

# First Families in Buffalo County – Olivers & Nutters

## Oliver Family Story

### The Original Request

“I’m working with my daughter, studying our family history. My maternal great great grandmother was reportedly the first woman to settle in Buffalo County when her wagon wheel broke somewhere near Fort Kearney. She stayed and opened a boarding house with her two children. One of her children was Ora Oscar Hayman, my great grandfather. He was a regional velocipede champion. I’m wondering if you have any information about his mother. I’m afraid I don’t know her name even. Thanks!”

### The Genealogy

Questioner’s great grandfather is **Ora Oscar Hayman** who had two children,  
Maxine (Schroeder) & Douglass Hayman  
Questioner’s grandmother or grandfather is Maxine or Douglass  
Questioner’s parent is a child of Maxine or Douglass Hayman

**Ora Oscar Hayman** married Bertha Haug  
Bertha Haug was the daughter of Frederick Haug and Sarah Oliver  
Sarah Oliver was the daughter of James and Ellen Oliver  
James Oliver was the son of Edward and Sarah Oliver

### Questioner

Questioner’s parent

Maxine or Douglass Hayman

Bertha Haug & Ora Oscar Hayman

Sarah Oliver & Frederick Haug

James Oliver & Ellen

Edward and Sarah Oliver

### The story of the Oliver family

(Grace Oliver’s story in Buffalo Tales, Feb, 1878)

An English family converted to Mormonism

**Arrived in US** in April, 1860 to join other Mormons in Utah.

The Oliver Family consisted of:

Edward Oliver

Sarah, his wife

Seven children



Edward, Jr. (28)  
James (21)  
Sarah Ann (13)  
John (12)  
Eliza (9)  
Ephriam, called Bob (8)  
Jane (baby)  
Ellen – daughter-in-law (James wife)  
Harry – grandson (James & Ellen's son)  
The maid (22) – may have been related

**Traveled to Florence**, bought outfit – wagon, 2 yoke of oxen, 2 cows

Followed Mormon Trail to **Wood River Center** - Road ranche of Joseph Johnson

**Front axle broke** (only a mile or two after Wood River Center)

Returned to Wood River Center to make repairs. No seasoned wood

**Selected a tree from along the Wood River - ash**

Went about **10 miles - Green wood began to bend.**

Now it was early July – Family meeting

Father - try to arrange with other emigrants to carry their possessions and continue the journey.

Mother – not time to get over mountains before snow fall; would burden fellow travelers already loaded down

Return to the vicinity of Wood River Center and arrange to spend the winter.

Children – agreed with Mother

Father outvoted

Unclear whether they found an **abandoned cabin or built one**

Spent the rest of the summer and following winter in a log cabin along Wood River. All 12 members of that family.

**Spring** - Edward, zealous in the Mormon faith, ready to pack up and continue on to Utah

Sarah refused to go.

Children all decided to stay here with their mother.

**Edward went to Utah with the family maid**

Married her

Had 7 more children

1862 - wrote to Sarah inquiring about her welfare and urging her to come to Utah and take her rightful place at his table.

**Sarah** did not respond.

Apparently it was only Edward who had been converted to Mormonism and concept of polygamy. Sarah was having nothing to do with it.

Sarah Oliver –

Lived along Mormon trail west of Wood River Center (Shelton)

Ministered to the sick early settlers, travelers, and many at or near Fort Kearney.

Often traveled by stagecoach, seated beside the driver

Raised corn & vegetables – sold to Ft. Kearny & travelers

Saw the building and completion of the Union Pacific Railroad near her home

Saw Nebraska become a state in 1867

Died in 1871 – buried on homestead

### **Look again at the family story**

*“My maternal great great grandmother [g,g,g,g, grandmother] was reportedly the first woman [one of the first] to settle in Buffalo County when her wagon wheel [axle] broke somewhere near Fort Kearney [across the Platte River north of the fort]. She stayed and opened a boarding house [her farm was beside the Mormon Trail. She sold farm products to travelers; some probably stayed over night on her property] with her two [seven] children. One of her children [great granddaughters, Bertha Haug, married] was Ora Oscar Hayman, my great grandfather. He was a regional velocipede [also known as a bicycle] champion. [true] I’m wondering if you have any information about his mother. I’m afraid I don’t know her name even.” [We do not have Ora’s mother’s name but we believe it was his wife’s great grandmother, Sarah Oliver, who is referred to in this family story.]*

### **What Happened to the Family?**

Edward – Bought Johnson’s general store in Wood River Center (Shelton) when Johnson went on to Utah

Member of the first board of county commissioners, county treasurer.

Married, no children

James - & Ellen Had 7 more children

Homesteaded mile west of Sarah

Named the first assessor of the county

Their daughter, Sarah, married Frederick Haug

Sarah Ann – married Joseph Owen (came with family from England in 1863)

Had 7 children

Joseph – Treasurer of school Dist. 1 for 46 years

John - Appointed sheriff in 1870 when Buffalo County was organized  
Elected sheriff first election thereafter.  
Died in Oct. 1871, "in performance of his duties" Age 23  
Buried on Homestead by mother

Eliza – also died in 1871 (age 20) – Buried on homestead with mother  
and John

Jane – only one to leave Nebraska  
Married Jacob Rice  
Moved to Spokane, Washington  
7 children

Ephriam (Bob) inherited Oliver homestead  
Married Dorothy Fieldgrove  
Had 11 children: 10 boys, 1 girl.  
(one set of twins - Chester Arthur and Charles A.)



## Nutter Family Story

William Nutter and Dinah Hingham – **neighbors** in England

**1853** - William (25) married Dinah (18) in Lancastershire, England.  
(Dinah gave birth to 15 children during this marriage)

**1855** - (2 children) – with 700 other Mormon emigrants took  
passage on an unseaworthy ship  
Five weeks at sea. Landed at Philadelphia, Pa.



**No money** – had been told there was plenty of work at good wages.  
Not true. Had some very hard times in next 4 years.  
Both children died, three more born, one set of twins, one twin died

**1859** - Spring – left Philadelphia with 2 children, traveled down Ohio River and  
up the Mississippi and Missouri rivers to Florence...

Purchased outfit - a yoke of oxen, a new wagon, a cow and food sufficient  
for the entire journey....

Captain of the train was John F. Smith, a son of Hiram Smith.

A hand cart train left Florence a few days before the Smith train - and reached  
Salt Lake City some two weeks ahead of the Smith train...

No preparation in advance in Utah for their coming; no provisions for their  
comfort or necessities.... [More hard times, one child born there, now 3 living]

Dissatisfied with the Mormon religion...Mr. Nutter became a non-believer in any form of religion

**1862 - the family left Utah.**

Purchased a "squatter's right" to a claim on Wood River 2 miles east of Shelton

Small acreage of potatoes and other vegetables, eighteen acres of corn in 1863  
Good Crop - More \$\$ than they had ever had at one time before  
A second set of twins born, both lived [5 children].

**1864** - spring - planted a considerable acreage of corn and vegetables - early –  
**August, 1864** – Indian uprising – Packed up & left hastily in the dead of night -  
Baby Helen [the one born in Utah, now age 2] left asleep in a dry goods box.

Considerable distance traveled before Helen was missed and father returned for her.

**Omaha** - family disposed of all of their belongings....

**Went north to Canada** ...Mr. Nutter afraid he might have to take part in the Civil war.

**Quebec** - passage on a vessel for Liverpool, England... Baby Helen almost left behind again, asleep in the train station

**Less than two weeks in England** – Nutter was longing for his claim in Nebraska.

**1865** - Nutter left family in England, returned to Philadelphia  
Mrs. Nutter remained in England 6 months, probably to give birth, one child died there.

Went to Philadelphia with 5 children to join husband  
Another child born in Philadelphia [now 6 living of 10]

**1869** - spring - Nutter returned to Nebraska,  
purchased a "squatters right" with a log house, log barn  
and corral--\$300 – 2 mi. east of Gibbon

**July** - Mrs. Nutter and the 6 children arrived...

**1870** - good crops - sold to members of the Soldiers' Free  
Homestead colony,... became a prosperous farm.  
5 more children born before 1880.  
11 of 15 survived to adulthood.



**1880** - erected, house, octagon, 16 feet on a side and 18 feet in height. (two story)  
modern conveniences, such as hot and cold water, toilet and bath room,  
furnace, etc



## Size of Family

### (15) Children

Olive (Girl) - born in England, came on first trip here, died in Philadelphia

Maroni (boy) - born in England, came on first trip here, died in Gloucester, NJ

John – born in 1856, in New Jersey – lived out his life in Buffalo Co.

d. 1935

Hingham William & William Hingham – twins – b. 1857, Philadelphia

W. Hingham died the following year.

Helen (Ellen) – b. 1862, Utah

Iona & Leonie – twins - b. 1863, Nebraska; Leonie died in England (age 2)

Elizabeth - b. 1865, England – d. 1923 [probably why Dinah stayed behind]

Alice – b. 1868, Pennsylvania

Last 5 born in Nebraska, 1870-1878

Emma – b. May 1870, Nebraska -

Jane (Jennie) – b. Mar. 27, 1871, Buffalo Co – d. Oct 30, 1970.

Frank – b. Apr. 1872, Buffalo Co

Louisa (Mabel) – b. 1876, Buffalo Co

Mirabeau D. - b. Dec. 1878, Buffalo Co –

about 1 ½ but “Not named” in 1880 census



Before the railroad was built in 1866.

Living in log house (first time here)

Liked their tea. – Had two tea pots – identical tea pots – sitting on the shelf.

Habit and convenience, only one of the tea pots was used daily.  
The other one just sat there waiting its turn.

Supply of tea ran out –

No store closer than Grand Island - a day's journey away by ox team.  
Those two-day shopping trips were not taken without real necessity.

Day after day without tea, a trip soon became a real necessity.

Mr. Nutter left for Grand Island.

Afternoon of 2<sup>nd</sup> day - child sent to top of house to spot returning father.

Sighted - a speck on the horizon - child sent to get tea –

A child could run faster than an ox team could plod

Tea could be made and ready for drinking the very minute Mr. Nutter came to the cabin.

Never had tea tasted better. So refreshing.

When the tea pot was being washed –

Discovered in the haste to make the tea, the second tea pot had been used –

The tea pot in which the rattle snake rattles had been stored.