

George Washington Taggart Family Newsletter, Vol. 26, Winter 2019, No. 1 (our hope springs eternal; how about yours?)

Hello Taggart Family,

It's been awhile—in newsletter years, anyway—but there's no time like the present to repent and begin publishing the George Washington Taggart Family Newsletter again. In fact, more than a few cousins have asked us to do just that. It appears that not everyone wants to or can meet up on [Facebook](#), even though it's a lively place to visit thanks to Sherman Watkins (Becky-Lloyd—George Henry-Fanny) and Steven Berlin (Lynn-Ida May-Sarah Jane-Clarissa). We encourage you visit our Facebook page regularly and to post often. We'd love to see photos and hear stories about your corner of the George Washington Taggart Family.

That said, we feel it is important to continue the newsletter. To quote Spencer Laird Taggart:

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--not one should be lost or left out.

If you pitch in by supplying us with photos and stories about your corner of the George Washington Taggart Family, you will be helping us accomplish that important goal—nobody lost, nobody left out. Thanks in advance.

Hopefully,

Gregory Taggart (Hal-Grant-George Henry-Fanny), Editor

To repeat (with some modification) the message on www.taggartfamily.org: It's reunion time again! This year we return to Cody, Powell, and Cowley Wyoming in the Big Horn Basin and all the wonderful Taggart heritage there with a Grand Reunion and celebration of all things Taggart. We'll hold a two-day family party on Friday and Saturday, July 19-20, 2019. So mark your calendar and be there! In addition, Cody is filled with attractions such as its world-famous Cody Stampede Rodeo, the Smithsonian-affiliated Buffalo Bill Center of the West. It is also on the doorstep to Yellowstone National Park - perfect for a family vacation.

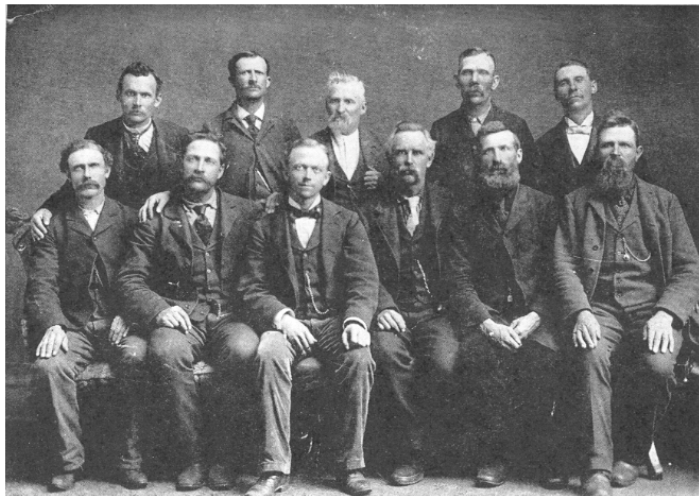
A few details on the reunion

- Saturday, July 20, 2019 is Pioneer Day in Cowley, Wyoming, which among other things, hosts a parade. The George Washington Taggart family will sponsor three floats in the parade, one for each of George Washington's three wives—Clarissa, Harriet, and Fanny. We asking family members who descend from one of those wives to sit on the appropriate float and wave at the crowd. The following link is to last year's [Pioneer Day's Facebook Page](#), which should give you some idea of what goes on in Cowley on that weekend.
- Immediately after the parade, a service will be held in the Cowley Ward Chapel, at which a member of the family will be one of the speakers.
- That evening, we will hold a family gathering, which will include a meal, in Powell, Wyoming, a town midway between Cowley and Cody. That meeting/meal will be held in a chapel in Powell that was built under the direction of Hal Taggart (Grant-George Henry-Fanny) back in the 1960s.

The reunion is in the initial planning stages, so there will be more information to come.

The important thing now is to mark your calendars and maybe even book a room or a campsite. Here's why: Cody has lots of motel and hotel rooms, but it will also have lots of tourists at that time—remember, Cody is the eastern gateway to Yellowstone Park. Powell has a number of motels as well, but it too, will have its share of tourists—overflow from Cody. Cowley has no motels. Lovell, just three miles from Cowley, has a few. We will be emailing you a list of motels and hotels in the area, but hey, you have the internet. Don't wait for us.

Why hold a reunion in the Big Horn Basin? In Cowley of all places?



The Explorers, front row (L to R): George H. Taggart, Byron Sessions, Abraham O. Woodruff, William B. Graham, Brigham L. Tippetts, Sr., and S. P. Sorensen. Back row: Charles A. Welch, Hyrum K. North, John Stevens, William G. Simmons, and John J. Simmons. John Croft and W. P. Larson were in the party, but are not pictured in this photo.

Because of the man on the far left on the front row in the photo above, that's why. He was one of George Washington and Fanny's sons. He and his wife Jesse McNiven heard the call of the Prophet

and moved their family from Morgan to Cowley in 1900. Given that they had 16 children and that many of them married and settled in the Big Horn Basin, there are still a lot of Taggarts in northern Wyoming.

What to do in the Big Horn Basin while you're there.

Besides renewing friendships with family members, there's a lot to do in northern Wyoming, including:

- Visit the [Buffalo Bill Center of the West](#), a truly world class facility that holds five different museums, including the Buffalo Bill Museum, the Whitney Western Art Museum, the Cody Firearms Museum, the Plains Indian Museum, and the Draper Natural History Museum. It's all located in Cody.



- Visit the [Heart Mountain WWII Japanese American Confinement Site](#).





This fine museum—again world class—preserves the history of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, one of eight such camps that held between 110,000 – 125,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. Like the Center of the West, this museum is a must visit. It sits between Cody and Powell.

- Visit the [Buffalo Bill Dam and Visitor Center](#).



Besides these gems, there's always great fishing, hiking, camping in the Bighorn and Beartooth Mountains. There's Yellowstone—50 miles from Cody—and Teton National Park. If you have a boat, you can use it on the Bighorn Lake, which—no kidding—is one of the undiscovered treasures in the United States: A 72-mile-long lake that runs north to south, most of it surrounded by towering walls of what once was the Bighorn River.



So plan to come. We'd love to have you. And stay tuned in the meantime. Much more to come.