was for four hundred and fifty dollars, he spent most of this in prospecting north east of Mona. He built a cabin on the side of the canyon which he called home. He lived there for many years.

When he became tired of prospecting he would go into Mona and visit his relatives for a while, then he would return to his prospecting. It was said Lorenzo was an ambitious man and liked to be self supporting. He would carry his provisions on his shoulder three miles southeast of Mona. After a brief illness Lorenzo died at the home of his niece Symantha Yates. He died 16 March 1903. He was buried at the foot of Mount Nebo, the mountain he loved so well in the Mona Cemetery. His head stone inscription reads as follows:

"Lorenzo Babcock February 23, 1823, March 16, 1903, member of the Mormon Battalion. Erected by the Daughters of the Pioneers. Lorenzo had lived a good life, he left a good family here on earth to carry on.

Issue of Lorenzo and Amy Ann Marble Babcock.

George born 27 Feb. 1846 Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois, died 9 Aug 1847 Council Bluff, Iowa.

Lorenzo William born 15 July 1848 Married Ida Acred, died 17 March 1928

John Rowley born 10 Feb. 1852 Savannah, Missouri, March 2 Nov. 1874 to Augusta Hanchett, died 13 Sept. 1928 at Price, Carbon, Utah.

Amy Ann 1853...infant

Nathaiel born 14 Jan. 1854 Mar. Lyda Fishep Simmons.

Mary Ann born 20 Aug. 1856 Manti, Utah Mar. 6 Sept. 1872 James Dickens Fullmer, died 13 Nov. 1927 Price, Utah.

Joseph..22 Apr. 1859 Spanish Fork, Utah, Mar. Sarah Elvina Norton 24 Dec. 1881 died Mt.

Emmons, Utah 2 Feb., 1936.

Jerusha Jane..born 2 Sept. 1865 Fayette, Sanpete County, Utah Mar. Hartnett died 21 Apr. 1941.