

## Susannah Willard Cummings

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: Susanah Cimmings

Age: 54y; 11m; 25d

Wife of James Cummings

Deceased: Feb. 28, 1847

Disease: Consumption

Birth Place: Dunstable, Midlesix Co., Mass

Birth Date: Mar. 3, 1792

No. of Grave: 92

Birth Date: March 3, 1792

Death Date: Feb. 28, 1847

Cause of Death: Consumption

Burial Place: Winter Quarters grave #92

Spouse's Name: James Cummings

Father's Name: Joseph Willard

Mother's Maiden Name: Sybil Bailey

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family: Winter Quarters 1<sup>st</sup> Ward

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? James Jr., his wife, and child Oscar were in Pottawattamie County (District 21, Pottawattamie County, 1850 U.S. Federal Census, image 31 of 187, 14th Sept 1850). Benjamin F and Fanny were in Weber County (house #17, p.149). Mary and her husband and two children were also in Weber County (house #16, p.149)

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Benjamin, Alva, and Susannah traveled with the Daniel Spencer Company which left the Elkhorn River June 17, 1847 and arrived Sep. 19-22. James Jr. was the captain of his own company which left Council Bluff July 1, 1851 and arrived between Sep. 30 and Oct. 7. The youngest child, Fanny, traveled as an orphan with the Hinman family. They came with the Brigham Young Company which left Winter Quarters June 5, 1848 and arrived Sep. 20-24.

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

-James died exactly one month after his wife Susannah and was also buried at Winter Quarters in grave #120. He died from scurvy.

(<https://winterquarters.byu.edu/portals/121//PAF/ward1/pafg03.htm#74>).

-James and Susannah had the following children: James Willard, Benjamin Franklin, Charlotte French, Hyrum, Josiah, Mary Susannah, Alva, Fanny. Charlotte, Hyrum, and Josiah all died before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays.

(<https://winterquarters.byu.edu/portals/121//PAF/ward1/pafg03.htm#74>).

-Mary Susannah travel to Utah with her brothers Benjamin Franklin and Alva. Benjamin bought a yoke of oxen from Bryan Ward Nowlin and Alva drove one of Bryan's three teams for him. Bryan's wife abandoned him and returned with their three children to Kentucky, where they had just moved from. During the trek the two families ate together with Mary doing the cooking.

About a week into the trek Mary and Bryan Nowlin were married. (Source of Trail Excerpt: Cummings, Benjamin Franklin, Reminiscences and diaries, 1842-1879, fd. 1, 8p.,

<https://winterquarters.byu.edu/portals/121//PAF/ward1/pafg27.htm#83>).

-James Jr. married Aura Annette Atwood in Nauvoo. They had two sons at Winter Quarters but the first, James, only lived two months and the second, Oscar only lived to be three and a half.

(<https://winterquarters.byu.edu/portals/121//PAF/ward1/pafg11.htm#79>).

-When it was time for the company Benjamin wanted to travel with to leave Winter Quarters they told him that he was too sick with chills and fever to come with them. He snuck into the back of one of the wagons and hid there until it was too late to make him go back. During the trip he recovered and his carpentry skills were a huge help to the company. (APPENDIX LDS Biographical Encyclopedia,

<https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/2391383>).

-Fanny, the youngest child, married Jacob S. Earl on Nov. 16, 1853. Together they had 8 children. In 1868, they moved to Cache County and lived there the rest of Fanny's life. She died from heart trouble and dropsy on June 19, 1908. (Deseret Evening News (Salt Lake City, Utah) June 20, 1908).