

James Holmes (Dwelling #656)

James Holmes, Jr. was born in Londonderry, Rockingham County, New Hampshire on December 25, 1828. His parents were James Holmes, Sr. and Martha Barker. His parents divorced before he was born in 1828, and his mother Martha Barker married Morris Charles Phelps possibly at Big Pigeon on February 26, 1848.



James, age 20, married Harriet Wight Phelps, age 15, on December 22, 1848 at Big Pigeon. Harriet was born on April 7, 1832 at Independence, Jackson County, Missouri and was the first Mormon baby born in Jackson County, Missouri. Harriet was the third daughter of Morris Charles and Laura Clark Phelps.



The 1850 U. S. Census listed James and Harriet and their son, Morris, living next to Morris and Sarah Phelps (dwelling #655). Morris was Harriet's father and Sarah was James' mother.

Morris was age 1 on the Census. He was born on October 18, 1849 in Big Pigeon.

James, Harriet, and Morris traveled to Utah probably with the Morris Charles Phelps Wagon Company and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley late in September of 1851. James and his family settled with Morris Charles Phelps and his family in Alpine, Utah County, Utah Territory which was southeast of Salt Lake City. When Morris Charles Phelps was called to settled Bear Lake, Idaho Territory, James' family went to Montpelier Creek now called Paris and built a log house with a dirt floor and sod roof.

While they were living in Alpine, the couple had five children. Their daughter, Sarah Almira was born August 12, 1864 and was the first white child born in Clover Creek which is now Montpelier, Bear Lake County, Idaho Territory. They had a total of eleven children.

When Harriet's father, Morris Charles Phelps died in 1876, James and Harriet moved into the large log house once belonging to her father. The couple moved their family to Arizona but found the land to be undesirable and they came back to Montpelier. James was a public servant and Harriet took care of the sick. Harriett Wight Phelps Holmes, died on March 19, 1893 at age 60.

James was called on a mission to the Eastern States at age 68 and was set apart in December 1897. He died on August 31, 1904, at age 76 after suffering from complications of the bowels. James and Harriet are buried in the Montpelier City Cemetery.