

## Joseph Davis

Joseph Davis was born 8 September 1857 in Springville, Utah, Utah Territory.<sup>1</sup> He was the youngest of six children of Rees William Davies and Margaret Walters. His family joined the Mormon Church two years before he was born. His mother died when he was two years old and his father remarried a widow with seven children.<sup>2</sup> On the 1860 census, Joseph was living with his father, stepmother, step uncle, four step siblings, and four siblings, in Springville, Utah, Utah Territory.<sup>3</sup>

His father died a few months later and his stepmother remarried in 1868. Joseph was thirteen years old and working as a laborer for the family of Benjamin and Ann Taylor in Springville in 1870.<sup>4</sup> By 1880, he was a miner, living in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.<sup>5</sup> On the 1900 census, he was a gold miner, living in Spokane, Spokane, Washington.<sup>6</sup> He and four other men went to the placer mine of the south Fork Hydraulic Mining Company on the south fork of the Salmon River. They developed the mine during the winter and ran a water ditch to it.<sup>7</sup>

Joseph died of a cerebral hemorrhage (stroke) after a fall on the sidewalk. His head struck the curb; he was unconscious for some time, but autopsy showed that his skull had not been fractured. He died in the county hospital at Ely, White Pine, Nevada, on 11 October 1913. He was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.<sup>8</sup>

Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, 016  
Please email [eyoung@youngzones.org](mailto:eyoung@youngzones.org) for additions and corrections

---

<sup>1</sup> Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946; Utah, Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949.

<sup>2</sup> *Familysearch.org*

<sup>3</sup> United States Census, 1860.

<sup>4</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>5</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>6</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>7</sup> *Colfax Gazette*, 2 November 1900, p. 5.

<sup>8</sup> Nevada Death Records, 1911-1965; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946; Utah Cemetery Inventory, 1847-2000; *Salt Lake Telegram*, 15 October 1913, p. 3; *Reno Gazette-Journal*, 15 October 1913, p. 2.