

# **STEPHEN ORDWAY**

## **1824-1851**

Not much is known about Stephen Ordway's life before his marriage and arrival in Utah. According to LDS temple records he was born in 1826 in Hall, Missouri. His brother-in-law, George Lake, referred to him in his journal saying, "Stephen Ordway...bore the character of a faithful Saint." George also recounted his journey to the West, and he stated, "My sister Jane was given in marriage to Stephen Ordway while on the plains." This occurred during the summer of 1850. The reference to their marriage supports the idea that Stephen Ordway crossed the plains with James Lake and his family and the basis for him being placed on the LDS Church's Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847-1868 database. The company arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in the fall of 1850.

Stephen and Jane Lake Ordway settled in the Ogden area. All of the settlers on the north side of the Ogden River stayed in the Lorin Farr Fort during the winter of 1850 for protection against the Native Americans. The James Lake family also lived in the fort. Jane and Stephen Ordway appear in the Weber County Census for 1850 where Stephen is shown to be 26 years old (supports his 1824 birthdate). Stephen evidently owned some property at the time of the census. In the spring of 1851, residents of the forts began plowing their ground and building their homesteads. The Ordways moved to Four Mile Creek (which later became Harrisville) and began to build their home which was located next to the home of James Lake, Jane's father. The Ordways were one of the first settlers to move their cabin from Farr's Fort, and then rebuilt it on their farm at Four Mile Creek. The Harrisville Ward records show they received the membership of Stephen's wife, Jane, from Mound Fort in March of 1851.

While Stephen Ordway was bringing logs down the canyon to finish his home, he was killed. He died on 29 April 1851. This was the first death in the area that was to become Harrisville.

Researchers have been unable to find records of Ordway's burial. However, according to family tradition, he was buried in the John Spracher orchard, located in the area of the Lake and Ordway homes, before Highway 89 was built. A newspaper reported at the time of the road construction that a body had been uncovered. It was later buried in an unknown grave because the family had no proof of relationship, so they could not claim the body.

Jane Lake Ordway, Stephen Ordway's wife, gave birth to a baby boy on 11 August 1851. She named him Stephen Ordway, Jr. after his father. He was the first white child born in the Harrisville area.

**SOURCE:**

Ancestry.com. 1850 United States Federal Census of Weber, Utah Territory. Roll M432\_919; Page: 155B; Image: 322. Accessed 8 Jul 2010. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Jeffrey, Janet Franson. *History of the James Lake, Jr. Family*. Murray, Utah: Roylance Publishing, 1990, 194-198.

Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868. 11 Mar 2009  
<<http://www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch/1,15773,3966-1,00.html>>

Ordway, Stephen	Lake, George
Ordway, Stephen Jr.	Lake, James
Lake, Jane	John Spracher Orchard
Ordway, Jane Lake	Four Mile Creek