

ROBERT MILLIGAN HAYNIE ,

PIONEER MERCHANT

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in
him; and he shall bring it to pass."
-- Psalms 37:5

I have told you before about my paternal grandfather, Robert Milligan Haynie. He was orphaned as a teenager and had to provide for himself in a frontier country. To some, he appeared to be stubborn but, as I look upon his life, I am convinced he was firm in his convictions, not stubborn. He made a commitment to serve the Lord and to live the Gospel and he did, and he worked hard to provide for his family.

This man, Robert Milligan Haynie, is the great-great-grandfather of my grandchildren.

* * * * *

Following is his autobiography which he wrote toward the end of his life:

"During the first year of the Civil War, I was born 19 October 1861 in the rural district of Franklin County, Georgia. At that time, my father was in the War as a Confederate Soldier.

Soon after my birth, my mother moved with her parents to Marshall County, Alabama. We lived there a few years after my father returned from the War, and then moved to Floyd County, Georgia. On 6 November 1876, my father died, leaving my mother with a large family. The following year, my mother and several other members of the family joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In March, 1879, the family moved to the San Luis Valley in the south-central part of Colorado. This place had been selected by the authorities of the Church as a gathering place for the Saints from the southern states. We settled there where the town of Manassa is now located.

On 16 May 1879, two months after arriving in Colorado, my mother died, leaving her family in a cold and desolate country, not acquainted with the climate or the customs of its few inhabitants, and not equipped with food, or shelter and clothing to withstand the difficulties. We were left in this new country to struggle for ourselves with no earthly help, but with a willingness to work. I would take my bed upon my back and walk for miles to get work at railroad tie camps, mines or surveying outfits. Some of this time, I helped my brother in the blacksmith shop.

On 29 August 1886, seven years after our arrival in Colorado, I joined the Church and, in January, 1888, I started on a mission to the southern states. For two years, I traveled as a missionary, paying my own expenses, and accepting what assistance was offered by the people I labored among. I enjoyed my labors as a missionary, received valuable information, and gained a testimony of the Gospel, which has been a great help to myself and family. I returned from my mission 22 March 1890 and, five months later, I was married to Lydia Belinda Stover on 17 August 1890.

From March, 1890, until October, 1904, I worked as a blacksmith, my shop being located in Manassa. In September, 1900, I added to the supplies and materials used in blacksmithing a small store in connection with the shop. In 1904, the shop was discontinued and my whole time was spent as a merchant. The store developed into a general merchandising establishment and has been continued since by myself and my sons under the name of Haynie Hardware Company.

Our family consists of five sons and three daughters. Our eldest daughter died in childhood and our second daughter died in Saint Joseph, Missouri, while filling a mission for the Church.

I have faith in the Gospel and have tried to bring my life into subjection to its laws and teachings. From 1905 until 1914, I worked as a counselor to Bishop Samuel Jackson in the Manassa Ward. It has been my duty and privilege to hold many offices in the Church and in the community. In my time, I have labored much in the Sunday School and with the young people in the community, and as a trainer of teachers for the auxiliary organizations. My later years have been given to genealogy and temple work. Much of my time, efforts and means have been expended in gathering records and doing temple work for my ancestors,



-91-

and in helping others do the same. I have assisted in temple ordinances for many thousands of people.

I have lived more than the allotted years of man, and have taken my labors with much joy. I have lived to see much good as the result of my labors. I hope to live as long as I can be useful and am not a burden to others. When my usefulness is over, I am ready to pass on into the next state of eternal life."

* * * * *