

PUEBLO DETACHMENTS OF THE MORMON BATTALION

Compiled by Mary Ann Kirk
Last updated 1 May 2025



Sketch of Mormontown as interpreted by David Jamiel (2017); View is to the east with 'chapel' in background. The Arkansas River would be on the left (north) in this view. Ruxton related there were about 50 cabins in total which housed about 300 persons.

(Pueblo detachments resided in a community outside of Fort Pueblo in what was called “Mormontown.”)

A Brief Summary/Database of the Mormon Battalion Pueblo Detachments

As the Mormon Battalion approached the Arkansas River in September 1846, they met a small group of men who had left a company of Mormons from the south at Pueblo and were traveling back to get their families. This provided an opportunity for acting commander, Lt A J Smith, to relieve the main command of the large number of women and children who were allowed to travel and caught up with the Battalion at Fort Leavenworth. None of these women were original laundresses who left Council Bluffs with the Battalion. On September 16, 1846 Smith gave orders to Captain Nelson Higgins of Company D, assisted mostly by the spouses of the women, to escort the majority of families to Pueblo where the Mississippi Saints were waiting to follow Brigham Young when he started west the following year. Traveling along the Arkansas River, they could stop at Bent's Fort on the way to equip themselves with supplies. The **Higgins detachment** included 11 soldiers, 1 adult officer servant, 9 women, 33 children (four of them officer servants), and one adult son. The men were told to rejoin the Battalion at Santa Fe.

When the main command arrived at Santa Fe in two groups, the new commander of the Mormon Battalion, Lt Col Philip St. George Cooke, gave orders on October 17 for all sick and feeble men to join the others in Pueblo under the command of Captain James Brown of Company C who directed the 2nd or **Brown detachment**. Cooke also ordered the remaining 25 women to join those in Pueblo, acknowledging the uncharted and difficult terrain going forward would be difficult. Five women and one child were eventually allowed to continue to California with their spouses who were officers. The other 20 women, most of them original laundresses, and a few children, were escorted by their spouses who convinced Colonel Doniphan to allow them to depart with their families. Hired to assist with medical needs, Dr. McIntyre was also sent with the Brown detachment. While in Santa Fe, the soldiers received their first pay covering six weeks of service from July 16 to August 31. However, the soldiers from the Higgins detachment received their pay later. Sent to collect the pay at Santa Fe, John D Lee and Howard Egan carried much of the pay back to families. Roswell Stevens, who was detached from the Brown detachment by Captain Brown, joined up with Lee and Egan on October 22 per Lee's account. Former quartermaster, Samuel Gully who resigned at Santa Fe, also traveled with Lee, Egan, and Stevens. A total of 88 soldiers after Stevens left, 20 women, 7 children/siblings, Dr. William McIntyre, and 2 adult officer servants traveled to Pueblo. The detachment retraced their trail a little and headed north along the east side of the mountain range passing near Bent's Fort to retrieve supplies and then on to Pueblo.

After the main command left Santa Fe, some men from the Higgins detachment arrived to report to duty only to be told by military leaders at Santa Fe to return to Pueblo and continue on detached duty. However soldier Thomas Woolsey who was with the Higgins detachment continued on to catch up with the main command on November 4, providing a report to Colonel Cooke about the situation. The travel became increasingly difficult and some men started suffering from the demand. Located at the Rio Grande River on November 10, Cooke decided to send another detachment back to Santa Fe, many seriously ill. Under the direction of Lt Willis, the **Willis detachment** with 59 soldiers began its way back to Santa Fe, several dying within days of leaving. Arriving at Santa Fe on December 1, Colonel Sterling Price, commander of the post, ordered them to continue to Pueblo. Traveling along the west side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range with little supplies, they traveled through major winter conditions. Leaving some supplies and a mule with instructions for those left behind to make their way to Turley's Ranch, the main company continued, renting quarters and buying some food at a Spanish town along the way. The group voted to attempt to travel uphill through a mountain pass with deep snow and reached Pueblo on December 20. Some men were sent back to assist those who remained behind and arrived in Pueblo in January. Thomas Woolsey and John Tippets left Pueblo in late December and they arrived in Iowa in January 1847, carrying letters and news of the Battalion's whereabouts. Woolsey, Tippets, and Roswell Stevens who arrived earlier with Lee and Egan, traveled with Brigham Young's vanguard company and were assigned to escort church leader Amasa Lyman to the detachments after they left Pueblo in May 1847. Reaching them on June 11, Lyman instructed them to follow the vanguard company into Salt Lake. More details of this story can be found in various publications.

A total of 158 soldiers were with the three detachments - nearly 1/3 of the Battalion force of 496. Company D was largely affected by the number of women and their accompanying spouses who were sent to Pueblo in the first two detachments. The soldiers in Company C apparently had the most sick and feeble men since it had a high percentage of men who left with the Brown and Willis detachments. Detachment members from Company A had the most combined deaths en route or at Pueblo although the Willis detachment suffered the most deaths en route to Pueblo. Company B was the most intact company arriving in California which may have been why they were detached to San Diego. In fact, all of those who remained at San Luis Rey for an extras few weeks in late March were sick and were all from the other companies.

Company	A	B	C	D	E	
Original #	105	99	104	101	87	496 total soldiers/Battalion

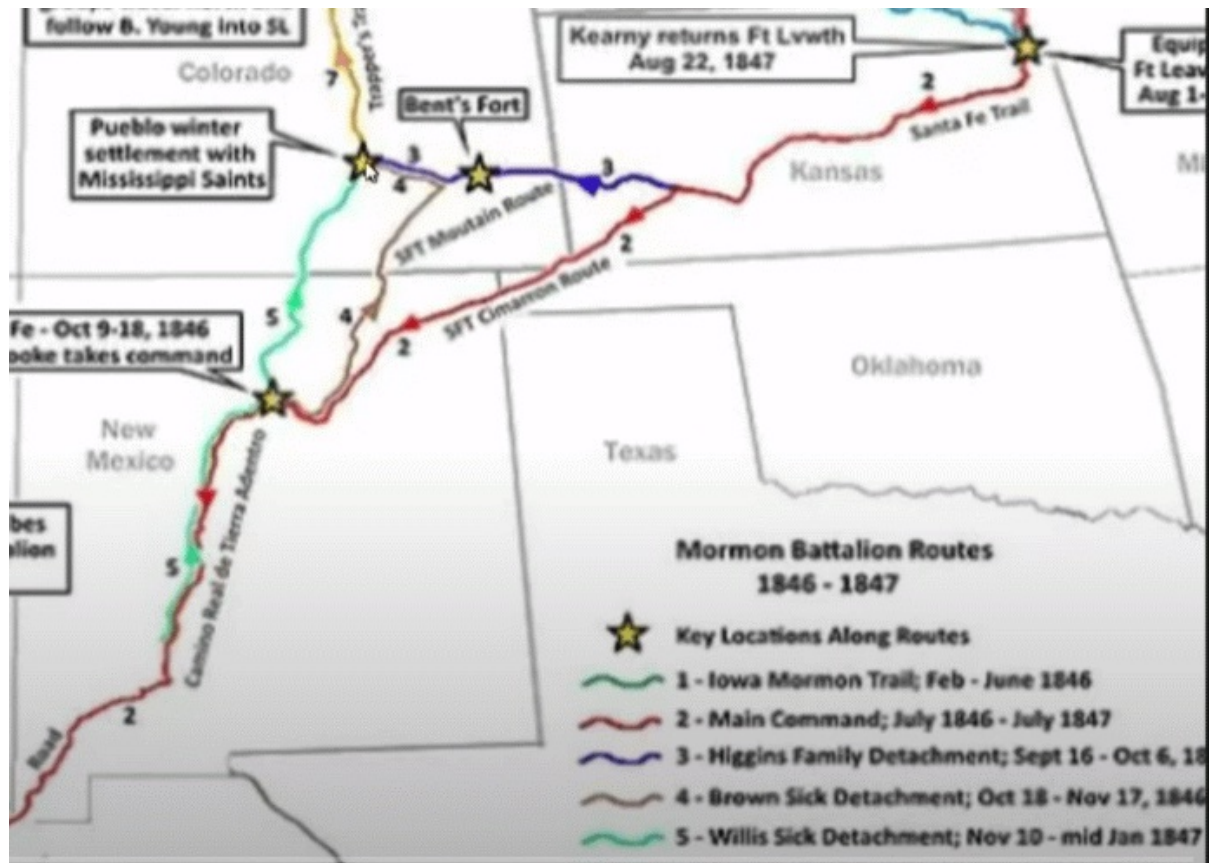
Numbers by Company

Higgins	3	0	2	5	1	11
Brown	15	11	24	27	12	89
Willis	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11 (1 dupl)</u>	<u>59 - 1 duplicate (Woolsey)</u>
Total	30	21	42	42	23	158
Percentage	28%	21%	42%	42%	23%	31.8% in detachments

Prior Deaths/Resign	-1				-2	Phelps, Hampton, Gully
Arrived in California	74	78	62	59	62	335

Deaths while detached

Higgins				1	
Brown	3		2	2	
Willis	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
	5	2	3	3	1



HIGGINS DETACHMENT (55 left Arkansas River crossing on 16 September 1846 - 54 arrived at Pueblo on October 6)

11 soldiers (includes Woolsey who was also in Willis) (3 A, 0 B, 2 C, 5 D, 1 E)

*family with him

1. Brown, James [2nd] "Polly"* (D)
2. Button, Montgomery G* (D)
3. Hendrickson, James (no spouse) (C)
4. Higgins, Nelson* (D)
5. Hunt, Gilbert* (A)
6. Huntington, Dimick Baker* (D)
7. Kelley, Nicholas* (A)
8. Sharp, Norman* (death en route) (A)
9. Shelton, Sebert Crutcher* (A & D)
10. Mowrey, Harley (C)* (no spouse initially, later married widow Martha Jane Sharp on trail to SL)
11. Woolsey, Thomas Andrew (E) (Rejoined main command after Santa Fe) (no spouse)

1 adult officer servant (death at Pueblo)

Kelley, Milton* (A)

9 women (8 with children/young siblings, 1 with no children), **29 children/siblings** (one married in Pueblo), **1 adult son/teamster**, **4 young officer servants with family**, 5 births (4 in Pueblo and 1 on trail to SL), 1 child death/1 newborn death in Pueblo

1. Eunice R Brown (Co D) Accompanied by soldier/spouse James P Brown (birth on trail to SL from Pueblo)
Children: Mary Ann, Sarah, Robert, Neuman
2. Mary Bittles Button (Co D) Accompanied by soldier/spouse Montgomery Button
Children: Louisa, Samuel, James, Jutson
3. Sarah Blackman Higgins (Co D) Accompanied by Captain/spouse Nelson Higgins (birth in Pueblo)
Children: Druzilla, Carlos Smith, Heber Kimball
Daughter Almira Higgins married in Pueblo
Nelson Daniel (servant)
4. Celia Mounts Hunt (Co A) Accompanied by soldier/son Gilbert Hunt
Children: Harriett, Jane, Mary, Hyrum, Joseph, John, Parley (death)
5. Fanny Maria Allen Huntington (Co D) Accompanied by soldier/spouse Dimick Huntington (birth/death in Pueblo)
Child: Martha Zina
Clark Allen and Lot (servants)
6. Sarah Kelley (Co A) Accompanied by soldier/spouse Nicholas Kelley
Children: Betsy Bathrick, Parley Bathrick
7. Malinda Allison Kelley (Co A) Accompanied by officer servant/spouse Milton Kelley who died (birth in Pueblo)
8. Elizabeth Trains Mayfield Shelton (Co D) - accompanied soldier/spouse Sebert Shelton,
1 child from Elizabeth's 1st marriage: Sara
2 children from Sebert's 1st marriage: Emily Carolyn, Marion Jackson Shelton
3 children from their marriage: Abraham Cooper, Thomas, Mary Elizabeth Shelton
John Mayfield (servant), Andrew Jackson Mayfield (18 year old family teamster)
9. Martha Jane Sargeant Sharp (Co D) Accompanied by soldier/spouse Norman Sharp (birth in Pueblo)
Young Sibling: Caroline Sargeant

BROWN DETACHMENT (121 left Santa Fe October 17, 1846 - 119 arrived at Pueblo on November 17)

89 soldiers - (15 A, 11 B, 24 C, 27 D, 12 E)

*wife with him

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Abbott, Joshua C* (D) | 53. Oakley, James (D) |
| 2. Adams, Orson B* (C) | 54. Oyler, Melchior (A) died in Pueblo |
| 3. Allen, Franklin (B) | 55. Park, William A (E) |
| 4. Allred, James T. S. * (A) | 56. Perkins, David M (C) |
| 5. Allred, Reuben W* (A) | 57. Perkins, John (C) died in Pueblo |
| 6. Averett, Jeduthan (D) | 58. Pierson, Harmon D (B) |
| 7. Beckstead, William E (C) | 59. Pierson, Judson A (C) |
| 8. Bingham, Erastus (B) | 60. Pugmire, Jonathan Jr (E) went east before arriving in SL |
| 9. Bird, William (B) | 61. Richards, Joseph W (A) died in Pueblo |
| 10. Blanchard, Mervin S (A) died in Pueblo | 62. Roberts, Benjamin M (D) |
| 11. Brown, Alexander (C) | 63. Rowe, Caratat C (A) |
| 12. Brown, James Capt* (C) | 64. Rowe, William (D) |
| 13. Brown, Jesse S (C) | 65. Sanderson, Henry W (D) |
| 14. Calkins, James W (A) | 66. Sargent, Abel M (D) |
| 15. Calvert, John H (C) | 67. Sessions, John* (A) |
| 16. Carpenter, Isaac J (C) | 68. Sharp, Albert (D) |
| 17. Carpenter, William H (C) | 69. Shupe, Andrew J (C) |
| 18. Casto, William W (D) | 70. Shupe, James W* (C) |
| 19. Chase, Abner (D) died in Pueblo | 71. Smith, John G (D) |
| 20. Chase, John D (B) | 72. Smith, Milton (C) died en route to Pueblo |
| 21. Clark, Albert (E) | 73. Smith, Richard D (C) |
| 22. Cummings, George W (E) | 74. Steele, John* (D) |
| 23. Davis, James (D) | 75. Stevens, Arnold (D) died in Pueblo |
| 24. Douglas, Ralph B (D) | 76. Stevens, Roswell (E) left w/John D. Lee for Iowa on Oct 22, rejoined detachments June 11, 1847 |
| 25. Durphey, Francillo (C) | 77. Stevens, Lyman (B) |
| 26. Garner, David (A) | 78. Stillman, Clark* (D) |
| 27. Garner, Phillip (B) | 79. Stillman, Dexter (B) |
| 28. Gifford, William B (D) | 80. Tanner, Myron (D) |
| 29. Glazier, Luther W (E) | 81. Terrell, Joel J (C) |
| 30. Glines, James H (A) went straight to Iowa from Pueblo | 82. Tindell, Soloman (C) |
| 31. Gould, John C (C) | 83. Walker, William H (B) waited for family, arrived SL/Sept |
| 32. Gould, Samuel J (C) | 84. Whiting, Almon (D) went east before arriving in SL |
| 33. Gribble, William* (D) | 85. Whiting, Edmond W (D) went east before arriving in SL |
| 34. Hanks, Ebenezer J* (E) | 86. Wilkin, David* (C) |
| 35. Hess, John W* (E) | 87. Williams, Thomas S* (D) |
| 36. Hirons, James P * (D) | 88. Wright, Charles (B) went west before arriving in SL |
| 37. Holden, Elijah E (A) | 89. Wriston [Clifford], John P (A) |
| 38. Hopkins, Charles A (E) | |
| 39. Hulett, Schuyler (A) went east before arriving in SL | |
| 40. Jackson, Charles A (A) went east before arriving in SL | |
| 41. Jacobs, Bailey (E) | |
| 42. Johnson, Jarvis (C) | |
| 43. Karren, Thomas (E) | |
| 44. Kenney, Loren E (D) | |
| 45. Lake, Barnabas (A) | |
| 46. Lamb, Lisbon (D) | |
| 47. Larson, Thurston (C) | |
| 48. Laughlin, David S (D) | |
| 49. Luddington, Elam* (B) | |
| 50. Messick, Peter I (D) | |
| 51. Miller, Daniel M (E) | |
| 52. Nowlin, Jabez T (C) | |

Note: Gully resigned at Santa Fe and headed to Iowa - not part of detachments

20 women (5 with children/young siblings, 15 wives/no children), **7 children/siblings**, **Dr. William McIntyre**, **2 adult officer servants**, 2 births in Pueblo

1. Abbott, Ruth Markham (Co D) Accompanied by soldier/spouse Joshua Abbott
2. Adams, Susan Smith (Co C) Accompanied by soldier/spouse Orson Adams
3. Allred, Eliza Manwaring (Co A) Accompanied by soldier/spouse James T Allred (possible miscarriage)
4. Allred, Elzadie Ford (Co A) Accompanied by soldier/spouse Reuben Allred
5. Brown, Harriett St John (Co E) (spouse Daniel Brown in Willis detachment)
6. Brown, Mary McCree Black (Co C) Accompanied by spouse/Capt James Brown
Child: George D. Black
7. Gribble, Hulda Sophia Smith (Co D) Accompanied by spouse William Gribble
8. Hanks, Jane Wells Cooper (Co E) Accompanied by soldier/spouse Ebenezer Hanks
9. Hess, Emeline Bigler (Co E) Accompanied by soldier/spouse John Hess
10. Hirons, Mary Ann Jameson (Co D) Accompanied by spouse James P Hirons
11. Hunt, Matilda Nease (Co A)
Young siblings: Ellen, Peter
12. Luddington, Mary Eliza Clark (Co B) Accompanied by soldier/spouse Elam Luddington
Child: Angeline
13. Luddington, Jane Tibbets Bliven (plural wife and mother of Mary Eliza Clark)
14. Sessions, Mary Caroline Emeline (Co A) Accompanied by soldier/spouse John Sessions
15. Shupe, Sarah Coats Prunty (Co C) Accompanied by soldier/spouse James Shupe (birth in Pueblo)
16. Smith/Burns, Rebecca (Co E) teamster's wife, Elisha Smith died after Santa Fe, married Thomas Burns in Pueblo
17. Steele, Catherine Campbell (Co D) Accompanied by soldier/spouse John Steele
Child: Mary
18. Stillman, Phoebe Lodema Merrill (Co D) Accompanied by soldier/spouse Clark Stillman
19. Wilkin, Isabella McNair (Co C) Accompanied by soldier/spouse David Wilkin (Isabella left off Bullock roster)
20. Williams, Albina Marie Merrill (Co D) Accompanied by soldier/spouse Thomas S Williams (birth in Pueblo)
Children: Caroline Marie, Ephraim

WILLIS DETACHMENT (59 soldiers left Rio Grande River on Nov 10, 1846 - 55 arrived in Pueblo between Dec 20 and mid January (12 A, 10 B, 16 C, 10 D, 11 E) - one duplicate, NO women

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Babcock, Lorenzo (C) | 54. Whitney, Francis T (B) |
| 2. Badham, Samuel (D) | 55. Willis, William W (A) |
| 3. Bevan, James (A) | 56. Wilson, George D (E) |
| 4. Bingham, Thomas (B) | 57. Woodworth, Lysander C (A) |
| 5. Blackburn, Abner L (C) | 58. Woolsey, Thomas (E) (duplicate) traveled to Iowa, then Vanguard, rejoined detachments June 11 |
| 6. Brazier, Richard B (E) | 59. Wriston, [Clifford] Isaac N (A) |
| 7. Brimhall, John (C) | |
| 8. Brown, Daniel (E) Wife in Brown det | |
| 9. Buchanan, John (D) | |
| 10. Burns, Thomas R (E) Married Rebecca Smith in Pueblo, both went to Iowa before SL | |
| 11. Burt, William (C) | |
| 12. Bybee, John M (B) | |
| 13. Calkins, Alva C (A) | |
| 14. Camp, James G (B) | |
| 15. Carter, Richard H (B) died en route to Pueblo | |
| 16. Cazier, James (E) | |
| 17. Cazier, John (E) | |
| 18. Church, Haden W (B) | |
| 19. Clark, George S (B) | |
| 20. Coleman, George (A) died en route to Pueblo | |
| 21. Compton, Allen (D) | |
| 22. Curtis, Josiah (A) | |
| 23. Dalton, Edward M (C) | |
| 24. Dalton, Henry "Harry" (C) | |
| 25. Dodson, Eli (A) died in Pueblo | |
| 26. Dunn, James (C) | |
| 27. Earl, James C (A) | |
| 28. Eastman, Marcus N (B) went east before arriving in SL | |
| 29. Frederick, David I (A) | |
| 30. Freeman, Elijah N (B) died en route to Pueblo | |
| 31. Green, John W (C) died en route to Pueblo | |
| 32. Hewitt, Eli B (A) | |
| 33. Higgins, Alfred (D) | |
| 34. Hinkley, Arza E (B) | |
| 35. Hoaglund, Lucas (D) | |
| 36. Johnston, Jesse W (C) | |
| 37. Maxwell Maxie (A) likely went west before arriving in SL | |
| 38. McClelland, William C (E) | |
| 39. Mecham, Erastus D (D) | |
| 40. Richardson, Thomas (E) | |
| 41. Richmond, Benjamin B (C) | |
| 42. Rust, William W (C) | |
| 43. Scott, James A (E) died in Pueblo | |
| 44. Shipley, Joseph (C) | |
| 45. Skeen, Joseph (E) | |
| 46. Squires, William H (C) | |
| 47. Stewart, Benjamin (D) | |
| 48. Stewart, James (D) | |
| 49. Thomas, Hayward (C) | |
| 50. Thomas, Nathan T (C) | |
| 51. Tippets, John H (D) traveled to Iowa, then Vanguard, rejoined detachments June 11 | |
| 52. Tubbs, William R (D) | |
| 53. Welch, James M (C) | |

DETACHMENT SUMMARY:**Higgins - 55 (54 arrived in Pueblo)**

11 soldiers

9 women

29 children/young siblings (one married in Pueblo)

1 adult child/family teamster

5 officer servants (4 of those teenage family members)

Brown - 121 (119 arrived in Pueblo)

89 soldiers (includes Roswell Stevens who was detached and left for Iowa)

20 women

7 children

2 officer servants (one was a child, Elroy Root)

1 other (Dr. McIntyre) Unsure if John Edmunds was initially with them, shown as “black” on Bullock roster.

Willis - 59 soldiers (Woolsey duplicate) - no women or children (55 arrived in Pueblo)**159 SOLDIERS in detachments (11 Higgins, 89 Brown, 59 Willis)**

- 1 duplicate (Thomas Woolsey in two detachments)

- 1 left for Iowa with Lee shortly after leaving Santa Fe (Stevens)

- 7 died en route (Sharp, Smith, Chase, Green, Freeman, Carter, Coleman)

150 soldiers arrived in Pueblo

- 2 leave Pueblo for Iowa (Tippets/Woolsey)

- 7 died at Pueblo (Richards, Perkins, Scott, Oyler, Dodson, A Stevens, Blanchard)

- 2 stayed in Pueblo after detachments left/returned to Iowa (Glines, Burns) shown as deserters on Bullock roster

139 soldiers left Pueblo with detachments

+ 3 rejoined detachment on June 11 (Woolsey, Tippets, Stevens)

- 2 went west along trail before arriving in SL - shown as deserters on Bullock roster (Wright, Maxwell)

- 6 went east on furlough before arriving in SL - (Eastman, Pugmire, Edmund/Almon Whiting, Jackson, Hulett)

- 1 stopped to meet family who was arriving with larger companies (Walker)

133 soldiers arrived in Salt Lake in July**29 WOMEN in detachments - all arrived in Pueblo (9 Higgins, 20 Brown)**

+2 a daughter and Mississippi Saint married soldiers (Almira Higgins Chase, Lydia Gibson Hunt)

- 1 widow of teamster married soldier and traveled to Iowa (Rebecca Smith Burns)

30 women arrived in Salt Lake in July**OTHERS with detachments**

2 adult officer servants (Kelley, Bliven)

5 child/youth officer servants (Higgins, Clark/Allen Huntington, John Mayfield, Root)

1 adult family teamster (Andrew Jackson Mayfield)

1 doctor (William McIntyre)

36 children

45 others arrived in Pueblo

- 1 child who married and designation changed to “woman” (Almira Higgins)

+ 6 births

- 2 child/infant deaths (Parley Hunt, Betsy Prescinda Huntington)

- 1 officer servant death (Milton Kelley)

47 others left Pueblo

+ 1 birth on trail (John Taylor Brown)

- 1 Dr. McIntyre waited behind for family

+ 1 John Edmunds identified as “black” on Bullock roster entering valley (unknown story/origin)

48 others arrived in Salt Lake in July

211 TOTAL ARRIVED IN SALT LAKE IN JULY 1847