

John Comish

Name: John Comish

Birth Date: 09 Dec 1838

Birth Place: Kirk Ochan, Ochan, Isle of Mann, Great Britain

Parents: William and Elizabeth Keig/Kegg Comish

Death Date: 14 May 1922

Death Place: Cove, Utah, Bur. Franklin, Idaho

Arrival: 3 Sep 1855, John Hindley Co.

Spouse: Esther Elizabeth Stanford

Marriage Date: 22 Nov 1862

Marriage Place: Salt Lake City, Utah

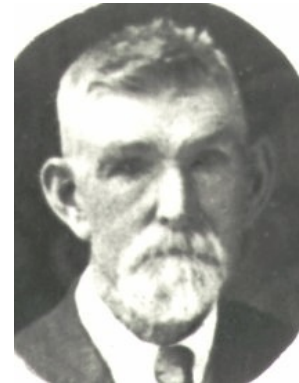
Spouse's Parents: Thomas and Elizabeth Barnett Stanford

Spouse's Birth Date: 20 Feb 1845

Spouse's Birth Place: Portslade, Sussex, England

Spouse's Death Date: 15 Mar 1916

Spouse's Death Place: Cove, Utah



John was the fifth of nine children. His father William joined the Church in 1841 , and his mother Elizabeth in 1848 , over the objections of her parents. They decided the only way to get to the Valley was for William to take their oldest daughter and then send for his wife and the rest of the children. William and his daughter left in 1849 and found a job in St. Louis, Missouri , where they stayed for two years until he had earned enough to send for his wife and other children. The family stayed two additional years in St. Louis and then joined the John Hindley company to travel to the Valley. John worked to help earn money for the family to go west. Upon their arrival in the valley, they were sent to help settle Kaysville, Utah . John , age 18, was one of the volunteers sent to help the Martin and Willie handcart companies. He was called to help in the Salmon River Indian problems. He was, at various times, involved in the Echo Canyon problems, and made two trips to help the emigrants. He was an Indian Scout, wagon master and guard on several occasions. He made seven trips across the plains. John was described as six feet tall, dark brown hair, blue eyes, and weighed about 150 pounds. President Brigham Young said he should get married. He already had his eye on a cute little girl so they came to Salt Lake and got married. They were among the families called to help settle in what is now Franklin, Idaho , but was then known as Spring Creek, in Cache Valley, Utah . John and Esther lived there, and eight children were born. John and his father and brother were given five acres each, in what is known as Whitney, Idaho . They were the first saints to own land in Idaho . John and his good friend, Porter Rockwell watched from a distance the massacre of a tribe of Indians on the Bear River . Colonel P. Connor was in charge of the massacre. One of the chiefs, Sagwitch , was shot in the hand, and knowing John was his friend, he went to him for help. Hundreds were slaughtered, men, women and children as they slept. John , his father, and brothers helped build the first railroad into Idaho , the Northern Utah Railroad. There were seven more children born to John and his wife. John was a pioneer, Indian Scout, teamster, wagon master, father, grandfather of 70 children and great grandfather of 26 children. Children: John Alfred , b. 1863 , Franklin, Idaho . D. 1925 . Elizabeth Esther , b. 1865 , Franklin, Idaho . D. 1921 . Thomas William , b. 1867 ,

Franklin, Idaho . D. 1915 . Ruth Susannah , b. 1869 , Franklin, Idaho . D. 1955 . Karleen Stanford , b. 1871 , Franklin, Idaho . D. 1949 . Franklin Stanford , b. 1872 , Franklin, Idaho . D. 1935 . Joseph Francis , b. 1874 , Franklin, Idaho . D. In first year. Ellen Frances , b. 1875 , Franklin, Idaho . D. 1936 . Nephi-Stanford , b. 1878 , Cove, Cache, Utah . D. 1883 . Albert Stanford (twin), b. 1879 , Cove, Utah . D. 1930 . Alberta Stanford (twin), b. 1879 , Cove, Utah . D. 3 months. Jane (stillborn) , b. 1880 , Cove, Utah . Pearl Stanford , b. 1884 . Cove, Utah . D. 19_7 . Faye Stanford , b. 1887 , Cove, Utah . D. 1969 . Leo Stanford , b. 1889 , Cove, Utah . D. 1946 . Harold Manwaring

John Comish

John Comish, the fifth child of William and Elizabeth Keig Comish, was born December 1, 1838, at Douglas. After arriving in America, John worked on a boat on the Mississippi River. One morning he had a chance to leave St. Louis with a friend to travel to Utah, but as he pondered trying to decide whether to leave, the boat pulled out and left him. However, as he stood watching, the boat blew up and his friend was drowned. He came to Utah with his family. While living in Kaysville, John worked for Bishop Layton during the summer and herded cattle on the promontory during the winter months. In 1858, John was a Minuteman in the Horton D. Haight Company and went to the Salmon River to fight the Indians. He also took part in the Echo Canyon trouble, aiding Lot Smith. He served as an Indian scout on several occasions and made seven trips across the plains. In Florence, Nebraska, he met a seventeen-year-old English girl. He escorted her to the evening dances and prayer circles. She was Esther Elizabeth Stanford, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Barnett Stanford, born in Southwick, Sussex, England, February 20, 1845. They were married November 22, 1862, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City by Wilford Woodruff. John and Esther settled in the Franklin area where their first eight children were born. John, his father William, and his brother, Robert Nephi, were each given five acres of land in the area known as Whitney and thus became some of the early land-owners in Idaho. They loved company and everyone was treated well when they came to visit. During the polygamist raids, their home became a sanctuary for several people in flight for their lives. John loved his garden and fish ponds. It was stated in a newspaper article that his ponds contained between twelve and fifteen thousand fish. Esther died March 15, 1916, and John died May 14, 1922. Both are buried in the Franklin Cemetery. They were the parents of fifteen children. (Verla Comish)

