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Pushing and Pulling to Zion

THE EIGHTH HANDCART COMPANY
TREK DAY BY DAY IN 1859

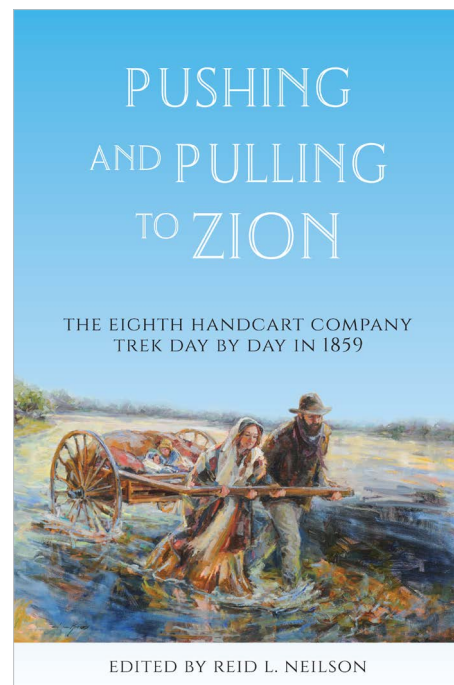
PROVO, UTAH, AND SALT LAKE CITY—While much attention has been given to the ill-fated Martin and Willie handcart companies, few books have examined other handcart companies travelling to the Utah Territory. This volume follows the members of the Eighth Handcart Company, led by Captain George Rowley, in their journey.

Different chapters in the book follow the company by “sail” (ship), “rail” (train), and “trail” (handcart) all the way from their European ports to their destination in Salt Lake City. Primary sources from contemporary diaries help to tell a compelling shared history,

providing readers with a multifaceted perspective of “lived religion” on the Mormon Trail and strengthening faith through the story of this company’s pushing and pulling to Zion.

Historians have published dozens of books on the Mormon Trail experience, yet few books tell the saga of the handcart pioneers from beginning to end. Ten handcart companies traveled west to Utah between 1856 and 1860. Of these ten, the two companies led by James G. Willie and Edward Martin in 1856, which ended in tragedy and rescue, have received overwhelming attention from publishers. This documentary history seeks to highlight the daily experience of the Eighth Handcart Company captained by George Rowley in the summer of 1859. The primary sources featured herein make several important contributions to our understanding of the handcart experience, the Mormon Trail, the Great Platte River Road, and the European gathering to Zion.

Pushing and Pulling to Zion: The Eighth Handcart Company Trek Day By Day in 1859 was copublished by the Reli-



gious Studies Center at Brigham Young University and Deseret Book. Visit rsc.byu.edu/book/pushing-pulling-zion for more information.

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DETAILS

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