

JOSEPH FRANCIS MEIK

Joseph Francis Meik was born 21 May 1853 in Calcutta, West Bengal, India.¹ He was the youngest of five children of James Patrick Meik and Mary Anne Francis (his father had a previous wife and eight children). His parents were both born in India²; his father was a doctor and a lieutenant in the British Army. When his father retired in 1842, he was a builder and architect, and a member of the “Plymouth Brethren”, a Baptist sect in Calcutta. Two Mormon sailors attended one of their meetings and introduced him and others to the Mormon Church.

In 1851, Joseph’s parents were two of the first four people in India to join the Mormon Church. His father was disinherited from his family at that point but was the main stay of the Hindoostan or East India Mission.³ His father translated the Book of Mormon and was a stalwart member of the local branch of the Church. Joseph’s mother died when he was four years old, and when he was eleven, his father sent him to America. Joseph’s older siblings all stayed in India or later moved to England.⁴

Joseph traveled to America with a wealthy widow named McMann or McMahan. They drove an ox team from Wyoming, Nebraska, across the plains in the Captain Henson Walker Company (about 200 people), arriving 9 November 1865.⁵ Dr. Matthew McCune (baptized at the same time as his parents) brought Joseph to Nephi for schooling. Joseph’s father remarried and went to Nephi to see his son and found that he was getting no schooling, so he brought him home and sent him to the School of Deseret in Salt Lake City.⁶ In 1871, he was listed as a “boy” student (versus a “gentleman” student) in their school catalog.⁷

Later, Joseph went to Silver Reef to work for a year. He returned to Salt Lake, married Ann Hutchison in 1880, and took her back to Silver Reef. Ann was a Scottish immigrant who joined the Mormon Church. They had four children during their time in Silver Reef. Their infant daughter Mary was buried in the Silver Reef Protestant Cemetery. In 1889, they moved back to Salt Lake City, where Joseph was naturalized as a citizen⁸ and worked as a teamster. They lived at 1127 East Fifth South.⁹ One more child was born to their union there. In 1895, Joseph purchased land in Taylorsville and rented it out. In 1906 he filed suit against the renters, claiming that they had allowed their cattle to rub against the trees and damage them.¹⁰ He also homesteaded 160 acres of land in Salt Lake in 1901.¹¹

In 1910, Joseph was a farmer, living with his wife and two adult children in West Jordan, Salt Lake, Utah.¹² In 1915, he went to court to claim assault and battery by R. R. Ricks.¹³ In 1918, he was acquitted from charges of cruelty to seven sheep whom appeared to be neglected in his corral in Emigration Canyon. The investigating veterinarian found the deaths were due to a lung disease.¹⁴ On

¹ Salt Lake County Utah Death Records, 1908-1949; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946.

² United States Census, 1910.

³ *Deseret News*, 13 September 1876. For more information, see *Nothing More Heroic*, by R. Lanier Britsch.

⁴ Robert Skelton Journal, MSS 1597, BBYU Special Collection, p. 1261; Notes from Julie Kay Taylor Petersen on *Familysearch.org*

⁵ Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel 1847-1868

⁶ History of John and Caroline Eagle Hutchison family by their granddaughter Mary C. Hutchison Fullmer; Genealogy of James Patrick Meik from Millennial Star article Nov 1946.

⁷ US School Catalogs, 1765-1935.

⁸ *Deseret Evening News*, 5 December 1889, p. 3

⁹ US City Directories, 1822-1996; Utah Directory, 1890: Salt Lake City, Logan, and Provo.

¹⁰ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 5 October 1895, p. 7; *Salt Lake Herald*, 31 January 1906, p. 10.

¹¹ US Homestead Records, 1863-1908; US General Land Office Records, 1776-2015.

¹² United States Census, 1910.

¹³ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 20 July 1915, p. 3.

¹⁴ *Salt Lake Telegram*, 25 July 1918, p. 2; *Salt Lake Herald-Republican*, 11 July 1918, p. 12.

the 1920 census, Joseph was a general laborer, living with his wife in Salt Lake City.¹⁵ In 1921, he lived at 435 9th East in Salt Lake City and from 1924-1927 he lived at 1008 South West Temple.¹⁶

Ann died at home in 1927 and was buried in the Salt Lake Cemetery.¹⁷ Joseph moved to his daughter's home in Oakland, California, and died there 15 March 1928.¹⁸ He was buried in the Salt Lake Cemetery.¹⁹



3 generations of the Joseph Francis Meik family (image from *Familysearch.org*)

¹⁵ United States Census, 1920.

¹⁶ US City Directories, 1822-1995.

¹⁷ *Salt Lake Telegram*, 16 May 1927, p. 3.

¹⁸ California Death Index, 1905-1939; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946; Utah Death Registers, 1847-1966; *Salt Lake Telegram*, 17 March 1928; Salt Lake County Utah Death Records, 1908-1949.

¹⁹ Utah Cemetery Inventory, 1847-2000; US Cemetery Index from Selected States, 1847-2010; History of John and Caroline Eagle Hutchison family by their granddaughter Mary C. Hutchison Fullmer.



Tombstone of daughter buried in Silver Reef Protestant Cemetery (image by Deven Lewis, 2019)

4-196.

HOMESTEAD.

Land Office at *Salt Lake City*
January 10, 1901

FINAL CERTIFICATE No. <i>6993</i>	APPLICATION No. <i>11861</i>
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It is hereby certified That, pursuant to the provisions of Section No. 2291, Revised Statutes of the United States, *Joseph F Meik* has made payment in full for *80%*

of Section No. *12*, in Township No. *3 South*, of Range No. *2 West*, of the *Salt Lake* Principal Meridian *Utah*, containing *160* acres.

Now, therefore, be it known, That on presentation of this certificate to the COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, the said *Joseph F Meik* shall be entitled to a patent for the tract of land above described.

James D. Webb
Register.

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(Image from US Homestead Records, 1863-1908)



(Image from *Familysearch.org*)

Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, 2019
Please contact eyoung@youngzones.org for additions and corrections