

# What Would You Bring?

In order to bring the Saints more quickly to Zion, and maximize the limited financial resources of many who wished to gather, Brigham Young instituted the handcart system. Handcart companies carried very limited personal belongings and supplies in the carts, with food and supplies for the entire company loaded onto supply wagons that accompanied the party.

The physical limitations on baggage were strict: no person was allowed more than 20 pounds of personal gear (and in some cases, even less.) These restrictions sharply limited the items any one person could bring to help them start a new life with the Saints in Zion.

In choosing what would stay and what would go with them, they had to consider their present needs, as well as what they might need in the first year after their arrival in the new territory.

To complicate matters, many Saints were emigrating from very different climates, or with limited rural experience, and had very little idea of the conditions and challenges they might face. Additional items might be carried in a pocket or bag, but that weight would be worn every step of the journey.

What would you bring, and why?

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|---------|----------------------------------------|
| 1 lb    | Gold or silver coins                   |
| 1/2 lb  | Grandfather's pocket watch             |
| 1/16 lb | Grandmother's wedding ring             |
| 1 lb    | Scriptures                             |
| 1/2 lb  | Favorite novel                         |
| 1/2 lb  | Botanical identification book          |
| 1/2 lb  | Journal                                |
| 1/16 lb | Pencils                                |
| 8 lb    | Hunting firearm & ammunition           |
| 1/2 lb  | Knife                                  |
| 1/2 lb  | Letters from relatives back home       |
| 1/2 lb  | Childhood keepsake                     |
| 1/4 lb  | Photograph or miniature of a loved one |
| 1/2 lb  | Two pair extra stockings               |
| 2 lb    | Second pair of boots                   |
| 4 lb    | Winter coat                            |
| 1/2 lb  | Winter hood or fur hat                 |
| 1/4 lb  | Wool gloves                            |
| 10 lb   | Sunday clothes                         |
| 2 lb    | Extra trousers                         |
| 1 lb    | Extra shirt                            |
| 1/2 lb  | Extra chemise                          |
| 5 lb    | Extra wool dress                       |
| 5 lb    | Wool blanket                           |
| 2 lb    | Feather pillow                         |

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