



*Frederick William Ellis
and Family
- Utah Pioneers*

Frederick William Ellis emigrated to Utah in 1866

1851 Census, Melksham

Edmund Ellis, 28, a dealer in meat, head, wife Martha Ellis, 30, sons John, 8, **Frederick, 7** and Edward, 2.

1861 census, Melksham

Edward Ellis, head, 38, wife Sarah, 28, Frederick, 14, Edward, 12, Mary Ann, 6, Julia, 4, and William M. 6months old, as well as C.H. Mhees, a visitor, 28, born in America.

“The ancestry of Frederick (William) Ellis, as far as the records are to be obtained, are of English descent. His great grandparents Richard Ellis and Elizabeth Hillier. His grandparents John Ellis and Sarah Nash/Naish. His father Edmund Ellis was born at Melksham, Wiltshire, England May 14, 1822 and married Martha Oatley November 11, 1841, at Melksham, Wiltshire, England. After the birth of four children John, Elizabeth, Frederick and Edward, the mother dies leaving the father with that responsibility without an helpmeet. On January 16, 1854 Edmund married Sarah Grace Barnaby. She bore him a number of other children and after their emigration took up their abode in Pleasant View, Utah, later moving to North Ogden where they both died. He on May 7, 1903 and she on July 14, 1904.

Frederick (William) (he was born Frederick but added “William” as a middle name after emigrating to Utah.) Ellis was born April 30, 1846 at Melksham, Wiltshire, England on what was called City Street, but in his youth moved to the upper part of town. He was only about seven when his mother died. The only words he remembers ever hearing her say to him that so vividly impressed him with its memory, was when he was on his way to school. A playmate on the way to his school was killed by a runaway horse and he himself was knocked over. His mother say, “Run over to school, I thought you were killed”. On

June 17, 1857 when he was eleven years of age he was baptized in the River Avon in the nighttime because of the persecutions. He was baptized by William Brown and confirmed by him. When a boy he would look after his father's interests and would go with him in peddling meat two days out of the week. Other days of the week he would work at anything he could get to do to earn means to buy clothes and other things he needed. Frederick's older brother John age 17, and his sister Elizabeth age 15, left Liverpool, England April 11, 1859 with the company of William Trappscott. It is believed that Edmund Ellis made reservations on this ship for his son John and daughter Elizabeth to sail with this group of Saints. The company was blessed with a most pleasant and agreeable voyage which lasted only thirty one days. They crossed the plains probably with handcarts and is said to have walked all the way. The date of their arrival in Salt Lake City is not known, probably June or July 1859. How long John lived in Salt Lake City in his new found wilderness home is not known, but evidently soon went on to California. John met an Irish lady by the name of Johanna O'Keefe whom he married.

At the age of sixteen he was apprenticed to learn the painters trade with a Mr. Blake. He worked there for four years until he left England for America. He attended the LDS meetings as often as he could for the weather having to walk four and one-half miles to where the meetings were held at Steeple Ashton. They were mobbed nearly every time by the wicked who would gather for that purpose. Sometimes for a little pastime he would attend Church of England services and to their school on the Sabbath day. Their family being the only Mormons in the town, he desired the opportunity to meet others of his faith and set about to attend Conference at Bristol. He walked twelve miles to Bath and met the young people at that place, meeting for the first time the young lady Miss Susan K. Davis that he some five years later made his wife. That was Saturday night and the next morning with others struck out on foot to finish the distance of seven miles to the place of the conference, Bristol and had a good time listening to the inspiring remarks by Orson Pratt, Brigham Young, Jr. and Charles Staines. He was then twenty years of age and having but few of his faith to associate and the persecutions being so severe, he went before the Lord in humble prayer for help to emigrate to Zion, at the same time covenanting with him to serve him better in the future than he had done in the past. Two weeks after that Elder Anson V. Call, a missionary from Utah asked him if he would not like to go to Utah. Frederick readily assented coupled with the statement that he had no money. Elder Call replied, "I guess you will go." and in two months after his prayer he was on the ocean. On the 23rd of May 1866 he set sail from London in the ship "American Congress" with 350 Saints under the direction of John Nicholson. They were six weeks or 41 days on the trip being dependent upon the wind. They had concerts, games and other amusements when not prevented by sickness on board. After a month the water got so bad it would really stink and could not be used only in cases of extreme necessity. The fog was so bad we could not see the sun for three days. At Newfoundland by the hand of providence the fog was raised just in time to disclose the dangerous rocks ahead that in a little while we perhaps would have been dashed to pieces on the rocks, he notes of the occasion. They arrived in New York July 4th, but it being a holiday, did not leave the ship till the next morning. They went up the channel and was loaded on a passenger boat that night and proceeded westward for New Haven, where they took the train for St. Joseph. The railroad facilities having been so disrupted by the Civil War, the accommodations were very poor and they had to content themselves with the cattle cars to ride in. They traveled alternately in Canada and the United States, but reached their destination and took a boat up the Missouri River and landed at Wyoming, July 14, 1866. A little place of about fifteen lumber shacks where they had to camp on the ground for a few days while the wagons were being loaded. They then started on their walk of a thousand miles across the plains, July 19, 1866 in John D. Holliday's Ox Train. The company moved out about three miles and camped long enough to organize the company and moved on four miles further and camped for the night. July 24, we traveled till noon and camped, spending the afternoon celebrating the "Pioneer Day" and while the others were marching, dancing and having a good time, Bro. Ellis states he was on guard duty on the outside. The next day move out with eight others ahead of the train. The train stopped for noon and a big thunder storm overtook them. The train failed to

catch up with the footmen ahead, but they were afforded the accommodations at night of the advance mule team. They had no bedding of their own and stopped there till the train came up with next morning and the next day reached the Platt River. At this place Frank Oliver was carrying his gun in a way that it went off and shot two oxen belonging to Hartog. Oliver had to take them and let Hartog have his in exchange. August 2, 1866, The Captain advised them to stop at the camp because of suspected enemies around the camp with evil intent and the next morning found that ten of their cattle were gone. They passed Fort Kearny that day and took on flour and other provisions. August 4, One brother died and was buried by the roadside as many others had been during the journey across the plains. One team started to run away and struck a little girl and hurt her but she got better. About a week nothing of very much interest happened, only the death of another sister and passing through an Indian camp of about one hundred souls, but they all seemed friendly. August 13, They crossed the river about a mile wide, one wagon tipped over but the crossing was made all right and for the next three days had very heavy roads over sand and steep hills. August 17, Another sister died about seventeen years old. August 20, Passed Court House Rock. August 21, Passed Chimney Rock which they had been in sight of for two days. They passed through Scotts Bluff and an Indian camp, and finally reached Fort Laramie. At that time the Indians were very bad and they had to begin to take an inventory of their means of protection. Fifty five guns and forty six revolvers were brought to the surface leaving some yet concealed. August 26, They continued their travel through the Black Hills right in the Indian Country and had to keep a sharp lookout. August 29, Nooned at a place where the Indians had committed many depredations in running off horses, mules and cattle of other companies ahead. Several Elders returning from missions came up and offered to travel with the company. September 1, Passed a station that had been burned down by the Indians, only two men were there. September 2, Crossed the Platt Bridge, where lots of soldiers and Indians were to be seen and real prairie dog villages. Three of the prairie dogs were shot by the teamsters. Left the Platt River and reached the Sweet Water in the evening. September 5, met a lot of soldiers from Salt Lake City. September 6, Passed Independence Rock and Devil's Gate, forded the Green River and guarded the camp that night amidst a continuous howling of wolves. Crossed the river four times, fording it and in traveling through the mountains saw many antelope. September 12, Were traveling 5000 feet above sea level and it was very cold. September 14, Had a heavy thunder storm and had to lay on the ground at night. September 15, Crossed the Green River and camped till the next day. September 16, Made a long drive, made a dry camp for dinner and at night camped at Ham's Fork with a lot of Indians. September 17, Took up some flour and crossed the Muddy River. September 18, Started out at 5 O'clock, crossed the Muddy and camped at Muddy Station for breakfast. Had their first snowstorm. Frank Oliver's wife died and she was buried by F. W. Ellis and others on the quaken asp ridge. After the snowstorm a cold wind followed. September 19, Crossed Bear River. September 20, Killed a cow and it made about a pound of meat for each one. September 22, Passed through Echo Canyon and into Weber Valley. At Coalville the people were out in numbers to meet us and treat us to fruit and such other things as they had and we were made welcome, writes Brother Ellis under that date. September 24, They came to Parley's Canyon and camped that night. September 25, Brother Ellis again notes, "I drove into the city though sick at the time and had quite a time getting around the dug ways, but finally made into the city and drove into the Tithing Yard about 4 O'clock there my sister Elizabeth came to meet her tired, worn out, brown and ragged brother". After signing a note for \$60.00 to the Church for emigration expense he went with his sister to her brother-in-law's where she was stopping for awhile as her husband was absent in Sanpete on defensive warfare with the Indians. Frederick's health not being good, he stopped there for awhile. His brother-in-law, William Raybould soon returned from his warfare against the Indians in Sanpete. Frederick arranged to stop with them for a time at \$8.00 per week and was able to get a little work along to keep going. There was not much doing through the winter months and he spent about two months of the time in school.

The promise he had made in England, if the Lord would open the way for him to emigrate to Zion, he would serve him more perfectly than he had done, suddenly dawned upon him. He desired to do something for the good of the cause and as he had learned a little about music in England, that seemed to be the first avenue open to him. At the request of the leader became identified with the Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir and sang with them over two years. At the same time being associated with the 17th Ward Choir and also with the Deseret Brass Band and stayed with them over two years. In the spring of 1867, not having much to do in his trade, he hired out to work in Big Cottonwood Canyon to work at cutting lath for the Tabernacle and remained there till the fall of the year in order to get money to send back to England for his father's family. When he returned from his summer's work in the mountains to the city he resumed his former work along musical lines, including much singing in concerts and on the stage in the Salt Lake Theater in heavy chorus work. He finally got work at his trade as a painter with George Hamblin, also in the Dinwoody establishment painting furniture. In 1868 he made a change in his work and took up work in a store for a few months, meanwhile renting two rooms and fitted them up for his father's family in the 17th Ward, just coming in from off the plains. Sister Sarah Davis, a widow with four children, Sarah R., Susan K., Lydia E., and Edward J. came with them. After that he went to the store of James Irish and worked there all winter. In March 1869, he, James Irish and Jesse Fields formed a partnership in business and went to Corinne where they opened up business for themselves. Brother Fields being baker, they added that as part of the business. They loaded on a wagon what they had in Salt Lake City for the new venture, but the roads were so heavy at that time of the year it took several days to make the trip. They had to cross Bear River in a ferry boat, no bridge at that time spanning that stream, but finally reaching their destination they put up tents and commenced business. Corinne at that time being a tented town, supported wholly by the business afforded from the railroad construction being carried on at that point. Business was naturally good but a rough element to deal with. About ten weeks after their arrival the railroad was finished and the last spike driven, business began to fall off accordingly and not being congenial in his feelings to the class of people there, he sold out his interest in the business and moved to North Ogden in June 1869. He had been in North Ogden the previous summer and took up land and had got his father's family to that place before he left Salt Lake City. On his return from Corinne, he lived with them awhile in the west part, later called Pleasant View in a dugout. Henry Holmes was presiding over the North Ogden Ward and James Barker was superintendent of the Sunday School. He would go over there on Sundays and attend the Sunday School and meetings and commenced to assist them in learning something about music and soon worked up a good choir as well as helping along the same line in the Sunday School. He also did much work in the Glee Club singing and continued in that work in connection with other labors for twenty-five years.

On September 6, 1869, Frederick was married in the Salt Lake Endowment House to Susan K. Davis, a daughter of Edward Davis and Sarah E. Mudd. She was born January 28, 1850 at Bath, Somersetshire, England. She was baptized February 1860 by Edward Davis. She emigrated on July 14, 1868, sailing on the ship "Colorado" from Liverpool in a company of 600 Saints under the direction of William B. Preston. They landed in New York on July 28, 1868 and reached Salt Lake City September 3rd where she remained for some time finally reaching North Ogden, where after her marriage she made her future home and where all her children were born. Notwithstanding the care, labor and responsibility of rearing a family of ten children and keeping them in the path of rectitude, her husband much of the time being absent on church duties including two terms in the Utah Penitentiary for obeying the Patriarchal Order of marriage and a mission in the Pacific Islands from November 6, 1893 to May 26, 1896, she performed much work in the ward and sang for forty years in the ward choir. She took great joy in the great amount of temple work she was able to do for the salvation of her kindred and friends.



Frederick Ellis and his
wife Susan Kazia Ellis

Frederick W. Ellis was ordained an Elder by William J. Smith in the Endowment house on the day of his marriage. He made his home in North Ogden and at once became identified with the various phases of the ward work. He was installed that year as a ward visiting teacher and labored in that calling regularly when not absent from home for over fifty years and always took great pride in visiting his district one hundred percent each month. He labored in the superintendency of the ward Sunday School twenty-one years, three years as assistant superintendent and eighteen years as superintendent. He labored as a missionary to the Sunday Schools in Weber County for some length of time and to the Sunday Schools of Morgan County. After his return from the penitentiary, he continued his labors in the North Ogden Sunday School including the missionary work to the Sunday Schools until called on a mission to Tasmania. On August 25, 1881 he entered into the Patriarchal Order of Marriage taking as his second wife in the Salt Lake Endowment House, Sarah Jane Barker, a daughter of James Barker and Polly E. Blodgett Barker born at North Ogden, Weber, Utah July 13, 1860. She was baptized June 6, 1872 by Elder John Brown and confirmed by John Wheeler. On October 17, 1878, Sarah Jane was appointed secretary of the first young ladies association of the ward. May 6, 1880 was re-baptized by John Brown and three days later reconfirmed by Thomas Wallace. May 4, 1881, was appointed 2nd counselor in the organization of the first Primary Association of the ward. On August 25 1881she became the plural wife of Frederick W. Ellis in the Salt Lake Endowment House. Joseph F. Smith performing the ceremony. Six children were born to them. Sarah Jane's first three children were born in North Ogden, then Frederick made her a nice home in Pleasant View where the three other children were born. She resumed her usual work in the auxiliary associations of the Pleasant View Ward. On April 28, 1898 she died at the hospital I Ogden following an operation for a tumor. On December 13, 1886 Frederick W. Ellis was arrested on a charge of violation of the Edmunds Tucker Act against polygamy and unlawful cohabitation and was incarcerated in the Utah

Penitentiary for six months and to pay a fine of one-hundred dollars. Again the same month, December 13, 1890 on a similar charge and fine of two months was imposed. He claims during those periods to have been well treated and enjoyed himself fully as well as he could have expected under the conditions and made many friends with other inmates there on similar charges. Frederick was called upon a mission to Tasmania. He was set apart October 9, 1893 by Elder George Reynolds of the First Council of Seventy.

Familysearch