

## Isaac Benjamin Mathis (Mathews) (Dwelling #657)

The next three dwellings as enumerated on the 1850 U. S. Census were occupied by members of the Mathis family which was written as Mathews.

Isaac Mathis, was the son of Isham and Priscilla Jeffs Mathis. He was born in Guilford County, North Carolina on July 23, 1792. In the summer of 1814, he ran away from home, made his way to Dickson County, Tennessee where he enlisted in the War of 1812 as a private in Captain Francis S. Ellis' Company of Infantry in the Tennessee Militia. He was in the Battle of New Orleans and received his discharge on May 13, 1816.

When Isaac returned home to North Carolina, he worked on his father's plantation. On February 22, 1822, he married Elizabeth "Betsey" Ross who lived with her parents on their plantation in the same county of Guilford, North Carolina. Betsey was born in Guilford County on March 12, 1805. She was the daughter of Andrew Jackson Ross, Sr. and Mary Ann Cummins.

Isaac's family moved back to Tennessee and in various counties all eleven of their children were born. By the 1850 U. S. Census, the family resided in Big Pigeon. Listed are Isaac, age 56; Elizabeth, age 46; Robert, age 18; Sally, age 14; Isaac, age 12; Thomas, age 9; and Jane, age 6.

An advertisement was placed in the *Frontier Guardian* by Isaac:

"VALUABLE FARM FOR SALE.

THE undersigned wishes to sell their farm lying one mile west of Benson's Mill, and about ten miles north-west of Kanesville. It contains 640 acres, 70 acres fenced and under cultivation, with four houses on the place. Also, a smoke house and yards for cattle. About 200 acres, of timber; and the best range in Pottawattamie for raising stock, as there are plenty of rushes and pea vines. Emigrants coming west will find it to their advantage to call and examine this farm before purchasing elsewhere. For further particulars enquire of THOS. McKENZIE, Land Agent, Kanesville, Iowa.

ISAAC MATTHEWS & SONS

Big Pigeon, September 5, 1851—3t."

In the spring of 1852, the family joined the Uriah Curtis Company and made their way to the Salt Lake Valley. Cholera broke out in the Company. The disease seemed to be very virulent. Nearly everyone who contracted died. Graves were scattered along the way. When death came, the victim was buried as quickly as possible and the Company moved on. Isaac and Betsey's daughter-in-law was the first to die from the disease. She died on July 10, 1852. On July 22, 1852, they camped at Elm Creek near Fort Laramie in Wyoming. During this night, Isaac became very ill and before morning he had passed away.

This was a great trial for Betsey. She had lost her husband and her daughter-in-law. Now she needed to care for the little granddaughter and her large family. They arrived in Salt Lake City

on October 12, 1852. They remained in Salt Lake until the following spring and then moved to Santaquin, Utah County and then later Payson, Utah County.

In the 1870's, Betsey applied for and was granted a pension because Isaac had serviced in the War of 1812. In the 1880's, she moved to Fountain Green, Sanpete County and lived with her daughter, Sarah Ann and her husband, James A. Holman. In the summer of 1888, one of her sons came from California to visit her and when he went home, he took her with him. They lived in San Bernardino and it was here she passed away in August 1891. She was buried at Canyon Pass, about 15 miles from San Bernardino. San Bernardino County, California.