

GEORGE BATEMAN

by William Henry Bateman

George Bateman, his wife, Anna Wilks, and their son, Fred came from England to America accompanied by their parents, aunts and uncles, and brothers and sisters. At times their faith was at a low ebb because they sailed six weeks on the Atlantic in an old sail boat.

After landing on the east coast, they all traveled directly to Ogden, Utah, While living there a short while, Joshua Jarvis came to Ogden with a pocketful of soil from Bear Lake County, Idaho. He encouraged George to move to Bloomington, Idaho to purchase a farm. George had been a first class farmer in England, so he willingly left for Bloomington with Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis and his family. Because of the shortage of blankets, the two women slept in the wagon and the men outside by the fire in Emigration Canyon.

When they reached Bloomington George only had one shirt and fifty cents to his name. The next day he started walking to Almy, Wyoming, which was 70 miles away, to work in the Almy Mine. He returned to Bloomington in the spring with \$100 in gold. This was quite a bit of money compared to his previous wage in England which had consisted of twenty-five cents, a glass of beer, and a piece of cheese each day.

Upon his arrival in Bloomington, the Probate Judge, George Osmond, deeded him a half-acre plot of land. He built a nice split-level home. This was to be their permanent home after working a few more years in the Almy Mine in Wyoming. Almy was where his second son, John, was born.

After finally settling in Bloomington, George set up a freight business in Afton, Wyoming. This provided a modest, yet sufficient means to support his family. Often he would take his sons with him in the loaded horse-driven wagon. They would stop in Garden City, Utah at Chris Hansen's; in Laketown, Utah at Joe Lamborn's; in Randolph, Utah, at Joe Carbett's Ranch; and in Evanston, Wyoming at Barney Fox's Camp House. The individual fare for these men to sleep, cook, and have their horses fed was only thirty-five cents.

When their goods--cheese, fish, wheat, eggs, chicken feed--were delivered, they would start back with a load of sugar. This could be delivered for fifty cents a hundred. Each two week interval trip made them \$25.

Besides being busy in freighting, George was a farmer, blacksmith, horse-trader, and carpenter. He loved to keep busy and accomplish worthwhile projects. The evenings were often spent reading.

His personality radiated a love for others. He often would say: "Always speak to the other man, even if he doesn't speak first." He seemed to have a joke for every occasion. "He was much like Will Rogers," remarked his third son, William Henry. His grandchildren

eagerly anticipated his weekly treats of candy and toys after he'd return from Evanston.

Although only 5'-8" and of a slight build, George was very strong physically and spiritually. He carried four bushels of wheat while working in England. He never seemed to complain of sickness. While resting, his death came quickly with no pain.

Spiritually, he was a pillar of strength. He was a counselor to the Bloomington Ward Bishop. His love of church books exhibited his profound knowledge of church doctrine. His soft-spoken mannerisms attracted listeners with an intense feeling while he spoke. Humility and kindness also were his virtues.

With honor to his name, George died at the age of 91. He came from a long line of long-living ancestors.

Two of his seven children are now living (1967). They are as follows: Lucy Pugmire, 76, of Salt Lake City, and William Henry Bateman, 81, of Brigham City, Utah.