

# Life of James Boyack Jr.

*Written by his daughter, Elizabeth Evans*

James Boyack Jr., son of James Boyack and Elizabeth Mealmaker, was born September 14, 1828 in the Parish of Mains, Forfarshire, Scotland. He was the eldest of a family of fourteen, twelve of whom immigrated to America. Two died and were buried in Scotland.

His family early joined the Mormon Church and he became very active in church activities. He was baptized into the L.D.S. Church by Elder William Murray of Dundee February 9, 1851. On February 13, 1851 he was confirmed by Elder William Burton. On June 22, 1851, he was ordained a teacher of Dundee by Elder Murray and on September 19, 1852, he was ordained a priest by Elder John Mathis.

He embarked for America in a sailing vessel March 18, 1853, and was nine weeks on the ocean. The ship was held back on several different occasions through calms. He arrived in Utah on October 5, 1853; and worked as a quarryman on the temple in Salt Lake City until the arrival of his family and his sweetheart, Margary Waterhouse, two years later. They arrived in Utah in October 1855.

He was married to Margary Waterhouse on November 23, 1855 in Salt Lake City, moving to Palmyra, Utah for a short while and thence to Spanish Fork, where they made their home. Nine

children, three boys and six girls, were born to them, all of whom are mentioned in "Life of Margary Waterhouse Boyack".

James Boyack Jr. was a stonemason by trade but followed farming as his chief occupation here. He was also a weaver for about eight years. He was on the home guard during the trouble with the Indians. He farmed during the day and kept guard with other men in the town at night. He also went to Echo Canyon in the winter of 1856 – 1857 to hold back Johnson's army. These duties kept him away from his young wife much of the time of their early married life.

His eagerness to be active in church and community affairs was manifest very clearly and on June 20, 1857 he was ordained a Seventy in the Priesthood of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He was ordained to this position in the 50th quorum by James L. Thompson. He was later ordained to a High Priest in the Church. He was the "old meeting house" treasurer before the various wards were organized in the town and was the presiding deacon for 28 years. The duty of the presiding deacon at this time was to collect the fast offerings, then distribute them out again among the poor and needy. This position he held first for the entire town, and then for the Third Ward after its organization.

He died December 19, 1893 at the age of 65. His death was very sudden and was a great shock to family and friends. At the time of his death, pneumonia was thought to be the cause; but some years later the doctors decided that the cause of his death had

been spinal meningitis (which was very uncommon then). He was survived by his widow, Margary and nine children; also by most of his brothers and sisters. His father preceded by him in death by only a few years, having died at the age of 82.