

HISTORY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

On June 14, 1887, Silas Jones, a resident of Butlerville, since about 1877, was involved in a serious accident in Salt Lake City. What were the circumstances that led to this accident?

ANSWER

On the afternoon of June 14, 1887, Mr. Silas Jones of Butlerville had a meeting with Mr. Thomas Oakey, in Salt Lake City. Mr. Jones had a heavy wagon with a spring seat upon it, drawn by a fine team of spirited horses. He and Mr. Oakey had started south on East Temple Street (Main Street) driving rapidly down grade about 7:30 p.m., the rattling of the wagon seemed to excite the horses, and they accelerated their speed considerably. When they were nearly opposite the St. James Hotel (321 South Main Street), Mr. Jones, inadvertently dropped one of the lines upon the off horse, which rendered the already excited animals uncontrollable and they dashed madly down the street at a furious rate of speed. Just before reaching the Kimball Corner (500 South Main Street), the wheels of the wagon struck the street car track and the wagon was suddenly over turned. The occupants were violently thrown a considerable distance, alighting upon the hard gravel of the street with such force as to cause unconsciousness to Mr. Jones and serious injury to Mr. Oakey. Mr. Jones spent the night in the hospital. Mr. Oakey's injuries required several months to heal.