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Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2001 8:59 PM

Subject: Elnathan Eldredge

Here it is and it is lengthy. I think it is just what you asked for.

Elnathan Eldredge, the son of Ebenezer Eldredge and Deliverance Nickerson, was born March 7, 1747 at Chatham, Massachusetts; died December 21, 1837 at Harwich, Massachusetts. He married Oct. 31, 1771 at Chatham to Dorothy Freeman of Harwich; She died November 9, 1825. Both were buried in the Methodist Cemetery At East Harwich, Massachusetts. He lived near the home of his father in law, Thomas Freeman in East Harwich, Massachusetts, and the house he built is still standing. He bought the land and built the house in 1774. His account book shows he was a shoemaker, at least part of the time, until 1800. He also manufactured brooms, was a weaver, as well as a mariner by spells. In a deed of 1772 he is called a sea-faring man. His account book shows he made shoes for Micah Rafe, the last surviving full-blooded Indian in these parts as late as of 1780. Micah repaid him by hoeing corn and other labor on the farm.

In 1801, he bought land on the west side of Pleasant Bay, where he built a mill, which was completed in 1802, and from this time on, he was a miller. He was called "Elnathan the Miller". He died in the mill, which he ran until the last. He acquired much real estate before his death, and was a prominent man and active in the community where he lived. He was a great Bible reader and was well known for ability and willingness to give instruction and information concerning the scriptures, in which he was well versed. He did not belong to any sect or religious society. His house was always open to receive and entertain any and all ministers of any and all denominations, and he had discussions with ministers in relation to the teaching of Christ, in accordance with the New Testament, he stated publicly that "The gospel was not taught this time as the gospel was taught by the Savior and his apostles."

Elnathan Eldredge, a grandson, said that his grandfather was known for his discussions with all ministers, he boldly making the assertion that the Gospel as taught by Christ and his Apostles was not upon the earth; and that he should not live to hear it. But, said he, placing his hand upon the shoulder of his grandson, who was beside him, "This boy will live to see this gospel preached and will believe the same."

His wife, Dorothy Freeman, was a direct descendant of William Brewster, the leader of the Pilgrims on the Mayflower, who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620, and a descendant of Governor Thomas Prentice, governor of Plymouth

Colony, and of Major John Freeman, the renowned Indian fighter during the King Phillip Wars. She was the daughter of Thomas Freeman, who was born April 26, 1731, and who died after 1781. He was a soldier of the American Revolution. Her mother was Esther Ryder, a daughter of Nathaniel Ryder and Desire Godfrey, and a granddaughter of John Ryder of Chatham. Dorothy was born 14 Nov. 1752. at Harwich, Mass.

The children of Elnathan and Dorothy were all born at Harwich, Mass. They are as follows:

1. Nehemiah born: 7 June 1775 Married: Int. 29 Jan 1796  
Married: Ruth Harding 1799 Died: 1839
2. Sarah or Sally born: 14 Oct. 1781  
Married: 1795 David Crowell
3. Samuel born: 24 Aug 1783 Married (1) Hannah Mayo  
Married (2) Lavina Maker Wixon Nickerson  
died: 7 Aug 1867
4. Elnathan born: 24 Aug 1783  
married: 29 Jan 1805, Jane Wixon died: 1832
5. Dorothy born: 13 March 1786 married: 1807 Joseph Avery  
died: 17 Aug 1861
6. Isaiah born: 2 Feb 1788  
married: 9 Jan 1812 Sabra Wixon died: 23 May 1847
7. Jonathan born: 19 Dec. 1792  
married: 9 Jan 1813 Rebecca Wixon died: 10 Aug 1880

#### ELNATHAN ELDREDGE 1783

Elnathan Eldredge, the son of Elnathan and Dorothy Freeman Eldredge of Harwich, Mass. was born Aug. 24, 1783, at Harwich, Mass. He married Jane or Jean Wixon, who was the daughter of Joshua Wixom and Charity Nickerson. She was born January 15, 1784 and died February 19, 1863 at Harwich, Mass.

Elnathan was a man of strong character and resolution, and was known well in the community. He was dependable, of unquestionable reputation, and of good standing. They lived at Harwich and all their twelve children were born there.

Children of Elnathan Eldredge and Jane Wixon:

1. Alexander born: 22 Jan 1806  
he was unmarried and died at sea
2. Loring born: 21 Nov. 1807  
he was unmarried and died at sea
3. Mary or Polly born: 24 June 1808  
married: 1827 - Shubal Howes  
died: 22 Dec. 1889
4. Elnathan born: 19 June 1811  
married: (1) Cynthia Wixon 30 Nov. 1834  
married: (2) Mary Ann Merchant 1836  
married: (3) Ruth Baker 14 Sept. 1839

married; (4) Ann Maria Peck 25 Apr. 1856  
died: 31 Oct. 1871  
5. Thomas Freeman born: 3 Sept 1813  
married: (1) Sylvia Baker  
married: (2) Eliza Doane Bassett  
died: 29 Aug. 1891  
6. Jane born: 5 Nov. 1814  
married Warren Nickerson 28 July 1833  
died: 7 Oct. 1862  
7. Joshua born: 28 Aug 1816  
died: unmarried - died at sea 26 Mar 1839  
8. George Whitfield born: 25 Aug. 1818  
died: unmarried - died at sea 19 Feb 1839  
9. Zenas Doane born: 10 Dec 1819  
married: Mercy Howland  
died: 18 Oct 1840  
10. Emeline born: 15 Oct 1821  
married: Nathan Robbins  
died: 12 Feb 1855  
11. Sarah Freeman born: 25 July 1825  
married: Nelson Gardiner  
died: 1893  
12. Louisa born: 23 April 1827  
married: Amos Wixon  
died: 2 Feb. 1878  
East Harwich town record Vol. 3 p. 149  
Dennis Town Record`  
Record of Joseph U. Eldredge in Possession of Ruth E. Swenson RFD Box  
378, Pl. Grove, Utah 84062

#### ELNATHAN ELDREDGE - PIONEER

Elnathan Eldredge was born in Harwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts, on 19 June 1811. He was the son of Elnathan Eldredge and Jane Wixon. He was a seafaring man during his early manhood. He became captain of a vessel and sailed to many parts of the world. he was know as Captain Elnathan Eldredge.

On Nov. 30, 1834 he married Cynthia Wixon, daughter of Barnabas Wixon and Jerusha Chase. She was born 4 May 1813 at Dennis, Barnstable, Mass. and died before they had been married a year of childbirth, on 29 Oct. 1835.

He then married in 1836 Mary Ann Merchant of Dennis, Barnstable, Mass. She died 15 May 1837 at the age of 23 in East Harwich, Barnstable, Mass.

On Sept. 14, 1839 at Harwich, Massachusetts, he was married to Mrs. Ruth Baker Underwood, widow of Joseph Underwood. She was born 10 March 1810 at Harwich, Barnstable, Mass. The daughter of Joseph Baker and Jane Phillips. Ruth had married 3 Jan, 1833 Joseph Underwood, who was a sea captain and traded in foreign countries. On one voyage his vessel was

wrecked and he and all on board were lost at sea. They had one daughter named Adelaide Underwood.

Elnathan and Ruth made their home in Dennis, Barnstable, Mass., here three sons were born to them. Elnathan Eldredge born 12 Sept. 1841; Joseph Underwood Eldredge born 10 Oct. 1843; and Frederick Baker Eldredge born 17 Nov. 1845.

Elnathan Eldredge and his wife became acquainted with the Mormon missionaries and on 22 March 1846 he was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A few days later on 29 March 1846 Ruth was also baptized. The following year they sold their property and accompanied by his Uncle Isaiah Eldredge and wife Sabra Wixon and their cousin John Wixon, they left to join the saints in the west.

Ruth's daughter, Adelaide, had to remain behind because Marshall Underwood, a brother of Joseph, obtained a court order to have himself appointed legal guardian of Ruth's child. She was 12 years old at the time. Elnathan and Ruth tried to get her back. They made arrangements with Samuel Brannon who was sailing the ship Brooklyn from Boston to San Francisco, California to bring her, but Ruth never saw her daughter again.

In April 1847 the Eldredge group went by rail to Boston, then the Erie Canal and railroad to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. There they took a small river steamer down the Ohio River and the Mississippi River to the mouth of the Missouri River where they took another steamboat up the Missouri to Winter Quarters, the outfitting point for Utah. Ruth, the mother, while on board ship kept on deck as much as possible to avoid the close uncomfortable cabin. While on the deck with her three children, she had two of them tied to her body with a rope and held the third on her lap to keep them under control. The captain of the boat asked her where she was going. She answered "To the Rocky Mountains". He responded, "You are a brave woman, and I believe you will be successful and reach you destination". Uncle Isaiah Eldredge fell overboard from the boat and was drowned in the Ohio River. His widow Sabra continued on with the rest of the party to Utah.

In due time the voyagers reached Winter Quarters and preparations were made for the long overland journey of the thousand miles with ox teams and wagons. Elnathan, being a sea captain, did not know much about oxen and wagons, but he got advice from friends and purchased oxen and two wagons. Each wagon had two yokes of oxen and one yoke of cows. One wagon he loaded with food supplies and the other wagon was used for the family and their belongings. There were five hundred wagons in the train, placed in companies of fifty wagons each. The companies kept far enough apart to prevent the cattle from getting mixed, yet close enough together to be able to aid one another in case of attack by Indians. Buffalo were visible at all times; occasionally the train would call a halt and assemble in close order to let the herd of buffalo pass, as they came in herds of hundreds.

On the second or third day out on the journey, the oldest boy said to his father, "Daddy, that yoke of oxen in the lead is not our oxen," and he kept insisting that they were not. Finally as the train of wagons moved on, instead of this team following the wagon ahead, the oxen suddenly turned and ran off the trail and broke the wagon tongue. At that moment a man from another company came up and said, "Brother Eldredge, you have got a pair of my oxen, that yoke on the lead of your team." "Thank the Lord," said Mr. Eldredge, "that those oxen are not mine." It was very amusing. He did not seem to care about the broken wagon tongue, but was highly pleased to learn that the unruly oxen were not his property. He said he did not know much about oxen, but knew all about lashing a mast. He proceeded to place a piece of wood beside the broken place in the wagon tongue, lashed it there with ropes, and the repair lasted to the end of the journey. His oxen were found and recognized by the boy, who knew more about oxen than his father.

They reached the valley of Salt Lake on the 26 of Sept. 1847. The pioneers lost no time in making preparations for the approaching winter. Each family built a one room house against each other forming an enclosure. This was the first fort to protect the people from attack by Indians. The rooms or houses were made of logs, stones, mud or whatever else they could find to make dwellings. The roofs were made of poles placed side by side, then willows, brush, and grass finished with a covering of earth. Each room was occupied by a family. When it rained the water would come through and when the rain stopped they would go outside and dry themselves as best they could.

An investigation was soon made to ascertain the amount of provisions in the settlement; it was discovered that the people would run short unless strict regulations were established and rations dealt out sparingly. A commissary was established and all provisions were taken charge of and rations issued. Mr. Eldredge was one of the moving spirits to secure adoption of this plan, although he had in his possession at the time, one wagon load of food stuffs. He gave up all his supplies and drew his own scant ration like all the rest. This was done that all would be provided for until crops could be raised, and none would suffer want, in the meantime.

The weather was mild that winter, and in the spring much land was prepared for planting. A large acreage was planted of wheat, corn and vegetable. The crops came on, looking fine and promising, and the people eagerly looked forward to a harvest to relieve them from a shortage of food. Weeds, thistles, and everything that could be made into food was used to tide them over until the growing crops had time to mature. Everybody was hopeful, but suddenly their hopes were blasted. From the mountain districts at the east, came swarms of large black crickets. The ground was literally covered with them. They ate everything green in their path. They headed for the growing wheat and corn and soon swarmed over the fields, devouring everything in their path. Men, women, and children

turned out to fight the terrible pests, but all in vain, nothing could stop their march; and hopes of a harvest vanished. All hope was gone, when suddenly, as if by magic, there appeared in the sky untold numbers of beautiful seagulls, and their peculiar cries sounded like music to the ear. Soon the very sun seemed darkened by the clouds of birds. Some feared that a new evil had come, but they soon discovered that the new visitors were on a friendly mission. Down they came by the millions and began devouring the crickets. They filled their crops or pouches with crickets, and when filled, they would vomit the crushed liquid mass on the ground, then return to the living crickets again, filling themselves and disgorging as before, repeating the process until all the crickets were destroyed. All this took place in the presence of the astonished pioneers. The crickets were destroyed and a large part of the crops were saved. Truly, a wonderful miracle had taken place before the eyes of the people. What rejoicing! Even the children shouted with joy and gladness. No wonder a grateful people enacted a state law making it a crime for anyone to destroy a seagull. All look upon the birds with kindness and affection.

That summer while the Eldredges were still living in the fort their fourth son, Joshua Eldredge was born, 11 July 1848.

The pioneers had a great harvest festival on the first crops raised in Utah. They assembled together and enjoyed a real feast rejoicing and praising God for the great blessings they had received.

That year, the people scattered and commenced to build homes in different parts of the valley, and soon branched into adjoining valleys. Mr. Eldredge remained in the town of Salt Lake and assisted in its development and progress. He held many offices in course of time. He was assistant supervisor in Salt Lake City, a member of the city council for sixteen years.

He was in the great battle of Battle Creek fought with the Ute Indians near Utah Lake, which was frozen over. There were many Indians pursued across the frozen lake and many squaws and children were captured. They were taken to Salt Lake and cared for by the citizens. The squaws made their escape at the first opportunity; but the smaller children stayed with different families. One female child, Mary, lived in the Eldredge home as a daughter until Sept. 1870 when she died at the age of 26 years. She is buried in the family burial lot in the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Two more children were born to Elnathan and Ruth in Salt Lake City, Utah. William Nelson born 21 Dec. 1850, he died 6 May 1852. A girl Cynthia Ann born 18 Nov. 1854. She was a delightful addition to the family of boys. Elnathan Eldredge engaged in farming which, although having no previous experience, he soon learned. His farm was several miles south of the city, and like others, he traveled to and from town to the farm. On early morning as he and his boys were on the way to the farm, they saw several head of cattle in a field of wheat. They had broken down the fence and were tramping down and destroying the tall growing wheat. Elnathan

stopped the team and told his boys to go round up the cattle and drive them out of the grain. Then he repaired the fence, putting the post together and digging the hole for it. He put the fence rails back and then had his boys drive the cattle away about a mile from the field. Joseph said to his father "We have spent quite a lot of time doing that?" Elnathan said, "We should do unto others as we would have them do unto us." Joseph said that he never forgot this wonderful lesson.

Elnathan married as his fourth wife, Ann Maria Peck, the daughter of Harrison Grey Otis Peck and Margaret Angier, on 25 April 1856 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was born 16 Aug. 1839 in Taunton, Bristol, Massachusetts.

Ann Maria Peck became a member of the church 17 Aug 1847 in Massachusetts. She came to Utah with her family in the John Tidwell company leaving Kanessville, Iowa in June 1852 and arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, Sept. 15, 1852. This company consisted of 340 people with 32 wagons, so the thirteen year old Ann Maria must have walked nearly all the way.

Elnathan and Ann Maria had five children in Salt Lake City; Loring, 20 Aug. 1857;

George Albert - 4 June 1860;

Harrison - 21 Dec. 1863 and died in 1864;

Margaret Jane - 19 Oct. 1865;

Annie Louise - 17 Feb. 1869.

Then in 1869 they moved to Rich County to homestead in the little town of Meadowville, where Edith Viola was born 15 Mar 1872. Her children were raised in this beautiful valley near Bear Lake.

Elnathan Eldredge died on the 31st of October 1871 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Utah, at the age of 61. He had visited his family in Laketown and caught pneumonia going back to Salt Lake.

Elnathan Eldredge was at rue pioneer, a sturdy character and helped to subdue the great desert and build a mighty commonwealth. He played an active part in the accomplishment of this tremendous task. He possessed strength of character, the power of endurance and the spirit of industry to do worthwhile things. He was every resolute and ready to overcome any and all obstacles that came before him. Faithful and true he always relied on God for guidance in all his undertakings.

Here it is.

On August 11, 1866, THE LAST COMPANY OF SAINTS FROM EUROPE IN 1866 (Scandinavians), who came via Hamburg, Germany, on the ship "Covour," under the leadership of Niels Nielsen, arrived in New York City, then made their way to Old Wyoming. Elder Elnathan Eldredge Jr. (Your Grandfather) had received these Saints in New York, and accompanied them to Wyoming. They stopped in St. Joseph on the way, and of their plight there, and on the Mormon Trail, Elder Elnathan Eldredge wrote,

"...in travels through the states we stopped at St. Joseph, Missouri, two nights and two days, our company being attacked by cholera. During these two days and two nights we buried thirty-three of the emigrants in the St. Joseph cemetery, after which we continued the Journey up the Missouri River to Wyoming (Nebraska), the landing place of the Saints that year. At that place we buried eight more of the emigrants and nearly fifty died on the journey across the Plains" (NHM 126-127).

The 91 DEATHS (plus those that may have occurred on the sea) in this company of 201 emigrants, means that 45-50% of the company died before they reached the Salt Lake Valley. This high percentage may be compared to the more famous disasters of the Handcart companies of 1856. The Willie Handcart Co. had 67 deaths out of 500 people (25%), and the Martin Handcart Company had 135-150 deaths out of 576 people (25%). Grandfather Elnathan's company had 50% death verses the 25% deaths of the handcart disasters.

This is from the research of LaMar Berrett. He has written seven volumes on Church Historic Sites. The first is now in publication. He shared this with me because he knew the Elnathan was my great grandfather. I have been blessed to be his friend and have enjoyed many days on the Mormon trail aiding him in his research.

John Eldredge