

Nicolas Billington Welch

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: Nicolas Welch

Age: 1y; 5m; 0d

Relationship: Son of John & Elizabeth Welch

Deceased: Sep. 14th, 1847

Disease: Canker

Birth Place: Nauvoo

Birth Date: April 2, 1846

Grave No. 229

Birth Date: April 2, 1846

Birth Place: Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois

Death Date: September 14, 1847

Cause of Death: Canker

Burial Place: Winter Quarters Grave #229

Father's Name: John Welch

Mother's Maiden Name: Eliza Billington

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family: Unknown

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Only John Welch is listed in Weber, Utah Territory.

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Went west with the William Snow/Joseph Young Company in 1850. 42 wagons were in the company when it began its journey from the outfitting post at Kaneshville, Iowa, but the size of the company more than tripled as it made its way across the plains. It was initially organized near the Missouri River.

Eliza came with the Betz Company in 1852.

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

During the voyage, Eliza met a young man and fellow convert named John Welch. They became good friends. John very much admired this lovely young woman with blue eyes and brown hair. For seven weeks their ship was tossed about on the Atlantic Ocean, but finally landed safely at New Orleans, Louisiana in December. From there they traveled by steamboat up the Mississippi River, but due to ice on the river, they were stranded in St. Louis until spring. John Finds Tragedy in Nauvoo When John arrived in Nauvoo, he learned that his father and two brothers

had died, leaving his mother and sister Ann destitute. They had sold keepsakes, accepted charity, and did fine sewing or housework. By the time John arrived, Ann had left for work in Chicago to work, and his widowed mother soon married Robert Madison. John had a set of cutlery work samples kept in a soft cloth case with sewn pockets to protect each piece. He sometimes went down the river, taking orders and making Bowie knives which were in demand for the plainsmen of that day. If he lacked work at his trade, he accepted any honest labor he could get. He was apt at picking up new skills. John, his mother, and sister stayed with the Saints in Nauvoo for another year and attended many meetings held in the Nauvoo Temple. They all worked to help prepare for the journey West.

That February, the great exodus from Illinois began. About four hundred members of the Church left Nauvoo, crossed the river, and started westward. Because of the severe weather and Eliza's pregnancy, the Welches waited until their first child, Nicholas, was born April 2, 1846. Shortly afterwards, they left their home in Nauvoo and followed the migrating Saints. Their group consisted of John, Eliza, and Nicholas; John's mother Elizabeth and sister Ann; plus two orphans of English converts of whom John and his mother had taken charge: Jane and John Miles.

Unfortunately when spring came, they had no oxen with which to continue their journey, so John and Robert planned to leave their families in Winter Quarters and find work in Missouri. Before the men left, Robert married Ann on June 20, 1847. John and Robert first found work digging wells in Savannah, Missouri. Their families left behind in Winter Quarters had physical safety, but still struggled with sickness and privations. On September 14, 1847, Nicholas Billington, only 17 months-old, died of a severe illness. He was buried in the little cemetery on the outskirts of the town. This was a severe trial for Eliza, but she never complained. Due to poor communication methods, John did not learn of his baby's death until three months after. The brethren who blessed little Nicholas during his illness had conferred the priesthood upon him at that time. This led John and Eliza to feel that the mission of their bright and promising child was not for this world.

([https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/13284858?p=17029153&returnLabel=John%20Welch%20\(KWNF-Z61\)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWNF-Z61](https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/13284858?p=17029153&returnLabel=John%20Welch%20(KWNF-Z61)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWNF-Z61))