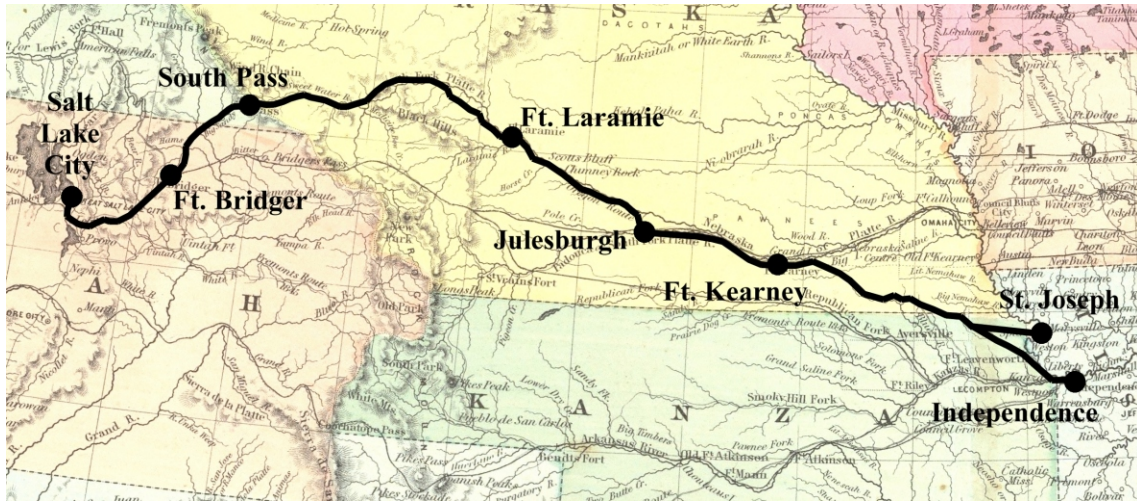


1850 Salt Lake City to Missouri (Woodson) Route



Mail service between Salt Lake City and the East was largely unsatisfactory during the period before the commencement of the daily overland mail on July 1, 1861. Several different contractors failed in their attempts to meet contract requirements and various private and Mormon expresses also proved unreliable.

In 1850 a four year contract was awarded to Samuel Woodson for a monthly service from Independence, Missouri to Salt Lake City. The service commenced on July 1, 1850 and was to continue until June 30, 1854. In July of 1851, Woodson subcontracted with Fearmorz Little to carry the mail on the Salt Lake City and Fort Laramie section. The mail service proved poor to nonexistent.

In 1854 a new contract was awarded to W.M.F. Magraw for a route between Salt Lake City and Independence. The contract specified monthly mail service at \$14,400 annual compensation. Following Indian depredations on the route the compensation was increased.

Hiram Kimball was awarded a contract for a monthly service on route #8,911 between Salt Lake City and St. Joseph, Missouri on October 16, 1856. In October 1857, after Kimball's failure, the service was let to S.B. Mills at \$32,000 per annum.

The contract was re-let and awarded to J.M. Hockaday at \$190,000 per annum for a weekly service commencing May 1858. On April 14, 1859 service was reduced to twice-monthly and payment reduced. In May 1859 the Jones, Russell and Company purchased the contract.

On March 12, 1861 the central overland route between California and Missouri was unified and a contract with the Overland Mail Company signed with daily mail service to commence July 1, 1861. In the interim, Butterfield had moved his southern mail route to the central route.