

# GRANT, JAMES

001

GRANT, JAMES, born at Wales, Stormont County, Ontario, Canada, January 18, 1825; son of James and Elizabeth ( Poaps ) Grant; married, Alta Empey at Lunenburg, Ontario, January 3, 1850; children, Edmond Oscar and Louisa A. who married Dr. John H. Pierson.

Went to California about 1855 and located at Marysville, Yuba County, where he engaged in the mercantile business; came to La Paz, on the Colorado River early in 1863; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, at La Paz, age 39, married, family in Canada, resident in Arizona 12 months, occupation, Teamster; established an express between San Bernardino, Cal., and La Paz, A.T., by first carrying letters and parcels himself on horseback to which the following references were made in the Prescott

## Arizona Miner:

November 23, 1864 - - James Grant, the enterprising expressman whose line from Los Angeles to La Paz, has been so well kept up, lately paid a flying visit to Prescott. We are under obligations to him for late California papers, and hope he will extend his express arrangements to Prescott as proposed. He is just the man to give us the news in double quick time.

November 14, 1868 - - Owing to some misunderstanding between Mr. James Grant, our energetic mail contractor, and the commanding officer of the military sub-district of Prescott, the usual escort of soldiers has not been furnished the mail for several trips past, and the contractor has been compelled to hire men to escort it.

March 13, 1869 - - Thanks to the contractor, James Grant, and to the soldiers who escort it, the California mail arrives and departs with great regularity. We have never known a more energetic mail contractor than Mr. Grant, and we hope he gets pay for the hard service he has recently performed. He is at home in the saddle, and can ride more hours without sleep than any other man in Arizona.

April 17, 1869 - - The California and Eastern mail left this place yesterday afternoon. The sub-contractor, Mr. James Grant, accompanied it, and will visit San Francisco before returning here.

It is not the fault of Mr. Grant that the mail is not carried twice a week, for we know that if furnished with a military escort, he would be but too glad to carry it In accordance with the contract.

He moved to Prescott and was appointed by Acting-Governor McCormick as a member of the first Board of Supervisors of Yavapai County, as authorized by the Act of December 30, 1865; appointed November 1, 1866, as the first Territorial Auditor at a salary of \$500 per annum with \$150 for office expenses and served until he resigned, July 1, 1868; as President of the Arizona Pioneer and Historical Society he called a meeting held in the hall of the Legislature at Prescott, October 2, 1867.

In 1866, he established a mercantile business in Prescott and in 1869 obtained a contract to carry the United States mail by stage; his first newspaper advertisement dated at Prescott, September 20, 1869, was as follows:

**"Arizona Stage Company.** Regular weekly trips by stage with the Mail will be made between La Paz and Prescott. A four house passenger stage will leave La Paz every Saturday, connecting with the California end of the line from San Bernardino, arriving at Wickenburg on Mondays and Prescott on Tuesdays. Passengers returning, will arrive at La Paz on Fridays, connecting with the Stage for California that departs on Saturday morning.

**"Packages & etc., forwarded on reasonable terms.**

**"JAMES GRANT, Contractor"**

From time to time there were references to him In the Arizona Miner some of which were:

April 9, 1870 - -News was received in the Territory, by last mail, that James Grant, of this County, had secured contracts for carrying the mails of the United States, for four years from July 1, 1870, over the Prescott and San Bernardino route, and the Arizona City (Yuma) and Hardyville route. Mr. Grant has had considerable experience in the business, and will, we think, carry our mails regularly. We have heard a rumor to the effect that proposals for mail service on the Hardyville route were not received, but can scarcely credit such a rumor.

July 16, 1870 - - Grant 's stage, with mail and passengers, arrived here Wednesday last and started back again Thursday morning. Mr. Grant came up on the stage and informs us that his entire route, from San Bernardino to Prescott, is now well stocked. Hereafter, the mail will arrive in Prescott every Friday and depart every Saturday morning at 8 o'clock. It is hoped that the service will soon be increased and we have good reason to believe that it will.

April 15, 1871 - - James Grant, mail contractor on the route from San Bernardino to Prescott, has proved himself a faithful public servant by the regularity with which he has transported mails, etc. over his route, and it pleases us to know that the service will soon be increased and that then he will have a chance to make a little money, something he has not done by carrying the mail weekly, for the price paid him.

July 15, 1871 - - Grant's stages are now hauled in and out of town by fine, fat stock, resembling those sleek roadsters that we used to see hitched to stages in Northern California.

September 28, 1872 - - Hank Brown, Superintendent of Jas. Grant's stage line, hence to California, navigated the six-horse stage which recently brought Gen. Gillen and other army officers to our town and Fort Whipple. Hank is one of the most dextrous drivers we have ever seen, and is endowed with all the qualifications which a good, entertaining stage man ought to be.

GRANT , J AMES

- 4 -

November 2, 1872 - - Arizona Stage Line, regular semi-weekly trips by stage, with mail, will be made between Prescott, Arizona and San Bernardino, California. Two-horse wagons, carrying the U.S. Mails and passengers, leave Prescott and San Bernardino every Wednesday and Saturday mornings, making the trip in six days; passing enroute, Ehrenberg, Wickenburg and Camp bate Creek. Parties wishing transportation to Arizona via this route, can be furnished the same in four or six horse stages, on private contract, by giving one week's notice in advance to Agent of Arizona Stage Lines, at San Bernardino. The rates for same will be in proportion to the accommodation required.

Regular rate of fare -- from Prescott to San Bernardino, \$75.00 currency; from Prescott to Wickenburg, \$20.00; from Prescott to Ehrenberg, \$45.00; from San Bernardino to Ehrenberg, \$35.00; from San Bernardino to Wickenburg, \$60.00. James Grant, Proprietor.

An advertisement in the Tucson Arizona Citizen, September 1, 1871, reads:

Tucson to Prescott and San Bernardino, California. The buckboard of the undersigned, carrying the United States mails, leave Tucson every Monday for Camp Grant, Florence, Phoenix and Wickenburg, connecting with the stage of the California semi-weekly line from that place. Travelers over the route can visit the Vulture and Bradshaw mines; also all that rich mineral section in the vicinity of Prescott and Wickenburg, and will find good accommodations at the stations, and much the most pleasant route to travel over to San Bernardino and Los Angeles. James Grant, Proprietor.

Listed U. S. Census, June, 1870, at Prescott, age 45, occupation, mail contractor; wife, son and daughter with him; he was a member of Aztlan Lodge No. 177, F.&A.M. at that place; in 1872 he purchased lots 9 and 11 on the corner of Central avenue and Adams Street in Phoenix where he opened a harness shop; in 1874

the two lots *were valued*, with improvements, at \$2,000.

Died, from exposure which he underwent in searching for a shorter stage route across the desert, at San Bernardino, California, May 29, 1875, aged 50; buried in Pioneer Cemetery, San Bernardino; his estate consisted of 320 acres of land in San Bernardino County valued at \$10,800; a house and lot worth \$2,500 and personal property listed at \$2,350; his one-third interest in the California and Arizona Stage Company was sold by the Administrator for \$15,000; an obituary in the Arizona Miner said of him:

"He was a man of liberal views, possessed of a kind and generous heart, true to his friends, and if he had enemies he was not bitter against them. He may have had his failings; who has not? But there is no 'old time' Arizonan who can say that he ever came to Grant for assistance and was denied, if it was in his power to render it. He has left his mark in Arizona, and may the clods of the beautiful valley of San Bernardino rest lightly on his grave."

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Fish, J. - History of Arizona, manuscript, pp. 552-553  
 Parish, T. E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 3, p. 36; Vol. 4, pp. 157, 185; Vol. 5, pp. 14-15, 57; Vol. 6, pp. 165, 184, 214-215.  
 McClintock, J. H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, 1916, pp. 277, 321  
 Kelly, G. H. - Legislative History, Arizona, 1926, p. 24.  
 W. W. Elliott & Co. - History of Arizona Territory, S.F. 1884, pp. 308-309  
 Journals, 4th Arizona Territorial Legislature, 1867, p. 167  
 U. S. Official Register, 1871 and 1873  
 Probate Court of San Bernardino County, California - Docket No. 264  
 The Guardian, San Bernardino, Calif., May 14, 1869; June 26 and September 18, 1869; July 8, 1871; February 22, March 2, April 12 and 19, June 21, July 5, October 18, December 13 and December 27, 1873.  
 The Daily Evening News, Los Angeles, Calif., May 19, 1875.  
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, November 23, 1864, 3:1; October 8, 1866, 4:2; November 14, 1868, 3:2; March 13, 3:3 and April 17, 1869, 2:3; January 1, 1871, 1:1, April 9, 2:2, June 11, 3:3 and July 16, 1870, 2:2; April 15, 3:1, and July 15, 1871; January 6, 3:3; September 28, 3:1 and November 2, 1872, 4:4; June 2, (obituary) and July 23, 1875.  
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, November 19, 1870, 3:2; September 9, 1871, 3:2; October 14, 1871, 3:5 (advt); October 25, 1873, 4:1; December 26, 1874 (advt); June 12, 1875, 2:3 (death notice)  
 The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, June 12, 1875, 3:5 (death notice)

## ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Alta California, San Francisco, September 1, 1864, 1:2  
 The Los Angeles News, March 4, 1:1 and March 21, 1865, 2:1  
 The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, February 23, 1878, 4:1  
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, November 26, 1870, 3:2; July 15, 2:3; July 22, 1:2 and September 9, 1871, 2:4 (advt); May 4, 1872, 2:1; April 22, 2:1; November 8, 2:2 and December 20, 1873, 2:3; January 3, 4:5; May 9, 2:2 and September 12, 1874, 2:2  
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 1866, 1:3 and 4:2; September 11, 3:3 (advt) and October 3, 1867, 2:3; March 20, 1874, 4:3 (advt); August 30, 1878, 3:4