

## Death of Jesse Empey and his son William from contemporaneous journals

### **Levi Savage diary, September 22, 1856:**

Platte River Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 18,56.

This fore noon a mist of rayn was stil falling. After noon, the clouds broke a little, the rain Stoped, and it became a little warmer. We have traveled about 12 miles to day. Brother Empey departed this life abt half past one P.M. One of his hands and arnes was nearly covered with putrefied sores. I Should Suppose hereditary, He had been having the ague Some time past but no one thought him dangerous.

### **Willie company journal, September 22-23, 1856:**

Monday, 22 Sept. W. N. Leason was buried this morning at 7 o'clock, a suitable inscription in wood being placed on the grave. Rolled out about 7:30 a.m. & nooned and camped for the night on the Platte. A hard and long day's journey, the roads being more or less very heavy and sandy notwithstanding which Prest. Willie considers we have made from 18 to 20 miles since the morning. In about an hour after the starting of the Camp this afternoon Bro. Jesse Empey of Eaton Bray Branch in the Bedfordshire Conference in England died from scrofula, age 31. Weather turned warm and pleasant about noon but cold set in again before sunset.

Tuesday, 23 Sept. Bro. Empey was buried this morning before starting of Camp, a suitable wooden inscription being placed on the grave. Rolled out of Camp at 8:30 a.m., nooned a short distance from the road on the Platte and camped for the night on that River about 5:30 p.m. Roads much better though interspersed with heavy sand occasionally.

### **Willie company journal, November 7, 1856:**

Friday 7th. The camp rolled on, crossed a steep hill & came into East Canyon; crossed East Canyon Creek several times & camped in a cottonwood grove; good place to camp for wood. Maria S. Jorgen [Maren Sophie Jorgensen] from Lango, Denmark, aged 8 years died; Theophilus Cox, from Bristol, Somerseshire, England, aged 25 years died; William Empey from Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, England, aged 9 years died. During the ~~night~~ day we passed some teams going to relieve the rear companies.