

James Calvin Sly Journal

**Guide for 1849-1850 Wagon Train
From Great Salt Lake to Sacramento**

Adventures during Gold Rush in California

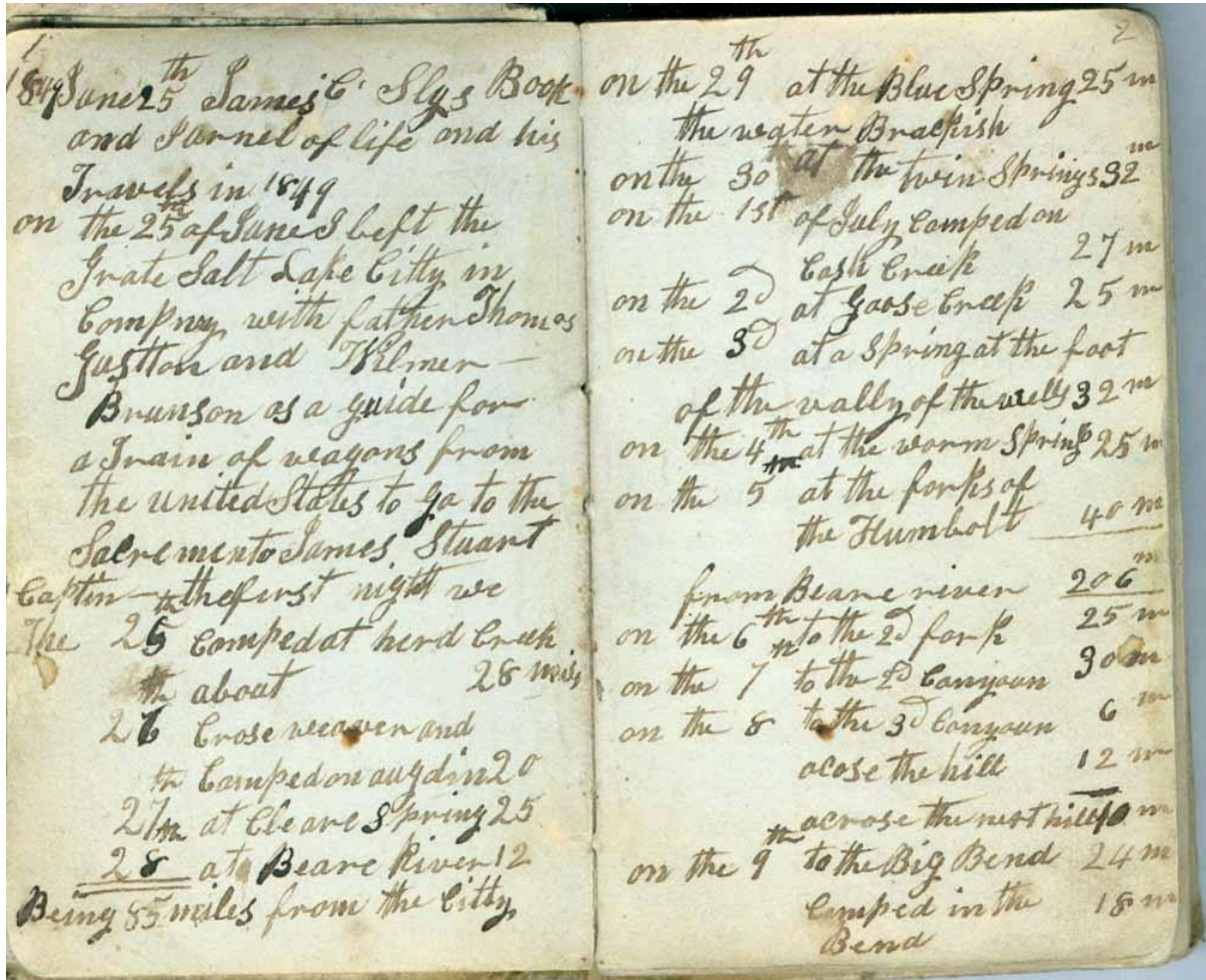
Family Births, Marriages & Deaths



**Images
&
Transcription
by
Jeffrey M. Sly
2003 - Updated 2025**

Additional information may be found online at: <https://www.web3us.com/non-technical/james-calvin-sly>
or by contacting Jeffrey Sly, 373 West 800 South, Salem Utah 84653.
Email: stompersly@gmail.com

Guide for 1849-1850 Wagon Train

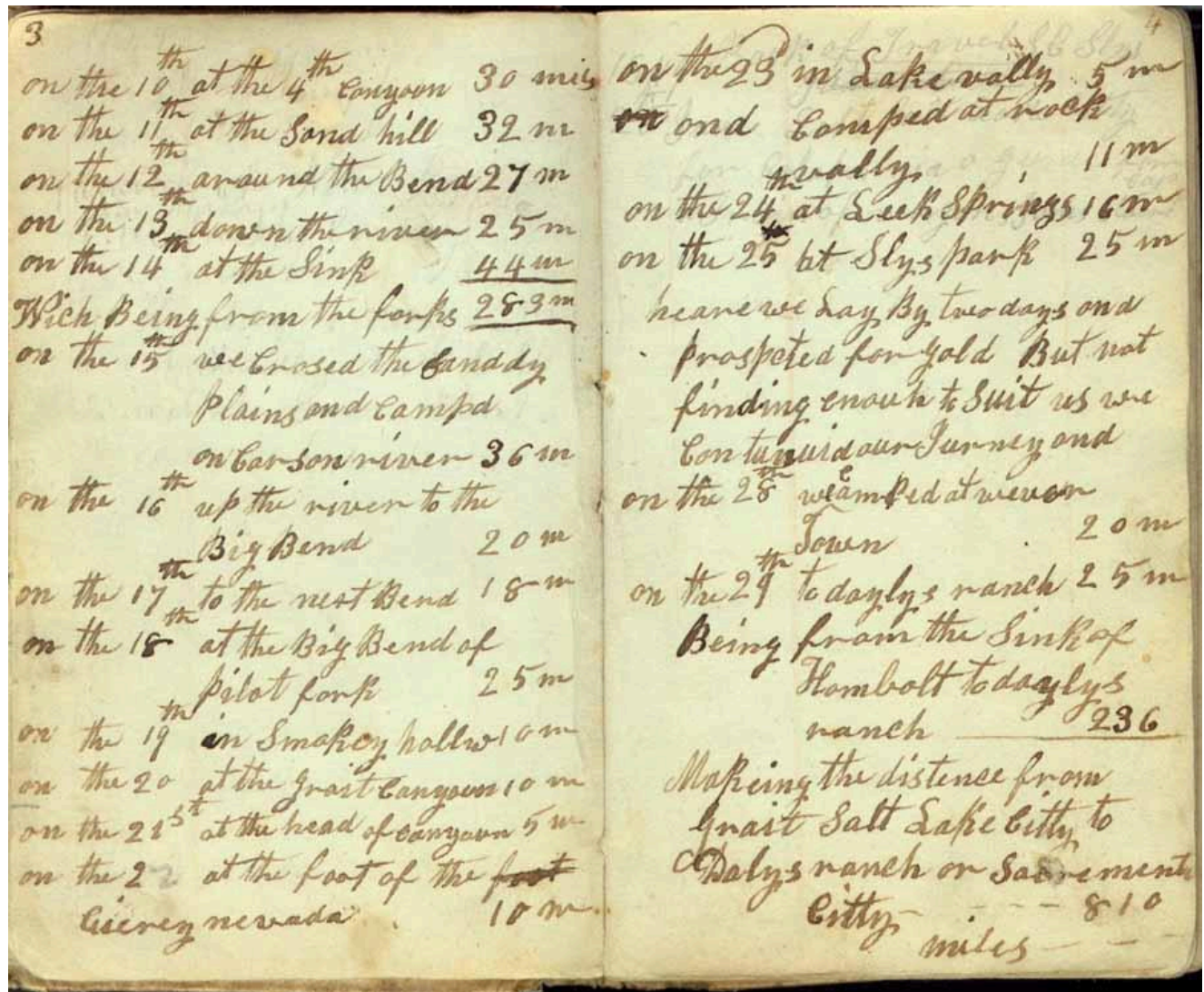


Page 1

1849 June 25th James C. Sly's Book and [Journal] of life and his travels in 1849
 On the 25th of June I left the [Great] Salt Lake [City] in Company with father Thomas [Gustin] and Wilmer Brunson as a guide for a Train of wagons from the United States to go to the [Sacramento]. James Stuart - The Captain
 The first night the 25th we camped at herd Creek, about 28 miles
 26th Cross weaver and Camped on [Ogden] 20 miles
 27th at [Clear] Spring 25 miles
 28th at [Bear] River 12 miles
Being 85 files from [Salt Lake City]

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On the 29th at the Blue Spring 25 miles
 The water Brackish
 On the 30th at the twin springs 32 miles
 On the 1st of July camped on Cash Creek 27 miles
 On the 2nd at Goose Creek 25 miles
 On the 3rd at a spring at the foot of the [valley] of the well 32 miles
 On the 4th at the Warm Spring 25 miles
 On the 5th at the forks of the [Humbolt] 40 miles
From the [Bear] river 206 miles
 On the 6th to the 2nd fork 25 miles
 On the 7th to the 2nd [Canyon] 30 miles
 On the 8th to the 3rd [Canyon] 6 miles
 [across] the hill 12 miles
 [across] the next hill 10 miles
 On the 9th to the big Bend 24 miles
 Camped in the Bend 18 miles



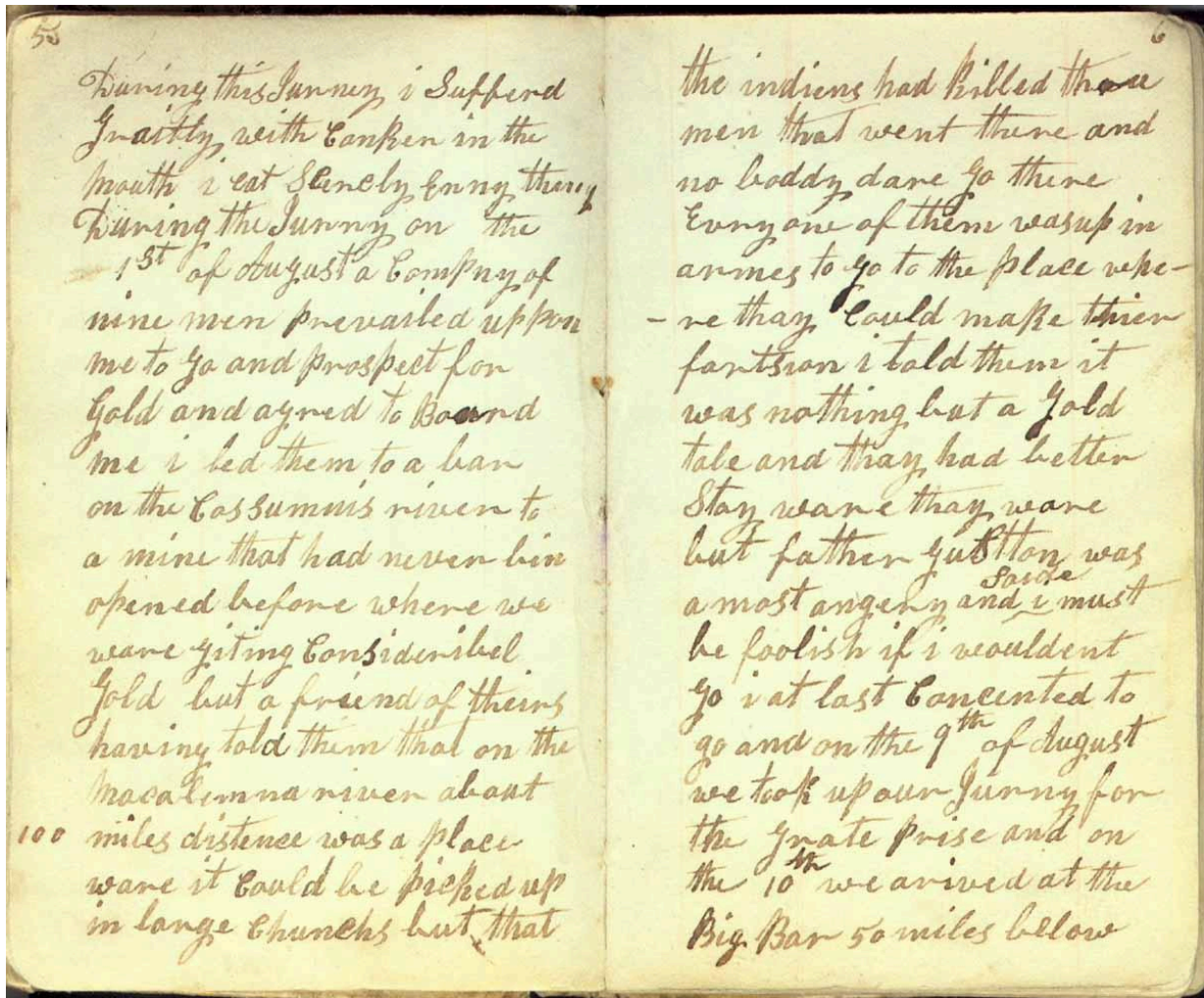
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On the 10 th at the 4 th canyon	30 miles
On the 11 th at the Sand hill	32 miles
On the 12 th around the bend	27 miles
On the 13 th down the river	25 miles
On the 14 th at the sink	<u>44 miles</u>
Which Being from the forks	<u>283 miles</u>
On the 15 th we Crossed the Sandy Plains and Camped on Carson river	36 miles
On the 16 th up the river to the Big Bend	20 miles
On the 17 th to the next Bend	18 miles
On the 18 th at the Big Bend of Pilot Fork	25 miles
On the 19 th in Smokey hollow	10 miles
On the 20 th at the Frost Canyon	10 miles
On the 21 st at the head of Canyon	5 miles
On the 22 nd at the foot of the Cierrey Nevada	10 miles

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On the 23 rd in Lake Valley	5 miles
and camped at Rock valley	11 miles
On the 24 th at Leek Springs	16 miles
On the 25 th at Sly's Park	25 miles
Here we lay by two days and prospected for gold. But not finding enough to suit us we Continued our Journey and On the 28 th we camped at Weuon town	20 miles
On the 29 th to Daylys ranch	25 miles
Being from the sink of Humbolt to Daylys ranch	236 miles
Making the distance from Great Salt Lake City to Daylys ranch on Sacramento City	810 miles

Adventures during Gold Rush in California

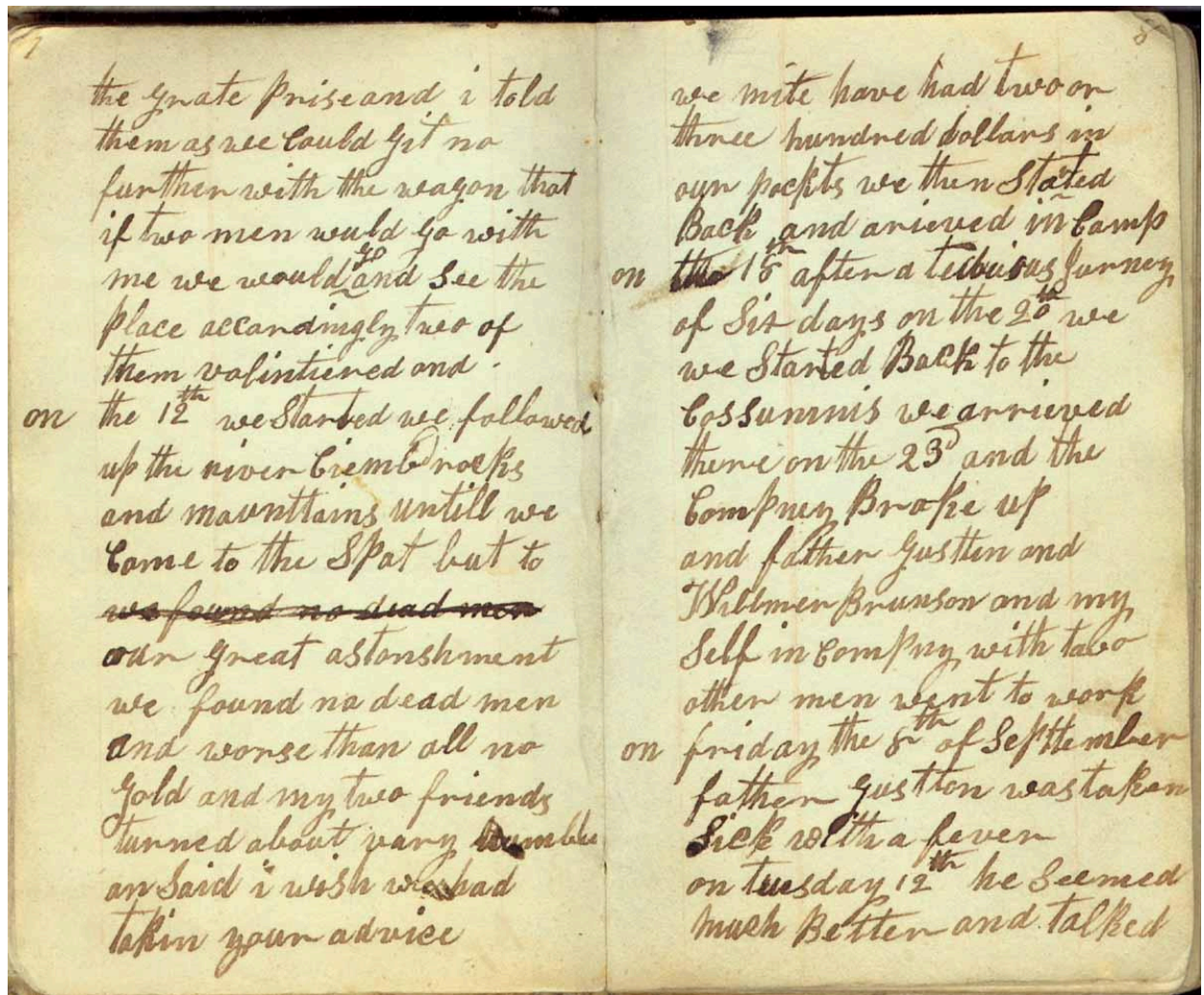


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During this Journey I suffered greatly with canker in the mouth. I eat scarcely any thing during the journey. On the 1st of August a Company of nine men prevailed upon me to go and prospect for gold and agreed to board me. I led them to a ban on the Cosumnes River to a mine that had never been opened before, where we were getting considerable gold. But a friend of theirs having told them that on the Macalimna River about 100 miles distance was a place where it could be picked up in large chunks but that

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the Indians had killed those men that went there and no body dare go there. Every one of them was up in arms to go to the place where they could make their fortune. I told them it was nothing but a gold tale and they had better stay where they were. But father [Gustin] was a most angry and said I must be foolish if I wouldn't go. I at last consented to go and on the 9th of August we took up our Journey for the great prize. And on the 10th we arrived at the Big Bear 50 miles below

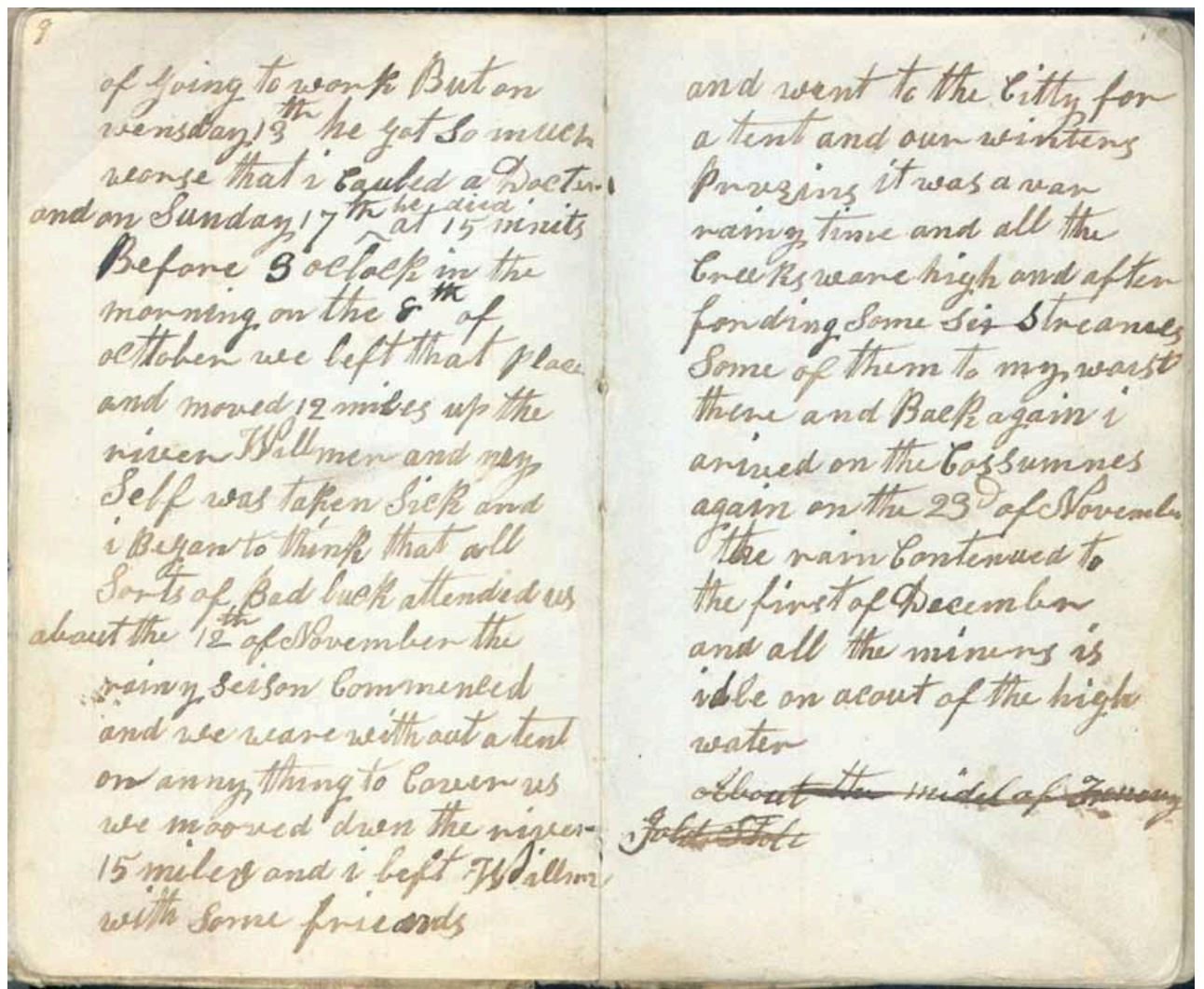


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the great prize, and I told them as we could get no further with the wagon that if two men would go with me we would go and see the place. Accordingly two of them volunteered and on the 12th we started. We followed up the river climb rocks and mountains until we came to the spot. But to our great astonishment we found no dead men, and worse than all no gold. And my two friends turned about very humble and said I wish we had taken your advice.

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We might have had two or three hundred dollars in our [packs]. We then started back and arrived in camp on the 18th after a tedious journey of six days. On the 20th we started back to the Cossumnis. We arrived there on the 23rd and the company broke up. And father Gustin and Willmer Brunson and my self in company with two other men went to work. On Friday the 8th of September father Gustin was taken sick with a fever. On Tuesday the 12th he seemed much better and talked



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of going to work. But on Wednesday 13th he got so much worse that I called a Doctor and on Sunday 17th he died at 15 minutes before 8 o'clock in the morning. On the 8th of October we left that place and moved 12 miles up the river. Willmer and my self was taken sick and I began to think that all sorts of bad luck attended us. About the 12th of November the rainy season commenced and we were without a tent or any thing to cover us. We moved down the river 15 miles and I left Willmer with some friends

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and went to the city for a tent and our winter provisions. It was a very rainy time and all the creeks were high. And after fording some six streams some of them to my waist, there and back again, I arrived on the Cossumnes again on the 23rd of November. The rain continued to the first of December and all the mines is idle on account of the high water.

15 Feb., we had our gold stole
from us which reduced us to
poverty.
1st March I was taken with the
Scurvy, very Sick
on the 12 father Bun was taken
Sick and died on the 17th 1850

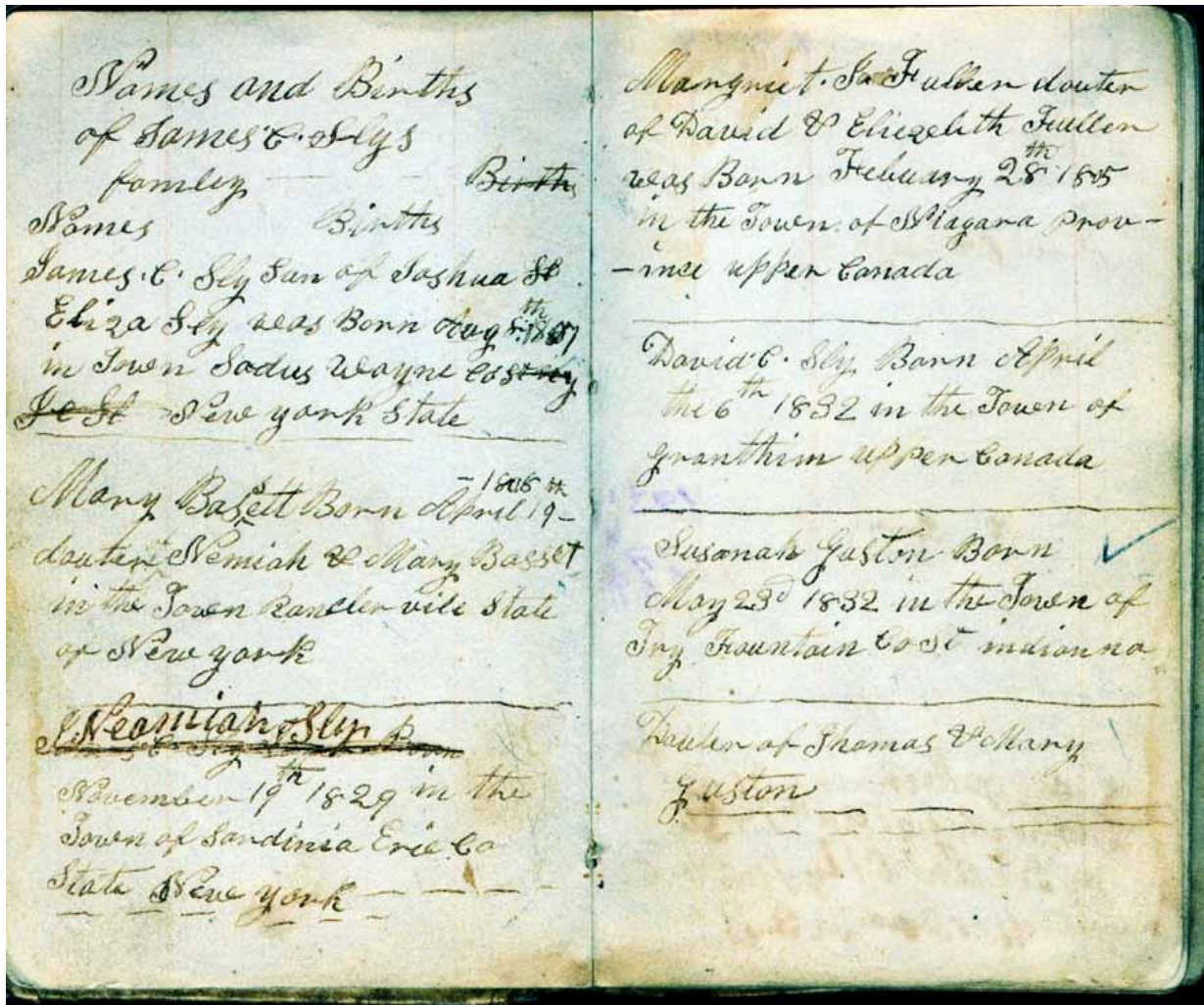
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15th Feb We had our gold stole from us which reduced us to poverty

1st March I was taken with Scurvy very sick

On the 12 father Bun was taken sick and died on the 17th 1850

Family Births



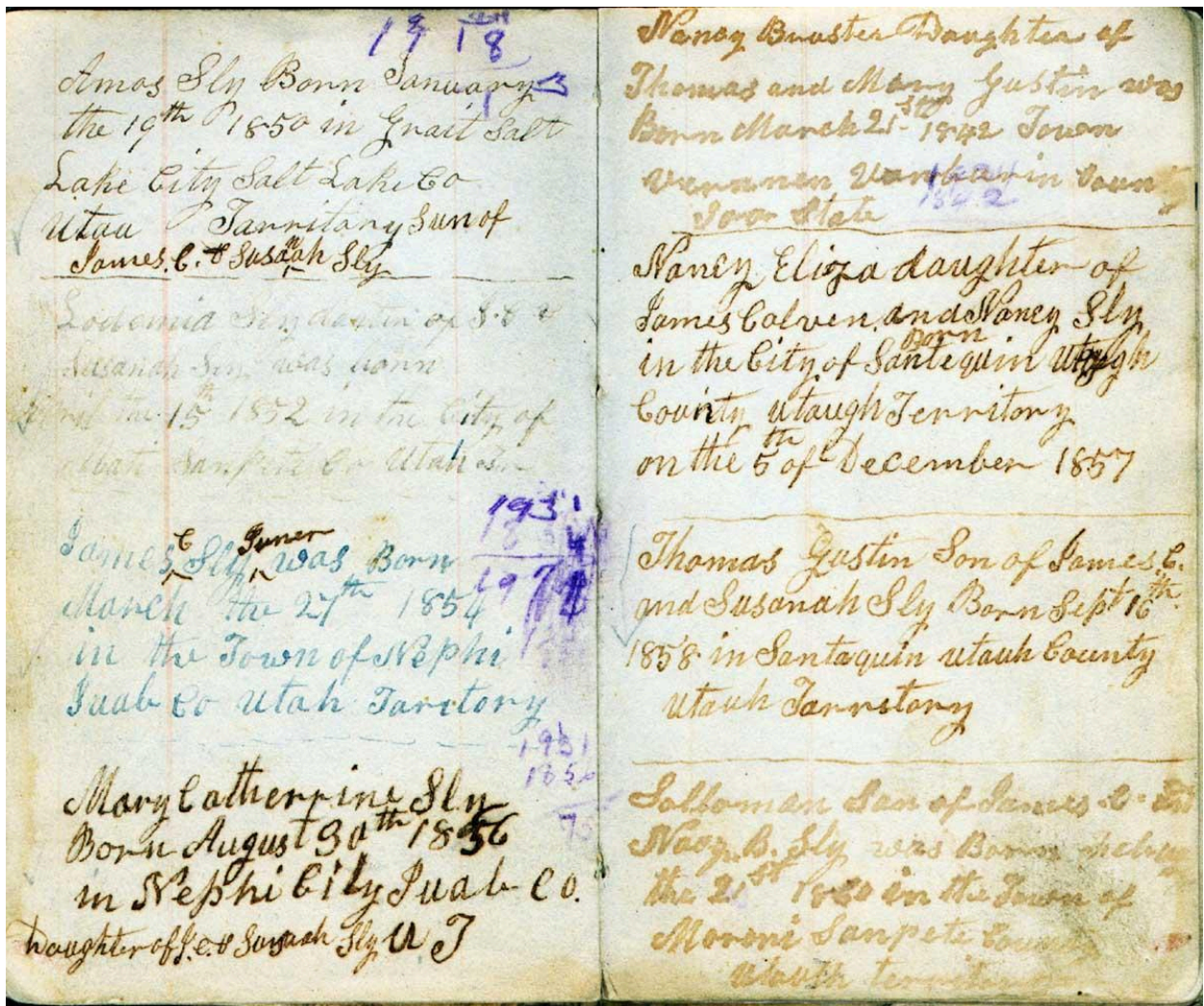
Names and Births of James C. Sly's Family

Names	Births
James C. Sly son of Joshua & Eliza Sly was born Aug 8 th 1807 in Town Sodus Wayne County New York State	
Mary Bassett Born April 19 th 1808 daughter of Nemiah & Mary Basset in the Town Ranclerville State of New York	
Neamiah Sly Born November 19 th 1829 in the Town of Sandinia, Erie Co. State New York	

Margriet Fuller daughter of David & Elizabeth Fuller
Was Born February 28th 1805 in the Town of Niagara Province
Upper Canada

David C. Sly Born April
The 6th 1832 in the Town of Granthim, Upper Canada

Susannah Gustin Born
May 23rd 1832 in the Town of Try Fountain Cost Indiana
[Vernner, Van Buren, Iowa]
Daughter of Thomas & Mary Gustin



Amos Sly Born January
The 19th 1850 in Great Salt Lake City, Salt Lake
Co., Utah Territory, Son of James C. & Susannah
Sly

Lodemina Sly Daughter of J. C. &
Susannah Sly was Born
April 15th 1852 in the City of
Manti, San Pete Co., Utah State

James C. Sly Junior Born
March the 27th 1854
In the Town of Nephi,
Juab Co., Utah Territory

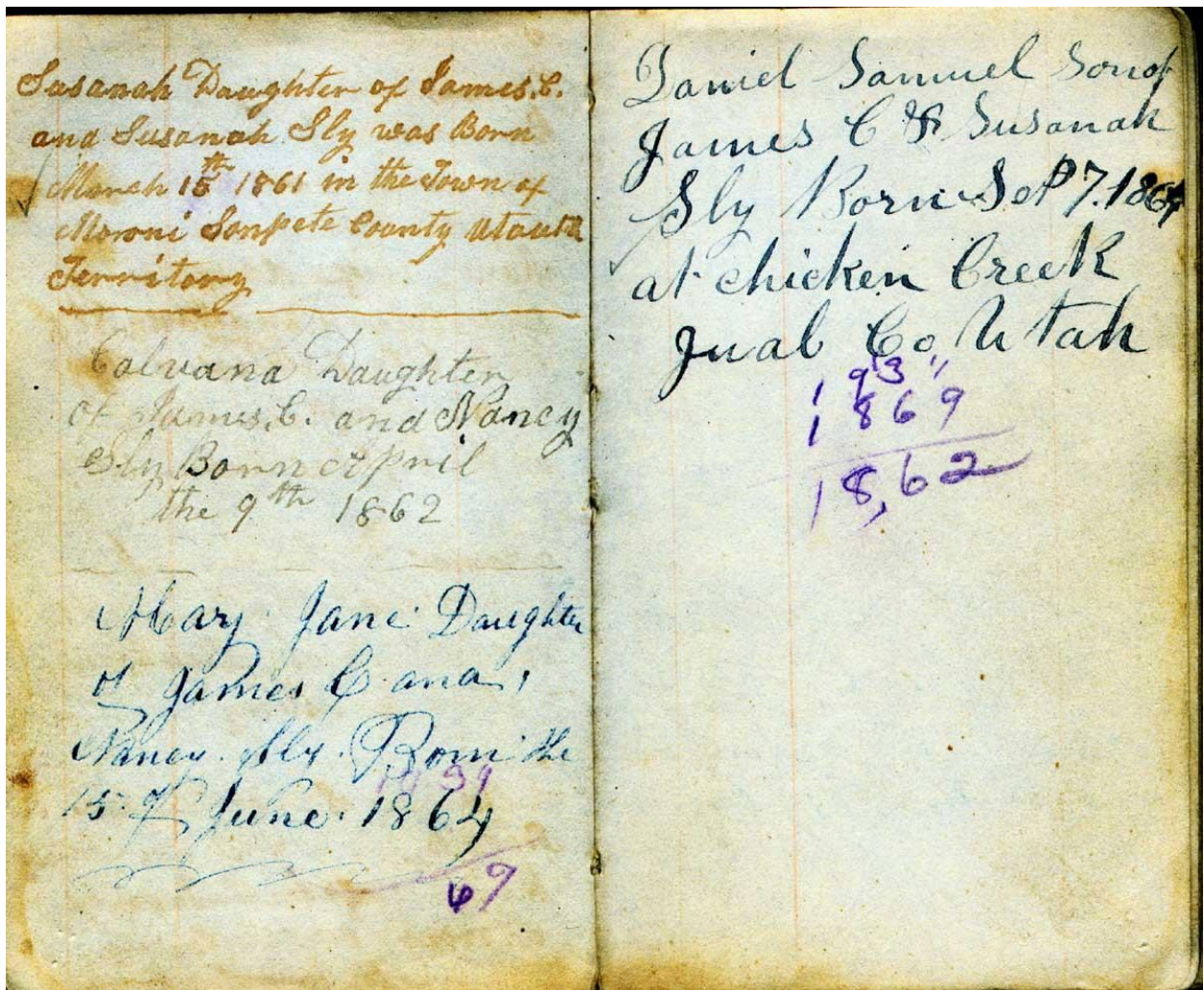
Mary Catherine Sly
Born August 30th 1856
In Nephi City, Juab Co., UT
Daughter of J. C. & Susannah Sly

Nancy Bruster Daughter of
Thomas and Mary Gustin was born March 21st
1842 Town Vernon, Van Buren Co., Iowa State

Nancy Eliza daughter of
James Calvin and Nancy Sly
Born in the City of Santaquin, Utah
Co., Utah Territory
On the 5th of December 1857

Thomas Gustin Son of James C.
and Susannah Sly Born Sept 16th
1858 in Santaquin, Utah County
Utah Territory

Solloman Son of James C. &
Nancy B. Sly was Born February
The 21st 1860 in the Town of Moroni, San Pete
Co., Utah Territory



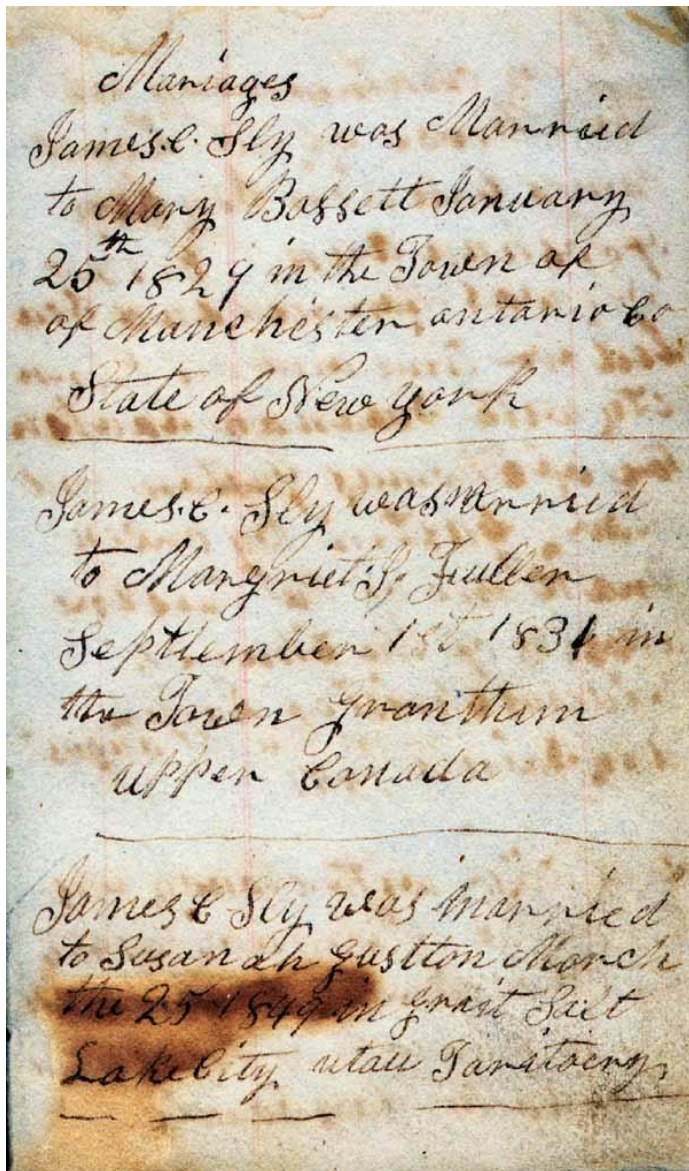
Susannah Daughter of James C. and Susannah Sly was Born March 15th 1861 In the Town of Moroni, San Pete Co., Utah Territory

Calvana Daughter of James C. and Nancy Sly Born April the 9th 1862

Mary Jane Daughter of James C. and Nancy Sly Born the 15th of June 1864

Daniel Samuel Son of James C & Susannah Sly Born Sept 7 1864 at Chicken Creek, Juab Co., Utah

Family Marriages



Marriages

James C. Sly was married to Mary Bassett
January 25th 1829 in the Town of Manchester,
Ontario Co., State of New York

James C. Sly was married to Margriet J. [Jane]
Fuller September 1st 1831 in the Town Grantham,
Upper Canada

James C. Sly was Married to Susannah Gustin
March the 25th 1849 in Great Salt Lake City,
Utah Territory

Holy Matrimony in
the House of the Lord
James Calvin Sly Son
of Joshua and Eliza
Sly was Married and Sea-
led for time and all Eterni-
ty with Susannah daughter
the of Thomas Gustin and
Mary Gustin By Orcen
Pratt one of the twelve
apostles of the Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter
day Saints on the 1st August
1851

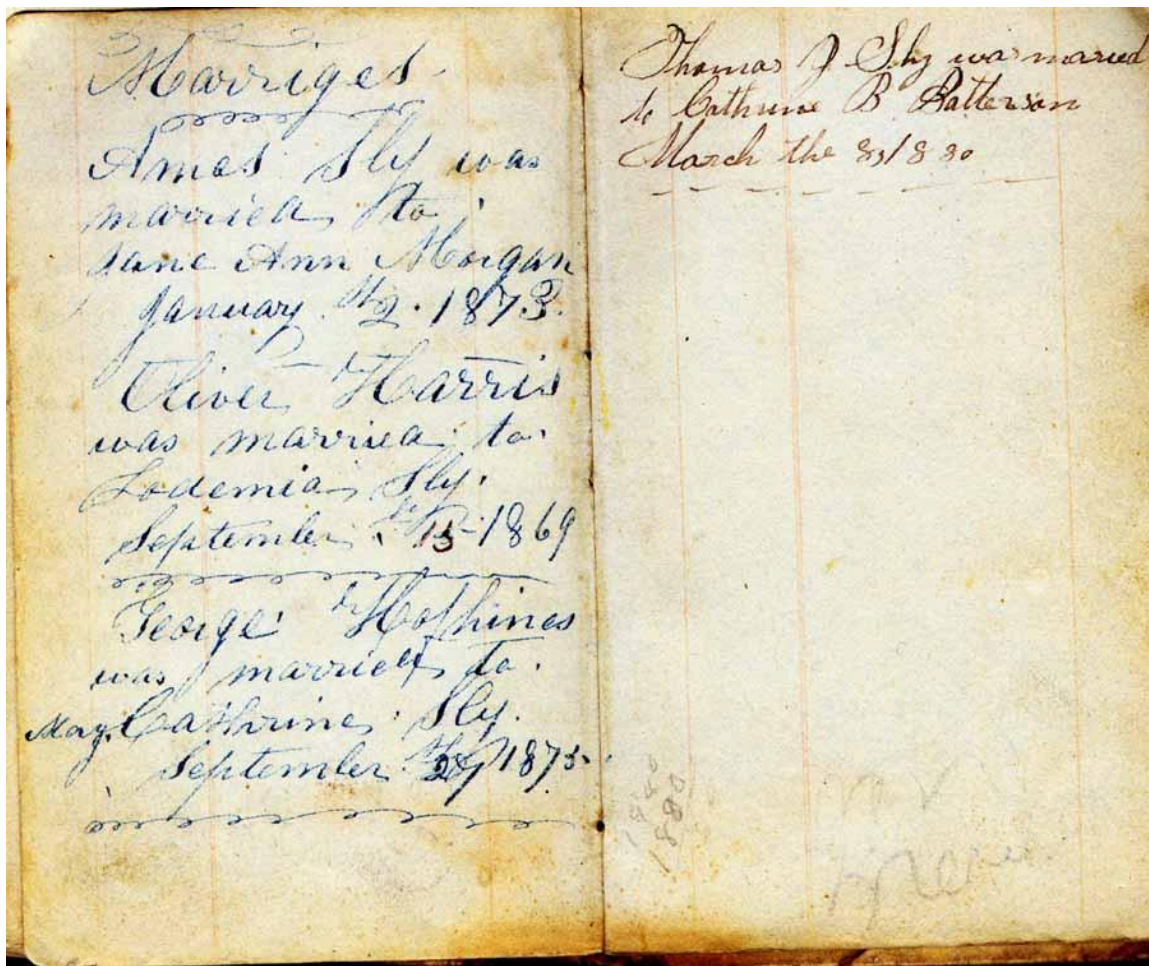
And Eliza with Nancy Gus-
tin on the 19th January 1856
By Isaac Morley Patriarch
of the Church of Jesus Chri-
st of Latter day Saints

Holy Matrimony in the House of the Lord James Calvin Sly Son of Joshua and Eliza Sly was Married and sealed for time and all Eternity with Susannah daughter of Thomas and Mary Gustin by Orcen Pratt one of the twelve apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, on the 1st August 1851

And Also with Nancy Gustin on the 19th January 1856 by Isacc Morley Patriarch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

in Nephi City, Juab County, Ut
Marriages:
Nancy Eliza Sly was married
to Thomas Bithell
in August, 1874,
Calvana Sly
was married to
John B. Osborn
September 17 1877.
Nancy Eliza Sly Second
marriage was to John W.
Dale the 27 of July 1876

in Nephi City, Juab County, Ut
Marriages
Nancy Eliza Sly was married to Thomas Bithell in Au
1874
Calvana Sly was married to John B. Dilborn
September 17, 1877
Nancy Eliza Sly Second marriage was to John W.
Dale the 27 of July 1876



Marriages

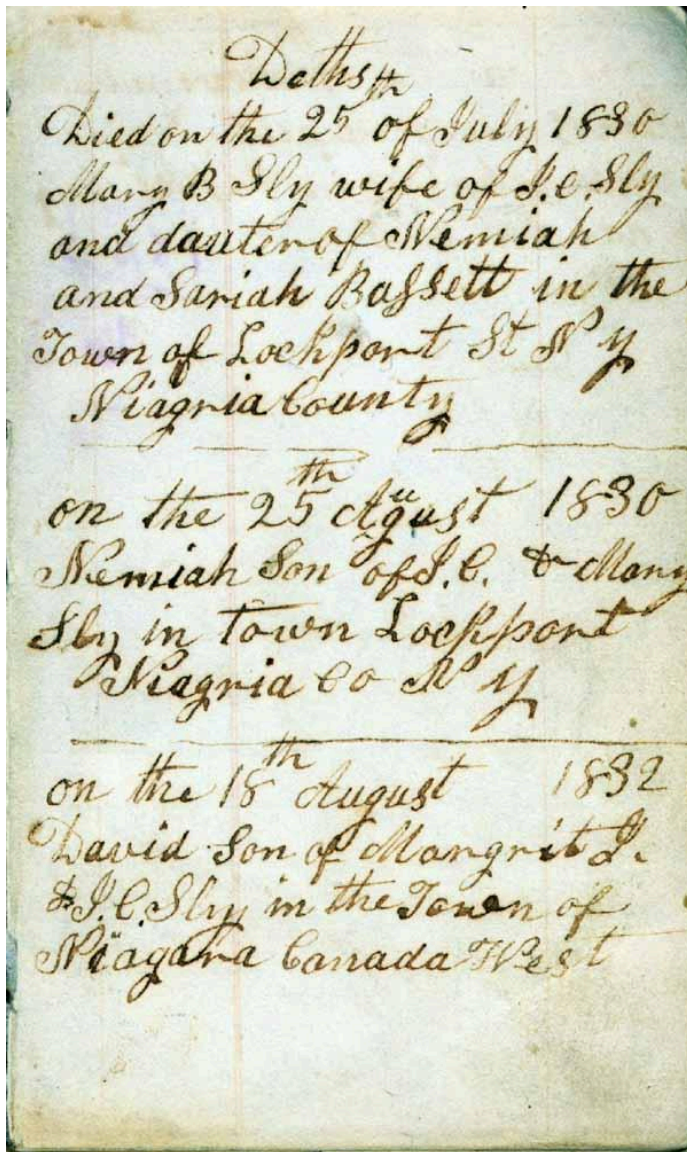
Amos Sly was married to Jane Ann Morgan
January 2, 1873

Oliver Harris was married to Lodemia Sly
September 13, 1869

George Holfines was married to Mary Catherine
Sly September 27, 1875

Thomas J. Sly was married to Catharine B
Patterson March the 8, 1880

Family Deaths

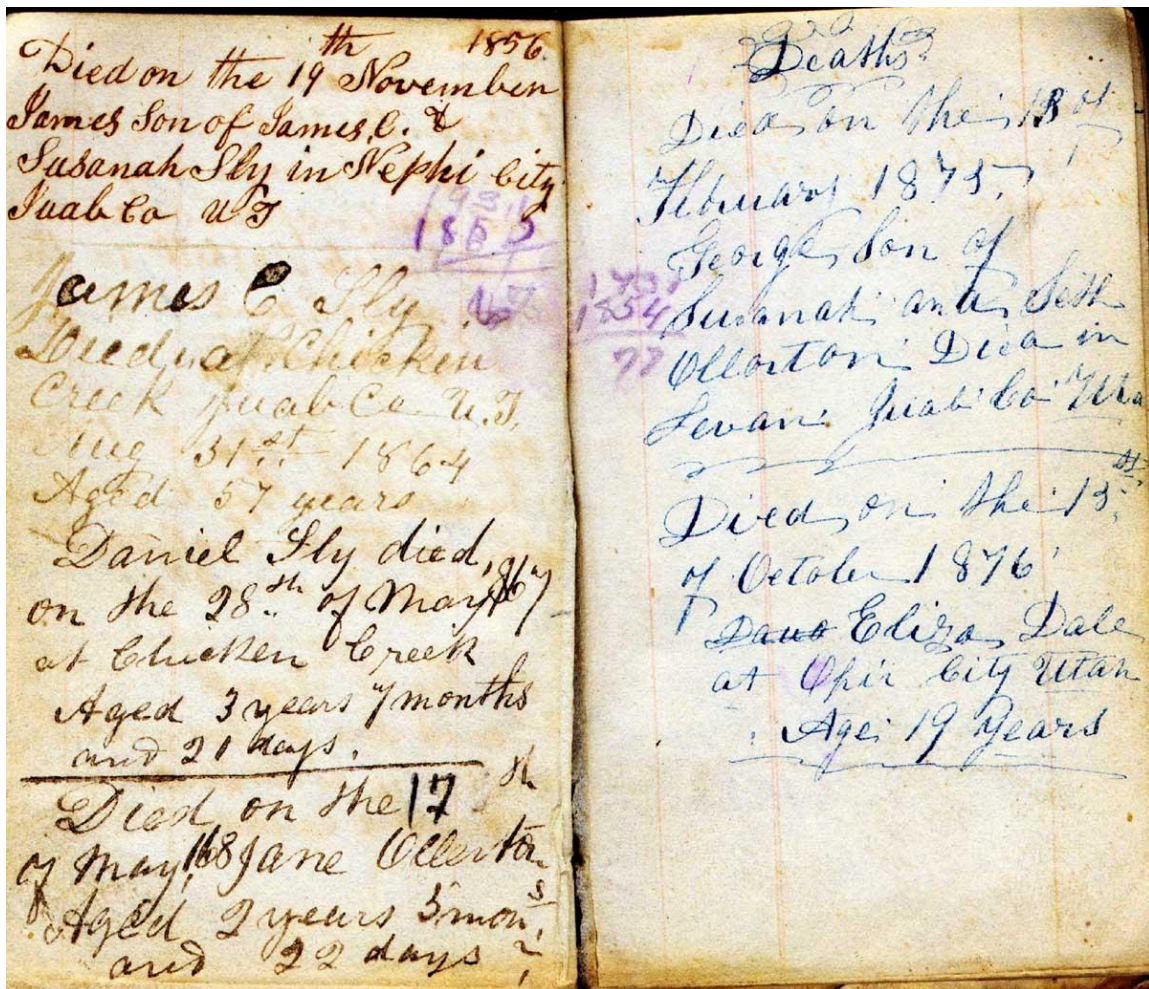


Deaths

Died on the 25th of July 1830: Mary B Sly wife of J C Sly and daughter of Nemiah and Sariah Bassett in the town of Lockport St NY, Niagara County

On the 25th August 1830 Nemiah son of J. C. and Mary Sly in town Lockport, Niagara Co, NY

On the 18th August 1832 David Son of Margriet J. (Fuller) and J. C. Sly in the town of Niagara Canada West



Died on the 19th November 1856 James son of James C and Susannah Sly in Nephi City Juab Co. UT

James C. Sly died at Chicken Creek, Juab Co, UT Aug 31st 1864 Aged 57 years.

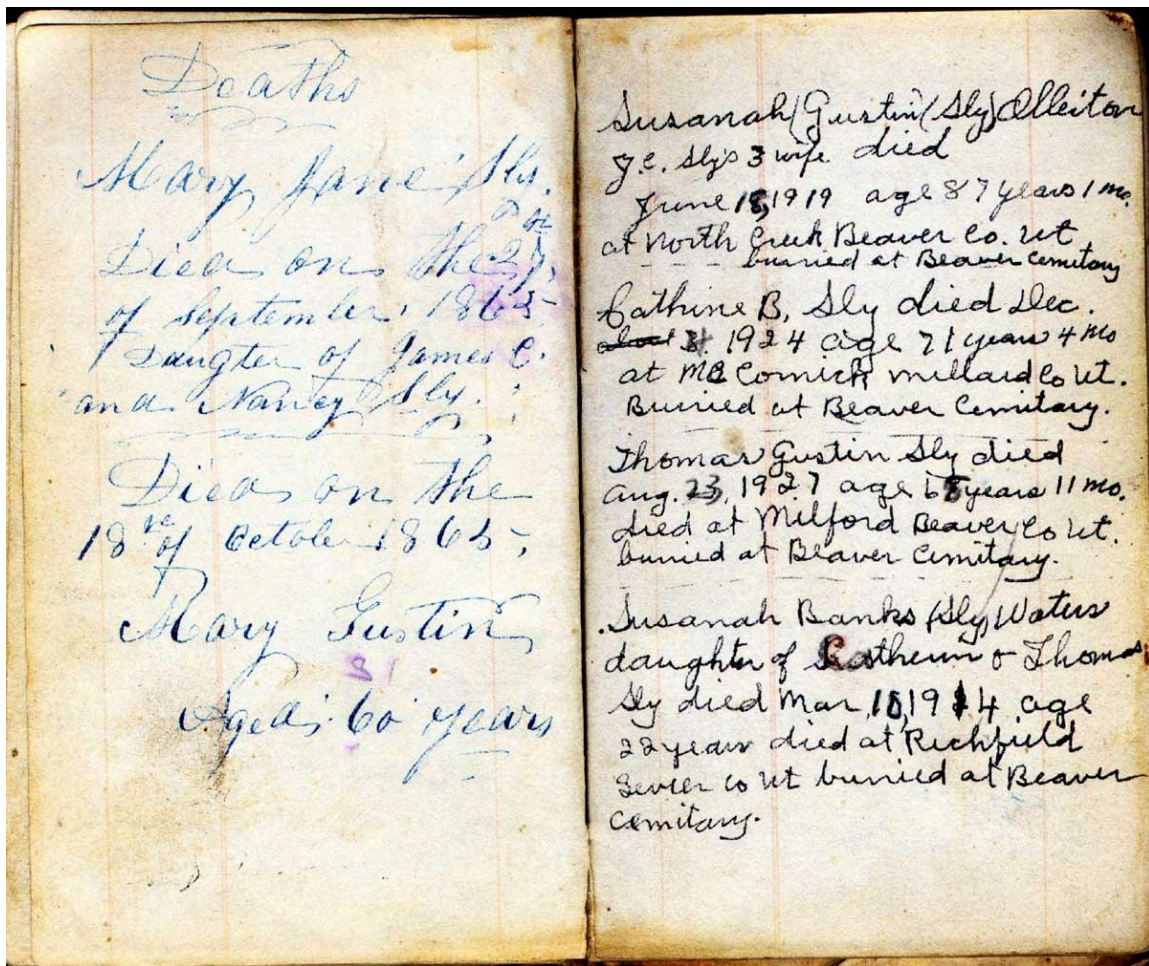
Daniel Sly died on the 28th of May 1867 at Chicken Creek Aged 3 years 7 months and 21 days

Died on the 17th of May 1868 Jane Ollerton Aged 2 years 5 months and 22 days

Deaths

Died on the 18th of February 1875 George Son of Susannah and Seth Ollerton Died in Levan, Juab Co, UT

Died on the 15th of October 1876 Eliza (Nancy Elizabeth Sly) Dale at Ophir City Utah Age 19 years



Deaths

Mary Jane Sly
Died on the 27th of September 1865 daughter of
James C. and Nancy Sly

Died on the 18th of October 1865 Mary
(Peterson) Gustin Aged 60 years

Susannah Gustin (Sly) Ollerton
J.C. Sly's 3rd wife died
June 18, 1919 age 87 years 1 mo.
at North Creek Beaver Co. UT
Buried at Beaver cemetery

Catherine B. Sly died Dec.
4, 1924 age 71 years 4 mo
at McCormick Millard Co. UT.
Buried at Beaver Cemetery.

Thomas Gustin Sly died
Aug. 23, 1927 age 68 years 11 mo.
died at Milford Beaver Co. UT.
buried at Beaver Cemetery.

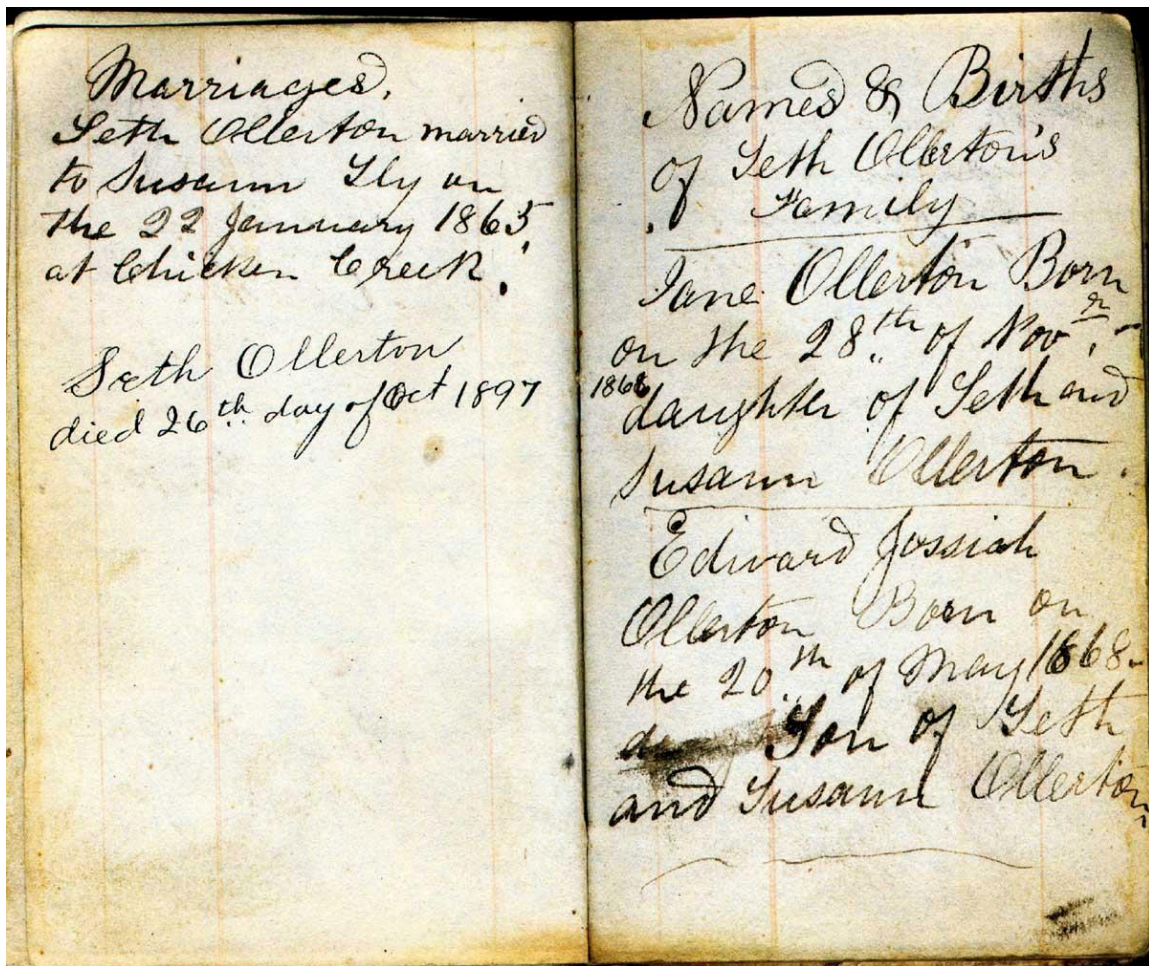
Susannah Banks (Sly) Waters
daughter of Catherine & Thomas
Sly died Mar 10, 1914 age
22 years died at Richfield
Beaver Co. UT buried at Beaver
Cemetery.

Susannah Gustin (Sly) Ollerton J. C. Sly's 3rd
wife died June 18, 1919 age 87 years 1 month.
At North Creek Beaver Co. UT --- Buried at
Beaver Cemetery

Catherine B. (Patterson) Sly died Dec. 4, 1924
age 71 years 4 months at McCormick Millard
Co, UT. Buried at Beaver Cemetery

Thomas Gustin Sly died Aug 23 1927 age 68
years 11 mo. Died at Milford, Beaver Co, UT
Buried at Beaver Cemetery

Susannah Banks (Sly) Waters daughter of
Catherine and Thomas Sly died Mar 10, 1914
age 22 years. Died at Richfield, Beaver Co, UT.
Buried at Beaver Cemetery



Marriages

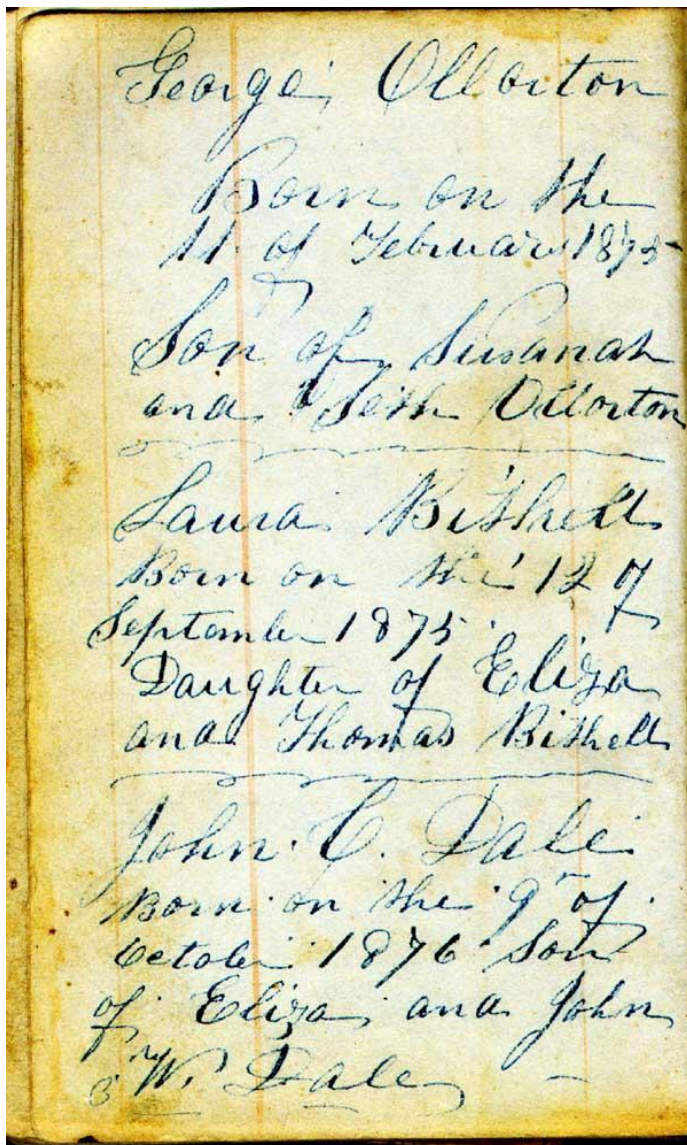
Seth Ollerton married to Susannah Sly the 22 January 1865 at Chicken Creek

Seth Ollerton died 26th day of Oct 1897

Names & Births of Seth Ollerton's Family

Jane Ollerton Born on the 28th of Nov 1866 daughter of Seth and Susannah (Sly) Ollerton

Edward Jossiah Ollerton Born on the 20th of May 1868 son of Seth and Susannah Ollerton



George Ollerton Born on the 11 of February
1873 Son of Susannah and Seth Ollerton

Laura Bithell Born on the 12 of September 1875
daughter of Eliza (Nancy Elizabeth Sly) and
Thomas Bithell

John C. Dale Born on the 9th of October 1876
son of Eliza (Nancy Elizabeth Sly) and John W.
Dale

Edward J. Ollerton
and
Craigie M. Chalk
were united in the holy
bonds of matrimony
the 26th day of June
1893.

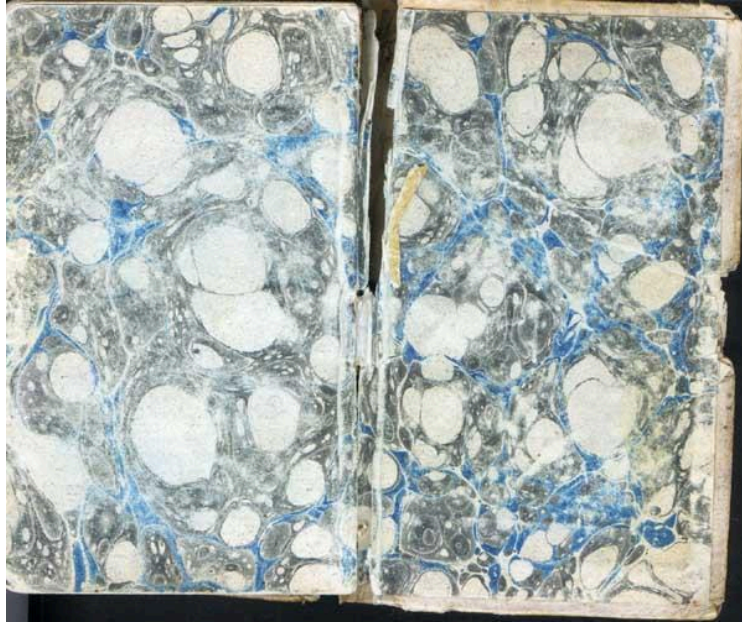
Frank C. Ollerton
son of Craigie & Ed.
was born April 9th
1895 was blessed
by Bro Clausen the
first Thursday in June
1895.

Edward William
son of Craigie and Edward
Ollerton Born Sept 23rd
1897. Blessed by Winnifred
Moody April 3rd 1898.

Edward J. Ollerton and Craigie M. Chalk were united in the holy bonds of matrimony the 26th day of June 1893

Frank C. Ollerton son of Craigie & Ed. Was born April 9th 1895, was blessed by Bro. Clausen the first Thursday in June 1895,

Edward William son of Craigie and Edward Ollerton Born Sept 23rd 1897. Blessed by Winnifred Moody April 3rd 1898.



James C. Sly Tail from Great Salt Lake to
Sly Park California
1849-1850
(800+ miles)



Additional information may be found on [Jeff's Home Page](#) at:

James Calvin Sly

James C. Sly a Mormon pioneer, was born on 8 Aug 1807 in Sodus, Wayne, New York. He served as member of the Mormon Battalion in [1], scout for early west trails[2] used during the California gold rush, journal keeper in 1848 and 1849, early US western settler of several communities, served on to missions to Canada, was accidentally wounded outside Fort Levan early in the Utah Black Hawk War. He died on 31 Aug 1864 in Chicken Creek, Juab, Utah. He was buried in 1864 in Chicken Creek, Juab, Utah, USA. He married Susannah GUSTIN on 25 Mar 1849 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

1. [Mormon Battalion Company B](#)
2. [J.C. Diary](#); SLC Archives & old church records;
3. [Sly Park History](#)
4. [The Pollock Pines Epic](#)
5. [Black Hawk Indian War of Utah](#)
6. [Traveling the Mormon Emigrant Trail](#) (They named this encampment after James C. Sly)
7. [James Calvin Sly Museum](#) (In the Sly Park Recreation Area) Pollock Pines, California
8. [Sly's Park](#), a small valley or mountain dell, thus named for Captain James C. Sly
9. Led first wagons on Salt Lake cutoff, became the Gold Rush Trail
10. [United States, National Archives, Mormon Battalion, Bounty Land, Pension and Service Records, Company B](#)
11. [Ol' Buffalo Mormon Battalion Page](#)

Prepared by:

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Salem, Utah 84653
stompersly@gmail.com



James C. Sly



SLY PARK RECREATION AREA

JENKINSON LAKE

Welcome to Sly Park (Jenkinson) Lake

Sly Park Campground and Recreation Area is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and operated by the El Dorado Irrigation District. Nestled in the Sierra foothills of El Dorado County at an elevation of 3,500 feet, the park offers camping, picnicking, fishing, hiking, swimming, water-skiing, boating and equestrian trails. Sly Park Lake has a storage capacity of 41,000 acre feet and a surface area of 640 acres. Water for the lake comes entirely from rain and snow runoff and is E.I.D.'s principle source of water. The park remains open throughout the year.



E.I.D. History

El Dorado Irrigation District, formed in 1925, covers approximately 125,000 acres of land and supplies water for irrigation as well as for domestic, municipal and industrial purposes. The dam, constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation as part of their vast Central Valley Project, was completed in 1955. Originally, management of the recreation resources was undertaken by the County of El Dorado, but in 1969, E.I.D. assumed this additional operations and management function.

Sly Park History

Sly Park was discovered on July 4, 1848, by James Calvin Sly as he was in the process of moving east to Salt Lake City. Mormon Wagon Road (now Mormon Emigrant Trail) which went from Pleasant Valley through Sly Park meadow (Hazel Creek area) turned out to be the best exit from California going east. In early days, there was a hotel, a dairy, a small store and approximately 20,000 head of cattle and 10,000 head of sheep which were driven through the park on their way to summer feeding grounds in the mountains. Maldu and Miwok Indians of Pleasant Valley frequented the area which is now Arrowhead Camp, using the holes in the rocks to grind their corn and wheat. Arrowheads are still found in the area. Walter Jenkinson was the Secretary-Manager of E.I.D. in 1952, and when he died in 1955 the Board of Directors moved to name the lake after him.

MORMON BATTALION CO. B.

OFFICERS

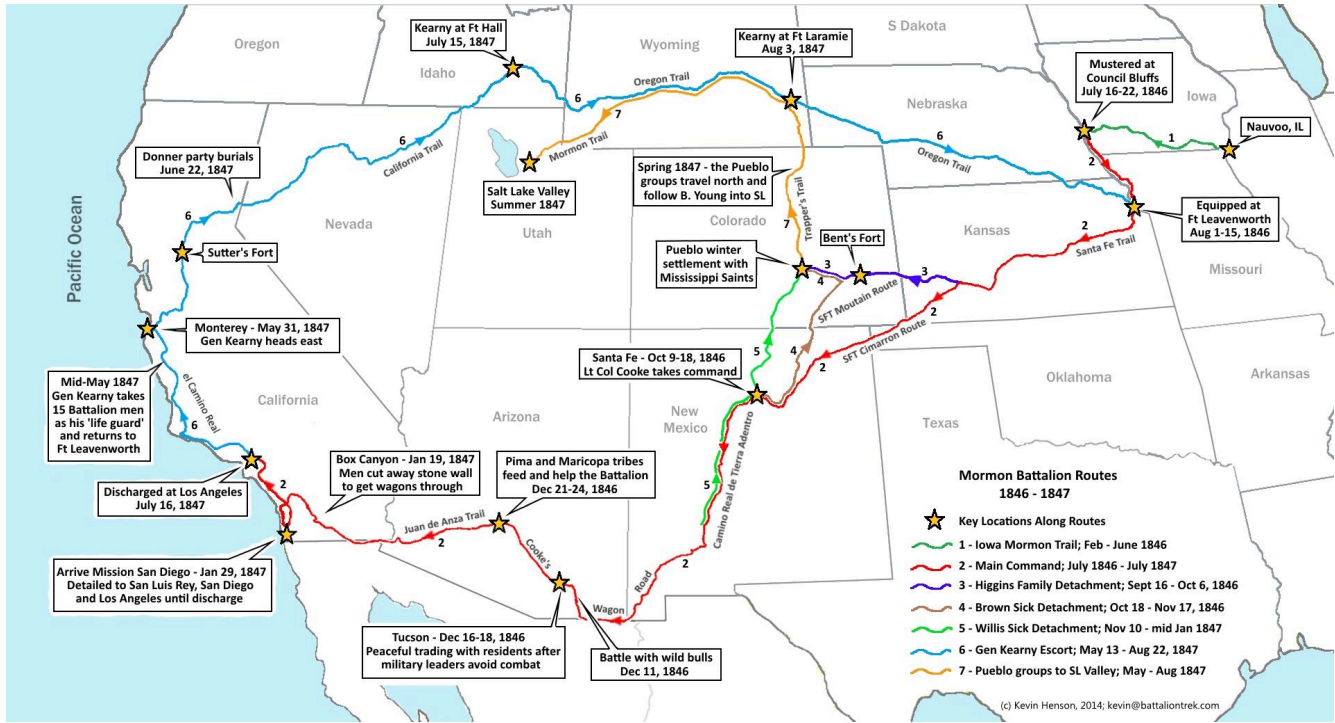
JESSE D HUNTER	CAPTAIN	DAVID P. RAINEY	CORP.
ELAM LUDDINGTON	1ST LIEUT.	THOMAS J. DUNN	CORP.
RUEL BARRUS	2ND LIEUT.	JOHN D CHASE	CORP.
PHILOMEN C. MERRILL	3RD LIEUT.	HORACE M ALEXANDER	CORP.
WILLIAM CORAY	SGT.	EDWARD WILCOX	CORP.
WILLIAM HYDE	SGT.	WILLIAM HUNTER	MUSICIAN
ALBERT SMITH	SGT.	GEORGE W TAGGERT	MUSICIAN
EPHRAIM GREEN	SGT.		

PRIVATEES

ALLEN, ELIJAH	EASTMAN, MARCUS N.	NOWLER, CHRISTIAN
ALLEN, FRANKLIN	EVANS, ISRAEL	OWENS, ROBERT
ALLEN, GEORGE	EVANS, WILLIAM	PARK, JAMES 1st
BIGLER, HENRY W.	FIFE, PETER M.	PARK, JAMES 2nd
BILLINGS, ORSON	FOLLETT, WILLIAM A.	PEARSON, EPHRAIM
BINGHAM, ERASTUS	* FREEMAN, ELIJAH H.	PEARSON, HARMON D.
BINGHAM, THOMAS	GARNER, PHILIP	PROUSE, WILLIAM C.
BIRD, WILLIAM	GARNER, WILLIAM A.	RICHARDS, PETER F.
BLISS, ROBERT S.	HANKS, EPHRAIM K.	ROGERS, SAMUEL H.
* BOLEY, SAMUEL	HARRIS, SILAS	SIMMONS, WILLIAM A.
BORROWMAN, JOHN	HASKELL, SILAS	SLY, JAMES C.
BRACKENBERRY, BENJAMIN B.	HASKELL, GEORGE	SMITH, AZARIAH
BROWN, FRANCIS	HAWK, NATHAN	STEERS, ANDREW
BUSH, RICHARD	HAWK, WILLIAM	STEVENS, LYMAN
BYBEE, JOHN M.	HINKLEY, ARZA E.	STILLMAN, DEXTER
CALLAHAN, THOMAS W.	HOFFHEINS, JACOB	STODDARD, RUFUS
CAMP, JAMES G.	HUNTER, EDWARD	STUDY, DAVID
CARTER, ISAAC PHILO	HUNTSMAN, ISAIAH	WALKER, WILLIAM H.
* CARTER, RICHARD	JONES, DAVID H.	WATTS, JOHN
CHASE, JOHN D.	KEYSER, GUY M.	WHEELER, JOHN
CHENEY, ZACHEUS	KING, JOHN M.	WHITNEY, FRANCIS T.
CHURCH, HADEN W.	KIRK, THOMAS	WILCOX, HENRY
CLARK, GEORGE S.	LAWSON, JOHN	WILLIS, IRA
CLAWSON, GEORGE	MARTIN, JESSE B.	WILLIS, W.S.S.
COLTON, PHILANDER	MC CARTY, NELSON	WINTERS, JACOB
GURTIS, DORR R.	MILES, SAMUEL	WORKMAN, ANDREW J.
DALTON, HENRY S.	MORRIS, THOMAS	WORKMAN, OLIVER G.
DAYTON, WILLIAM J.	MOUNT, HIRAM B.	WRIGHT, CHARLES
* DAYTON, WILLARD T.	MURDOCK, JOHN R.	YOUNG, NATHAN
DUNHAM, ALBERT	MURDOCK, ORRIS G.	ZABRISKIE, JEROME
DUTCHER, THOMAS P.	MYERS, SAMUEL	

* DENOTES - DIED WHILE IN SERVICE.

TOTAL 106



Arrive Mission San Diego - Jan 29, 1847
Detailed to San Luis Rey, San Diego
and Los Angeles until discharge

Discharged at Los Angeles
July 16, 1847

Mid-May 1847
Gen Kearny takes
15 Battalion men
as his 'life guard'
and returns to
Ft Leavenworth

Monterey - May 31, 1847
Gen Kearny heads east

Sutter's Fort

Donner party burials
June 22, 1847

Kearny at Ft Hall
July 15, 1847

Salt Lake Valley
Summer 1847

Spring 1847 - the Pueblo
groups travel north and
follow B. Young into SL

Pueblo winter
settlement with
Mississippi Saints

Bent's Fort

Santa Fe - Oct 9-18, 1846
Lt Col Cooke takes command

Box Canyon - Jan 19, 1847
Men cut away stone wall
to get wagons through

Pima and Maricopa tribes
feed and help the Battalion
Dec 21-24, 1846

Tucson - Dec 16-18, 1846
Peaceful trading with residents after
military leaders avoid combat

Battle with wild bulls
Dec 11, 1846

Kearny at Ft Laramie
Aug 3, 1847

Mustered at Council Bluffs
July 16-22, 1846

Equipped at
Ft Leavenworth
Aug 1-15, 1846

Nauvoo, IL