

Joseph H. Skeen

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: Joseph H. Skeen

Age: 2y; 4m; 8d

Relationship: Son of Joseph & Maria Amanda Skeen

Deceased: Aug. 20, 1847

Disease: Consumption

Birth Place: Hand C Co., Il.

Birth Date: April 12th, 1845

Grave No. 206

Birth Date: April 12, 1845

Birth Place: Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois

Death Date: August 20, 1847

Cause of Death: Consumption

Burial Place: Winter Quarters Grave #206

Father's Name: Joseph Skeen, Jr.

Mother's Maiden Name: Maria Amanda Dolby

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family: Winter Quarters Ward 1

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Listed as family #1442 in District 21, Pottawattamie, Iowa

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Unknown Company in 1851

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

Joseph Skeen was an early convert to Mormonism from England and it is thought that originally they came from Scotland, although there is no direct historical evidence of this fact. After the exodus of the Mormons from Nauvoo, Joseph Skeen was one of the men who volunteered for service in the Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War. He became an infantry Captain. He was discharged from the Army after the march across the southern part of the United States ended in 1847 at San Diego. He went north to Sacramento by horseback, intending to cross over the mountains and go east to Salt Lake City. But due to harsh weather he decided to remain at Sutter's Fort, now Sacramento, and work for the winter. Here he secured a job at Sutter's Mill, a logging firm. While working with this outfit, some of his co-workers came upon some yellow dust which they determined to be gold. Thus he was among those who brought about the gold rush to California. The following summer he, together with a few other men, journeyed

horseback over the Sierra Nevada mountain range through the Nevada deserts and on to Salt Lake City, arriving there in the early fall of 1848. He records in his diary that the Church authorities felt it was too late in the year for anyone to start back to Iowa, where his family was living at the time. He was prevailed upon to spend the winter in the territory working at such jobs as he could secure. He went east to Iowa the following spring and brought his family back to Utah.