

Our Family Links

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Charles Emanuel Rosenmund — a True 49er



California 49er—not Charles, but could have been.

Charles Emanuel Rosenmund, born in 1828 in Basel, Switzerland, is Jon Hubble's great-great grandfather. He was the son of Johannes Rosenmund and Anna Catharina Gyson and the twin brother of August Wilhelm Rosenmund. He was the second (perhaps third) child (of 15 children) in the Rosenmund family. At age 14 he began to learn the trade of butcher. In 1845, when he was 17, his family immigrated to the United States and settled in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

In a few years the California Gold Rush began and on April 3, 1850, in an effort to support his immigrant family, twenty-two year old Charles bade a tearful farewell to family and friends and made his way to California to find his fortune. He kept a diary of his nearly three years of travels that give us a glimpse of the life of a California 49er (no, not the football team)

Charles traveled mostly by boat until he made it to Council Bluffs, Iowa. From that point on his travel to California can easily be described as "brutal." His route and traveling companions constantly changed as he made his way west. In Council Bluffs, Iowa he "agreed with a Yankee from Michigan" to join his team and to pay him \$50 now and another \$50 when they reached California. On May 20, 1850 he left Council Bluffs and came across steep river banks and had to let down the wagons with ropes and then be ferried across the river. The horses had to swim across. Later, the horses stampeded and they had to chase them for three miles. His trek was just beginning.

Getting stuck in mud and sand was routine and crossing creeks and streams was always a challenge. Sometimes they "crossed on logs" and other times they built bridges over the water. One time their wagon was caught in a deep hole in the middle of crossing a stream and it took 20 men to pull it out. Another time they lost a sack of crackers when it fell into the creek. It was a costly loss because food was a precious commodity.

On May 29, 1850 Charles saw his first buffalo, antelope and prairie dog. He noted that prairie dogs are "cute things." He and his companions feasted on "buffalo, deer, and prairie chicken." They also passed several Indian villages but had little interaction with them at the time.

At the beginning of June they found themselves unloading anything from the wagons that wasn't necessary. On June 22, 1850 the wagon train made it to Devil's Gate (in Wyoming).

Even though it was summer he was surprised to see ice in the creeks and very little grass. Cattle had a habit of stampeding. The land became very inhospitable and the travelers and animals were exhausted. The Martin and Willie handcart companies made the same trek six years later and found the environment much worse during the October snow storms and many of them perished. Traveling was difficult and Charles made this entry in his journal, "Here was found out how much man can endure if they have to."

[Today Martin's Cove, near Devil's Gate, is a Church historical site where the Hubble family visited in 1999 and took a mini hand cart trek down a prepared path where we got a tiny glimpse of the difficulties encountered by handcart travelers. We realized we are truly blessed to have so many modern conveniences — such as paved roads!]



Hubble family trekking at Martin's Cove in 1999.

At Fort Bridger, Charles' group was warned that previous travelers had killed some Indians and they were out for revenge. A couple days later they ran into an Indian camp where "many Indians were killed." They kept on traveling but watched out for Indian warriors. (This was only one of the 31 entries in Charles' diary mentioning the death of people—natural or otherwise—during the next three years. He sometimes listed names of the people he knew when they were killed or passed away. Clearly, these were obviously dangerous times!)

On July 11, 1850 Charles entered Salt Lake City. He found the city well-planned with water running down the broad streets and was impressed with how friendly the people were to each other. "I almost had in mind to stay here and start a butcher shop but I thought of my immigrants and if I would get a start here I would miss my chance to get to California." Charles probably would have been pleased that in another 100 years his great-grand daughter, Shirley Wintermute Hubble, would accept a copy of the Book of Mormon and begin a line of descendants as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Two of his great-great-granddaughters (Alison Hubble Boatwright and Janae Hubble Davis) are now



Shirley R Wintermute Hubble, Great Granddaughter of Charles.

living in the Salt Lake Valley where Charles “almost” settled!

Charles stayed in Salt Lake City until after the 24th of July celebration before departing to California. He described the 24th as “celebrated from early morning by shooting, parades, music, and speeches and lots of eating.” Some things don’t change.

As his company continued west, the struggles only got worse. On August 1, 1850 he “heard from friends in the home country. I heard that my twin brother, William had died. . . this became a day of special importance to me. I thought of all my beloved ones in the old country and dreamt about them at night. This became a day of special importance to me every day of my life.”

Along the way Charles got tired of carrying his rifle and sold it to an Indian. “The Indian wanted to try out the gun and told me to load it, which I did, and I had to teach him to use it and it gave him such a kick that he fell on his back. When he got up, he looked at the gun and ran away.”

Days later the group’s provisions ran out. Many animals died. Money could not buy anything. “I shared everything. Here we found what misery meant.” A day later they came to a creek, but before he could get to the creek he fainted. With water from his friends he revived with a terrible headache and had to stay in the wagon all day, “although I would rather have walked because of the rough roads.”

They met up with another wagon train which had lost their cattle to an Indian raid. The camp gathered up their men and headed off to an Indian village four miles away where they found their cattle . . . and all the Indians were arranged in battle formation! He wrote, “This was too much for our brave warriors and they agreed with the Indians that they had won the battle, but as a gesture of friendship would return the oxen, which they did.” Sounds like a pretty good way to settle a battle!

Further on Charles again commiserated about the misery of travels “where a person could see hundreds of dead oxen and horses. The travelers left their wagons and animals. We bought water for \$1.00 a gallon.” The trails were too steep for wagons, so they packed their horses and went the rest of the way on foot.

Their group reached California and what is now Lake Tahoe on September 4, 1850. The group found life much easier, although they had to march through snow in early September. On September 8 Charles encountered men “washing for gold”

For the next two+ years Charles journeyed through the northern California mountains and foothills, making and dissolving partnerships, prospecting on his own, building cabins, and sleeping out in the open covered in moss. He had his money stolen, and by December 1850 he was broke, but that did not prevent him from continuing on. He would partner up with different prospectors, earn a little money, stake a claim, work it for a while and then sell it. He would join up with a group of men and create a company and work a mine and share in the profits. He would sell his claim and move on to the next opportunity.

By April, 1851 Charles had only \$25 and “hoped to make more, although I was without hope.” One day he “washed for

gold and made 50 cents.” Another day he made \$100. He found a gold nugget worth \$52. One week he “prospected but found nothing except a nest of young mice in a blanket.” He joined nine other men and created the Ohio Mining Company. They created a constitution and worked a mine where he received his share of the profits. They built a dam which flooded some claims of other miners and had to settle by paying the other miners \$150. He sold his shares and moved on to many other business ventures over the next year and a half.

By January 1853 he had had enough and decided to “go back to the states” (although by then California was a state). On January 15, he boarded the “Golden Gate” steamer in San Francisco. When they arrived in San Diego a passenger used “bad language” and was put in irons for six days. Charles went on to Panama where he got off and made his way across the isthmus to Navy Bay where he boarded the mail boat “Ohio” to New York City. He came down with malaria in Panama and was quite weak on the trip to New York where he “had to crawl off the ship on account of being weak.”

On his way back home, Charles stopped at the Philadelphia Mint to exchange his gold dust for money. We don’t know how much money he brought home, but he did have some success. He recorded that one “tunnel company” paid him \$14,992.66 over a three-month period. In today’s dollars that is over \$500,000!

In 1855, two years after returning home, Charles settled in Muscatine, Iowa and married Catherine Dold. They became the great-great grandparents of Jon Hubble.



Lila Rosenmund, Graddaughter of Charles and Grandmother of Jon Hubble



Jon panning for gold in San Diego, January 2019.

Jon & Gloria Hubble

We are currently serving a mission in the Manaus, Brazil temple. This is our second temple mission. Our first was in Campinas, Brazil, where we worked with the Amatos, Kawais and Filiagis, who are now our temple presidency here in Manaus. We love working in the temple with the Brazilian people. It's also been fun to have caravans come to the temple from Guyana and Suriname, English and Dutch speaking countries north of Brazil that are in our temple district.

You can keep up with our mission by reading our weekly blog at <http://hubblemission.blogspot.com/>



Martins, Brasils, Silvas, Hubbles, Amatos, Filiagis, Kawais & Jaymes

Jeremy & Kimberly Hubble

Jeremy and Kimberly are currently in Seattle where they have lived for five years. Jeremy is working as a software developer for cruise line Holland America and Kimberly is home with 9 of the 10 children. Gabriella (17) has left the nest and is in her first year at BYU where she is studying biology. Daniella (16), Joshua (14), Joseph (12), Jonah (10), Nathaniel (8), and twins Anna and Abigail (5) are at the local public schools. Phoebe (3) attends preschool part time and Naomi (8 months) stays busy crawling everywhere. Several children participate in sports: Gabriella has joined the triathlon club at BYU and will do her first triathlon in October, Daniella runs varsity cross country, Joshua plays ultimate frisbee, and Anna and Abigail recently started soccer. Joseph, Jonah and Nathaniel all enjoy video games and jumping on our new-to-us trampoline. Jonah enjoys listening to audiobooks and reading. Our whole family enjoyed a fun summer vacation to Idaho (see photo below) where we visited the Geff Hubble family and then went together with them to the Groberg cabin. We live a busy and crazy, but blessed life.



Jeremy & Kimberly Hubble family.

Travis & Becca Hubble

Travis and Becca Hubble and their kids live in Westerville, Ohio (a northern suburb in the Columbus area). They have 6 kids: Annie (16), Jennie (14), Linnea (12), Soren (10), Rozzy (6) and Levi (soon to be 4). They spent 10 years moving around in the Air Force, acquiring a souvenir child from each place, to keep future family history sleuths on their toes. They then heeded the call to move to Ohio, and have now lived as civilians for the last 6 years. Travis currently works as in-house counsel (lawyer) at a health care system called OhioHealth, but is crazy enough to consider plunging into an entirely new field by getting a PhD in Economics, when he gets all of his prereqs done. He's gotten good practice at daily studying in his new calling as ward seminary teacher which he loves! Becca manages the daily logistics and home governance, and often home schooling, of our busy family. She also enjoys reading and spending time outside, and serving in our ward Relief Society.

Annie is a junior, enrolled in a 2-year digital design program, and is really enjoying it. She is also taking a few college classes. She seems to be drawn to the water--she finished her second year rowing in the spring and now works after school as a lifeguard at an indoor swim school.

Jennie is a freshman, doing her schoolwork at home through an online charter school, which gives her the flexibility to deal with health issues. She enjoys taking piano and as time permits, volunteers to be the Sacrament meeting accompanist for a local LDS Nepali group.

Linnea is a 7th grader, partially enrolled in the local middle school, and does the rest of her classes through homeschool. She loves the flexibility to develop her baking skills and learn about American history in the era of Laura Ingalls Wilder, her passion. Linnea is an avid bookworm!



Travis & Becca Hubble family.

Soren is a 5th grader at a local magnet school. He loves being on the school's robotics team, and plays chess avidly. He enjoys playing on his soccer team, and is regularly dreaming up wonderful/crazy inventions that he wants to build.

Rozzy is a 1st grader at our local elementary school. She loves her classmates and is another avid bookworm, sometimes it's hard to tear her away from a book to get homework done! She enjoys playing soccer and with her little brother, Levi.

Levi attends a local preschool co-op a couple days each week. He loves having time with his friends, being mom's constant buddy on errands, and being Dad's right hand man in home repair projects.

Chad & Heather Hicks

Chad and Heather Hicks and their 2 daughters Annabelle, 6, and Maya, 3, live in Tucson, Arizona. Chad works as an Engineer and has lived in Tucson for 20 years. Heather is a stay at home mom currently and takes care of the girls. Annabelle is in 1st grade and is doing well reading and writing a lot, she also enjoys her music class, and gymnastics class and is a talented artist whenever she gets a chance to draw. Maya is in her first year of Preschool and she is doing well and loves to learn and knows how to trace, write her name with a little assistance, and draw and she loves her gymnastics class as well.

The girls love to play together, tumble doing summersaults, cartwheels, swim, play barbies, dress up as princesses and play legos along with Daddy.



Chad & Heather Hicks Family.

Geff & Maggie Hubble

The Geff & Maggie Hubble family spend most of their time in the beautiful foothills of Boise Idaho. The family often travels to China to visit Maggie's side of the family. 7 people make up the Geff Hubble immediate family:

Kai: Little guy Kai is 2 years old. He has a voracious appetite mostly for food but also for adventure. Kai loves to devour noodles, regardless of the continent he's in. He also loves exploring the outdoors as well as exploring what indoor objects can be flushed down the toilet.



Geff & Maggie Hubble Family.

Jaden: J-man is 5. He loves to dress up like Star Wars characters and act like superheroes or supervillains. Jaden does his best to helpfully guide his little brother Kai through all their daily adventures. Ice hockey, taekwondo, and flag-football currently keep Jaden busy when he's not pretending to be Thanos.

Leliana: Leli just turned 11 and is looking forward to joining the Young Women program at Church in January. Leli is developing her skills as an artist and violinist. She also spends time with her school's chess club, playing volleyball with the YMCA league, and learning basketball at school. Somehow, Leli also finds time to consume multiple novels of books every month.

Cecilia: Ceci has been on the earth for almost 13 years and stays busy with her conquest to master the piano, develop her volleyball skills, and making sure she wakes up in time to catch the bus to school every morning. Ceci is also a very skilled writer and negotiator.

Junjun: Boomer is one of the biggest 13-year-old football players on his school team. He also won the gold medal in the 7th grade city-wide shotput championship last year. While he's only been in the USA for 5 years, it would be difficult to identify him as anything other than a free-thinking American teenager.

Geff & Maggie: stay busy with their 5 kids and Church responsibilities. Maggie's reputation for making delicious dumplings has travelled to neighboring states. Geff counts numbers for a living.

Tyler Hubble

Tyler and his family live in beautiful Austin, Texas. Watson, age 10, is busy with soccer and basketball and enjoys video games and science projects. Brooklyn, age 7, started 1st grade and enjoys dancing and singing. We enjoy time with our photo-bombing dog Rocco, and also recently added to our family with animals we found around the neighborhood, including 3 geckos named Nala, Scar, and Timon, a frog named Big Hoppa from a nearby creek, and 3 unnamed fish from a different creek.



Alison & Jonathan Boatwright

Jonathan and Alison were married on February 2, 2019 in the Salt Lake City Temple. They currently live in Salt Lake. Jonathan recently graduated and started working as a family nurse practitioner and teaching nursing school. Alison continues to work in human resources for the State. They love spending time outdoors hiking and running.

