

Journal of John Woodhouse

. . . During our stay in St. Louis my brother Charles had a severe sickness. His living through it was a marvel. We lost our youngest brother, Norman, and my father was accidentally drowned over in Illinois where he was at work. I also had an attack of bilious fever. A doctor gave me a prescription, the druggist gave me three pills, which were chiefly calomel. These acted on my hair and teeth, causing the loosening of my teeth and loss of part of my hair. But as the summer passed our healths improved and we were able to save up a little means towards resuming our journey to Utah.

Our two sisters, Amelia and Annie and mother, had pretty good health. Annie and Amelia had good places to live out as servants, our other sister remained at home being too young for service. On the arrival of spring we commenced to arrange for our journey to Utah. At that time A. D. 1853, there were over 1,000 Mormons in St. Louis and a concerted move was made to move all possible to Utah. Partnerships in teams and passengers were considered. We went into partnership with Brother John Marchant and family. Also we took for passengers Brother James Clark and family. (Father of President Clark of American Fork). We first arranged for a wagon, having to order it made. We paid \$5.00 down on it to insure our taking it and to reserve it for us. We next bought a yoke of cattle and [p.20] a large load of corn, and a small stack of hay, and afterwards another yoke of cattle. About March a St. Louis company was made up. A steamboat was chartered to take the company up the Mississippi River to [Keokuk], on the Iowa side of the river, and on the old Nauvoo route, that was taken at the time the Saints were expelled from Nauvoo. Brother Charles went along with the oxen and wagon, leaving me yet in St. Louis, having to yet earn the means for the rest of our supplies for the journey to Utah.

Sickness and deaths were very frequent. So much so that in many cases regular funerals could not be had. On the death of our little brother we had to give notice to the city office. A conveyance came along with a load of coffins (about a dozen), they went from house to house getting a corpse in each one, and when loaded went to the cemetery and there put them in graves. My brother Charles and myself followed along and saw our brother placed in his grave, we saw none else following.

One of our shipmates, a Brother Jaques, called on us one day, apparently in good health, we had a pleasant visit. He told us how he had done, already saved means sufficient to send for his wife, whom he had left in England. He left our house and went into a near neighbors, a mutual acquaintance. They came for me in about one hour after, he was taken with it, so sudden did such things happen then. On account of so much sickness the route via New Orleans and St. Louis had to be abandoned and our emigrants go via New York, Boston, etc. This was predicted as you will see in Doctrine and Covenants, Section 61, paragraph 3-4-5-14-19.

BIB: John Woodhouse; His Pioneer Journal, 1830-1916. Ed. By James Mercer Kirkham (Salt Lake City: Elbert C. Kirkham Co., 1952) pp 11-12,14-22, 25. (HDL)