

# LIFE OF JAMES BOYACK, JR.



**Written by his daughter  
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James Boyack, Jr., the **son of James Boyack, Sr. and Elizabeth Mealmaker**, was born September 14, 1828, in Parish of Mains, Forfarshire, Scotland. He was the eldest of a family of fourteen, twelve of whom immigrated to America with his parents. 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 Win. Murray of Dundee branch February 9, 1851. On February 13, 1851, he was confirmed by Elder Win. Burton. On June 22, 1851, he was ordained a teacher of Dundee branch 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 17, 1855, and was nine weeks on the ocean. The ship was held back on several different occasions through calms. He arrived in Utah October 5, 1853 and worked as a quarryman on the temple at 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 November 23, 1855 at 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 the, "Life of Margary Waterhouse Boyack."

James Boyack, Jr. was a stone mason 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 1856-57, to hold back Johnson's army. These duties caused him to be 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. Thomson. He was later ordained 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 his family and friends. The cause of his death was thought to be spinal meningitis. However, this disease was very uncommon then and it was not until some years later that doctors decided that it had been the cause. At the time of his death, pneumonia was given as the cause.

**He was survived by his widow, Margary, and nine children;** also most of his brothers and sisters. His father had preceded him in death only a few years, having died at the age of 82.

