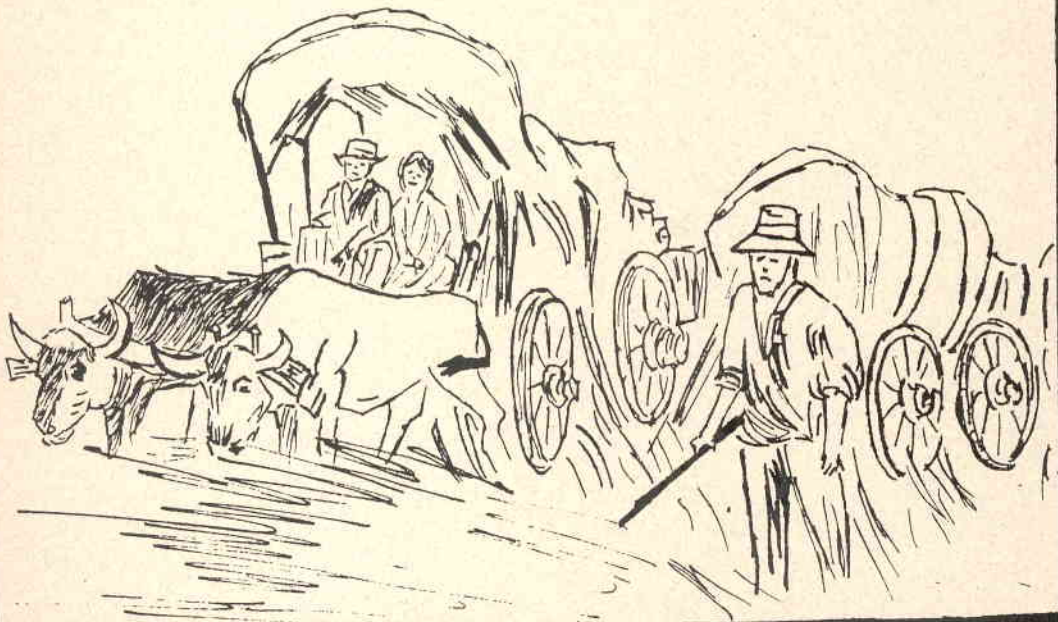


My Kin

It was ~~was~~ they, this eager questioning
of men who perished in a cause divine,
Of women fragile instruments of fate,
To usher in a new race, strong and straight
a tribe of gallant leaders, still unbowed -
Of these am I - why should I not be proud?



Taggart Family Newsletter

Volume I, Number 1
September 1980



I. George Washington Taggart Family Reunion

Our bi-annual reunion was held in Morgan, Utah, August 9, 1980, the historic family seat of the George Washington Taggart family.

Jay B. Taggart, Superintendent of the Morgan County School System, as Chairman, was in charge of all arrangements. We wish not only to commend him on a very successful reunion, but also to express our appreciation for his efforts in bringing us together as family. The reunion reminded us that we all share much in common as one big family, such as pride of ancestry and shared values.

Jay estimated 325 attended, as all 300 name tags were used and many didn't wear one. Moreover, 250 were served lunch and 70 breakfast. The reunion was noteworthy for the number of young people in attendance. Those attending ranged in age from infants a few months old to one who was 87 years. This was Scott Taggart who, with his wife, Nida, almost 83 at the time, graced our reunion. Scott, our Family's Patriarch, is the sole surviving child of the sixteen children of George Henry and Jessie McNiven Taggart.

With Jay conducting, Scott was called on to address members at the morning session. He related how his parents were called by the Church authorities to go to the Big Horn as pioneers to help settle that region of Wyoming. He recalled the hardships, the joys, the failures, the successes and how our family in that area have become leaders and pillars of strength.

Scott also recalled his experiences as a missionary for the Church. First, during World War I in Switzerland, how he was loaned part-time by the Church to the American Legation because of his knowledge of Switzerland and his facility in the German language. He added that during those long years of the war, Nida waited for his return so that they could be married. Secondly, how he and Nida, at the end of World War II, were called to preside over the Swiss-Austrian Mission and how the Lord blessed and facilitated their labors in behalf of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The morning session was concluded with a talk by Spencer L. Taggart on our common ancestor, George Washington Taggart. So many requests have been received for copies of this talk that we have decided to print it in this Newsletter.

In the afternoon we were entertained with a one-hour musical program of narration, song and dance entitled: "Taggarts . . . Through the Ages". It was written by Christi Taggart, and with one or two exceptions, all performers were grandchildren of Jay Taggart Senior. Commendations to Christi and the entire cast for their excellent program!

II. Actions Taken at the Reunion

1. The next Taggart reunion will be held in Ogden in 1982. George Taggart Frost was appointed chairman.

2. Jay B. Taggart was named chairman of a committee to oversee the repair and upgrading of the grave markers of George Washington Taggart and his wives, Fanny Parks and Clarissa Marina Rogers. They are buried in Morgan East Cemetery.

3. At a post-reunion business meeting, it was decided that the following actions should be taken to strengthen the George Washington Taggart Family Organization:

a. Lloyd W. Taggart, P.O. Box 14697, Las Vegas, Nevada 89114, was named Membership Chairman. One of our urgent needs at present is an up-to-date roster of family units, by name and address. Specifically, we would like to have the names and addresses of individual family units of all the descendants of George Washington Taggart's children, as follows:

George Albert Goodrich and Eliza Ann Taggart Goodrich
and Harriet Maria Taggart Goodrich
George Henry Taggart and Jessie McNiven Taggart
Charles Wallace Taggart and Mary Susanna Seaman Taggart
William Brigham and Clarissa Marina Taggart Parkinson
George and Sarah Jane Taggart Heiner
Noah Albert and Sarah Maria Kingston Taggart
William Hendricks and Julia Maria Taggart Lewis
Marcus and Sarah Florence Bright Taggart
James and Valeria Ann Laird Taggart
John Wesley and Alice Janette Taggart Bright
Henry Milton and Mary Laird Taggart
Frederick and Eulalie Ardella Leavitt Taggart

Would a descendant of each of these children please assume responsibility for gathering this data by separate family units and send it on to Lloyd who will maintain a central file on all family members.

b. Hal Taggart, P. O. Box 798, Powell, Wyoming 82435, was named Family Treasurer. It was also decided to levy Family Membership dues of \$5 per year for each family unit. Donations will also be accepted. Please send all dues and donations to Hal. We cannot do much as a family organization without funds. For example, such as publishing a newsletter, or holding a family reunion without advance funding by the Chairman, (we had a balance of \$60 from the reunion to pass on to George to assist him with the 1982 reunion) much less hire a professional genealogist to assist with family research.

c. Spencer L. Taggart, 1430 Maple Drive, Logan, Utah 84321, was named Editor of the Taggart Family Newsletter. The primary purpose of our Newsletter is to help us keep in touch as family. We are hopeful that it will become a family organ for sharing and communicating with one another and for bringing us all closer together. We want all to be accounted for - no one should be lost or left out. Our first issue of the Newsletter has been published in 500 copies. If more than 500

separate family units can be identified, subsequent issues will be published in sufficient copies to send one to each family. The Taggart Family Newsletter will be published every six months or twice each year. Please send items of interest to Spencer.

Memoria in Aeterna

The absence of Grant and Fern Snell Taggart was deeply felt at the reunion, both having died since our reunion in 1978 in Salt Lake City. They were much loved and respected and were a source of great inspiration and strength to us. As a reminder of them, I would like to share with you this statement from Grant: "Make every occasion a great occasion. For you never know when someone is taking your measure for a higher or lower place in life".

The Grant Taggart Memorial Fund has been established at the Brigham Young University to sponsor lectures, seminars, workshops, etc. for interested students, faculty, and members of the University community as well as of the life insurance industry. The sum of almost \$30,000 has already been contributed to this Memorial. Taggart Family Members can participate in and support this most worthy and appropriate Memorial to Grant by sending in their own contributions - be they small or large. Please send them to the Grant Taggart Memorial in care of Hal Taggart (address as given above).

GEORGE WASHINGTON TAGGART
(Taggart Reunion, August 9, 1980, Morgan, Utah)
(By Spencer L. Taggart)

George Washington Taggart was the eldest son in a family of six sons born to Washington Taggart and his wife, Susanna Law, of Sharon and Peterborough, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire. George's grandfather, James Taggart, had served in the Revolutionary War with the rank of Lieutenant and, presumably because of his admiration of General George Washington, had named his youngest son, George's father, Washington. George's father, in turn, again presumably because of that same admiration and desire to pass on his own given name, gave his first son the name of George Washington.

George was baptized in December 1841 and was the first of his family to join the Church. His parents and a brother, Oliver, were baptized the following year. Oliver died a year later at age nineteen. George, with his parents, and young bride, Harriet Atkins Bruce, moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, in June 1843, where they could be with the main body of the Church. But in Nauvoo tragedy struck again, George finding it necessary to bury not only his parents but also his wife, leaving a one-year old daughter, Eliza Ann.

Of George's remaining four brothers, Reuben died in infancy; Henry joined the first contingent of volunteers from Peterborough to fight on the side of the Union in the War between the States and was killed in the Second Battle of Bull Run in Virginia; Albert and Samuel remained in New Hampshire without ever joining the Church. Samuel was the Great Grandfather of

Frank Beverstock who still lives in Peterborough. In 1978 Frank and his wife Elinor visited George's descendants in Utah.

While still in Nauvoo, George met a beautiful girl, not quite eighteen, from Livonia, New York, and married her in July 1845. This young girl was Fanny Parks who, of course, adopted little Eliza Ann whom she reared as her own daughter. Fanny's first child was a daughter, Harriet Maria. This daughter and Eliza Ann grew up together and were always very close. In fact, they later married the same man, George Albert Goodrich. Fanny was also blessed with the birth of two sons, George Henry and Charles Wallace. In company with their parents, these two young sons, together with their older sisters, crossed the plains, arriving in Salt Lake Valley in 1852.

But I am a bit ahead of the story. Before George and Fanny could devote themselves to having their own family and making their marriage prosper, they were called upon to endure a separation of almost two years. George was a member of the Nauvoo Legion and frequently had been called on to bear arms for the protection of the Saints. Thus, in February 1846, when Brigham Young and many of the Saints started to leave Nauvoo in preparation for the exodus westward, George was called to act as a guard for the artillery in the first company that left Nauvoo, leaving his young bride behind to follow later. When it appeared that George and Fanny were about to be rejoined together, he was again called to serve; this time in the Mormon Battalion, making it another year-and-a-half before they could take up their lives together.

Once George and Fanny and family had located in the Salt Lake Valley, George was employed by Brigham Young to build a grist or flour mill. George also helped to build the Chase flour mill which stands in Liberty Park as a reminder of the industry and skill of our pioneer ancestors. He worked one summer on the Salt Lake Temple - he had also helped to build the Nauvoo Temple - and also assisted in building flour mills in Bountiful, Farmington and Brigham City; and when he moved to Morgan County, he also built a mill in Richville with the help of the Hinman brothers.

One of George's sons, James (son of Clarissa) stated that his father "... was very neat and precise in his work, and when it was completed it was done right and needed no remodeling. I remember" James continued, "...hearing him tell of doing a piece of work for Brigham Young and doing it according to instructions. After doing the work twice from the two different plans as directed, it proved to be unsatisfactory, whereupon he was told by Brigham Young, 'George, tear it up and do it to suit yourself'. He did and to the satisfaction of all concerned".

Commenting on his father's building of the Richville mill with Morgan and Henry Hinman, who were from Farmington, James recalled: "They were fine men and we as children always enjoyed their company. They used to be with us in our home for a week or more at a time. They both became patriarchs in the Church and were beloved by all who knew them".

With respect to the mill itself, James recorded that it served the people of Morgan County and nearby areas for "... twenty or thirty years. After having been discarded, it was torn down by ... Frederick Clark. He had done considerable carpenter work in his day and said it was the best piece of work he had ever seen, for all the joints were fitted as though they were grown that way, and the timbers were all hewn and fitted with the broad ax".

George, like many of his male descendants, must have had an eye for beauty, especially for a beautiful woman. For when he was forty years old, he married another beautiful woman, twenty-year old Clarissa Marina Rogers. This union was blessed with twelve children: three died in infancy, and nine lived to maturity, having large families of their own; namely, Clarissa Parkinson, Sara Jane Heiner, Noah Albert, Julia Maria Lewis, Marcus, James, Alice Janette Bright, Henry Milton, and Frederick. At the time his last child was born, George was over sixty.

Son James further reminisced: "Father thought a lot of those early leaders (Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball) and they had much confidence in him. ...He had implicit faith and trust in them, which I have always thought influenced his family for good".

"He was talented in music" James continued, "and when he enlisted in the Mormon Battalion, he enlisted as a fifer, making his own instrument. He was also capable of making violins, guitars, and other instruments.

"I have heard him tell of going with those that went to Carthage for the two bodies of Prophet Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith to bring them to Nauvoo, and I have heard him play the tunes he helped to play in the band that were played when they marched into Nauvoo with the bodies. This would cause us to picture in our minds the awful event of the martyrdom."

James added: "My father. . . was firm but kind for when he told any of us children to do anything, we knew he meant for us to do it. He was honest in his dealings, and expected honesty in return when dealing with others. He was always willing to make a wrong right . . . a characteristic I have always admired in him . . ."

Daughter Alice recalled that her mother, Clarissa, " . . . would never allow any of the children to say a word against their father, to criticize him in any way, in her presence".

Alice also has left us this description: "My father had beautiful clear blue eyes, and his hair was black, with only a little gray in it when he died".

Wherever George lived he was active in church work as well as being a community builder. He held leadership positions in a number of Quorums of Seventy as well as serving as a High Councilman in the Morgan Stake.

While still in Nauvoo, George was given a Patriarchal Blessing by Hyrum Smith, Patriarch of the Church. This was on January 30, 1844, about five months before Hyrum and the Prophet Joseph were slain in the Carthage jail. In the Blessing, George was given many wonderful promises, among them: "You shall be blessed in lineage of your posterity, and your name shall be commemorated unto the latest generation . . ."

Indeed, this is what we, his descendants are doing this day - this very moment. Why? Yes, Why? Perhaps it is best explained by George himself in a letter to Fanny from Fort Leavenworth (August 6, 1946) while in the Mormon Battalion: ". . . I feel concerned for fear I have left you to suffer, but I feel at the same time as though I was justified in the course I have taken inasmuch as I have forsaken all things as it were for the time being in accordance with the council of the Church to fulfil the Mission that I have now undertaken, one thing I am confident of and in that I shall be comforted on My journey . . . and that is that your faith and patience is such that you will not murmur or complain at any hardship that you May have to undergo by reason of any sacrifice that I have or may make for the salvation and the roling on of the Kingdom of God. I feel Fanny as though I had made as great a sacrifice as I could wel make, in that I have forsaken for the time being My possessions My family and at the risk of life start for Mexico as a United States Soldier with 500 of My Brethren in order to show that the Blood of my Grandfathers (both hispaternal and maternal grandfathers as well as his paternal great grandfather) who fought and bled in the Revolutionary War and the spirit of liberty and freedom still courses in the veins of some of their posterity that are called Mormons. I go forward on this expedition with ful faith My life will be preserved and that I shall again have a joyful meeting with you and Eliza Ann and enjoy a long and happy life here upon the Earth, continue therefore in the path of virtue, beware of flattery and deceit and My prayers shall be unto the Lord in your behalf that you may be blessed with health and the spirit of the Lord and with food and raiment . . ."

George, in this letter, has expressed and reaffirmed his great love for his family, his Church and the gospel of Jesus Christ, and his country. This is the essence of the great legacy that Grandfather George Washington Taggart and Grandmothers Harriet, Fanny and Clarissa have handed on to us. The rich legacy is really what has brought us together this day - to honor and bless them and to reaffirm our faith and commitment to those same values of Family, Church and Country.

But let us dwell for a moment on just what this legacy is and what it means to us. First, and foremost it is a legacy encompassing the spiritual, the moral, the beautiful. Indeed, the Kingdom promised in Christ's invitation: "Come, Follow Me". A legacy beyond all worldly honors and riches.

Gathering from far and near, our pioneer ancestors strove mightily for that Kingdom. Driven and persecuted, they faltered not, though laying to rest loved ones beside the trail. For their steadfastness, loved ones yet unborn would honor and praise them - as we do today. Their legacy - the blessings of that Kingdom. Ours to have whether fourth or fifth generation, or newly confirmed members.

A Kingdom that ought to prevail in love of God. A kind and considerate Father in Heaven who answers prayers. A like but distinct person, with brightness and glory beyond description. A Father who gave His Beloved Son that all in His Kingdom might have life everlasting.

The Son who reminded that the way to His Father's Kingdom was within each of us - in our hearts, minds and souls. The Son who excluded no one. Who was

understanding and merciful. Who cautioned against rejecting anyone: ". . . For ye know not but what they will return and repent, and come unto Me with full purpose of heart, and I shall heal them . . . " (3 Nephi 18:32). The Kingdom is universal and eternal. All are candidates for it.

A Kingdom that ought to prevail in love of father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son, daughter.

Ought not the First and Second Great Commandments begin with loving those nearest to us? Else how can we profess loving God or begin loving our neighbors.

Being partakers in an eternal existence, with promise of eternal families, ought to condition our conduct towards God, our families, our fellowmen. The Kingdom can be right now. Jesus reminded - it is the light on the hill. It is the ensign our pioneer ancestors sought to raise up to the true and living God.

May their example and faithfulness always be cherished and emulated, I pray, in Jesus' name, Amen.

The families of George Henry Taggart will be interested to know that another marker in the Morgan Cemetery is lost - that of Janette McNiven Hogg, mother of Jessie McNiven Taggart. Morgan City can order a city marker as a replacement, approximately 8x5 inches, with name, death date, birthdate, placed in cement. The local mortician will charge approximately \$75 minimum for a marker. Donations can be sent to the family Treasurer, Hal Taggart, to help with this replacement. The sexton reports he can find no trace of the old cream-colored stone marker which was there for so many years.

In checking with the families of the two Taggart sisters who married George Albert Goodrich - Harriett and Eliza Ann - it was discovered that the Goodrich family will now be holding bi-annual reunions, and one was not held this year. They reported the death on 5 April 1980 of Leona Goodrich Manwaring, the last living of Harriett's twelve children. Grandchildren of these two sisters will coordinate genealogical research with other members doing this work. The Goodrich family have published much of their family information, and are anxious to help with the gathering and organizing of new information which the Taggart family members are working on.