

“There is Your Dream Girl”

Sunday, October 5, 1856, President Brigham Young stood up in General Conference and called for the strictest attention. He then said,



“I will now give this people the subject and the text for the Elders who may speak today and during the conference. It is this, on the 5th day of October 1856, many of our brethren and sisters are on the Plains with hand-carts, and probably many are now several hundred miles from this place, and they must be brought here. We must send assistance to them. The text will be ‘to **get them here**’.... That is my religion. That is the dictation of the Holy Ghost that I possess. It is to save the **people!** ... I shall call upon the Bishops this day. I shall not wait until to-morrow nor the next day, for 60 good mule teams and 12 or 15

wagons.... I will tell you that all your faith, religion, and all your profession of religion, will never save one soul of you in the celestial kingdom of our God, unless you carry out just such principles as I am now teaching you. Go and bring in those people now on the plains, and attend strictly to those things which we call temporal, or temporal duties, otherwise your faith will be in vain; the preaching you have heard will be in vain to you, and you will sink to hell, unless you attend to the things we tell you.”

On the morning of October 7, fifty men and twenty-two teams left Salt Lake headed east. Among them was James Barnett Cole. As they started over the mountains it began to snow. On the journey searching for the Willie Company, James Cole experienced a most unlikely dream which he related to his friend and captain, William H. Kimball as follows:

“I dreamed,” he said, “that I saw a beautiful woman in this group, she was wearing a green veil, and she was my wife.”

Brother Kimball said, “Jimmy, you’ll see no beautiful woman in a green veil in this forlorn outfit.”

Shortly after they were met by Captain James G. Willie and Joseph B. Elder who reported the desperate plight of the company. The next morning, the rescue wagons were on their way over Rocky Ridge to meet the Willie Handcart Company. James Cole recalled:

“That he saw the encampment just as the sun was sinking in the west. It looked like an Eskimo village which was fully a mile away. The snow was very deep, and the paths had been made from tent to tent, which gave the camp that appearance. It was located on the plain near the river. Soon the people caught sight of the relief train. They threw off all restraints. They shouted, they cried, they freely embraced each other, and soon, their deliverers.”



As the brethren of the rescue party rode into the camp of the saints, William H. Kimball looked down among them and to his astonishment saw a beautiful young woman wearing “a green veil tied over the top of her fur cap to fend her face from the severity of the wind and the bitter cold.”

Kimball turned and said to James, "Brother Cole, there is your dream girl."



Her name was Lucy Ward and James invited her to get into his wagon. It is reported that “At first, she would not. She did not know him. However, she must of relented very soon because on November 2, 1856, the Willie Company journal records,

“James Cole of Fort Supply married Lucy Ward of the 4th Handcart Company at Fort Bridger.”

William H. Kimball performed the ceremony. For their honeymoon, the newlyweds spent the rest of the winter in the isolation of Fort Supply, Wyoming where James tended to Lucy’s frozen feet and nursed her back to health.

Source:

Jolene Allphin Rescue Timeline

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/KWJC-KM4>

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