

First Families in Buffalo County – Olivers & Nutters

*Oliver Family Story

[A kernel of truth in family stories]

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

*The Genealogy

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 – second issue)

An English family converted to Mormonism

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

*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
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)

Returned to Nebraska 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.
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 –

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. 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 he 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 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

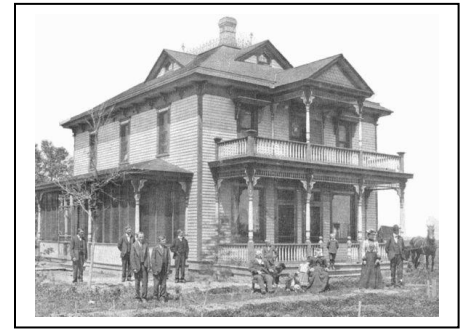
Eliza – also died in 1871 – Buried on homestead with mother and John

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.

***1855** - (2 children) with 700 other Mormon emigrants took passage on an unseaworthy ship

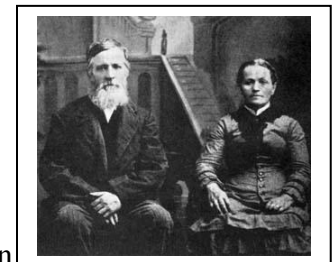
Five weeks at sea. landed at Philadelphia, Pa.

No money – had been led to believe that plenty of work at good wages.

Had some very hard times in next 4 years.

1859 - spring – left Philadelphia [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.... the captain of the train was John F. Smith, a son of Hiram Smith.



The Travels of William & Dinah Nutter

- 1855 – came to US
- 1859 – went to Utah
- 1862 – returned as far as Buffalo County
- 1864 – went back to England
- 1865 – returned to the US
- 1869 - returned to Buffalo County

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 for their coming; no provisions for their comfort or necessities.... [More hard times, another child born, 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 left asleep in a dry goods box used as a cradle.

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.

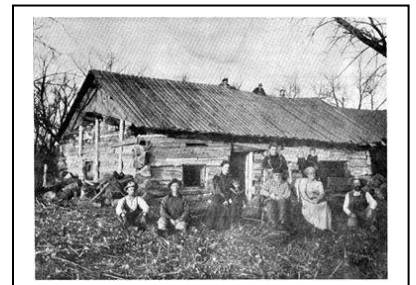
Went to Philadelphia with 5 children to join husband
Another child born in Philadelphia [now 6 living of 10]

1869 - spring - Nutter returned to Nebraska,

*purchased a "squatters right" with a log house, log barn, corral
\$300 – 2 mi. east of Gibbon

July - Mrs. Nutter and the 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) & Marconi (boy) born in England,
came on first trip here,
Olive died in Philadelphia
Marconi died in Glouster, 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 (Hingham - b. after 1870, Buffalo Co.)

Louisa (Mabel) – b. 1876, Buffalo Co

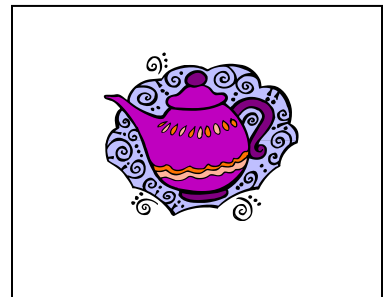
Mirabeau D. - b. Dec. 1878, Buffalo Co –
about 1 ½ but “Not named” in 1880 census

The Nutter Children

- Olive - 1853
- Maroni - 1854
- John N. - 1856
- William H. - 1857
- Hingham W. - 1857
- Helen – 1862
- Ione - 1863
- Leonie – 1863



- Elizabeth – 1865
- Alice – 1868
- Emma – 1870
- Jane – 1871
- Frank - 1872
- Louisa – 1876
- Mirabeau - 1878



***Tea Story**

Before the railroad was built in 1866.

Living in log house (first time here)

Liked their tea. - 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 by ox team.

These two-day shopping trips were not taken without real necessity.

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

Mr. Nutter left for Grand Island.

Afternoon of 2nd 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.