

Alexander & Lucy Hatch Family (Trail Travelers 1848 – 1849)

In 1847, eight members of the Hatch family left Lockport, New York, and traveled to St. Louis. The following spring, the group split, with eldest daughter, Helen Naomi, her husband, Samuel L. Streeter, their young son, and an expected child remaining another year near St. Louis. Alexander and Lucy, with their other two daughters and a son, traveled to Independence, then, with a Webb and Doan wagon train, on to Santa Fe via the Cimarron Route, arriving in June 1848. In March 1848, middle daughter, Flora, married Charles G. McLure in Santa Fe.

Helen and Samuel Streeter had remained behind near St. Louis where Helen gave birth to a second son, in May 1848. The following spring, Helen, Samuel, their two-year-old son,

Gus, and baby George traveled the Santa Fe Trail on a James J. Webb wagon train, meeting the first group in Las Vegas, New Mexico. In April 1853, youngest daughter Augusta married Edward F. Mitchell in Las Vegas.

Members of the Hatch Family were involved in all of the major events during the American settlement of eastern New Mexico and Colorado. They operated the first hotel on the plaza in Las Vegas. They were homesteaders, ranchers, farmers and traders and established Hatch's Ranch in San Miguel County, NM. They were engaged in the California and Colorado gold rushes, the Civil War, Plains Indian conflicts, Comanchero trading. Most are buried in the Masonic Cemetery in Trinidad.

The only son, George Hatch, died at age 17 in Las Vegas in 1848; thus no male descendant perpetuated their surname. Some of their nearly one thousand known direct descendants still live along the route of the old trail. Today, the surnames of the men the Hatch daughters wed survive – Streeter, Boice, McLure, and Mitchell. These names are linked with ranching in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming.

