

The Story of Karren Family at Sulfur Springs

Page 6 -7 Thomas Karren Book

Biography of Ann Ratcliff Karren

The story, which I have since been able to piece together from scraps and incidents related in other conversation and documents, is as follows:

The first pioneers of Lehi lived in their wagons while the cabins were being built. It was November and the men had to do fast-work to get the logs out and laid before the snows of winter came. A gully in a near-by canyon was located to serve as a saw pit. With a ship saw, Thomas Karren as top sawer and William Fotheringham underneath, fashioned the logs which had been hauled from Alpine Canyon. The wagon boxes served for doors and the small windows were covered with coarse muslin which the pioneers had included among their supplies. Some cabins were larger than others to provide for the families according to their size.

There was an open fireplace and a sod chimney for each cabin. The people did not complain about the dirt floors and roofs. They were grateful for shelter and the women and children sang as they chinked the open spaces between the logs to keep out the cold and drafts while the men cut the wild grass for the cows and oxen. The water, always the most important factor in selecting a site for a settlement, and a flavor of sulphur which was most unpleasant, but fish in the nearby lake insured an ample supply of food.

When spring came the people decided that the location was not favorable for a permanent settlement because of the water and the dampness and they moved in-land to the place they called Lehi.

Sulfur Springs Experience

From the Biography of Thomas Karren

With four other families, consisting of Canute Peterson's, David Clark's, Henry Royal's and Daniel Cox's they journeyed southward, and were among the first settlers of Lehi. They lived in their wagons for several months during which time, crops were planted and arrangements made to build temporary homes. Thomas Karren was the first man in Lehi to erect a home with a board floor and feeling very happy, he gave a party for his friends and neighbors who were all exceedingly joyous because of their bright prospects.

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