

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF
J O H N L O W E B U T L E R, J R.

1844 ----- 1898

Son of John Lowe Butler, Sr. and Caroline
Farozine Skeen, born Feb. 28th, 1844, in
Nauvoo, Illinois.

CROSSED PLAINS 1852
Eli B. Kelsey's Company.
Arrived in Salt Lake City, Nov. 1852
Settled in Spanish Fork, Utah.

WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER, CAROLINE BUTLER THURBER, AND PRESENTED TO
SACAJAWEA CAMP, DAUGHTER OF UTAH PIONEERS, OF BOISE, IDAHO, FEBRUARY
19th, 1941.

History of
JOHN LOWE BUTLER JR.
1844-1898

This is the history of my father, John Lowe Butler, son of John Lowe Butler, Sr. and Caroline Farozine Skeen. He was born February 28, 1844 in Nauvoo, Illinois, the eighth child out of a family of twelve children, four sons, eight daughters.

John Lowe Butler, Sr. was a body guard and close friend of the Prophet Joseph Smith. John was 4 months old when the Prophet was martyred. The Butler family went thru all the trails and persecutions with the Saints. The family being large, they did not start their trek West until the Spring of 1852. This company consisted of fifty-one families, with Eli B. Kelsey as Captain. John, Sr. father of young John was then eight years old. He helped to drive 200 heifers across the plains, arriving in Salt Lake Valley in November 1852. They settled in Spanish Fork, Utah, where he was the 1st Bishop of that town.

When John was 17 years old his father died leaving him the eldest son at home to care for the family. Soon after, the family moved to Panguitch, Utah, but were run out by the Indians so returned to Paraguena. In the meantime John and his two younger brothers James and Thomas fought in the Indian war. On one occasion John had a horse shot out from under him and afterwards found a bullet in his saddle within two inches of his body. He said he never pulled a trigger on the Indians, just tried to scare them into surrendering stolen property.

A few years later the family moved back to Panguitch, going into the Sawmill and shingle mill business, forming a partnership with his brothers James and Thomas. John handled the lumber business while James superintended the ranch. Thomas rode the range and was a wonderful sheep, cattle, and horseman. One time James and Thomas went to California and bought a fine Stallion paying \$1,000 for it, also thirty-five brood mares at \$3,500.00 They all made good money as long as they were cooperating each helping the other as needed.

On the 23rd of June 1873, John married my mother, Nancy Frannzetta Smith of Parowan, Utah, at the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. They had ten children, four sons and six daughters. John's mother continued to live with father and mother until her death 4th August 1875. I well remember hearing my father praise mother for the wonderful way mother treated and cared for his mother in their home.

John was a frontiers man and a wonderful woodsman. One day he and a friend came to a nice looking bunch of timber. John said, "There is a nice day's cutting for a good cutter." The man said, "No man living could cut that much in one day." John said he believed he could, so tried it out, starting as the sun came up. When the sun went down he had finished the grove, using but one ax. It measured or scaled 4,000 feet of logs. The most his two sons ever did in a day was 2,000 feet and haul it in.

While John was active in the cutting business, he developed a wonderful muscle on his arms and shoulders.

In 1881, when I was one year old, the Butler Brothers (John II, James, and Thomas) moved to Sevier County, Utah. They dissolved partnership at this time. John homesteaded a farm called Jerico and went into the sheep and cattle business. I well remember when I was about eight years old, after the sale of some sheep, Uncle Thomas (who lived with us as he never married, and died in Salt Lake City on returning from his third mission) let me hold the thousand dollars in my hand, so I could say I had held that much money.

A few years later John located a mining claim later called the Butler Beck mine, in the gold mountain district. He then moved the family to Richfield, the county seat of Sevier County. This mine was developed, a five stamp mill installed. After successfully running for a few years, the main vein shifted and never was located. Mining experts have tried several times to locate the lost vein.

John was a kind, loving father. All the children in the neighborhood called him Uncle John. He died December 31, 1898 at Richfield, Utah, of Brights disease, at the age of 54 years.

Written by his daughter, Caroline Butler Thurber
February 19, 1941

Caroline B. Thurber