



Taggart Family Newsletter

Volume XXIII

2009

Published by the George Washington Taggart Family Organization

Coordinator: John M. Taggart (J. Albert-C.Jay-James Henry-George Henry-Fanny)

2127 Surrey Circle, Taylorsville, Utah 84118 (801) 967-8807 john.taggart@comcast.net

Family Membership and Treasurer: Christopher J. Taggart (Hal-Grant-George Henry-Fanny)

Box 2936, Cody, WY 82414, (307-527-6204)

Newsletter Editor: Julie Taggart Rabe (Blaine S.-C.Jay-James Henry-George Henry-Fanny)

685 North 2000 West, West Point, UT 84015 Email: JTRabe@gmail.com

GWT Website Web-master: Steven Lynn Berlin (Lynn-Ida May-Sarah Jane-Clarissa)

Salt Lake City, UT, (801-359-9811) Email: sberlin@xmission.com

DVD's and mailing list:

Dixie Lee Davis (Klis-Leora-Julia Maria-Clarissa)

E-mail: prestonconnection@msn.com, 357 West 100 South, Orem, UT 84058, (801-226-4251)

GWT Family Organization Steering Committee: John Taggart, Dixie Lee Davis, Julie T. Rabe, Steven Berlin, Rick & Evelyn McConkie, Glenn B. & Marilyn Goodrich.

Family History Representatives:

Director: Forrest Rick McConkie (Jennie-Parley-Harriet Maria-Fanny)

E-mail: ricknev@xmission.com

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

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 May-Sarah Jane-Clarissa), 816 South 800 East, Bountiful, UT 84010

Special Research: Forrest Rick McConkie (Jennie-Parley-Harriet Maria-Fanny)

6260 King Valley Ln., West Valley City, UT 84128 E-mail: ricknev@xmission.com

Board of Trustees: John M. Taggart, Christopher J. Taggart, Julie Taggart Rabe

GWT Family Organization Web Site Address: www.taggartfamily.org



George Washington Taggart

This picture hangs in the Morgan Daughters of Utah Pioneer Museum

Thanks to Tim Taggart for the scan.

IN THIS ISSUE:

PHOTO GWTPage 2

A Word from our GWT Coordinator .Pg 3

2008 Cody Reunion Report..... Page 4

The Soldier's Dream.....Page 7

Taggart Display in Morgan.....Page 7

From Spencer's Desk:

Two Generations of Violins.....Page 8

Scott Burt Promoted.....Page 10

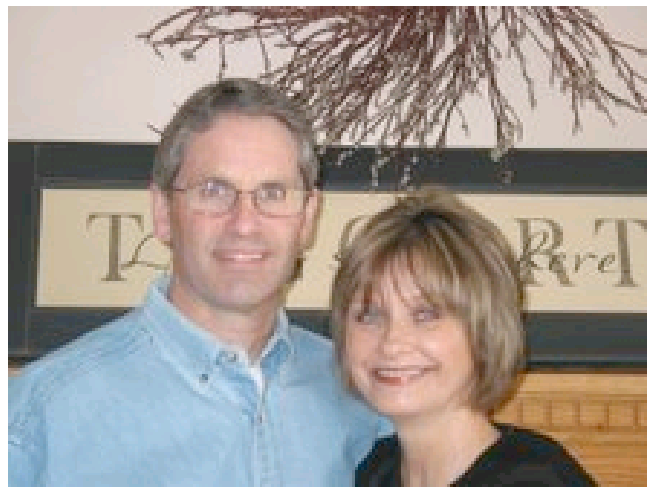
Ringwood Called to Seventy.....Page 10

Jay Taggart Honored for Distinguished Service.....Page 11

Why We Have a Newsletter.....Page 12

Deal or no Deal--Taggart Style... Page 12

Cody Reunion Pictures.Pages 16,17,18



A Word from our GWT Family Coordinator

by John Taggart

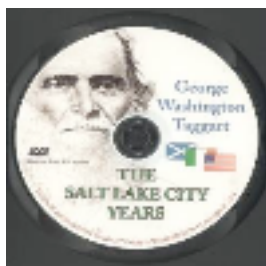
We express our sincerest thanks to our Cody Taggarts for the wonderful reunion that they planned and hosted last summer. It was a rewarding experience to get together with the living descendants of George Washington Taggart, to learn what we have in common and to appreciate our differences, knowing that our commonality and our uniqueness help bind us together and give our lives flavor. Thanks for the wonderful experience!

As I think about my life and those who laid the groundwork for me to be here and enjoy the blessings that I have, I wrestle with the balance needed to resist elevating forefathers to an unhealthy level. Can I learn from their trials and accomplishments without making them more than they were? I also feel torn at times working in an organization of an ancestor five generations removed when all my living siblings have all been together only once or twice since my father passed away 28 years ago. In my reading, I came across a quote from President J. Rueben Clark from a general conference in 1947 that helped me gain some perspective.

“In living our lives let us never forget that the deed of our fathers and mothers are theirs, not

GWT DVDs Are Available

If you would like to order, GWT the SALT LAKE CITY YEARS, DVD you can send your contribution of \$12.00 plus \$2.00 shipping for each DVD by check to (see front page for address). If you're ordering several we can mail them to you provide their addresses. Please type or print clearly and be sure to provide your return address, phone number and an e-mail address if you have one.



ours; that their works cannot be counted to our glory; that we can claim no excellence and no place, because of what they did..."

"We may claim no honor, no reward, no respect, nor special position or recognition, no credit because of what our fathers were or what they wrought. We stand upon our own feet in our own shoes. There is no aristocracy of birth in this Church; it belongs equally to the highest and the lowest."

"So to these humble but great souls, our fathers and mothers – both founding and pioneers and those personal to our own lives, these tools of the Lord, who have for this great people, hewed the stones and laid the foundations of God's kingdom, solid as the granite mountains from which we carved the rocks for our temple - to these humble souls, great in faith, great in work, great in righteous living, great in fashioning our priceless heritage, I humbly render my love, my respect, my reverent homage."

"God keep their memories ever fresh among us, their children, to help us meet our duties even as they met theirs, that God's work may grow and prosper till the restored gospel of Jesus Christ rules all nations. Let us here and now dedicate all that we have and all that we are to this divine work. May God help us to do so."

George Washington Taggart holds a special place in my heart because he paved the way for me to enjoy the blessings of the gospel. He was unique to me in that respect, being the first. Written history and the passing of time have hidden some of his flaws. But I have a father and a grandfather that I knew personally (and whose warts are not yet totally dimmed by time) that provided wonderful examples and nurturing care through their own style of sacrifices that have also blessed my life. To them I pay reverent homage as well.

So we all go on - remembering those who went before us and trying to maintain healthy relation-

ships with the living – trying to draw lessons of life from the ancestors and trying to live honorable and worthy lives with those in the present.

2008 Cody Reunion Report

The 2008 Cody Reunion was another one for the History books. What a fun, gregarious bunch the Cody Taggarts are. It felt so good to have them stretch their welcoming arms around us. It was particularly pleasing to see the way the young adults welcomed and supported everyone and everything.

The reunion started with registration at the church house up on the hill and viewing Taggart artifacts. We were fed a filling dinner and sent on to the Barn Dance. As we drove to Old Trail Town a deluge of water fell from the skies! But nothing can dampen the spirits of the Taggarts when they get together. The dance was great fun and fulfilled the purpose of having us get to know extended cousins.

Saturday found us at our formal meeting. The opening hymn, "High On a Mountain Top", was sung with Taggart gusto. Chris announced Janet Taggart as the winner of the Taggart T-shirt contest. Then we had remarks by some of our family leaders: John Taggart-coordinator, Steve Berlin web master, Julie Rabe-newsletter editor and Chris Taggart-treasurer. Chris Taggart read a letter from Jim Holmes. The letter was to fulfill a sweet request by the late Jeanette Taggart Holmes. Jeanette donated \$5000 to the Taggart family to disperse to a Taggart with a unique need. This donation was spurred by the generosity that Jeanette had experienced as a child at the hands of residents of Cowley after her father, Bruce Taggart, passed away. The family organization is still contemplating how best to steward this gift. (Any suggestions can be sent to John or Chris Taggart, see page one for contact information)

Next on the program was music! Taggart music played on Taggart instruments by Taggarts. The Taggart music was that of Sharon, New Hampshire's John Adams Taggart. "Soldier's Dream" (see music and note on page 6) "Mormon's Lament", a medley of "Sharon City" "Unknown Hornpipe" and "Taggart's Hornpipe". "Steamboat Quickstep", "Arkansas Traveler", "John A.'s Hornpipe". The Taggart instruments were a real treasure. Thanks to Rulon & June Crosby for working so hard to make this treat come true. Rulon rounded up the instruments and got them to the professionals who could get them in working order again.



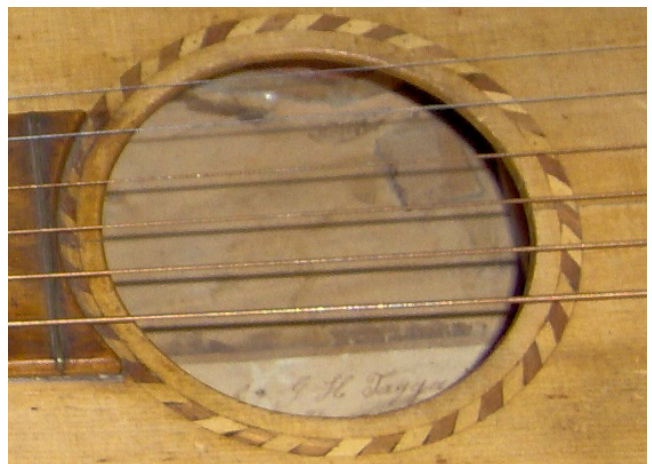
George Henry Taggart made the guitar & violin and played this banjo. 1891 violin pictured on page 16.

We had three instruments made by George Henry Taggart at the reunion: **1-1890 George Henry Violin:** this violin currently belongs to a descendant of Bruce Taggart, Kelly Taggart a resident of Bountiful. This violin has "GH Taggart 1890" written on the inside. (see photo). (see also From Spencer's Desk 2 generations of violins article on page to find out more about the history of this violin).

2- 1891 George Henry Violin: this violin was on loan to us from the Cody Stake Museum. This violin has a yellow finish and a deer horn tailpiece. Peter Prier world-known violin maker in Salt Lake City suggests that both violins had scrolls made by a Scandinavian pioneer who

lived in Sanpete County. He also said the construction of both violins was unique due to the number of peices of wood that were used to make the violin fronts.

3-1898 George Henry Guitar: Rulon Crosby believes this is the very same guitar his grandmother, Rebecca, was playing when his maternal grandfather, Orson Frost, came into the Cowley WY. camp. Orson saw Rebecca sitting on the wagon tongue playing this guitar and immediately set about courting her. After awhile, "seven children was the result of the ultimate consummation of that courtship." Rulon declared, "I'm quite certain it is, since I have this hugely warm feeling when I play this guitar... that this is the ONE Rebecca was actually playing as she sat upon the wagon tongue."



Detail of G.H. Taggart's signature in the guitar.

Rulon's original hope was to have the GWT fife from the church museum at the reunion to play with the violins. Since this was not possible he networked and found Amanda Asmus (Amanda-Wendy Goodrich McKenna-Glenn Goodrich-Byron Goodrich-Eliza Ann Taggart-Harriet) who plays the piccolo (a similar sounding instrument to the fife). The piccolo was highlighted at our Saturday meeting along with June on the 1890 violin. Amanda & June played "A Poor Wayfarer Man of Grief" with the following introduction mostly from Eileen Taggart Robinson's wonderful 1998 biography of GWT, (see the web site www.taggartfamily.org):

"GWT received his patriarchal blessing at the hands of Hyrum Smith. Five months later Hyrum and the Prophet Joseph Smith were shot and killed... in Carthage Jail, ...According to George's son James: "I have heard him [GWT] tell of going with those that went to Carthage for the two bodies of Prophet Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith to bring them to Nauvoo, and I have heard him play the tunes he helped to play in the band that were played when they marched into Nauvoo with the bodies. This would cause us to picture in our minds the awful event of the martyrdom." It was poignant to hear this hymn played on instruments that Taggarts listened to 118 years ago. To think of those great sacrificing saints who came to Wyoming in 1901. Poignant to think back even farther to 1844 when GWT and Fanny and Clarissa were experiencing the martyrdom first-hand.

In the second hour of our family meeting. We heard from Greg Taggart (George Henry-Fanny) The theme of his talk was learning from those who have gone before to have a secure future. Greg's talk was followed by an exquisite piano solo by Corine Taggart. She played J'D'Eau by Ravel. We are grateful to her newlywed husband for bringing such talent into the family.

Then Kurt Graham head of the McCracken Library at the Buffalo Bill Historic Center addressed us. Graham did his master's thesis on the settling of this part of Wyoming. He made us thin about the efforts of our ancestors. "It is difficult for us to go back into the past as would-be historians and try to understand what these people were about. It is very difficult to get inside the mind of someone else and understand why they do the things they do. Would you give up your home today ...your job, your 401 k, all those nice things you have that make your life and your future so bright? We sometimes assume a familiarity with our ancestors in particular. ... I think their lives and their thought processes are quite

different from ours. I always like the statement that a novelist in the 1950's wrote , "The past is a foreign country-- they do things differently there." I think it is important for us to remember that. They were not just like us. Their thoughts and their motives were quite different.

These nineteenth century Mormons in general and specifically these people who came to Big Horn Basin, **THEY WERE KINGDOM BUILDERS!**" For a transcript of his talk email the editor.

Our closing song was the ever traditional "God be with You Till We Meet Again".

We were then fed lunch and the afternoon was ours to choose from many museums and activities. In the evening many Taggarts attended the Cody Nite Reunion. Nothing quite like hollerin' with your Taggart cousins.

On Sunday, Taggarts provided the music at the Cody 2nd ward Sacrament Meeting. The congregation was first treated to the "Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief" played on the two George Henry Taggart violins, by Susanna Rabe and June Crosby. Then the forty plus members of the Taggart Family Choir sang "To Those Who Came Before Me" by Sally DeFord, conducted by Dana Cranfill.

In sacrament meeting when a dear old gentleman commented over the pulpit about calling Collette TAGGART by her Taggart name instead of her married name he stated, "ONCE YOU'RE A TAGGART YOU'RE ALWAYS A TAGGART!" I was elbowed from both sides by my children.

Mark your calendar for the 2018 Reunion in Cody, Wyoming. I am sure you will not want to miss it!

Editor's Note: Be sure to look at the picture pages at the end of the newsletter!

The Soldier's Dream or The Battle



The Soldier's Dream is another tune that can be found in Sliptown: The History of Sharon, N.H. (see 2008 newsletter page 5) This song has six verses relating the night vision of a weary soldier after a bloody battle. In the dream he is transported back to his father's home and vows never again to leave his friends, wife and little ones. Alas, at dawn the vision melts away. He is once again on a bloody battle-field and his profound sorrow returns.



Rulon Crosby with the display in Morgan

TAGGART MEMORABILIA DISPLAY IN MORGAN, UTAH

*by Rulon Crosby (Rulon-Cleone Frost Crosby-
Rebecca Taggart-George Henry-Fanny & GWT)*

I responded to a call for musical entertainment issued by the organizers of the 2008 Taggart Reunion in Cody, Wyoming, by organizing a group of Taggart descendants to play Scotch/Irish tunes composed by Taggart relatives on instruments

which had been made by, or played by George Washington Taggart and his sons.

In my attempts to find original Taggart instruments, it became my pleasure to get acquainted with several relatives I had not previously known.

Cousin Julie Rabe and her children joined me, my wife, my daughter, and two grandchildren to look at and handle (after donning white gloves) a fife owned and played by G.W. Taggart during his march with the Mormon Battalion.

Unfortunately, the church museum in Salt Lake could not be persuaded to loan this fife to us to be displayed and played at the reunion. Even Cousin Tim Taggart, who works for the church and donated the fife to the museum, could not persuade them.

I told them, about a revelation I received in the form a vivid dream, in which G.W. Taggart's heavenly incarnation granted me permission to take his fife to the Cody reunion, but the validity of my revelation was questioned by the museum staff!

Another fife, built and played by G.W. Taggart, is in the possession of cousin Stanley Hyde of Portland Oregon. He was unable to bring it to the reunion.

Kerry Hess of Idaho Falls has a violin, which her family believes was made by G.W. Taggart. Kelley Taggart of Bountiful has a violin built by George Henry Taggart in Morgan before he moved his family to the Big Horn Basin in 1900.

A small pioneer museum at the Mormon Murals Chapel in Cody, Wyoming has a guitar and violin built by G.H. Taggart after he moved to Cowley. Cody Stake President Nielson graciously lent these instruments to be displayed and played at the reunion.

After the reunion, I discussed with Cousin Jay Taggart the desirability of finding an appropriate place in Morgan, similar to the Cody Chapel museum, to display some of the Taggart musical instruments and other artifacts. Jay arranged a meeting with the Morgan Chapter of the Utah Daughters of the Pioneers, which owns a small museum in Morgan, where the millstone from the Taggart flour mill is on display.

The Daughters would have been happy to have a Taggart display in their museum, but they insisted, that they should be given ownership of all family artifacts brought there and that we would be unable to borrow these for future reunions.

With the help of Cousin Jay, we looked for other Morgan display venues. The Senior Citizens Center, located a few hundred feet from the Taggart mill stone, owed Jay a favor, so they gave us permission to put a Taggart Display in their building.

At this time we have a display case there in which G. W. Taggart carpentry tools donated by cousin Tim Taggart, are displayed along with a Taggart History book by cousin Rick McConkie



GWT's carpentry tools in Morgan display
and a video about G.W. Taggart by Cousin Steve Berlin. Above the display case are framed pictures of G.W. Taggart and his wives. (George & Fanny in the oval frame donated by Jane Poll and the pictures of GWT & Clarissa donated by Tim Taggart) We are negotiating with the owners of the Taggart musical instruments to have some of these displayed there as well.

Cousin Jay, who lives not far away, has brought several parties by to see the display. We hope that other family members and interested people will visit. The Senior Citizen's Center is open week days till eight PM and located at 50 W. 100 S. in Morgan, Utah.

NEW Morgan County Emigrant Travel Guide Available

The *Morgan County Emigrant Travel Guide* is available at the Morgan County Library next to the Senior Center. When you check out the Taggart display be sure to pick up your free guide! The guide is a "Self-Guided Auto Tour" with a table of distances detailing springs, creeks, mountains, camp sites and other notable places. This New 2009 revision has been carefully measured with a road-o-meter, contains GPS coordinates, and has new photographic images.

FROM SPENCER'S DESK...*



Two Generations of Taggart Violins

*Originally printed in the 1982 Taggart Newsletter
Volume III, Number 1 Page 10 & 11*

The First. By Jessie Holt Grimmert

(daughter of Mary Janette Taggart and Jess Holt.)

The violin (undated) in my possession was made by George Washington Taggart. Grandpa (George Seaman Taggart) always said if one of his children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren learned to play "a tune" on a violin he or she could have it. As my daughter Kerrie learned to play, we inherited it.

This violin was given to Grandpa by his father Charles Wallace Taggart, and it was always one of Grandpa's most treasured possessions. This violin always played a very important part in our lives. Grandpa used to play and we would all sing whenever any of us got together. We were allowed to look at and gently touch it, but were never allowed to play with it. Grandpa played it until a few years before his death.

In 1901 while Grandpa and his family were moving from Utah to a farm near Aberdeen, Idaho, they were crossing the Snake River near the Fort Hall Indian Reservation when one of the wagons tipped, resulting in most of the contents being lost and the horses being drowned. The

violin floated about a half mile down stream where it became lodged in a few bushes and was later recovered with no damage to it. It is still in good condition but the wood needs to be re-conditioned, but I am reluctant to trust it to just any one. We feel very lucky to have such an important part of all our heritage in our family and will treasure it always.

The Second. By Norma Christensen Taggart

Because of the interest shown at the recent Taggart Family Reunion in Ogden, I would like to relate the story of the violin that **George Henry Taggart made in 1890**. That was the year my husband Bruce was born. Father Taggart told his wife Jessie that the violin was to be given to Bruce in commemoration of his birth. Bruce grew up knowing this and was always extremely proud of it. Bruce frequently related the story and circumstances of its gift. I particularly recall one such incident which took place at Mother and Father Taggart's home in Cowley, Wyoming, shortly after my marriage to Bruce. Asking his Mother the whereabouts of his violin, she brought it to him. Bruce proudly showed it to me and related the story of its being given to him. Father Taggart added a few remarks about how he had constructed it and marked the "1890" on the inside.

Many years later, after Mother Taggart's death, Bruce came home to Salt Lake City from Cowley and showed me the violin and a gun Father Taggart had made out of the wood of an old wagon tongue, saying: "Here's my inheritance." The violin is owned at present by Charles Bruce Taggart, the only son Bruce and I had. He plays it and with his family attaches great love and respect to this priceless heirloom. My entire family has always felt deep feelings of love and regard for this violin. They admire it as an example of George Henry Taggart's fine craftsmanship and very special talent. They prize this violin even more knowing the very special circumstances of

its gift to their Father. Believe me, it is owned by an appreciative and caring Grandson!

***This column will reprint some of the many articles that were prepared and gathered by Spencer Laird Taggart (James-Clarissa 1911-2000) while he was editor of the newsletter from 1980-1992. Many treasures of family history were printed in these newsletters for our family to cherish.**

Scott Burt Promoted

Scott J. Burt (LaVella Taggart Burt-Henry Milton Taggart-Clarissa & GWT) has been appointed



president and chief executive officer of Children's Miracle Network. He has been with Children's Miracle Network for more than 20 years, most recently as interim president and CEO. Burt served as chief operational officer before serving as

interim CEO and also was the organization's comptroller starting in 1986.

Ringwood, a GWT Descendant, Called as Member of Seventy

Our relative Michael Tally Ringwood was called to be a member of the First Quorum of Seventy this last April Conference. His pedigree to GWT is as follows: mother Sharon Burt Ringwood, Grandmother-Lamella Taggart Burt (See 2006 newsletter). Great-Grandfather- Henry Milton

Taggart and great-grandparents-Clarissa Marina Rogers Taggart and George Washington Taggart.

We find that like so many other GWT descendants, music has made a difference. From a Church News Article May 16,2009:

"As a young missionary in the Korea Seoul Mission, Michael Tally Ringwood walked the streets of a country where everything felt foreign and tried to pull himself out of discouragement. He struggled with the language.



Secretly, he wished he would be one of a few elders from his mission to be sent stateside to teach Korean Americans.

It wasn't until he was a mission president years later that he could explain to people how hard those early days were.

As a new General Authority, he looked back and thought it was something as simple as singing hymns that got him through.

He had learned a person could use hymns to keep discouragement away and he selected two favorites: "I Need Thee Every Hour," and "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go."

"Whenever I would feel discouraged I would sing those hymns in my mind," he said in an interview with the Church News. "When I would do that I would feel the Spirit and I would know that I

was right where Heavenly Father wanted me to be."

The GWT editor talked with his mother Sharon Burt Ringwood. Sharon says that he is special, very obedient, helpful to his mother. A peace maker, . "I think we were lucky to have him.

His mother says that for now he is assigned to the Salt Lake area but she suspects that he will be off to places closer to Korea, a country he loves and has served twice and whose language he excels.

The following are interesting facts about Elder Ringwood

- * Born 1958, Provo, Utah to Howard Lee and Sharon Lee Burt Ringwood. (At the time, Howard was a football player for Brigham Young University (BYU).)

- *Elder Ringwood is the third of Sharon& Howard Ringwood's seven children.

- * Missionary to the Korea Seoul Mission, 1977 - 1979.

- * Married Rosalie Nelson (daughter of Elder Russell M. Nelson and his late wife Dantzel), 1982, Jordan River Utah Temple.

- * Five children. According to grandma: one married, one on a mission, one in California doing an internship, one a senior in high school and a 13 year old.

- * BA Accounting from BYU, 1983.

- * VP of the Huntsman Corp., 1986 to 2000; President of Bear Creek Foods; President of Lofthouse Foods; COO of Close To My Heart scrap-booking company; President and CFO of Packsize LLC. Also, was a member of the board of advisors at the BYU School of Accountancy.

- * Ward Young Men president, Elders Quorum President, Bishop, Stake President, Korea Seoul

West Mission President 2004 - 2007

- * First Quorum of the Seventy, 2009 - present



Jay Taggart Honored for Distinguished Service

In February 2008 Jay Bryant Taggart (Jay-C.Jay-James Henry-George Henry-Fanny) was one of six people in the nation awarded the Distinguished Service Award. The awards were given out in Tampa, Florida. The awards are given annually to retired AASA members who "exhibit exemplary leadership throughout their careers and who have enhanced the profession of school administration."

Jay was nominated by those he works closely with in the Morgan School District. He received his award in Tampa, Florida. When he got there he realized it was a much bigger deal than he had thought. He was put up in the finest hotels. He was so glad he had worn a suit! Jay says it is another plaque to put in his garage--a nice marble one.

Jay is the only recipient west of the Mississippi. "Nominees are expected to have brought honor to themselves, their colleagues and their profession; given exemplary service to their state or national professional association; and made significant contributions to the field of education through their service, writings and other activities."

From Standard Examiner Morgan Plus:
Taggart's education experience began more than 50 years ago as a teacher in the Weber District. He became an administrator in the district, rising to the position of assistant superintendent for five years. He was named as the superintendent in the Morgan School district in 1975 before transferring back to the Weber School District to serve as superintendent there from 1982-1989.

"Administrative experience in the two districts lead to a stint as the Utah State Superintendent of Public Instruction from 1990-1992, and then the education deputy for Gov. Mike Leavitt. He also served on the state Board of Regents."

Jay resides in Morgan and gives frequent tours of the Taggart Memorabilia display at the Senior Center. He loves to visit the GWT headstone in the South Morgan Cemetery. He has recently been recalled to serve as a sealer in the Ogden Temple.

WHY WE HAVE A NEWSLETTER

As recorded in the first Spencer Laird Taggart Newsletter in 1980, "the primary purpose of our Newsletter is to help us keep in touch as family. We are hopeful that it will become a family organ for sharing and communicating with one another and for bringing us all closer together. We want all to be accounted for--not one should be lost or left out."

This can only happen with your help. Please let the editor know of news, events and deaths.



L-R Husband of winner, Tag Taggart, Deal or No Deal winner-Jessica Robinson and a model.

Deal or No Deal Million Dollar Taggart Connection

by Tag (Lloyd M.) Taggart
(Lloyd-Lloyd-George Henry-Fanny)

Sally's daughter, Jessica Simmons Robinson, went with 10,000 other hopefuls to the "Deal or No Deal" tryouts in SLC where they would all do their best to catch the eye of the show's producers.

Jessica, like everyone else there, was given 20 seconds to convince the producers that she was someone they couldn't pass by. If they liked her, she moved to the next level. Fortunately, by the end of the day, she was still very much in the 'hunt.'

In essence she told them, "I'm from Texas and my first child was born in UT. I'm pregnant again and this child needs to be born on Texas soil!" (The show had never had a pregnant contestant before!)

When the try-outs were over, Jessica and about 50 others had made the first cut and were invited to come to the Hilton Hotel across the street from the Salt Palace for another try-out where she was told to bring her team (Sally and me, and her

husband) for filming and more interviews to be given to the producers for final evaluation.

We showed up and everyone there was so hopeful and excited! We did our thing on camera and Jessica (off camera) raised the 'stakes' a bit higher by telling the producers, 'I'm not telling anyone, even my husband, what flavor of baby we're having until I'm on national TV!'

At the end of the day they sent us all home saying, "Over the next several months we'll either call you or we won't."

A number of months sped by and Jessica had heard nothing. She was about ready to tell her husband Ross what gender of child they were going to have, assuming that she'd been passed over by the show's producers.

Sally and I were undergoing extensive training in Boca Raton, FL with Bob Proctor and Wayne Dyer when I received a call from a "Restricted" number. When I answered it, I was told, "This is Deal or No Deal. We are trying to find Jessica and can't. Can you help us?" I of course said, "Yes."

I called Jessica and told her that the show's producers were calling. She said the reason she'd not answered their call was that she never answered calls from numbers she didn't recognize. "Restricted" on her caller ID almost kept her from appearing on the show!

I gave her the special access number they'd given me and she said she'd call immediately.

For about 2 weeks she talked with them for hours each day revealing all kinds of personal information from which they might be able to create a fun and interesting story line should they actually select Jessica to appear on the show. Even after all of this, they wouldn't confirm that she'd been selected.

Finally we got word that they had indeed decided to fly her and her team to LA for a week of filming.

We were all excited! Wouldn't it be nice to win a couple hundred thousand dollars. Then Sally and I said, "Why hope for just a couple hundred thousand. It's just as easy to win \$1,000,000 as \$200,000. Aim for the jackpot."

Sally was a certified Life Success Consultant with Bob Proctor of "The Secret fame (www.TheSecret.tv) and she encouraged Jessica to start 'visualizing' the \$1,000,000 in a specific case.

Jessica decided that her case would be number '4,' symbolic of the new baby that would soon arrive as her family's 4th member. Calls and emails immediately went to all of Sally's fellow Life Success Consultants who'd been trained in the art of visualization. Jessica and many others were 'visualizing' case #4 with \$1,000,000 in it.

Sally asked Jessica what her 'back up' number was. Logic tells you that you don't 'go for it' if you don't have a high amount in your other case as well. We wanted the last 3 cases to be the three highest amounts left on the board. That would take most of the 'risk' out of it.

So the plan was hatched. Case #4 for the \$1,000,000 and the case she would choose. Case #26 second to last (her number in high school sports) and Jessica let Sally choose the third to last case number...Sally selected 14, it's both of our birthdates...different months)

Jessica's team was flown to California, (the producers select who will accompany the contestant) they would have flown in both of Jessica's brothers but two of them were working out of town and really couldn't leave their sales jobs. So it was Jessica, her husband, Ross and little girl, Brooklyn, as well and Sally's other son,

Brodie and the two of us. We all flew in on the same day and were met at the airport by the “Deal or No Deal” driver and whisked off to the hotel.

That very night they came to the hotel to select our clothing. Yes, they did. They actually had sent us a list of the types of clothing to wear and requested we bring at least three changes. They then took pictures of each of us in each of our outfits and then the producers selected what each of us should bring to the studio the next morning.

We were picked up bright and early the next morning for the shoot but spent more than half



Howie Mandel with Jessica Robinson DEAL OR NO DEAL's First Million Dollar Winner!

the day just waiting. They did a lot of ‘prep’ work with us throughout the day – but mostly we just waited. Finally we were brought out to shoot her show. It was kind of surreal. But really fun.

There was one big surprise for all of us...they didn’t have just one case with \$1,000,000 in it... they had five. Jessica choose case #4 as planned. During the opening of the cases it was revealed that gender of baby she was carrying (they put it in one of the cases and when it was opened it said, “It’s a boy!”). That is how all of us found out she was having a boy.

She got some pretty good offers to quit...but stayed focused and sure enough...when it was down to just three cases...the three highest amounts were still left in Cases #4, #26 and #14 – just as planned. (excluding the extra millions)

If you go to: <http://www.SallyTaggart.com>, you can watch the end of the show on the YouTube link in the lower right-hand corner of the Home Page. The only case still on the stage was #26 being held by one of the beautiful “case models” and Jessica’s case #4 right by her side. She had already opened case #14 revealing the lowest amount – we were confident that the others also held the amounts as visualized.

At that point the place was going nuts. No one had EVER won a million dollars on “Deal or No Deal!” Were they finally going to have their first ever million dollar winner?

At this point the show’s Banker offered Jessica \$561,000.00 for her case #4! She turned it down.

Then Howie Mandel cautioned her. She didn’t budge! The rest is history...she became the show’s first Million Dollar Winner, and we all learned she was having a baby boy! It couldn’t have been a more exciting day!

Everyone in the studio, including us, had already signed legal documents indicating that we would tell no one of what had happened at that filming. If word got out before the show aired, and they could trace the ‘leak’ back to one of us, she could lose the million.

So Sally and I went to the George Washington Taggart family reunion in Cody, knowing we had a millionaire daughter, but could reveal to no one her success. It was more than three months before the show was aired, it was a fun secret to keep.

P.S. Jessica and Ross did not make it to Texas in time for little Pierce to be born...the show aired Labor Day weekend 2008 and he was born the 29th of September. They also didn’t receive the money until after the show aired. They left Utah in January of 2009 and are now living in a lovely home in Austin and are very happy with their new life and growing family.

P.S.S. They are very low-key about their good fortune. As well as very sensible about their “nest-egg.”

Thanks to Susanna Taggart for proof-reading!