

BYU Library - Special Collections

Hamblin, Jacob, 1819-1886

Person

Dates

- **Existence:** 1819 - 1886

Biographical History

Jacob Hamblin (1819-1886) was a pioneer of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, missionary, and federal Indian agent in Southern Utah. He was president of the Indian Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in southern Utah and northern Arizona.

Jacob Hamblin was born in Salem, Ohio on April 6, 1819. He was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on March 3, 1842, at the age of twenty-two. He married Lucinda Taylor (1823-1858) who was baptized soon afterward. However, when Hamblin proposed moving west, Lucinda refused to go. In February 1849, Hamblin and Lucinda decided to end their marriage, and he continued west without her, taking their four children with him. In September of the same year, Hamblin met and married Rachel Judd, a widow, in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She had two children from her deceased husband, and Hamblin and Rachel had five more children together. In 1857, he married Sarah Priscilla Leavitt (1841-1927); they had nine children. Hamblin also had six children with his last wife, Louisa Bonelli (1843-1931). In addition to the twenty-four children by his four wives, he adopted three Native American children.

Hamblin was called by President Brigham Young to work with the Paiute Indians of Southern Utah. This calling began a lifetime of work with various tribes. He was later called as the president of the Indian Mission.

He made nine missionary visits to the Hopi villages of Northern Arizona and, in the process, reopened the ancient Ute Crossing on the Colorado River. He pioneered the Lee's Ferry Crossing, and in 1862-1863 traveled completely around the Grand Canyon. In 1870, he guided United States government explorer Major John Wesley Powell on a survey of the Grand Canyon. In November of that same year, he was responsible for the negotiation of the Treaty of Fort Defiance, New Mexico.

In 1869, Hamblin moved from Santa Clara to Kanab, Utah, then nine years later he moved to northern Arizona. In 1882, Hamblin moved to Pleasanton, New Mexico where he died four years later in 1886.

Citation:

Bailey, Paul, Jacob Hamblin : Buckskin Apostle (Los Angeles: Westernlore Press, 1948). Brooks, Juanita, "Jacob Hamblin...Story of His Later Years...Death and Burial, "Improvement Era" 51 (July 1951); 498,564. Brooks, Juanita, "Jacob Hamblin: Apostle to the Indians, "Improvement Era" 47 (April 1944); 210. Corbett, Pearson H., Jacob Hamblin, the Peacemaker (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company,

1952). Jenson, Andrew, Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia: Compilation of Biographical Sketches of Prominent Men and Women in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, (Salt Lake City, Western Epics, 1971); 100. Little, James A., Faith the Conqueror: Jacob Hamblin, (Salt Lake City: General Board of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1945). Peterson, Charles S., "Jacob Hamblin, Apostle to the Lamanites, and the Indian Mission," "Journal of Mormon History" 2 (1975): 21-34. Jacob Hamblin: Pioneer, Missionary, Peacemaker (Salt Lake City, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1988).

Found in 12 Collections and/or Records:

William Adams autobiography

File – Multiple Containers Identifier: MSS 569

Scope and Contents Handwritten autobiography with a typescript of the item. Adams came from Ireland, migrated to Nauvoo, Illinois, and later to Salt Lake Valley, Utah. He also lived in Springville, Spanish Fork, Parowan, and Cedar City, Utah. Adams writes about Jacob Hamblin's efforts to convert Indians, the preparations to meet the United States Army coming to Utah in 1857 and 1858, going on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and meeting Emma Hales Smith, the wife of the first...

Dates: 1894

Found in: L. Tom Perry Special Collections / William Adams autobiography

Andrew Amundsen journal

File – Folder 1: [Barcode: 31197230305267] Identifier: MSS SC 786

Scope and Contents Photocopy of typescript. Author describes the trip from the Lehi, Utah, area in company with his fellow missionaries to Moencopi, Arizona, where the group farmed, lived among the Indians, learned their language, and taught them about the Mormon Church. Amundsen also records his impressions of the Indians as a people and gives a day-by-day account of the Mormons' relations with them, as well as providing descriptions of various sites the group explored for potential settlement by Mormon...

Dates: 1873

Found in: L. Tom Perry Special Collections / Andrew Amundsen journal

James G. Bleak diaries and letters

Collection – Multiple Containers Identifier: MSS 1691

Scope and Contents Photocopies of handwritten diaries and correspondence. Bleak's diaries cover the years 1864, 1869-1895 with a gap for parts of 1885 and for 1886. Bleak writes about his daily activities in St. George and in Santa Clara, Utah, about his activities while serving on the Southern Indian Mission, about his callings for the Mormon Church, and about his relationships with various leaders of the Mormon Church including Brigham Young (1801-1877), Jacob Hamblin (1819-1886), Erastus Snow (1818-1886),...

Dates: 1829-1918

Found in: L. Tom Perry Special Collections / James G. Bleak diaries and letters

Bureau of Indian Affairs correspondence

■ **File – Folder 1: [Barcode: 31197230305275] Identifier: MSS SC 785**

Scope and Contents Photocopies of original letters with accompanying typescripts. Covers the nomination of Mormon Church leader Jacob Hamblin as a federal Indian agent for southern Utah, northern Arizona, and southeast Nevada. Also includes exchanges between W. F. M. Arny, the federal agent for the Navajo tribes; Jacob Hamblin and other Mormon settlers in Arizona; and Col. L. Edwin Dudley, regional Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Santa Fe, NM. These letters attempt to arrange a peaceful...

Dates: 1871-1874

Found in: L. Tom Perry Special Collections / Bureau of Indian Affairs correspondence

Joseph Fish typescripts of histories and diaries

■ **Collection – Multiple Containers Identifier: MSS 2010**

Scope and Contents The Fish diaries cover his life from the 1840s to 1926. His histories of Arizona and his series on Pioneers of the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Region cover aspects of western history from 1500-1905. The Joseph Fish typescripts include: "The Diaries of Joseph Fish," Fish's "History of the Eastern Arizona Stake of Zion and the Establishment of the Snowflake Stake," a "History of Arizona Territory," volumes 4-7 of "Pioneers of the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Region," and "History of..."

Dates: 1902-1970

Found in: L. Tom Perry Special Collections / Joseph Fish typescripts of histories and diaries

Jacob Hamblin diaries and autobiography

■ **Collection – Multiple Containers Identifier: Vault MSS 770**

Scope and Contents Contains a handwritten diary of Jacob Hamblin, with entries from June 21, 1868 to 1886. Entries relate farming conditions and crop yields in the Kanab Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, travels along Pariah River, and an account of a conference conducted by Brigham Young on April 2, 1870, dedicating a settlement in Kanab. A separate account titled, "Journal of the Moquis" dated September 28, 1869, to October 5, 1869, written by an individual other than Hamblin,...

Dates: 1868-1886

Found in: L. Tom Perry Special Collections / Jacob Hamblin diaries and autobiography

Jacob Hamblin papers

■ **Collection – Multiple Containers Identifier: Vault MSS 815**


Scope and Contents

The letter from Brigham Young to Jacob Hamblin in this collection was written about one month before the Mountain Meadows Massacre took place. In it, Young appoints Hamblin to be president of the Santa Clara Indian mission and tells him to keep good relations with the Indians. This collection also contains four blessings given to Jacob Hamblin.

Dates: 1857-1885

Found in: L. Tom Perry Special Collections / Jacob Hamblin papers

Thales Hastings Haskell diary

 **Item – Folder 1: [Barcode: 31197227341564] Identifier: Vault MSS 437**

Scope and Contents

Handwritten diary. Haskell writes about his experiences with various Indian tribes in Arizona when he was serving as a missionary for the Mormon Church. He was accompanied by Jacob Hamblin and others. Fifteen pages of the item are written in the Deseret Alphabet. Some of the manuscript pages have been torn off and one page is missing.

Dates: 1859-1860

Found in: L. Tom Perry Special Collections / Thales Hastings Haskell diary


Jacob Hamblin diaries and autobiography

 **Digital Record Identifier: VMSS770_F3_F2_F1**

Dates: 1868-1886

Found in: L. Tom Perry Special Collections

James H. Jennings historical sketch

 **File – Folder 1: [Barcode: 31197225523692] Identifier: MSS SC 3149**

Scope and Contents Photocopy of a microfilm copy of a typescript. The item is an autobiography of Jennings written in 1935. Jennings was born in Ohio in 1853 and moved to Utah with his parents in 1856. He went to the Dixie Mission in southern Utah in 1862 and settled at Rockville. He gave his observations on schools, lyceum discussions, and the economic situation in the area. He also presented short sketches of leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints including: Brigham Young; second...

Dates: 1935

Found in: L. Tom Perry Special Collections / James H. Jennings historical sketch

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