

- **Benedict Marcellin St. Vrain (1835 – 1887)**

Benedict Marcellin St. Vrain (1836-1887) is my 1st cousin, 4x removed. He was a nephew of famed mountain man and fur trader, Ceran St. Vrain. Like his older cousin, Marie Felicite St. Vrain, Benedict joined Uncle Ceran in the Southwest. But unlike Marie Felicite, Benedict chose to leave Missouri and make the Southwest his home.



Ceran St. Vrain had nine other siblings, and except for his youngest brother, Marcellin, most are unknown to the general reader. However, one of Ceran's younger brothers was Domitille St. Vrain. Domitille (1808-1867) was born at the family home in Spanish Lake, St. Louis County, Missouri. He is listed as a farmer in the 1850 and 1860 Federal censuses and died in 1867. His eldest son was Benedict Marcellin. It is not clear exactly when Benedict first traveled the Santa Fe Trail, but it had to be between 1860 and 1870 because his firstborn daughter, Maud, was born in 1867 at Mora, New Mexico. Benedict traveled the Santa Fe Trail several times. For example, after his first wife Sarah Longuevan died, he made arrangements to take her body back to Missouri for burial. After returning to New Mexico, he began writing letters to his wife's sister, Martha, persuading her to marry him and help him raise his two young children, Maud and baby son Paul. Benedict again traveled the trail to return to Missouri and marry Martha and, after that, brought her to Mora. They continued to build their family with five more children. Benedict helped Uncle Ceran with the mill in Mora and a store in Watrous, New Mexico. Watrous, previously known as La Junta, was in a strategic location to facilitate Santa Fe Trail trade exchanges. It was here that the two main branches of the Santa Fe Trail, the Cimarron Cutoff and the Mountain Branch, rejoined before heading either to Taos or Santa Fe. Benedict was also appointed to U.S. Postmaster in Mora in 1870. He was also one of the executors of Ceran St. Vrain's last will. Benedict is buried in the St. Vrain family cemetery in Mora, NM, near his uncle Ceran. Missouri, Marriage Records, 1805-2002. Ancestry.com 2007. 1880 United States Federal Census. Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 2010. U.S., Appointments of U. S. Postmasters, 1832-1971. Ancestry.com 2010. Newspapers.com - - 18 Feb 1871 - Page 2. Executor of will. U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current. Ancestry.com 2012