

**ANNOUNCING**  
*the 1996 Centennial Gathering*  
*of the*

**Livingston Clan**



***Saturday, July 6, 1996***  
***10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.***



***Wheeler Historic Farm***  
***6351 South 900 East***  
***Murray, Utah 84121***

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this year's centennial **Livingston Family Reunion**, on Saturday, July 6, 1996, to be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Wheeler Historic Farm, 6351 South 900 East, Murray, Utah. Come and get acquainted with your cousins.

Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. followed by:

- wagon rides (get hand stamped)
- old-fashioned lawn games
- barn dancing
- old-time movies
- country dinner
- pioneer demonstrations

Great news on the genealogy front! Our resident genealogist, **LaVonne VanOrden**, reports that all records have now been extracted from Scotland and are on a CD at the Family History Center. This means that if there were records, they are on this disk. She is now researching all of our loose ends and should have a report for us soon.

At our last reunion, some of our board members who had served so long and well were replaced. We want to thank **Joan Cederlof**, **Barbara Venema**, and **Tom Despain** for their great service to the Organization. The new board members are **Margaret Livingston**, **Shaunna Wozab**, and **Brent Livingston**. We appreciate their willingness to pitch in and help. It is not a lot of work to be on the board, and even fun! If you are interested in taking a turn on the board, let us know.

Last year we told you about the book the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers were compiling for the Utah Centennial. This book(s) will honor women pioneers who had an impact on our lives. For your information, the following histories were submitted:

Christina Livingston (Granny)  
 Agnes Widdison Livingston  
 Hannah Widdison Livingston  
 Jane Harrocks Livingston  
 Ellen Harrocks Livingston  
 Isabel Livingston

These books will be available for purchase, and we will let you know more when they are completed. This newsletter has information regarding Agnes Widdison Livingston who was one of those great pioneer women in the Livingston family. A copy of the Utah Statehood Centennial Certificate for Agnes is typical of the certificates the family organization received for all submitted histories.

**Dues are due!** Because of your generosity, we have been able to keep our Organization going, have fun along the way, and accomplish some very important things. Please give whatever you can. Thank you! For your information, the family organization made a donation to the Utah Statehood Centennial Commission on behalf of the Livingston family.

The mailing list needs your attention. Please let us know when you move. We have a hard time keeping track of over 500 families.

You might be interested in having a list of the current Livingston Association Board members:

Roger Livingston . . . . . 278-9144  
 Lowry Livingston . . . . . 825-2118  
 Becky Kehl . . . . . 467-3372  
 Janet Feeney . . . . . 479-4320  
 Enid Cox . . . . . 484-2678  
 Brent Livingston . . (619)-756-3269  
 Joyce Davis . . . . . 278-6958  
 Margaret Livingston . . . 773-2238  
 Shaunna Wozab . . . . . 272-7726

**Be sure to identify yourselves as part of the *Livingston Family* and have your hand stamped upon entering Wheeler Farm!**



# AGNES WIDDISON LIVINGSTON

1830-1920

Her father, Thomas, was born in Sheffield, York, England, on May 5, 1804, the son of Samuel Widdison and Hannah Warding. Thomas was the fifth child of a family of eight children. The Sheffield Parish birth entry spells the surname "Wideson." Thomas left England and moved to Scotland where he worked as a file cutter and married the daughter of the man he worked for.

Her mother, Janet, was born at Chapel Hall, Lanark, Scotland, on February 20, 1814, the daughter of Robert Russell, Jr., and Agnes Adam. Janet was the first child of a family of four children.

The Widdison (Widdowson) family is unknown in Scotland. It is an English family very ancient to Nottinghamshire, which is its principal origin. The Wedderstoun family is soundly Scottish. Wedderstoun is a dialectic or clipped form of the common Scottish family name Watterstoun (anciently from Walter's Town).

Agnes' parents were married in Scotland. The marriage of Thomas Wedderstoun and Janet Russell occurred in the Church of Scotland (a Presbyterian Church), not in the Church of England. They were married September 1, 1809 at Old Monkland, Lanark, Scotland.

Agnes was the first of seven children born to Thomas Widdison and Janet Russell. The Shotts Parish birth entry spells the surname "Wedderstoun." Agnes was born December 28, 1830, at Shotts, Lanark, Scotland. Child number two was Hannah, born January 15, 1838 at Sheffield, York, England, probably during a visit back to England to see Thomas's family. The balance of the five children were born back at Chapel Hall, Bothwell, Lanark, Scotland. Their names are Henry Thomas Widdison, Robert Russell Widdison, William Livingston Widdison, John Widdison, and James Gourley Widdison; their births took place between 1841 and 1853 at Chapel Hall.

Agnes was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1842 by William Livingston; and her sister, Hannah, was baptized in 1853 by Joseph Morris.

Agnes Widdison married James Campbell Livingston in the old endowment house 7 June 1854. From this union were born the following children: Janet, James C., Jr., Archibald, Robert, Charles C., Hannah and Helen.

The parents of Agnes had embraced the gospel and desired to join the Saints in America. Two sons, Henry Thomas and John, died as children, so the remaining five children and parents, Thomas and Janet, sailed on March 26, 1853, from Liverpool, England, on the ship "Falcon" with 324 passengers and emigrants, taking care of their own food and arranging for their own sleeping accommodations. The ocean was very rough and the eight week voyage took its toll.

From New Orleans they were taken up the Mississippi River to the mouth of the Missouri River, and then on to Florence, Nebraska. At Florence, they were met by an emigrant train of ox teams and wagons waiting to take them to the Salt Lake Valley.

The Captain of the company was Appleton Harmon, and the trip was difficult for a family of youngsters ranging from the youngest, James Gourley, who was only four months old, to Agnes, the firstborn who was approaching her 23rd birthday. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in October 1853.

Nine months after arrival in Salt Lake, Agnes married a young man that she had probably known since her childhood. James Campbell Livingston, Sr. was born in the same town as Agnes, in Shotts, Lanark, Scotland. He went to the same branch of the church as Agnes, and they came to America on the same ship. James indicated they were nine weeks and two days on the sea, and then went up the Mississippi River to

Keokuk, a few miles below Nauvoo for outfitting to cross the plains.

Agnes and James were married at the ages of 23 and 20 respectively, on June 7, 1854, by Bishop John Lytle of the Seventh Ward. Three years later, on March 13, 1857, they were both endowed and then sealed for time and eternity in the New Endowment House.

They built their first home in Salt Lake, an adobe room with a dirt roof, in the summer of 1855, and lived in it in an unfinished condition the following winter. As to the location of the home, a grandson remembered their home as being near the 500 block on First Avenue, but another thought it was on the northeast corner of 7th East and 1st South. There may have been several homes in Salt Lake that they lived in. The description of the home is elegant sounding, "The home they lived in was a beautiful home. It was brick, either white or some light color. It has long since been torn down." They also had a home in Wasatch (mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon, approximately 90th South and 35th East in Salt Lake) where they stayed during the summer, but during the winter they would go back to town. James C. Livingston first went to the farm of Brigham Young. There he did odd chores around the garden, and while he was there, one day he saw a nice ripe tomato. He watched it and watched it and thought how nice it looked. Finally Brigham came out and said, "I see you are looking at that fine tomato. Would you like one?" Brigham picked one and gave it to him and he thought he was poisoned when he tasted it. That shows the type of man Brigham Young was. He was very good to immigrants when they came in.

He worked for Brigham Young six months and went from there up into Red Butte Canyon to work in the stone quarry getting out the sandstone for the foundation of the temple and wall around the temple. He showed himself very apt having worked in a coal mine in Scotland. James was made the foreman in the granite quarry that provided rock for the Salt Lake Temple, and maintained that position for years, to the completion of the assignment. The following is taken from a little magazine on resorts, written around the 1930s:

"Granite for the building of the Salt Lake Temple was taken from the quarry in the Little Cottonwood Canyon. Mr. James C. Livingston was the foreman of the project where he and the workers lived in small cabins built with wooden floors and wooden sides a few feet high, topped with tent roofs. These cabins were surrounded with flower gardens, lawns and attractive walks, and each cabin had its own small stream of clear, cold canyon water of the Little Cottonwood stream. A bridge crossed the north side where a larger cookhouse was located in which meals were prepared for all of the employees in the quarry."

John Sharp, Bishop of the 10th Ward, was in charge of the quarry. Shortly after he came there, John Sharp took a liking to him (John Sharp was a "Scotsman," too), and he put him in as his assistant. John Sharp was director of the Union Pacific Railroad when it came in. John Sharp finally had to give all his attention to the railroad, so Brigham Young released him and put James C. Livingston in charge of the quarry. They then were going to move the quarry. They had taken out enough stone there and were going to get out the granite. While they were preparing for that, Johnston's Army came and James was released from the temple quarry to go help stop Johnston's army. He left Agnes with one small baby and went out in Echo Canyon and met a man named Gibson, who was going to take Agnes and the family south. They had a cow and James was expecting Gibson to take care of her. He took Agnes below Provo to the bottoms and said, "Mrs. Livingston, this is a nice place. We will drop you here." He took her team and left the cow and took her other household things, leaving behind a sack of flour and a few provisions and he said Agnes could get the milk from the cow to make out the rest of her living.

It was James' team. Agnes had two babies, Janet (2 years old) and James C (6 weeks old) around April 1878. Agnes didn't know what to do, but she finally took a case knife and dug a place in the sod and went down to the river and got willows and made a wickiup. She had hardly got settled when there came up a terrible storm,

thundering and lightning, and the water started running into the place. Before that the cow got away and started back to Salt Lake, and Agnes after her, leaving the two babies. The cow got out of the bottoms and would wait until Agnes almost caught up with her and then run along a little farther. She came to the point of the mountain and when she got there, Agnes took a cut around the cow and got ahead of her and caught her, but the cow was stubborn and didn't want to face back into the storm and kept trying to break back. When Agnes got back to the children there was a foot of water in the wickiup and Janet had dragged her little brother out of the water and onto a little shelf. They were all soaking wet, not a stitch of dry clothing or wood, so Agnes couldn't make a fire, and they had to sit up all night.

James didn't know anything about this. The night of 5th October 1857, they burned five wagon train loads of provisions for Johnston's army. He was in the Lot Smith Company. They say that act hampered the coming of the enemy until they capitulated and agreed that they would come through without molesting anything. That was Brigham's order, that, or fight to the bitter end. James said that he and three others would holler from cliff to cliff and the echo would make it sound like a lot of them.

When they finally agreed, James came in and had a hard time trying to find Agnes. And, Agnes was having a hard time. She said the wolves would howl at night.

In 1862, James entered in the Holy Order of Plural Marriage by marrying Agnes' sister, Hannah Widdison, and in 1867 the three of them were privileged to receive their Second Endowments in the Endowment House from President Wells and Joseph F. Smith. Hannah mothered four children: Thomas (1863), Agnes (1864), James L. (1866), and William L. (1870), but she died suddenly, and Agnes raised them along with her own seven children. A third wife was brought into the family, Annie Muir, on January 6, 1873: James (1880), Bertha (1883) Annie (1887), and Wallace (1889). There were 18 children among the three wives.

After James was finished at the quarry, the family, consisting of James, Agnes, and Annie and their children moved by assignment to Birch Creek, near Fountain Green, Sanpete County, south of Provo, Utah. One of their daughters, Hannah Livingston, who was a teenager at the time, said that it was terribly difficult to leave their nice home in Salt Lake and go down to Cedar Cliff (another name for Birch Creek), to just nothing. It was just sagebrush at the time, but James, Agnes, and Annie and their family went immediately to work and began to build it up and establish a beautiful little farm. James and Agnes were back and forth between Salt Lake and Cedar Cliff, but after several years the entire family settled there. They raised hay and cattle. James was in full charge of both the community and the church. The whole family were church-goers. The relatives from Salt Lake would come down to Cedar Cliff a couple of times a year to visit with the family. The whole family was very close.

Agnes would entertain her children and grandchildren by bending down the small birch trees as horses to be bounced on, as if the horses were galloping. This was great sport even if many a tree grew crooked and many a leg and bottom ached after a big day in the canyon. On Christmas morning, after most of the children had grown up and had their own families living in the same area, their children would get up as early as possible, go visit some of the other neighbors and then go to Grandma and Grandpa Livingston's to show what they had received and see what their grandparents had for them.

After James died, Agnes came to Salt Lake to live with the Jacob Smith family on 56th South and Highland Drive. The Smiths had a little two-room house built right next to the family home between 5676 South and 5670 South on Highland Drive. The little house was built in 1909, and Agnes stayed there until around 1920 when she returned to Sanpete so she could be buried were James was.

The impression of the Smith family about Agnes during those last eleven years of her life are heart warming. Agnes was a wonderful person. In her little house, there was a big thick feathered bed, and she let the grandchildren, especially little

Agnes (Agnes Smith Smart), sleep with her periodically. Agnes' daughter, Hannah Smith, would send her meals, or she would come to the bigger house for meals. Agnes loved to swing the younger children, Wani and Dori, around and around, and bounce them to sleep on her lap. Once Earl had colic for three months, and Agnes patted him on his little back while he lay on her lap for hours at a time.

As Agnes Smith Smart recalled in her personal history: "She was very modest, very sweet and a real good cook. I remember when we went to Sanpete, she would always give us sugar cookies and everyone would dip them in their tea. I guess tea was all right in those days. Once I dipped my sugar cookie in some tea, and it was so terrible that I've never wanted to dip another cookie in tea since. Grandma was a very good housekeeper, neat and clean. She was small in stature and not as stern as grandpa. Mom told us that when Grandma was younger, she wrote some sort of letter and Grandpa made some remark about her misspellings, and she felt so bad that she never wrote a letter again after that."



Taken April 1996 Age 66 yrs 4 mo.

UTAH STATEHOOD

CENTENNIAL CERTIFICATE

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

Livingston Family Association

PRESENTED TO

Agnes Widdison Livingston

IN HONOR OF



*Louise S. Green*  
PRESIDENT

*Wayne D. White*  
CHAIRMAN

*Oct. 4, 1995*  
DATE



UTAH STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL COMMISSION  
MICHAEL O. LEAVITT, GOVERNOR • STEPHEN M. STUDDERT, CHAIRMAN • KIM R. BURNINGHAM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 6, 1995

Enid J. Cox  
Livingston Family Association  
1283 Logan Ave  
Salt Lake City, UT 84015

Dear Ms. Cox:

On behalf of the Utah Statehood Centennial Commission, we thank you for your donation to the Centennial effort. In appreciation we have enclosed the Governor's certificate of recognition and Centennial decal for business or personal display.

Your donation has been placed in the Centennial Trust Fund and gone towards supporting Centennial events such as the Centennial Week activities, wagon train, legacy projects and many, many more activities.

We appreciate very much your support in making this the "Celebration of the Century!"

In the spirit of Utah,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen M. Studdert".

Stephen M. Studdert  
Utah Statehood Centennial Commission Chairman

Enclosure