

# **HISTORY OF JAMES DAYLEY**

March 26, 1811-July 25, 1905

*A compilation of articles by Lorna Dayley Jones,  
President of Dayley Organization 1972-1974*

As I began compiling everything that had been written about James Dayley into one history I found there had been so much written that I didn't want to leave anything out. I am giving to you all that I have been able to find on the life of James Dayley. He was born 26 March 1811, at Little Pigeon Roost, Belmont County, Ohio. His father drowned February 10, 1811, a little over a month before James was born.

We find in early church records the spelling of the last name as Daly. We have reasons to believe that James changed the spelling of his last name from Daly to Dayley. As you read through these histories you will notice that some of the dates and places do not agree with each other. We are at this time trying to determine the right ones.

We have several possibilities of where James' father came from:

1. Pennsylvania
2. The upper tip of West Virginia
3. Belmont County, Ohio (could have been going back home)
4. We have had an indication that he was born in Germany.

We know that someday soon that through our faith and prayers as a family organization and all of our combined efforts we will be able to find out more about our ancestors.

James Dayley, son of Jacob Dayley and Elizabeth Baker, born in Little Pigeon Roost, Belmont County, Ohio, 26 March 1811. His grandfather, George Baker while a soldier under George Washington's command was severely wounded and scalped. His father was drowned on 10 of February 1811, a little over a month before James was born. He left home at the age of eight and lived with his grandfather and grandmother a short time, and then went to Pennsylvania and was married to Miss Isabelle McBride, married 18 March 1834. He was baptized by Thomas Trip as a convert of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at Johnstown, Licking County, Ohio, 10 February

1834. They cut a hole through the ice to baptize him.

He moved from there to Kirtland, Ohio. Not long after he arrived at Ohio he became a body guard to the Prophet Joseph Smith. He was sent to Haun's Mill, Missouri to protect the Grist Mill, on the 30th August 1838. The Haun's Mill massacre took place in which 16 people were killed. His wife's father, Thomas McBride included. He helped bury the sixteen who were killed. From there he moved to Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. The mob took him and severely treated him trying to get him to testify against the Prophet Joseph Smith. He carried the scars to his grave.

He moved to Nauvoo in 1839 and afterward he moved across the river into Iowa. While working at Nauvoo the mob set fire to his home, driving his wife and children out into the snow during February's severe cold. Later on he moved to Winter Quarters at Nebraska on the west side of the Missouri River. The land was owned by Potawatome Indians. While here one of his sons died. In the spring of 1852 he left for Utah; arriving there in the fall of 1852 locating in Grantsville. In 1877 he came to Idaho.

Later in 1879 he moved his family to the Basin, Cassia County, Idaho. Died 21 July 1905. He and his family went to Salt Lake City to do temple work and while coming home he said to his son Nephi "My work is done and I am ready to die." Not more than a week after he went to sleep and died.

THIS IS WRITTEN ON THE TOMBSTONE OF JAMES DAYLEY

James Dayley B. 26 Mar. 1811 D. 25 July 1905

Son Jacob and Elizabeth Baker Dayley

"Resting Till the Glorious Resurrection Morn."

James Dayley was baptized into the Mormon Church 1834, while it was still in its infancy. He saw no end of persecution and hardships, even the massacre of Henry Hardman's Co. at Haun's Mill, of which only five remained alive. One of Joseph Smith's body guards, he was present at obsequies. He survived all this, and lived to a ripe old age. At a recent family reunion several hundred were present.

## **More information about James Dayley**

*(Compiled from sketches and stories of his life  
told by his children and others who knew him.)*

James Dayley was born the 26 of March 1811 at what was known as Little Pigeon Roost, Belmont County, Ohio. He was the son of Jacob Dayley, (who was drowned a short time before the birth of his son), and Elizabeth Baker Dayley.

In February 1834 he was baptized into the church, after which he was associated with the Prophet Joseph Smith until the assassination of the latter. He went through all the persecutions of Ohio, Illinois, and Missouri, At one time the Prophet promised him that if he would be faithful he would live till he was satisfied with days and that bullets would fly around him like hail. This was fulfilled at the Haun's Mill Massacre, The bullets pierced his hat crown and brim, passed through his coat between his arm and body, and through his pant legs. At this terrible massacre his father-in-law, Thomas McBride was shot with his gun that was taken from him and hacked up with a corn cutter.

James Dayley and his brother-in-law, Amos McBride assisted in putting the eighteen bodies of the saints that were slain in a well where their bones rest today. The bodies were put there to keep them from being destroyed by a herd of hogs the mob was bringing up to the mill for that purpose. He dedicated the well as a grave. James Dayley, Amos McBride, and David Lewis were taken prisoners, kept, tormented and harassed for a few days and then set at liberty.

At one time James Dayley was a body guard for the Prophet, along with Orin P. Rockwell and others. On the 24 of February 1839 they left the place and started for Illinois with their families and traveled about nine miles, it was extremely cold. While camped there they were informed that the guns the mob had taken from them, had been taken to Richmond on Clay County, and that they could get them by describing them and paying sixty cents each for them. James McBride and James Dayley went to get them, it was three days of very hard traveling in the cold.

After a long hard journey across the plains with his family and others James Dayley arrived in Salt Lake October 4, 1850. Soon after his arrival in Salt Lake he located in Grantsville, where his wife Isabelle died and was buried. He moved to Cache Valley and back to Grantsville a couple of times and finally settled at, Basin, Cassia

County, Idaho. He was active in the church all his life and was the father of twenty-five children.

He took his family to the temple and had them sealed to him. On the way back home he said that he was ready to go now that his work was done. Soon after this he was taken ill. One day he was wandering around out in the field. His son-in-law, Jack Hunt, went out and brought him in. He was put to bed and in about a week he passed away at the age of ninety- four years.