

## HANK AND YANK

The real names of Hank 'n' Yank were Henry (Hank) Hewitt and John H. (Yank) Bartlett. Hank Hewitt was born in Tecumseh, Michigan in 1828 and came west to California during the Gold Rush of 1849. We don't have any early information on Yank Bartlett but we do know that he and Hank Hewitt formed a partnership to provide a pack train service throughout the west. Their operations extended over a large territory including Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and British Columbia. During the Rogue River Indian Wars in Oregon during the 1850s, Hank Hewitt was General Crook's chief packer. The pack train service was one of the most important but least heard of adjuncts of the United States Army during the "taming of the west" and without it the Army would have been almost useless during the Indian campaigns. Since roads were nearly non-existent during these campaigns, pack trains were used to carry the supplies necessary to support the army units in the field. Although part of the Army, the packers were civilians and were not required to enlist.

In 1869 at the request of Captain Ross, Hank and Yank came to Arizona bringing with them their own pack trains and entered into government service again. Their first activity was to participate in the relocation of all the materials at Camp Goodwin to Camp Apache when Goodwin was closed. Subsequently they were employed by General Crook and were with him during all of his campaigns. General Crook did not hesitate to attribute a great measure of his success against the Apaches to the loyalty and experience of Hank and Yank as evidenced by a personal letter from the General to Hank Hewitt that is on file in the archives of the Pioneers.

Hank & Yank engaged in a variety of different enterprises in addition to their service to the Army. One of these was hauling hay. Since they got paid by the weight of the hay they delivered, it was suspected that they made a little extra money by having a teamster stay aboard during the weighing or adding a few rocks to the wagon. It is said that at a camp near Maricopa they built a stone corral with the rocks that happened to be mixed in with the hay. After 1874, they got involved with mining in both Southern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico and even owned a portion of the Tiger Mine.

Hank & Yank homesteaded a ranch in the Pajarito Mountains near the head of Sycamore Canyon in the 1880s. They were attacked by Geronimo in April 1886 as he and his band were heading back to Mexico after having attacked the Peck Ranch in Agua Fria Canyon (later named Peck Canyon because of the Peck Ranch massacre). Hank Hewitt was wounded and a neighbor killed by Geronimo's warriors. Yank Bartlett (or Bartlett's son depending on



Ruins of Hank & Yank's Adobe Cabin

which source you believe) escaped to get help from the town of Oro Blanco. Hank Hewett died in August, 1896. We have no further information on Yank Bartlett

Summary prepared by T. Johnson from Hewett's obituary in the August 1896 AZ Republic Newspaper and various web sites. Photo by T. Johnson

**Additional Material:** GVHC Library File 48