

THOMAS KIMBALL MESSERSMITH

Thomas Kimball Messersmith lived in Tavul, Missouri, near Hannibal. He and Samuel Clements (Mark Twain) were childhood friends. One of the characters in Twain's novel "Pecks Bad Boy" (Levan) was patterned after Thomas.

Samuel and Thomas ran away together, changing their names to Mark Twain and Tom M. Smith. They came to Nevada on the stagecoach. They and another partner quickly claimed or grub staked on a mine together. They were supposed to work the mine, but ran out, and someone else claimed it and made millions. They parted and Thomas joined Commander Conner and came to Fairfield. As they traveled towards Fairfield, Thomas saved Connor's life by killing an Indian. Another Indian nearly killed Thomas as his shot grazed Thomas's mustache. Some said it was lopsided after that experience until he died.

At Fairfield he met Louisa Knapp, daughter of Julia Laughlin Knapp Cook. She wouldn't marry him until he joined the church, so he joined the church.

They lived in Cedar Fort where he was a farmer.