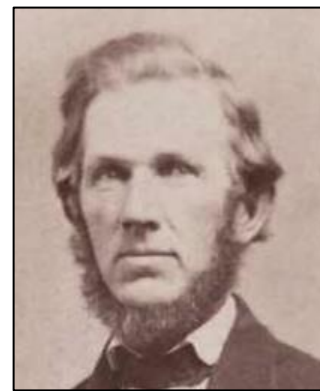




Elnathan Eldredge

Elnathan Eldredge was born in Harwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts, on 19 June 1811. He was the son of Elnathan Eldredge and Jane Wixom. 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 known as Captain Elnathan Eldredge.



Elnathan Eldredge and his wife (Ruth Baker Underwood) became acquainted with the Mormon missionaries and on 22 Mar 1846 he was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A few days later on 29 Mar. 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 Wixom, they left to join the saints in the west.

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 for the long overland journey of a thousand miles with ox teams and wagons.

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.

Joseph said to his father" We have spent quite a lot of time doing this? 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, Salt Lake, Utah. She was born 16 Aug. 1839 in Taunton, Bristol, Massachusetts.

Ann Maria Pock became a member of the church 17 Aug. 1847 in Massachusetts. She came to Utah with her family in the John Tidwell company leaving Kaneshville, 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 b. 20 Aug. 1857; George Albert b, 4 June 1860; Harrison b. 21 Dec. 1863 and died in 1864; Margaret Jane b. 19 Oct. 1865% and Annie Louisa b. 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 a true 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 ever 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.