

James Erwen Bromley, born in 1832, was the Division Superintendent for the Pony Express station east of Salt Lake City to Horseshoe. Coming to Utah in 1854, he established the main stopping place on the Pony Express route between Fort Bridger, Wyoming, and Salt Lake City, Utah. The location of this station was at the meeting of the Echo Canyon River and the Weber River.

Bromley had always had the desire to be a stage driver, which led him many places where he was employed for many different companies. First working with Frink & Walker, he was promoted from local agent to division superintendent. Bromley later joined the Overland Stage Company where he operated the monthly mail there until 1856 when the mail was discontinued between Independence and Salt Lake City.

In 1858 Bromley began working for J.M. Hockaday & McGraw where he organized divisions from Atchison to Salt Lake City. Two years later in 1860, the Pony Express was established. It was Bromley's job to buy horses and hiring young men to ride them on the routes.

Another opportunity was available for Bromley when he went to work for the famous stage line builder, Ben Holladay. While under Holladay, Bromley was assigned to lay out the operation of stages from Salt Lake City to Virginia City, Montana, and Walla Walla, Washington. After leaving there, Bromley located and built 56 new stations. He also tried merchandising, then running a hotel, but with no success, he returned to ranching at his property at the mouth of Echo Canyon.

Bromley always had love for horses which is why when it came to horse races, he was a very active better. He would bet his money against other people's grain tickets. Bromley used a little strategy when racing his horses. He told his blacksmith to put lead

horseshoes on his horse to train him. When it came time for the horse to race, Bromley had the lead horseshoes replaced with lightweight steel. Consequently, the horse won easily and Bromley cleaned up the winnings.

Not only was James Bromley a very important figure in the operation of the Pony Express, but also a successful, self-driven working man. Bromley had worked with mail routes and had been given much credit for the U.S. Mail arriving on time at its scheduled destination. Overall, I believe that James Bromley played a significant role with the Pony Express. His knowledge with horses and experience as a stage driver helped the Pony Express become as successful running organization.

## Bibliography

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