

Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database

1847–1868

www.mormontrail.lds.org

Between 1847 and 1868, Mormon emigrants traveled on the pioneer trail in more than 300 companies departing from various outfitting places. These companies, in which more than 60,000 Church members traveled, included freight trains, independent companies, handcart companies, and various types of other companies. By its very nature, travel on the trail was unavoidably informal and disarrayed, which may account for discrepancies in reports and accounts. After beginning their travels, companies often divided into small divisions or traveled in a scattered condition, thereby arriving in the Salt Lake Valley over a period of several days.

The Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel database, obtained from rosters and other reliable sources, is the most complete listing of Mormon pioneer emigrants and companies who traveled to Utah between 1847 and 1868. It does not focus on railroad or steamboat travel, but rather trail travel. It is an incomplete listing, as rosters have not been found for all companies.

Companies are listed according to the name of the captain. Basic information is provided for each company, including a photograph of the captain (when available), transcripts from journals and letters describing the overland experience, and a summary of details such as departure and arrival dates, routes traveled, and the number of people in the company.

Advances in transportation, technology, knowledge, and skills changed the methods of travel

over the 21-year time period, resulting in different experiences for the companies over the years. By looking at the sources found in various repositories, one can get a glimpse of the experiences each company encountered.

Although the dates and other statistical information were obtained from the most reliable sources available, they should generally be considered approximations. The database is updated as new information is obtained. If you have information that could improve this index, you can submit a request to add or correct information.



Searching the Database

1. In the **First Name** and **Surname** (last name) fields, enter the name of the person you are looking for. The following search hints may be helpful:
 - Remember that names are frequently spelled differently in original journals and rosters. If you don't find what you're looking for on the first search, you might try searching for just the first name or just the last name. This will increase the number of results, but the extra time going through a list of names might be worth it if you find the right person.
 - Some pioneers traveled using a nickname. For instance, "Polly" is a nickname for "Mary."
 - Some women traveled under their maiden name.
2. If you know the company name or the year the person traveled, you can select that information from the **Company** drop-down lists to narrow your results. If you don't know this information, just leave these fields as "All Companies" and "All Years."
3. When you have entered as much information as you know, click **Search**.



Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868

Search Index

Alphabetical Company List

Chronological Company List

Submit Information

About this Database

Search

Company
All Companies... All Years...

First Name
isaac

Surname
morley

Search

The Mormon Overland Travel, 1847-1868, is the most complete listing of individuals and companies in which Mormon pioneer emigrants traveled west to Utah from 1847 through 1868. It is an incomplete listing, as rosters have not been found for all companies. It also identifies sources to learn more about the experiences of each company.

You can search for a specific person using the search form above or you can browse the list of companies [alphabetically](#) or [chronologically](#).

If you have information that could improve this database, you can also [submit a request](#) to add or correct information.

- When you find the correct name, you can click on either the name of the individual or the name of the company to get more information.



Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868

Search Index

Alphabetical Company List

Chronological Company List

Submit Information

About this Database

You searched for

Company All Companies...

Year All Years...

First Name isaac

Surname morley

Search results

(The number shown in parentheses next to each name is the age of the pioneer at the time of the journey.)

[Brigham Young Company \(1848\)](#)

[Morley, Isaac \(62\)](#)

[Morley, Isaac, Jr. \(19\)](#)

- Clicking on the individual will open a page that gives you some brief information about that person, as well as a list of sources that were used to place that individual in that particular company.



Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868

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About this Database

Morley, Isaac

Birth Date: 11 Mar. 1786
Death Date: 24 June 1865
Gender: Male
Age: 62
Company: [Brigham Young Company \(1848\)](#)

Pioneer Information:
 Captain of Hundred, First company

Sources:

Ballantyne, Richard, Journal, 1848 May-Aug. [Read Trail Excerpt](#) [Source Locations](#)

Brown, Lorenzo, Reminiscences and diaries, 1856-[1900], vol. 1, 37-53. [Read Trail Excerpt](#) [Source Locations](#)

Bullock, Thomas, Journals 1843-1849, fd. 1-4. [Read Trail Excerpt](#) [Source Locations](#)

- Clicking on the name of the company will open a page that gives brief, general information about the company, as well as links to a company roster and a list of sources for more information about the company's journey. Many of the sources are full-text transcriptions that you can read online.



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About this Database

1848 Brigham Young Company


Departure: 5 June 1848
Arrival in Salt Lake Valley: 20-24 September 1848

Company Information:
 1220 individuals were in the company when it began its journey from the outfitting post at Winter Quarters, Nebraska.

[View a list of individuals](#) known to have traveled in this company.

[View a list of sources](#) to learn more about this company.

[<< Previous Company](#) [Next Company >>](#)



Brigham Young

Submitting New Information or Corrections

Because our rosters are still incomplete, you may know of an ancestor who traveled in a particular company but is not listed in the database. Or, maybe the names are already on the Web site but in a different company than you expect them to

be. If you notice these or any other corrections or additions that need to be made, click the **Submit Information** link on the left side of the screen. After you click this link, you will see a blank template where you can put in the information you think should be added to or changed in the database. These requests are received by data-



base missionaries and staff, who then verify the information you have sent in and make appropriate changes to the database. Acceptable sources are required to justify a change to the database.

Acceptable Sources for Modifying the Database

The following types of sources are listed in order of preference.

Primary Sources

These are documents that were written during the individual's lifetime, such as journals, diaries, autobiographies, newspaper articles, and so on. Usually only primary sources are accepted as proof that an individual came to Utah.

Circumstantial Evidence

Sometimes circumstantial evidence leads to logical conclusions. For example, if marriage records indicated that a person was east of Utah during a particular year and then that person's name

appeared on a Utah census the next spring, this can determine the year the person came to Utah. In such a case, the person can be added to the "Unidentified Company" list for that year. If evidence later surfaces that the person traveled with a particular company, he or she will be moved to that company's roster.

Secondary Sources

Secondary sources are usually histories that have been written at a later time by others, often descendants. They also include local histories, Daughters of Utah Pioneers publications (such as *Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude*), and other compilations (such as *Pioneers and Prominent Men*). Generally, secondary sources are not accepted because they frequently contain errors. However, if a publication were to contain direct quotes from a pioneer's journal or autobiography, or if a history written by a descendant contained a statement such as, "Grandpa told me that . . .," such sources would be considered.

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