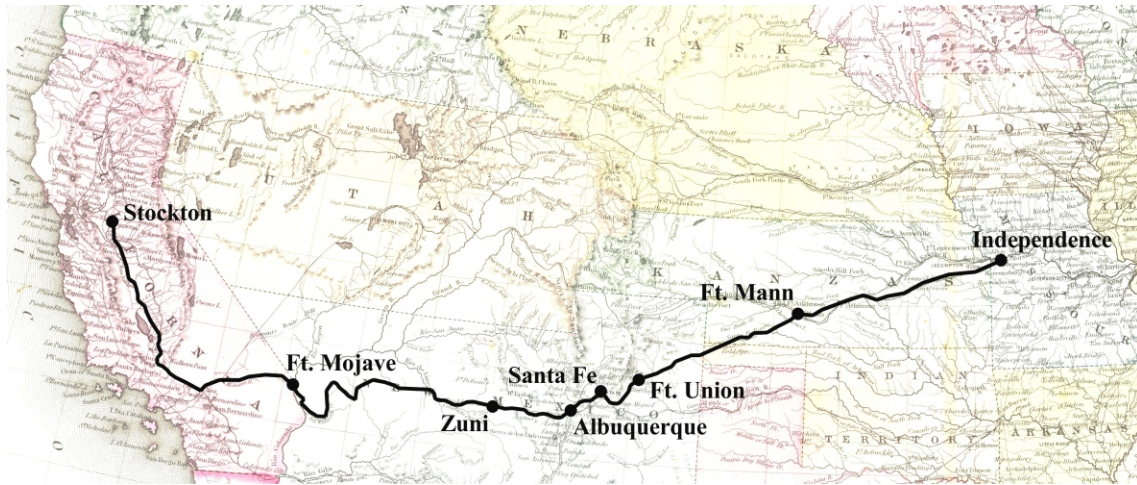


## 1858 Stockton to Independence Mail Route



Although a postal route from Independence, Missouri to Stockton, California was authorized in 1855 it was not until May 1857 that a contract was signed with Jacob Hall. Hall transferred the contract to Barron, Porter & Crenshaw upon signing and service was not commenced until October 1, 1858 when the first westbound mail departed. The first eastbound mail left Stockton on November 1, 1858. The monthly service, designated as route #15,050, was to be performed in mule wagons at \$79,999 per year.

The service, referred to as the "Kansas and Stockton Mail" in the 1859 *Report of the Postmaster General*, was discontinued on May 11, 1859, effective from July 1, 1859. The report states that: "During the period of nine months that it was in operation, there were but four arrivals of through mails at Kansas, and but two at Stockton. The whole mail matter received at Kansas from Stockton consisted of two letters and twenty-six newspapers while it appears, from the returns, that but a single letter reached Stockton from Kansas." The same report mentions that the bulk of the \$1,255 credited as receipts originated from mail carried over partial legs of the route.

Mail to be carried over the route was required to be endorsed for carriage using the name of one of the terminal points. There exists only one reported cover so endorsed and it can not be confirmed as having been actually carried over the route.