

Taggart Family Newsletter

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ON OUR COVER: George Washington Taggart and his wife Clarissa had 12 children. Their sons Henry Milton and James, with a large posterity of their own and the subject of this year's newsletter, are featured on the cover.

THE 29TH GEORGE WASHINGTON TAGGART FAMILY REUNION

The Millennium 29th George Washington Taggart Family Reunion will be held in Logan, Utah on the campus of Utah State University on August 5-6, 2000, and is an event you and your family won't want to miss! Steve Taggart and many others have been planning and working on this reunion ever since everyone had such an enjoyable time at the 1998 Reunion held in Cody, Wyoming which the Cody Taggarts so graciously hosted for us.

2000 Reunion Agenda

Saturday, August 5:

12:00-1:45 P.M. - Registration and Displays in the USU Sunburst Lounge

2:00-3:30 P.M. - Family Meeting in the USU Taggart Student Center Auditorium

3:00- Breakout Session for Children in the Sunburst Lounge

6:00-8:30 P.M. - Family Dinner and Entertainment in the Cultural Hall of the Logan 20th Ward Meeting House (875 North, 1500 East). You won't want to miss the Irish Step Dancing to be performed by Connie Roberts' Dance Troupe. Connie Roberts is the wife of John Roberts (James-Asa-Rhoda-Eliza Ann-Harriet). [Editor's Note: John is the grand nephew of Stanley Roberts (Rhoda-Eliza Ann-Harriet) who is a sealer in the Provo Temple. Stanley recently attended the dedication of the new Albuquerque Temple. President Hinckley conducted and in his remarks said, "I understand Stanley Roberts who was the first President of the Albuquerque Mission is in attendance today. He is ninety years old and only has about twenty years left." Stanley doesn't know if this is a prophecy or not.]

Sunday, August 6:

9:30-11:30 A.M. - Family Worship Service in the USU Taggart Student Center Auditorium:

Wendy Kremin (Dell-Veda-Harriet Penelope-Eliza Ann-Harriet) will sing selections from Jeff (Glen-Byron-Eliza Ann-Harriet) Goodrich's music including, "I Heard Him Come." Tim (Edis-Frederick-Clarissa) and Gloria Taggart will report on their Mission to England. A testimony meeting will follow.

Accommodations:

Utah State University Inn Logan, Utah 84322-4300	435-797-0017 FAX 435-797-1580	800-231-5634	Providence Inn 10 S. Main, P O Box 99 Providence, UT 84332	435-752-3432 FAX 435-752-3482	888-776-8466
Alta Manor Suites 45 E. 500 N, Logan	435-752-0808 FAX 435-752-2445		Super 8 Motel 865 S. Main, Logan	435-753-8883 FAX 435-753-2577	800-800-8000
Baugh Motel 153 S. Main, Logan	435-752-5220 FAX 435-752-3251	800-462-4154	Travelodge 2002 S. US HWY 89/91 Logan, UT 84321	435-787-2060 FAX 435-787-4590	800-578-7878
Inn on Center Street 169 E. Center, Logan	435-752-3443 FAX 435-752-8550		Travel Region 160 N. Main, Logan	435-752-2161 FAX 435-753-3426	
Crystal Inn 853 S. Main, Logan	435-752-0707 FAX 435-787-2207	800-280-0707	Weston Inn 250 N. Main, Logan	435-752-5700 FAX 435-752-9719	800-528-1234
Comfort Inn 447 N. Main, Logan	435-752-9141 FAX 435-752-9723	800-221-2222	Weston Properties 1170 W. 200 N., Logan	435-750-5060 FAX 435-752-2447	
Days Inn 364 S. Main, Logan	435-753-5623 FAX 435-753-3357	800-325-2525	Zanavoo Lodge 105 E. 200 N. Providence, UT 84332	435-752-0085 FAX 435-752-6228	
Logan House Inn 168 N. 100 E., Logan	435-752-7727 FAX 435-752-0092	800-478-7459			

**BE SURE TO FILL OUT THE FAMILY REUNION REGISTRATION FORM ENCLOSED
WITH THIS NEWSLETTER AND RETURN PROMPTLY TO STEVE TAGGART**

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

FAMILY HISTORIES

In last year's newsletter we began a series of articles featuring the children of George Washington Taggart and his three wives, Harriet, Fanny, and Clarissa. Last year's newsletter featured brief histories of the lives of Eliza Ann Taggart (daughter of George and Harriet) and Harriet Maria Taggart (daughter of George and Fanny). In this issue we will feature two of the sons of George and Clarissa: Henry Milton and James. ❖

HENRY MILTON TAGGART (CLARISSA)

1875-1944

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

The following life sketch was compiled from Henry's journals, news articles, and his funeral service, with thoughts from his daughter and his oldest living grandchild, by another grandson, Lawrence (Larry) the son of Henry's third son Leonard (Lynn) and Annie M. Taggart.

Henry was born June 9, 1875 at Richville, Morgan Co., Utah, the eleventh of twelve children born to George Washington Taggart and Clarissa Marina Rogers. One is often remembered by the footsteps left in the sands of life, so some of Henry's pathway can be understood by the following life line:

Year	Date	Age	Event	Place
1875	9 Mar	0	Born	Richville, Utah
"	21 Dec	11 m	Blessed and named	"
1883	8 Apr	8	Baptized and confirmed	"
1889	17 Mar	14	Ordained Deacon	"
1892	4 Mar	17	1st Patriarchal Blessing	"
1893	26 Feb	18	Ordained Teacher	"
"	3 Jun	18	Father, George W. Taggart, died	"
"	"	"	Rode horseback to Star Valley, Wyo., to live	"
1895	16 Jan	20	2nd Patriarchal Blessing	Afton, Wyoming
"	12 Oct	20	Ordained Elder	Star Valley Stake
"	12 Nov	20	Received Temple Endowment	Logan, Utah
"	23 Oct	21	Temple Marr, Alice M. Bright, 1 st Wife	"
1896	10 Apr	21	Wife, Alice May Bright, died	Smoot, Wyoming
1897	"	22	Enrolled Brigham Young College	Logan, Utah
1899-	18 Nov	23	Temple Marr, Mary Laird, 2 nd Wife	SLC, Utah
1899	19 Apr	24	Ordained Seventy	Star Valley Stake
1899-	20 Apr	24-26	1st mission to Southern States (completed 1901)	"
1899	3 Aug	24	1st son born, Milton Henry	SLC, Utah
1901	19 Apr	26	Mother, Clarissa, died	Lewiston, Utah
"	23 Apr	26	Arrived from mission & mother buried same day	"
"	"	"	"	SLC, Utah
1902	20 Jan	27	2nd son born, Edward Laird	SLC, Utah
1905	24 Dec	30	3rd son born, Leonard Laird	SLC, Utah
1906	4 Sep	31	2nd mission, to Eastern States (completed 1908)	"
1909	7 Aug	34	4th son born, Renold Laird	SLC, Utah
1913	18 Jun	38	3rd Patriarchal Blessing received	SLC, Utah
1914	27 Oct	39	5th child born, LaVella (daughter)	SLC, Utah
1914	"	39	Became Secretary/Treasurer, Granite Lumber Co.	"
"	"	"	"	Sugarhouse, Utah
1917	9 Sep	42	Seventies President, Granite Stake	SLC, Utah
1919	18 Jun	44	Ordained High Priest	SLC, Utah
1919	18 Jun	"	1st Cnslr, new Hawthorne Ward	SLC, Utah
1921-23	"	46-48	Son, Milton Henry, served mission in Central States	"
1923	5 Sep	48	Son, Milton married Blanche Morgan, Salt Lake Temple	"

Year	Date	Age	Event	Place
1923-26			Son, Edward Laird served mission in Hawaii	
1924-36			Bishop, Hawthorne Ward	SLC, Utah
1925-27		50	Son, Leonard Laird, served mission to Southern Calif	
1927	31 Aug		Son, Edward married Ruth Perschon, Salt Lake Temple	
1929-31			Son, Renold Laird, served mission to Eastern States	
1932	15 Apr	57	Son, Leonard, married Annie Mason, Salt Lake Temple	
1933	8 Dec		Wife, Mary Laird, died	SLC, Utah
1935	14 Feb	60	Son, Renold, married Luana Davis, Salt Lake Temple	
1935	4 Jun		Daughter, LaVella, married Wallace Burt, SL Temple	
1936		61	Released after 12 yrs as Bishop	SLC, Utah
1937	9 Jun		3rd mission, to England (completed 1939)	
1939		64	Retired as Secretary/Treasurer, Sugarhouse Lumber	
1941		66	High Councilman, Granite Stake	SLC, Utah
1942	31 May	67	Ordained Patriarch, Granite Stake (Served until his death)	SLC, Utah
1944	24 May	69	Died	SLC, Utah
"	27 May		Funeral, Buried, SLC Cemetery	SLC, Utah

Henry's posterity at this writing consists of 86 great-great grandchildren, 49 great grandchildren and 15 grandchildren, who are descendants of Henry's five children (four sons and one daughter).

Only his daughter is still with us, with three grandchildren and one great grandchild who have joined their parents in the life hereafter.

Most of what follows are quotes from his own personal journal:

"I was born under very humble circumstances, being born in a three roomed log house, shingled with a dirt roof. Even tho being raised under these circumstances, still we had plenty to eat and our clothes were made from home spun cloth that was made by our very fine, lovable Mother who spun the cloth from the carded wool from the sheep's back.

"I was rather a peculiar fellow as a lad and had many peculiar habits that were foreign to many a young lad, and among some of these peculiarities was a habit that I had formed of running around without my trousers on during the summer months with only my waist clothes left on. Along with that habit, I had formed the opinion as a boy, that I was one of the most homely lads that there was to be found around the community because of the freckles that I wore on my face, and a sunburned nose which I usually had due to the fact of going without a hat. And I was also very timid, shy, bashful and backward in meeting people.

"In the little village of Richville, at the foot of the hills, I had developed a great roving disposition, of roving around thru those hills in various past-time activities, such as digging segos which we learned to like very much, and they were very palatable

and nutritious. We also did a lot of prospecting in the soapstone quarry, which was right close to our home.

"In my early years there seemed to be a yearning in my soul that I might grow up to be a man and go into the mission field and preach the Gospel and I always had a desire that the Lord might loosen my tongue so that I might be able to express myself in a humble and convincing way to the people, that they might know that I was in earnest. And many, many a time, while I have been following the plow, there would be running thru my mind the story of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

"As I grew older, at the age of eight years, I was baptized and confirmed in to the Church, I commenced to leave off some of my childish habits and commenced to think of things a little more serious .

"I took my place in helping out on the farm with my older brother, James, and my labors continued along these lines contributing my mite of service towards making a livelihood, and to help maintain the necessities of my sainted Mother and Father, and Brothers and Sisters.

"At the age of eighteen, my Father passed away, and I remember well what transpired at that time as I and my older brothers, James and Charlie, were sitting up with him, the night he passed away and he became very restless in the middle of the night. As he sat in his chair he said to us, 'Boys, you will have to help me on the bed and it will be the last time that you will need to help me for I will soon leave you.' As we laid him on the cot, he said to us, 'Now, it will soon be over,' and as he said 'Don't worry about me for if I was a young man, and able to render service, I would love to remain and be active, but as it is, I am an old man of seventy eight years and worn out, in body and it is better that I go.' And he left word with his children that he would go and prepare a place for us that when our time came, he would be ready to receive us and welcome us, of which I greatly appreciate, and have never forgotten, and within a few minutes he was gone.

"After this, there came a separation in the family. My brother older than me, James and myself always very much loved each other. It came time

for us to separate and part, and the one that remained home with Mother to take care of her was to have what little was left after caring for Mother, and the other was to go to my older brother in Star Valley, Wyoming. We decided after talking things over, that I was the one to go, and would leave James the responsibility of my younger brother Fred, and my sister Alice and care for Mother.

“While living with my brother in Star Valley, I corresponded with my older brother Marcus Taggart, who lived at that time, in Lewiston, Cache Valley, and he introduced me thru letter, to a young lady by the name of Alice May Bright, who I corresponded with for a short period of time, who later became my wife.

“During the time that I had been in Star Valley and lived with my brother, I still remained active in the Church and in the ward there, and was made an Elder in the Cottonwood Ward.

“This young lady, Alice, was a very lovable, fine, sweet character, a girl that every one who knew her, loved her, and we were married in the Fall, November 12, 1895. After our marriage at the Logan Temple, we returned to Star Valley to make our home. We constructed a small log house or cabin, which we were to make our home for the time being. We lived happily together for a few months, participating in the activities of the ward known as the Cottonwood Ward, and had a great deal of joy and happiness in our lives under the humble circumstances. The winter was a hard one and we had a great deal of snow fall, and my lovable wife was taken ill. She was sick but a short time, and as there were no Doctors living within fifty miles of where we lived, we could get no medical assistance. After a short period of five months together, this critical sickness that had come over her, took her from me.

“During the winter of 1897, I decided that I would go to school as my education was very limited. I decided I would put in a year at the Brigham Young College at Logan, living with my Sister, Clarissa, and during the winter months that I was attending this school, the Xmas holidays came on. I was invited back to Richville, my old home town, to my brother James’ home with his wife and other members of the family, to spend the holidays with

them. While there I had the privilege of meeting my sister-in-law’s sister, (Mrs. James Taggart’s sister), known as Mary Laird, the daughter of Edward Laird, with whom I formed an acquaintance, and during the holidays, we had a very pleasant time together.

“When the holidays ended, the acquaintanceship between Mary Laird and I was so pleasant, we agreed to correspond with each other, which we did for sometime. During the summer months of 1898, I returned to the ranch again in Wyoming and during my summer vacation there, my correspondence with Miss Laird became more serious. Finally, during the Fall of 1898, I went to Mountain Dell, Salt Lake County, where Miss Mary Laird resided. It was then while on that visit that we decided that we could be companions thru life and throughout Eternity. My heart was gladdened with joy, for Miss Laird was a very lovable girl and seemed to be the one that would fit into my life and assist me thru the remaining part of our lives together.

“So the time was set for November, 1898 for our marriage, and just about a week before this happened, a letter from ‘Box B’ was sent to Star Valley, and later was forwarded to my Brother James, in Richville. After reading the contents of this letter, calling me to fill a mission to the Southern States, and realizing that I had no money and my folks not having any on hand, I did not see how this could be done at that particular time.

“After talking this matter over with my Brother James and my Mother, we decided that the proper thing to do was to get married and then lay our plans for me to go on my mission in the Spring of 1899. Brother and Sister Laird being better off financially than my side of the family, preferred to let my wife and I live on their ranch at Mountain Dell during the winter months, as they had built themselves a fine home in Salt Lake. They moved into that home and gave us this opportunity of living on this ranch and doing the work which we gladly accepted, and it gave us \$25.00 a month clear of all expenses, which at the end of five months totalled \$125.00 to assist me on this mission.

“I got in touch with President Joseph F. Smith of the Church, told him my circumstances and that I

would be pleased to leave along about the 1st of April. I received my definite date from President Smith, which was for me to leave for this mission on April 9, 1899.

“Before leaving for this mission, my dear old Mother, whose form was tattered with old age, and whose hair had turned to silver gray, was staying with my sister Jane Heiner in Morgan City at the time, so before leaving on this mission, I made a trip to see her and bid her good-bye, which event will never be erased from my memory. Then I journeyed back to Salt Lake to bid my sweet wife adieu, who had toiled so faithfully in making preparations for this mission, and we both realized that while I would be absent on this mission, our first born would come into the world and we realized that it took faith in the Gospel and in the Lord Jesus Christ to separate under these conditions.

“I finally landed at the mission headquarters at Chattanooga, Tennessee, after five days journey. President Ben Rich was then presiding over the Southern States Mission. We received our instructions and assignments, and my assignment with three other missionaries was the Virginia District.”

Recalling his first speaking attempt on his mission he states, “When my companion called upon me to speak that night, all the things that I had read and thought I had learned, would not come to mind, and even when I tried to quote a passage of scripture that I was so familiar with, I was unable to do so. So the Lord showed me that I stood alone and that I could do nothing within myself and that I must be humble and prayerful and depend upon Him if I wanted to succeed in this mission. I think I never felt so bad in all my life, so blue and so discouraged as I felt after this attempt. Think I wept the biggest part of the night and praying in my heart that the Lord would help me in this work.” “To never stand alone, without the help of the Spirit of Inspiration” was to be Henry’s motto for being prepared to serve the Lord throughout his life.

“The greatest event that came into my life happened on the 3rd day of August, in the year of 1899, when I received word from that sweet wife of mine, that we had been blessed with a beautiful

baby boy, and that his name was to be Milton Henry, our first born. I could not help but thank the Lord for this wonderful blessing that had come into our lives, and that my wife and baby were getting along so nicely.

“When my mission was coming to a close, I wrote home to my dear wife, and told her that I was about to be released, but I had no way of coming, except I started to walk and as I had already covered nearly five thousand miles on this mission, I felt like this would be quite an undertaking; but she immediately wrote back and enclosed fifty dollars, which her father loaned to us and which was greatly appreciated. While I was getting ready to leave for home, I received word from my brothers that my Mother was not expected to live, and that if I could hurry home, I possibly would get home in time to see her. I arranged to come straight thru as quickly as possible, and came without any delays, only to learn when I arrived home, that my dear Mother had been buried that day. I commenced to realize what a great friend I had lost, not only a friend, but a real Mother who had spent her whole life and what limited means she had, for me and my welfare.

“I was happy to meet my wife and my first born, whom I had never seen, who had grown to be a nice big boy, also able to walk and talk, and the joy and the thrill that they brought to me, I assure you was great.

“The next thing I endeavored to do was to find a job, where I could commence to take care of my wife and baby, where I could relieve her Father and Mother of that responsibility. So we packed up our suitcases and went to Lewiston, Cache Valley, and there we stayed with our brother James and sisters’ family, his wife, being the sister of my wife, and there we continued to partake of their hospitality. I got a job working with the Blacksmith of Lewiston, receiving \$1.00 a day and a twelve hour day. I later got a job working at the Logan Sugar Factory making \$1.50 a day. We later packed up and returned to Salt Lake City and truly the Lord was good to us and we got a job at the Granite Lumber Company, where my wages were \$40.00 per month.

“The company gave us a little house in the rear of the Lumber Office to live in where they furnished

us light and fuel, for doing the janitor work in the Office and taking care of the horses and doing the work in the yard, and this helped us to save a little of our wages, for when we started to keep house. We worked on at this job, saving and being as economical as possible, remembering the Lord in our tithes and our offerings, trying to do our duty in our humble way, and as we continued on, our family also continued to grow, until we had two more boys added to our ranks, Edward and Leonard, and after five and one half years, had elapsed, we were again surprised to receive a letter from 'Box B'. I had received my second missionary call. Brother Laird, her father, preferred to take our family back to his home and take care of them while I was gone. My good wife and our family remained home with her father and mother during my entire absence.

"We had been able to save \$700.00 which we were going to spend to buy us a little home, but when we received this letter from 'Box B', again asking me how I felt about going on a mission, I wrote to President Joseph F. Smith who was then President of the Church, and told him our circumstances and how long I had been home from my first mission, and that I had a family of a wife and three children, and that I had saved up about \$700.00 which we were going to put into a little home, but if he thought it was the right thing for me to go on another mission, that I would be glad to go. In about 10 days, I received a letter from President Smith, telling me that he had investigated my affairs and that he thought it would be wise for me to accept this call and again go into the mission field which I accepted, and made preparations to leave in the Fall, September, 1907. Just before I left for this mission, that wonderful father of my wife's, Brother Laird called me into his room and said to me, 'Henry, I can't preach the Gospel, but I can help somebody else who can, and if you think it is the right thing to do, you go. There is a little home over on 1346 Lincoln Street, that I will give to May and she can rent that out while you are gone, and she can have the rent to help her to clothe the kiddies; you won't need to worry. Things will come along alright.'

"After arriving at the New York Headquarters for the Eastern States Mission, we received our instructions and assignments to labor in Baltimore, which at that time was known as the East

Pennsylvania Conference. Our branch continued to grow as we continued to put forth our best efforts in spreading the Gospel and by the time that we had completed our mission, we had been successful in adding about twenty five members to our Branch, which we felt very grateful for realizing that the Lord had crowned our efforts with success to the extent that we labored to that end.

"About the time that I was to be released to return home again, I had received word from my wife, that her Father had a good job waiting for me when I returned home. How different the scene when I got home. I found the boys two years older, each one of them all smiles and glad to welcome me back to them. I found my job waiting for me at the Rio Grande Lumber Company, where I started right to work and commenced to pick up in a financial way and continued to be active in the Church and Ward activities, living in the Sugar House Ward at this time.

"During the year 1919, June 15th, the Emerson Ward was divided into two Wards, the new ward known as the Hawthorne Ward, which put us, when the division line was made, in the new Ward. The next morning, my phone rang and Brother Harold A. LaFount called me and asked me if I would call by his place on my way to work. When we met and shook hands, he said, 'Brother Taggart I have been asked to be the Bishop of the new ward, and I want you to be my first Counselor.' During the year 1924, March 2nd, Bishop H.A. Lafount was honorably released and I was sustained as Bishop, as his successor. I will never forget just how weak I felt in having this great responsibility conferred upon me. Shortly after being sustained as Bishop of Hawthorne Ward, my real responsibilities began. We had some wonderful expressions in so many ways that I feel that only a Bishop could hope to express and enjoy, for I realized that the responsibility of a Bishop brings many expressions into their lives that very few men express, except those who have the same responsibilities.

"I greatly appreciate the privilege that has come to me while a Bishop, in having the honor of recommending all of my own sons to go into the mission field as being worthy to fill missions.

“The Gospel is dearer to me at this point of my life than anything else, then my family next and my loved ones and my associates, relatives and friends.

“I have had the honor and the privilege of associating in the Temple, with the Apostles of the Church. In fact, I was a member of President Grant’s Prayer Circle in the Temple for a number of years until he was put in as President of the Church, then his Circle was taken over by Apostle Stephen L. Richards, of which I remained a member until these prayer circles were discontinued. I appreciate the privileges and opportunities that have come to me in associating with the Servants of the Lord and going to His Holy Temples from time to time and I only hope and pray with all my heart, mind and strength, that I will never say or do anything that would cause me in any way to lose the companionship of our Father in Heaven or lose the testimony that I have of the Divinity of this great Latter-Day work, for I know that there is nothing outside of the Gospel in this world to live for, for all that we learn and do and the service that we render will be counted in our rewards when we meet on the shores of Eternity, when the day of Judgement comes, when all will stand before the Judgement Chair of God and be judged according to the deeds done in the body. I pray that none of us will be found wanting when that day comes.

“This is my testimony and my brief sketch of my life which I leave with my loved ones, hoping that it will encourage and inspire all who may per chance scan over it.”

Henry’s journal ends at this point in his life (1932). In 1933, his beloved wife Mary Laird died. Her funeral service was recorded. Most notable of the speakers was Henry’s brother James, quotes from whom follow:

“My Brothers and sisters, I feel that it is an honor to be asked to say a few words today. I do so with peculiar feelings. Her death coming to Brother Henry as it has brings it very close to home. I was married before my brother was, and before they were married, May used to come to our home and visit with us and I learned to know her before they were married. Since their married life has begun, she has visited with us frequently. Our marrying

sisters seems to have brought us closer. together than our other brothers. Our families have associated in a way, perhaps, that the others have not. So I say I know Aunt May, as we called her. I know this woman almost as well as I know my own wife, and if I were going to say just what kind of a woman she was I could use about five words: ‘She was all that a woman could be.’ That is the way I know her. She has been a real wife, a real mother, no mother could have been better than she was. Most of her children have filled missions. That indicates what a wonderful mother they have had.

“I pray that Brother Henry and his family will develop a determination to press forward. I pray the blessings of the Lord may be with Brother Henry and the boys and the girls. I thank God for the respect and love that has been shown in this Ward for Bishop Taggart. His friends mean more to him than one can say. We can’t buy friends, but we can make them.”

Henry was released as Bishop of Hawthorne Ward, and a special service was held in the ward to honor his service, in which he was called “The Father of Hawthorne Ward”. This release was in 1936, after a service of 12 years. Soon thereafter he was called on a third mission, this time to another nation, England, as was promised him in his first Patriarchal Blessing. This was a two-year mission, with his return being in 1939.

Upon returning from this mission, he was set apart as a Stake Patriarch of the Granite Stake. This was a service he dearly loved, since it consisted of blessing the Saints who came to him for their Father in Heavens Blessings. He, of course held this calling up until his death in 1944. His funeral service was also recorded, which was held in the Hawthorne Ward chapel, which he was the Bishop of during its construction. The concluding speaker was Elder Charles A. Callis of the Council of the Twelve Apostles. A quote from his talk follows: “The First Presidency of the Church requested me to extend to the family in this sad hour their deep sympathy and love and undying respect and appreciation of Brother Taggart, and the noble work he performed. These flowers are symbolic of the purity of this good man’s life.

Truly a great man has fallen in Israel this day. I think that the words in the 11th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles in the 24th verse fit most aptly and truthfully the life of this good man, 'for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.' What a splendid biography—not a man famed throughout the world. This biography is lasting. It is bestowed upon him by his Heavenly Father.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful saints, and the death of Brother Taggart was like the close of a beautiful day, I can tell you. This was the testimonial—the certificate he presented at those Gates—the Gates of a city which are closed with each evening's setting sun. You know the answer, the invitation he received: 'Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord'."

The following quotes are from Henry Milton's only living child, his daughter LaVella Taggart Burt:

Remembrances

By LaVella T. Burt

I was born on October 17, 1914, the fifth child of my father, and his only daughter. My parents both came from large families, and were very loving and kind to each other. I can honestly say that I've never heard them say an unkind word to each other.

My mother taught in the Primary, Sunday School and in the Relief Society organizations. Father had many callings in the Church and served loyally in each one. Every year we would travel north to Lewiston, Utah to visit family members there and in Logan. Uncle Mark and family, Uncle Jim (James) and Aunt Valeria (my mother's sister), Uncle Fred and family, and Aunt Alice and family. We always stayed at Uncle Jim's because he and my father were brothers and Aunt Valeria and my mother were sisters. We often took trips with them together. One trip I especially remember well was to Yellowstone Park. Father loved his family and whenever there was time, they would go to visit the families.

Mother had an illness as a child which left her with some heart problems. In those days, doctors would put their patients to bed for rest, often for several months. Due to this problem, she passed away in December of 1933, this left my brother Ren (Renold) and I at home with father. I tried to keep things in line for them. In February of 1945 Renold got married.

Father kept busy with church work and keeping up with the invitations from the widows in the ward. Father died in 1944. I got married to Wallace (Wally) Burt in the Salt Lake Temple in 1945. He has now passed on. We raised our five children in the same home on Lincoln Street, that father raised his five children in.

I am now 86 years of age, and still in good health. My oldest child Sharon Ringwood lives just next door and oversees my every need. With sons and daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and all their love and visits and caring, my life is full.

The following quotes are from Henry Milton's eldest living grandson:

My Grandpa and How He Touched my Life

by Richard Milton Taggart

In the thirties very few people had cars and television had not yet been invented. The most favorite thing to do every Sunday and sometimes in the evenings during the week was to go visit my grandpa and grandma, aunts & uncles and cousins of our Taggart family. We cousins became the best of friends and could hardly wait until we could play together. Sometimes they came to our house and sometimes we went to their house. My dad & mom were Milt and Blanche. Then there was Uncle Ted and Aunt Ruth, Uncle Lynn and Aunt Ann, Uncle Ren and Aunt Lawana and Aunt Lavella and Uncle Wally. Being the second oldest of the Taggart grandchildren, my sister being the oldest, we had to wait a few years until we even had any cousins to play with. Obviously, if it hadn't been for my grandpa and grandma I wouldn't have had all these great aunts, uncles and cousins.

My first recollection of a visit to my grandpa and grandma's home was when I was about three or four years old. It was Christmas time with the Christmas tree all decorated and set for the holidays. It was probably a Sunday and I probably was very excited. I won no points for being their first grandchild that day—I somehow managed to tip the Christmas tree over. My adventure resulted in many tears on my part, as I stood among all the broken ornaments, and a few tears with some of the adults as they viewed the disaster.

My memories of my Grandfather Taggart are vivid. I remember visiting with him at Sugarhouse Lumber as a youngster. I loved to visit my grandparents' home on Lincoln Street with a field on its north side where we could play all sorts of games. I cherished the times my grandpa would let me sit on his lap as a seven or eight year old and let me drive his car—I thought I had died and gone to heaven. I will never forget standing at the train station as the giant steam locomotive with all its rumbling, bellowing, bells clanging, whistles blowing, steam hissing and brakes grinding as it rolled to a halt bringing my grandpa home from his mission.

I remember my grandpa as a quiet individual, most always in a suit and tie. I remember special moments when he would visit with me on his front porch. My buttons burst as I remember my grandpa as a bishop and later on as the stake patriarch. I remember being told that many people would call on my grandpa for special priesthood blessings for the healing of the sick because of his special spirit. I am so proud to be the grandson of Henry Milton and Mary Laird Taggart. They have left a hallowed path of righteousness for me to follow. ❖

JAMES TAGGART (CLARISSA)

1870-1962

Taken for the most part from
The History of James and Valeria Taggart [compiled by
Spencer L. Taggart (James-Clarissa)]
by Eileen Taggart Robinson

James (Jim) Taggart, the ninth child of George Washington Taggart and his third wife Clarissa Marina Rogers, was born on December 20, 1870. Their home in Richville, Utah at the mouth of Taggart Hollow, consisted of three log rooms.

They lived in two of the rooms and the third was used as a workshop and granary. Next door was the grist mill George built where he milled flour for twenty or thirty years for those who lived in Morgan County and nearby areas.

“My father had 13 acres of land, four cows, and about thirty sheep,” Jim wrote. “We raised a good garden, had an apple orchard, and raised some grain. The cows and sheep were turned down the hollow on the range each morning and it was our job as boys to go each evening and bring in the animals. I always carried a gun so as to bring home a rabbit or a sage hen for family use. As a boy I worked in the garden, peeled apples, picked service berries to dry, and can remember in the Fall going to the canyon to get wood to keep us warm during the winter months. As I grew older, it was not unusual to get fifty cents a day for picking up potatoes or often threshing all day, getting two bags of grain for pay.

“When I was growing up I used to go singing with a group consisting of Emaline and John Wood, Fred Taylor and myself. We went from ward to ward. We used to put on stage plays which was great fun. Every Friday night we danced at Simon's Hall. I used to take my sister, Alice. We rode on the same horse, double, to the dance. This took place only when Alice didn't have a date.”

On June 3, 1893, just before he died, George called Jim to his bedside and asked him to take care of his mother (Clarissa) and youngest brother Fred. Jim was twenty-two and Fred was sixteen. In April 1896, Jim went to General Conference with Harriet Dickson. There he met Harriet's niece Valeria Ann Laird, the eldest daughter of Edward and Valeria Laird.

“Our courtship was not long but enjoyable,” he wrote. “I made many trips through the mountains between Morgan and Mountain Dell (which is above Parley's Canyon . . .), over the old pioneer trail and usually went on horseback or in a cart. It did not take me long to decide to get married after I found the right mate. Val and I were married on the sixth of November [1896] in the Salt Lake Temple, by John R. Winder.”

Here is what Val said about meeting Jim: “In the spring of 1896 at conference I met James Taggart

of Morgan, Utah. He was a very righteous and promising young man. We fell in love and were married that same year . . . We lived in Richville, Morgan County, Utah and there we were very happy. We lived with my husband's mother (Clarissa Marina Rogers Taggart) in order to take care of her and of the old homestead. My husband was of a religious nature, which asset I appreciated very much. It made it easier for me to do as I liked to do, for I had a testimony of the Gospel and, therefore, knew that it was true. I was anxious to do what I could along that line of work." Jim held the position of Y.M.M.I.A. president in the ward and Val was called to be president of the Y.L.M.I.A. She said, "I enjoyed my work in this organization very much and especially did I enjoy working with my husband . . ."

Jim's mother Clarissa and brother Fred moved to Lewiston, Utah to a home Jim and Val helped them buy. Jim and Val moved to Mountain Dell where Jim worked two seasons on his father-in-law's ranch. It was, Jim said, "an experience I always thought beneficial to me, because of the responsibilities that came to me. It seemed to prepare me for my later life. We had a few cows and about 500 sheep to take care of. In the evening we [Val and I] read and studied the *Book of Mormon* and it was then that I received a testimony of its truthfulness." On September 21, 1898, Warren James was born. He weighed ten pounds. Two years later Valeria was born.

In November of 1900, Jim and Val and their family moved in with Fred in Lewiston to help care for Clarissa whose health was failing. Their sister Alice (whose husband was on a mission), and Alice's son Hazen were also living there.

About the move to Lewiston, Jim wrote: "We traveled that distance (120 miles) in a wagon, stopping to camp wherever night overtook us. It took us better than three days. We can make it now in about three hours. When we pass those old familiar places I often think of the breakfast or dinner we had in that particular spot.

"The first winter we spent in Lewiston I fed cattle for Bishop William Lewis, my brother-in-law, for \$15 a month and worked early and late, too. Gradually, however, we got ahead and succeeded in buying a farm and building a home.

"My mother passed away on April 19, 1901. We took her back to Morgan by train and she was buried by the side of father in the Morgan Cemetery. My brother, Henry, returned home from his mission the day after the funeral." Clarissa had been receiving a small pension from the government for her husband's service with the Mormon Battalion. Her pension and money from Jim and Val had helped support Henry on his mission. Henry stated in his life story that he and Jim "very much loved each other." He gave Jim a check to reimburse him for his financial help. Jim said to keep it and maybe someday he'd be called on a mission and Henry could help him.

Val wrote that it was hard for her to be so far from her mother and sisters in an area with no doctor to help her when she delivered her next three children: Blanche, Velma and Clarissa. Their daughter Valeria suffered several serious illnesses, but was miraculously healed by the power of the priesthood. And then a mission call did come for Jim, but Henry was unable to help because at the same time he was called on a second mission.

James: "July 10, 1906, I was set apart by J. Golden Kimball to go on a mission to the North Western States. It was hard at first to accept this call because we were poor and had five children. I went, however, and the Lord blessed us in many remarkable ways, taking care at all times of our necessities."

For the next two years Val shouldered the double burden of not only caring for her children, but providing for them as well. "We felt his absence keenly," she wrote. "I was very lonesome at first. When darkness settled down on us I could hardly stand it. It took months for me to overcome my fears. One summer night I recall being very frightened. I was preparing to put my smallest children to bed when I heard someone at the back door. It sounded like someone trying to pick the lock. However, on investigating I discovered it to be a woodpecker at work on the roof. Even such little things frightened me, but finally I overcame my fear.

"I had no time to waste. I had to work early and late . . . I cooked for beet men, milked cows, sold milk, took in boarders, washed clothes for factory men, hoed beets and did everything I could to keep

the farm going. I made over dresses and coats and from one dollar's worth of 'milling ends,' which my mother sent me, I made all my children's winter underwear."

In letters to his brother Henry who was serving in the Eastern States Mission James wrote: "I got a letter from Val . . . they are all well . . . This seems like a nice country (Walla Walla) . . . but I think home is about as good a place as I ever saw, but I haven't got homesick yet. But there is a long time before me yet but if I can only do some good I will be happy.

"I haven't got homesick as yet, but a little blue at times. The place I am in is a good place to work in, I think, though the people don't think much of us.

"You spoke of being timid about on the street to preach. I hope you don't feel any more scary and timid than I do, but I know we have the truth and sometimes wonder why one should hate to tell it or be so timid about it. Such is the case seemingly with most all, but as you say it ain't so bad when you get started.

"I am glad I have had the privilege of taking a mission. It will do myself some good, I guess, [even] if I don't help others very much. It is a just cause and is well worth the sacrifice one makes, but I sometimes think I will be glad to see the time come when we will be sought after instead of hunting others who are ready to snap our heads off and condemn us without the least provocations, but such is the case now, and so it has been before."

In his Elder's Daily Report Book, Jim recorded that he baptized one new member, walked 2,360 miles, and visited 3,463 families while tracting.

The two winters her husband was gone, Val took her children home to stay with her parents (December-April). While she was away, a neighbor looked after the cows for a share of the milk. As Val's sister May (Mary) was married to Jim's brother Henry, she and her three children were at the Laird's as well. Five more little cousins lived across the street and came over often.

When Jim returned home, Val was counting their many blessings. She appreciated the kindness and help offered by Fred and his wife, her family had

been blessed with good health, and she had money to spare when her husband's mission ended. "This surely shows that our Father in Heaven is mindful of us and is willing to provide for us if we live the Gospel the best we can," she wrote. "I am thankful for my blessings and for this experience [Jim's mission] for I have always said it was one of the outstanding events of my life."

While three more children, Beulah, Spencer and Glen, were born into their family, church service continued to be a major part of Jim's and Val's lives. Jim served in the bishopric for eleven years and Val served in the relief society presidency for thirteen. "[I] can't remember a time when I didn't have some responsibility in the Church. I can say I have enjoyed my labors in the Lord's work better than anything else I have ever done," wrote Jim. Evenings after the chores were done, he loved to read the scriptures sitting in a straight backed chair with his feet on the open door of the wood/coal stove.

In Lewiston, Jim and Val loved sharing times with their extended family as Jim's brothers Fred and Marcus, sisters Alice and Julia and their families also lived in Lewiston. Family, friends, and strangers were all welcome in their home. Jim didn't want his children to speak unkindly of others and would rather have the short end of a deal than give it to someone else. Bishop Saul E. Hyer said of him: "I never had occasion to talk with Brother Taggart of anybody when he couldn't see their ambitions, desires, and the good in them, and always there was [his] desire to help them." Jim's daughter Velma wrote about her father: "I remember one particular day he was plowing. A telephone message came requesting him to go administer to some sick friend. He left his team in the field (I sat on the plow and awaited his return) and went quickly to the aid of the one in need."

Then in 1927, tragedy struck. Warren (age 29) and Clarissa (age 21) died within four months of each other. Eleven years later Jim and Val were on their way to the Logan Temple when they were involved in a car accident which claimed Val's life. Jim lived twenty-four more years, but his family said he was never the same after losing Val, that he always seemed kind of lost without her.

Jim is remembered by his granddaughter Mary Lou Hatch Mellor (Beulah-James-Clarissa) as being kind, a very hard worker, a little reserved, but not one to stand for things that were wrong. She and her sister Jane Hatch Bush (Beulah-James-Clarissa) remember their grandfather listening to every word of general conference as it was broadcast over the radio. My (Eileen-Spencer-James-Clarissa) own most outstanding memory of my grandfather Jim is how he prayed as if he was talking to God in person. He prayed out loud and went on for quite a while as though God was in the same room with him and they were talking. Granddaughter Pat Hatch Nelson (Beulah-James-Clarissa) remembers her father Bill Hatch saying Jim was probably the most Christlike person he'd ever met.

Jim is also remembered for his sense of humor. When granddaughter Jane (Bush) walked down the road to Arlo's Market and came home wearing some candy "wax" teeth, Jim laughed and laughed. She was shocked when he took out his own false teeth and asked her if she'd like to trade. When she found he soaked his in a glass, she wanted to find out if it was true candy rotted your teeth. She stuck some jelly beans in the glass with his teeth.

Jane and her sisters remember fondly their grandfather reciting Stephen Foster's letter from Irish grandma Brigit O'Hooligan to her nephew. Jane remembers seeing Jim do jumping jacks on his way to the chicken coop to build up his strength after an accident in which he broke his hip when he fell from a haystack.

Jim Taggart's life was filled with hard work and much hardship, but also with love for his family and friends. His faith in God and the gospel was unwavering and he did all he could to emulate the life and example of our Savior. He died on November 27, 1962, one month short of his ninety second birthday.



**GARY AND VIONA TAGGART NELSON
RECEIVE MISSION CALL**

Gary and Viona Taggart (Renold-Henry Milton-Clarissa) Nelson received a mission call to serve as Assistant Area Welfare Agents for the Europe East



Viona & Gary Nelson

Area with responsibilities to coordinate welfare and humanitarian service in those areas. They reported to the Senior Missionary Training Center

September 21, 1999, and will serve for two years. This is the second mission for Viona and third for Gary. They served in the Philippines for 18 months (1995-96). Gary served as a young elder in the British Mission. "We are grateful to be in the Lord's service and to work with the humanitarian missionary couples. Our testimonies continue to grow as we witness the success and progress as the missionaries work in these areas," Viona said. Viona and Gary traveled to Romania and to the Czech Republic in February for some training. ❖

**GLENN AND MARILYN GOODRICH
CALLED ON MISSION**

Glenn (Byron-Eliza Ann-Harriet) and Marilyn Beesley Goodrich left November 16, 1999, for an eighteen month mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as Country Directors of Church Education in Tanzania, Africa. They will be living in Dar es Salaam. Tanzania is bordered by Kenya and Uganda on the north, by Rwanda and Zambia on the west, and Malawi and



Marilyn & Glenn Goodrich

Mozambique on the south. The entire east border of Tanzania fronts the Indian Ocean. Tanzania is a Republic two and one half times the size of California with about 30 million people. About one third are Christian, one third Muslim, and the remaining one third a mixture of Bantu or African native religions. Over 100 languages are spoken in Tanzania but Swahili is the most common language with English gaining a second position. The presence of the L.D.S. Church in Tanzania is still a pioneering effort, with only three branches

and about 150 active members. Three seminary classes and six institute classes are being conducted, all in the native Swahili tongue. The Branch meetings are still conducted in Swahili, so the Goodriches have a unique challenge in promoting church education.

Glenn is a great grandson of George Washington Taggart and his first wife, Harriet Atkins Bruce, through their daughter Eliza Ann. Marilyn is the daughter of Horace and Mary Beesley. She is the great granddaughter of Orson Pratt and Ebenezer Beesley. Glenn and Marilyn have twelve children and forty-nine grandchildren, who are their most ardent supporters on their mission.

On Saturday, November 13, 1999, Jeff and Joan Goodrich presented an evening of inspirational music and slides of the Holy Land prior to the mission farewell of their parents. On Sunday, November 14, 1999, a mission farewell was held for Glenn and Marilyn in the Bountiful Ninth Ward. ❖

FAMILY FUND

May we please have your help! As we have said before, the donations that have been so willingly sent in have been appreciated very much. Our family organization continues to be strong and is continually growing. In order to continue with our many projects which include our annual newsletter, reunions, family history and other projects, we are suggesting a minimum annual contribution of \$12.00 from each family. Larger donations are always welcome. **Please send your contributions to: Chris Taggart, P.O. Box 2936, Cody, WY 82414.** ❖

DISKS FROM CHURCH ANCESTRAL FILE

Jeannette Taggart Holmes (Bruce-George Henry-Fanny) would like everyone who took home one of the disks she prepared and handed out at the last Taggart Reunion in Cody to know that the information on the disks was taken from the Church Ancestral File. She realizes there are errors and would invite anyone who has questions or corrections to contact her. ❖

FREDERICK (CLARISSA) AND EULALIE TAGGART FAMILY REUNION

Submitted by Louise Hodges (wife of Gordon Taggart Hodges (Janett-Frederick-Clarissa))

The Frederick and Eulalie Taggart Reunion was held Friday and Saturday, July 30 and 31, 1999, in Homedale, Idaho. It was sponsored by Sylvan and Yvonne, Larry and Janeine, Lynn and Linda, and Nolan and Sharon Taggart all sons of Walter Taggart (Frederick-Clarissa). About one hundred family members attended. It was great getting reacquainted and meeting new members. The food was great; those brothers really know how to put on a feast! The highlight of the reunion, in the eyes of the children, was the water slide built especially for this occasion. We were even able to get some adults to try this event!

Our Frederick and Eulalie Taggart Reunion is held every other year. The next one will be held in 2001, near the last of July or early August. The members of the Myrna Larson family will be in charge of the 2001 reunion.

It should be noted that genealogy information is still being collected and should be forwarded to Louise Hodges at 653 Locust Street, Corona, CA 92879.

Louise knows of someone in possession of a locket with two daguerreotype pictures and the following inscription: "Sir James H. Woolworth, Earl of Abberdee 1864, and Dorothy Gam [?] Woolworth Taggart June 1865, Castle Scotland." They will give the locket to someone who can prove relationship to these people. If you have any information about these Taggarts, please contact Louise Hodges at the above address. ❖

JAMES HENRY AND ADELGUNDA TAGGART FAMILY REUNION

Submitted by Julie Taggart Rabe (Blaine-C. Jay-James Henry-George Henry-Fanny)

The James Henry (George Henry-Fanny) and Adelgunda Taggart family had a very successful reunion September 3-6, 1999, at Cinnamon Creek stake campground in Cache Valley (Utah), despite the weather which was a bit cold and rainy. One of

our purposes at the reunion was to build pride in our marvelous heritage and help all desire to know George Washington Taggart! To do so I adapted *George Washington Taggart* (by Eileen Taggart Robinson) into a reader's theater so we could symbolically "follow the footsteps of George Washington Taggart." On Saturday afternoon, we had our reader's theater. We opted not to move from site to site, concerned that we might lose our audience and it would have been tricky transporting the sound system. We held the program in an amphitheater, which worked well. It took about 50 minutes with all songs and transitions included. We also gave out *A Picture Book of George Washington Taggart* to each household, hoping to help young children relate to this great man.

There was a great spirit in attendance at our little production. I think, frankly, that my cousin John was superb as George Washington Taggart. He has like GWT "dark hair, blue eyes and stands about 5'8" or 9" tall." Both John and George convey a spirit that is larger than the average and thus have a commanding presence. John was released as Bishop the week before our production.

We had our actors portraying George, Fanny, Susanna and my dad in Nauvoo costume (worn by my parents on their mission to Nauvoo). Battalion "Captain Allen" was attired in my grandfather's Son's of Utah Pioneers replica battalion uniform. Cousin Steven Taggart played Capt. Allen bringing the bonus to his performance of trumpeting "Reveille" to herald his entrance.

My sister Kristi Taggart Bush portrayed Fanny, holding my 2 year old Jessie, portraying Eliza Ann, in her arms. Kristi loves Fanny and requested the permission to improvise the thoughts and feelings that Fanny must have felt. I loved the part in our presentation where we read from Fanny's patriarchal blessing: "... thou shalt raise up posterity endowed with the holy Priesthood that shall go forth to carry the gospel to nations yet unborn." We then invited all the returned missionaries to come forward and state the country of their service. Just in our branch of the family we have impacted many nations of the world—a fulfillment of Fanny's patriarchal blessing.

Music played an important part in our presentation. We tried to help people feel the import of the words by having background music. The returned missionaries sang "Called to Serve." As a family we stood and sang "America the Beautiful." Those words are impressive when you realize they could almost have been written about our own ancestors. We concluded by singing "Family Hymn." I hope this song reminds us of the responsibility on our shoulders: "The Gospel is true and its precepts are sound, Their witness of this in our hearts should resound. Now our job is to live so that we, too, might win . . . And gain Life Eternal . . . with them enter in!" ❖

MONUMENT PLACED ON UNMARKED GRAVE OF EDA HOLLISTER ROGERS

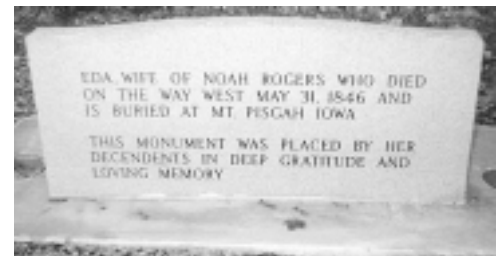
Eda Hollister Rogers (1800-1877), mother of George Washington Taggart's third wife Clarissa, was buried in the Richmond, Utah cemetery on March 6, 1877 in an unmarked grave. Thanks to



Front view

the efforts of Edis Taggart (Frederick-Clarissa), Spencer L. Taggart (James-Clarissa), Twain (a descendent of Eda's but not Claris-

sa's and therefore not of GWT) and Florence Tippetts, and David and Sheila Taggart (Spencer-James-Clarissa) Lewis a monument to Eda has finally been erected to honor her memory. One hundred and twenty-two years after her death, the monument was placed on November 16, 1999.



Back view

Special thanks is due Edis for the time he spent trying to locate the grave and find and contact the Standage Family (relatives of Eda) for permission

to place the marker. Eda H. Roger's husband, Noah Rogers, was buried (May 31, 1846) at Mt. Pisgah, Iowa on the trek west, being the first to be buried there. Buried in the same plot as Eda is Matilda Augusta Standage (June 8, 1865-December 13, 1865) so her name is engraved on the monument next to Eda's. The monument is located about 150 feet north of the gate on the east side under some trees. ❖

POETRY

We are pleased to print the following poems submitted by Mildred Lind Mansfield (Lucy-Harriet-Fanny)

Grandma's Apron

(Written by Mildred about her grandmother Harriet Taggart Goodrich)

She died when I was almost eight,
and she was almost eighty.
Had crossed the plains when only three,
Raised half of her large family
of twelve;
Diphtheria claimed the rest
in one brief, dreadful reaping.

How I remember still—
and always will—
The waist-tied apron that she wore.
Long, nearly reaching to the floor
as did her somber skirts.
But, oh how useful it would prove
to gather wood or chips,
Some peas to shell, the new-laid eggs,
a rain-chilled chick.
Those amber apples she would pick
then sit and peel to dry
Or bake a spicy apple pie.

Its ample folds would cradle sleeping babe
or a disheartened child
Who lingered there to succor from her store
of love and lore.
Its roomy pocket held such treasure—
balm for childish hurt
And a corner was a handy spot to dry
the rivulet from tearful eye.
Or wipe a smudge from tender cheek
or scratch-stained knee.
Blue-checked gingham was for everyday.
A white-starched lacy one for Sunday best.

I know that she was wearing one
when she was laid to rest.

And I vision her in heavenly pursuit
armored with her apron
Full of celestial, queenly fruit.

A Tabernacle in the Desert Wilderness Worship

[Written by Lucy Goodrich Lind (Harriet-Fanny) about the building of the tabernacle in Vernal]

A mass of arid soil, high heaps of stone,
And tools so primitive and worn,
These the equipment of the builders there.
Uintah's day had come, a prophet's call
To build unto their God a house of prayer.

The night is dark, in poverty we dwell;
But no—far more than tools or stone and earth
Was there to meet this utmost need.
For faith, humility, obedience
Were master tools . . . the workers heed.

Skilled workmen were but few in Ashley then
And that the day of slow and patient toil,
But fathers came and sons together all.
Their weakness and their meekness was their
strength.
The test was stern, but they answered the call.

In time the ponderous mass took shape;
And though with bleeding hands they wrought,
They were creators of a monument benign.
These builders building for their followers,
And reverently we view the gift divine. ❖

PARLEY'S PARK

George Washington Taggart's name along with a donation and write-up, was submitted by Gorden Taggart Hodges (Janett-Frederick-Clarissa) to be inscribed on one of the granite boulders surrounding Parley's Park (2100 South 2300 East SLC, UT) honoring pioneers called by Verla Curtis some of "the hundreds of diverse, common, garden variety men and women pioneers who spent their lives in the ordinary tasks that



George Washington Taggart

Monument inscription



Parley P. Pratt

were essential to build and settle this country.” Parley’s Park, part of The Big Canyon Lasting Legacy Project, was dedicated on October 24, 1998, during the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Mormon pioneers entering the Salt Lake Valley. Parley’s Park is named for Parley P. Pratt who embodies the spirit of pioneering for the

neighborhoods in the area. Ed Fraughton sculpted a monument of Parley P. Pratt for the park. ❖

GEORGE WELCH AND S.L. SYMPHONIC CHOIR CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

George Welch (Mary-Nettie-George Henry-Fanny) has conducted the Salt Lake Symphonic Choir for the past 23 years. On May 14, 1999, the choir and its conductor celebrated their fiftieth anniversary by performing in a magnificent concert. The choir’s only other conductor (and founder), Armont Willardsen, now in his 90s, was honored with a standing ovation. Past members of the choir sang two numbers at the beginning of the second half of the program. The 120-voice Salt Lake Symphonic choir has performed throughout the United States and Canada. The *Salt Lake Tribune* reported on May 15, 1999, that George Welch “is a first-rate choral conductor. He elicited a strong yet sensitive performance from the choir.”



George Welch

George says, “the organization is wonderfully managed, and that helps to create wonderful

experiences for everyone involved.” About Richard Taggart who has been choir president for 43 years, George says, “Dick has given countless unpaid hours to this organization. People don’t understand the huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to organize tours and concerts. This is a man who has devoted a huge portion of his life to something he loved.” ❖

CHARLES UNIVERSITY AWARDS MEDAL TO SPENCER TAGGART

Spencer L. Taggart (James-Clarissa) was presented with a medal called the Jubilee Award at a special ceremony at Utah State University on June 17, 1999, by vice rector Jaroslav Panek of Prague’s Charles University (in the Czech Republic). Charles University, founded by Charles IV in 1348, is the oldest university in central Europe. Panek said the award was “an expression of high-esteem for [Spencer Taggart’s] life’s work in the field of history.” Spencer collected and therefore preserved a library of Czech books and documents now housed in USU’s Special Collections. In particular they contain the writings of the great Czech statesman, Thomas Masaryk.

On the same day, Spencer was presented with a second honor which was a complete surprise to him: a doctoral degree in history. More than fifty years ago Spencer, who had served an LDS mission to the country then known as Czechoslovakia, returned to the country he loved to serve with the American Embassy as assistant to the ambassador. While there he completed the class work for his Ph.D. When the communists took over the country in 1948, he was unable to finish the degree. Throughout the Fall and Winter of 1997, Spencer completed the doctoral dissertation he began so long ago. He wrote to Charles University telling them he had been a student there and was now 86 years old and would like to at long last submit his dissertation. When Panek contacted Spencer to say he would like to come to USU to present him with a special medal, he didn’t mention the fact that he would also be presenting Spencer with the degree that he had to wait more than fifty years to obtain. Spencer was understandably overcome with emotion as he was handed his “diploma.” ❖

**JESSE McNIVEN “MAC” TAGGART
(LLOYD-GEORGE HENRY-FANNY)**

From *The Cody Enterprise* (used by kind permission):

Cody lost one of its most energetic community leaders and authentic western personalities with the death of Jesse McNiven “Mac” Taggart, 79, on Dec. 14, 1999, at West Park Hospital after a sudden heart attack.



Mac Taggart

A proud descendant of one of the state’s pioneer families, Mac was born in Cowley on March 15, 1920, to Lloyd and Louise Welch Taggart. He always viewed himself as a “Cowley boy” no matter where he was. He moved to the Cody area with his parents and eight brothers and sisters in 1932 when his father and uncle

consolidated the offices of Taggart Construction Co. in Cody.

Growing up, Mac worked summers for Taggart Construction until his father and uncle expanded their holdings by purchasing the Two Dot Ranch north of Cody, and Mac decided he favored ranching.

A graduate of Cody High School, he attended the universities of Wisconsin and Wyoming, and returned to the Two Dot until World War II, when he served in the Army as a Staff Sergeant, assigned to the Alaskan Defense Command. He was fond of recalling that his service on the tiny island of Attu was an experience which deferred him from leaving dry land for the rest of his life.

Returning to Cody after the war, he married Janet Blackburn on Jan. 24, 1946. The couple made their first home in the original ranch house on the Two Dot. They had four children on the ranch. When the Two Dot was sold in 1963 they moved to Cody.

Mac took on a more active role as president of the construction company, by then known as Pat O’Hara Co., which included gypsum mining and

ready-mix concrete operations in Cody and River-ton. The family sold Pat O’Hara this year.

Mac’s active professional life included a schedule filled with extraordinary service to his family, friends and community. An ardent supporter of the scouting movement, he served in many capacities with the Boy Scouts of America for more than 35 years.

As a scout leader, he received the highest scouting awards, including the Silver Beaver, Order of the Arrow, and Silver Antelope. Mac was also the recipient of scouting’s Distinguished Citizen Award in Wyoming in 1995. He sponsored or encouraged hundreds of young men in the scouting movement. Mac devoted thousands of hours to maintaining and constructing scout camps throughout the northern Rockies.

An active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he dedicated himself to service in several capacities, but none were more valuable than his work with young people. He will always be remembered in church for his great hugs and red bandana handkerchief.

His interest in assuring health care for the Cody area found him serving years on the boards of West Park Hospital, Deaconess Hospital and the Coe Medical Foundation. He was instrumental in obtaining the dialysis unit, new cancer treatment center, MRI imaging machines, the Long Term Care Center and expansion of the hospital itself. His primary interest was that every employee and patient be treated properly and that Cody have the best health care possible.

Mac served on the Benson Institute of Brigham Young University and was active in city government. He was an emeritus member of the board of trustees of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, a lifelong member of the Wyoming Stockbrokers Association and National Cattleman Association, a member of the Directors’ Club and Elks Club, and served on the boards of directors of Shoshone First National Bank and First Bank of Newcastle.

Through it all, his real love was to help his fellow man, the community and his family. He gave his financial resources and time to many people and

organizations because it was the right thing to do - not to garner awards or recognition. He constantly stressed compassion, correctness, dignity and devotion. One of his favorite sayings was, "Remember who you are."

Mac is survived by daughter Jessie McNiven of Brussels, Belgium, and sons Frank Blackburn of Shepherd, Mont., and Jim of Cody, brothers Lloyd of Cody and Scott of Seattle, Wash., sisters Ruth Blair and Mary Louise Greever of Cody, Harriet Byrtus and Raye Rita Graham Keif of Salt Lake City, and Becky Watkins of Glendora, Calif., and 11 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

His wife passed away in June 1995 and his older daughter Leslie died in June 1997. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Charles W., in January 1996.

Funeral services were 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 20, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Cody Stake Center. Interment followed at Riverside Cemetery. ❖

NOAH ROGERS BIOGRAPHY TO BE AVAILABLE AT THE 2000 REUNION!

By Doug Pike

Clarissa Marina Rogers, George W. Taggart's 3rd wife, was the daughter of the distinguished early missionary Noah Rogers and Eda Hollister Rogers.

The first comprehensive biography of this great priesthood leader and his remarkable wife has been prepared in anticipation of the 2000 reunion. Many family members have contributed and many interesting stories have come to light in compiling this biography. The biography is over 70 pages long, with another 35 pages of appendices and over 230 footnotes! Reading of his remarkable life and experiences, including his time in the Church from 1837 until his death in 1846 will be of great benefit to the family.

For example, did you know?: Noah and Eda joined the Church in 1837, seventeen years after their family received a preacher that prophesied that the true church was not on the earth, but would be

preached to them in the future. Noah was the first Mission president of the Society Islands Mission, the first President of a non-English speaking mission, and the first Mormon to circumnavigate the earth as a missionary. He was the first Elder to perform a burial at sea for another missionary.

Noah and Eda lived at Adam Ondi Ahman in Davies County, Missouri and were driven with their nine children (including one newborn) from Missouri by a lawless mob. As a missionary Noah healed a woman unable to walk. While living near Quincy, Ill., Noah survived a kidnaping and severe beating by a Missouri mob. Noah served a mission to Calhoun, Pike and Scott Counties in Illinois and assisted Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball with transportation on their famous missionary journey to England. During the exodus from Nauvoo, Noah assisted Hosea Stout with security of the company and was the first member to die and be buried in the Mt. Pisgah, Iowa, Mormon Cemetery. As a widow, Eda immigrated with her nine children to Utah by wagon and on foot. All remained faithful and were later married in the temple.

The Biography will be complete and available at the 2000 reunion in Logan. To assist me in knowing how many to prepare, please e-mail, write or phone me. I would be pleased to guarantee copies for those who contact me prior to the reunion. They are available at cost. A bound copy will probably be approximately \$20.00. A digital file will also be made available (CD ROM) to those that desire it, at cost. Sincerely, your cousins Doug (and Julie) Pike, 240 Barrington Place, Lompoc, CA 93436, Ph. (805) 736-7667, (E-mail: DSPetal@aol.com). ❖

IMPORTANT TAGGART EVENTS

Please share your family's important happenings so we can print them in our newsletter. We had few submissions this year but your assistant editor could not resist a couple of his family's entries. Please send in whatever else you think would be of interest to print in the newsletter at any time during the year.

William Berlin Ahlstrom was born to Shannon Berlin (Steven-Lynn-Ida Mae-Sarah Jane-Clarissa) and Dan Ahlstrom on March 3, 2000.

Shannon Ahlstrom received her Juris Doctor degree from the McGeorge School of Law of the University of the Pacific, May 13, 2000 in Sacramento, CA.

Barry Vance Taggart (Steven-Ted-Henry Milton-Clarissa) was ordained Bishop of the Middle Canyon Ward, Tooele Stake, June 4, 2000. ❖

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