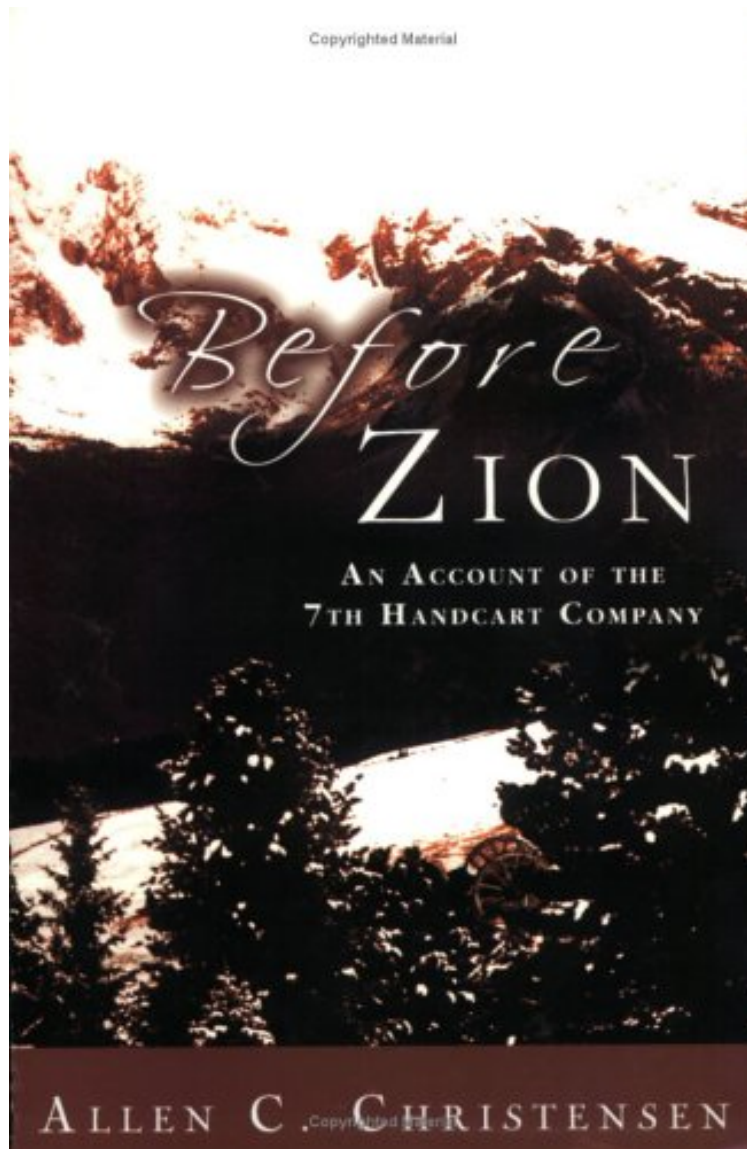


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## Before Zion: An Account of the 7th Handcart Company

*Allen C. Christensen*

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**Allen C. Christensen : Before Zion: An Account of the 7th Handcart Company** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Before Zion: An Account of the 7th Handcart Company:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy Sharon MoncriefI have family that came with this handcart company and are listed in the back. A father, mother and 5 children. Thanks for painting a picture of their struggles and survival as they made this trek. I also had family with the Martin Company and those who left Nauvoo

with Brigham Young. I am so pleased with my LDS heritage and know the value of keeping journals. Without those journals we wouldn't have these wonderful books to remind us of those pioneers. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Well written and full of interesting detail. By M. Young. My ancestor, Helge Olsen, was part of the 7th handcart company so I was excited to find out that there was a book written about this company. Before Zion starts with a short history of religion in Scandinavia and the beginnings of the LDS church there. Then it covers the voyage to England, the Atlantic crossing on the ship Westmoreland, the journey to Iowa, and finally the trek to Salt Lake City. Every chapter includes stories from journals, historical details, and lots of end notes. The appendices include the Westmoreland passenger list, as well as a list of the few company members that did not come on the Westmoreland. I really enjoyed this book. The author does an excellent job of balancing historical detail with the narrative, keeping the story interesting without being dry and scholarly. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great History of Little Known Event. By Jane S. Bonny. This book filled in a lot of gaps in the history of this company. While nothing was said specifically about my husband's ancestors, they were on the list of passengers (they were passed over in Handcarts to Zion) with short biographies. When the author stated that only two of the carts were pushed/pulled by only women, I wish he had been able to name the second one so I would know if my husband's ancestress was the other. One or two of the events seemed to vary from each other depending on the subject of the chapter. Nonetheless, I couldn't put it down or stop reading passages to my husband.

Though young in the Church, the Scandinavian Saints of the seventh handcart company left their farms and shops to follow the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. They taught His gospel throughout Denmark, Norway, and Sweden where they were beaten by mobs, jailed, and survived on diets of bread and water; they, like Peter and John, were grateful to be counted worthy to suffer in Jesus name. But the trek west would stretch this group of farmers and artisans further still, as they placed their all on the altar of sacrifice in their quest for Zion. The members of the 7th Company were ordinary people who by virtue of their faith in the gospel became remarkable people who accomplished extraordinary things. This is their story.

About the Author. Dr. Allen C. Christensen is the Director of the Benson Agriculture and Food Institute at Brigham Young University. He has also been a professor and administrator at Calpoly Pomona. And he served as mission president in the Philippines, San Fernando mission. Dr. Christensen is a descendent of Mormon pioneers, some of whom were members of the Seventh Handcart Company. And he is a lifelong student of LDS history. He and his wife Kathleen are the parents of five children and five foster children.