

# BROTHER AND SISTER WHO CAME TO UTAH IN 1846.

Graphic Story by Salt Lake Woman of Tragic Experiences of the Ill-Fated Donner Party—An Expedition That Probably Has No Parallel in the History of Western Colonization—Keesburg, the Cannibal, and His Awful Mania For Human Flesh—Reunited With the Mormons in Utah—Tales of the Mysterious Gold Mine on the Uintah Reservation—Pioneer Day Story of Intense Interest.



"FATHER" THOMAS RHOADS,  
Who Led That Section of the Donner Party That Escaped Destruction.

THIS is the eve of Pioneer day—the day when all Utah recalls with mingled reverence, pride and joy the glorious work of her ancestry and its grand results.

Fifty years ago the original band of 347 pathfinders entered Salt Lake valley. Of that honored number, it is believed that only 16 survive this anniversary. But to that 16 and the great number who followed the original train, all the state will tomorrow pay homage.

While this is being done, with pomp and ceremony, it is indeed interesting to know that there are now living in Utah two persons who traversed the sites of many Utah settlements one year before the advent of the Pioneers. They are Mrs. Lucinda Rhoads, Dodge of 3221 east South Temple street, this city, and Caleb Rhoads, who lives on his ranch in Carbon county, near Price. They are daughter and son of "Father" Thomas Rhoads, who led the section of the Donner party that escaped hardship and later headed the relief expedition that found the ill-fated immigrants living upon human flesh in the tops of the Sierras.

Here was the most horrible tragedy in all the history of western pioneering, and the "News" is enabled to present it as related by those who were connected with it more closely, it is thought, than any other living persons.

So far as known, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Rhoads are the only survivors of the historical expedition. They were both very young, the girl being only eight years of age, and while there may have been even smaller children in the party, their residence, if they live, is not known. Mrs. Dodge is 66 years of age, but wonderfully preserved. She is intelligent, an entertaining talker, and her recital of the occurrences of 1846 during their eventful trip is little short of marvelous as a test of memory.

She was born in Ray county, Mo. Her parents, who owned a small farm, were members of the "Mormon" Church. That whole section of Missouri was wildly excited over "Mormonism," and early in 1846 so many had been driven out by having their property destroyed that Mr. Rhoads determined to emigrate. The Saints were talking then of going west and Brigham Young had taken the initiative towards the westward migration. It is a matter of history, of course, that the leader did not then know just where the Saints would

settle, but the land of California was most frequently spoken of. Rhoads was led to believe that California was to be the "Mormon" home. In any event, he determined to strike out ahead of the Pioneer, and if he was to return after the settlement was made.

"My father was a natural born pioneer," continued Mrs. Dodge, a sense of pride revealing itself, "and he made the most careful preparations for the journey. There were eight of us besides father—five brothers and two sisters older than myself. We had two wagons, two mules, two cows, plenty of bacon and flour. In fact, I believe our outfit was a little better than the average pioneer was able to muster. We were camped on the Missouri river just at the opening of spring, '46, and there we met Donner and a large party of emigrants who were going in our direction. When I say 'we met him,' I mean father did. I was only eight years old. Well, we all made a start. There were probably 300 in the expedition. Things moved along quietly for a long time, but it was noticeable, my father used to tell me, that the farther we journeyed, the more discontented there seemed to be. These troubles didn't worry me at all. My greatest hardship was hiding under the bed clothes when we saw Indians coming. Several times the men and women, all armed, were ready for a battle with the redskins. On many occasions we expected a massacre, but strange to say, not a member of our party was killed. Indians, whereas, two years later the plains were strewn with the bones of emigrants.

"As our train moved along the Platte, the Indians became very troublesome and the men were constantly being harassed in the party. We came to the point where two routes to California lay before us. Some of the discontented were strongly in favor of taking the Hastings route, while the conservative people wanted to continue along the middle route. My father insisted upon the latter, while Donner and his following declared their intention of following the Hastings route.

"We were living in a little place called Dry Creek, near Sacramento, and the next fall we were alarmed to hear that Spaniards coming through that the Donner party of the expedition was moved in high up in the Sierras and could not survive unless relieved. It was to them, the governor called for volunteers. My father and five brothers, with two other settlers, responded. The brothers were John, Foster, Daniel,

Henry and William. They made preparation for a hard trip, and surely they had it. They soon reached a point where animals could no longer be used, and where no longer traveling on snowshoes and carrying provisions on their backs, without even knowing the exact location of the sufferers they were speeding to relieve. The snow became deeper still, the mountains became steeper, the cold more intense. It was finally necessary to cache their provisions in the tops of trees and carry their hands full of grub with them on their long search, then return to the cache and while returning for some food on one of these occasions, lost his way and was threatened with starvation. When the rest of the party found him, he had torn the rawhide from his snowshoes and eaten it. He never recovered from the effects of that exposure. The hardships resulted in his early death.

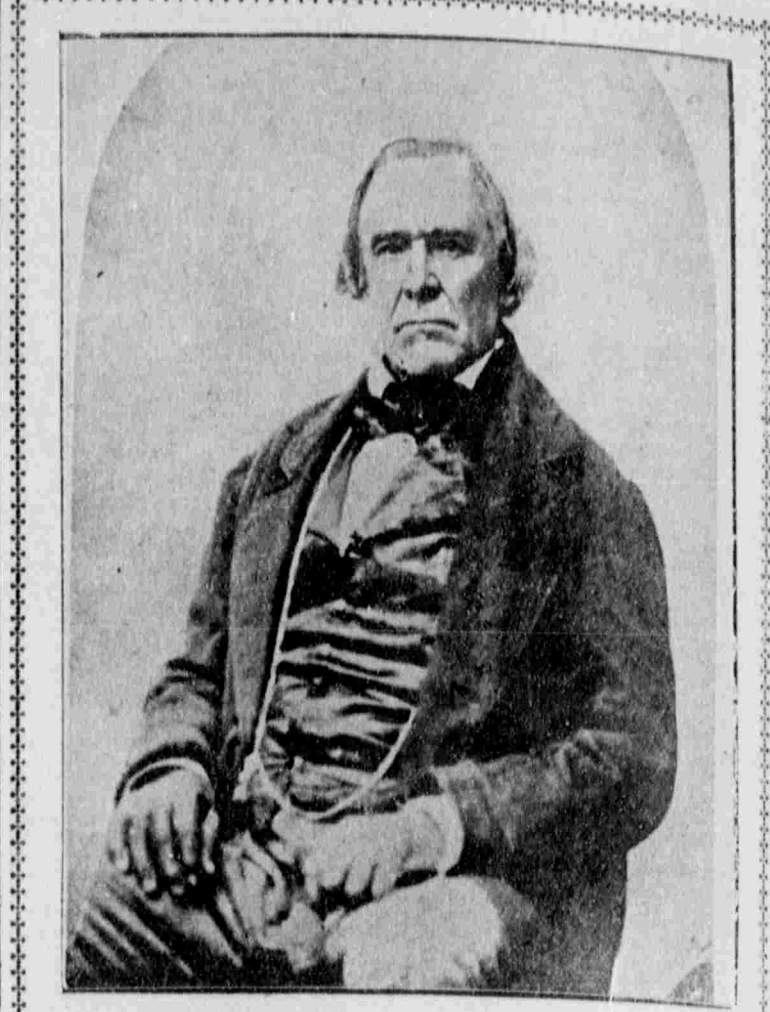
"To return to the lost emigrants, the

party finally located them. They were imprisoned by walls of snow that rose 30 feet above the roofs of their huts. In those walls they had to cut footholds to get up or down. The relief party lost as little time as possible in bringing up food, but of the 87 or more, only 48 were rescued.

"The condition of these, as I have heard my father describe it, was something horrible. It seems that they had no means of burying their dead, and were compelled to pile up the corpses in one end of the cabin and live in the other. When the last ounce of provisions was exhausted, they were forced to live on human flesh. And before any deaths had occurred, when all were starving, they had actually resorted to drawing cuts to see who should become the sacrifice against starvation. I do not know that anybody was ever slaughtered for food. I hardly believe it to that, for when the food was exhausted, deaths became frequent, and

these bodies furnished their awful tables. But I have the word of a woman who witnessed it, that lots were drawn. The relief expedition made three trips to bring out the living persons. The last ones they rescued were so weak that they had to be carried on the backs of their rescuers. As nearly as we ever learned, the party came to its sad lot largely through quarrels and grumbling. It is true that a man named Greenwood sent, or left, a letter telling Donner by no means to take that route, and it was never delivered, but had they remained contented, as our division did, there would not have been that black page in history. They had trouble among themselves even after we left them. The relief party found two factions snowed in, five miles apart.

"There was only one family, I believe, that was not forced to eat human flesh. They escaped because the father, who he saw what was coming on, had fore-



PIONEERS OF THE PIONEERS.  
Caleb Rhoads, the "Mysterious Miner," and His Sister, Mrs. Dodge.

sight enough to kill his livestock and dry the meat, while many others, believing all hope was lost, allowed their cattle and horses to stray off.

"The most horrible incident of the whole tragedy was related to me by one of the women rescued. A German named Keesburg, or Koyaburg, lost his iron bar and became a confirmed cannibal. He declared that human flesh to him was sweeter of all meats, and he had a mania for children's flesh. On one occasion, he picked up an infant and before the mother's eyes dashed out its brains, then tore it limb from limb and devoured the flesh. The mother, after viewing this sight, partially lost her reason and starved to death, refusing to touch human flesh. This same Keesburg was a thief. He stole all kinds of articles from the sufferers and hid them in one big cache, which he carried with him. He could raise money on them at some future date. He was discovered at his work of plunder, finally, and was strung up by the neck until he told where he had hidden the stolen articles. When the rescuing party arrived, Keesburg refused to be rescued. He told the others to leave the dead bodies behind, as there was enough food on them. 'Good enough for anybody,' to last him until spring opened up, and he preferred to remain behind. The party did not desert the unfortunate, however. I can barely recall that he was brought into Sacramento.

"The greatest suffering, of course, was endured by the imprisoned emigrants, but the life of those who went to their rescue was no sinecure. As I have before stated, they were compelled to carry their provisions on their backs up to a certain point and then continue with only scraps in their pockets over a part of the perilous route. On one occasion the place where their provisions were cached was found by bears, and upon their return, with furnished members of the party, they found only the evidences of the animals' feast. They all came near starving that time. Mrs. Dodge and the entire family lived at Dry Creek until they heard of the arrival of Brigham Young in Salt Lake valley and the intention of the Saints to settle there. "Father" Rhoads then announced his intention of returning to the new home of the Saints. He was at the time working a Sutter's mill and was one of the party which discovered gold there in the millrace in 1849. Notwithstanding the excitement caused by this discovery, he started

for Utah and arrived here with his family in 1849.

"Caleb Rhoads the plains from California," said Mrs. Dodge, "we had numerous evidences of Indian massacres, but still we were unharmed. Our family seemed to hear of no danger."

Mrs. Dodge has lived in Utah since that time. She was the wife of the late J. R. Clawson, brother of Bishop H. B. Clawson, after whose death she married her present husband. Her brother Caleb has often been connected with the remarkable story of the mysterious mine in eastern Utah. They used to say that about once a year he would disappear for two weeks or more and return with a sack of gold dust. If so, he never has revealed the whereabouts of the mine, except the known fact that there is a gold-producing property somewhere on the reservation. It has been said that the Indians threatened him with death if he ever revealed the location, but most of these tales are unverified by Mrs. Dodge as largely legendary.

"I know that there is gold on the reservation," added the pioneer woman, "for I have handled lots of it that my father had in his possession. It is strange how our family has always been connected with the precious metal. First, my father discovered gold in California. Then they used to say in early days that he brought a barrel of it with him from California. Then they had us as possessing the secret of a mysterious mine near Vernal and now they still seem to think that my brother visits his mine. As a matter of fact, he has been an invalid for several years."

Reverting again to the Donner expedition, Mrs. Dodge said she would rather like to visit Donner lake one more.

"Fifty years ago I was through there," said she, "and there were still evidences of that party, namely, a group of tall pine trees whose tips had been cut off squarely. I am told that this was done by the party while in confinement to obtain fuel. The trees still stand, I imagine, while tourists wonder how in the world the upper parts of those giant trees were so sharply severed. As a matter of fact, that was the only portion of a tree exposed above the prison-like surroundings of Donner and his followers."

Mrs. Dodge, at 66, is still hale and hearty, and if indeed she and her brother are not the only survivors, it is reasonable to assume that she will live all others.

## THE PHILIPPINES A VAST ORCHARD WILD.

Manila, June 8.—Very little attention has been given to the cultivation of fruit in the Philippines, although the climate and soil are especially adapted to the production of all of the varieties known to the tropics. In the Chicago Record-Herald, many varieties grow wild and a few favorites have been cultivated, but are generally allowed to take care of themselves. Under intelligent direction, which is now afforded by the agricultural department in everyone who is willing to undertake the industry, fruits may be very much improved and become a source of wealth. Much of the fruit of the world or any other tropical region can equal our apples, peaches, cherries, strawberries and grapes. Those that grow on bushes and trees. Steps are being taken to introduce small orchard fruits from the United States, and the fruit of the mountain slopes of the mountains, where experts find favorable conditions. On the island of Negros a native species of grapes, full of juice and of excellent flavor, has recently been discovered, and suggests the ultimate development of a fruit and wine industry. The strawberry is found growing wild on the mountain sides; wild raspberries and blackberries, currants and plums have also been reported. Wild cherries are occasionally seen in the forests, and botanists say that those in some portion of the islands, but few of them have been utilized, and most of them have local names which afforded no clue to inquirers.

There are a dozen or more different kinds of bananas. Almost every cabin in the archipelago is shaded with banana trees, and with the common people they are an important article of diet. Nobody need starve here so long as the banana grows in the Philippines. There are plenty of oranges, but the groves receive no attention and the fruit is therefore of a poor quality. There are plenty of lemons and lime trees also, but no fruit. For some reason most of them are barren, and the few that are in bearing condition produce a very poor quality. Nearly all the oranges, lemons and limes used by the foreign population are imported from California, and my morning lemonade is made with lemons from Sicily. The pineapple, as I told you in a recent letter, is cultivated for the fiber and the fruit is incidental. Coconut meat is the chief article of export, and a dozen dishes are made from it. There are guavas, citrons, shaddock or grape fruit, custard apples, papayas, which are very sweet, and pomelos, which are a sort of sweet orange fruit or sour orange, with a most agreeable acid flavor. The mangoes, which is considered a great delicacy throughout all the East Indies, is found in abundance in the southern islands, where it is known as "king's fruit," because the Moro sultans formerly insisted upon receiving it for their own enjoyment.

Guavas of very fine quality, from which jelly is made, grow wild in the greatest

abundance, and 65 per cent of the crop goes to waste because nobody takes the trouble to gather them. They have never been cultivated. The pawpaw tree also flourishes in the wild state and is prolific. They call it here the papaya. The tree attains the height of 25 or 30 feet, is a shrubby tree, and the fruit, which grows like a coconut, has the shape and flavor of a cantaloupe. It contains a convulsant, and is used by the natives as a remedy for indigestion and dyspepsia. There are some mysterious qualities about the papaya. The natives say that meat and poultry will become tender if hung up in the fruit or wrapped in its long green leaves.

Tomatoes, which are known here as sampalagos, are never planted or cultivated. They grow wild in every part of the islands, and are not objectionable to anything like their value. The fruit resembles a tomato, and is used by the natives to flavor pickles and sauces, and by the apothecaries as an astringent. The leaves of the tomato tree are used by the natives to cure a skin disease called tannin, and might be gathered for export with profit. There is a sort of bogia plant of great medicinal value. It is a shrubby plant, and the fruit is a small, round, yellow berry, called the mabelo, but it is as pesty as a persimmon, and has a rank taste while raw, although it improves by cooking. Ginger and vanilla are found in the islands, but are not cultivated or utilized. A small quantity of tapioca and sago is produced for local consumption. Sago is the pith of a species of palm, which is cut out, sundried, boiled to a soft pulp, and then sold.

The mango, however, is the most popular and perhaps the most fruit to be found here. It is oval, about five inches long, and of a yellow color when ripe. There is a large stone in the center, and the fruit must be sliced lengthwise on the sides of the stone. The trees are large and majestic, and when in flower and fruit are a beautiful sight. The fruit is cooling and nourishing, and especially adapted to a climate where the excessive use of meat and hot oil is common. There is no limit to its production, and it might be packed, well partially ripe and shipped to the United States.

The banana is perennial, and by planting suckers at different times of year it is possible to have fresh fruit the entire year around.

### RIGGS AND REPTILES.

The Philippines are not so prolific in snake life as other of the East India islands. There are few varieties, and the bites of two or three are fatal. They are not common except in the rice fields, which also produce leeches in abundance. Boa constrictors are occasionally captured, and are said to be entirely harmless. Army officers, who have explored the interior of the southern islands, tell of seeing them domesticated in the native villages and fed like pets. Mosquitoes are comparatively few in number, but there is comparatively little malaria.

A lizard called the "chunco" can be found in almost every house, and is a very important member of the family, because it lives upon flies, mosquitoes and other insects. It is a small, brown, spotted lizard, and is very tame. It is often kept in a cage, and is used to catch flies and mosquitoes. It is a very useful animal, and is much valued by the natives.

They grow wild in every part of the islands, and are not objectionable to anything like their value. The fruit resembles a tomato, and is used by the natives to flavor pickles and sauces, and by the apothecaries as an astringent. The leaves of the tomato tree are used by the natives to cure a skin disease called tannin, and might be gathered for export with profit. There is a sort of bogia plant of great medicinal value. It is a shrubby plant, and the fruit is a small, round, yellow berry, called the mabelo, but it is as pesty as a persimmon, and has a rank taste while raw, although it improves by cooking. Ginger and vanilla are found in the islands, but are not cultivated or utilized. A small quantity of tapioca and sago is produced for local consumption. Sago is the pith of a species of palm, which is cut out, sundried, boiled to a soft pulp, and then sold.

The mango, however, is the most popular and perhaps the most fruit to be found here. It is oval, about five inches long, and of a yellow color when ripe. There is a large stone in the center, and the fruit must be sliced lengthwise on the sides of the stone. The trees are large and majestic, and when in flower and fruit are a beautiful sight. The fruit is cooling and nourishing, and especially adapted to a climate where the excessive use of meat and hot oil is common. There is no limit to its production, and it might be packed, well partially ripe and shipped to the United States.

### WORK OF AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Bulletins containing practical information and instruction upon various subjects relating to natural products and resources of the Philippines are being issued by the agricultural department, and are distributed widely among the Philippine farmers, but Prof. Worcester, who has charge of that work, says that object lessons are of much greater value. Hence he has established several experimental farms and has introduced modern machinery and methods where they can be observed and studied by the progressive element.

The coffee plantations of Batangas, which were formerly a source of considerable revenue to the inhabitants, have completely disappeared as a result of the ravages of borers and of leaf blight. A tract of good coffee land in that province

has recently been secured by the bureau of agriculture, with hopes to rehabilitate the coffee industry by demonstrating that immunity from disease and insect pests may be obtained by the selection of vigorous varieties of plants and the adoption of modern methods of cultivation and treatment. Some time must elapse, however, before the practical value of the experiments can be demonstrated, because it takes from five to seven years for a coffee tree to mature.

A stock farm where breeding experiments can be conducted has been established in the island of Cebu. Seventy imported cattle, three Java ponies, six mules and one Arabian stallion have been sent there. The location selected for this farm seems to be an ideal one, and the animals upon it are in excellent condition. Prof. Worcester says: "The issuing of bulletins containing reliable information with reference to proper culture methods for the growing of crops already grown, and the prevention of insect and disease pests in given areas is the best advantage, is undoubtedly a matter of great importance to the prospective foreign investor in agriculture in the Philippines, and who will be likely to read such bulletins and profit by the information which they contain. It is, however, well known that the average Filipino attaches much greater importance to what he sees than to what he reads, if indeed he is able to read, and it is unquestionably true that the masses are to be reached and agricultural conditions in the islands are to be generally improved it must be by practical demonstrations as conducted as to bring to the attention of the common people the advantages results following the employment of improved culture methods and modern agricultural machinery."

The chief of the bureau of public lands reports that frequent inquiries have been made of him during the past year as to the area of the public domain of the Philippines. He states that accurate information on this subject cannot be furnished at the present time, because of the lack of a proper system of surveys and of trustworthy data as to Spanish land titles. He, however, roughly estimates the public domain at 6,000,000 acres, of which some 4,000,000 acres are forest land and the remaining 2,000,000 acres are lands not forested, most of which are agricultural in character and will be subject to disposal under the law permitting leasing, sale and homesteading as soon as the regulations prepared by the Philippine commission under the law shall have become effective, either through their approval by Congress or through the failure of Congress to act upon them.

ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES and real estate men will find a full supply of legal blanks at the Desert News Book store.

## A NIAGARA OF ATTRACTIONS

Wonderful Impressiveness of the Great St. Louis World's Fair.

WORTH YEARS OF STUDY.

Best Features All Mirrored in Our Superb Exposition Views.

It is not too much to say that the ordinary visitor at the World's Fair is particularly overwhelmed with the magnitude and magnificence of the attractions displayed. Most people are pretty well convinced that any single one of the exhibit buildings is worthy of a year's study, but when one considers the wealth of interesting material which is afforded in all the various structures, the array is so stupendous as to cause one to despair of being able to compass it. The Fair becomes, in fact, a veritable Niagara of attractions which is overwhelming in its impressiveness.

When it is remembered that everything most worthy of attention is recorded for all time in our series of World's Fair Art Portfolios the importance of obtaining the work becomes easily apparent. If you are not able to visit personally the great Louisiana Purchase Exposition you will surely want the Forest City World's Fair Art Portfolio as a complete pictorial and descriptive history of the great event. If you are so fortunate as to spend a few weeks in this modern fairyland, you will want the Forest City series as a record and souvenir of your visit. If you go to St. Louis or if you don't go to St. Louis you will want this superb publication containing 480 magnificent photographic reproductions, which transfer

the Fair in enduring form to the printed page. If you are one of our readers you can obtain any one of our Portfolios at the merely nominal cost of ten cents, although the regular price is twenty-five cents.

There are 50 Portfolios in all, each containing 16 magnificently reproduced original photographs taken by the official photographer with descriptions by Secretary Stevens, of the Exposition.

**If you want to Buy or Sell City Property, Advertise in the Daily "News."**

**If you want to Buy or Sell A Farm Anywhere In the West, Try the Semi-Weekly "News."**

**BLOOD POISON**

In the worst disease on earth, yet the easiest to cure. When you know what to do, many pimples, spots on the skin, sores in the mouth, ulcers, itching, and all other skin diseases, are cured. Send for BLOOD PURIFIER, BROWN'S BLOOD PURIFIER, 25¢ per bottle; lasts one month. Sold by all druggists. Write to T. C. Schramm, First South and Main Sts.

**"GET THE HABIT."**

It's a good one and one you'll never regret if you live to be a hundred. Deposit a dollar with us and see it grow at 4 per cent. You can bank with us by mail, write for circulars.

**UTAH COMMERCIAL & SAVINGS BANK,**

22-24 East First South Street.

Brokerage House of  
**JOHN C. CUTLER, JR.,**  
(Established 1893)  
Investment  
Bank and Sugar Stocks,  
Commercial Stocks and Bonds  
Bought and Sold.  
V.B.I. 127-B. 36 MAIN ST.

**EDWARD L. BURTON**

BANK STOCKS,  
SUGAR STOCKS  
And Other High Grade Investments  
Bought and Sold.