

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN WOOD

SHANNON AZUMENDI

HISTORY OF WYOMING

MAY 8, 1988

Garden
potatoes, cabbage
onions, spinach
beans peas,
lettuce, radish
turnips.
It was financial
help in feeding
the family.

One of ten children, John Wood was born about a hundred miles east of Springfield, Missouri by the Mason-Dixon line, near West Plains. Growing up, John lived in what was "at first a one-room trapper cabin that was built by the first homesteaders there," that expanded as the family grew. With nine children that "grew to adulthood" and one that died in infancy, John had two brothers and six sisters. Three bedrooms were divided between boys, girls, and parents. A small cabin off of the main house was used for the kitchen, and a "breezeway" or "dog trot" joined the two. During the summer, the "breezeway" was turned into a diningroom but "it would be too cold there in the wintertime" to use it for eating.

John walked two and a half miles to school and when he got tired of walking, he'd run. At Hopkins School there were eight grades in one room with one teacher to teach and keep order. With eighty students, "sixty in regular attendance" discipline was not really a problem. If one of the boys misbehaved, "she'd make 'em sit with the girls for punishment and it was embarrassing to him." Peer pressure helped too, because the other kids would make fun of the person and his misbehavior. Parents also helped by telling the kids, "if they got punished in school, they'd get punished when they got home," says John. A different standard was used for hiring teachers back then than now. "They wouldn't hire a teacher unless she was a Christian." Lessons were basic in nature, starting with "a first reader" that involved Bo Peep and Little Boy Blue. They learned the alphabet, numbers, and also used the Blue.

Backed Speller.

As John was growing up, he was an avid baseball fan. He always wondered why he had to go to school and study when eh'd rather be outside playing baseball. Children, at that time, were also engaged in games such as Hide-and-Go-Seek and Dare Base. Hide-and-Go-Seek was played much the same way it is played today. There were many ways to play Dare Base and one involved making a mark in the dirt, which was the base. The children would try to make it around the base before being caught by the other team.

Holidays were simple and were a time for families to enjoy doing things together. Birthdays were usually celebrated with a cake and singing, "Happy Birthday." Presents were not a regular part of the celebration. For Easter, John's mother "colored a lot of eggs" and they always had to see who could eat the most. At Christmastime children would usually get candy and oranges, sometimes in their stockings, as gifts. A Christmas program that was held at John's home one time holds special memories for him. One of the neighbors dressed up as Santa Claus and handed the gifts out. The Fourth of July was celebrated with a picnic. "The neighbors would come in and we always had . . . a big feast," the kids would make ice cream in the shade of the trees and John's mother would make lemonade.

Vacations were unknown on the farm, but fishing was a different story. They would take a wagon and a picnic lunch

for a day of fun and relaxation. Fishing was not done with a pole and line. "Back then we could fish with nets. Just stick that net in and sometimes we'd have thirty-five fish in it." Mischief was also a part of fishing. As John recalled one time, "my brother-in-law, he brought a box of cigars" and gave John one. As he lit it up John said "watch this old steam engine." He was making that smoke go until "after awhile the old steam engine slowed up," and he got sick. John was six or eight at the time and he had no interest in the picnic lunch that day, nor in smoking in the years to come.

Discipline was usually taken care of with "nice little switches." "One time my brother and I was splittin wood." A fight ensued and his mother saw it. As John and his brother were called to the house, his brother said he was going to act like he was dead. As the whipping started, "he dropped down and said, 'You killed me! You killed me!'" When his mother didn't stop "he come alive pretty quick."

Children had responsibilities on the farm as well as time to be children. Chores such as gathering eggs, milking the cows, and feeding the chickens had to be taken care of daily. Children played together, "sex" never entered into their minds. They just played together and had a "big time." They would play baseball, with the boys against the girls. The girls would have a teacher. If it was a man, he would catch for them and an older boy pitch. The girls would "hold us a pretty tight game" and it was played with a hard ball, too!

By the time boys got old enough to be interested in girls, a shyness took over with the boys being afraid of rejection. "Boys always asked the girls for a date" which usually consisted of going to a baseball game, a square dance at someone's home, or a walk home from church.

Church was an important part of life on the farm. Many times there would be all-day singing and a big dinner afterwards. "We had lots of fun in Sunday School" says John. Later eight or nine friends were invited to his home for a game of ball.

Never having much exposure as a child to the effects of whiskey, John recalls that some people did have whiskey or moonshine at one of the dances to which they had gone. "One time (we) saw a drunk there and he put his pipe in his hip pocket." The pipe, unfortunately, was still lit and he caught his pocket on fire. The children naturally "kinda crawled around" imitating the drunk's actions.

Things were pretty slow in Missouri and "work was awful scarce." John came to Wyoming in 1926, at the age of nineteen or twenty. He came out here to be a cowboy "as great ambitions went." His brother had come out here first and gotten John a job with Mr. Derth in Eden, irrigating.

His first impression of the area was wondering "what kind of place I was getting into". With so many broken languages he could hardly understand them. The first few years out on his own John bounced around somewhat. He went back to St. Louis and took a business course which included bookkeeping,

accounting, and commercial law. Upon completing this course, he earned \$35 a month. The only problem with this was that it cost him \$60 a month to live. He moved back to Eden, where he could make enough money to support himself. The courses he took then have been helpful throughout his life.

There were a few cars in the area in 1928, Model-T's. John had a Model-T Roadster when he worked for the Hays and he was living in "a little old cabin" at that time. "When the wind blew" the cabin leaked so much with the dust leaving a fine layer over everything he would have to wash the dishes before meals as well as after. One morning in September John awoke to snow "all over" his bed so Mr. Hay told John to "move over to the Chambers' place." The house was much nicer but his Model-T got stuck in the snow and stayed stuck all winter. Bill Meyers, a trapper, "stayed all night" with John once in awhile on his way through. He loaned John his horse so John could get one of Hay's horses for his own transportation so that he would be able to get groceries and the mail during the long winter.

There were still trappers in the area but not many. John remembers two Bill Meyers in the area. One was called "Trapper Bill" and the other was called "Wingy Bill", because he had only one arm. "A few of the local guys would put out a few traps but not really a trap line." Pelts were worth about \$15 at that time.

A few men still roamed with "six -shooters" but not many

crimes took place. Bill Carlyle and Butch Cassidy were in the Browns Park area, according to John, and Clamity Jane worked the South Pass area.

The influenza that hit the whole country in 1918 is the only epidemic John remembers. "More people died from that than was killed in WWI." He thought it hit pretty hard around the South Pass area from what he had heard.

John's sister tried to take some pictures of some Indians passing by the Washington Ranch one time "but they didn't want to take no pictures . . . I've been told this was their hunting area back in the early days," but at that time, to the best of John's knowledge, they were headed down to Firehole, south of town. The Indian men dressed pretty much the same as the women and it was hard to tell them apart. Both wore their hair long and braided. When John saw them, they were traveling with a horse and buggy. "They'd stay there a day or two then they'd leave out."

When asked about Blacks and Orientals in the area, John remembered the Orientals, but didn't remember any Blacks. He never noticed any unusual customs. They "kept off to themselves pretty well." The Chinese, as John remembers, worked in the mines in and around Rock Springs and "built the first reservoir out here." You can still see some of the writing they did on the walls of the reservoir up there at that time.

John was irrigating at the time for Hays. He has always had an interest in irrigation "figuring out the high places on your ground" and getting water over them held his interest.

Irrigation wasn't John's only responsibility. He had cows to milk and chores to do which could result in 16 hour days, seven days a week.

They did get time off on Labor Day, which was the advent of the eight hour day. As John remembers, they went into Rock Springs to the rodeo, if all was well with the irrigation water. They also got a day off for a sage chicken fry in Eden.

"Chickens used to be more plentiful than they are now." John used to kill them with his irrigation shovel. Because they were so plentiful, a gun wasn't really needed. He could catch as many as eight a day that way. During sage chicken season, chickens were the main dish at ~~the~~ Labor Day picnic in Farson, "a community affair" that involved a Minister giving a sermon and much singing. John did some rodeoing at the rodeo in Rock Springs on Labor Day and knew some of the "Sunday ropers."

John met Cathryne in 1927. She was visiting his sister at the Washington Ranch out in Eden. He went over for Sunday dinner and after dinner he and Cathryne were "washing the dishes." During this clean-up time, he and Cathryne were playing around with the dishtowels, hitting each other with them. His sister said, "that's a sign you're going to get married they always told me when you fight with dishtowels." John never thought much about it at the time. About ten years later they were married by a Justice of the Peace on August 18, 1937. They

moved into a house on the Hay's Ranch where John was working at the time.

John and Cathryne were blessed with three children, all girls. Two of the girls were born at Wyoming General Hospital in Rock Springs and one was born at a ranch south of Eden.

In 1943, they leased the ranch they now have. The house that was there had three rooms and newspaper for insulation in the ceiling which was "pretty cold really." John nearly "built a new house inside the old one." They had a hand pump for water and an ice box, that required ice to keep food cool, for a refrigerator. Cooking was done on a coal stove in the kitchen. In 1944, John "went to the bank" and borrowed \$1000 for a down payment and bought the ranch at 4% interest. Prices have really changed since John first came out from Missouri on the train in 1926 for \$26. When John and Cathryne were married in 1937, bacon was 29 cents a pound, coffee 25 cents a pound, and a loaf of bread was 5 or 10 cents. A few years ago he made a trip back to West Plains, Missouri on the bus and the round-trip ticket was \$185.

John taught Cathryne the bookkeeping that he had learned in St. Louis. She ~~keeps~~ keeps the books, but they both handle the finances. Cathryne did most of the disciplining of the children. The way John sees it, a child is "indebted more to the mother" than the father because the mother is responsible for the care, bathing, changing, and kissing the hurts.

During the Depression, John could not collect his wages

but kept his job because nobody else could pay him either. During the depressed 50's they didn't fare better than others, but they managed. The main idea was not to spend more than they took in. They had a garden that was a financial help. They grew "potatoes, cabbage, onions, spinach, beans, peas, lettuce radishes and turnips. They shared the garden yeild with friends who would come out there.

John had some interesting memories about how bootlegged whiskey was sold during Prohibition. On a trip to Missouri one time, his "Model-T broke down about twenty mile this side of Wichita." It would take about two weeks "to get it fixed." Since he could use a team of mules and a thresher, he was offered a job plowing corn until it was time to thresh, so he took it. His boss would make moonshine and hide it in jugs by his fences. His customers would pay him at his house and he would tell them where to find the jugs.

"In Missouri" there was a Negro man from which an FBI agent tried to enlist help. The agent approached the Negro and asked him if he could get him some whiskey. "Yes sir, I think I could probably get you some whiskey," came the answer. "I need a dollar and a half," the Negro said.' When he got the money, he told the agent to hold his shoe box until he returned. When the Negro didn't return, the agent checked the shoe box and there was his bottle of whiskey. John got quite a chuckle from this incident.

There is a question in John's mind as to whether the

"Sixty Minutes" report was right about the area during the boom. He did remember people camped outside of Rock Springs on the road to Farson. The burden on the schools in the area during the boom was bad. After the boom "those established here had to pay the debt."

John, being too young for WWI, and too old for WWII did not serve in the military, but did his part at home in the fields supplying food for the troops. "w ate corn bread at home so we could send flour to the troops." John now works his farm with Cathryne by his side. Two of their girls are now retired, and one works out of her home. Each has families of their own.

John believes that one of the country's problems stem from spending beyond its means. "Every President gets in is gonna balance the budget, first thing they claim they're gonna do, but they never get it done."

He never asks for help unless he feels it is justified. He "doesn't want federal aid" to help him farm. When he was approached about a program that would give them cheese because they were senior citizens, John's reply was "we won't take it." In talking to a deputy sheriff in Eden John stated "That's for the needy not the greedy."

Being a strong Southern Baptist, John believes his "hands would be dirty if he had the means to help someone in need and didn't."

I'd like to finish this short account of John Wood's

life with the words he would like to leave his grandson.

"I always wanted to leave this world a better place than I found it. I'm afraid I won't be doing that, but I hope I can . . . My father always told me, 'Son, always be a man' . . . I've always tried to be that. That's one thing I'd like to leave my grandson, 'Always try to be a man.'"

Subj: **MARS** *Roller*
 Date: *7/29/2005* 12:16:57 PM Mountain Standard Time
 From:
 To: *H2 @ Outdoors.net*

Too good a message to not pass along to everyone. If this is truly

- >the closest that MARS will come to the Earth in a minimum of 282
- >years, it would behoove us all to stay up late or set our alarms to
- >see this remarkable spectacle.
- >
- >Mars Spectacular - Coming in August to the Skies Near You!
- >
- >Mars
- >
- >The Red Planet is about to be spectacular!
- >
- >This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter
- >that
- >will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in
- >recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is
- >in 2287. Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on
- >Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be
- >certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth
- >in the Last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as
- >60,000 years before it happens again.
- >
- >The encounter will culminate on August 27th when
- >Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and
- >will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in
- >the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9
- >and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest
- >75-power magnification
- >
- >Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye.
- >
- >Mars will be easy to spot. At the
- >beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10p.m.
- >
- >and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m.
- >
- >By the end of August when the two planets are
- >closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its
- >highest point in the sky at 12:30a.m. That's pretty
- >convenient to see something that no human being has
- >seen in recorded history. So, mark your calendar at
- >the beginning of August to see Mars grow
- >progressively brighter and brighter throughout the
- >month.
- >
- >
- >Share this with your children and grandchildren.

Friday, July 29, 2005 America Online: Rwoodnstuff

The Immigrations Desert Even. News
11-Sept 1868

Close

Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868

Source:

"The Immigration," *Deseret Evening News*, 11 Sept. 1868, 3.

Full Text:

THE IMMIGRATION.-By letter from Captain Gillespie to President Young, with which we have been courteously favored, we learn that his train passed Fort Bridger on the 8th. All the company were well, except a few who had diarrhoea slightly, although there were no serious cases. The trip has been a very prosperous one, and the cattle have gained in flesh by the way. He had left for Captain Mumford's train thirty-one sacks of flour, twelve hundred pounds of beef, and a few sacks of peaches. There was one death in the train, on Little Sandy, that of an old lady, named Mary Clayfield, 71 years of age.

Captain Gillespie has a stove and a box or two in his train, for which there is no owner in his company. He will bring them carefully into the city.

Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868

Source:

Gillespie, John, to Brigham Young, 8 Sept. 1868, in Brigham Young, Office Files 1832-1878, reel 44, box 32, fd. 15.

Full Text:

Fort Bridger Sept 8th 1868

President Brigham Young --

Dear Brother: -- It is with pleasure that I write a few items from this place to you, and for your information. My Company of Saints passed this point today all well, with the exception perhaps of a few who are a little troubled with bowel complaint but I hear of no very bad cases.

I truly can say that the Lord has blessed us in all our endeavours to do our duty and we have been wonderfully prospered in the trip from Benton City to this place. Our cattled have gained in flesh and no one has died since that time.

I have some extra luggage with me which does not belong to any person in this train -- there is two Barrels marked A.C. with the "steam ship Colorado" Brand upon them both also a stove and a box or two that there is no owner for in our company. I will deliver them safe in the office in Salt Lake City

I have left Captain Munfort [Edward T. Munford] 31 Sacks of flour part at Green River and part at Hams Fork, that was all I could spare from my company. I also left him about 12 hundred lbs Beef and a few sacks of Peaches

On "little Sandy" one of our passengers died the name of Mary Clayfield aged 71. She had no relations in camp and I took possession of her property which I will deliver over to you when I arrive

I expect to arrive in Salt Lake City on next monday or tuesday

Yours in the Gospel
John Gillespie, Capt. *

Subj: James Hodges History
Date: 7/24/2005 8:55:40 AM Mountain Standard Time
From:
To:

Dear Fran,

Here is some notes on the history of my G G Grandfather James Hodges.

RESOURCE:From film 0298434 James Hodges sailed on ship St. Mark 6 Jun 1866

{p.6} Emigration card catalog shipping. Crossing the Ocean 1845-1885, 1899-1925.

RESOURCE:film 0025692 Immigration records from Liverpool office of British Mission film, James Hodges age 36 laborer, sailed 6 Jun 1866 ticket #655 on the St. Mark.

RESOURCE:film 1259750 By letter from Elder Thomas Taylor. Arrival of St. Mark from Liverpool at New York arrived on 26 Jul 1866, This information has been researched by Kermit L. Hodges this date 31 Jul 1994.

RESOURCE:Film #0415449 British Mission Records, James Hodges Sr. emigrated in 1866. He was in the ward or branch

Llandyfod,Herefordshire,conference. He was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints 11 Aug 1850 by Issac Pask at the age of 21 years. Also his wife Rebecca was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints 11 Aug 1850, this same day by Issac Pask, her father. James Hodges was ordained an elder by Henry Naish 17 Mar 1851 book #162 pg 2a line 1. This information researched by Kermit L Hodges.this date 8 Aug 1994.

RESOURCE: film 0104191,Hamlet of Llandevaud census of 1851, taken on night of 30 Mar 1851 states: Isaac Pask head age 60, mason, Elizabeth,wife age 54, daughter Rebeka Hodges age 20,James Hodges son in law age 22. (note, Rebeka and James were living with Pasks,awaiting the birth of their son James on the 20th April 1851) I have spelled Rebeka the same as it was recorded on the census record. This information added by Kermit L. Hodges 20 April 2002

RESOURCE:Film 1565721 item 54 and 56 From Bethany Baptist, Llanvaches, Monmouthshire, England, B8 Headstone:In memory of Issac Pask of the hamlet of Llandevaud who died 14 Feb 1864 age 71 years. Also Elizabeth wife of afore said died 22 May 1871 age 78 years. Also Rebecca Hodges daughter of afore said died 21 May 1865 age 34 years. (note:The certified copy, application number R006856 from the General Register office at Abergavenny in the county of Monmouth, copy of death entry clearly states 25 April 1865. and also the death date shown on hospital records shows 25 April 1865.)(Rebecca was buried 21 May 1865.) I checked with a Funeral Home to see if this was possible and they replied that it was common to take this long for a burial and that the body could be preserved for that length of time but would not be advisable to view the remains.

Resource: ref.CRO/C9/DJR/JR Gwent county council David J. Rimmer county Archivist obtained her death record. Refer to individual notes on Rebecca Hodges.researched by Kermit L. Hodges this date 15 Mar 1996.

RESOURCE:Autobiography,Ms 8168 in the Archives at Salt Lake City, Diary of William E. Gooch states he(meaning himself) was a passenger on the St. Mark. He states that on July 7th. he was going to go to the front of the ship when the Spirit told him not to go. later he found that the sailors said that "any Mormon they could find in the dark would be thrown overboard." there is no indication that William or James knew each other. He also stated that he landed in New York on July 24 and went through Canada by Newhaven to Montreal,Toronto,point Edward,cross over at St. Clair to Ft. Huron,passed on to Quincy, passed the Mississippi then to

Subj: Answers to your notes
Date: 7/25/2005 3:24:35 PM Mountain Standard Time
From:
To:

Dear Fran,

The child was born 3 Sep 1866 and died 24 Sep 1866. No given name is known but the surname is Svensson or Svendsen and is buried about 2 Feet apart from James Hodges(My GG Grandfather).

Yes, you may give the information to Randy Brown. I would be very happy to share and you may give him my e-mail address. Is he related to Mike Brown of Green River ? I have had contact with Mike the last few years. We did not find any information in Lander. I think the Family History Center is at Riverton, and we did not go there. We went on to Alcova and visited the Martin Handcart Center.

Do you know who the couple is that was at Little Sandy Station and what year ? what information may be available ?

The Isaac Shaw record that I was going to send you, I feel has many mistakes on dates and places they were at in 1866, therefore I feel to hold it until more evidence of its value is found. Then I will be happy to share. (I hope to soon go to Salt Lake City and search this record.)

Do you have PAF program on your computer or < familysearch.org > ? These are free computer programs by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints and you are welcome to use them.

We were on a Family History Mission at Salt Lake City from 1997 to 1999 at the Family History Library and served as Library Attendants, so if there is any way that we can help you find information, please let us know. We will be happy to help you. with our love and best wishes Kay and Maureen

*Our Pioneer Heritage
Vol. 12 - p. 95-*

Homer Duncan Company (1861)

1861

August 28th Rolled out at 1/2 past six. Br. Andrus overtook us on a mule and accompanied the train to Dry Sandy where we left him. Camped at five at Little Sandy. Br Packerd's mule train camped alongside. Sister Gillespie delivered of a girl at 1/2 past ten p.m. The Captains of Tens met and passed a resolution to present Captain Duncan with a written testimonial and also a substantial present for his kind attention to the wants of the company during the journey

Subj: Family History Information
Date: 7/24/2005 8:29:18 AM Mountain Standard Time
From:
To:

24 July 2005

Dear Fran,

Here is some information that may help you: Enter the computer < lds.org> , go to church history (in the column on left side of monitor)click, go to overland trail 1847-1868 (lower right side of monitor) (you may need to page down to uncover this icon),click, go to alphabetical list, find Andrew Scott oxen train 1866,click on view list of individuals, or list of sources.

You may already know how to find this information. If not please let me know and I will be happy to help you in any way. By clicking on Full Text, it should open the full text that has been recorded. I just included part of it.

, Andrew, Autobiography of Andrew Jenson [1938], 20-26. Full Text Fri. <> 21. We remained in camp all day, in order to give the oxen a chance to rest. The grass was quiet plentiful at this place. It was the only day on the whole journey, between the Missouri river and <> Salt Lake City, that we did not move at all. The captain sent the following telegram to Salt Lake City:

South Pass, Sept. 21.

Encountered a very severe snow and wind storm, for twelve hours while passing from Sage Creek over the Rocky Ridge. Some cattle were badly frozen, eight head died and fifty more are disabled. The snow was six inches deep, feed covered up, heavy wind from northwest; very cold. Today fine weather, cattle looking better. Camp in good condition. Shall move from here tomorrow. A.H. SCOTT."

Sat. <> 22. If I understood it right, we passed this day through what is known as the "South Pass"; traveled about 15 miles and encamped on a dry sage brush hill, where there was neither grass nor water for the cattle.

Sun. <> 23. It snowed again last night and this afternoon, owing to which the roads became muddy and heavy. Traveled 20 miles and encamped on Little Sandy.

Mon. <> 24. Crossed Little Sandy in the morning and Big Sandy in the afternoon, traveled about 20 miles and encamped for the night on a barren sage brush plain, without water near.

Tues. <> 25. Traveled about 20 miles and reached Green river. We formed camp <> about sundown, near the east bank of the river.

I will send more in another message.

Kermit L Hodges (also known as Kay)

Box 84 Dayton, ID 83232

E_MAIL address is < kaymhodges@juno.com>

St. Joseph, embarked on a steamer and got to (It is not known that all the passengers took this same route) Wyoming, Nebraska (the Church outfitting place) on the 3rd. Aug and arrived in Salt Lake city on the 8th. Oct. 1866. This is the same day as the Andrew Scott oxen train arrived. researched and entered by Kermit L. Hodges 8 Jan 1998.

!Resource: an article about James Hodges will appear in the 4 volume's of the

history of " Conquerors of the West", with a publication date of 15 March 1999. Ref. National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. 3301 East 2920 South Salt Lake City, Utah 84109 this information was researched , written and presented to the Sons of the Pioneers by Kermit L. Hodges in 1996. this date of entry is 25 Dec. 1998

!Information: The record as was presented to the Sons of Pioneers has errors by those who printed the history. on page 1121 the history of James Hodges begins. on page 1122 it states that they were married in Scotland and that Rebecca died in Scotland. I did not say that James had no education, nor did I state that he lived a sad and lonely life. these statements were made by those who edited the history from the record I mailed to them. I am very unhappy that after all the work and expense that it was not presented as it was written. Nothing can be done now except to let our family know that it is wrong. The 4 volumes cost \$150.00 entered by Kermit L. Hodges 11 May 1999.

!Information: Many letters and other information from Ruby wheeler is recorded on film #0539905. it contain's letters written to the Genealogy Society back in the 1950's and their reply back to her, and also from researchers in England that were working on Hodges, Pask, Stedder and other family names. entered by Kermit L. Hodges 18 May 1999.

!Resource: Film 0104166 James Hogines was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints 11 Aug 1850 by I. Pask, recorded in the Newport Branch Register Book. entered 11 Oct 1999 by Kermit L. Hodges

!Resource: film 0543221, the 1861 census of Llandevaud page 15 lists James Hodges, born in Llanmartin, age 32 Ag. Labor. wife Rebecca age 30 born in Llandevaud. James, child born in Llandevaud age 9. entered by Kermit L. Hodges 19 Jun 2000.

!Resource: Film 0104925 states that Llandevaud is a Chapelry of the Parish of Llanmartin. Llanmartin is also known as Llanfarthin. entered by Kermit L. Hodges 11 Feb 2002

!Resource: film 0104191, Hamlet of Llandevaud census of 1851, taken on night of 30 Mar 1851 states: Isaac Pask head age 60, mason, Elizabeth, wife age 54, daughter Rebeka Hodges age 20, James Hodges son in law age 22. (note, Rebeka and James were living with Pasks, awaiting the birth of their son James on the 20th April 1851) I have spelled Rebeka the same as it was recorded on the census record. This information added by Kermit L. Hodges 20 April 2002

!note: 13 July, 2000. We were in Farson, Wyoming searching for more information on James Hodges Burial. from the Information Center, The lady told us the name of the woman who owns the land that the wagon trains crossed in 1866. Her name is Ruth Chesnovar, Farson Wyoming. phone 307-273-9806. the zip code is 82932. The names of 2 men that work for Bureau of Land Management are: Mike Brown and Terry Delbene, both live in Rock Springs, Wyo. They have made a life time study of the trail through that area and would be interested in any information that anyone can offer. I will contact them. Kermit L. Hodges

!Resource: An unidentified hand written note was found in Ada Kent's records that state the following information: Sept 25 1866, early this morning James Hodges died after a long illness and was buried near the road on the east side. A Norwegian child was also buried by his side, about 2 feet apart. We travelled about 10 miles, nooned on Big Sandy, that afternoon we travelled about 12 miles and camped on Green River. Research shows that this wagon train was in this general location on this date. On a previous record to the Sons of Pioneers I stated that this was

between the present town of Farson, Wyoming and the bridge over Green River at Lombard Ferry.

Notes of Andrew Jenson state they camped on little Sandy on 23 Sep and crossed Little Sandy on 24 Sep early in the morning and Big Sandy in the afternoon, travelled 20 miles camped on barren plain without water near. Tues. 25 Sep. travelled 20 miles and reached Green River near sundown on the east bank of the river. (see notes on p290, Mormon Emig. Booklet) This information adds more to the date and place of his death and burial, with the date and place only 1 day apart and a distance of maybe 10 miles. Entered by Kermit L Hodges 21 Sep 2000

!resource: film 1750663 is the diary of George Mortimer Brown, the spiritual leader of the Scott oxen train. Film 0962780 item 1 contains information about conditions, etc on this oxen train, by Andrew Jenson. entered by Kermit L. Hodges 10 Jun 2002. (additional information: another Diary of George Brown 1868-1869 listed as BX 8670.1.B813 located in special collections At Harold B Lee Library at Provo) entered by Kermit L. Hodges 1 Dec 2002

!Note: additional information from the Map of Sweetwater County, Wyoming would suggest to me that the place of crossing Little Sandy was at the present bridge marked (esn & kiq), about 4 miles north and 4 miles east of the present town of Farson, Wyoming. entered by Kermit L. Hodges 12 Sep. 2002

! My feeling and thoughts from notes about the Andrew Scott Oxen Train of 1866

Many hardships were encountered during the journey from " Wyoming", (the name of the town in Nebraska) to Salt Lake City. They left Wed. 8 Aug 1866, with 49 wagons and about 300 passengers.

Reaching mountain country, daily rations were cut because supplies that had been cached had been stolen by renegade whites or Indians. So there was considerable suffering. There was much illness on the journey as reported by some. Cholera was the most prevalent illness and caused many deaths. There were about 30 who died on the journey.

Moving along to 19 Sep 1866, we encountered a terrific snow storm near South Pass. Snow fell all day. About noon travelled few miles to a more sheltered spot in a snug little valley. From South Pass on 21 Sep Captain Scott sent the following telegram : Encountered a very severe snow storm and wind for 12 hours. While passing from Sage Creek over Rocky Ridge some cattle were badly frozen. 8 head died and 50 more were disabled. The snow was 6 inches deep. Feed was covered up, heavy wind from the North West, was very cold. Today weather fine, cattle looking better. Camp in good condition, shall move from here tomorrow.

From these notes you can feel the suffering. With James Hodges as having a long lasting illness, can you feel the reason he died, after another 27 miles of travelling?. This is the reported distance travelled from South Pass to Little Sandy. Many notes recorded from other passengers mention the suffering, and conditions endured during this journey.

I have other notes and stories about James Hodges, but none are first hand. Only the feeling one has as they read can help to explain what could have happened.

He was a great man and devoted to finding a place for his son and others who wished to live in better conditions than what they had in Wales.

Entered by Kermit L Hodges 8 May 2005.

! notes:

We were in Farson on the 19th July 2005. We met Don Mines and his wife, at their ranch. They took us to the present monument on Little Sandy.

Then we met Fran Young, daughter of Ruth Chesnover, at their ranch, just north east of the monument. (A more complete report is listed in my personal journal dated 19 July 2005.) Also refer back to my Journal 13 July 2000 when we were first in Farson. entered by Kermit L Hodges 24 July 2005

God Bless Your Special Day

*Of all the precious memories,
Of every happy time,
One thing makes me grateful
For the heritage that is mine.
Dad and Mother's Bibles
Were the pillars of our home.
Those words of truth and beauty
Have caused us to never roam.
From the gentle, loving teaching
We got when we were small
It made us stick together
And try to stand up tall.
The only book that God has given,
To our pathway was a light.
It built strength and character
To try to do what's right.
When we left home and married
And each became a wife,
Those words of faith and duty
Helped us through the storms of life.
Though the cover's worn and tattered
And the pages almost out,
Those Bibles are like family friends
You always think about.
Some special things just never change,
It makes my heart secure,
The years have come and gone, but still,
The Bible standeth sure.
Thank you, Mom and Daddy,
For showing us the way.
We thank the dear Lord for you both,
God Bless Your Special Day.*

By: Dixie McMurry

Written for John and Cathryne Wood on their Golden Wedding Anniversary - August 18, 1987