

## **TAMAR STORIES FROM PATIENCE LOADER**

Patience Loader, Tamar's sister wrote this report in later years

This is their condition at the time of this incident.

Tamar and her sister, Zilpha were both very sick. Tamar had hurt her side pulling the handcart coming into Florence, Nebraska, and also was sick now with Mountain Fever. Zilpha Jaques, Tamar's sister, had just given birth to a son in the night. When morning came Brother Martin told them the company must move on and the plan was for them to rest up and then catch up with the camp as soon as they could.

Patience writes, "We were all day alone with our sick and when night came my poor father and brother-in-law John Jaques had to be up all night to make a big fire to keep the wolves away from us.

"I never heard such terrible howling of wolves in my life as we experienced that night. Early in the morning, at daybreak, there came from the camp at Florence a brother Joseph A. Young on horseback riding in great speed to our camp to see what was the cause of the big fire....When he came into the tent and saw my sister with her new born babe lying on the ground on some quilts he was overcome with sympathy. The tears ran down his cheeks. Then he blessed my sister and tried to comfort and cheer her.

After Brother Young left a Mr. Cluff was sent out from Florence to help them. He hitched a rope around the handcart handle and pulled each of their handcarts for a while to give them a lift, but had to go back to Florence "as a man traveling alone was at risk in this Indian country.

"Brother Cluff had hardly left us when five great Indians came out of a cave in the mountains and got on their horses and came to meet us. They were all painted and naked except for breech cloths. They had tommy hawks and hatchets and bows and arrows. They stopped us in the road and talked but we could not understand them. When they saw our sick and my sister with her new born babe, they moved out of the road and motioned for us to go on.

"I think this was as near to being killed by Indians as I wish to be. They were quite impudent in the manners to us and made fun of us pulling the handcart. We were somewhat afraid of them and I dare say they could see that. At the time, we put our faith and trust in God, our Father that he would take care of us and not let these Indian hurt us or do us harm. I know it was nothing but the power of God that saved from these Indian that day."

Later that day, they came upon a campsite and stopped to have dinner. When they walked around beyond their camp, they found five new graves and a green bonnet lying on the ground. It was the one worn by their friend, Sister Williams who had elected to ride ahead with a Brother Babbit as he had a light wagon and she would get to Salt Lake earlier to meet her husband. So Sister Williams went along and with her a small infant.

The whole party had been murdered by Indians. They wondered if it were the same Indians as had stopped them in the road. And thanked the Lord again for their safety.

After their father died, Tamar and her three sisters and her mother had all the work to do, pulling the handcart, setting up tent and camp, gathering wood, cooking what little food they had and looking after the two young brothers.

She tells of the night when a cold wind was howling and the ground was so hard they could not get the tent pegs into the ground. But as they opened up the tent, the wind caught it and blew it open and it froze that way so they just crawled in under the frozen tent and spent the night.

One morning it was bitter cold. They were exhausted from pulling the carts all day and just could not make themselves get out from under their frozen covers. Finally their mother got up and tried to rouse the girls. But they did not move. Then she started to dance, they thought to amuse them, but instead she tripped and fell.

Immediately the girls jumped up to help their dear mother. Then she started to laugh. She fell on purpose because she knew that would get the children up. It was the only way she knew to rouse them and she also knew that if they did not get them up and move around they would freeze to death.