

Daniel and son John Pittman

Mother's sister Alice Pittman Padfield wrote about a picture. It is a scene after the Scofield Mine Disaster, May 1, 1900. The two caskets were those of Daniel Pittman and his son John, both killed in this disaster. It was taken in Winter Quarters, Scofield, Utah. The date I have says the picture was taken on May 4, 1900. This picture was taken as they were waiting for the train to take the bodies of Daniel and John to Spanish Fork for burial.

The mine explosion also took the lives of Daniel's two brothers, John and Meshich Pittman and Daniel and Mary Ann Pittman's son-in-law, Thomas Patfield, the husband of their daughter, Alice Pittman Patfield.

Waiting across the bridge is Daniel Pittman Jr., 3 years 3 months. Mary Anne 5 years (daughter), Mary Ann Boyack Pittman (mother) and Ellen Pittman 11 ½ years old (daughter). (Also spelled Pitman) The two homes in the rear are Daniel and Mary Ann's and Daniel's parents. Notice the coffin in front of the home. On the left is Meshich's.

Looking out of the window is the son of Meshich, Jim, 8 years, who was orphaned by this tragedy. Jim and his two brothers were in a sense abducted and taken into Canada while the family was gone to Spanish Fork for the burial.

This was a very narrow canyon with the homes built on the hillside and the stream running down the center, with the railroad tracks to the side. Jim and Ellen were on the hillside gathering pinecones, when they heard the explosion. They ran to the mine to see what happened. Daniel Jr. had measles. His Mother, Mary Ann was rocking him and couldn't leave him to see what it was all about. She was very vexed to think Ellen didn't come in and tend Dan, the baby, so she could go to see what was going on. She lost her husband, her son-in-law, and son.

She had to make all of their mourning clothes and to see to everything herself, for there wasn't a family in Scofield who wasn't touched, losing a dear one or dear ones. She was a most remarkable woman, this Mary Ann Boyack Pittman

Afton Felt

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