

Notes for Richard Alvin Lowe – 3246

[Original author unknown]

This information is taken from the Journal of the Fifth Council Point Emigration Company, John Tidwell, Captain. The journal was kept by the company clerk, George Bowering. I have summarized most of the journal and put a few direct quotes in:

Richard Lowe was with the company. He was a teamster for Rachel Welden. On a list of names made in November of 1851 of people planning to go with the company is Joel N. Welden with 1 in the family. Joel is only mentioned in the journal on that list. From that point on only Rachel is mentioned. I assume he probably died before the company left.

After many pages describing planning meetings and detailing speeches given by church leaders, the actual journey began on June 30, 1852. On the second day out Rachel Welden is mentioned as one of the owners of cows who paid to have a bull brought along. She had two cows and paid 10 cents for each.

On July 3 the company crossed Wood Cree. They had to wait to cross a river, possibly Wood Creek, while the Seventh Company finished crossing. Richard Lowe is referred to in the following quote as "the teamster." [spelling original]

"When Rachel Welden's horses wagon got in the middle of the river they stalled inconsequent of being baulky, then they run away and threw the teamster out of the wagon and also knocked Mrs. Welden down when in the act of siezing them to stop them they went a little farther and then was stopped, no damage done except the ripping up of Mrs. Welden's dress."

On Sundays a Brass band played for their church services.

The first death on the trip was on July 5 at 1 a.m. Adolphia Young, age 36, died after a week of diarrhea and inflammation.

Numerous mentions are made of the Seventh and Sixth companies. Their progress was somewhat hindered when they were following one of the other companies.

The night of July 6 they had a heavy wind storm with rain, thunder, and lightning. Nine tents were blown over.

The first mention of Cholera is on July 8 when Samuel S. Young, 8-year-old son of Adolphia who died three days earlier, died from the disease. By July 11, three adults and three children were dead from Cholera.

A number of buffaloes were killed so the company had no shortage of food while on the plains. There are frequent mentions of problems finding wood for cooking fires.

On Sunday, July 18, they "commenced a trial before the Captain and his counselors between Rachel Welden and Richard Lowe (Gentile) her teamster." It was brought to a close the following evening. Here is what was written about it: "It was brought on in consequence of the breaking up of the agreement between the two parties. Rachel Welden and Richard Lowe. Richard Lowe complaintive stated that Rachel Welden had discharged him from the duties of Teamster, and also had refused to find him provisions and do anything for him in consequence of him refusing to fetch wood and water which he pleaded was not in the agreement and she saying she had a boy to do those things. He also said that he had paid her 21 dollars for his passage to Salt Lake valley and if she would not do for him to return him his money. Rachel Welden defendant stated that she had discharged him in consequence of him refusing to do his duties, and that he would not fetch either wood or water and several other things he has done, contrary to the agreement, each party brought forth their witnesses and the council chose for each party and after they had pleaded in the behalf of each party. Captain Tidwell past the decision. It was as follows; That you Rachel Welden and you Richard Lowe both fulfill the duties required in the agreement and that party who refuses to do the same forfeit the money, that now is between them. This was put to the meeting and carried with the exception of James D. Ross, who voted on the negative. His reasons for the same he would not give."

During the next few weeks nothing real eventful happened. Three more died of Cholera or diarrhea. Many of the tires on the wagons had to be "set."

On the evening of August 14 the herd had been moved across the river for the night for better grazing. Shortly after those in camp had retired for the night an alarm was given that Indians were upon the herd. From the journal: "the cattle was flying in all directions which was supposed by the clattering of their feet for it was pitch dark, in fact it was a stampede past description." All the cattle were found, and no more mention is made of any Indians that night.

On August 19 they camped near Sweetwater. It is mentioned that the ground was very "saleratiously." I believe that means the water was high in sodium or alkaline. Over the next three days six oxen, two cows, a stag and a yearling heifer all died, "supposed by partaking of saleratious."

The terrain was rocky during the last part of August, and many of the wagons began falling apart. There was also some contention among the people and some began to desert the company and travel on alone.

On August 27 they were met by a man traveling from Salt Lake with a message from the First Presidency of the Church "counciling the Saints to settle at Green River." Captain Tidwell asked the men to sign a list stating they would comply with this council, but all refused to sign."

The nights were becoming cold, and the company was setting up camp earlier than they had on the plains. Dances were held during the evenings, sometimes with other companies.

On September 3, four days out of Green River, Rachel Welden deserted the company. No mention is made of Richard Lowe.

On September 11 they nooned at Weber River. I'm not quite sure what is meant by this entry of that day: "This afternoon some few wagons of the fifteenth company wanted to pass us, but could not come it. Also the McKees staying to recruit their cattle for a day. Mrs. Welden was with them."

On Wednesday, September 15, "We passed through the mouth of the canyon and rolled into the city in full righ and in good health and spirits, rejoicing in the Lord God our Savior whose hand and mercy has been over us."

Following the final entry is a list of those who were with the company at the arrival in Salt Lake. It lists the ages of many and how much livestock they had. Rachel Welden is listed as having two in the family, two wagons, and two each of horses, oxen and cows. It also notes she went on ahead of the company. Richard Lowe is listed right below her with no other information. Above Rachel Welden are listed Ann Wilkshire and her family of six. They had an ox and a cow but no wagon. They are also listed as going on ahead.

Beneath the list is this final entry concerning Sister Wilkshire. "Today Bro. David Adams came to me with a note from Captain Tidwell instructing me to write a note to Sister Wilkshire for to make Bro. (illegible) some remuneration for his trouble in the behalf of her and her family (illegible)." I believe this may be referring to Richard Lowe.