

# Eliza Chapman Gadd - 3 Stories

## HISTORY OF ELIZA CHAPMAN GADD

By her granddaughter Mable Gadd Kirk

My grandmother, **Eliza Chapman Gadd**, was born March 13, 1815, at Croyden, Cambridgeshire, England, the daughter of **William and Mary Pentlow Chapman**. She married **Samuel Gadd** April 13, and they made their home at Orwell, Cambridgeshire, England. They were the parents of nine children; Alfred, Jane, William, William 2nd, Samuel, **Mary Ann**, Sarah, Isaac and Daniel. The last two were twins. When **Grandfather** accepted the Gospel and wanted to come to Utah, **Grandmother** decided to come to Utah, **Grandmother** decided to come to Utah with him, although she had not joined the Church. However, the three older children had and she did not want to separate her family. They left Liverpool, May 4, 1856, on the ship Thornton and arrived at Iowa City, Iowa, where they arrived June 26, 1856.

After reaching Iowa City they had to build handcarts, make tents, gather provisions of all kinds and buy cattle to take with them. The women made the tent and helped in every possible way to get ready for the journey. Three companies of handcarts left early in the season and they made good time and had fewer deaths than those who traveled by wagon.

It was on July 15, 1856, that my **grandparents** left Iowa City on their journey under Captain James G. Willie, and for the first two hundred miles, all went well; then early in September, the Indians drove off their cattle which was a real calamity. As soon as their food supply began to run low, Captain Willie was forced to cut their rations. Their carts were falling to pieces and they had to spend valuable time mending them. There was a great deal of sickness among the company, and in September Brother Franklin Richards and others who were returning from their missions met the company and held meetings with them and when he saw the sad conditions the company was in, he decided to hurry on to Salt Lake and report to President Young.

On October 4, 1856, **Grandmother's** son Daniel, aged two, one of the twins, died when they were about six miles west of the present town of Cassa Platte, Wyoming. **Grandfather** had contracted a cold while on guard duty at Iowa City and had never gotten rid of it. Added to that the lack of proper food and the constant walking and pulling of the handcart, **he** was so ill the placed him in a wagon to ride. When the family saw him again at noon, **he** was dead. They were a little west of the present town of Glenrock, Converse County, Wyoming.

On October 12, it was again necessary for Captain Willie to cut rations to ten ounces for men, nine for women, six for children and three for infants. Their last flour was used on October 19, and as they camped that night, it began to snow and continued all night and the next day. They were forced to travel through eighteen inches of snow on the level. At that time they were sixteen miles from wood or water. On October 21, they were met by a team with provisions. The food reached them just in time as many of the company had not eaten for forty-eight hours. There was great rejoicing in camp that evening, strong men wept and after all had eaten, songs of Zion were to be heard for the first time in quite a long time.

With hearts filled with gratitude to God, they all knelt to pray, with thankfulness to the Lord.

After getting over the South Pass, it was warmer and they were able to make better time. On October 26, Samuel, **Grandmother's** ten year old son, died when they were a little west of Pacific Springs in the northern part of Sweet Water, Wyoming. **Grandmother** said that of all her children, he was the most anxious to reach Zion, but it was not to be.

**Grandmother** took charge of her family and their meager belongings and again took up the journey without any thing to look forward to, not even having the gospel to comfort her as did others. **She** was snow blind for three days and had to be led by her eight year old daughter **Mary Ann** as she helped pull her cart. To know that hers was the full responsibility and to see her children barefoot and without wraps in that severe cold weather must have tried her sorely.

On November 2, the company reached Fort Bridger and camped for the night, then tied their carts behind wagons that had been sent to help them. They arrived in Salt Lake in November 1856. Sixty Six members of the company had died on the way. In Salt Lake homes were opened to the weary travelers and every effort was made to comfort and care for them. Clothing and other needed things were given to them freely.

**Grandmother** and her six children were sent to Nephi, Utah, which was then just five years old. They went to live in the Old Block Fort. **She** was baptized into the church December 1856. The fort was a solid fort of homes. **She** immediately set about to earn a living for herself and family. **She** was forty one years old at this time. **She** took her children to the field to glean wheat, picking it up one or two heads at a time and carrying it on their heads for more than a mile. **She** became very efficient at braiding straw and bleaching it and made a great many hats for men and women.

**Grandmother** was set apart as a midwife and proved to be a very capable and willing worker. **She** was fearless and her duties called her at all hours of the day and night. She would go to any part of town sometimes with an escort and sometimes alone. There were many Indian scares at the time, and while they never had any serious trouble in Nephi there were good and bad Indians around most of the time. On one occasion when the alarm came that Indians were coming, the men ran with their guns and women ran screaming to their houses with the children, barring the doors and windows. My father and his sister were watering a patch of tall sugar cane on their lot. **Grandmother** came to them and told them to stay where they were in the tall cane and they would be as safe as in the house. It proved to be a false alarm; a white man going from Payson to Nephi had been drinking, and his shouting nearly cost him his life.

**Grandmother** would take care of the delivery of a baby and care for the mother and baby while the mother was in bed, often going several miles each day for \$2.00 a baby. For pay she often took anything that the family could spare. If the family could not pay they received the same care as if they could. One woman came up to my sister Bertha Gadd Nuttall and told her she thought she had been about the cheapest baby that **Grandmother** had ever brought. When she had finished her work and went to leave after the last call, the baby's father said, "Well, Sister Gadd, I don't know when I will ever get to pay you for your

services." **Grandmother** picked up an egg off the table and said, "I'll take this egg for my full pay."

Another time she had been called to deliver a woman for her 15th child. By this time other midwives had come in and had raised the price from \$2.00 to \$3.00. When the family went to pay her and asked how much, Grandmother said, "Well, they said I should charge \$3.00, but seeing as I've helped you with so many, \$2.00 is enough."

With the help of the Lord she was very successful in her field of labor and is credited with 2,000 babies during her 35 years of service and of losing but three mothers. After doctors had come to town she described those three cases to them, and they said they were of such a nature no one could have done better.

In 1870 the town patent was given, the ground was surveyed, and the property was divided. Grandmother's property was part of the old fort and was located half a block west of Main Street on First North. Later the railroad came through and ran east and west past her home. Part of the houses from the old fort were standing east of her home when I was a child and were not torn down until after we left Nephi in 1905. The Forrest Hotel is now on the corner a half block from her home.

**Grandmother** was very quiet and did not care much for the social side of life, but loved to go to the church whenever she had the opportunity. After my father married, she lived in two rooms of her home and father lived in the other part. She was able to do for herself and take care of her own home until she was taken ill just one week before her death on January 10, 1892. She proved herself a faithful Later Day Saint and earned the respect of the entire community. Many people alive today are proud to say they were one of her babies.

## **ELIZA CHAPMAN GADD**

[From an old typed copy of her story. It seems to have been written by a grandchild.

I made a few spelling changes. akrc]

**Eliza Chapman Gadd** was born March 13, 1815 at Croyden, Cambridgeshire, England; the daughter of **William and Mary Pentlow Chapman**. She married **Samuel Gadd**. April 13, 1836. They were the parents of 9 children, one dying in infancy.

When her husband accepted the gospel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and wanted to come to Utah, she decided to come to Utah too, so as not to separate their family, although she had not joined the church. They sailed from Liverpool, May 4, 1856 on the ship Thornton and arrived in New York June 14, 1856 and at Iowa City June 26, 1856. At Iowa City she helped make tents, gather provisions of all kinds and build the handcarts to start the journey. The handcart companies that left early in the season made good time and had fewer deaths than those who traveled by wagons.

On July 15, 1856 under the direction of Captain James G. Willie they left Iowa City. The first 200 miles all went well, but early in September the Indians ran off their cattle that they had taken for food and soon their supply began to run low and they were forced to

cut rations. Their carts began to fall to pieces and they had to lose valuable time mending them.

There was much sickness and on September 12, Brother Franklin Richards and others returning from their missions met the company and when they saw the condition decided to hurry on to Salt Lake and report to President Young.

On October 4, 1856 her son Daniel, a twin of Isaac, died and was buried near Cassa, Platte Co., Wyoming.

**Grandfather (Samuel Gadd)** had contracted a cold while on guard duty at Iowa City and had never gotten rid of it. This, with lack of food and constant walking and pulling of the handcart was more than he could stand and on the morning of October 9, five days after the baby died, he was so ill they placed him in a wagon and when the family saw him at noon he was dead. The company was then at Glenrock, Converse Co., Wyoming.

On October 12 it was necessary to again cut rations to 10 ounces for men, 9 for women, 6 for children and 3 for infants. Their last flour was used October 19 and as they camped for the night it began snowing and continued all night and the next day they were forced to travel through 18 inches of snow on the level, as they were 16 miles from wood and water.

**Grandmother [Eliza Chapman Gadd]** was snow blind for three days and had to be led as she pulled her cart; and to know that her children were without food and clothes must have tried her sorely; but she took up her burden and with help from the older children pushed on.

On October 21, they were met by teams with provisions and they reached them just in time as many in the company had not eaten for 48 hours.

There was great rejoicing in camp, strong men wept and after all had eaten, Songs of Zion were heard for the first time in weeks, with hearts filled with gratitude to God, they all knelt to pray.

After getting over South Pass it was warmer and they made better time.

On October 26, near Pacific Springs, Sweetwater Co., Wyoming, Samuel, her 10 year old son died, the third of her loved ones in 15 days. She said that of all her children, he was the most anxious to reach Zion, but it was not to be.

Again she went on her way with her remaining 6 children and their meager belongings, without anything to look forward to. Not even having the gospel to comfort her as others did.

At Fort Bridger they met more teams and rode into Salt Lake where they arrived November 9, 1856 after traveling 3 1/2 months and having 66 of their company of 500 die on the way. Homes were opened to them and every effort made to comfort and care for them.

**Grandmother [Eliza Chapman Gadd]** and her children were sent direct to Nephi and she was baptized there, in December 1856.

She was set apart as a midwife and in her 35 years of service she delivered 2000 babies and lost but 3 mothers.

She died January 10, 1892 at the age of 76, nearly 77 years.

## ELIZA CHAPMAN GADD

From Heart Throbs of the West, DAU, compiled by Katie B Carter P 149-150  
She Buried Her Loved Ones Along the Trail

**Eliza Chapman Gadd** was born at Croydon, Cambridgeshire, England, January 24, 1815. Her parents were **William and Mary Pentlow Chapman**. She married **Samuel Gadd**, April 13, 1836. **Mr. Gadd** and some of his older children joined the Church, and the family sailed for America May 4, 1856, on the ship "Thornton." They joined Captain J. G. Willie's handcart company, at Council Bluffs, and started for Utah. The older children and parents walked and pulled or pushed the younger ones in the handcarts. The terrible hardships and privations they endured on that 1,000 mile trip, pulling their handcarts over plains, gullies and mountains, is a matter of history. For weeks they staggered on their weary way, subsisting on but a few ounces of flour each. At every stop they buried their dead. Starting so late in the season, bad weather came with its snow and blizzards, and the company suffered severely. **Great-grand-father Gadd** and one son, Daniel, were two of those who lost their lives during this perilous journey. The **father** died from exposure which developed pneumonia, and was buried on the Platte River, in Wyoming. He had helped carry women and children over the river.

**Eliza** took charge of her family and their meager belongings and with the help of her oldest son, Alfred, took up their journey again, trudging toward the mountain tops, not knowing what trials awaited them but with hearts full of hope and trust.

The history of the family states that **Mrs. Gadd** did not join the Church until after reaching Nephi, but came to Zion because **her husband** wanted to come. So through this great sorrow she didn't have the comfort of the gospel as others did who belonged to the Church and lost their loved ones along the way.

Two days before they were met by supply wagons from Salt Lake, they were camped in the snow, unable to travel farther and with nothing to eat. It was here that another son died, Samuel, age ten years. That made three, the **father** and two sons passing on within two weeks. The **mother** was sorely tired, but she kept on pulling a handcart with her scant supplies and small children. They arrived in Salt Lake, November 9, 1856, and were sent on to Nephi where they made their home. She supported her family by doing many kinds of hard work. She became expert at braiding straw, making hats for both men and women. She was set apart as a midwife soon after reaching Nephi. This calling she accepted and performed faithfully and well for over 35 years, helping to bring over 2,000 babies into the world, and it is said not one baby died under her care. She spent the rest of her life in Nephi, where she died January 24, 1892. - **Juab County**.