

Jim Strong and E.K. Hanks

By Jim Strong 14 June 2011

Ephraim Knowlton Hanks, 21 March 1826-9 June 1896 died at the Floral Ranch on Pleasant Creek and buried in the cemetery, Cainsville, Utah (close to Capital Reef National Park) Age 70.

He was best known for his efforts to rescue of the snow-bound Martin and Willie's handcart companies on the Sweetwater River in 1856. He was a private in the U.S. Mormon Battalion 1846-1848.

As a Mormon scout and frontier mailman he made over 50 round trips between Salt Lake City and the Missouri River.

Hanks set up, operated and maintained the Pony Express Station at Mountain Dell, also called Hanks Station. He was disappointed that he was too old and too heavy to be a rider for the Pony Express. This station was also a stop for the Overland Stage.

Of his many callings in the LDS Church being the Patriarch of Wayne County Stake was probably the most notable by some of the family.

Jim is through the line of his second wife Jane Maria Capener and daughter Alice Maria Hanks born 1861. Alice married Moroni Smith McAfee and their daughter, Jane Ann (Jen) McAfee married my grandfather Robert Reed Strong. E. K. Hanks would be my great, great grandfather.