

REBECCA CULA LANGMAN

Born: August 28, 1835 in England

Age: 21

Willie Handcart Company

Rebecca Cula Langman came from a very poor family. Her parents were John Langman and Rebecca Woodward Scouler. When she was very young it was necessary for her to go to work and assist in the support of the family. Her opportunities for education were extremely limited. In spite of a lack of formal education, she became well educated.

At the age of 16, Rebecca became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When she was around 20 years old, she met Elder Moses Cluff who was serving as a missionary in the British Mission. They became friends, and talked of going to Utah.

Rebecca prepared to leave her home, friends and country and emigrate to Zion. In the spring of 1856, she went as a single woman to America. She joined with the Willie Handcart Company in Iowa City, Iowa. Moses was one of the retuning missionaries who stayed as long as possible at Iowa City to help the later companies build their handcarts, sew their tents, and otherwise prepare for their trek. Moses came about two weeks later with the Martin Handcart Company.

Rebecca pulled her handcart across the plains without other family members, but was grouped with the other single women of the Willie Company. There were four or five to a handcart and twenty to a tent. Some single women were grouped with families who needed more assistance.

Although the company faced loss of cattle to a buffalo stampede, food shortages and severe and early winter weather, Rebecca withstood all these trials remarkably well. It was said that she was a "robust and stout English girl." Rebecca arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on November 9, 1856.

About six weeks later, on Christmas day, 1856, Rebecca was married to Moses Cluff. The marriage took place at the home of President Brigham Young in Salt Lake City. The President gave a supper to the missionaries who had just returned home and as Moses and Rebecca were married the same evening, it was suggested by him the supper should be considered a 'wedding supper.'

Rebecca and Moses settled in Provo where they raised their family of nine children. In 1877, the family pioneered into Arizona and located at Show Low.

After a few years of residence at Show Low, it was claimed as a government reserve and the family was forced to move. This time the family moved to the Gila Valley,

Arizona, locating at a settlement called Pima, on the Gila River. Rebecca lived to be seventy-eight years of age. She and Moses both died and are buried in Pima, Arizona.