

HISTORY OF EBENEZER HANKS

UTAH PIONEER OF 1847

Written by his daughter, June 10, 1936
For the Cedar City Camp, Cedar City, Utah.

Ebenezer Hanks was the son of Joseph Hands and Alvira Kennedy. He was born February 11, 1814, in Troy New York. He came west about 1840, his first stopping place was Kirtland Ohio. He remained with the emigrants until they came to Omaha, and then 1845 became a member of the Mormon Battalion, first Seargeant of Captain Brouris company.

When alarm came that 500 Mexicans were approaching, he and Harry Morley were sent out on advance Picket duty and were left for two weeks without relief. He was also one of the hunters for the company.

In the spring of 1847, his was one of the attachments from Brown's company to go with the sick to what is not called Colorado Springs, and so missed the march into California.

He came in August and September 1847, with the second company, and remained in Salt Lake City and vicinity two years trading with the Indians. He and another man named Tucker made one trip as far South as the present site of Monroe.

He and Harry Morley as advanced scouts discovered three Indians and chased them across Utah Lake, wounding them and leaving them behind in the snow. Another man behind scalped them and so became the hero of the fight. He and Harry Morley also made many trips together over the mountains to Fort Bridger for beef cattle, which they brought down Weber Canyon, in order to keep the people from starving.

In the winter of 1849-50, he went to California, where he secured a considerable amount of dust. Later we found him in San Barndenio California. He was Superintendent of a ranch there for years. At that time or a little later he owned a considerable freight train of wagons and mules. He carried on a considerable freight train business between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City.

At one time of his life he was part owner of a mercantile business at Provo, He later moved to Parowan and here conducted a store also a saw mill. From

this came the lumber for the first Tabernacle Organ in Salt Lake City.

At the request of Brigham Young he built a tannery, a cabinet shop, and a cotton factory. He was largely the financial life of the South end of the State.

When the Railroad came into Salt Lake City he sold his teams and interest in the Great Western Iron and Manufacturing Company of which he was Superintendent. He always kept his interest in mining and helped to open up the Bulley Boy, The Deer Trail, and the Great Wester, all old time producers, in Marysvaille district. While there he became the first Probate Judge in Piute Co.

When the market of the Iron Works collapsed and the works was closed out he went in company with E. H. McDougla, Billy Shoe Maker, Silversun Borup to the Silver Reef where they discovered and located a claim at the extreme South end of the White Reef, but it proved to be too low a grade to pay for working and milling the ore.

In 1882 he moved to Hanksville which is in Wayne Co. Here he presented to the people the town site of Hanksville which was named for him. The Pioneers who settled this valley were Samuel and Charles Gould, E. H. McDougall and of course Ebenezer Hanks.

He surveyed two canals in that valley with the help of his son E. J. Hanks and C. H. Gould. These canals are still in use. He spent the rest of his days in the town of Hanksville.