

## Henry William Miles

Henry William Miles was born 24 November 1862 in Newington, Surrey, England. He was the oldest of four children of John Henry William Miles and Jane Mary Wyatt. His father owned a pub in London near Piccadilly Circus. John had a legitimate wife and six children – and four illegitimate children by Jane Wyatt.<sup>1</sup> In 1871, Jane and her three sons were living in a small cottage in a ghetto in London, where she was working as a dressmaker and needlewoman.<sup>2</sup> As a boy, Henry worked in a London printing office, reading galley proofs by famous authors. He developed a love of good books.<sup>3</sup>

Henry's older half-brother John was a midshipman who joined the Mormon Church in Australia and then emigrated to Utah Territory, where President Brigham Young sent him to work on the St George Temple. He was then called on a mission to England. While he was there, his father died, and John inherited the estate. It was at this point that John learned of his father's other family. He visited the family, where Henry learned that his father had been a wealthy saloon owner. John moved Jane and her sons to Bishop's Grove in the heart of London, where she began keeping house for the Mormon missionaries.<sup>4</sup>

In September 1878, John, Jane, and her four children sailed from Liverpool to New York City on the ship *Wyoming*.<sup>5</sup> They crossed the plains to the Great Salt Lake Valley by train and then traveled two weeks by wagon to reach St George, Washington, Utah Territory.<sup>6</sup> Jane and her children joined the Mormon Church and used the name Miles from then on. Everyone in the family had to work – Henry worked as a teamster driving mule teams over rough mountain roads. worked for the firm of Woolley, Lund and Judd. On the 1880 census, Henry was a farm laborer, living with his half-brother in St George, Washington, Utah Territory.<sup>7</sup>

By 1896, Henry had moved to De Lamar, Lincoln, Nevada.<sup>8</sup> He was the manager of the Whitehead Miles & Company.<sup>9</sup> In 1900, he was a bookkeeper, lodging with the Frank Swindler family in De Lamar.<sup>10</sup> The next year, he married Margaret Elizabeth Clinton in Lincoln, Nevada.<sup>11</sup> They had one daughter. He was made a US citizen this year.<sup>12</sup>

As merchants, Henry and his partner George C Fetterman erected a large stone structure with an interior that "excelled anything in eastern Nevada" with a business that provided "every need in the world of mining". He also served as editor of The Lode newspaper until 1903.<sup>13</sup> By 1908 they had moved to Goldfield, Esmeralda, Nevada, where he continued as a grocery merchant.<sup>14</sup> About 1913 the family moved to Reno, Washoe, Nevada.

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<sup>1</sup> "Silk Hat to Survival," a history of John Horne Miles, at *Familysearch.org*

<sup>2</sup> England and Wales Census, 1871.

<sup>3</sup> *Familysearch.org*

<sup>4</sup> "Silk Hat to Survival," a history of John Horne Miles, at *Familysearch.org*

<sup>5</sup> New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957.

<sup>6</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 10 December 1968, p. 12.

<sup>7</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>8</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 28 May 1996, p. 3.

<sup>9</sup> *Pioche Record*, 18 August 1898, p. 1.

<sup>10</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>11</sup> Nevada County Marriages, 1862-1993.

<sup>12</sup> United States Census, 1930.

<sup>13</sup> *Nevada State Journal*, 27 September 1903, p. 7.

<sup>14</sup> *Daily Appeal*, 18 September 1908, p. 1; United States Census, 1910.

Henry had worked for a living and had little chance for schooling, but he was studious and self-trained for a job in the library.<sup>15</sup> On the 1930 census, Henry was a librarian at Reno's Washoe County Public Library.<sup>16</sup> Margaret died in 1940 in Reno and was buried there. Henry continued living in Reno and working for the library until he retired in 1941.<sup>17</sup> He died in 1950 in Reno and was buried there.<sup>18</sup>



Henry, Arthur and George Miles (image from *Familysearch.org*)



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<sup>15</sup> *Washington County News*, 23 January 1941.

<sup>16</sup> United States Census, 1930.

<sup>17</sup> US City Directories, 1822-1995; United States Census, 1940.

<sup>18</sup> Nevada Death Certificates, 1911-1965.