

# The Taggart- Goodrich Connection



*Eliza Ann Taggart*  
1844-1913

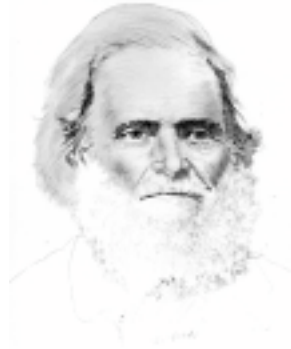


*George Albert Goodrich*  
1839-1911



*Harriet Maria Taggart*  
1850-1928





# Taggart Family Newsletter

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**Coordinator of GWT Family Organization:** Steven Laird Taggart (Ted-Henry Milton-Clarissa)  
PO Box 70282, Salt Lake City, UT 84170-0282, (801-968-7247) Email: [staggart@deseretonline.com](mailto:staggart@deseretonline.com)

**Family Membership and Treasurer:** Christopher J. Taggart (Hal-Grant-George Henry-Fanny)  
Box 2936, Cody, WY 82414, (307-527-6204)

**Newsletter Editor:** Eileen Taggart Robinson (Spencer-James-Clarissa)  
998 West 2600 North, Pleasant Grove, UT 84062, (801-785-1409)

**Asst. Editor & GWT Website Webmaster:** Steven Lynn Berlin (Lynn-Ida Mae-Sarah Jane-Clarissa)  
5211 Greenpine Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84123-4604, (801-288-4100) Email: [sberlin@metrogourmet.com](mailto:sberlin@metrogourmet.com)

### Family History Representatives:

**Director:** Glenn B. Goodrich (Byron-Eliza Ann-Harriet)

65 South 500 East, Bountiful, UT 84010, (801-295-5484) Email: [glennng@davis.uswest.net](mailto:glennng@davis.uswest.net)

Wendy Brimhall Kremin (Dell-Veda-Harriet Penelope-Eliza Ann-Harriet)

1196 North 2925 West, Layton, UT 84041

Jeanette Taggart Holmes (Bruce-George Henry-Fanny), 257 Promenade Lane, Danville, CA 94506

Jane Poll (Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny), 2555 East 78th South, South Weber, UT 84405

Lawrence C. Taggart (Leonard-Henry Milton-Clarissa)

3512 West Fenchurch Road, West Jordan, UT 84084

Connie Berlin Hazen (Lynn-Ida Mae-Sarah Jane-Clarissa), 816 South 800 East, Bountiful, UT 84010

**Special Research:** Forrest Rick McConkie (Jennie-Parley-Harriet Maria-Fanny)  
6260 King Valley Lane, West Valley City, UT 84128 Email: [ricknev@xmission.com](mailto:ricknev@xmission.com)

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**GWT Family Organization Website Address: [www.metrogourmet.com/taggart](http://www.metrogourmet.com/taggart)**

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**ON OUR COVER:** George Washington Taggart's daughters Eliza Ann and Harriet Maria, and their husband George Albert Goodrich were the wellspring for a large and splendid branch of our family as it wends through the generations. This edition of the newsletter highlights the early days of the Taggart-Goodrich connection.

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**Note:** For your enjoyment, pictures from the 28<sup>th</sup> annual George Washington Taggart Family Reunion held in Cody, Wyoming, August 14 - 16, 1998 are sprinkled throughout the newsletter and might not be associated with the accompanying article. Those pictured are not always identified.

**Note:** Descents from one of GWT's wives are generally given just once, at their first occurrence.

**ELIZA ANN & HARRIET MARIA TAGGART**

*(A brief history of the first two children of  
George Washington Taggart)*

Submitted by Glenn B Goodrich  
Grandson of Eliza Ann Taggart Goodrich

**Eliza Ann Taggart**, born January 28, 1844, in Nauvoo, Illinois; died April 6, 1913, in Vernal, Utah, first child of George Washington Taggart and Harriet Atkins Bruce

**Harriet Maria Taggart**, born September 2, 1848, in Pottawattamie County, Iowa; died May 22, 1928, in Vernal, Utah, second child of George Washington Taggart and the first of his second wife, Fanny Parks

Who could have known that these first and second children (sisters) would also become the first and second wives of the same man?

The two sisters were born four years apart, with the same father but different mothers. They experienced the most trying of circumstances, including severe persecution, privation, starvation and fear. Nevertheless, they would build cherished lives together, not only as sisters, but also as the first two wives of George Albert Goodrich. They would build upon their parents' legacy of incredible courage and of unflinching faith. They would be pioneers in every sense of the word, embracing a newly established religion which drew bitter opposition, crossing the plains in the early Mormon movement west, and then, when life should have become easier, were repeatedly called upon to uproot and take on new hardships in settling uncharted territory. Marrying the same man just four years apart, they would later accept a third wife, Rhoda Slade. Eliza would have eleven children, Harriet would have twelve. Together they would account for twenty-three of the thirty-two children of George Albert Goodrich. "Quite a ball team," the children used to say!

Now, a step back in time . . . The history of these two daughters is inseparably tied to the history of their parents. George Washington Taggart (GWT) was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, probably in November of 1842, and Harriet Atkins Bruce, his future wife, February 20, 1843. They were each living with

their respective families in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

George Washington Taggart, age 27, married Harriet Atkins Bruce, age 22, May 7, 1843, in Peterborough, New Hampshire. They felt the need to preserve the memory, as evidenced by the beautiful porcelain photographs taken at the time of their wedding. These lovely heirlooms, together with a hand stitched sampler, coin purse and a bible which belonged to Harriet, are in the possession of her great granddaughter, Lela Goodrich Johnson, Providence, Utah. The bible has water stains, reportedly from a mishap on the Mississippi River.

The following June they moved west to Nauvoo, where they enthusiastically took part in the building of the Temple. Eliza was born January 28, 1844, and what should have been a fairy tale story took an irreversible turn. Harriet Atkins Bruce, George's wife of only twenty-one months, died February 19, 1845, one month before she would have turned twenty-four years of age. The exact cause of Harriet's death is unknown, but the symptoms were typical of malaria and cholera, which were rampant throughout Nauvoo at the time. Her sudden death left George bewildered and frustrated. Eliza was only thirteen months old. George's father and brother had also passed away during the preceding months. Nevertheless, his work on the Nauvoo Temple continued, and he would sometimes make a bed in a wheelbarrow for little Eliza while working on the Temple.

A mere four months after Harriet's death, tragedy stunned the entire membership of the fledgling Church on June 27, 1844, with the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum. Eliza was then seventeen months old. Her father, George W. Taggart, was a member of the Nauvoo Legion, and was among those who went to Carthage and retrieved the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum. As the cortege returned to Nauvoo, George, playing his fife, with other members of the Legion

band, preceded the wagon carrying the bodies as they marched into Nauvoo, to be received by a very sad and disheartened people. Imagination can only suggest the trauma and soul-searching of this event. Harriet and George had known the Prophet personally, and had marveled at his warmth and magnetism. George had just recently received his patriarchal blessing from Hyrum Smith.

Eliza Ann was infinitely blessed when George married the remarkable Fanny Parks, July 12, 1845, five months after the passing of Harriet. Eliza would remember only one mother, Fanny Parks. George's marital bliss was again short lived. The call came for 500 volunteers to form the



On the '98 Family Reunion bus tour in Cowley, ancestral home of Big Horn Basin Taggarts.

Mormon Battalion in the fight with Mexico. George agonized over the decision. He consulted Ezra T. Benson, who "... encouraged every able-bodied man to participate." George was fiercely loyal to both church and country, and was also prone to prove he had the same blood flowing through his veins as his forebears who fought in the Revolutionary War. Brigham Young had promised that the work

of the Mormon Battalion would be a blessing to the Church. George explained to Fanny that he felt there was no choice but to do what was best for the Church.

Fanny and Eliza were left alone when George marched west with the brethren, leaving Nauvoo February 17, 1846, for Council Bluffs. The Mormon Battalion was organized and left July 1846, on the long march to California. Fanny and Eliza would be without husband and father for almost two years. Eliza would not even remember her father.

George kept a careful, personal journal of the many trials of the march. This precious record is in the Church Historical Department, and his fife (which he made himself) is in the new Church Museum on West Temple Street in Salt Lake City.

In brief coverage of this famous march, George W. Taggart went with the Mormon Battalion from

Council Bluffs to Fort Leavenworth (August 1, 1846); thence to Santa Fe (October 1846) where 86 sick were dispatched to Pueblo; thence on to Tucson (December 16, 1846); thence on to California, arriving in San Diego January 29, 1847. The trials and suffering on this march were incredible. Hunger was an almost constant thing. But no shots were fired at the enemy, who evacuated most of the towns with the approach of the large "Mormon Army." The only serious confrontation was with a herd of wild bulls (read full story from GW Taggart's history). The Mormon Battalion accomplished much more than history gives credit for, e.g., a new southern route to California, established peace with Mexico, and taught settlers a better way of life.

Mormon Battalion Company B was stationed in San Diego from their arrival in January until their discharge in July 1847. During this time, the Battalion was a tremendous blessing to the settlers, who had been ravaged by the strife with Mexico. The brethren built a brick foundry, constructed "state of the art" brick buildings, and dug many fresh water wells. The people of San Diego were so grateful they wrote to Washington, D.C., asking that the Mormons remain. They were not so complimentary of the Missouri contingent, which had also come west.

Upon discharge they marched north to San Francisco, then Sacramento. While most of the Battalion wintered there, George and approximately eighty others who "wanted to get home" pressed on. Crossing the Sierras, and the long march across Nevada is a story all its own. George kept little record after discharge, concentrating on the return trip. But records kept by others fill in considerable detail, such as their living largely on fish across Nevada, and trading fish hooks with the Indians for bare necessities. Their route took them north to avoid the treacherous mud and salt flats that had given the Donner Party such strife, into Idaho and Fort Hall along the Snake River.

Upon their arrival in Salt Lake City, October 1847, George was dismayed to learn that his wife and daughter were not there. Resting a few days, he

and a few others walked on to Winter Quarters, arriving December 1847. With little food except occasional buffalo, George was almost completely wasted upon his arrival at Winter Quarters, but was greatly relieved to find Fanny and Eliza in relative comfort and health.

While he was gone with the Battalion, Fanny was supposed to have received help in getting west, but as was the case with so many in the same destitute situation, she had survived by her own courage and ingenuity, and had managed to maintain herself and little Eliza.

The property they owned in Nauvoo was supposed to be sold, and thus provide means for Fanny and Eliza to go west. With no sale for anything, they had to accept help from first one family then another, until they eventually made it to Winter Quarters.



Enjoying the dinner get-together at Lloyd's the first night of the '98 Reunion.

When GWT returned from the Battalion, he moved his family from Winter Quarters, walking the 32 miles to Harris Grove, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. They were back together, but it took them five years to build reserves for the trip to Salt

Lake City. In the meantime, Fanny gave birth to her first child, Harriet Maria (named after the first wife), born September 2, 1848. Two other children, George Henry (May 29, 1850), and Charles Wallace (March 19, 1852) were also born at Harris Grove.

Eliza Ann and Harriet Maria, growing up together, would not have known that their future husband, George Albert Goodrich, age eleven, passed through Iowa with his family as they made their way west in 1850. They walked from Massachusetts to Salt Lake City from April to October of 1850, George Albert and his father being baptized in the Platte River by Wilford Woodruff. His mother and sisters had been previously baptized.

Finally, in July of 1852, Fanny and four children were able to go with George in a nice, large wagon George had built himself, and while the journey was anything but comfortable, they fared well,

considering everything, arriving in Salt Lake City, October 17, 1852.

Life in Salt Lake City was not easy, and GWT suffered considerable illness, but they gradually became established and GWT worked building grist mills. Fanny's remarkable history gives full details of their struggle. She also taught her children to keep records, such a blessing to later generations.

From Harriet Maria's journal we learn that GWT worked on the Salt Lake Temple, and helped build grist mills in Salt Lake, Bountiful, Brigham City, and Farmington, Utah.

It was during this time that GWT entered into the covenant of plural marriage and took a third wife, Clarissa Marina Rogers.

We don't know when Eliza Ann and Harriet Maria Taggart met George Albert Goodrich, but his growing up years included military service with the Utah Militia in Echo Canyon, in the standoff with Johnston's Army during the winter of 1857-58. In the spring of 1862 he was called by Brigham Young to take a team and wagon back to Winter Quarters, and help bring some of the impoverished Saints west. The trip took six months. He later continued with the Militia as a Captain in the Black Hawk Indian War.

During the Johnston's Army scare, Fanny's family was among those evacuated to Provo until a settlement was reached. They were there five weeks. Brigham Young's team and wagon, took the family and their belongings back to Salt Lake, making the trip in one day.

Eliza Ann Taggart married George Albert Goodrich November 10, 1862, at the home of his sister, Sophia Lois Goodridge (Goodrich), who had married Leonard Wilford Hardy, the missionary who converted them, November 25, 1850. The Hardys were operating the station at the mouth of Parley's Canyon. Elder James Laird performed the ceremony. Their marriage was solemnized in the Endowment House the following year

Harriet Maria Taggart joined the family, becoming the second wife of George Albert, May 5, 1866,

just before she turned eighteen. They were married in the Endowment House, Salt Lake City.

Eliza and Harriet, now joint wives in a polygamous relationship, went with their husband when called by Brigham Young in 1868 to help settle the "Muddy," an arid land near what is now known as Overton, Nevada. They endured severe drought conditions and considerable Indian conflict. They thought they were in the Utah Territory, but when a survey proved they were in Nevada, taxes became so outrageous against the "Mormons" that they had to abandon their claims. Considerable of their livestock and other properties were taken as taxes. They were released from their mission, leaving their crops, almost ready to harvest, their hard-earned meeting house, nearly completed, and retreated to Orderville. They planted crops, which were consumed by grasshoppers.

They returned to Salt Lake City. In 1871 they moved to Morgan, where the Taggarts lived. Here he engaged in milling, first a saw mill and later a flour mill. George Albert Goodrich served two terms as sheriff of Morgan County. He also served as a home missionary.

While in Morgan, George Albert Goodrich married a third wife, Rhoda Slade. They were married by Joseph F. Smith.

In late October 1885, The Goodrich families left to settle in the Ashley Valley, arriving November 9, 1885. They first lived in Maeser, and engaged in milling. Then they homesteaded about four miles southeast of Vernal, in what is now eastern Naples. The three families finally had a permanent home and found relative peace. Opposition to polygamy, however, caused the families considerable concern.

One of many challenges was the diphtheria epidemic of 1889, which claimed five of Harriet's children and one of Eliza's. smallpox and influenza were also terrible.



Connie Hazen and Evelyn McConkie at the Cowley cemetery, '98 Reunion.

All three wives and their children were left totally on their own when their husband was called on a mission to the Southern States, serving in Tennessee from 1892 to 1894. He served under George Albert Smith, who later became President of the Church. At this time many men with plural wives were imprisoned, but there seemed to be less pressure upon their husband after the mission and he was not incarcerated.

Dr. Earl Douglas, an Easterner who came to Utah to establish what would become the Dinosaur National Monument, was looking for someone who knew the area and hired George Albert Goodrich to help him remove the first bones. A photograph of bearded "Father Goodrich," posing with his shovel before a large structure of dinosaur vertebrae embedded in the hillside, appears in various publications and histories. That photograph is on display at the Field house of Natural History in Vernal, Utah.

Eliza's eleventh and youngest child, Byron Goodrich, reports in his history that the three families got along very well together, in spite of the many challenges. The wives helped each other, and together the families were very productive. They provided their own entertainment, playing ball, marbles, duck stone, run sheep run, and other games. They also hunted, fished, skated, wrestled and swam. All of this was done in the hills adjacent to their home and in Ashley Creek below the farm. During the 1950's Byron attempted to take inventory of the descendants of George Albert Goodrich. After exceeding 2,000, he reported the situation "is totally out of control."

The adobe house, constructed on the old 80 acre homestead 1½ miles east of Naples lasted many years. Byron and Violet Goodrich were married in this home and later moved back to help their parents who were in poor health in their declining years. The old home was a haven for many and the four acres of cottonwoods planted during their first year remain an attractive grove. The home fell into disrepair during the 1960's. During the 1980's only one corner remained. Many descendants wish they had just one brick! Several pictures of the home are part of various histories (Note by the author, Glenn B Goodrich: "The old adobe home remained in the family for some years. Although my grandparents died long before my birth, I have

been in the home many times, and even lived there one summer in the 1940's, when my brother Orlo was leasing the farm. We farmed like they had done, with some of the original equipment still remaining, stacking alfalfa with a derrick and 'Jackson Fork' and putting up the wild hay [grass] from the lower meadows with horse drawn slips and slings. We also milked 18 cows, by hand [no electric milkers]. Uncle Bert Henry and his wife, Abbie Goodrich lived in the home for many years.")

In later years the two families of Eliza and Harriet lived adjacent to each other until Eliza's death in 1913. Rhoda's family meantime had settled in Bluebell, Utah (north of Roosevelt), and have many descendants there.

Some of the family moved into Wyoming, and tracked with the Taggarts in the Upper Bighorn Basin. Any Goodrich's with roots from the Uintah Basin are almost certainly related.

While there were several Goodrich immigrants, this line comes through William Goodrich (or Goodridge, a name used for 2 -3 generations), who came to America from England in 1636, just sixteen years after the Mayflower. Early emigrants used the name "Goodrich." Later, Benjamin used the name "Goodridge," and both names were used interchangeably for a couple of generations.

This document is really a consolidation of excerpts from many records in order to create a single story of the first two children of George Washington Taggart. We are indebted to the many who kept good records. I feel personally indebted to my sister, Lela Goodrich Johnson, who, throughout her life has been dedicated to keeping good family records and doing family research, genealogy and temple work.

This brief history of these wonderful people is but a peek into their lives and their remarkable display of faith, commitment, patriotism, devotion and love. Every reader, especially the descendants of these true pioneers, should study the complete histories, and embrace the same strengths that carried these frontier forebears throughout their lives. ❖

## LIFE ON THE "BIG MUDDY"

Submitted by Forrest Rick McConkie

Every time I read Great-grandmother Harriet's account of their times there I have a very hard time maintaining. It's so hard to imagine the faith it took to stay there for three years. They were six as they headed south, George, Eliza and her three children and Harriet. They encountered such discouraging and difficult hardships as they traveled just getting there only to find a land almost uninhabitable, and then to lose everything that they had been able to put together to the tax man. Great-grandmother tells of the birth of her second child (having lost her first in 1867) less than a month after arriving at their destination. "My second child, Fannie, was born at this place, on January 10th. The night of her birth I was in our tent, our only shelter at that time. It was impossible to stake it solid in the sand and as the wind blew a gale, some of our neighbors sat up thinking we would probably need help." She tells their first Christmas dinner was corn bread and a wild duck. She said Great-grandad didn't have a dollar during the entire three years they were there. She said their clothing became very scant and threadbare before they left the south. As an example she said George's apparel for the 24th of July consisted of a shirt made from "factory" which had been dyed and trousers made from two seamless sacks. He was obliged to go without "garments" as they could not replace the worn out ones.

Their farm was about five miles away from the place where they lived and as a consequence the wives were left alone nights. On one such night, Eliza and Harriet were alone in their rude shelter, a willow house, when a neighbor came in and informed them that "Frank Wooley," whom the Indians had murdered, was ". . . being taken through our valley to St. George for burial." This report was somewhat terrifying to them.

Personal traits: While living in Morgan Eliza was sustained a member of the Primary Stake Board and in Naples she was a member of the Relief Society Presidency. She was a lover of beautiful things. She loved flowers and had her windows lined with them. She sang much of the time as she went about work, and those who remember her say that she would never become angry at anyone or anything. One of her specialties in the baking line

was soda crackers. She loved to read, and kept up pretty well on events of the day. She especially enjoyed reading articles by the church leaders, a great number of which she clipped from the *Deseret News* and kept for others to read. She had a strong desire to contribute to the missionary cause and all things pertaining to the church, and did so according to her ability. Her most consuming interest seemed to be Genealogy. The family was strict in tithe payments and other offerings, and always had the blessing on the food and family prayer. Eliza was neat in her personal appearance and was unassuming in nature and disposition, kind, tolerant, and unselfish. She lived to be 69 years of age, passing away April 6, 1913, two years after her husband. She is buried in the Vernal Cemetery, Uintah County, Utah.

Interestingly enough - although Harriet left us much of her life in her autobiography, we have little to tell us of her personality. When Hazel Hilbig asked her mother about her aunt Eliza and what she was like, her mother replied, "She was kind and gentle, like my mother." From this it may be safe to infer that the two sisters were much alike in their character. Hazel tells us that "She usually wore a blouse, a skirt, and a tie apron. She mended her own clothes over and over, as I do not believe she had any money, unless someone might have given her some. She was always busy reading, mending, or keeping up her little house, although moving around and walking was difficult for her." According to her obituary she was president of the Relief Society and a Sunday School Teacher for a number of years. Nothing pleased her better than to converse with people on the principles of the Gospel. She was a great reader. She had a very cheerful, kind and forgiving disposition. She passed away May 22, 1928 and was buried next to her husband George Goodrich and her life long friend and sister Eliza Ann in the Vernal Cemetery. ❖

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## ABOUT OUR COVERS

We would like to feature several of the children of George Washington Taggart in each spring issue of our family newsletter. Any descendants of these children are invited to contribute articles and/or information for our publications. Pictures are always needed and welcome. Please check your



family records and contact us that we might do honor to all of the sixteen children from GWT, Harriet Atkins Bruce, Fanny Parks and Clarissa Marina Rogers. ❖

### MORE TAGGART HISTORY

Submitted by Forrest Rick McConkie

As published in the *Vernal Express* in 1928, the obituary for

Harriet Maria Goodrich stated that her father, George Washington Taggart, "helped with the work on the spread eagle at Eagle Gate in Salt Lake City." The picture here is of the original Eagle Gate Monument mentioned in that obituary. ❖



Eagle Gate

### A SECOND PATRIARCHAL BLESSING DISCOVERED FOR GEORGE WASHINGTON TAGGART

Submitted by Forrest Rick McConkie

### THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

#### PATRIARCHAL BLESSING

**Stake** No. 360:153

April 28<sup>th</sup> 1881      Richville, Morgan Co.      Utah  
**Date**                      **City**                                      **State**

A blessing given by William McBride, Patriarch upon the head of Geo. W. Taggart son of Washington and Susanna Law Taggart born in Sharon, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, November 6<sup>th</sup> 1816.

Bro George in the name of the Lord Jesus I place my hands upon thy head and by authority of the Holy Priesthood I seal upon thee a Patriarchal Blessing. I confirm upon thee all thy former blessings and ordinations. I seal unto thee it was

of thine own free will and accord that thou wast called, chosen, ordained and set apart in a former dispensation, yea, even before the foundations of this earth was laid, to bear thy part in the redemption of Zion and in restoring the house of Israel and bringing in the reign of peace upon the earth and see the government fall into the hands of the just, and to this end thou art here for thy lineage is in Israel through the loins of Ephraim who is the first born of Israel, holding the keys of the blessings of the gospel to every land, and thou shalt lay the foundation for the salvation and redemption and exaltation of thy fathers house for many generations back. The Lord requires at thy hand that thou shalt teach thy children to build upon the foundation that thou hast laid, that they may become Saviors on Mount Zion to the living and for the dead, and by obedience to the new and everlasting covenant, Thou shalt secure unto thyself and wives, thy children, thy relatives and thy friends an everlasting inheritance on the land of Zion, and thy heart shall be filled with rejoicing and thousands shall rejoice with thee, and thou shalt make known unto them the day of their salvation, and thou shalt minister ordinances of the fullness of the everlasting gospel that shall produce thy salvation and thy sons shall be mighty in the Priesthood, and thy daughters shall be filled with the spirit of the Lord, and that, that thou hast left undone they will do. Thou shalt be crowned with the crown of eternal lives, and stand upon thine inheritance with thy wives and thy children, and with all that is near and dear unto thee in the morning of the first resurrection for I seal these words upon thee in the name of Jesus Amen. ❖

### THE ADAMS FAMILY CONNECTION

Submitted by Jeannette Taggart Holmes

The following information is provided to show our Taggart family connection to the Adams family of President John and his son John Quincy Adams and their cousin, Samuel Adams, who together with President John Adams, helped author the Declaration of Independence.

George Washington Taggart

Washington Taggart married Susannah Law

Reuben Law married Alice Piper

Joseph Piper married Esther Wright

Henry Wright married Esther Adams

Thomas Adams married Judith

Timothy Adams married Mary

Thomas Adams married Mary  
Blackstone/Blackmore(?)

Henry Adams married Edith Squire

Careful research shows that George Washington Taggart's great, great, great, great, great, great (6) grandfather was Henry Adams. Henry Adams (1583-1646) and Edith Squire (1587-1673) were the parents of eight sons and one daughter. Our Taggart family descends from their son, Thomas (1612-1688), while President John Adams (1735-1826) descended from their son, John Adams (1622-1706), and was their great, great grandson. Samuel Adams (1722-1803) descended thru their son Joseph (1626-1694), and was also a great, great grandson.

So you see that although quite a distant, we are in fact related to President John Adams and others through our common ancestors Henry and Edith. Henry, of Braintree, Mass., is said to have emigrated to New England about 1634, and in February 1641, was granted 40 acres of land by Boston, of which Braintree was a part. He brought with him eight sons. His second son was Thomas born in England in 1612, made a freeman 10 May 1643; artillery company 1644. He lived in Concord and later settled in Chelmsford, Mass., was town clerk, selectman; represented at the second session of General Court 1673. Thomas died July 20, 1688 at the age of 76. ❖

Source: "*History of the Adams Family, with Biographical Sketches of Distinguished Descendants*" by Henry Whittemore, Willis McDonald & Co., Publishers, 1893.

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## GWT FAMILY HISTORY COMMITTEE MEETS

Submitted by Glenn B. Goodrich

A very productive meeting on George Washington Taggart Family History objectives was held at the home of Glenn B Goodrich, February 3, 1999. Representatives of all three wives of GWT were

present. A telephone conference call with Jeanette Taggart Holmes in California tied in all members of the Committee. Jeanette can use help with hundreds of names needing temple work.

In addition to the committee, Steven Laird Taggart (Ted-Henry Milton-Clarissa), Coordinator for the Association was present with encouragement and guidance. Steven Berlin (Lynn-Ida Mae-Sarah Jane-Clarissa), Assistant Editor of the *Newsletter* and Taggart Website Webmaster is anxious to make more information available to all members via the Internet, and offered invaluable assistance in procedural matters. Forest Rick McConkie (Jennie-Parley-Harriet Maria) and his wife Evelyn McConkie, editors of *George Washington Taggart, His Life and Times*, were present and were extremely helpful with their vast resource material.

The committee assigned themselves the task of making an inventory of where we are on researching each line of GWT Family History, identifying problems and what will it take to move forward. The inventory will also include items of value that should be shared, such as individual and family histories of ancestors.

The Committee will be working with the new LDS Church Internet Program and will be represented at the BYU Annual Computerized Genealogy Conference, March 18-20, 1999.

### **The Committee invites participation of anyone interested in helping with time or materials.**

Many items of great value tucked away in individual homes should be in the inventory

### **The Committee is comprised as follows:**

Glenn B Goodrich (Byron-Eliza Ann-Harriet Bruce), Director, 65 South 500 East, Bountiful, UT 84010 (801-295-5485) email: glennng@davis.uswest.net

Jeanette Taggart Holmes (Bruce-George Henry-Fanny), 257 Promenade Lane, Danville, CA 94506, (925-648-0835) email: jholmes@wilcoxassoc.com

Lawrence C. Taggart (Leonard-Henry Milton-Clarissa) 3512 West Fenchurch Road, West Jordan, UT 84084 (801-566-2819)

Wendy Brimhall Kremin (Dell-Veda-Harriet Penelope-Eliza Ann-Harriet Bruce), 1196 North 2925 West, Layton, UT 84041 (801-544-0320) email: cpkremin@integrityonline3.com



Bar-B-Q Dinner at Lloyd Taggart's.

Jane Poll (Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny); Lawrence C. Taggart (Leonard-Henry Milton-Clarissa); 2555 East 78th South, South Weber, UT 84405 (801-479-6048)

Connie Berlin Hazen (Lynn-Ida Mae-Sarah Jane-Clarissa), 816 South 800 East, Bountiful, UT 84010 (801-295-6376) email: hazen@lgy.com ❖

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## 28<sup>TH</sup> FAMILY REUNION CODY, WYOMING, AUGUST 14 - 16, 1998

Submitted by Forrest Rick McConkie

Taggart family members from all across the United States, and elsewhere began to arrive in the well known Wyoming Tourist Town of Cody on Friday, August 14, 1998. The early arrivals congregated at the home of Lloyd Taggart for a special Bar-B-Q dinner provided by the local cousins. Many were able to take in the Rodeo on Friday night.

Saturday morning dawned with many taking in breakfast as the guests of Mac Taggart. Family members began meeting at the Church at 9:00 a.m. to take in the many marvelous and interesting displays and informative presentations on the Taggart Family History, Tradition and Genealogy, especially the historic museum like-displays at that Church of the early settlement of the area.

Our family meeting began at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Chris Taggart conducted the meeting and welcomed all who had made it there. An opening hymn "High on a Mountain Top" was sung followed by an opening prayer by Judy Taggart.

Steve Taggart, our family organization leader, then addressed the group, followed by a musical number "Silver Haired Daddy of Mine" by the George & Diane Welch Family.

Jeanette Taggart Holmes then gave the family some insights into the life and ancestry of Fanny Parks Taggart, second wife of George Washington Taggart. (A copy of her notes for this presentation follows). Sherman Watkins gave us a historic sketch of the "Big Horn Basin" and its subsequent settlement and development. Notes from his comments follow.

Mac Taggart then favored the family with some of his recollections and memories of growing up in Cowley, Wyoming, and his family roots there. The Hal Taggart Family then presented a musical number "Come Unto Him" after which we all took a short break.

Many of the children were welcomed to break away from the main group to take in some games tailored to their interests, and we resumed our



Paul Taggart (left) and family with celebrated tour guide, raconteur and humorist Jim Taggart (second from right).

meeting with a musical number "Old Man River" sung by Dick Clark.

Glenn Goodrich gave some insight into the life of his Great-grandmother and first wives of George

Washington Taggart, Harriet Atkins Bruce Taggart, and her daughter Eliza Ann. (A copy of his notes for this presentation follows).



Breakfast at Mac Taggart's.

Rick McConkie then took a few minutes to talk about the book "*George Washington Taggart - His Life and Times*" and he and his wife's experiences as they compiled it.

Steve Berlin our "Family Webmaster" then took a few minutes to announce that the George Washington Taggart Family Organization Website is now in operation and can be instantly accessed by millions of people anywhere on earth. In words and pictures the website tells the story and celebrates the faith, character and accomplishments of our ancestors as well as our modern Taggart family members. Your active participation will help this new means of communicating reach its potential for strengthening the ties that bind us together. You can check on family events like the reunion, leave a message, read those of others and peruse the site's growing content, mostly gleaned from our newsletters. Please visit the site and take a little time to explore.

Leave a message in the guest book. Be sure to send an email message to the Webmaster so we know how to contact you. Finally, if you can contribute articles or some computer expertise to build the site, please let us know. Whether you live in Richville or Rome you can add to the enjoyment and edification of our family in this way. The address for the Website is:

[www.metrogourmet.com/taggart](http://www.metrogourmet.com/taggart)

Chris Taggart then took a few moments to review the afternoon bus tour to Cowley for those planning to take in the swimming or afternoon of river rafting. A great deal of thought and preparation had been given to the tour. An informative and well-prepared booklet had been made and presented to members who took the bus tour of Cowley, and three buses had been provided for transportation. Everyone was welcomed to take advantage of the excellent museum at the "Buffalo Bill Historical Center," which many took advantage of at some time during their stay in Cody.

The meeting then concluded with the song "Home on the Range" and the closing prayer given by Jim Taggart, after which the family broke up into groups either going on to the river rafting event or taking the bus tour of Cowley.

Saturday evening everyone converged on the Church to enjoy a dinner catered again by the local cousins. The time was well spent in eating, visiting and picture taking.

Sunday Morning Services were held in the Church Building with special permission at 8:30 a.m. to avoid conflict with the local Stake Conference scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Our meeting was conducted by Chris Taggart and the opening hymn was "The Spirit of God." The opening prayer was



On the bus tour to Cowley with Mac Taggart (right). Mac could always be counted on for telling not-to-be-missed tales out of school.

offered by Larry Taggart. The sacrament hymn was "In Humility Our Savior," after which the emblems of the Sacrament were blessed and passed by various members of the family.

We were then favored by a musical number presented by the Hal Taggart Family and the

program was given by the Paul Taggart Family (Scott Allen-Scott-George Henry-Fanny) who recently returned from a unique family mission to the Phillippines. Each member of the family in turn took a part on the program. A brief sketch of their mission adventure follows.

As the closing hymn “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” was sung which had a deep impact on many there we contemplated separating to our various destinations throughout the world. The closing prayer was offered by James Rich and the reunion adjourned. ❖

Reunion - continued...

### **A Good Name**

Remarks by Jeannette Taggart Holmes  
(Bruce-George Henry-Fanny)

As I look out over this audience in this land of Wyoming, I am reminded of the words of the poet John Greenleaf Whittier:

*“Home of my fathers,  
Oh, never may a son of thine  
Where ‘ere his wandering steps incline  
Forget the sky that bent above  
His boyhood like a dream of love.”*

I recall with love the times of my childhood which were spent in this country with my father, my family, and my Taggart relatives.

As I gaze out at all of you, I am impressed to say that you are among the world’s wealthiest people. #1 - You are blessed with a great name - the name TAGGART. And #2 - You are blessed with an honorable Christian ancestry. Patrick Henry once wrote, “I have now disposed of all of my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian Religion. If they had that, and I had not given them one schilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor.” To his words I would add, “The Christian Religion as taught in His restored church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”

In Proverbs 22:1 we read, “A good name is a great fortune.” TAGGART is a good name - an

honorable name. It commands respect today just as it has throughout history. McTAGGART means “son of the priest.” The “Mac-Mc” prefix was dropped at the time of the persecution of the Scots who refused to abandon their protestant religion for the King’s convenience. These Scots drew up the Solemn League and Covenant in which they declared that the King could be King of England, but not King of the Church. They believed there could be only one King of the Church and that person was Jesus Christ. These Scots then became known as “Covenanters” and were severely persecuted for refusing to change their religion to suit the King. These Scots believed they had received the Christian religion from the Apostle John and that, unlike the Christian churches elsewhere in the world, theirs had not been corrupted by the Romans. The Romans and Saxons had failed in their attempts to conquer these Scots.

In about 1600, England had succeeded in conquering all of Ireland. The King desired to “plant” his new land with people who would help to protect him from the native Irish. Both Englishmen and Scotsmen were among the “planters.” Many Scots fled to Northern Ireland to become “planters” in the Plantation of Ulster. Our Taggarts were among them. They mainly settled in Counties Antrim and Londonderry where they prospered. They were successful in establishing thriving linen and cattle



The chicken tastes good!

industries. When their successes threatened the English linen and cattle industries, the King imposed heavy taxes on these northern Scots. He dramatically increased the charges for their land leases. Their marriages were declared invalid. They were barred from teaching in schools and churches and from holding government positions. Persecuted by the Crown, hated by the native Irish, forced to pay exorbitant rents for their lands, and faced with embargoes on their thriving livestock and linen industries, these sturdy Scots soon banded together to see to find a place in the New

World where they could better their living conditions and be free to worship as they chose. One author has written, "Suffering that would have degraded a meaner race, hardened and ennobled the Scotsman. It was from these ages of oppression and lawlessness that he drew the rugged fidelity, the dogged endurance, the shrewdness, the caution, the wariness, the rigid thrift, the noble self-dependence, the patience, and the daring which has distinguished him ever since." These Presbyterian Scots possessed a spirit of self-respect and self-reliance and a devotion to what was right rather than what was expedient.

In 1689 the turmoil in Ireland reached a peak with the King's army overrunning all of Ireland except for Enniskillen and Derry (the name then for Londonderry). The people fled to Londonderry for protection within the walls of the city. The battle which ensued is known as the Siege of Derry and is a story not to be forgotten. Many of our ancestors were participants in this cruel battle and later joined with numerous other Ulster Scots who emigrated to America about 1718-1720. They settled in the Boston area, later removing to Londonderry and Peterborough, New Hampshire. Our George Washington Taggart ancestors were part of this group.

These same Scots-Irish emigrants would, in a few years, be found among the staunchest defenders of their new country. During the Revolutionary War they fought at the Battle of Hubbardtown (where a John Taggart was killed on July 7, 1777), at Bunker Hill, Valley Forge, and the Battles of Bennington, Princeton, Crown Point and Ticonderoga. The story is told of a stranger who asked one of the Bruce sons (Harriet Atkins Bruce's family) for directions on how and where he could find General Stark and the site of battle. The Bruce boy answered that it would be easier to show him the way than to try and tell him. The mother baked them some bread and they molded their bullets, packed their packs, and left. When they got close enough to hear the sounds of battle, they decided to hide their packs in a nearby hollow tree. One said "I guess we can find this tree when we come back." The other replied "If we don't come back, we won't need to." George Washington is quoted as saying that if he were forced to choose one group to help him defend his army in a time of great crisis, he would choose the Scots-Irish! Ancestor

Reuben Law, only 25 years old, marched side by side with Isaac Davis along the Lexington highway when Isaac was killed by the first shot fired by the English redcoats. Reuben had his queue (wig) shot off. Today tourists and visitors are shown the Hosmer house where a bullet is still visible in the wall, a remnant of the first battle of the Revolutionary War at Lexington. (Hosmers are also ancestors.) Our Lt. James Taggart, then nearly 34 years old, and his brothers William (about 18), and John (about 26), along with many of their cousins and in-laws were participants in this private war. Prior to that they had fought in the French and Indian War.



Greg Taggart keeps the hotcakes coming for the multitudes at Mac Taggart's breakfast for the '98 Reunion.

Lord Roseberry once wrote, "I love Highlanders and I love Lowlanders, but when I come to the branch of our race that has been grafted on to the Ulster stem, I take off my hat in veneration and awe."

According to a U.S. Census Bureau study of European descendants, those Americans whose ancestors came from Scotland "didn't do just well, but VERY WELL. Scots were the best educated and the most likely to wind up in jobs with high incomes." Records of our ancestors confirm these statements. Education was a high priority. Taggarts and their affiliated lines through marriage were found in great numbers as college Presidents and/or Founders (Harvard, Princeton, Brown, Yale, Dartmouth, University of Utah, Utah State University, University of California, and Mills College in Oakland, California). Throughout history we also find them to be numerous as Ministers, Reverends, Elders, Priests, etc., in their churches. The name Taggart is derived from McTaggart meaning "son of the Priest." For example, more than five of our lines can be traced to the Rev. John White of Dorchester, England, often called "The Patriarch of Dorchester." He is described by historians as "a man of greatness - a Christian gentleman." He was profound in

literature and author of many books and articles, including the famous "Planters Plea." One author writes that "He was a Prophet and he saw a new day and a new light; he saw a new state whose foundations could not be moved for they were to be grounded on true religious principles. He is endeared to Dorchester and to all New England." Although John White never made it to America, the congregation which he organized to colonize in New England became important leaders in the new Colonies. They founded many of the earliest settlements in Colonial America. His colony of emigrants left Boston with the famous Rev. Thomas Hooker and cut their path through the forests to settle in Connecticut where they founded Hartford and other towns. Their names are seen on the Founders Monument in Hartford.

These Ulster Scot Taggarts married into the English Puritan and Separatist lines which were so populous in New England at the time of their emigration to America. For instance, Washington Taggart, father of our George Washington Taggart, married Susannah Law. Her English heritage was equally honorable and her pedigree can be traced through equally distinguished ancestors to the Royal lines of Europe (Kings of England, William the Conqueror, Charlemagne, Kings of Scotland, France, Germany, Prussia, Emperors, etc., etc.) all the way to Noah and Adam and Eve. These ancestral lines connect to both civic and religious leaders such as U.S. Presidents John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Ulysses S. Grant, Grover Cleveland Calvin Coolidge, George Bush, Franklin D. Roosevelt, etc., Church Presidents Heber J. Grant, Wilford Woodruff, Gordon B. Hinckley, Harold B. Lee, Spencer Kimball and Marion Romney, and the Prophets Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. World leaders such as Winston Churchill, Princess Diana, and early Massachusetts and Connecticut Governors Danforth, Welles, Belcher, Bulkeley, Bradford; the patriot Sam Adams, the Rev. George Ross, and Robert Treat, were all signers of the Declaration of Independence; Contemporaries U.S. Senator Henry Hyde, known for his integrity and Wyoming State Senator Cal Taggart (in our audience today); Samuel Taggart served as Assistant Gov. and Gov. of Mass.; Horace Greeley ("Go west young man."), famous journalist and twice a candidate for U.S. President was also the publisher of the *New York Herald Tribune*.

Perhaps this sounds like bragging. Let me quote what one ancestor in New Hampshire wrote, "Royalty amounts to nothing, and only that man is truly Royal who makes himself so by a noble life and heroic deeds." Another warned, "Few people make their place in the sun by lying in the shade of family trees."

Today the descendants of George Washington Taggart and his three wives gather to honor our heritage and pay tribute to our beloved ancestors. George had married his first wife Harriet Bruce in Peterborough, N.H., in May 1843. Harriet died in February 1845 after a "lingering illness," leaving George with a very young child to care for. His father (Washington) and his brother Oliver had died in September of 1843 and had been buried side by side in the old Nauvoo Burial Ground.

I have been asked to tell you about George's second wife, Fanny Parks. George Washington Taggart was now a young widower caring for his very young daughter Eliza Ann. He often took the baby with him in a wheelbarrow as he worked on the temple. In July 1845, George married Fanny Parks, the daughter of William and Fanny (Hyde) Parks and granddaughter of Rev. War soldier Benjamin and Mary (Olmstead/Umpstead) Hyde. Fanny loved this sweet baby and she wrote of that love in the diaries which she kept. They had been married only a year when in June 1846, Brigham Young, in answer to the request of U.S. President Polk, issued the call for 500 men to volunteer to serve for one year in the service of the U.S. Government in the war with Mexico and immediately to be outfitted to cross the Rocky Mountains to Santa Fe. GWT, after first counseling with William Huntington and Ezra Taft Benson concerning the situation with his family and expressing his own feelings on the subject, was told that the importance of the request by President Polk required that every man who could go should go. GWT answered the call and on February 17<sup>th</sup> he left with the "Mormon Battalion." His letter to Fanny in August 1846 provides us with a priceless record of his heartfelt concerns for his family and of his deep sense of devotion to his God, his Church, and his ancestors who had fought in so many wars to defend liberty and freedom - the most recent being the Revolutionary War.

One can only imagine the feelings and concerns which the young bride Fanny must have felt. She was left in Nauvoo, a new bride with a young child to care for, and no means with which to do so. Fortunately for us, Fanny, like her husband GWT, kept diaries and recorded her feelings and her experiences. After arriving at Council Bluffs, she records how she visited Brigham Young, as families of the volunteers had been instructed to do. Brigham Young counseled her to find some friends with whom she could live. She turned her head to hide the tears which welled up. Then, telling herself that this would never do, she began the search. She found some friends - the Asa Davis family - who took her in. She helped to care for their family. She became even closer to the sweet baby for which she was a new mother - a "stepmother" yes - but a REAL mother in the love and care and concern she felt for the child Eliza Ann.

Fanny endured many trials, sacrifices, hardships, and loneliness, always keeping a journal. In her journal she wrote, "When I married Mr. Taggart he was a widower with one little girl . . . Eliza Ann. Through all the hardships and trials to come I had her with me, but she was a great comfort to me." Obviously she was well educated and her writings provide evidence of her being quite a poet. Some of these poems and acronyms are preserved. Her writings also record her thoughts and sentiments such as "I realize that I have but one master to serve and I resolve to make it my great aim to please him." "I will be particularly watchful against the love of praise or distinction." "I will not allow the conduct of others towards me to lessen my kindness or good will to them." "I will watch particularly against all heartlessness towards inferiors and especially such as need my help."

Her journals also provide evidence that she was a kind of administering nurse. As she cared for the sick and the needy, she kept a record of her cures and medicines in her journals. She remained with the saints until her husband, GWT, returned from his long and arduous service with the Mormon Battalion.

In the recent story by Eileen Robinson about GWT we get another glimpse of the great sacrifice these two honorable ancestors had made. In a letter which George's cousin Amy Carter Young wrote

to her brothers and sisters in Peterborough in December 1847, she writes, "George Taggart returned last Friday from the army he is very nigh wore out on account of the hardships he has passed through not having enough to eat for many days they had nothin to eat but their horses and mules that give out and could not travel they would kill them and eat them he looks very old I should not know him if I had seen him any where else but at his own house." George had just turned 31. Fanny records that "The little girl, Eliza, had forgotten her father."

Upon George's return, they journeyed west to the Salt Lake Valley. They settled in Salt Lake City next to the Kimballs and Brigham Young. Their home was on 1<sup>st</sup> North (now 2<sup>nd</sup> North) between Main and State streets, just a short block from the Temple site. (This location is just a block south of the site of my maternal grandparents' home on Gray Ave. - the Christensens.) Years later they moved to Morgan, Utah. Fanny bore three children - Harriet Marie, George Henry, and Charles Wallace Taggart. Her posterity now numbers in the thousands.

Fanny was a remarkable woman. She demonstrated great courage in facing hardships and trials. She was dedicated to the principles which she espoused. She was patient and kind to others. She was devoted to her family, her Church and her God. One of her finest legacies is evident here today. When polygamy was introduced, one can find stories of many and varied experiences - both sad and good. Fanny's experience showed that her unconditional love and sweet spirit never left her. This made it possible for her to love the third wife and the children of that union, thereby avoiding the jealousy, anger or resentment which could have entered in. That love is manifest in this Taggart family gathering today . . . genuine true and honest love for each other and for all of our cousins from all three wives.

In telling a friend of mine that I was going to a family reunion and had been asked to be one of three speakers - each to tell about one of the three wives of GWT, she responded in amazement saying "My ancestor also had more than one wife, but we don't even speak to each other, much less gather together as FAMILY." I am grateful for the love shared in these three families of GWT.



Many years ago the *Northern Tribune* printed an article in the paper at the death of one of Fanny's ancestral relatives – Jonathan Hyde. It was noted that "His exemplary life deserved the following epitaph – 'He who lives a great truth is incomparably greater than he who but speaks it.'" Fanny lived an exemplary life. Drake wrote, "See that ye hold fast the heritage that we leave you; yea, and teach your children its value." As John Milton wrote,

*"Our lives are albums written through  
With good or ill, with false or true  
And as the blessed angels turn the pages of our  
years  
God grant they read the good with smiles  
And blot the bad with tears."*

In conclusions I have only to say – select from the good habits and the virtues of your ancestry. Choose everything worthy of imitation and let your generation and your descendants carry them forward.

One 18<sup>th</sup> century clergyman, William Law, wrote "If you have not chosen the Kingdom of God first, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead." Choose wisely!

I thank my own family for being here today. All five of my children and their spouses, and all twelve of my grandchildren are here. I LOVE THEM. I AM PROUD OF THEM. And I love all of you. GOD BLESS YOU – EACH AND EVERY ONE!

P.S.: Alex Haley wrote, "When an old person dies it is like burning a library." When I die, please don't burn mine. ❖

Reunion - continued...

### **History of The Move to The Big Horn Basin**

Remarks by Sherman Watkins  
(Becky-Lloyd-George Henry-Fanny)

I was a bit surprised at the invitation to speak on this topic. First and foremost, I moved from this vicinity 35 years ago. Second, I like to claim that my ancestors fled Utah when referring to the move, and while that may endear me to those who've continued to resist Utah's siren call, it does nothing to raise my stock with the rest of the

family. However, both my grandparents were part of the move as children and I have vivid memories of my grandmother, Louise Welch Taggart, telling stories of the journey. Every time I drive through South Pass I try to remember exactly where she pointed out their old campsites.

The time line for this talk was left vague so I did some research on the Basin and its people, as background, and turned up this little gem which I knew would grab everyone and hold them spellbound - "The Basin is composed of approximately 10,000 square miles of dominantly Cretaceous rocks in addition to localized outcrops of Triassic, Jurassic, and Tertiary stratigraphy. Prior to the Laramide orogenic event, the Bighorn Basin was not a sedimentary or structural basin. Rather, the Paleozoic and Mesozoic formations were deposited in a setting of a large platform area



Pioneer Companies at Hams Fork

that saw repeated transgressions and regressions of the epicontinental seas." After that, I figure anything I might add will be like a shot of electricity.

While we like to think that Cowley and the other towns established when the family emigrated to the Big Horn Basin were the beginning of LDS settlement in the area, such is not the case. At least two families prominent later in the migration were present in the Basin by 1892. A son of Wilford Woodruff and brother of Abraham O. Woodruff established Burlington, WY in 1892. The brother of George Henry Taggart's wife, Jessie McNiven, moved to the Basin in 1894.

These early settlers were secure enough by 1899 that they requested official church recognition. Abraham O. Woodruff was assigned by President Lorenzo Snow to formally establish the church in

the Basin as part of the Woodruff Stake. So it was that in early 1900 when the Wyoming Governor requested a colony of Mormons to settle in the Basin the desirability of the area was already known to church authorities.

Elder Woodruff was assigned to head up the effort and, in turn, assigned thirteen men to scout the Basin in February 1900. George Henry Taggart was among these thirteen. This initial scouting party traveled by train through Montana and were met by previous

LDS settlers who escorted them to and through the Basin. Much of the journey was made on foot since, as farmers, the scouts wanted to get a feel for the land and its possibilities. During one stretch they walked 100 miles in just two days despite having to break ice to cross the occasional stream.

William “Buffalo Bill” Cody also

met with the scouting party and signed over to them water rights he held along the Shoshone River despite the disagreement of his partner, Nate Salisbury. To his partner Bill Cody said, “When you die it will be said of you, ‘Here lies Nate Salisbury, who made a million dollars in the show business and kept it,’ but when I die people will say, ‘Here lies Bill Cody who made a million dollars in the show business and distributed it among his friends.’”

These rights have proven preeminent to any others along the river, including those of the Federal government, and did much to bring to pass Bill Cody’s dream of a highly respected agricultural area in the Big Horn Basin.

The group was so positive of the area and of the church’s eventual acceptance of the colony that

they ordered a rail car load of plows, scrapers, crowbars, picks, and shovels to be delivered in Bridger, Montana. The hardware dealer had nothing but their word to go on. In later years, after many such transactions, he commented that he had never lost money in his dealings with the church members in the Basin.

The group colonizing the Big Horn Basin was formally organized in Salt Lake City with A.O. Woodruff as president on 9 April 1900. It was

decided to travel to the Basin in April/ May before the streams flooded completely from snow melt. 25 April 1900 was designated as the day to meet at Hams Fork, above present day Kemmerer, Wyoming to organize into seven companies for the journey.



Front row: George H. Taggart, Byron Sessions, Abraham O. Woodruff, William. B. Graham, Brigham L. Tippetts, S.P. Sorensen. Back row: Charles A. Welch, Hyrum K. North, John Stevens, William G. Simmons, John J. Simmons.

The route of travel follows fairly closely many of today’s

highways - Salt Lake City, Coalville, Echo, Wasatch, Evanston, Kemmerer, Hams Fork, Slate Creek Ferry of the Green River, Big Sandy Station, South Pass by way of Sweetwater and Atlantic City, north to Lander, Fort Washikie, the Shoshone reservation, and over the Owl Creek mountains. Here the possible trails diverged. Choice one went to the Basin via Meeteetse and Cody, then down the Shoshone River. Choice two traveled down the old Missouri trail to Thermopolis, Basin, Burlington, and across the Shoshone River to the settlement area.

George Henry Taggart, then age 50, was elected captain of Company Two. This company consisted of 16 wagons, 22 men, 6 women, 27 children, and 36 horses. Four of the children accompanied him - John R., age 22, Rebecca, 18, Nettie, 16, and Bruce, 10. Jessie and the remaining children who

made the move came later by train as far as Bridger, Montana. They only had a 40-mile trip by wagon from the rail head to their uncompleted new home. My grandfather, Lloyd Taggart, was in this second group and I've never quite forgiven him for coming on the train.

A photograph of Company Two is reprinted on page 73 of the current manual for the Relief Society and Priesthood, *“Teachings of Presidents of the Church, Brigham Young.”* Prior to leaving Ham's Fork, this company, aided by Company Three, went up on the side of the mountain there at Hams Fork and sang “For the Strength of the Hills We Bless Thee” and “High on the Mountain Top.” (Hymns 35, 5).

One day into the journey it began snowing and snowed for three days. While they had a limited supply of oats for the horses there was no forage available. The horses became so hungry that they ate the ends of fishing poles that were left sticking out of wagons and chewed holes in the wagons themselves. With the snow came high winds that tore down tents and stove pipes. Conditions were bad enough that one two-year-old girl sickened and died. Since there were no planks available for making a coffin, George H Taggart fashioned one for her from the end gates of several wagons.

While the journey could be seen as a hardship by many, I remember one story told me by my grandmother that suggests the children saw things from



Charles & Mary Welch

a slightly different perspective. She made the trip with Company Two as an eight-year-old with her parents, Charles and Mary Welch. Her memories of the snow centered around a supply of pine gum she found the night before. Hugging herself with anticipation of the treat it offered she decided to collect it the next morning before their early start. Her disappointment was still palpable 65 years later as

she recalled the snow that prevented her from getting back to the gum.

The first company arrived in the vicinity of Cowley early in May with the last company arriving three weeks later. The cattle herd traveled separately and did not arrive until summer.

The first concern, even before permanent shelter, was water. Cowley and Byron are situated on two benches without a ready supply of running water. Since the settlers came from the arid west they knew that rainfall could not be counted upon. Parts of the Big Horn Basin receive only two inches of moisture a year, comparable to parts of the Mohave Desert. Work on a canal from the Shoshone River for irrigation was organized 28 May 1900.

The proposed Sidon Canal was projected to run 37 miles. Those working on the canal were paid a daily rate, primarily in canal stock, of \$4.00 for a man and team, \$3.00 for a carpenter, or \$2.25 for a single laborer. George H Taggart was in charge of the construction of all the flumes and spillways. In later years oil was discovered on the canal property so the farmers, instead of paying for their water, actually received dividends on their stock.

The story of Prayer Rock is often told when talking of building the canal. A huge rock loomed directly in the canal right of way. Since a cliff was on one side and a slope down into the valley on the other there was no choice but to move the rock. It was hoped that sand that had drifted around the rock could be moved from the valley side and the rock tumbled down and away. A work detail was assigned to the task using men and boys as young as fourteen, since there wasn't much else for them to do except work on the canal. Byron Sessions, later the first Stake President of the Big Horn Stake and general manager of the canal project, volunteered to ramrod this crew.

One night President Sessions could not sleep for worry that the rock would shift unexpectedly and crush one or more of the crew working in the 10-12 foot hole beneath it. Arising early he went out to the rock and prayed that he would have the insight to both move the rock and prevent injury to the workers. A similar prayer was offered later that morning as part of the regular morning prayer for the construction crew. About ten o'clock that

morning he was impressed to call the crew away from the rock and waved his hat to hurry them away. As soon as they were all clear a small trickle of sand fell away from the base of the rock and the rock split, with the lower half falling into the hole where the men were working, clearing a way for the canal to go between the two pieces.

Even with miracles the work was hard and dirty and only eight miles completed by August. Prospects were fairly serious by that time since credit was short and the supplies brought from Utah were being exhausted. In addition, they still had homes to build for the winter. A second miracle occurred at this time in the guise of the Burlington Railroad. Settlers were hired to build 23 miles of rail bed at a rate ranging from 13 ½ cents per cubic yard of earth moved up to 80 cents per cubic yard of solid rock. Since the community needed the canal and everyone needed the railroad's cash, it was decided that the railroad workers would receive only half their pay in cash with the remaining half coming as canal stock. The remaining cash went to the canal workers who then only had half their pay in canal stock. In total the community earned \$90,000 from the railroad for 27 miles of rail bed which they completed in August 1901.

Conditions were tough in the camp as the men worked. In addition to hauling water two miles for daily use there was an epidemic of small pox. Seven of the Taggart family were stricken. My grandfather had pox marks on his neck from that time for the rest of his life. There was also the hardships of living virtually out doors. Jack Taggart later claimed to have slept indoors only twice in the first four years of the community.

A drawing for land was held in September 1900 with the land divided by lots so each man would be treated fairly. Men could choose either the Cowley or Byron bench and the amount of land desired, either 40, 60, 120, or 160 acres. Those choosing 40 acres, since they figured to be poorer were given first class land. Those with larger acreage were given a mix of both first and second class, the mix varying by the distance from town. Town lots were drawn for in much the same way. The Taggart land consisted of 80 acres southeast of Cowley, 80 acres east of town, and a city lot of 1.5 acres in the center of town.

The first Taggart home was two rooms. The first was used as a combination kitchen, dining room, and living room. The second was a bedroom. A tent with a carpet nailed down to the ground provided a bedroom for the girls and the boys slept in a covered wagon. They moved into the house as soon as they were able, long before it was completed. In the very beginning they still used a tent for the roof.

The Sidon Canal was completed to Byron in September 1901 and to Cowley 14 July 1902. The state engineer declared the canal finished in October 1903.

The Big Horn Stake was organized in May 1901 with George H Taggart as a High Counselor. His life was complicated somewhat in that he had to travel some in this assignment and he could not abide horses. It often happened that he'd leave in the morning on a horse and return in the evening leading it, preferring walking to riding. Jessie McNiven Taggart, his wife, was called as President of the ward Relief Society.

Education was important just as in all church established communities. The Big Horn Academy was established in June 1908 and graduated its first class in 1912. The impact of the Taggart's can be seen in that Bruce, Scott, and Lloyd were all part of that first graduating class. The school band included Joseph, Grant, and Scott.

With the graduation of that first class we can say the settlement of the Big Horn Basin was complete. There was more work for the railroad, another canal, and building the road west into Yellowstone. Projects such as these continued to prop up the early community but theirs is another story. ❖

#### Sources:

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"*History of the Big Horn Basin*," by Charles A. Welch. Copyright 1940. Published by the Deseret News Press.

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**Harriet Atkins Bruce Taggart**  
**March 20, 1821 - February 19, 1845**  
**And Her Legacy Through the Taggart -**  
**Goodrich Connection**  
Remarks by Glenn B Goodrich

Information collected by Glenn B Goodrich (great grandson of Harriet) with liberal borrowings from the new publication, *George Washington Taggart, Member of the Mormon Battalion, His Life and Times and His Wives*, by Rick and Evelyn McConkie (October 25, 1997); and from various of the wonderful *Taggart Newsletters*, and the personal history of Byron Goodrich, grandson of Harriet through her daughter, Eliza Ann Taggart.

Harriet Atkins Bruce was born March 20, 1821 in Peterborough, New Hampshire, the third of eleven children. It appears she was the only one to join the Mormon Church. Her parents were Peter Bruce, a veteran of the War of 1812, and Eliza French.

Harriet left some valuable belongings, currently in the possession of Lela Goodrich Johnson, a great granddaughter, living in Providence, Utah. The items include an embroidered "sampler" with her name on it, a tiny coin purse, and a small leather-bound bible she carried to Nauvoo. It carries her name, *H.A. Bruce*, inscribed in beautiful penmanship. She also passed on, through her daughter Eliza, two beautiful, miniature porcelain photographs of her and her husband's wedding pictures. Photographs of these items were printed in the Spring 1998 edition of the *Taggart Family Newsletter*, Volume XIII.

Harriet Atkins Bruce became the first wife of George Washington Taggart, both natives of Peterborough, New Hampshire. They were married on May 7, 1843, and a month later were found living in Nauvoo. Harriet had been baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints the previous winter, February 20, 1842, and it appears that George had joined three months earlier, in late November of 1841.

They were caught up in the western movement of the Mormons and were a significant part of the establishment of Nauvoo. A carpenter, George was busy building both homes and the Temple.

They were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Eliza Ann, on January 28, 1844, in Nauvoo, Illinois. She was named Eliza after Harriet's mother, Eliza French Bruce.

Eliza Ann Taggart was just five months old when Joseph and Hyrum Smith were martyred, June 27, 1844. Her father, George Washington Taggart, was a member of the Nauvoo Legion, and helped retrieve the bodies from Carthage. He played his life as the military procession returned Joseph and Hyrum to a bewildered and mourning population in Nauvoo.

The marital bliss of George and Harriet in beautiful Nauvoo was short lived when Harriet died on February 19, 1845, leaving fourteen-month-old Eliza Ann motherless, and husband George a widower. While the cause of her death is not certain, malaria and cholera were both rampant in Nauvoo at the time. Harriet would have turned twenty four years of age the following month.

Committed to the building of the Nauvoo Temple, George would take baby Eliza with him, using a wheelbarrow for her crib while he worked.

On July 12, 1845, George Washington Taggart was very fortunate to marry Fanny Parks. He could not have found a more caring or loving person to mother little Eliza Ann. Fanny relates that though times were very trying, especially during George's one and a half year absence with the Mormon Battalion, little Eliza "was a great comfort to her."

George responded to the call to serve in the Mormon Battalion, both to answer the call of a prophet, and to show that he too, like his forebears in the Revolutionary War, had the blood of patriotism flowing through his veins. He traveled (mostly walked) 4,000 miles from Council Bluffs to Tucson, San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento, and back to Salt Lake City through Nevada and southern Idaho to stay north of the Great Salt Lake and its treacherous mud flats and lack of good water which plagued the Donner party. While in San Diego, he helped build brick homes and dig wells for the settlers who had been impoverished by the war with Mexico.

He entered Salt Lake with great anticipation of finding his wife Fanny and daughter Eliza. To his

dismay, they were not there, and even though it was already October, he rested briefly and then started a torturous press to Winter Quarters, locating his family on the 17th of December 1847. He was totally exhausted and drawn, but was relieved to find his wife and daughter, though poor, in reasonably good health and secure. They settled in Harris Grove, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa Territory, where he helped build wagons for the westward movement, but it was four years before he had secured the equipment and reserves to take his own family west.

It was here in Harris Grove that Fanny gave birth to her three children, Harriet Maria, George Henry and Charles Wallace Taggart.

George and Fanny were finally able to continue to Salt Lake City, arriving October 17, 1852.

Fanny's little Harriet Maria, named after George's deceased wife Harriet, though four years younger than her sister Eliza, became her constant companion. Little did either of them know, as they grew up together, that they would become the first and second wives to George Albert Goodrich, whose family was being converted in Massachusetts, and play an important role in the settlement of various parts of Utah.

In 1850, George Albert Goodrich, eleven years of age (born March 3, 1839), accompanied his family from their home in Lunenburg, Massachusetts, joined Wilford Woodruff's company in Philadelphia and walked to Salt Lake City. He was baptized with his father and sister, Mary Jane, by Elder Woodruff in the Platt River while en route. His mother and sister, Sophia, had previously been baptized (Mary Jane later married William Flint and is an ancestor of Spencer Taggart).

With the threat of Johnston's Army in 1857-58, he served in the Mormon Militia in Echo Canyon. He also served in the Blackhawk War. Later he was called by Brigham Young to drive a team back to Winter Quarters with wagons to help bring some of the poor Saints to Zion.

Eliza Ann Taggart married George Albert Goodrich on November 10, 1862, in Salt Lake City, in the Endowment House. She was eighteen years old. Her sister, Harriet Maria Taggart joined

that union three and one half years later on May 5, 1866, becoming the second of his three wives, and thus commenced the Taggart-Goodrich legacy. Eliza and Harriet had twenty-three of the thirty-two children in that union. Eliza had eleven and Harriet had twelve.

In October of 1868, George Albert Goodrich and his two wives accepted a call to settle the "Muddy," a difficult area near present Overton, Nevada. Drought and starvation, together with anti-Mormon taxation by Nevada, drove them back to Orderville and then to Salt Lake.

They then joined the George Washington Taggart's in the Morgan area for sixteen years, and then moved to the Uintah Basin. He helped build mills in both locations.

Rhoda Slade joined Eliza and Harriet as the third wife of George Albert Goodrich in Morgan, October 9, 1879. She had nine children.

They eventually homesteaded in Naples, about five miles southeast of Vernal, Utah. They built an adobe house on the bluff overlooking Ashley Creek. Here they farmed and raised their families.

Tragedy struck with the diphtheria epidemic, and six of their children died.

George Albert Goodrich received a mission call to the Southern States, and left all three families on their own to fulfill that call. His traveling companion was Joseph F. Smith.

He later helped Dr. Douglas unearth the first bones from the area that would become the Dinosaur National Monument, near Vernal, Utah.

The mother of Eliza Ann Taggart, Harriet Atkins Bruce, in her Patriarchal blessing, was promised a large posterity. Though Eliza Ann was her only child, her posterity is innumerable! Eliza lived two years longer than her husband, passing away April 6, 1913, in Vernal Utah, at the age of 69.

In the early 1960's, Eliza's youngest son, Byron Goodrich, estimated that the George Albert Goodrich posterity, with his three wives, then exceeded 2,000. Later he added, "it is now completely out of control!" He recalls with

fondness the love these family members had for each other, and gave much credit to the Taggart heritage for the unusual harmony with three families living in close proximity. He also said, “with the pick of 32 children, they had a winning baseball team!” ❖

Reunion - continued...

## George Washington Taggart His life and Times

Remarks by Rick McConkie

I’ve been asked to take ten minutes here today and tell just a little bit about how the book “George Washington Taggart – His Life and Times” came about. I’ll start by telling just a little bit about who



Rick and grandparents.

I am. I’m Rick McConkie. I grew up in a small farming community<sup>1</sup> in eastern Utah where my Grandfather Parley Herbert Goodrich homesteaded in 1905. Granddad was born in Richville, Utah in 1883. He was one of two surviving sons and four daughters born to George Albert Goodrich and his second wife Harriet

Marie Taggart. Great-grandmother was the second daughter of George Washington Taggart and oldest child to his second wife Fanny Parks. She and her children moved to the Ashley Valley in 1887. In the months of August and September five of her 12 children, died in the Diphtheria epidemic of 1889, her first child having died not long after birth.

I grew up as a child thinking that perhaps my Grandfather Goodrich was one of the best men alive. I know my mother had great love for him. As I grew up and got to know him well by those people that knew him, I came to the conclusion

that he really was one of the good guys I dearly loved him although he was 66 when I was born. He died when I was 12 years old after an extended illness of about five years which resulted from a stroke that left him bedridden and unaware of his surroundings. I’m one of the youngest of his 36 or so grandchildren, there being I think, only four younger than I.

When I was thirteen years old, I got interested in Family History and went to my mother and she helped me collect together several stories of ancestors of mine. I put them together in a little booklet. Mother is the only girl in a family of four brothers. She has always been family history minded, and has been busy at work collecting and recording family histories all her life. She is my inspiration and my moral and financial support. That’s why we chose to use her name “Jennie” as our publisher, because she really made it all possible.

When I went to the movie “Legacy” in January of 1994 it brought it all back again. I remembered coming away from that movie really fired up. I really wanted to do some serious research on George Washington Taggart and find out everything I could about him, and that’s really where I started. I did some initial research and I was really surprised to find out that George Washington Taggart’s Mother and Father had also joined the church and had died in Nauvoo — that was news to me. And then I found that Fanny Parks mother, who is also my ancestor joined the church in 1834 in Kirtland Ohio, and that made my desire to know more all the more intense.

So I got together all the stuff that I already had, combined it with what other information my Mother had which mainly consisted of what had been made available generally. I went to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers in Salt Lake and checked to see what they had. I found that they had everything I had and a few small additions from relatives I’d never heard of — and that added to it.

I then started doing research at the Family History Library — and was able to add a little more to it, but I was still a little bit disappointed. I hadn’t really found what I wanted to know. I had pieces of it -- but I was still missing much. Then two years ago, I found out from Mom that there was a Tag-

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<sup>1</sup> Tridell, Utah is 23 miles West of Vernal, Utah and 22 miles North and slightly east of Roosevelt, Utah.

gart family reunion in Logan. I found out just the week before it was to happen, and I already had commitments for part of the day, but my wife and I



(Left-right) Rachel Maria, Harriet Maria, Parley, Lucy, Leona, Albert, Vilate, George Albert.

went to Logan and got there late in the afternoon Saturday. I had the opportunity to purchase one of the bound copies of the newsletters, exactly like the ones they're selling here today. I got one of those, and it opened up a whole new world. There was so much information in there on George Washington Taggart, and his parents and his ancestry and it gave me new clues, and new things, and new places to look. Of course there was a lot of stuff in there that I already had, but from the additional information I was able to connect up with Lela Johnson, Glenn Goodrich's sister who had the pictures of GWT and Harriet Atkins Bruce. I called her up on the phone out of the clear blue, she didn't know who I was, but was very nice and we set up a time to meet. That was a very fun exchange, I took my mother with me, and as they got together and visited that morning in Providence, my mother and Lela remembered each other from childhood, years and years ago out in the Basin. One thing led to another.

Another thing happened at the reunion two years ago. There was a one page description of Joseph Smith handed out that was written by George Washington Taggart that was taken out of one of his letters. I took that back with me. As it happened to be my turn to give the thought in our High Council meeting, not long after that, I thought -- well this is appropriate, and I really liked it, so I thought I'd share that first hand testimony and description of Joseph Smith. After the meeting, one of the High Councilmen by the name of Richard Johnston came up to me and said, "All right -- so how are YOU related to George Washington Taggart?" We talked for a few minutes and determined that sure enough we were related. He put me on to Jane Poll. I called her out of the clear blue, and she didn't know who I was either. I made an appointment to go visit her, and she was so friendly.

From her I was fortunate enough to get the picture of GWT and Fanny, as well as much other useful family information. She was just like family and it has been like that over and over again. It's been one experience after another like that all along. When we met Spencer Taggart and his wife, it was like we had known each other



Jane, Ethyl and Jennie.

forever. The same when we met with Edis Taggart, and so many others like Harriet Byrtus, Louise Heiner, Jeanette Holmes Steve Taggart, Steve Berlin, Connie Hazen and Eileen Robinson. The list



goes on and on. The Taggart family really is a great group.

Perhaps one of the funnier experiences was when I was able to bring together three “Taggart Cousins.” It was very interesting to introduce my mother to Jane Poll and Ethel Taggart Christensen whom I’d met while working on the book. It was great fun just to sit back and listen as they got acquainted. It was as if they were sisters separated at birth, or something like that – they really hit it off.

As we were putting the book together -- each chapter was on an individual — I’d think I had it done, -- this is supposed to be the final stuff, and I just didn’t feel like it was complete. Then new information or something would come available and then it would feel okay and I could move on to the next one. It was almost as if I had those people looking over my shoulder. I know that I dreamed about them constantly, until I’d get the feeling what was written was right, or at least adequate. I don’t know whether that was a guilty conscience or whether there was something going on in the background, but I thoroughly have a testimony of the interest that our ancestors have in us. I know that I am deeply grateful for ancestors which I share with all of you — for the great heritage that we have. Truly our ancestors were just like us, they had their faults and weaknesses, but they had some great moments as well, and for this I am truly thankful.

George Washington Taggart left such a powerful testimony of what he believed in the way he lived his life. It wasn’t so much in his preaching, or writing — because the only writings he left were his Nauvoo Journal which was done from the time he left Nauvoo until he got to Mt Pisgah which covered the period from February to June 1846, where he left a very detailed account, and then he started another detailed account when they left with the Mormon Battalion in July. He kept it very religiously right up to when he got to California and then stopped abruptly. As far as I can tell, never wrote anything else other than the letters we have from him, and they are a wealth. Many of those were totally unknown and came out of thin air so to speak. The story behind them is nothing short of fantastic, and you can find how those came

to us in the news letters <sup>2</sup>— They fill such a void in the story or their lives. It is truly a testimonial to the spirit of Elijah.

We compiled this book — I don’t claim to be the author. I compiled it with the help of my wife, something that was put together by dozens of other family members through the years. All that we have done is try to put it together in some kind of chronological order and make a story of it, but the research and the information that is in there comes from so many family members that have taken an interest in George Washington Taggart and his life. With the help of my wife to edit and give good advice the book came to be.



Between four hundred and five hundred family members attended the ‘98 Reunion in Cody. You won’t want to miss the 2000 Reunion in Logan.

Our initial interest in doing the book was for our immediate family. We had no idea that there would be such an interest in the book. Many took an interest along the way and even became some of our strongest supporters. I told my wife one time — “good grief dear, I’ve got relatives coming out of the wood work.” The word of mouth passed around and passed around — and I’d get letters and phone calls from people I’d never heard of before wanting to know about the book. We are glad to report that we’ve since met many and they have all become great friends.

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<sup>2</sup> *Taggart Family Newsletter*, Volume IV, Number 1 December 1983. Page 2. Published by the George Washington Taggart Family Organization; 1430 Maple Drive - Logan, UT 84321 - Editor: Spencer L. Taggart.

My time is up, I welcome the opportunity to meet you all. Thank you. ❖

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## SUMMARY OF OUR PHILIPPINE EXCURSION

By Paul Taggart  
(Scott Allen-Scott-George Henry-Fanny)

The way that the Taggarts were able to serve a mission for the church in the Philippines was a very interesting process. We had decided, independently, that Jane and I wanted to take our children somewhere and teach them the way the world really lives. We live in a dream house, dream neighborhood and a dream State. We felt



Paul and Jane Taggart and family.

that to see how most people in the world really live and experience this would be a great eye opener to our children. We were in a situation or position where we could take a year off and take them somewhere. We decided, let's serve the church. We went to the Missionary department and said, "We want to go on a mission." The people looked at us and said that we looked pretty young and asked, do you have children?. "Yes, we have four children." They said, well you can't go on a mission, and we said, "Why not?" The Church sends out notifications monthly to the Bishops identifying locations where they need service missionaries. We said we would just go to one of those places. We didn't understand, or know, that the Church had a policy that they don't send families on a mission unless they are mission presidents or something like that.

Anyway to make a long story short, we met with the Real Estate Department of the Church and

Public Affairs Department and sent them a resume and asked could you please help us get permission to go. The Public Affairs Department needed someone to go to the Philippines and said they would try and help get this through the approval process from the Quorum of the Twelve. Seven of the Apostles have to approve this as an exception to the policy that prohibits families from going on missions. May 1994 we finally received the green light and received a mission call from President Howard W. Hunter to serve as Public Affairs Missionaries in the Philippines.

The children spent their mornings in home school with Jane and a couple of tutors. In the afternoon they did service at orphanages, or a school for street children or helping at old-folks homes. It was a wonderful experience for them.

Paul went and worked with the local government officials, the Senate and a lot of the newspaper and television people to work on joint projects and service projects that the Church could do with the community and the Government. Among these were food and clothing aid projects, education and training. The goal was to help the Church integrate into the main stream of the Philippine society. National Family Week was something initiated by the Church and Philippine President Ramos. The Philippine Alliance Against Pornography was headed by a group of people that Paul helped organize and is now a very active organization fighting pornography. The Temple Lighting Ceremony each year has become a major event at Christmas time with talks given by Senators and dignitaries from the Philippine Government.

These are the kinds of things that we participated in for a year in the Philippines. It was a wonderful experience for the entire family. We were very blessed that the Church was able to make an exception so that we could enjoy this experience.

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## GEORGE WASHINGTON TAGGART 2000 FAMILY REUNION

We are excited to announce that the first GWT Family Reunion of the new millennium has been set for Saturday and Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2000, at Utah State University in Logan, Utah.

Plans are already underway and we expect a great turnout. Details will, of course, be announced in the spring of 2000. Should there be anyone in the family that would be proficient in playing the bagpipes or performing Irish step dancing, please contact Steve Taggart at 801-968-7247 in Salt Lake City or staggart@deseretonline.com by email.

**Mark your calendars now! ❖**

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### **“HER FIRST MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME”**

By Spencer L. Taggart - October 13, 1990

My beloved companion was never much  
On sports.  
Way back when our nation’s Capital  
Boasted the Washington Senators,  
I persuaded her to come with me to see  
Them play the New York Yankees.  
That beautiful summer night in Griffin  
Stadium, Ila hit the jackpot.  
She saw Joe Dimaggio—then in his prime—  
Hit three home runs.  
She commented on his centerfielding—  
“Fleet as a deer and graceful as  
A ballet dancer.”  
There was even more—the Senators made  
A triple play.  
With Yankee runners on first and third and  
No outs, the batter hit a long ball to  
Right field.  
The fielder caught it, doubling the runner  
Off first—  
The first baseman’s throw to home plate was  
In time to tag the runner coming in from  
third.  
With such baseball fireworks, I was sure I had  
A budding fan to go with me.  
Ila’s comment: “That was such a great game,  
I’ll never need to go again.” ❖

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### **BRETT AND REBECCA TAGGART SAVE FAMILY FROM HOME FIRE**

The early morning hours of Saturday, February 13, 1999, were anything but quiet and restful for the family when Brett and Rebecca were just about asleep and they were awakened by popping in the electrical circuit box. When Brett opened the door and saw smoke, he soon discovered the fire in the

basement next to the chimney in their College Ward, Utah home. He and Rebecca quickly alerted the children, Justin thirteen, who was sleeping in the basement, Chris fifteen, Jennifer twelve and Candice three, who were sleeping on the main level. After the family gathered outside, they noticed that Brandon, five years old, was not with them. None of the other children knew where Brandon was and Brett ran into the burning house to find him. Brett rushed from room to room through heavy smoke and heat and finally found the boy standing in the master bedroom where Brandon had wandered in the confusion. After the family was all out safely together, Brett was having a hard time breathing and was later taken to Logan Regional Hospital where he was treated for smoke inhalation. Justin was the only other family member that suffered injuries when the hair on his face was singed and he had burns on his feet from walking through the embers. It took thirty firefighters to put out the raging fire that caused more than \$100,000 of damage. We salute one of our courageous families and wish them well as they rebuild their home as well as their lives that were so graciously spared. ❖

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### **BRAD TAGGART COMPLETES GWT SCULPTURES**

Once again, the talent of the Taggart family has come to surface in the sculpting of two beautiful likenesses of George Washington Taggart. One is of George when he was a member of the Nauvoo Legion playing the fife and wearing the cap which apparently was the uniform of the group.



Brad Taggart Family

This work is ninety-nine and nine-tenths finished in clay, allowing for the artist’s final satisfaction. History reminds us that GWT was among the members of the Nauvoo Legion that went into Carthage, Illinois and brought back the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, following their martyrdom. The other sculpture is of George Washington Taggart as an

elderly man and is complete and ready to be bronzed. The reader will notice the similarity to the image that we use at the beginning of our newsletter. Brad and his wife Kimberly are the parents of two boys, BJ, age 6 and Brandon, age 3. Our cousin served an LDS Mission to Leeds, England from 1987 to 1989. Brad is a graduate of Utah State University and presently is the College Art Instructor at Snow College in Ephraim, Utah. Brad also teaches art at Central Utah Arts Center in Ephraim. He has recently been accepted into Graduate School at Brigham Young University.

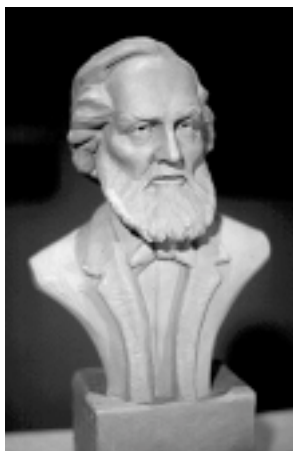


GWT as a member of the Nauvoo Legion

University He currently is manager of interpretative services for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Tua has served in many church callings including first counselor in the Stake Presidency, high counselor, and bishop. When he had more time, Tua used to enjoyed golf and basketball. Talaloa Mulitalo was born in Saluafata, Western Samoa to Pa'ovale and To'alima Roberts Mulitalo. Our cousins have five children. ❖



Talaoa and Sua Pe'a



GWT as family patriarch.

Those who have visited the Taggart Student Center at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, will remember Brad's beautiful sculpture of Glen L. Taggart, former USU President. When Brad has a moment, he enjoys racket ball, hiking and fishing. Brad is the son of Lawrence (Leonard-Henry Milton-Clarissa) and Charlotte Taggart. Possible future availability of these

works may be announced on our GWT Website. ❖

### **SUAU'UPA'IA AND TALAOA PE'A CALLED TO SERVE IN SAMOA**

Our congratulations to Sua and Talaoa on Sua's call to serve as Mission President in the Samoa Apia Mission. Sua was born in Vaiola, Western Samoa to Kalosi Tuinufu and Aipa'upa'u Matuauto Pe'a, and came to live with the late Jack Taggart in Star Valley, Wyoming when he was 14 years old and fast became a member of the Taggart family Just prior to entering college, Sua was very talented in playing the trumpet, which earned him a full music scholarship at Brigham Young

### **DAN McCONKIE WINS ELECTION**

Dan McConkie (Jennie, Parley, Harriet, Fanny) a great, great grandson of George Washington Taggart won his bid for re-election to the Davis County Commission this last November.



Charlene and Dan McConkie

Dan currently serves as the chairman of the Davis County Commission, and the Wasatch Front Regional Council. He also serves on the State Retirement Board, a position he has held since 1987 and is now President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. He also serves on many other boards and committees as a part of his elected office.

Prior to his election to the Davis County Commission, he worked 28 years for the Utah Department of Transportation and was its chief Radiation Officer when he left. He has also served as the president of the "Utah Public Employees Association" twice, during that time.

Dan and his wife Charlene have lived in Bountiful since 1969 where he has served as Elders Quorum President, Stake Mission President, on the High

Council, as Bishop and as a counselor in the Stake Presidency. He is currently serving as the gospel doctrine instructor in his ward. Dan and Charlene are the parents of five children and 11 grandchildren. ❖

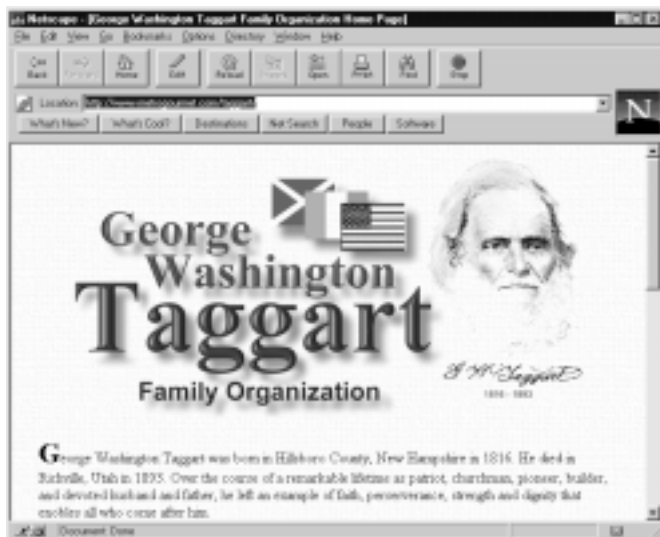
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## GWT FAMILY ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

We Taggarts are a worldwide family and fittingly, we have a presence on the World Wide Web. Be sure to visit our website and if you have computer skills and want to help in its development send email to the webmaster, Steve Berlin, sberlin@metrogourmet.com. The address for the website is:

[www.metrogourmet.com/taggart](http://www.metrogourmet.com/taggart)

You can also help us keep in touch with you if you'll send your email address to Steve Taggart: staggart@deseretonline.com ❖



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## FAMILY FUND

As always, we sincerely appreciate your financial support that helps to finance this great family organization in the way of our newsletter, now mailed to more than 850 Taggart Families each year, reunions, family history and genealogical research as well as other family projects. Your

contributions are needed in order to carry on the goals of our family. **Please send contributions to: Chris Taggart, Box 2936, Cody, Wyoming 82414**

Following is a list of recent contributors: Brent L. Brown, Lloyd Taggart, Gordon Hodges, Ethel Christensen, Raye Keif, Valeria Crapo, Judy Morcross, Marilyn Mecham, Eileen and Jeff Robinson, Louise Heiner Andersen, Howard L. Roberts, Jr., Steve and Judy Taggart, Steve Berlin. We recognize that many unrecorded contributions were made at the family reunion in Cody last summer and we express our thanks to all who were a part of it. ❖

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## INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE GEORGE WASHINGTON TAGGART FAMILY

Bound copies of the *Taggart Family Newsletters (1980-1992)*, edited by Spencer L. Taggart (James-Clarissa), are still available for \$50.00 each from Steven L. Taggart (see address on page one.)

Copies of a life sketch of George Washington Taggart (1998, soft cover, thirty plus pages) written by Eileen Taggart Robinson (Spencer-James-Clarissa) are available from Steven L. Taggart for a voluntary contribution of your choice to the family fund. This story and George Washington Taggart's Battalion Journal are also available on the Internet on the George Washington Taggart Family Organization Website at [www.metrogourmet.com/taggart](http://www.metrogourmet.com/taggart).

Forrest Rick McConkie (Jennie-Parley-Harriet Maria-Fanny) and his wife Evelyn McConkie again have available copies of *George Washington Taggart, Member of the Mormon Battalion, His Life and Times and His Wives, Harriet Atkins Bruce, Fanny Parks, Clarissa Marina Rogers, and Their Ancestors 1711-1901*, hard bound, in it's third printing, at a cost of \$30.00. Request should be made to Rick and Evelyn McConkie at P.O. Box 702094, Salt Lake City, UT 84170-2094. ❖

## IMPORTANT TAGGART EVENTS

Please share your family's important happenings so we can print them in our newsletter. Thanks to all those who did! And please send whatever else you think would be of interest to print in the newsletter.

**Landon Troy Coates** was born to Janalee (Arnold-Jane-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) and Troy Coates on October 26, 1998.

Twin girls, **Morgan Lynn and Madison Hope Keyes**, were born to Trudy (Brian-Jane-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) and Dirk Keyes on July 30, 1998.

**Sara Tressa Marre** was born to Laura (Adelle-Spencer-James-Clarissa) and Andrew Marre on July 30, 1998.

**Keith George McMullin** was born to Keith George and Crystallynn Poll (Charles-Jane-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) McMullin on March 14, 1998.

**Breanna Poll** was born to Stephanie LeJeur and Bret (Brian-Jane-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) Poll on June 5, 1998.

**Nicholas Vine Poll** was born to Roy Dale (Charles-Jane-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) and Susan Poll on March 2, 1999.

Four new grandchildren were born between January and April (1999) to **Toni Goodrich** (Rae-Parley-Harriet-Fanny) and **Gary Stringham**.

**Glen Matthews Taggart** was born to Jim (Spencer-James-Clarissa) and Beth Matthews Taggart on October 25, 1998.

**Hunter Adam Wilson** was born to Kellianne (Arnold-Jane-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) and Adam Brad Wilson on March 8, 1999.

**Adam Merrill Bird** (Stephen-Dorothy-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) married **Rachelle Krum** on February 6, 1999.

**Melody Anne Moody** (Darlene-Jane-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) married **Dale Carl Cope, Jr.** on August 24, 1998.

**Sara Dee Karren** (Adelle-Spencer-James-Clarissa) married **Jeremy Hix** on February 12, 1999.

**Melissa Maria Moody** (Darlene-Jane-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) married **Shawn Kesling** on June 5, 1998.

**Bart Poll** (Brian-Jane-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) married **Amy Weeks** December 16, 1998.

**Charles Evan Poll** (Jane-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) married **Susan Holmes** on April 3, 1998.

**Dorothy Mills** (Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) and **Charles McKell Bird** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 7, 1998.

**Dyan Mills** (Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) and **George Farnes Welch** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 29, 1998.

**Vida Marie Betts** (Jennie-Jennie-Parley-Harriet-Fanny) returned from the California Arcadia Mission on November 24, 1998.

**Justin McKell Bird** (Stephen-Dorothy-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) is serving a mission in Frankfurt, Germany.

**Keralyn Bird** (Stephen-Dorothy-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) is serving a mission in the Spanish speaking mission of Houston, Texas.

**Benjamin Rae Goodrich** (Kerry-Rae-Parley-Harriet-Fanny) has been called to serve in the Brazil Salvador South Mission.

**Christopher Taggart Lewis** (Sheila-Spencer-James-Clarissa) has been called to serve in the Brazil Santa Maria mission.

**Matt McConkie** (Rick-Jennie-Parley-Harriet-Fanny) returned from the Houston, Texas East Mission on March 3, 1999.

**Cody Mills** (Jeff Mills-Charles Taggart Mills) has received a mission call to Scotland.

**Dyan Mills** (Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) and **George Welch** are serving a mission in Juneau, Alaska.

**Jennifer Wheatley** (Dowain-Rhoda-LaNae-Rhoda-Charles Wallace-Fanny) will be returning from a mission to Columbia, South Carolina on June 16, 1999.

**Richard M. Taggart** (Milton-Henry Milton-Clarissa) was recently awarded the Silver Beaver Award in Salt Lake City for his years of dedicated scouting service.

**Daniel, Kason, and Aaron Goodrich** (Kerry-Rae-Parley-Harriet-Fanny) recently received their Eagle Scout Awards.

**Wallace L. Burt**, husband of **Lavella Taggart Burt** (Henry Milton-Clarissa), died November 14, 1998.

**Jacob Chadwick** (Jennie-Dan-Jennie-Parley-Harriet-Fanny) died January 28, 1999.

**Jack Edison Taggart** of Afton, WY died in Salt Lake City, UT March 13, 1999.

**Victor Nestor Derhak**, husband of **Pauline McConkie Derhak** (Jennie-Parley-Harriet-Fanny), died May 9, 1998.

**Dennis Goodrich** (Darrell-Parley-Harriet-Fanny) died June 14, 1998.

**Owen Goodrich** (Parley-Harriet-Fanny) died in December 1998.

**Shirley Louise Coffman Wright Shupe**, daughter of Fred and Harriet Josephine Taggart Coffman, died June 5, 1998.

**Ila Smith Taggart**, wife of **Spencer Laird Taggart** (James-Clarissa), died December 27, 1998.

**Phyllis Paulsen Taggart**, wife of **Glen Laird Taggart** (James-Clarissa), died October 11, 1998.



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#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Eileen Taggart Robinson, our Editor, has expressed her deep gratitude to all who have so willingly stepped forward, in her partial absence, to assist in the publication of this year's family newsletter.

#### ASSISTANT EDITOR'S NOTE:

Steve Berlin and Steve Taggart would like to express their love and appreciation for Eileen Taggart Robinson who cares more, works harder and shoulders more burdens than anyone we know. The sentiment in the previous paragraph is typical of Eileen and her boundless love for her family. ❖

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George Washington Taggart Family Organization  
Steven L. Taggart, Coordinator  
PO Box 70282  
Salt Lake City, UT 84170-0282  
Address Service Requested

