



Joseph Lazarus Matthews

&

Rhoda Carroll

"HISTORY - JOSEPH LAZARUS MATTHEWS"

(A short sketch by George Augustus Matthews)

Joseph L. Matthews was born 29 January 1809, at Johnston County, North Carolina. We lose track of him there, but we find him in Mississippi some years later, engaged in farming with slave labor.

He met and married Rhoda Carroll. They were credited with fifteen children. I knew only three, but I have heard this grandmother Rhoda Carroll, tell of losing several children.

My grandfather was in business with a man named, George Augustus, and this is where I entered the picture. My grandmother was always partial to that name and I got the works.

My grandfather and his family joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while in Mississippi, and he traded his plantation there, for a place in Nauvoo, Illinois. They arrived there early in 1846. The next year they were driven from their homes and forced to cross to the west bank during the middle of the winter.

After the saints had been driven from their homes, a band of some one hundred and forty four men were selected to make a trail to find a home in the west. My grandfather, Joseph Matthews, was one of this advance party of scouts that was sent ahead to look for a suitable route.

My grandfather was not one to butt in, but whenever President Young would ask for his opinion, he would gladly give it. One day when they were camped, President Young took up a pair of field glasses and looked at the side of a nearby mountain. He then handed the glasses to one of the head men and said, "Do you see the antelope over there?" The man looked and said he could see the antelope. After the glasses had been handed to all the men, and they all had confessed to seeing the antelope, President Young called my grandfather over to the group and said, "See the antelope over there?" My grandfather looked and then handed the glasses back to President Young, "No, I don't see any antelope, and neither did you see any. For there aren't any antelope over there to see." President Young then said, "There is your answer. I never said there were any antelope, I merely said, "See the antelope?" But brother Matthews has to see a thing. He would not see the antelope just to please me, and I find his reports are always on what he sees. If he does not see a thing, it is not there." Also he added, "I have found his judgement very good."

It was the custom of the people crossing the plains to drive their wagons in a circle when making camp. This served as a place to hold the stock during the night. Two of the wagons would be placed so as to act as a set of bars or a gate. Such an arrangement served as a fort against enemy attack as well. Some men of the party always acted as camp boss.

One evening when it was my grandfather's turn to be camp boss, they had made camp early. President Young came riding up to the bars, and while still on his horse, eh let the bars down. Then he started to ride away. My grandfather was angered by this, and he bellowed out, "Brigham Young! Come back here!" President Young stopped, grandfather yelled out, "Come back here and put up the bars." President Young rode back, dismounted and put up the bars. One of the company said, "Brother Matthews, you should not have asked President Young to do that." President Young overheard the remark and he said, "Just why not? Why should I be permitted to break the rules of the camp? I just wanted to see what Brother Matthews would do. I should be the last one to break the rules."

After about 15 weeks of travel, this band reached the point near the Salt Lake Valley. President Young and others had taken sick with the fever. A party of men were selected under the leadership of Orson Pratt to go ahead and look things over. My grandfather was one of the 43 men and 23 wagons selected. "As they traveled, the advance guard also was assigned to make a road and smooth the way for subsequent wagons through the mountains. To these men would belong the honor of being the first to enter the Salt Lake Valley, several days before the official arrival of Brigham and the last of the pioneer company.

Taking Smith, Porter Rockwell, J. C. Little, John Brown, Joseph Matthews, and John Pack, Erastus Snow and Orson Pratt rode into the valley to explore. The other members of the advance party were left to clear the mouth of the canyon of thick timber and underbrush.

Pratt and his companions rode toward the Great Salt Lake for about five miles, then swung north, checking out the land for farming possibilities. The early part of the ride found the soil of excellent quality, but as the men came closer to the lake, it began to assume a more sterile appearance. After a 15 mile ride the party turned back to the mountains on the east and found the wagons of the advance guard camped five miles into the valley, their clearing of Emigration Canyon completed.

Two riders were dispatched back into the mountains to tell Brigham Young's small party that all the other Mormon pioneers were safely in the Salt Lake Valley. The men carrying the good news were John Pack and Joseph Matthews. (See "111 Days To Zion," p. 246-248, 250.) When they reached the camp, they found that President Young was feeling better and was sitting up. They started to report what they had just seen. Grandfather said that President Young stopped them, by telling them what they had just seen. Grandfather said that President Young's report was more accurate than they could have given.

President Young told them that he had gone to sleep, and had a vision. And he had seen the valley which they had just visited. There was great haste on the part of those who had been left behind, to follow the first men down to the valley. President Young was riding in a hack wagon owned by Apostle Wilford Woodruff, and when they reached a point they stopped where they had a good view of the valley below them. I am told that is where a monument has since been erected. On this monument, the names of those who entered the valley first, are engraved. My grandfather's name is one of them.

My grandfather lived in Salt Lake for some time..three or four years. He married my grandmother in 1849. Her maiden name was Polly Boss, and she was known as Aunt Polly. She was always on the go among the sick. She was a gifted nurse, and knew all the uses of herbs. (Joseph L. Matthews also married a third wife named Martha Jane Potter.)

In 1851, a party moved to California. My grandfather and his family were among that group. They located at what is now San Bernardino, California. My father, David H. Matthews, was born there in December 1851. Also two of my brothers, Frank and Daniel.

After the Mormon Meadow Massacre, they were called back to Utah, and after returning, they spent some twelve years there. My grandfather Matthews spent much time hauling supplies from Omaha, Nebraska. He would take a bunch of teams and he would act as a guide or captain for the group. He and a man named Sharp, brought into the Valley the first threshing machine to be used in Utah. They worked with that for several years. They were a great pair. They were both high tempered and about the same size, but they never argued. They agreed that only one was to get angry at a time, so they worked well together. They were both quite noted wrestlers in the old style way. "Catch as Catch Can," was their way.

On one of President Young's trips to Utah County, he called my grandfather to preside as a bishop in Payson. But grandfather talked him into letting him fill a mission instead. So he filled a mission to his old home state, Mississippi.

Also during his stay in Utah, grandfather Matthews did some contracting for the Union Pacific Railroad. I have heard him tell of the time the two roads met. One from the East and the other from the West. The one from the west had a Chinese crew, and the one from the East, had Irishmen. The Irishmen got drunk and went after the Chinese. So the railroad officials had to load the Chinese up and ship them east..then they shipped the Irishmen West, in that way they broke up a war before it got started.

After the railroad was built, President Young encouraged some families to go to Arizona. My uncles decided to go, so grandfather cast his lot with his boys. This was in 1879. You will note that my grandfather was then about 70, but he was as spry as lots of men at fifty or even forty. I remember seeing him dance by a hornpipe when he was 75 years old. He was some dancer...and I remember how nimble he was.

I will have to relate a little burst of temper that my grandfather had while living in Utah. A man named John Holiday, came from the south about the time my grandfather returned from his mission. He was a very large man. One day my father, grandfather and my brother David went to Mr. Holiday's farm to cut hay. It was about four miles to the field where they were cutting. When they reached the field, my grandfather said to my brother David, "David, what did you do with the wrench that you were using?" For my grandfather remembered seeing him use the wrench just before they left home...and in those days wrenches were real scarce. So grandfather wanted to know whether or not David had picked it up. David said that he didn't know what he had done with it..he didn't know where it was now. Grandfather let out a loud bellowing yell, picked up everything that he could find, and he threw them all just as far as he could. He even took off the horse collar and threw it away. He did the same with the horse's harness. Then he jumped on the mule and lit out cursing as loud as he could.

My father said that just after he left, Old Man Holiday showed up on the scene. He was all wet..soaked to the skin. For he had been standing on the bank of the creek when he heard my grandfather start to cuss. And he jumped into the creek to escape the wrath of my grandfather's temper. As he came up, he said, "David, what are we going to do? Uncle Joe has gone crazy. Why, when he comes back he will kill all of us. My father was busy gathering up the things that my grandfather had thrown away, and he replied, "No, he won't. When he comes back he will have forgotten all about it. He'll probably be whistling too." But Holiday didn't think so. He said, "I tell you, he is crazy." But when grandfather cooled off a bit, and he did come back, it was just as my father had predicted. He was whistling just as loud as he had cussed a short while before. Old Man Holiday was so surprised, that all he could do was just look at grandfather. After a minute or two of staring he managed to get up enough courage to swear at grandpa and then lit off running for his home.

After we came to Arizona, grandfather had another one of his mad spells. My brother and I were there when it happened. When grandfather started to cuss, Dave lit out for home like a streak of lightning. But I just stood there looking up at grandpa...for he was always funny to me. He kept yelling 'til Dave turned the corner of our house...then he burst out laughing. He looked down at me and patted my head and said, "My old side kick don't get scared and run."

When grandfather was 75 years old, he lost his mind. The balance of his life he had the mind of a child. They took him to the army doctor at Fort Thomas, Arizona. This doctor said his condition was caused from a blow or injury he had received on the head at some time. Father remembers hearing grandfather tell of being hit on the head by a negro with a hoe. The negro left him for dead, but grandfather came too, overhauled the negro, and brought him back to the plantation. Thereafter, he was one of the best hands grandfather ever had.

My grandfather died in 1888. The doctors said that he had every right to live to be 100, but for that blow on the head. I well remember how spry he was, even to the last. He was a great hand for meat. He lost all his teeth, but that didn't stop him nor set him back. He had a board about 8 inches long and a hammer. These had to be placed by his plate or he would fairly pop! If you had come in while eh was eating, you would have thought it to be a carpenters shop. It was quite necessary to keep a straight face while watching.

Grandfather surely understood the gospel and except for his mad spells, eh lived it. When they were trying to organize the United Order, President Young asked him, "Why don't you get in the Order?" Grandfather replied by asking the President, "Why don't YOU?" President Young then replied, "When I find a man who can handle my affairs better than I can, I will follow him in the Order." Grandfather then said, "When you go in the Order, if I am President, I will be the next to join." In other words, he was telling President Young that he, Brigham Young, was to lead. Grandfather added, "I have never refused to follow your lead, President Young."

Note: for more information about the Advance Party see the book, "**111 Days To Zion**", by **Hal Knight & Dr. Stanley B. Kimball**, p.27, 51, 228, 229, 248, 250, 251.

p. 2

Unlike the Hollywood version, the first Mormon wagon train to embark on the journey did not neatly line up, say goodbye, and set forth with a "westward ho" cry. Instead, Heber C. Kimball's 6 wagons were slowly followed by a half dozen similar small groups in subsequent days, leaving at different times, taking slightly different routes and camping at scattered places on the prairie. Even after departing Winter Quarters, many men in these groups rode back repeatedly to take care of last-minute business, hold conferences and meet with missionaries returning from abroad. Not until about 10 days later did all the wagons assembled on the banks of the Platte River some 35 miles northwest of Winter Quarters and get fully organized under the leadership of Brigham Young.

p.26

On April 16, after breakfast, Brigham Young called the Mormon Pioneer company together once again to organize for the trek and to remind them of the rules adopted for safety and discipline. After some remarks by several other speakers, Brigham had the company count off and nominate their officers. The pioneers were formed into two divisions, with Stephen Markham and Albert P. Rockwood as leaders. The pioneers were further organized into groups of 10, each with a captain. The groups, although they would change in some respects before the trip was over, were recorded as follows this day: (See pages 26-27 for full list.) Some of the groups had more than 10 and some had less. For the Fourteenth Ten: **Joseph Mathews**, captain; Gilbroid Summe, John Gleason, Charles Burke, Alexander Chesley, Rodney Badger, Norman Taylor, Green Flake, Ellis Eames.

p.51

On April 26 the alarm went out that two horses were missing. **Joseph Mathews** said he saw one of the horses going toward the river and ran to turn it back. As he did so, the horse broke into a gallop, "which made him suppose there was an indian on him." although he couldn't see one. "The brethren have been repeatedly warned not to let their horses go too far from the wagons, but every time we stop they can be seen around for more than two miles," Clayton wrote in his journal."

p.228, July 13.

The Mormon pioneer company was delayed by the absence of Brigham Young, who was left the previous day with a small group about seven miles to the rear because he was too sick to travel. Anxious for their ailing leader, Wilford Woodruff, John Brown and **Joseph Matthews** rode back early in the morning to Brigham's camp "to learn the state of his health," Norton Jacob said. The delay in travel was a worry to many in the company who already were afraid they would reach their destination too late in the year to plant crops. The growing season already was far along. Kimball proposed that an advance guard be formed under the leadership of Orson Pratt to "try and find a pass over the mountains," Clayton reported.

Kimball asked that "some 20 wagons go ahead to explore the road through the mountains separating the pioneers from the valley of the Great Salt Lake. As they traveled, the advance guard also was assigned "to make a road" and smooth the way for subsequent wagons, Woodruff noted. The advance party assembled by Pratt included 23 wagons and 43 men. Those in the group were: (see p. 229 for list). Also with the forward company were **Joseph Mathews**, ... This advance guard pushed off in the early afternoon. To these men would belong the honor of being the first to enter the Salt Lake Valley, several days before the official arrival of Brigham and the last few men in the pioneer company.

p.230, July 14.

The Mormon Pioneer Company was now broken into three separate groups because of the illness of Brigham Young - an advance guard under Orson Pratt, the main body, and a rear guard tending the ailing president. In addition to those ill in the rear guard, the fever also continued to cut into the ranks of the main camp. The fever was "very severe on the first attack, generally rendering its victims delirious for some hours, then leaving them in a weakly condition." Meanwhile, the 23 wagons under the command of Pratt had pushed forward during the day. Their task was to find the best route to the Great Salt Lake and also improve the road for wagons through the mountains. Much time would be spent with shovels filling in ravines, digging up tree stumps and otherwise making the rugged trail more passable.

p. 246, July 21.

Erastus Snow and Orson Pratt went ahead of the advance party to scout the way. The two men avoided the rugged canyon mouth by struggling up a steep and dangerous hill (Donner Hill) and from the summit "a broad valley stretched out before us." The sight, after having been shut up in the high mountains for many days, was overwhelming. "We could not refrain from a shout of joy which almost involuntarily escaped from our lips the moment this grand and lovely scenery was in our view." Pratt said. "We immediately descended into the lower parts of the valley and although we had but one horse between us, traversed a circuit of about 12 miles before we left the valley and returned to camp," he said. The rest of the advance party (43 men and 23 wagons) had remained in Emigration Canyon, slowly moving forward and trying to improve the route as best they could.

p.248, July 22.

Taking Smith, Porter Rockwell, J.C. Little, John Brown, **Joseph Mathews**, and John Pack with him, Pratt "rode into the valley to explore." The other members of the advance party were left to clear the mouth of the canyon of thick timber and underbrush. This job would save a back-breaking climb over Donner Hill. Pratt and his companions rode toward the Great Salt Lake for about five miles, then swung north, checking out the land for farming possibilities. The early part of the ride found the soil "of excellent quality," but as the men came closer to the lake, it "began to assume a more sterile appearance." After a 15 mile ride the party turned back to the mountains on the east and found the wagons of the advance guard camped five miles into the valley, their clearing of Emigration Canyon completed. The main party made a "very rapid descent" down the foothills and camped beside a small stream, not far from the wagons of Pratt's advance party.

p. 250, July 23.

Two riders were dispatched back into the mountains to tell Brigham Young's small party that all the other Mormon pioneers were safely in the Salt Lake Valley. The men carrying the news were John Pack and **Joseph Mathews**. Their information spurred the rear guard, still about 15 miles from the valley, to move more quickly. In the valley below, the main company of pioneers had joined Orson Pratt's advance group in a single camp near a stream they named City Creek. After morning prayers, they consecrated and dedicated the land to the Lord and immediately set about plowing earth near what later became Main Street and just north of the present Salt Lake City and County Building property.

Meanwhile, Brigham's small group of wagons continued to make their way through the mountains. The small party struggled to the top of Little Mountain. Pack and **Mathews**, who earlier brought news of the other pioneers, left Brigham's group at this point and rode their horses back to the valley, making faster time than the ox-drawn wagons. At 5 p.m. the small company called a halt on the banks of what was known as Last Creek (Emigration Creek). It was as far as the still-recuperating members of the group could go that day. Brigham Young's entry into the Salt Lake Valley would have to wait until July 24.

"A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by B.H. Roberts, p.228 to 229, "Advance Company".

p. 3:147

(1846) The lateness of the arrival of the Camp of Israel upon the Missouri had rendered impossible any attempt that season to lead more than a small and an especially equipped company of Pioneers into the Great Basin of the Mountains.

Some twelve miles north of the main camp's first ferry on the Missouri was a "high plateau overlooking the river," and this was the site selected for temporary abode, and given the name of "Winter Quarters," the present Florence, Nebraska, some five or six miles above the city of Omaha.

p.3:149

(1846) At first the city (Winter Quarters) was divided into thirteen wards with a bishopric appointed to preside over each, with instructions to look after both the spiritual and temporal welfare of the people, to suggest industrial activities, and look to the maintenance of the sanitary conditions so needful to the health of the community. Before the winter set in, the number of wards increased to twenty-two. (A list of the bishops follows, stating that **Joseph Mathews** was called to be bishop of the tenth ward at Winter Quarters)

p. 3;164n

(April 1847) **Joseph Mathews** was chosen to be the Captain of the 14th ten when the Pioneer company was organized to prepare a trail for the other pioneers to follow.

p. 3:187n

(April 1847) The roster of the Pioneer Camp lists the Fourteenth Ten - **Joseph Mathews**, captain: Gilbroid Summe, John Gleason, Charles Burke, Alexander P. Chessley, Rodney Badger, Norman Taylor, Green Flake (colored), Ellis Eames.

p. 3:206

(23 July 1847) Orson Pratt wrote in his journal, "Early this morning we dispatched two messengers back to meet Mr. Young, being unwilling to move any further until he should come up." These messengers were **Joseph Mathews** and John Brown." They found President Young had been too ill to move, but was improving. Heber C. Kimball returned to the main camp with the two messengers. Many were sick with the fever at the main encampment, and it was thought advisable to stop over for a few days and send forward a company in advance to mark out the road more clearly.

p. 3:270

The day following the first Christian Sabbath in the Salt Lake valley found the Pioneers anxious to explore the country surrounding their first encampment. But as all the activities of the camp proceeded in orderly manner, ten men, including all the members of the twelve present - eight- were designated to make explorations. Some went into the canyons on the east side of the valley in search of timber. John Brown and **Joseph Mathews** crossed the "Utah Outlet" and went to the west range of the mountains which they reported as some fifteen or sixteen miles distant, and the plain between the outlet and the mountains "covered with wild sage (artemisia) and destitute of fresh water.

p. 3:349

(1851) President Young had called Elders Amasa M. Lyman and C. C. Rich, with some 20 others, to go to southern California to select a site for a city or station to connect the stations between Iron County and California. The company had swelled above 570 persons and 152 wagons , most of whom had become so enamored of the California 'paradise' they determined to try their fortune there. "We organized the companies with Andrew Lytle, captain of the hundred [i.e. wagons] and **Joseph Mathews** and David Seely captains of fifties."

p. 3:485n,

Seven counties had been organized in the state, extending from Weber in the north to Iron county in the south. Explorations of the country however, had extended far beyond this organized territory. In November, 1849, a southern exploring company of about fifty persons was commissioned by the governor and legislative assemble of "Deseret" and organized with Parley P. Pratt as leader, to explore the southern country. The purpose of the expedition was to pass over the southern "rim of the Great Basin," to become acquainted with the character of the country beyond, and ascertain its availability as a place for settlement.

Parley P. Pratt was president, and W.W. Phelps and David Fullmer his counselors. They adhered to the old organization of the plains "fifties," "tens," etc., though men, not wagons,

in this instance, were the units of the divisions. (**Joseph Mathews** was one of the captains of 10.) The company traveled down the Rio Virgin, whose bottoms expanded to about a mile in width, the soil being loose, sandy, fertile, and easily irrigated, to the mouth of Rio Santa Clara. At this point, though in the midwinter (January), the climate was like that of early spring, the buds of the trees were swelling and new grass springing fresh to life, the days were warm with occasional showers. The exploring party began its return from this point, passing up the Santa Clara stream, ... After suffering much because of the cold weather further north the group arrived in scattered groups during February and March back to the Salt Lake Valley.

Also see "**Wilford Woodruff**", by **Matthias F. Cowley**, Chapters 25 thru 28.

p.312, July 23, 1847

Wilford Woodruff wrote, "At the spring where we nooned we were met by Brothers Pack and **Mathews** from the forward camps. They brought us a letter informing us that it was only ten miles to the valley of the Great Salt Lake, or Great Basin, and fourteen to their camp. They had explored the country as far as possible and made choice of a spot to put in crops. After nooning we traveled up another very tedious hill and down into a valley and camped for the night."

Matthews, Joseph

LDS Biographical Encyclopedia, Andrew Jenson, Vol. 4, p.713

Matthews, Joseph, one of the original pioneers of Utah, was born Jan. 29, 1809, in Johnson County, North Carolina. He embraced the gospel in the fall of 1843, and moved to Nauvoo, Ill., where he worked on the Temple and filled several missions to the Eastern States. He became an exile from Nauvoo in 1846, and while encamped at Winter Quarters, was chosen as one of Pres. Brigham Young's company of pioneers. He was also one of Orson Pratt's advance company which entered Great Salt Lake Valley ahead of the main company of pioneers. He was a member of Parley P. Pratt's exploration party in southern Utah in 1849. In 1851 he was called to California with Charles C. Rich and Amasa M. Lyman and remained in San Bernardino until that settlement was abandoned in 1857. In 1869 and 1870 he filled a mission to the Southern States and in 1880 moved to Arizona. He died at Pima, Graham Co., Arizona, May 14, 1886.

"HEART THROBS OF THE WEST", Vol 2, p.80-82, DUP Publication
RECORD OF THE FIRST GROUP TO ENTER VALLEY

As the Pioneer band left it was composed of 143 men, 3 women, 2 children, 3 slaves, 72 wagons, 93 horses, 52 mules, 66 oxen, 19 cows, 17 dogs, and chickens.

On the last of June, they were camped near Green River. Joined by Samuel Brannan who, in 1846, had sailed from New York for California on the ship "Brooklyn." He had come from the Bay of San Francisco, having left there with two companions, April 4, 1847, for the purpose of meeting President Young and to influence him to bring his people to the Pacific Coast to settle. Luckily for the Mormon people, Brannan was unsuccessful.

Green River was crossed, and by noon on July 3, 1847, all of the wagons were safely over, and a camp was made three miles below the crossing. Such of the pioneers who had families in the next company were now given the privilege of going back to meet them. Five, only, decided to return, Phineas Young, George Woodward, Aaron F. Farr, Eric Clines and Rodney Badger. On the morning of the 4th of July, they started eastward, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and a few others accompanying them to the ferry. At the ferry they met thirteen of Captain James Brown's Battalion men, out in pursuit of horse thieves, who had stolen from them at Pueblo, and who were now supposed to be at Fort Bridger. The others, escorted by President Young and his party, joined the pioneer band.

The 4th was sacredly observed by the pioneers on the banks of the Green River. On the 7th of July, they arrived at Ft. Bridger. After shoeing horses and repairing wagons, they set out for the Great Salt Lake Valley on July 9th, for President Young, despite adverse reports, had decided to explore and colonize, if possible, the desert shores of the Great Salt Lake. They went by the way of Hastings cut-off. Samuel Brannan and a few others returned toward South Pass to meet Captain Brown and his detachment of the Mormon Battalion. Near Bear River the pioneers encountered Miles Goodyear, trapper, trader, and mountaineer who had a place on the Weber River. He discouraged the colonizing of the valley of the Salt Lake, because of hard frosts and the cold climate. But the pioneers pressed on. At noon on the 12th of July, President Young, who was afflicted with mountain fever, with a few wagons, fell behind but requested the main body to move on. Next morning, July 13, messengers (Joseph Matthews and John Pack) were sent back to meet President Young. President Young was much better but would not travel that day. Orson Pratt was requested to take wagons and men, and preceding the main body down the canyon, to try and find near its mouth the Donner trail across the mountains to the Great Salt Lake. Weber Canyon, the way generally taken from the mouth of Echo Canyon, was reported impassable because of high water. At about 3 P.M., Orson Pratt's vanguard of 42 men, with twenty-three wagons, started down Echo Canyon.

The names of this company were as follows (including Mississippi Saints, whose names are marked with asterisks)"

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Orson Pratt (Commanding) | Nathaniel Fairbanks |
| Stephen Markham (Aide) | John S. Freeman |
| John Brown | Green Flake (Colored) |
| C. D. Barnum | John S. Gleason |
| Charles Burk | David Grant |

Francis Boggs
A. P. Chessley
Oscar Crosby (Colored)
Joseph Egbert
Hark Lay (Colored)
Joseph Matthews
Seth Taft
Lyman Curtis
James Chesney*
Walter Crow*
John Crow*
Robert Crow*
Walter H. Crow*
Benjamin B. Crow*
John S. Eldredge
Levi B. Meyers*

Hans C. Hansen
Levi Jackson
Stephen Kelsey
Levi N. Kendall
Elijah Newman
David Power
O. P. Rockwell
Jackson Redding
Shadrach Romay
James W. Stewart
Gilbroid Summe
Horace Thornton
Marcus B. Thorp
George W. Therkill*
Norman Taylor
Robert Thomas

"The women and children of the Crow family accompanied them, and were thus among the first to enter Salt Lake Valley." Information and Quotations from History of Utah, by Whitney.

“Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude”

Rhoda Carroll Matthews

International Society Daughters of Utah Pioneers
Volume III, Page 1899

RHODA CARROLL MATTHEWS



BIRTHDATE: 16 Mar 1818
Johnston County, North Carolina
DEATH: 12 May 1896
Pima, Graham, Arizona
PARENTS: James Carroll
Rhoda Stevens Carroll
PIONEER: 21 Sep 1848
Brigham Young Wagon Company
SPOUSE: Joseph Lazarus Matthews
MARRIED: 14 Jul 1832
Johnston, North Carolina
DEATH: 14 May 1886
Glenbar, Arizona

CHILDREN:

Mahala Ann Rebecca, 30 Apr 1833
Julia Antoinette, 18 Sep 1836
Ann Horton, 15 Dec 1838
Anson, 1840 (died an infant)

Rhoda was born in Johnston County, North Carolina to James and Rhoda Stevens Carroll. When she was fourteen years old, she married Joseph Lazarus Matthews. Soon after their marriage, they moved to Noxubee County, Mississippi where their children were born. She and her husband were baptized as members of the LDS Church and moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. They were driven by mobs from Nauvoo a year after their arrival and went to Winter Quarters to live. Her husband was chosen by Brigham Young as a scout for the first Company of saints to cross the plains. Rhoda and her children remained in Winter Quarters with little to sustain them. After her husband returned for his family, they traveled across the plains and entered the Salt Lake Valley in 1849.

Winter was upon them before they could build suitable shelter for themselves and provide food for their families. Rhoda was a frontier wife and mother to three little girls. They eventually took farms near the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon and built nice homes. She endured the hardships and was very industrious. She supported her husband in his callings and gave her permission for him to marry in polygamy. She and her daughters were alone much of the time while her husband was called to serve as a scout for Brigham Young. He was called to explore the Rio Virgin and St. Clara River Country and to locate suitable valleys for Pioneer settlements. They were called to establish a colony in California in 1851. They endured the blizzards and mud in Utah, the thirst of the desolate sunbaked desert through Nevada, over the Sierra Nevada Mountains into California. They lost a considerable number of horses and cattle to the Indians when they were attacked. They helped to settle San Bernardino, California. At the time of Johnston's Army, they were called back to Utah to help in the expected war efforts. They went as far as Santaquin, Utah, and formed a settlement and were later called to Pima, Arizona. Rhoda was at his side in all of his labors as they settled these communities. She was a stalwart soul until her death in May of 1896 in Pima.

