

*This is my grandfather's  
memorandum Boyack's father*

### HISTORY OF ROBERT MATHEW BOYACK

Robert Mathew Boyack, son of James Boyack and Elizabeth Mealmaker Boyack, was born March 21, 1847 in Dundee, Mains parish, Forfarshire, Scotland. He was one of fourteen children, twelve of whom came to the United States. They were: James Jr., Ann, Margaret, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, William Mealmaker, Joseph Gibson, Alexander, Peter Fenton, Robert Mathew, his twin, David Doig, Jessie and Thomas. Jessie and Thomas died as children in Scotland. James, the eldest, came to this country in 1853 and worked on the Salt Lake Temple to provide funds to bring the family here.

They left Liverpool, England, April 22, 1855 on the ship SAMUEL CURLING and arrived at New York on May 27. They continued their journey by rail to Pittsburgh, Pa., then by steamboat to Atchison, Kansas. The Boyack family crossed the plains as members of the Capt. Milo Andrus ox train company, arriving in Salt Lake City Dec. 24, 1855. After moving to Spanish Fork, Utah, they made their home on 2nd North and 1st West, where the Olsen Apartments now stand.

Robert Mathew married Emily Jane Stoker October 28, 1872 in the Salt Lake Endowment House. The ceremony was performed by Elder Daniel H. Wells. To them were born six children: Emily Jane, Elizabeth Almira, who died when almost eight, Susan Ann, Margaret, Robert Mathew, Jr., and David Richard.

My father took part in the Black Hawk Indian War in the Sixties and Seventies. He was a musician, playing the flute and violin, and was very active in musical affairs in the community, including membership in the first martial band in Spanish Fork. His flute is now on display in our Pioneer relic house.

He was a farmer and stock raiser and was also active in getting logs in the canyon. It was while lifting on a log that he was hurt and became ill. As the years passed, he had to give up farming, and went into the barbering trade. He had the first barbershop in Spanish Fork. He began this trade on June 2, 1882. After a few years, because of his sickness, he had to give up barbering. This grieved him very much, not because he was suffering with pain, but because he was a very independent man and now could not provide for his family as he would like. He rented his farm and his income was very meager.

Father had a hobby of cutting newspaper clippings and saving them. We have a copy of the Deseret News published Dec. 13, 1885, which gave the account of the tragic Brooklyn Theater fire.

When I was born, Aunt Martha Stoker and Ellen Hughes did the washing, and Father, then on crutches, and my ten-year old sister Emily Jane did the housework. He died ten months later, January 19, 1885, at the age of thirty eight. The cause of his death was dropsy. He was buried in the Spanish Fork Cemetery.

Written by his son, David Richard Boyack

My grandfather left a farmer's memorandum book, and the notes he jotted down add much to our meager knowledge of him. These writings indicate many character traits, and one was that he was a meticulous person. He made notes of purchases made, such as a Singer sewing machine for \$56.75 in June of 1875, an organ that arrived from New York on Nov. 11, 1875, for which he paid \$100, and \$15.50 for freight, a Monitor stove for \$56.80 on Feb. 18, 1882. He also mentioned that they moved into a new home on April 28, 1873.

These notes indicate he was a religious man. It was the custom in those times for members of the church to sometimes be rebaptized as a sign of the renewing of their covenants or reaffirming their faith, as in the case of Brigham Young and others who first arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. Grandfather makes note of his second baptism in this manner: "Robert M. Boyack was baptized the 2nd of September, 1875 for the renewing of his covenants in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Baptized by James Boyack, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Darger." He notes that he was ordained an Elder on the 15th of August, 1866 by G. W. Wilkins and was received in the Elders Quorum in Jan., 1866. He mentions that he "commenced teaching in the Elders Quorum in January, 1876. On January 31, 1877 he was ordained to the office of "Acting Deacon" by James Boyack, Jr., his brother.

Grandfather makes note that, "Brother George A. Smith departed this life at 20 minutes to 9 Wednesday morning, September 1st, 1875."

He also made record in this book of births and deaths in his family and of relatives. His exactness is evidenced by the manner in which he recorded these events: "Emily Jane Boyack was born on the 13th of August, 1873 at half past five in the morning and blessed by Wm. Stoker, Sr., Spanish Fork." Elizabeth Almira Boyack born in Spanish Fork City, Utah, on Saturday morning at ten (10) minutes to five (5) in the morning, September 11, 1875. Named and blessed by Charles Monk Nov. 4, 1875." "Susan Ann Boyack born September 5, 1877 at 20 (25 changed to 20) minutes to 2 on Wednesday morning in Spanish Fork City, Utah." The birth of his next two children, Margaret and Robert Mathew, Jr. are not listed here, but that of his last child, David Richard is noted: "David Richard Boyack born on March the 21st, 1884 at 10 O'clock Friday night."

Grandfather mentions: "Heavy snow fall April 2nd 1877. Killed all the fruit Sunday morning. 12 inches deep." Indicating the low wages paid in that time, he notes that he commenced watering for Al Hutch (ings) for fifty cents each time his lot was watered, 14 times from Thursday, June 22, 1876 to Oct. 1. Later, when he was a barber, he received 15 cents for shaves and 25 cents for a shingle, or haircut, and some of that was on credit for which he never received payment.

This addition written by Phyllis Boyack Jones