

James Nelson (Dwelling #704)

James Nelson was born June 15, 1793 in Orange, Sampson County, North Carolina. He was the son of Thomas Burton and Martha Price Williams Nelson. His parents may have moved the family to Illinois where the father, Thomas Burton, died in 1846 in Jefferson County, Illinois.

James married Rebecca Clover on December 21, 1826 in Monroe County, Illinois. Rebecca was the daughter of Jacob and Catherine Harness Clover. She was born on March 12, 1809 in Monroe County.

There is no evidence that the couple had children. Rebecca is not listed on the 1850 U. S. Census nor the 1851 Iowa State Census with James. Rebecca may have died in 1829 in Monroe County, Illinois

James went west in an unknown company in about 1852. He settled in Fountain Green, Sanpete County, Utah Territory.

In the early hours of the morning of October 1, 1853, the San Pitch Utes attacked and killed four men, William Reed, James Nelson, William Luke, and Thomas Clark, as they were encamped at Uinta Springs, near the head of Salt Creek Canyon. The men were driving two ox-drawn wagons filled with wheat to Salt Lake City as the advance party of a larger group headed by Isaac Morley.

Morley had warned them against camping at Uinta Springs. Instead, they were to camp on the San Pitch River and wait for the arrival of the main group. William Luke, an immigrant from Manchester, England, was anxious to go see his three sons, who had recently arrived from England, and may have encouraged the group to hasten its journey. When Morley's group arrived at the camp, they found the four men dead. The wagons were emptied of their grain and the bodies were loaded for transport to Nephi, Utah.