

## Mrs. Mary Catherine “Kate” Hanrahan

Mary Catherine “Kate” was born about 1847 in Virginia. She married John Hanrahan (pattern maker born 1845 Ireland) about 1870. John was born about 1845 in Ireland and was a pattern maker. In 1870, they were living in Virginia City, Storey, Nevada.<sup>1</sup> They moved to Lincoln, Nevada, by 1875.<sup>2</sup> Her husband died, and Kate left Pioche, Nevada, for Toquerville, Utah Territory, and then started a boarding house in Silver Reef.<sup>3</sup>

Kate also ran the Pioneer Restaurant in Silver Reef. When the great fire of 1879 swept down Main Street, the restaurant roof was swathed in wet blankets and doused with water, but eventually had to be abandoned. The restaurant was valued at \$2,000. Kate was able to save some of the furnishings, and found a new location after fire.<sup>4</sup>

On the 1880 census, she was living with two servants and two boarders in Silver Reef.<sup>5</sup> She continued to run her restaurant.<sup>6</sup> It is not known when she left Silver Reef, where she went, or where she died.

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<sup>1</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>2</sup> Nevada State Census, 1875.

<sup>3</sup> *Pioche Record*.

<sup>4</sup> *Silver, Sinners and Saints*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, pp. 125, 127; *Silver Reef Miner*, 31 May 1879.

<sup>5</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>6</sup> Pacific Coast Directory, 1880-1881, pp. 66, 94.