History of James Joseph Booth

Much is known about the life of James Joseph Booth. Several stories were written about his life which record his many deeds. Although he was a photographer, I have no photo of him to display here. There are several photos that are known to be his work. Some are located in the Utah Historical Society



photo collection under the name of Bart Anderson as the donor. Research in this collection turned up the photos shown here. Others are said to be at the BYU Library.

Perhaps the man standing in the doorway is James.



James's early family history in England wasn't known to the Booth family here in the United States for quite some time. Considerable effort had been made by researchers hired by Fred and Marie Booth to find a Booth connection in England. All that was known at the time was that he had come from England.

One day Fred Booth was contacted by a family member from England who asked if Fred was related to James. Through this contact the family tie to England was established. Fred and Marie travel to England and met with several family members. Millie and Bob Thomson of San Bernardino, California were who contacted Fred.

The following was written by Marie Booth, wife of Fred Booth

James Booth was born in Lancastershire, England, 12 July, 1844. He joined the Church of Jesus Christ there.

He worked in the cotton mills. When he was 18 he married Margaret Holland and had two daughters. Margaret was 28 when they married. We do not know what happened to their marriage. We do know he married Annis Wych and had two children, Louise and James J. He brought this family to Utah in 1874. Later his mother Ruth Gamble Booth, Sarah and Hannah, his sisters, came. Ruth is buried in the St. George cemetery.

James took up photography and was known as the best photographer in St. George. Old albums have many of his pictures in them. He stamped his pictures so they are easily identified. When taking children's pictures he would call the attention of them to the "Kitty" in the camera, so they would be looking at it and have a pleased expression on their faces. One customer was disgruntled at her children's picture so he told her, "When you bring a monkey, you get a monkey's picture".

James owned a store by the side of the now Dixie Drug store. He wasn't too popular with the other merchants because he didn't charge enough. His answer to this was he was trying to be honest.

He was a good musician. When we were in England, the family told us that James, his father, John, and brother, Joseph, entertained in many places before James came to Utah.

While he was away on his mission to England his son, James J. or Jim, as he was called, took care of the photography work and became very well known in his own right. He traveled all over this area. He took pictures of canyons and mountains as well as family photos.

James filled a two year mission to England leaving St. George on October 15th 1887. He arrived in Liverpool, England on the steamship Nevada. He was assigned with Thomas Beard to the Manchester Conference (Milleneial Star 49: 715).

On 1 Apr 1888, James was in attendance at the Conference at Leeds in Bradford (Mill Star 50: 269). He was on the stand with President George Teasdale and B.H. Roberts. Elder Booth addressed the meeting; reading from the 1st chap of Isaiah, showed by nature, we are all sinners. The servants of God, which, if obeyed, would redeem men from their sins through the atonement of Jesus Christ. Bore testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and the time would come when all men would know it as well as himself. Related a little of his experience, and bore a powerful testimony to the truths of God being taught by the Latterday Saints.

On May 20, 1888, a conference at Manchester conference was held. James Booth was on the stand along with President Teasdale. Elder Booth stated he had been busily engaged distributing tracts in the Leek and Ashton District. Would feel well paid for his labors if but on individual was thereby added to the sheepfold of Christ. He cited instances of healing wherein earthly remedies had failed, demonstrating that the power of God is restored in these days to those who keep His commandments.

On 9 Sep 1888 James was in attendance at a District Meeting held at Eccles Town Hall (Mill. Star 50:622). Apostle George Teasdale, President of the European Mission as in charge. James gave the benediction.

On Sunday the 25th of Nov 1888, James was in attendance at the Manchester Conference held in Cleveland Assembly Rooms, Grosvenor Street, Oxford Road, Manchester. He was invited to sit on the stand with President Teasdale. Elder Booth reported the Ashton District; Ten had been baptized and one excommunicated. He found many good, honest people in this District, and had many succellful outdoor meetings, but met with some opposition; had distributed many Gospel tracts, and met with considerable success in selling the Book of

Mormon; he felt well in his labors.

James married Esther Elizabeth Tye, a daughter of Jesse Tye, who was also a photographer. Jesse Tye approached James and asked it Elizabeth could stay with them for awhile. James told him that if she was willing he would marry her (see Elizabeth Tye's story fro more details). They had several children, James William, Mary, Edith, and Emma. Emma was born in Bunkerville, Nevada during the polygamy raids made on St. George by the Feds.

James died in St. George, 11 April 1897. Fred, Shirley, and Jim Booth placed a marker on his grave.

The following is a newspaper article taken from The Union, a newspaper printed in St. George, Washington Co., Utah, Saturday, February 8, 1896.

AN ENTERPRISING GENTLEMAN.

James Booth is an enterprising gentleman. Years ago he commenced business on a small scale as a photographer, a portion of the time traveling from one settlement to another, following his trade, in order to gain a livelihood. Then, by perseverance he managed to erect a small building on North Street, for a gallery, where he done work for several years until the City Council thought he ought to pay license for the privilege of keeping a few picture frames on hand, which he needed in his business, to supply his patrons with those articles as desired; then he went into the merchandising business, and the result was that he brought down the prices of merchandise to a considerable extent.

He next put an addition to his building, but in time that became too small for his increasing trade and recently he has been obliged to erect a warehouse which is located on Maple Street, between North and Second North Streets, with an upper story finely fitted up as a photograph gallery, which we believe to be as fine an establishment as there is south of Salt Lake, with all the paraphernalia requisite for the production of various sizes of portraits, landscapes etc. of first class workmanship and at the lowest possible price. The gallery has fine skylight of the latest approved pattern of glass, and the north side of the building has been calcined and lettered off, displaying a fine advertisement. The gallery is superintended

by his son James J. who is ever on the alert to please the most fastidious in posing them in the best manner, and we are sure that all who desire to obtain a fine portrait of themselves they can be suited at Booth's gallery.

The following is an obituary printed in "The Union" around 11 April 1897.

James Booth, son of John and Ruth Gamble Booth, died in St. George, Utah on the 11 of April 1897. He was born in Stockford, Cheshire, England, on June 12th, 1843, and with his wife and two children, emigrated to America in (5) March, 1873, arriving in Salt Lake City, Utah, in April, (Landed in Utah April 1873) and joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the 14th Ward in Salt Lake City. (Baptized Salt Lake 14th Ward, June 1873) The same summer he moved to Washington, Utah, and soon after to St. George where he has made his home ever since. He filled an honorable two years Mission to England, leaving S.L. City on the 15th of October, 1887, and returned in the fall of 1889. He has been an honorable, useful and consistent Latter-day Saint. His occupation has been photography until the last few years of his life, during which time he has also kept a store and done a very creditable business in Merchandise.

He leaves two wives and six children living, while three children have preceded him to the spirit world, and a large circle of friends to mourn his loss.

The funeral services were held in the St. George Tabernacle on the 12th of April and the speakers were as follows: Wm. Atkin, Jos. Orton, Rd. Morris, Bp. James Andrus, Jno. E. Pace, each of whom had been acquainted with the deceased a number of years and known his real worth, and spoke of his integrity to the gospel, having heard him bear his testimony to the truth of the same.

Many times he has suffered a great deal of pain in his latter years, and six days prior to his demise he took with severe pain, but at times seemed better, yet he gained no permanent relief. A few minutes previous to his death he walked out of one room into another and seemed better than he had been for several days. He sat down and expired without any apparent warning. He was in his own home, surrounded by his family and friends.

All join in sympathy with his bereaved family.

Thru the contact with family in England the following was provided which gives us a idea of his early life in England.

The following is a copy of information obtained from Mildred who lives in England.

MY FAMILY HISTORY

My Grandmothers name was ANNE BOOTH BORN: 20th NOVEMBER 1874 PARENTS: JOSEPH and JANE BOOTH

Story as told to me by my mother.

ANNE Booth was the only surviving child of four, three having died in infancy.

Her father JOSEPH was a fish monger at 59,GREAT PORTWOOD, ST.BRINNINGTON At the time of her birth, he had also been known to trade fish in the area of Greenfield and Saddleworth in the 1870s. He became a heavy drinker and on several occasions would come home drunk and throw ANNE and her mother out of the house.

JANE eventually left him for good taking ANNE with her. ANNE was about seven years old and her mother went to work in the mill, I don't know where they were living at this time, but JANES mother, MRS BAILEY, lived at 2 Withins row, Brinnington.

In later years ANNE met WILLIAM NOLAN LEAH whilst working on a farm on a farm in HEATON MOOR. They were married and eventually made their home in EDGELEY PARK, Stockport, England.

THE FOLLOWING IS NOW FACT

ANNE BOOTH daughter of JOSEPH AND JANE was born 20th November, 1874 at 2, Withens row, Brinnington. Father was a fishmonger at 59,GT,Portwood St.

Her grandparents were Henry Bailey and Mary Barratt (on her mother side) and John Booth and RUTh Gamble (on her father's side)
After their marriage ANNE had the following children:

WILLIAM IEAH died--aged 2 yrs. TOM LEAH, born 12th April1898 died--ANNIE LEAH, died 18 mths
ANNIE LEAH, born 12th Feb 1903
MARY HANNAH LEAH, born 8th May 1906
ELSIE LEAH, born ?? died ???
DORIS LEAH, born 1911, died-6mths
PHYLISS, born 1915
MALE (WILLY), born 1912, died--2wks.

ANNE LEAH DIED 1954?

My 2nd Great-Uncle was JAMES J BOOTH. Born- 12 June I843. Parents-JOHN & RUTH BOOTH.

Story as told to me by my mother.

JAMES was her Great-Uncle though she never met him. Most of this story was told to her by his daughter ALICE JANE, whom she spent a lot of time with at UPPERMILL GREENFIELD.

JAMES lived at HALLS, cottages with his wife MARGARET and their daughter, MARTHA ANNIE.

Margaret's parents lived next door and ran a dying business, using vegetable dyes.

When MARGARET became pregnant with her second child ALICE JANE, JAMES deserted them, and took up with another woman.

At this time around the early I870s the Mormons were becoming very popular in ENGLAND and were recruiting new members to their faith. Its believed that JAMES joined them and went out to SALT LAKE CITY to live.

He was a photographer and sent many photographs over to my grandmothers of his family and home.

After his fathers death, his mother RUTH and sisters SARAH & HANNAH went over to AMERICA to join him. They had an arduous journey overland which took several months.

About 1911 Sarah came over to STOCKPORT on a mission, lecturing at many Mormons meeting houses. She brought with her a child TINY MARIE whom its believed she had adopted. They stayed at my grandmas for several months.

The family heard no more news of them after the outbreak of war in 1914, and the last address they had was a box no. in Minersville, Beaver County, Utah.

The following is now fact

James Booth, son of John & Ruth, was born 12th June 1843.

MARRIAGE-Number(1)

James married Margaret Holland of The Halls Greenfield Uppermill. Jan. 10 1863.

Baptism records of ST CHADS SADDLEWORTH.

Martha Annie Booth. Alice Jane Booth

Baptized-Sept 12th, 1864 Baptized-24th July 1870 Born- 28th June 1864 Born- 26th May 1870

Parents- James & Margaret Booth. Parents-James & Margaret Booth

Abode- The Halls Abode- The Halls

Trade- Silk Dyer. Trade-Manager at Dyeworks.

Marriage-Number (2)

James married Annie Wych (Edded) and lived in Manchester.

Children-

Louise Booth, Born 1871 (Jan 4th)

James J. Booth. Born 1872 (Feb 14th) Died-20th Dec 1926.

James & Annie & the two children emigrated to America in March 1873, arriving in Salt Lake City. Utah,in April. They joined the Mormon Church & moved to Washington, Utah in the summer of 1873. Soon after they moved to St George where he made his home and took another wife. Poligamy was of course allowed in the Mormon religion until some States outlawed it.

During this period James occupation was a photographer, until the last few years of his life during which he kept a store.

Marriage- Number (3) James married Elizabeth Esther Tye of Utah, born-Illinois

Children

John Woodrow Booth. Born-6th March 1876.

James William Booth. Born-16th March 1880 in Utah. Edith Annis Booth. Born-5th January 1881 in Utah

Johnny Booth. Born-5th March 1862

Mary Booth Born-12th March 1884 in Utah.

Ruth Booth Born-13th November 1886 Died-1887.

Emma Booth Born-25th January 1892

Phoebe E Booth Born-8th December 1894 Died-1896.

James fulfilled a two year mission to England leaving St George on October 15th 1887. During this visit he returned to Uppermill and set out to find Alice Jane, the child he had never known.

A friend of hers came to the house at The Halls to tell her a gentleman wished to see her by the station. She went and spoke to him at some length, Taking a train ride to Oldham with him he told her of his life and home in America, and invited her to return there with him. After listening she told him what she thought of him and his offer and left him in the train speechless. He was never to return to Greenfield again, and Alice Jane hated him for what he had done to them.

James returned to St George in the fall of 1889 and continued to live there till his death in April 1897 at the age of 54 yrs. His Obituary was recorded in The Washington County News as follows:

James Booth, son of John and Ruth Gamble Booth, died in St George Utah on the 11th April 1897. He was born in Stockport, Cheshire, England, on

June 12th 1843, and with his wife and two children, emigrated to America in March 1873, arriving in Salt Lake City Utah, in April. and joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the 14th Ward in Salt Lake City. The same summer he moved to Washington, Utah, and soon after to St George where he has made his home ever since.

He filled an honourable two year Mission to England, leaving Salt Lake City on 15th Oct 1887, and returned in the fall of 1889. He has been an honourable, useful and consistent Latter-day Saint.

His occupation has been photography until the last few years of his life, during which time he has also kept a store and done a very creditable business in Merchandise.

He leaves two wives and six children living, while three children have preceded him to the spirit world, and a large circle of friends mourn his loss.

The funeral services were held in St George Tabernacle on the 12th April and the speakers were as follows-Wm. Atkin, Jos Orton. Rd Morris, Bp James Andras, and E. Pace, each of whom had been acquainted with the deceased a number of years and known his real worth, and spoke of his integrity to the gospel, having heard him bear his testimony to the truth of the same.

Many times he has suffered a great deal of pain in his later years, and six days prior to his demise, he too with severe pain, but at times he seemed better, yet he gained no permanent relief. A few minutes previous to his death, he walked out of one room into another and seemed better than he had been for several days. He sat down and expired without any apparent warning. He was in his own home surrounded by his family and friends. All join in sympathy with his bereaved family. Poligamy was outlawed in 1890, but existing wives remained with the family.

My 2nd Great-Uncle JAMES J. BOOTH's first wife was MARGARET HOLLAND.

Parents- Richard & Martha Holland, of THE HALLS-Uppermill. Trade-Dying Business using vegetable dyes.

Born-1836 Died- 1895 aged 59 yrs.

James would only be 21 yrs old when their first child Martha Annie was

born, and Margaret 7 yrs his senior! He was registered on the baptism certificate as Silk Dyer and lived at The Halls, so presumably worked in the family business.

Alice Jane was born in 1870, and on her baptism James was described as Manager at Dyeworks, though he had apparently left them before Alice Jane was born

Alice had a hard life looking after her sister who was an invalied all her life, she died in 1899 aged 35 yrs. Alice then married George Swallow in 1907 at Upper-Mill and they continued to live at the Halls. George was a carrier for the CO-op and he died seven years later of Pneumonia at the age of 41yrs.

Alice worked at French's mill, and in his will he left provision that she should live in the Toll Bar house belonging to the mill until she died. She died Sept 8th 1941 at the age of 71 in Ashton Infirmary, following an emergency operation for a ruptured appendix. She apparently did not come round from the anaesthetic.

Inscription on the grave at Saddleworth Church reads-

(1) Martha Bennett Died 1861 aged 26yrs. (Margarets sister)

(2) Arina Byram Died 1867 aged 87yrs (" Gt Aunt)

(3) Martha Holland Died 1893 aged 82yrs (" mother)

(4) Margaret Booth Died 1895 aged 59yrs (James wife)

(5) Martha Annie Died 1899 aged 35Yr (James daughter)

(6) George Samuel Swallow Died 1914 aged 41yrs.(Alice Janes Husband)

(7) Alice Jane Died 1941 aged 71yrs.

Here lies MARTHA BENNETT daughter of Richard & Martha Holland & wife of George S. Bennett. Departed this life at The Halls on Nov 21st 1861 aged 26yrs.

Also ANNA BYRAM aunt of Martha Holland Died Aug 23rd 1867 aged 87yrs.

Also MARTHA relict of the above named Richard Holland who died April 8th 1893 aged 82

Also MARGARET their daughter and wife of James Booth who departed this life in 1895 aged 59yrs.

Also MARTHA ANNIE daughter of the said James & Margaret Booth, who departed this life June 4th 1899 aged 35yrs.

In loving memory of GEORGE SAMUEL SWALLOW of Halls who died Nov 14th 1914 age 41.

And of ALICE JANE his wife who died Sept 8th 1941 aged 71yrs.

My 2nd Great-Aunt was SARAH BOOTH. BORN- 23rd March 1858 Parents - John & Ruth Booth.

Story as told to me by my mother.

Sarah had gone out to America with her mother and sister Hannah in the 1800s to join their brother James who was a Mormon in Utah. It had taken them some time to get there, as they worked their way across America.

Story went that Sarah had become pregnant whilst working on a farm, and had a boy. Due to her poor circumstances she left the child there to be brought up and adopted. When they arrived in Utah they lived in Minersville and Sarah married a man named Tuss. (He had been born aboard an emigrant ship and named after it)

Tuss's sister died and they adopted her five children, amongst them was Tiny Marie. She became an active member of the Mormon Church and in 1911 (approx) she came to stay at grandmas house with Tiny Marie. She was going round talking to various groups about the Mormon Religion, and whilst she was here Grandad Leah spent many months tracing the family back for her, so she could have them all baptized and placed in the Mormon register in Utah.

The last my grandmother heard from them was in 1913 at a Box no. in Minersville, but they did not correspond after the outbreak of the war in 1914.

This is now fact

Sarah Booth daughter of John Booth & Ruth was born 23rd March 1858 On October 14th 1874 she joined her brother James in America, and became a member of the Mormon Faith.

She married Tuscarora Gillins who was born at sea in June 1857. (son of William Gillins)

Sarah died in Minersville, Beaver County, Utah. in 1941 Tiny Marie is at present living in San Bernadino, California.

The following is a copy of a hand written note at the bottom of this page:

Mildred, granddaughter of Annie Both Leah, began to trace the Booth Decendants in 1980 and made contact with Fred and Marie Booth of St. George. Later that same year contact was made with tiny Marie Gillins McGinty. All contact with the family was broken in 1912.

In 1971 Annie"s daughter Molly visited her daughter Mildred in San Bernardino Ca. She left not knowing Tiny Marie lived in the same town. Tiny marie and Molly played together when Aunt Sarah took her to England in 1912.

My Great Aunt was Mary Hannah Parents - John and Ruth Booth

Story as told to me by my mother.

Mary Hannah was known as Aunt Polly. When the fammily went to America she went to live with Mr. and Mrs Richard Evans who were relations. We don't know the relationship, but we do know he was a cabinet maker and had a business at Islington Mill, High Street, Stockport. They had no children of their own and they were in some way related to the Sanderson family who were Confectioners in Park St., Stockport.

Polly was taught the trade of confectionary, and when Mr Evans died we think she must have inherited some money, as she moved to Baxendale in Lancashire. There she opened 2 confectionary shops, one in Baxendale and one in Haslingden. She married a widower named Thomas Pilkington who had a daughter, though she never lived with Tom & Polly.

Tom worked in an office and about 1896 he was granted 6 months leave in

order to visit America with Polly to see the family. They overstayed the six months as Polly was keen to stay in America, and on their return Tom lost his job.

They retired to a house in Accrington, which was near to Haslingden and my mother visited them there as a child, She remembers it was built on a hill.

When Tom died Polly returned to Stockport, she seemed to have good means inc. sets of china, silver & furniture. She came to grandma Leahs house in Dale St., and lived in the front room for about 12 months.

She was strong willed & at times interfered in family affairs, needless to say she outstayed her welcome. During the latter years her belongings were steadily sold off, and she ended life in rooms at 58, Shaw Heath, where she died of Bronchitis 3rd January, 1928.

The following is now fact. I have her Death Certificate.

My 2nd Great- Aunt was Hannah Booth Born -26th June 1861 Parents - John & Ruth Booth.

Story as told to me by my mother.

The story is the same as that told of her sister Sarah, After settling in America Hannah married a man who's surname was Thiessen. They had a large family, and also brought up two grandchildren when their daughter died.

The following is now fact.

Hannah Booth daughter of John & Ruth Booth. was born 26th June 1861. She arrived in America with her mother and sister in Oct 1874. She married August Thiessen who was born Feb 8th I854. Children were as follows-

- (1) August Thiessen born 4th May 1882 in Utah. (M) Died 26thOct 1882
- (2) Alberta Thiessen born 22nd July 1863 " " (F) Died 2nd Jan 1949
- (3) Ruby Thiessen born 7th July 1885 " " (F) Died Jan 1918
- (4) James B. Thiessen born 11th Aug 1890 " " (M) Died 25th July 1892
- (5) Jack Thiessen born 5th Oct 1892 " " (M)
- (6) Maud Nina Thiessen born 2nd Feb 1895 " " (F) Died 1967
- (7) Ruth Alby Thiessen born26th April 1897 " " (F)
- (8) Joseph. W. Thiessen born 24th June 1899 " " (M)

My 1st Great-Grandfather was JOSEPH BOOTH Born-5th Feb 1846 Parents-JOHN & RUTH BOOTH

Story as told to me by my mother.

JOSEPH married JANE BAILEY. They had four children but only one survived i.e ANNE my grandmother. After they left him, Joseph never remarried, my grandma tried to re-unite her mother and father in later years but they did not stay together long, as they had become strangers.

He spent much of his time in lodging houses until his death in JULY 1914

The following is now fact

Found in the Parish records of Saddleworth Church.
Baptism ELIZA BOOTH.
Baptised-APRIL 17th 1870
Parents- JOSEPH & JANE BOOTH.
Abode- RUSH-HILL
Trade -FISH DEALER.

My 2nd Great Grandfather was JOHN BOOTH Born-11th October 1816.
Parents-ROBERT & MARTHA BOOTH.

Story as told to me by my mother.

John was born? in Marple, and in later life met and married RUTH GAMBLE. She bore him five children:

- (1) JAMES J BOOTH born 12th June 1843.
- (2)JOSEPH BOOTH born 5th Feb 1846
- (3)MARY HANNAH BOOTH born 1852.
- (4)SARAH BOOTH born 23rd March 1858
- (5)HANNAH BOOTH born 26th June 1861.

JOHN BOOTH had a small buisness? in COMPSTALL. HE rode a pony and trap and one day whilst getting down from it, he fell over an iron hoop which had been rolled down a hill by some children. He sustained a wound on his leg which became infected, and be subsequently died of septicaemia.

The following is now fact.

JOHN BOOTH son of ROBERT & Martha BOOTH was born in MARPLE 11th Oct 1816.

He died-26th AUGUST 1870.

He was married to Ruth Gamble on 14th NOVEMBER 1841.

He & Ruth were baptised Mormons 16th June 1849.

The following is hand written at the bottom of the page:

The copy of the death certificate on John shows dysentry as cause of death. probably colitis.

My 3rd Great Grandfather was Robert Booth Born 1786? In Marple Cheshire. Married Martha Garside on 30th March 1809. Died and was bureid at All Saints Church, Marple, 23rd April 1866 age 80 years.

My 3rd Great Grandmother was Martha Garside Christen 23rd June 1788? At Marple, Cheshire. Parents James (Josiah) Garside and Elizabeth (Betty) Chatterton.

Martha's father was born 1748 in Duckinfield, Cheshire. He married Elizabeth Chatterton on 28th September 1775 in Marple.

Martha's mother Elizabeth born 1751 in Marple. Christened 2nd May 1752 in Marple Died 5th January 1817 (Age 66 years)

Marthas Grandparents Joseph Chaterton and Christened 30th Aug 1725 Where Marple Mary Beeley Christened 11th February 1727 Where Marple They were married $3^{\rm rd}$ November 1751 in Marple. Joseph was a yeoman farmer and lived high lane.

He died 8th April 1804 of dropsy and lived in High Lane at the time Buried in Marple Grave #443 P126

Marthas Great Grandparents Joseph Chatterton (the Elder) and Mary born about 1692

Buried 3rd November 1749

Buried 13th January 1764 they lived in Windlehurst High Lane

Marthas Great Grandparents George Beeley and Susanah Both born in? Marple around 1700 - 1704 They lived in Barnsfold Marple George was buried 29th August 1765 at All Saints Church Marple.

