

Hidden Hill Farm

(William McNee - James Taggart House)

Taggart Family Newsletter

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The Cover: Alexander Taggart Holmes, son of Jeanette Taggart (Bruce-George Henry) and J. Gordon Holmes, did our cover. A graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara, Alexander is a first-year medical student at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland, where he has received first honors in each of his classes. His drawing of the William McNee-James Taggart home in Sharon, New Hampshire is from a photograph taken by his mother in 1981. This James (1742-1828), son of Captain John Taggart, served as a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. Our George Washington Taggart was his grandson.

While in Boston in June 1981 to attend her son Jeffery's graduation from Harvard Medical School, Jeanette made a short side trip to New Hampshire in search of information about our Taggart forebears. She visited Hillsborough, Peterborough, Dublin and Sharon. In the latter she found the William McNee-James Taggart house. Her account follows:

"The man who answered my knock at the door was very pleasant. At first glimpse of the house I felt certain it was the James Taggart home, and this gentleman confirmed it for me. I told him who I was and asked him if he would object to my taking some pictures. He graciously consented and then introduced me to his lovely wife . . . The owner's name was Withrop Brown. He was now retired from B. F. Goodrich Company. His wife was a volunteer at the Sharon Arts Center which was located nearby. They invited me to see the original part of the home as well as the new additions which were in very good taste and served nicely to complement the original home. The rooms in the original part of the home were the same as they had been 200 years ago except for the modern heating and electricity which had been added. The original brick fireplaces (used for heating) and the low-beamed ceilings still remained. The original living room now served as Mr. Brown's den. The Browns had tastefully furnished the home in lovely period antiques and the home exuded charm and graciousness.

The view from the lanai (summer porch) was magnificent. Mountains, rolling hills, vast green fields, lush green lawns and a man-made pond created an inviting picture of peace and serenity. The focal point of the view was Mt. Monadnock in the distance. Mr. Brown pointed out the exterior changes to the home and also the area where the old potato patch had been. Near this stood the beautiful old barn - another example of early master craftsmanship . . .

Mr. Brown showed me two old photographs of the home as it had been when they purchase it many years before. Their improvements have been extensive and, happily, have added tremendously to its present charm without destroying the historically significant portions."

As Jeanette added, this house was the former house of William McNee, James Taggart's father-in-law. George Abbot Morison in his History of Peterborough (published in 1954, pp. 749-750) included a picture of this house and calls it the William McNee house. He recorded that it ". . . is probably the oldest house in town in which there have been no substantial changes made . . . It is one of the few houses which is located upon an original one-hundred acre lot which still remains intact."

Further on our previous cover (Volume III, No. 1): We wish to thank Cleone Frost Crosby (Rebecca-George Henry) for providing family snapshots, including the group picture in front of the George Henry and Jessie McNiven Taggart home. Cleone also donated a copy of Mark N. Partridge's With Book and Plow, a valuable reference book on the settlement of the Big Horn Basin. We used two pictures from it on our Cover: a company of pioneers leaving Ham's Fork Wyoming (p. 8); Cowley's first schoolhouse (p. 72).

Cleone's gift has inspired the idea of developing a Taggart Family Library. I have added several volumes of my own to her gift as a beginning effort in this direction. S.L.T.

TAGGART FAMILY FUND

The following recent contributors are helping to insure the NEWSLETTER will keep coming your way: Florence Jenkins, Faye T. Olney, Marva T. Karren, Noreen B. Boyce, S. Taggart, Ruey T. and Amasa Hyde, J. M. Taggart, Mr. and Mrs. Hal S. Taggart, Scott Taggart, Ila and Spencer Taggart, Mr. and Mrs. F. Farel Tibbitts, Velma T. and Wendell Bayles, Hazel Hilbig, Dick Taggart, Mr. Paul Greever, Mr. and Mrs. Delwin T. Pond, Wanda T. Schuldborg, Mrs. H. A. Van Noy, Adele and Lloyd Taggart, Lynette Mann, C. T. Bowman, Scott Taggart Sr., Jeanette T. Holmes, Dixie Lee Davis.

IN MEMORIUM

Elaine Taggart, daughter of Glen L. (James) and Phyllis Paulsen Taggart, born March 22, 1949 - Washington, D.C. - died December 4, 1983 - Pittsburgh PA.

Venna N. Goodrich (Byron-Eliza Ann) Johnson, wife of Duayne Timothy Johnson, born January 19, 1925 - Vernal UT - died February 15, 1983 - West Valley City UT

Ruey Taggart Hyde (Frederick), wife of Amasa William Hyde, born February 10, 1906 - died April 16, 1983 - Lewiston UT.

EARLY TAGGART FOOTPRINTS

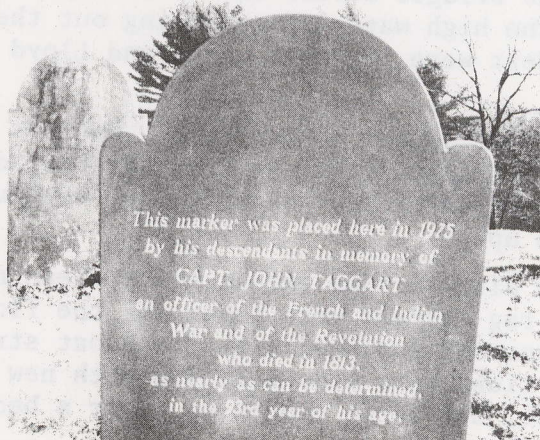
It appears that we may be nearing success in extending our knowledge of our Taggart lines. We know a few facts about our original forebear Captain John Taggart, but we would like to know more. We believe that he was of Scotch-Irish descent, that he came to Sharon and Peterborough, New Hampshire, as one of the first settlers from Roxbury, Massachusetts, that he married Barbara McMahon (1718-1790) but we do not know when or where they were married. We know the

names of their nine children, three sons and six daughters. We know that we are descendants of their eldest son James (second child) and his wife Elizabeth McNee. We do not know when or where Captain John was born or the names of his parents, or if he had any brothers or sisters. We estimate that he was born about 1720 and we have February 5, 1814 as the date of his death. We do not know where he was buried. But we know that his wife Barbara died in 1790 and was buried in the East Hill Cemetery on Old Street Road in Peterborough. In 1975 the Family placed a marker next to her marker in Captain John's memory.

Select members of the Family have devoted much time and effort as well as expense in searching for this missing information. Jeanette Taggart Holmes is the most recent family member to take up this arduous but vital search. She has already devoted eight intensive years to it. In the fall of 1982 she travelled to Scotland and Ireland, as she expressed it, "in search of probable Taggart origins". She spent two months in Northern Ireland (Ulster) researching old estate papers and records, manuscripts, rent rolls, muster rolls, hearth money rolls, parish registers, cemetery records, public records, local libraries, wills, indentures, books, histories, etc. Jeanette collected an exciting body of information on the Ulster-Scot Taggarts. These Taggarts came from Scotland to Ulster in the early 17th Century and lived there for nearly one hundred years before emigrating to America. They were farmers, teachers, ministers of the Presbyterian Church. Among them were also found a surgeon, a poet, a writer, a founder of an academy, and the first Dean of Londonderry Cathedral. There was a Taggart Island, and two small villages or estates known as Taggartland. Jeanette found a prevalence of given names used widely in our Family: John, George, Rebecca, Sarah, Andrew, James, William, Francis, Samuel, Mary, Janette, Joseph, etc. She also found a prevalence of family names associated later with the Taggarts in New Hampshire: Swan, Milliken, Hogg, Robb, Johnston, Moore, Mitchell, Smith, Steward, Wallace, Holmes, White, Wilson, Clarke, Jackson, Barnes, Wood, Wright, Young, Law, etc.

Jeanette feels that as a result of her travels and researches she is getting a better idea of the background of our Taggart ancestors. While she cannot promise us a link to Captain John's parents, she is doing all within her power to do so. We pray for her success and wish her well. She has already succeeded in gathering much information of significance to our Taggart Family lines. We are pleased to report that Jeanette will share her findings with us in coming issues of the Newsletter.

* * * * *



TAGGARTS IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE BIG HORN BASIN, WYOMING

By Scott Taggart, Sr.

(Scott is now ninety, enjoys good health, and plays nine holes of golf. His principal preoccupation is keeping in touch with his numerous grandchildren who have been holding annual "Taggart Cousins' Reunions" since 1981. Last November 21st, they held a "fireside honoring Grandpa Scott".

With this issue we conclude Scott's remarkable account of his family's role in the settlement of the Big Horn Basin. We express our thanks and deep gratitude to him for it.)

Our meeting house was built of sawed logs by donated labor. It was quite a larger building to be used for all public purposes, including dances and basketball. To obviate the necessity of heating it too often our church services were all held on Sunday - Sunday school, sacrament meeting and in the evening MIA. It was heated by two large pot belly stoves. Somewhat later a vestry was added. It was a practice when I was a child for the presiding elder in the sacrament meeting to call speakers from the audience without previous announcement. We twelve-year-old deacons were charged with the necessity of sweeping the building, placing and dusting the benches and providing the fuel for the stoves. And we passed the sacrament, each carrying a pitcher of water and a glass which would be passed from one person to the next. And we gathered the fast offerings, usually in kind and rarely a coin. We were also taught to cut wood for the widows, sometimes a tedious job when the wood to be cut was half green cottonwood.

Two totally unexpected obstacles arose, but were quickly solved with the intervention of Wyoming's U.S. Senator, Frank W. Mondell. We were locating and developing what was known as Carey Act Public Land and one of the legal requirements was that the farmer had to live on the land he bought. But it was the policy of the Church in sending out colonists to have them live in communities to facilitate church and school activities but within easy reach of the farms. Senator Mondell was able to have the act amended to accommodate the settlers. The other problem arose when we began hauling timber from Pryor Mountain, barely over the state line in Montana. Montana people protested this invasion, but again Senator Mondell was able to negotiate a settlement agreeable to all.

Some additional income was provided for the community in 1902 when a contract was entered into to build sixteen miles of road from the mouth of the river above Cody toward the east entrance of Yellowstone Park. Again it was up to father to build the bridges across the tributary streams and to rip-wrap the banks to prevent the high water from washing out the bridge abutments. My sisters Beck and Nett were the camp cooks and Lloyd earned a dollar a day as water boy.

Our leaders decided we needed a town well. One was hand dug to a depth of forty feet without finding water, so they contracted with John Dickson to drill one. He went to a depth of four hundred feet without finding a trace of moisture, so they gave up.

Threshing time was also to some extent house cleaning time, for it was then that our homemade rag carpets were taken up, the floors cleaned of the worn straw from the floor and replaced with fresh oat straw. Wheat straw was not as good. The bed ticks were also refilled with new straw. What's a tick? It is a pillow case, but large enough to cover a bed, and it was used because we didn't have a mattress.

How did our towns get their names? Byron was named after our first stake president, Byron Sessions, a handsome, capable and brilliant man. Cowley took the name of Matthias Cowley, an associate of our great leader A. Owen Woodruff. The two were ordained to the apostleship the same day in 1897. Neither of them remained after the communities were established. Our town would have been named Woodruff but for the fact there was already a Woodruff, Utah. But we did the next best thing, we inaugurated a Woodruff Day, which is carried on to the present time on the 24th of July, with a creditable parade, queen, marshal of the day, and an orator for the public meeting. Lovell was named after Henry Clay Lovell who had established a large livestock ranch a few miles east of the confluence of the Shoshone and Big Horn rivers.

It was natural that our public activities would be church-oriented, for in Cowley we had only one family without a Mormon in it, and only three families with only one parent a member of the church. But all were treated as members and cooperated in all public affairs.

The lack of medical care was always a problem. We did not have a doctor in our town till 1906 when Dr. Edward W. Croft moved to Cowley. A young dentist living about a hundred miles away in Worland came to Cowley and did dental work there for three weeks. He charged \$1.00 for filling a tooth, \$1.00 for an extraction, \$10.00 for bridgework per tooth, and \$40.00 for upper and lower plates. I shudder when I think of how much worse it would have been without the faith of the people in the priesthood and for such women as my Mother, May Welch, and others, who were constantly active in looking after the sick. Night and day Mother would answer a knock on the door by someone needing help. She would leave immediately, sometimes returning in time to get breakfast, sometimes not til evening. On one occasion during an epidemic of typhoid she remained with a family in Byron for nearly a week, for every member was ill. Upon returning home she would have her daughters meet her in father's workshop with hot water and carbolic acid with which she would wash herself, then would change her entire wardrobe before entering her home. Sister Welch usually delivered the babies.

We were not without our pleasures. Our dances were almost a weekly affair and they were delightful. For a time the ladies would take seats on one side of the hall, gentlemen on the other. When the announcement was made, the gentlemen would hurry across the floor to choose their partners. They would then circle the floor until the music started. I wish our young people could see such dances and dancing. Popular were the waltz, twostep, quadrille, schottische and polka. The ladies and girls were attractively dressed, and some of the young men sported soft-sole dancing pumps. For some time the only dance music was furnished by father on his violin, and one of his daughters at the piano.

There were frequent public dinners and all the holidays were celebrated with fireworks and all. We had our baseball teams and played against teams in Lovell, Byron and Cody. Father organized the first band in Cowley. According to Mark Partridge, it consisted of my father with his cornet, four of his sons and four or five others.

In the preparation of this article I have tried to confine myself to the first four or five years of the settlements. I withstood the desire to name some of the people who made such worthwhile contributions to the success of our efforts because I just didn't know where to begin and end. Certainly our chosen leaders, as well as many others, were worthy of our gratitude. Before I

complete my task I want to toot our own family horn a bit, feeling that it will be justified because of the Newsletter's circulation being limited to our own kin. Appropriate to mention, however, is that the first train to pass by our town, on to Lovell and through the basin to Thermopolis was in 1906, the first telephones in our homes in 1908, with my sister Violet as the first "central", and our first high school in 1909. It was the church-sponsored Big Horn Stake Academy, with a principal and two other teachers - Albert F. Fillerup, John C. Houston and Louise Tenney. It opened the first year in the Lovell meetinghouse and thereafter in Cowley, Byron having suggested that it be permanently in Cowley because the majority of students were of that town. We had our first graduating class after three years with thirteen graduates, including my older brothers Bruce and Lloyd, and me.

We three moved to Ogden the following year to complete our fourth year at the Weber Academy. It was a great year for us in many ways, never to be forgotten new friendships and character-building experiences. David O. McKay, then an apostle, was President of Weber, and I had great fun telling some of his sons, whom we met later, about our experience at graduating time. He had come up to his office to interview personally each candidate for graduation. To Lloyd he said, among other things, "Brother Taggart, do you keep the Word of Wisdom?" Lloyd answered, "I can't say that I do." What do you mean, you can't say that you do?" Again Lloyd answered, "I don't drink or smoke, but once in a while I have a beer or a cup of coffee, but I can't claim to keep the Word of Wisdom." President McKay: "Brother Taggart, I want to congratulate you and your two brothers on telling me the truth."

I must mention that my parents celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in September 1920. Their fifteen sons and daughters with their spouses all assembled in Cowley to share in the festivities and to pay respect and homage to their parents. Only one member was missing - Horace, who had died at the age of nine. I had been in Switzerland four years on a mission for the Church and was released barely in time to make it home for the occasion. My sweetheart, Nida Allen, who had waited those four years, had come out to Cowley with my sister Pauline. We were married in December.

The celebration extended over several days. Friday and Saturday were devoted to visiting with and enjoying each other, for we had been too far separated to see each other very often. And of course there were visits by many friends in Cowley and from neighboring communities. A feast worthy of royalty was prepared by the daughters and served by the grandchildren. We attended church services together on Sunday where we renewed and expressed thankfulness for our rich religious heritage. Monday evening we concluded this grand occasion with a reception, a dance, and a musical program by the family. I yield to the editor of the LOVELL CHRONICLE for his account:

"It was the privilege of the Chronicle editor and wife to attend the reception given to Mr. and Mrs. George H. Taggart at Cowley on Monday of this week. This worthy couple together with their fifteen children were celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding day.

Upon entering the hall the two eldest sons, Jim and Jack, were at the door to greet all who entered. At the other end of the hall the bride and groom of fifty years were seated and were receiving the congratulations and best wishes of their friends.

About nine o'clock Bishop John H. Hinckley, a son-in-law, called the assemblage to order and asked one of the visiting brethren to pray, after which America was sung by all, followed by the appearance of a seven-piece orchestra and dancing started the evening program. After about one hour of dancing, Bishop Hinckley announced that there would be a musical program by the Taggart Family.

Assembling on the stage, the nine stalwart sons gathered in a semi-circle behind the six beautiful daughters of the worthy and honored couple, and the program which followed consisted of the old songs, learned in childhood, by this large and very interesting family. The opening number "Our Jack Came Home Today" was rendered by Jim, the oldest one of the children in his strong bass. He responded to an encore with "Sailing". In each of his songs, the entire family assisted on the chorus. Jack sang "When You and I were Young, Maggie" for his first number and the second "Lenore". Pauline in her rich contralto, delighted the company with "Love's Old Sweet Song", together with the family on the chorus. Bruce, as only Bruce could, rendered "Lonesome, That's All". Scott, with his perfectly modulated, clear, rich voice was thrice called upon before the company would release him. His selections were "Little Boy Blue", "Ah, I Have Signed To Rest", and "Fair Hawaii". Lloyd gave a beautiful rendition of "Mother's Hymn to Me", and Joe and Jessie, in a duet with the chorus, closed the solo portion of the program with "Tis Evening Brings My Heart to Thee". The finale being a chorus by the entire family entitled "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here." Becky was accompanist at the piano for all the numbers.

The presentation of such a musical program, displaying professional talent on the part of the soloists, to say nothing of the wonderful harmony produced by the chorus, was the more remarkable from a single family. For those privileged to hear it, it was probably the only occasion of the kind in a lifetime. More remarkable was the picture the group presented on the stage. Fifteen grown men and women, brothers and sisters, physically perfect, keen mentally and talented far beyond the average who commercialize their talents. And father and mother of this group appearing in equally good form with the children.

Coming to this valley twenty years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Taggart were among the first pioneers, and have endured the hardships incident to that kind of life, but to see them on their Golden Wedding Anniversary one might easily imagine, from their happy faces and the kindly manner in which time has dealt with them, that their lives had been a "bed of roses".

Removing here from Morgan, Utah, we learn that a portion of the family was left in that city.

Unusual, remarkable, extraordinary, is this family. Alas, adjectives are wanting in expression to convey to those who did not see this superb aggregation of men and women, offspring of the union of two God-loving people. As visitors expressed themselves to the father and mother, praising the result of their 50 years of married life, small wonder that tears of joy welled into the mother's eyes as she looked fondly and proudly over the group of nine upright sons and six beautiful, womanly daughters."

May I conclude this account of Taggarts in the settlement of the Big Horn Basin with Charles A. Welch's tribute to the Taggart sisters:

"One of the interesting things of camp life during the summer of 1900 was the serenading of the Taggart sisters. Rebecca (always Becky) and Nettie, daughters of George H. and Jessie McNiven Taggart. It is a very difficult thing to tell how much joy their songs brought to the hearts of the people in that first summer on the canal. There was not a house anywhere, nothing but the barren waste of the country. No grass was found for there was no rain to make grass grow. The U.S. government report was that there was a strip of country that extends over a hundred miles north from Thermopolis that was practically rainless, only two or three inches of moisture falling in a whole year. A few scant cottonwood trees were found along the river banks but away from the river a half a mile it was simply a barren waste. A few straggling sagebrush were there, trying to grow, but it was mostly salt sage and greasewood. The menfolks cleared away the bumps of salt sage and the tents were pitched. Nearly every one facing the southeast. After the day's work was over, the supper eaten and the prayers said, all was still as the face of the dead. The only sound was the lonely cry of the coyotes as they gathered around. Once in a while a dog would answer, as we had a few in camp. It was when these two beautiful daughters of Elder George H. Taggart would with guitar accompaniment sit on some wagon tongue or cottonwood log that had fallen over and sing; and oh how those beautiful notes broke the stillness. No one will ever know how many tears were shed as the fond mothers heard "Many Are The Hearts That Are Weary Tonight," "Tenting On The Old Campground", or "Gone Are The Days When My Heart Was Young And Gay, Gone Are My Friends From The Cotton Fields Away".

How many stout hearts softened when "I Need Thee Every Hour" could be heard in the stillness of the night. Many hearts were mellowed as "Tis Evening Brings My Heart To Thee" could be heard floating over that peaceful camp of tired men and women far from home and friends.

If you want to enjoy music, go out on the desert where stillness prevails, or in the mountains where the lone coyote calls to his mate and you are convinced that people who say there are no longer any bogies are certainly mistaken. If you still can hear "Home Sweet Home" or other familiar songs, you will know what real music means.

It was not long after this eventful summer before the two girls began singing other songs to cheer the cries of other newcomers as they arrived in the Big Horn Basin, for Becky married Orson P. Frost and Nettie married Francis Whitney, two young pioneers in the colony.

Orson P. Frost was from Ephraim, Sanpete Co., Utah, and Francis (Frank) Whitney was from Parowan, Utah.

The Frosts are the parents of seven children, four boys and three girls, while Frank and Nettie are the parents of eleven children, three boys and eight girls. Nobody knows how many lullaby songs these two good women have sung during the intervening years, but they are still singing in the Ward Choir as well as with the singing

mothers. They should have graduated as lullaby singers long ago, but as the grandchildren need someone to sing to them, these two who are now many times grandmothers, are still on the job and they have passed their wonderful voices on to their descendants and the end is not yet. As the generations come and go, the Taggart descendants will always be singers and they not only have the ability, but are every ready to help in any capacity in which they are called to labor. There is not a Sunday service where Taggart descendants live, nor a funeral, nor an entertainment but what some of these talented men and women, boys and girls, are lifting up their voices, bringing joy to the hearts of the listeners. Thus it will be as the generations come and go, in whatever land they live there will be music, for these people belong to the sweet singers of Israel."

W H Y ?

By Spencer L. Taggart

Our Taggart Family forebears have blessed us with a legacy of courage, hard work, integrity, and perseverance. They willingly left familiar surroundings, friends, family and home to venture out in strange and unknown lands. Why?

Captain John Taggart, our first-known Taggart forebear, with his wife Barbara McMaha, took up their lives together as early settlers in Peterborough and Sharon in southwestern New Hampshire. John fought in the French and Indian Wars. He and his sons James and John, Jr. took up the fight in the cause of the revolution against England. Why?

Captain John and James were men with apparently little formal schooling. When they bought tracts of land, for example, they affixed their signatures to the contracts by making an "X" which had to be witnessed by two men who could sign their names.* Still John and James had attained the military rank of captain and lieutenant respectively. It would appear that they were men with obvious intelligence, courage, leadership, capacity for hard work, good intentions and honor.

Washington (son of James) and wife Susanna Law and their son George Washington and his new bride Harriet Atkins Bruce, once they had embraced the Gospel, left home and loved ones and friends in New Hampshire. That life for them in Nauvoo was to be hard is attested to by the fact that all but George were shortly to lie buried there in unmarked graves. George may have felt like giving up. Why didn't he? He had baby Eliza Ann to care for. Important as that was, there was more to his motivation as he explained in a letter to Fannie Parks, after his marriage to her in Nauvoo: ". . . One thing I am confident . . . that your

*Maude Taggart's Notes. A relative (deceased) in Peterborough, she did extensive research on Taggart genealogy.

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 rolling on of the Kingdom of God."

It had to be difficult for George and Fannie and little Eliza for him to absent himself from them for almost two years while he was helping with the trek westward and serving in the Mormon Battalion. Why after his return and five years of hard work and preparations and the arrival of three more children - Harriet Maria, George Henry, Charles Wallace - did George and Fannie make that strenuous trek across the plains to the Salt Lake Valley? This example of Family dedication and sacrifice was emulated about fifty years later when George Henry and Jessie McNiven Taggart, after thirty years of marriage, left all behind to assist in the almost insurmountable task of settling the Big Horn Basin.

The same spirit of pioneering was exemplified when Julia Taggart and William Lewis (in whose honor the town of Lewiston was later named), Alice Taggart and Wesley Bright, and the Taggart brothers Fred and Eulalie Leavitt, James and Valeria Laird, and Mark and Florence Bright assisted in the development of Lewiston, "poverty flat" as it was called because the people had such a hard time making a living. This same spirit was carried on when Noah Albert and Sarah Kingston Taggart pioneered in the development of Star Valley. And how about the two Taggart sisters Eliza Ann and Harriet Maria and their husband George Albert Goodrich who accepted a call to the almost hopeless "Muddy Mission" and who eventually moved to Ashley Valley where they made significant contributions to the development of the Uintah Basin.

There is also Clarissa Taggart, who helped send her husband William Parkinson, to Rush Medical School in Chicago, and afterwards participated with him in pioneering medical practice in Logan and Cache Valley. Charles Wallace and Mary Seaman Taggart pioneered in Richville, Ogden, Salt Lake City, South Weber and in Tilden and Plack Pine, Idaho. Henry Milton and Mary Laird Taggart, in the employ of her father Edward Laird, participated in pioneering the development of Southeast (Sugar House) Salt Lake City. Jane Taggart and husband George Heiner remained in Morgan where they too helped develop and maintain the family seat, while keeping out the welcome mat to those returning to visit.

From Captain John and wife Barbara down to the latest of these forebears, the uppermost question remains - why? A better life? Material wealth? Doubtful, although that has been added. What then? Wherein found they the courage? Does the answer lie in the higher values they sought and espoused? In the blessings of freedom and independence they sought? Does it lie in their love of Country, love of Family, love of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

A better life? Yes, indeed! Certainly they sought to improve their lot. They also did it for us! Would they be as proud of us as we are of them?

FROM YOUR LETTERS

I have just been looking through the Newsletters which I keep in a folder. I do enjoy them very much and look and read through them quite frequently I was very disappointed that I missed the Reunion this summer (Ogden)so I really did enjoy the report of the Reunion.... It made me feel much closer to having been there. --Fay T. Olney, Los Angeles - 1/83

I enjoyed your marvelous report on the Taggart Reunion.... Thanks a million. My cousins that we had so many of are becoming more scarce. I miss them all.... Life is a Song, Love is the music. --Oneita Van Noy, Oakland - 9/82

Just a quick note to thank you and those who help you compile and mail the Taggart Family Newsletter. It is a real joy to read about some of my family and their experiences. --Brent Lewis Brown, Tuscon AZ - 7/81

Thank you for the interesting Newsletter about the Taggarts. I know it has taken a lot of effort. We all have to admire those wonderful people. The hardships they had to endure! But it has paid off. --Gladys Taggart Snelson, Chico CA - 11/81

Thank you for the Newsletter. I have just finished reading it from beginning to end. It is super! ... I hope folks rally round financially. I know how funds are needed. Life is full and rich... We need to count our blessings. --Ruth P. Smith, Centerville UT - 5/81

Thank you for the invitation to the Taggart Reunion (Morgan). We looked it over and wished we might attend. We shall cherish this copy of the statement written by Spencer about "Our Pioneer Ancestors" -- Frank and Elinor Beverstock, Peterborough NH - 8/80

We appreciate the Taggart Family Newsletter. Thank you for all the time and energy you spend. --Dana T. Cranfill, Sacramento CA - 7/80

I've gotten quite interested in Genealogy... I'm doing more in the Church all the time... I doubt if I shall see you at the reunion this year (Ogden). Wish they'd have it in Yellowstone again. --Mary Brown Lawyer, Salem OR 5/82

Thank you for the Taggart Newsletters... I have enjoyed reading them and appreciate all the work that goes into each one. -La Dawn Schubach Phoenix AZ - 11/81

We enjoy the Taggart Family Newsletters so much. Our thanks to you, and to those who assist you in helping each of us better know and appreciate our ancestors and the great heritage we have as members of this family. --Larry and Marilyn Lower, Smithfield UT - 9/81

Received the Taggart Family Newsletter yesterday and I sat right down and read it through... It is real interesting to read of the Taggart family and the things they did and how they lived so many years ago. --Charlotte Smith, Rigby ID - 9/81

Just a note to let you know how much I love the Newsletter. I wept as I read this last issue. The family heritage is so touching. --Karen Hawert Graham, Salt Lake City - 11/82

Marie and I enjoyed the reunion in Ogden immensely... So proud to be a member of George Washington's family. He was a wonderful forebear. --Cleon Frost Crosby, Cowley WY - 10/82

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed going to the reunion (Ogden). Family ties are so very important... My family and I are grateful to receive the Newsletter... Many thanks. --Norene Boyce, Logan UT - 8/82

Mel and I are publishers of the Evanston paper The Uinta County Herald, and right now we are really kept busy... We are pleased to receive the Taggart Newsletters --Mel and Esta Baldwin, Evanston WY - 11/82.

I am greatly interested in genealogy, especially family histories. There is nothing more important than our heritage.... I have read Papa's Newsletter a couple of times and would like very much to receive my own copy.... I have planned to attend the big Reunion in the past, but never made it much further than Cowley Wyoming, the place I love more than any other. When the next one rolls around though, I hope to be there with my father.... There's a whole lot of family we should get to know. --Maurine Hinckley Cole, Yellowstone National Parks WY - 11/82.

What a blessing it is to have been born into the greatly gifted Taggart Family. Without a sense of firm, meaningful IDENTITY each of us is cast adrift. There is no substitute for cemented family ties. I hope we manage to glue our children, and their children, together. --Harriet Burtus, Salt Lake City - 7/81

HAPPENINGS

Jeffrey Taggart (Hal-Grant), who lives in Cody, was presented with his Chartered Life Underwriter certificate (CLU) in Billings Montana, by his father Hal, at a special luncheon held by the Chartered Life Underwriter group in Billings. The CLU is equivalent to an LLD or DDS or CPA, and normally takes five years before it is completed, but Jeff managed to complete and pass all the tests in a year. He is a member of the Million Dollar Round Table as is his father and his grandfather Grant, the latter having served as chairman of this distinguished group in 1938.

Glen L. Taggart (James), President-emeritus of Utah State University, was named last year to the Utah State Board of Regents by Governor Scott M. Matheson. Glen is also a senior program consultant for the W. K. Kellogg Foundation 1981 National Fellow Program.

Lloyd M. "Tag" Taggart (Lloyd W. - Lloyd - George Henry) was recently appointed to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. This is a commission with twenty-eight members charged with encouraging more private support of the arts. Tag is president of Taggart Trust, a firm that acquires and places art works. He also serves on the Nevada Museum of Fine Arts, the Nevada Dance Theater and the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Karen Taggart was featured in The Salt Lake Tribune (April 28, 1983) for her innovations in preparing dishes for dieters and diabetics. She has taken the recipes she has developed and compiled them into a book, "Can't Wait to Diet" for which she hopes to find a publisher. The essence of her book, as she describes it, "....I have taken favorite foods off the no-no list and made them acceptable". Karen's husband is Dr. Dennis D. Taggart (DeVere-Jerome-Charles Wallace), internist, who is practicing in Salt Lake City. Karen, after helping Dennis through medical school at George Washington University, Washington D.C. is now pursuing a degree at the University of Utah. She hopes eventually to become a dietitian and wants to work with the obese and diabetics.

Keith Taylor, (Ruth-Ida-Sarah Jane) corporal on the Ogden City Police Force, was featured in the Ogden Magazine (October 28, 1982). He has been on the Force eighteen years, the last five as one of the City's vice squad unit.

Elaine A. Johnson, wife of Alma Taggart Johnson (Leona-Clarissa) who died March 2, 1983, was recognized by the Classified Employee Council at Utah State University as Classified Employee of the Month for December 1982. She has been Administrative Secretary at Edith Bowen Laboratory School for 21 years. Jay A. Monson, the School's director, in commending Elaine, stated

that she is "...loved by thousands of elementary pupils attending the lab school and a like number of university students and faculty members.Everyone who has ever had anything to do with Bowen School knows Mrs. Johnson.... She arrives regularly each day shortly after 6:30 a.m. to prepare materials needed by teachers(and)continues throughout the day in being of service to all often playing the piano to accompany a class or program...."

Martin Taggart Pond (Valeria-James) was recently called to serve as First Councilor in the Lafayette Indiana Stake.

Troy Pond (James-Valeria-James) who has been serving in the New Zealand Mission, will be released on June 10th.

Alan Kay Barlow (Ethel-Bruce-George Henry) has been called to serve in the Chile Santiago South Mission. He is presently in the LTM and has been called to serve as District Leader.

PLEASE SEND US THE ADDRESSES OF YOUR MISSIONARIES. WE PARTICULARLY WISH TO BE SURE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVE COPIES OF OUR FAMILY NEWSLETTER.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

William Ray and Beulah Taggart (James) Hatch - May 12, 1983. A May 7th reception in their honor was attended by several hundred relatives and friends. The attendance of everyone of their fifty descendants highlighted the occasion.

Marriages

Beckie Wamsley to Brett Taggart (Keith-G. Theron-George-Albert-George Henry) - November 13, 1982 - Logan Temple

Katrina Taggart (Sylvan-Walter-Frederick) to Lyle Wilson Bingham, planned for May, 1983 - Idaho Falls Temple

Julie Dunford to Rex Delwin Pond (Delwin-Valeria-James), May 12, 1983 - Salt Lake Temple

New Members

David P. and Sheila T. (Spencer-James) Lewis, Son Andrew - November 10, 1982

Owen Cordell and Darla Pond (James-Valeria-James) Yates, Son Travis - November 25, 1982

Jeffery L. and Eileen T. (Spencer-James) Robinson, Son Frank - March 5, 1983.

Note from Jeanette T. Holmes on Taggart Revolutionary War Records:

At the Family Reunion in Morgan, August 9, 1980, several of you signed requests for copies of the Revolutionary War Records of our Taggarts. These microfilm copies proved to be technically unable to be copied. Several different machines were tried at different locations and centers. My brother-in-law, who is the attorney for the Printer's Union in San Francisco, even offered to try. He felt certain that someone would be able to reproduce them, but no luck. Evidently microfilm copies do not recopy. Sorry that I could not fill your requests.

THE 21ST GEORGE WASHINGTON TAGGART FAMILY REUNION - 1984
LOGAN, UTAH

Chairman Paul L. Taggart wishes to remind you that this reunion will be held in the Glen L. Taggart Student Center on the campus of Utah State University on Saturday, 8/4/84. Mark this date on your calendars and start making plans now to attend this important Family gathering. Details will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Did you lose a coin purse?

A small coin pouch-style purse was found on the bench in the chapel after last year's reunion. We have been unable to identify the owner. If it is yours, please let George Frost know. He is keeping it for you. His Ogden phone is 392-7834.

OURS IS A GREAT FAMILY

To have an effective Family Organization with accomplishments befitting greatness requires YOUR support.

Lloyd, our Family Treasurer, suggests that we contribute with the thought of supporting the entire range of Family projects, e.g. the Newsletter, genealogical research, reunions, missions, assistance to members in need. Ponder for a moment Jeanette's eight intensive years of genealogical research, including the costs!

Our contribution however large or small is (you complete this sentence).

Send your contributions to Lloyd Taggart at the address listed at the beginning of this issue.