

THE ROBISON FAMILY OF MORGAN VALLEY, UTAH

by Robert S. Haws*

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**Robert S. Haws is the husband of Edna Robison Haws, daughter of George Melvin Robison, son of George Quale Cannon Robison, son of Daniel Robison, son of Alexander Robison and Nancy Ellen Wagaman Robison. His address is 641 East 4100 South, South Ogden, Utah 84403.*

(There have been a few sections of this report prepared by Mr. Haws that have been excluded from this typing, sections that do not pertain directly to the Alexander Robison family)

The setting for this family history begins in the year 1845 near Tomstown, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, located in the far south central part of the state and about twenty-five miles due west of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Alexander Robison had come to this area about the year 1821, near the age of twenty-one, from his birthplace of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to look for employment and perhaps, a wife. He had been deprived of a formal education in his youth and was unable to read or write. He was, however ambitious and hard working.

In this "Valley of a Thousand Springs," there was located what was known as "South Mountain," which harbored a rich iron ore deposit, the mining and refining of which offered employment to many who lived in the area.

Near the base of "South Mountain," to the west, was a small cluster of villages, Fairview, Fox Hill, Tomstown, and Quincy. All of which were walking distance of each other and the center of all area activity. It was here in this locale that Alexander Robison met, courted, and married, and settled down to a life of farming with his wife, Nancy Ellen Wagaman.

Nancy Ellen Wagaman was the daughter of Andrew Wagaman and Catherine Rock, long time residents of the area. She, not unlike her husband, lacked a formal education. The name Wagaman was pronounced by the local inhabitants as "WOG A MEN."

In the year of 1845, the couple's family were shown as follows, with their ages, and with whom each later married:

Parents: Alexander Robison, 45
Nancy Ellen Wagaman, 44
Children: Nancy Ellen Robison (died as infant in 1823)
Hannah Labelle Robison, 20, Hugh Sibbett
 •David Robison, 18, Judith Smith
William Robison, 16, Margaret Smith
Daniel Robison, 14, Rachel Smith
Catherine Robison, 12, John Joseph Welch
Eliza Robison, 10, Conrad Smith
Leanna Robison, 8, Henry Rock
Franey (Fanny) Wagaman Robison, 6, Josiah Eardley
Ephraim Robison, 4, Mary Elizabeth Simmons
Mary Ann Robison, less than 1 year, Truelove Alonzo Hanhart

The Daniel Smith family were farm neighbors of the Robisons and would soon become much closer when William

and Daniel Robison married the two oldest Smith daughters, Margaret and Rachel.

In the writings of Rachel Smith Robison she stated, "I was born the 19th of November 1836, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Little of my life is remembered or of much importance until I was married at the age of sixteen to Daniel Robison in the year of 1852. (Exact date: 5 August 1852). Life's routine was much the same as other young married couples were in those days. We were very happy in our little home. Our daughter, Agnes, was born 19 May 1853. Now life was fuller with the new and added joy our little daughter brought with her to us. We live, the three of us inseparable in thought and action."

Mary Smith Robison was nearly two years older than her sister, Rachel. She was born December 23, 1834. Margaret married William Robison at the young age of sixteen, who was the older brother of Daniel Robison by two years.

Margaret and Rachel Smith were, no doubt, very mature at their marriage-age of sixteen. They were the oldest female children in the family home, responsible for the care for their younger brothers and sisters and many home chores. They were very close to each other. They were not only sisters but close friends as well.

Other marriages of family members near this time included:

- David Robison to Judith Smith (a different family than that of Margaret and Rachel Smith). She was the sister of Conrad Smith, who would later become the husband of Eliza Robison. Judith Smith Robison died, along with her first-born baby in February of 1849. This was a terrible tragedy in David's life and his grief was almost more than he could bear. He did marry again to Eliza Wagaman in the year of 1850.

Hannah Labelle Robison married Hugh Greenfield Sibbett in 1851.

Catherine Robison married John Joseph Welch in about 1851.

In July of 1853 the parents of Margaret and Rachel suddenly died from a spreading malady in the area. Rachel writes "Their passing left my two little sisters, Sabina age seven and Charolotte, age four with no one to care for them. My sister, Margaret and I took these little girls to raise."

Rachel continued her writing, "In the early months of 1854, my husband heard a strange new creed preached by some missionaries from that foreboding land, Utah. He was so impressed by the teaching of this unheard of religion, that he was at once baptized and confirmed a member of the so-called Later Day Saints of Jesus Christ. I didn't take much stock in their church, but heeded instead the warning of our pastor to beware of these Mormons." The missionary who was teaching Daniel and other members of the Robison family was Elder Angus Munn Cannon from Utah. He was the brother of George Q. Cannon, who later became an Apostle in the Church.

- David Robison was the first member of the family to accept the Gospel. He was baptized December 22, 1853. Other members of the family and their spouses were also baptized in the coming months and years. Records show that only Hanna Labelle Robison, the oldest of the ten living children, was not baptized. This was accomplished by proxy in 1916 following her death.

Daniel Robison was baptized in February of 1854 by Elder Cannon. Daniel served as the Union Branch President,

until March 31, 1856. This branch of the Church had been organized since January 1843.

Rachel told more about her husband's conversion to this new religion. She said, "My husband was so filled with the Spirit of the Lord and the message the Gospel brought him that he promised that the Lord in due time and in His own way would make it known to me which was the true church, and I would have no doubt in my mind that he had seen the truth and righteousness of this new religion. It was understood between us there would be no dispute over our differences in religion, as I belonged to the Lutheran Church and was a faithful teacher in that religion. We both attended our meetings and there was peace and harmony. " Daniel's prophetic statement did come true.

Rachel stated, "Mother appeared to me soon after her death. She conversed with me the same as she had done while she was on the earth. She wept, while telling me that the Latter-day Saint Church of Jesus Christ was the only true Church on the earth. This cleared my mind of all ill feelings I had toward the Church. My husband's promise had come true. I accepted the Gospel without delay and was baptized a member of the Church on March 15, 1854, just a month after Daniel's baptism.

Just two months after Rachel was baptized, her sister, Margaret accepted the Gospel and was baptized by Elder William Tarmen. When their brothers William and George Smith learned that their two sisters had become members of the "Mormon Church," they were furious. They took their two younger sisters, Sabina and Charlotte, away from Margaret and Rachel and gave them to an aunt to raise. Diary entries imply that Margaret and Rachel must have had some visitation rights. Charlotte Smith, the youngest of the their two little sisters, died suddenly October 3, 1857 at the age of eight-and-a-half years.

Sorrow came again into the lives of Daniel and Rachel. They lost their small baby girl, Anna. Anna was named Annie Catherine Robison, born May 13, 1855, and died October 10, 1857, just seven days after the passing of Charlotte Smith.

After hearing the humble testimony of Elder Angus M. Cannon, the Mormon Missionary from Utah, Eliza Robison and her yet-to-be husband, Conrad Smith, were baptized and confirmed members of the Church in March and May of 1854. They were married in Franklin County, Pennsylvania shortly after on July 28, 1854.

Daniel and Rachel owned a comfortable little cottage in Pennsylvania, a beautiful cherry orchard and a lovely garden. Rachel said "We were very happy as far as financial conditions were concerned, but our religious conditions were impossible."

In the area where the Robison family lived, there was a great amount of hostility and persecution directed towards the family and the other members of the Church because of their religious beliefs.

In the year 1859, an event occurred which would eventually alter the lives of the Robison Family, the Saints in this small branch of the Church in southern Pennsylvania, as well as the faithful members of the Church living in the eastern states of the United States. On Sunday evening, October 16, 1859, John Brown led a tiny army of five black and thirteen white men into the village of Harpers Ferry, Virginia. He brought along a wagon filled with 200 rifles, 200 pistols, and a thousand pikes (??) with which to arm the slaves that he was sure were going to rally to him. Once they had, he planned to lead them southward and destroy slavery. At Harpers Ferry, he and his men quietly seized the Federal Armory, Arsenal, and Engine House and rounded up hostages. After that, nothing went

right. The slaves did not rise, but the angry towns people did, picking off it's defenders. Before the one-sided battle was over, nine more of Brown's men would die, including two of his own sons. John Brown was tried for treason against the State. His guilt was impossible to deny. He was hanged at nearby Charles Town.

Anti-slavery sentiment was astonishing and unprecedented and was one of the sparks that ignited the Civil War. In a comment about the Civil War, President Brigham Young had this to say in May of 1860. "The North and South are gathering large armies and preparing for war. The banks and capitalists throughout the whole country are concentrating capital, to sustain the war. The nation has persecuted the Saints of God and made them confiscate their all and flee from place to place to save their lives, and now it is their turn. The Lord has said He would vex the nation, and he will surely do it. Civil war has begin in earnest and it will go on until the Will of God is done. All that they have sought to bring on us, will come to pass on them"

In 1857 Karl G. Maeser and Angus M. Cannon, missionaries that taught and converted the Robison family, stayed with the Henry and Leanna Robison Rock family in Pennsylvania. (This home is still known as the "Elders' Home," and a distant relative, Alexander Rock, still lives there.) They held cottage meetings and converted many people. At one of his meetings, Karl G. Maeser commented about the Civil War, "Several of you young men will be drafted into a war. Although things are quiet now. So when you go home, write on your chair backs and walls and fireplaces so it will be a continuous reminder. When it comes, remember that Karl G. Maeser told it to you right here." He also said, "But the Lord has prepared a place of refuge for those who will live His commandments. In the tops of the Rocky Mountains, the Saints will be in the Land of Promise." Sure enough, just four years later (1861), the Civil War began and many of the men who had remained there were called to battle.

The saints who were living in the eastern part of the United States had received direction from President Brigham Young, through George Q. Cannon, to leave for the West, as war in the East seemed inevitable. The Robisons and the other Saints of the Union Branch were not excluded.

George Q. Cannon, brother of Angus Munn Cannon, the missionary so revered by the Robison family and the other Saints in the Union Branch, was assigned by President Brigham Young to direct all phases of the emigration of the Saints from Europe and the Eastern United States to Utah.

It was extremely difficult for the Robisons and the other Saints to make the difficult decision to leave their homes, their farms, and all material things they possessed to go West to an uncertain future. Rachel Robison had this to say about leaving: "So on the 7th day of May 1860, we left our cozy home and started West, which meant religious freedom, where we could live our faith for which we had sacrificed so much."

In researching the personal histories of the Robison family, there has been no indication as to the route this family chose for their journey from Southern Pennsylvania to Florence, Nebraska. All that has been printed is--That the journey took ten days, six days by rail and four days on the water, being the Hudson and Missouri Rivers. The distance was about two thousand miles. The train crossed into Canada at Niagra Falls, and they arrived in Florence, Nebraska on May 16, 1860.

Tragedy again struck the Daniel Robison family while on their journey from Pennsylvania to Florence, Nebraska. Rachel Robison wrote: "As we crossed the Canadian line at Niagara Falls, our little daughter, Agnes, age eight, was taken by death. It seemed we had had about all we could stand - having had her with us longer only deepened our sorrow. As we were traveling under contract, they were unable to stop the train at this time, so our little darling was carried away by a Negro porter and buried, we know not where." This was the second child that Rachel and

Daniel had lost in such a very short time.

Thirty-two members of the Robison family were known to have journeyed westward from their homes in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, to Florence, Nebraska, on May 7, 1860. This included Alexander Robison, his wife, Nancy Ellen, nine of their ten living children with their spouses and children. The daughter Leanna came west with her husband, Henry Rock, with their daughter, Elizabeth, in the Ross Wagon Train, three days later than the handcart company.

The family members who left on May 7, 1860, were shown as follows:

Alexander Robison, age 60

Nancy Ellen Wagaman Robison, age 59

Hannah Labelle Robison, age 35

Hugh Greenfield Sibbitt, age 34

James Lowry Sibbitt

Nancy Ellen Sibbitt

Mary Alice Sibbitt

•David Robison, age 33

William Robison, age 31

Margaret Smith Robison, age 25

Daniel Alexander Robison

Jaben Smith Robison

David Cannon Robison (died on plains at Yellow Creek, Wyoming)

Daniel Robison, age 29

Rachel Smith Robison, age 23

Agnes Ellen Robison (died on train near Niagara Falls)

John Snedekker Robison (died at Florence, Nebraska)

George Quale Cannon Robison

Catherine Robison Welch, age 26

John Joseph Welch, age 36

Susannah Welch

John Alexander Welch

Sarah Welch

Benjamin Franklin Welch

Syrena Welch

Eliza Robison Smith, age 27

Conrad Smith, age 25

Anna Elizabeth Smith

Harriet Cordelia Smith

Franey Wagaman Robison, age 19

Ephraim Robison, age 16

Mary Ann Robison, age 12

On May 16, 1860, the day the Robisons completed their journey from Pennsylvania to Florence, Nebraska, Eliza Robison Smith, wife of Conrad Smith, gave birth to a baby boy named Thomas Goldman Smith. The baby lived but six days and was buried in the Florence, Nebraska Churchyard.

In the latter part of May of 1860, Florence, Nebraska, also known as “Winter Quarters,” was a beehive of activity. Saints who had sailed from Europe on the “Underwriter” numbering 594 and the 600 Saints from the Eastern States were combined prepare for the exodus of the Ninth and Tenth Handcart Companies which would leave Florence for the Valley of the Great Salt Lake on June 6 and July 6, respectively.

All of the members of the Robison Family were assigned to travel in the ninth Handcart Company. Many of the Saints who sailed on the “Underwriter” were also assigned to this same company.

A great surprise and another tragedy struck the Daniel and Rachel Robison Family while they prepared to leave Florence for the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. On June 1, 1860, just five days prior to the companies’ departure for the west, Daniel and Rachel Smith Robison lost their third child in death. He was John Snedekker Robison, just three years old. He was buried at Florence, Nebraska. This tragedy left only one of their children alive - eleven month old George Quale Cannon Robison.

The surprise came when Daniel Robison was chosen to be the Captain of the Ninth Handcart Company by George Q. Cannon. The qualifications of this 29-year-old young man had been known for some time through conversations George Q. Cannon had with his brother, Angus. Angus was the missionary who taught Daniel the Gospel. Daniel’s leadership qualifications were unveiled while he served as the Union Branch President back in Pennsylvania. This surprise assignment of leading 233 men, women, and children 1,033 miles over a desolate country that they had never traveled before, I am sure, was a staggering and humbling experience for Daniel Robison.

Captain Robison told the following: “When we were called to team up on June 6th 1860, six teams were put to lead, the carts were in the rear. The people pushed the carts. The boxes and carts were painted beautifully, and had bows over the top. The bows were covered with heavy canvas. The tongues of the carts had a crosspiece two and a half feet long fastened to the end. Against this crosspiece two people would lean their weight, this they called pushing instead of pulling. It was very common to see young girls between the ages of 16 and 20 with a harness on their shoulders in the shape of a halter, a small chain fastened to the cart. There were some four or five to a cart, some pushing, some pulling all day long through the hot, dry sand, with hardly enough to eat to keep life in their bodies.” The company, as organized, comprised of 233 persons, with 43 handcarts, 10 tents, six wagons and 38 oxen.

Their journey was very peaceful. They were not molested by the Indians although several bands of them passed the little company. The women wore long aprons and as they journeyed along, they filled them with buffalo chips for the campfire at night. Wood was scarce and for many miles they wouldn’t see any. The buffalo chips would make more smoke than fire and would turn the bread yellow, giving it such a flavor that it could hardly be eaten.

When they were near Fort Laramie, Wyoming, their provisions grew very short, so much so that each person was rationed one-half pound of flour a day. A Sister Hannah Lapish, one of the members of the company, had some jewelry she had brought from England with her. She took it to the trading post and exchanged it for 700 pounds of flour which greatly relieved their wants until they were met by a relief part at the Green River, sent out by President Brigham young, with 2500 pounds of flour and 500 pounds of bacon which lasted them until they reached the

Valley.

Rachel Robison mentioned– “At the Sweetwater River, we found the water literally full of fish and everyone had all they could eat. As we had had no meat of any kind except salty bacon since we started on our tedious journey from Florence Nebraska, these fish, indeed, were a most welcome treat. At the Green River, the carts, wagons and people were taken across the river in ferry boats, and the oxen had to swim.” Rachel said that “At the mouth of Echo Canyon on the Weber River in a small town called Henefer, (named after the only people living there at that time),we camped for two days and Mr. Henefer donated five bushels of potatoes if we would dig them The Weber River was full of fish, so after the potatoes were dug, and the fish caught and cooked, everyone had a feast.”

The Ninth Handcart Company arrived in Salt Lake City on August 27, 1860. It took nearly twelve weeks to make the journey of 1,033 miles from Florence, Nebraska to the Valley.

When the Robison family and other members of the company arrived in the Valley they were somewhat disappointed. They had been promised that when they reached the Valley everything would be in readiness for a big camp meeting, even a brass band was to be there, all in honor of the handcart company. On their arrival though, all they saw were those people with teams from all over the country to take with them their relatives and friends who had come through with the handcart company. President Brigham Young had said, “Anyone that came through with the handcart company would get a straight ticket to Heaven.” And they had truly earned it.

Everything this company had used on the trip belonged to the Church. Wagons, carts, tents, and oxen were all taken away, leaving many standing in the hot rays of the sun with no relatives, no friends, no nothing. They were poorly clad and worn out. No one came to visit them. Ephraim Robison wrote “I couldn’t blame them for that, we were too hard looking to be noticed.

** Father Alexander and Nancy Wagaman Robison were fortunate at their ages of 60 and 59 years of age that they didn’t have to walk on their journey, as others had to do. A Mr. Green, a merchant from Salt Lake City had several wagons of merchandise to take to the Valley and invited Alexander and Nancy to drive a team of horses and four oxen with a load of merchandise. Upon their arrival in the Valley, Mr. Green gave the couple a nice comfortable place to live and their food. In return, Alexander cared for Mr. Green’s buggy team through the fall and the coming winter.

Ephraim Robison, the youngest son of the Robison family, age 19 in the year 1860, joined with other members of the family and settled in Farmington, a small town 16 miles north of Salt lake City. In the spring of 1861 he returned to Salt Lake City and brought his father and mother back with him to Farmington to join with the other members of the family.

William Robison and his brother-in-law, Conrad Smith, were excellent rock masons by trade, and helped lay rock for homes in the Farmington area. In addition, they helped to lay the rock for the old Farmington Rock Chapel, built in 1861.

The next three years saw another migration of the Robison family from Farmington, Utah, to the almost uninhabited area of Morgan Valley. This valley was often seen at a distance as the settlers traveled up the steep slopes of Farmington Canyon to the summit while in search for their wood supply.

David Robison was the first of the family to leave Farmington for Morgan Valley, in late fall of 1860. This was shortly after the arrival of the Ninth Handcart Company in the Salt Lake Valley. His praises of the area and through his persuasion were enough to convince other members of the family to leave Farmington and join with him in Morgan Valley. This meant starting from scratch once again in this mountain valley.

David went to "Mount Joy", later called North Morgan, in order to teach school. He boarded with a widow, whose husband had been accidentally shot and killed by his companion while defending the Saints from Johnson's Army. He and this widow lady, Mary Elizabeth Grover Simmons, were married December 26, 1860. She had five children by her first husband, William Alpheus Simmons, and she and David had nine additional children. Their names were: David, Emma Jane, Thomas, Heber C., Emeline, Caroline, Charles, Eliza Ann, and Joel G.

In the fall of 1863, after living in Farmington for about three years, most of the Robison family members moved to Morgan Valley. Some went to a place called "Stoddard Spring", just over the mountain east of Farmington. It was first called "Simon Spring" after Ben Simon, who built the first log house there. Judson Stoddard bought the Simon place and named it "Stoddard". The first settlers in Stoddard were Ben Simon, Judson Stoddard, Philemon C. Merrill, Conrad Smith - husband of Eliza Robison, Truelove (Truly) Manhart - fiancée of Mary Ann Robison, Henry Rock - husband of Leanna Robison, Miller Parish, John Hess, Nick Bardull, Dave Saunders, Johnny Hays, Jake Grover, and brothers Than and Lot Smith.

Further information concerning the children of Alexander Robison and Nancy Ellen Wagaman Robison is noted in the following pages with the names of the children as headings.

Hannah Labelle Robison Sibbett

Following their arrival with the ninth Handcart Company in the late summer of 1860, Hannah Robison, her husband, Hugh Greenfield Sibbett, with their family of eight children (by 1863), settled in Farmington, Utah for three years. Hannah Labelle died in the year 1863 in Farmington at the age of 38 years. She was buried in Farmington, Davis County, Utah. Her husband, Hugh Greenfield Sibbett, died in Evanston, Uinta County, Wyoming, in 1896 at the age of 69 years. There are indications that Hugh G. Sibbett, following the death of his wife in Farmington, settled in Morgan Valley for a time and then went into Idaho and settled in the Gray's Lake area.

•David Robison

Twelve years after marrying the widow Mary Elizabeth Grover Simmons, David Robison married for the fourth time, (a plural marriage, practiced by a chosen few), to Johanna Fredricka Kalvelstrom, on March 19, 1872. This new wife was a Swedish lady, who joined the Church in Sweden and came to this country and worked as a seamstress. She was tall and a very quiet woman. She met David when he came into her shop to be fitted for a new suit she made for him. At the time of their marriage she was 24 and David was 45 years of age. From this marriage six children were born to the couple.

The two families lived close together and Mary's children loved Johanna. In 1879, seven years after this plural marriage, David, his wives, with their families, moved from Morgan Valley to Star Valley, Wyoming. David purchased a large cattle ranch. Mary moved into the nearest town so her children could attend school while Johanna chose to stay at the ranch and care for the crops and cattle. She made butter and sold it to the cattle

driver cooks as they bedded down nearby at night. She was given any calves that were born during the night that were too weak to travel. In this way she built up quite a herd of her own.

David had the urge to move again to Idaho, so everything was shared equally by the two families. Johanna's cattle were sold to pay for expenses of the trip. In 1882 the families moved to Grey's Lake, Idaho. Two years latter the families were uprooted again, this time to Lyman, Idaho, seven miles south of Rexburg, where David homesteaded 160 acres. Johanna lived in a log cabin on one lot and Mary lived across the road in another. At this time, David was called to be the Rexburg Stake Patriarch.

David got infection in his toe and it had to be amputated. Because of spreading infection, he died on September 11, 1907, at the age of 80-and-a-half years. He is buried in the Archer-Lyman Cemetery, Idaho.

Mary Grover Robison died at Shelley, Idaho, September 28, 1921, at the age of 88 years. She is buried in the Archer-Lyman Cemetery, Idaho. Johanna Fredricka Kalvelstrom Robison died December 8, 1927, in Archer, Idaho, at the age of 79 years. She too is buried in the Archer-Lyman Cemetery, Idaho.

Catherine Robison Welch

As of this writing, there is very little information as to what happened to Catherine Robison, her husband, John Joseph Welch, and their four children. The family traveled with the Ninth Handcart Company and arrived in the Valley of the Great Salt Lake in August of 1860. A fifth child was born to the couple in 1860.

Family Group Records indicate that Catherine died in Evanston, Wyoming, August 18, 1896 at the age of 63 years. John Joseph Welch died in Cody, Wyoming on April 10, 1916 at the age of 62 years.

The Family Group marriage Record indicates that Catherine had a second marriage to a Moses Hubbard.

Eliza Robison Smith

After a few years living in Stoddard, Morgan County, Utah, Eliza Robison and Conrad Smith and their family moved further up the Valley to Mount Joy (known now as North Morgan). Conrad built a two-room log cabin with an upstairs and a shanty or lean-to on the back. Later they added additional rooms. The original dwelling is still standing but has been remodeled over the years. This home is located at 51 North 700 East, North Morgan, Utah (Mount Joy Avenue).

Conrad and Eliza were the parents of eight children. Conrad died August 28, 1907, in Morgan at the age of 75 years. Eliza died January 26, 1926 in Morgan, Utah at the age of 90 years. At the time of her death she had a posterity of 197 people. Conrad and Eliza Robison Smith are buried in the North Morgan Cemetery.

Leanna Robison Rock

Leanna Robison met Henry Rock in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and after a short courtship, the couple were married on December 17, 1858. This was just a short time after the death of Henry's father. Henry had been away in Iowa the previous three years working at his trade as a mason, and had come home.

The Rock and Robison families had been introduced to the Gospel of Jesus Christ by two missionaries, Elders Karl G. Maeser and Angus M. Cannon. A number of the Rock and Robison family members wer baptized in the Church in 1852 through 1855 and had made some preparations to leave their homes and farms and join with the body of the Saints in Salt Lake City.

In the year 1860 this move finally took place. Henry, Leanna, their baby Girl, Elizabeth; Valentine Rock, Henry's brother, his wife, Harriett Smith Rock, their three children; and other members of the Smith and Rock families left Florence, Nebraska, for the Valley of the Great Salt Lake in the Ross Wagon Train. This train left just three days later than the handcart company, probably the ninth Company, who's captain was Daniel Robison, Leanna's brother. The Ninth Handcart Company pioneers also included all of Leanna's family members. Her father, mother, sisters, brothers, and their children numbering 32 individuals.

While on the plains in Wyoming the handcart company just ahead of them by three days, ran short of provisions and sent back for assistance. The Ross Wagon Train shared what little they could with them.

After arriving in Salt Lake City, Henry went to work for Angus M. Cannon in a pottery yard. As he was already acquainted with masonry, cement, and rock work, he got along very well. His pay was in meat, food, and clothing, as money was a luxury.

Henry and Leanna with their small family later went to Morgan Valley where he worked for 26 years in mason work and farming. He homesteaded 12 acres of land where they built a log house with no doors or windows and no floors. They nailed hides up over the entrance for the door and took the inside skins and tanned them and stretched them over the openings for windows. It let the light in but one couldn't see out. They lived that way for a couple of years. Their second son, William was born there on August 24, 1864, but only lived until November 28. Their third son, Jared, was also born in this house on August 24, 1866. Six more children were born to Henry and Leanna in Morgan – David, James, Nancy, Harry, Albert, and Ernest.

In 1890, using his right of homesteading, he secured 150 acres of land on Teton Island, now Hibbard, Idaho, six-and-a-half miles north and west of Rexburg, Idaho. He had brought an almost magical change in the property.

Henry aided in the construction of all the irrigation canals in the vicinity of his residence and proved himself as a most valuable citizen. He was elected as the Justice of the Peace in 1868. He held this office for two years. He and his sons built the Salem church and many homes and public buildings in the area.

Henry Rock, son of Henry Rock and Catherine Mentzer, passed away at Hibbard, Madison, Idaho and was mourned by all who knew him. He died March 6, 1908, and was buried in the Rexburg, Madison County, Idaho Cemetery. His wife Leanna Robison Rock joined him in death on October 21, 1910, at Hibbard, Madison, Idaho, and was buried beside him.

Franey (Fanny) Wagaman Robison Eardley

Upon her arrival in the Salt Lake Valley with the Ninth Handcart Company in August of 1860, Franey Robison remained in Salt Lake City, doing housework as her employment. She met Josiah Eardley, who owned a pottery factory in the city. On May 12, 1861, Franey and Josiah were married by Josiah's uncle, James Eardley. The couple then made their home in Salt Lake City. Josiah was a bugler for seven years in company "C" of the Militia and served as a guard for the First Presidency of the Church, sleeping under the Old Wall nights and traveling with President Brigham Young as his guard.

In the Spring of 1867, Josiah and Franey were called to settle in Morgan where the other members of her family resided. Josiah was made Sheriff of Morgan County for a short time. The couple was then called by President

Young to go to Bear Lake and settle that country, and shortly after, called again to relocate in Evanston, Wyoming. There Josiah worked for the Union Pacific Railroad in the Blacksmith's Shop. The couple also ranched, raised cattle and hay. They then moved again to Fort Bridger, Wyoming, and took up farming and helped build the city of Lyman, Wyoming.

In 1907 Josiah was called by the Church to serve a mission to England, leaving Franey and her eleven children behind. She sold eggs to help support her husband on his mission.

At the close of his mission, Josiah wrote home to Franey and said that he was bringing home with him an old lady that he had converted in England, who wanted to die in Zion. Franey began fixing up the home for their arrival. She padded a chair and took it to the stage depot to meet the stage coach, that her husband and this "old lady" were to arrive on. Franey was accompanied by her son, Walter and his wife, Clara. Clara recalled, "I shall never forget the hurt, white face of Franey as she said, "Why, she is a lot younger woman than I am." And she was – about age 40, an old maid, who had recently lost her father and turned her attention to Josiah. After Miss Holley came home and it was found out by the children, they raised such a rumpus that Josiah left and went to Salt Lake City to live.

Franey stayed in her little log home in Lyman, Wyoming, where she lived alone the rest of her life on the farm. She died August 25, 1920 at the age of 79 years. She was buried in Lyman, Uinta county, Wyoming.

Ephraim Robison

Alexander Robison, Nancy Wagaman Robison, with their youngest son, Ephraim, came to Morgan Valley in the year 1864. It took Father Alexander and Ephraim three years to scrape up enough money to buy a yoke of oxen and the front funning gear of an old wagon, on which they built a small cart. With all their belongings placed on the cart and Nancy Ellen sitting on the top of it all, they left Farmington, up over the steep canyon and down into Morgan Valley, a distance of about 20 miles, where they settled with other members of the Robison family at Mount Joy.

It was in Morgan Valley area that Ephraim met, courted and married Mary Elizabeth Simmons, daughter of Mary Elizabeth Grover Simmons Robison, who married Ephraim's brother, David Robison. The marriage took place November 28, 1869. After eight years, in 1877 Ephraim and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, with their family, moved to Croyden, Utah, up the Weber River a few miles from Morgan. In 1916 they moved to Ogden, Utah, to 3037 South Wall Avenue. Ephraim and his wife raised eight children.

Mary Elizabeth Simmons Robison died February 13, 1930 at the age of 70 years. Ephraim Robison died November 24, 1932, at the age of 88 years. The couple was buried in Ogden, Utah.

Mary Ann Robison

Not a great deal is known about the life of mary Ann Robison, youngest daughter of Alexander and nancy Ellen Wagaman. She did accompany the Robison Family in the Ninth Handcart Company that arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley August of 1860. She was nearly 16 years of age at this time.

Her fiancé Truelove Alonzo Manhart moved to Stoddard, in Morgan Valley, Utah, in the year 1863, six years after the arrival of Mary Ann in the handcart company. The couple probably met in Morgan Valley. They were married

in Morgan, Utah sometime in the year 1866. They settled in Stoddard where they raised eight children, two of which died as infants. In about the year 1879 the family moved to Evanston, Wyoming, where four more children were born to the couple.

Mary Ann Robison Manhart died in Salt Lake City, Utah, January 26, 1913 at the age of 68 years. Her husband, Truelove Alonzo Manhart died in Morgan, Utah on May 20, 1921 at the age of 81 years.

William and Daniel Robison

After leaving Farmington, Utah in 1863, William and Margaret Smith Robison, Daniel and Rachel Smith Robison, and their families settled in Morgan Valley in the area what was to become "Mount Joy" and later known as North Morgan. They were among the first settlers there.

The brothers, William and Daniel and their wives, who were also sisters, had always been close and it was to be the same as they settled in this final move of their lives. The two families settled near a large natural spring, known in this area today as the "William Robison Spring". William built his first family home on the property located at 310 North 700 East in North Morgan. (In 1863 this street was known as Mount Joy Avenue.) Daniel built his family dwelling on the same street at 490 North 700 East in North Morgan, Utah.

These first homes were built of logs with small poles and wild wheat grass for the roofs. Chimneys were built of rock, the floors were dirt. A small hole was cut for a window and greased paper was placed over the hole for light. An old piece of carpet or quilt was used to cover the doorway, which was no more than a hole in the wall.

Brooms were made by tying fine willows together. Beds were made of poles, chairs were made of split lock of wood with holes bored in the bottom where sticks or pegs were driven for legs. The families made all their own tallow candles, soap, and lye.

Nearly all cloth was home manufactured. Wool was clipped from the sheep, washed and after carding and spinning, woven into cloth from which suits were made for the men and dresses for the women and children. Blankets and Underwear were also made.

Soap was made as follows: Ashes from maple wood were kept in a barrel and water poured over them to produce lye. All the grease from cooking and butchering was kept, and in the Spring the lye and grease were boiled together in a large pot - the end product being soap. Extra batches of soap were usually taken to Salt Lake City and traded for dried fruit to be used during the winter months.

Buckskin was sometimes obtained from the Indians. This was used for men's clothing and gloves.

Clothing was so scarce that the mothers often stripped the children of their clothing when they put them to bed. Then they spent the night washing, ironing, and mending the children's clothes.

The first grain was threshed out with oxen tromping on it on a clay floor. When there was sufficient wind, the chaff would be blown from the grain. Wild berries were gathered, but because sugar was so scarce, the pies that were made were sour enough to "turn a face crooked".

William's and Daniel's families were always good neighbors and kind and respectful to each other. They were charitable in giving donations to the needy and were firm believers in the law of tithing. They always remained firm and true Latter-day Saints.

Margaret and Rachel Robison served many faithful years as primary workers in the Church, both in Stake and Ward capacities.

William and Margaret had eleven children, three of which died at a young age. Those children who lived to adulthood included: Daniel Alexander, Jaben Smith, Melissa, William Jr., Margaret Catherine, George Franklin, Rachel Sabina and Nancy Lavina.

William Robison died at a relatively young age of 69 years, on November 18, 1897. Margaret Smith Robison died August 16, 1911, at the age of nearly 77 years. William and Margaret are buried in the North Morgan Cemetery, Utah.

Daniel and Rachel Robison had twelve children, seven of which died at an early age. Their children who lived to maturity included: George Quale Cannon, Brigham young, Margaret Helen, David Alexander, Lucy Malinda.

Rachel Smith Robison died September 4, 1905 at the age of 69 years. Daniel Robison died march 25, 1907 at the age of 76 years. Daniel and Rachel are buried in the North Morgan Cemetery, Utah.

Alexander Robison and Nancy Ellen Wagaman Robison

Alexander Robison and Nancy Ellen Wagaman Robison, the subjects of this history and parents of the eleven children written about in these pages, moved from Farmington, Utah in 1864 to live out their lives in Morgan Valley. Alexander was born October 23, 1800 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Nancy was born in 1801 in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. The couple was married in the year 1822 in Quincy, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Alexander became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was baptized in 1854 by Elder Angus Munn Cannon. Nancy also joined the Church and was baptized May 15, 1854 by Elder William Tarmen.

Alexander died January 23, 1879 at the age of 78 years. Nancy died November 14, 1883 at the age of 82 years. The couple was buried in the North Morgan City Cemetery, Utah.

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