

Submission to the  
Tooele Pioneer Museum

Life History of  
Lysander Gee  
1818-1894

Written by his grand-daughter  
Helen Gee Woods  
in 1938

Pioneer Overland Travel  
of Lysander Gee  
1<sup>st</sup> wife Theresa Bowley  
son Orlando  
daughter Rosalia

Life History of  
Maryetta Rowe  
3<sup>rd</sup> wife of  
Lysander Gee

Note: these records of Lysander Gee and his families were taken from the volume, "Prominent Men of Utah," by Frank Esshom, 1913.

## HISTORY of LYSANDER GEE, PIONEER.

WRITTEN by HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER,  
Helen Gee Woods. Nov. 3, 1938.

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Lysander Gee, pioneer, was Captain of his Company which crossed the plains in 1849. The company consisted of welch people; and were immigrants gathered from about the community of Nauvoo, Illinois.

He was born Sept. 1, 1818 at Austinburg, Ashtabula County, Ohio. His parents are Solomon and Sarah Watson Crane Gee of Connecticut. Solomon was born Oct. 16, 1792; his wife, Sarah, was born Jan. 24th. 1795. As a boy he was studious, and went to school in Illinois. However, little is known to me of his youthful environment, playmates, and amusements; or of the economic conditions which prevailed at that time.

He was a convert of the church having lived and endured at the time of its organization. He took an active part in the epic that characterizes the dramatic life of Joseph Smith; for he is only thirteen years younger. Of his brothers and sisters, I know little, except that one brother is named Solomon for his father; and passed away at Burley, Idaho but a few years ago. A sister of Lysander, named Mrs. Leddington lived in the Sugar House Ward, Utah at the time my father, John Gee was a boy.

Lysander was in close communication with all charter members of the church, namely: Joseph and Hyrum Smith, John Taylor, Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris etc. He married Amanda M. Sagers of New York State, at Far West, Missouri, Sept. 5, 1838. To this union was born one son, Orlando. The mother passed away in 1848 after ten years of married life.

On February 12, 1846 he married Theresa Bowely of Carthage, Maine. To this union were born the following named children: Roselia, Eudora, Audeca, Electa, Newton, Elias, George and Louisa--a beautiful woman who took the Utah State prize at one time for being the most beautiful woman. Her carriage was tall and stately; her features were deep and prominent--penetrating to the eye. Her hair was black and heavy; and hung in natural waves below her hips. She had large, brown impressive eyes; and her reverential attitude was typical of the sturdy pioneer stock that characterizes the pioneer woman. Her sister, Sarah, was a gifted artist in dramatics, having served in this field for many years in Salt Lake City and San Francisco. The youngest boy is named Almon.

Lysander Gee married his third wife, Mary Etta Rowe of Thompkins County, New York, at Salt Lake City in the Endowment House Feb. 10, 1850. To this union were born nine children; named as follows: Erasmus, Erastus, Augustus, Mary, Caroline, Robert, John, Emma and Stephen. At present (1938) the only two surviving of these families are Emma and John. My father, John being the last male survivor.

These families, for years, lived in two log houses on an old homestead in Tooele, Utah, where now stands a modern brick house owned by Howard Gee, who is at this time Utah State probation officer. He is the son of Stephen, named above; and the grand-son of Lysander.

The comedies and tragedies in these families are many--too many to include in this history, however the one being most tragic is of the second wife of Lysander, who while visiting a daughter in Provo mistook the basement door for her bedroom door in a new modern house; and fell and broke her neck which killed her instantly. One incident in the lives of these children is told by a son, John who was without a hat one night when all were invited to a dance in the neighbor's barn, he was also without shoes, but went barefooted; and with a red bandana handkerchief tied around his head. While the others were parading corn and dancing, John entertained them by singing, "Oh, Give Me Three Grains of Corn, Mother!"

Lysander Gee was an elder in the L. D. S. church; and a constant worker for twenty five years he served as superintendent of the Sunday School; he administered to the sick; and bore testimony of healings. He worked three or four months out of the year on the Salt Lake Temple until it was completed. Being well grounded in the faith, he saw miracles performed; and thanked God that he had the privilege of being an instrument in His hands. He was always a prominent citizen, active in all civic and social organizations. He practiced law; and was probate judge for years in Tooele, Utah.

He had a high, massive forehead; heavy arched brows; and high cheek bones, under eyes with a kindly look of peace and serenity; a white drooping mustache, and a short, white beard. His stature was large; and he moved with a stately, calm repose; stable and well-poised, he presented a comforting influence to all he met. He was master of a ceremony when he presided; and was never bold or aggressive in approach; but was always bold and aggressive with the perils and struggles that effaced humanity.

He passed this life June 27th. 1894; and with impressive services was laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery at Tooele. The Sunday School presented to the ward and members of the family a tribute of resolutions of respect to a worthy and esteemed fellow-laborer, Elder Lysander Gee.

*John A. Gee*



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Alphabetical Company List

Chronological Company List

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About this Database

## Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868

### George A. Smith/Dan Jones Company



George A. Smith

**Departure:** unknown  
**Arrival in Salt Lake Valley:**  
26-30 October 1849

**Company Information:**  
370 or 447 individuals and 120 wagons were in the company when it began its journey from the outfitting post at Kaneshville, Iowa (present day Council Bluffs). This company combined with the Ezra T. Benson company as they traveled close together.



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## Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868

Alphabetical Company List

(The number shown in parentheses next to each name is the age of the pioneer at the time of the journey.)

[Gee, Lysander](#) (31)

[Gee, Orlando](#) (10)

[Gee, Rosilia](#) (1)

[Gee, Theresa](#) (20)

## Maryetta ROWE



Event	Date(s)	Place
Born	3 Oct 1831	Ithaca, Tompkins, New York, USA
Died	20 Dec 1866	Tooele, Tooele, Utah, USA
Buried	22 Dec 1866	Tooele, Cemetery, Utah,

Maryetta Rowe Gee was born October 3, 1831 in Ithaca, Tompkins, New York. Her parents are Stephen Rowe (b. 1808 in Addison, Vermont. d. 27 Aug 1842 in Bonaparte, Iowa) and Elizabeth Collins (b. 2 Aug 1813 in Groton, Tompkins, New York, d. 26 Aug 1876 in Nauvoo, Illinois)

After the death of her father in 1842, her mother took the four children and moved to Nauvoo in 1843 and by 7 Apr 1855 she married a Dr. John Fuller Weld. Apparently while living in Nauvoo, Maryetta was endowed and married Hyrum Gates in the Nauvoo Temple 6 Feb 1846 about the time the Saints were making their exodus from that city. At that time she was only 15 years of age. Hyrum, age 44, was married to Sarah Maria in her mid thirties, and they had 6 children some of which were near Maryetta's age. The Gates family settled in Council Bluffs where Maryetta gave birth to a daughter, Francis Gates on 15 Jan 1847. From Council Bluffs the family moved on to Winter Quarters (Florence, Nebraska). While at Winter Quarters, Hiram and his wives visited the Recorder's office where sealing ceremonies were performed. The record shows at 12:30 noon on January 13, 1848, President Brigham Young performed the sealing ceremonies and Maryetta's sealing was witnessed by Thomas Bullock. The family left Winter Quarters on June 2, 1848. The Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel lists her as coming in June 1848 with the Brigham Young Company and arriving in Salt Lake Valley on September 20, 1848 where they were assigned to the Pioneer House under the leadership of Bishop William Hichkenlooper. On January 11, 1849 Maryetta gave birth to another baby girl, Elizabeth Gates. A few months later, Hyrum Gates went on to Goldfields of California with a new bride, Emily Amanda Rockwell, the daughter of infamous Porter Rockwell. Hyrum died the first week of September 1850 in Greenwood, California.

Faced with severe problems (Crickets, etc.) Maryetta tried to cope, along with Hyrum's first wife, Sarah. Maryetta was then dealt another blow in August 1849. Sarah died of heart failure at the age of 42. Now Maryetta along with her two little girls and the two sons of Sarah who were 12 and 14, had to make it on their own. It is believed that in order to survive, Maryetta gave her daughters away. Simeon and Dorcas Andrews raised Frances who later married James Darling Wiley in 1896. It has not been determined who raised Elizabeth, but she later married Robert William Taylor in 1865 and from this marriage she had a daughter Frances, who died at the age of 2 years and a son named William Taylor Jr. Apparently Elizabeth and Robert Taylor divorced in 1878 and she married a Robert Harrison Silliman. To this marriage were born six children, two boys and four girls, most of which were born near Ely, Nevada.

On February 10, 1850 Maryetta, who was now now 19 years of age, entered into another polygamous marriage when she was married to Lysander Gee 12 Feb 1852 and became his third wife. They were sealed 18 July 1850 in Lysander Gee's house by Brigham Young. ( The Nicholas Morgan Map of Salt Lake City indicates Hyrum Gates was given a 5 acre plot when he arrived, and one of his neighbors was Lysander Gee. ) Maryetta became the mother of his 9 children, the first three born in Salt Lake City, and the other 6 born in Tooele, Utah. Maryetta lived in Tooele, Utah until her death at age 36, on December 20, 1866. She is buried next to Lysander Gee in the Tooele Cemetery.