

Malissa Jane Dodge Boyer

Malissa Jane Dodge was born 24 April 1854 in Manti, Sanpete, Utah Territory. She was the third of ten children of Augustus Erastus Dodge and Marian Wallace Clark. In 1860, Malissa was living with her family in Manti, Sanpete, Utah Territory.¹ Her father built a five-room rock home in Manti, with a cellar under it, finishing it in 1861. He was immediately called to go to Dixie. The family travelled by three wagons and settled in Toquerville, Washington, Utah Territory, where they lived in their wagons for the first year.²

Malissa's father built a brick home and they planted sorghum cane, corn, a fruit orchard, fig and almond trees, and a vineyard. Her father hauled his fruit to Pioche, Nevada, to sell it, and was known throughout Utah and Nevada for his fine fruit and grapes. He was also an early banker for the miners in Pioche. He would carry silver with him and exchange it for gold with a dollar fee. Many of these Pioche miners later came to Silver Reef and visited him in Toquerville.³ In 1870, the family of five children was living in Toquerville. The next year, the children got the measles, which exhausted her mother, so Malissa and her sister Mary took care of three little boys for a few days.⁴

On the 1880 census, Malissa was living with her family in Springdale, Kane, Utah Territory.⁵ She was asked to help with a family living in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, and that is where she met her husband. They married in December 1880 in Silver Reef. They had six children, five of whom were born in Silver Reef.⁶ The family lived in Silver Reef from 1881 to at least 1890, with four children born there. William leased the Stormy King mine there in 1881. By 1898, they were living in Mammoth, Juab, Utah.⁷

By 1900, the family was living in Silver City, Juab, Utah, where her husband was a carpenter and her oldest son was a miner. William died of tuberculosis in 1907 in Silver City and was buried in the Eureka Cemetery.⁸ Malissa lived with her four children in Silver City in 1910. Her oldest son was working as a miner.⁹ She received a widow's pension in 1915.¹⁰ In 1920, she was living with her youngest son, a miner, in Silver City.¹¹ By 1930, she was living alone in Silver City.¹² She moved to Pioche, Nevada, where she died 23 December 1933. She was buried in the Eureka Cemetery.¹³

¹ United States Census, 1860.

² Miracles Do Happen, at *Familysearch.org*; Marion Wallace Clark, at *Familysearch.org*

³ Ibid.

⁴ Marion Wallace Clark, at *Familysearch.org*

⁵ United States Census, 1880.

⁶ *Familysearch.org*

⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 16 July 1881, p. 5; US Census of Union Veterans and Widows of the Civil War, 1890; US World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918; *Familysearch.org*

⁸ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.

⁹ United States Census, 1910.

¹⁰ US Civil War Pension Index, 1861-1934.

¹¹ United States Census, 1920.

¹² United States Census, 1930.

¹³ *Findagrave.com*



(Image from *Findagrave.com*)

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