

The Murdoch Messenger



“Tell John I died with my face towards Zion”

Message from the President David Graehl

In recent years the James and Mary Murray Murdoch family has taken the opportunity to honor our ancestors in many ways. We have produced art, biographies, family histories and written music. Wee Granny's courage and devotion were commemorated by placing a headstone in the cemetery located near the spot where she died 150 years earlier. We were instrumental in placing a highway marker near the same location. We also replaced the deteriorating headstone of John Murray Murdoch in the Heber City, Utah cemetery. Additional family histories have been published or are nearing publication.

Many of us have seen the benefit and felt the interest generated by the family histories that have been completed. When I look in the Red Book and see the names of my family members, and see my name recorded with my family, I feel a sense of belonging. I am grateful for the heritage that our ancestors provided for us. I am interested in their experiences, in the lives they lived and the challenges they faced. President Henry B. Eyring, of the Church

of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, recently pointed out that reflecting on the stories and diaries of his ancestors has helped him make important decisions throughout his life. (Address given during the world wide conference on genealogy, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 26, 2010)

We are now at another exciting time in our family. With the recent creation of online databases and the associated development of other software tools, the leadership of the John and Mary Murray Murdoch Family Organization feel impressed that it is time to tackle a large task. We feel that it is time to put together a complete genealogical record of all of the descendants of James and Mary Murray Murdoch. Our family will accomplish this by creating an online database that will contain only the genealogies and appropriate source information for each descendent. In our next newsletter we will review the details as they are finalized in the coming months.

Through the years much work has been done by family members to publish family histories from collected information and to record vital facts about many of their descendants. The online record that will be created will not replace these efforts. The need for published family histories will continue since these histories include

personal stories and additional information.

To accomplish the creation of the online record, the family leadership is exploring the options that are available to us. There are a number of ways that the information can be managed, recorded and preserved. We are also organizing volunteers within the family who will coordinate the collection of information and will make certain that all the details are properly documented and recorded. In the coming months we will determine the methods and technologies that will assist us in completing this task.

Many of you have already experienced the power that comes from collecting and recording information about family members and the excitement that comes from discovering new information about the family members that were previously unknown to us. Their place in our family and the story of their lives is very important to us and to them. We need to make sure that their place in our family is part of this great record.

I appreciate the work that so many of you do within your own families and within our extended family. It takes all

of our continued efforts to maintain the bonds that tie us together in the James and Mary Murdoch family as well the other families of which we are members. Our families will be a great source of strength and happiness to us.
May 2011 be a bright and happy year for us all.

Murdoch Family Genealogy Update

**Don L. Blanchard
Family Genealogist**

Murdoch Family Genealogy Update
When I was first asked to serve as the Family Genealogist, I had envisioned developing an accurate computer database of the descendants of John and Mary Murray Murdoch. I had a fairly good start on the Brigham Murdoch and Louann Hammon descendants and was in hopes of collecting additional information on the other lines. I was particularly interested in completing an accurate record for at least the first three generations.

At the last meeting of the Murdoch Family Organization, our new president, David Graehl discussed this concept with the officers and mentioned that he was impressed that we needed to put together a "record worthy of all acceptance" which would be in the form of a computer data base. After a considerable amount of discussion, it was decided by the officers to pursue this project. My first effort was to check and see what might be available now on the new Family Search site. I was surprised to find that my great grandfather John Murray Murdoch is now showing as having three wives and I am only aware of two. Initial investigation indicates that the additional wife, whom he supposedly married in Scotland, is erroneous. There are many such errors in Family Search and this is one of the reasons for the desire to establish our own accurate family database. There are many foreseeable and probably more than a few unforeseeable problems, but the individual promptings helped to drive the decision to go forward with the project.

In one of the Murdoch Messengers there was an article suggesting that Wee Granny has over 10,000 descendants and

that figure has been revised upward in number. The question that we are attempting to answer is "Who are all of these people"?

A few of the concerns that were discussed are as follows:

- 1.How do we obtain the accurate records that we need?
- 2.In what format will we store the records?
- 3.Where will the master database be kept?
- 4.Who will have access to the records?
- 5.How does the right to privacy affect our goal?

The officers are currently working on addressing these issues and we will keep you informed of our progress and needs in future issues of the Murdoch Messenger. Many of you are now receiving the Messenger via E-mail and this has greatly reduced the cost of printing and distributing the newsletter.

We will be using material from the red and blue books to help bring the database more current and several new books from other family lines are currently being produced that should prove to be very helpful. Anything that you might have that will be helpful will be greatly appreciated.

I have copies of some old photographs and documents that we are planning to put into the data base that can help to document/substantiate information, but there is a lot out there that we don't have and are not even aware exists. Please do what you can to assist us in this monumental project.

In the next newsletter we will include a list of the types of information that we are looking for and the details that will help us identify where the information comes from. Until then, please start thinking about what you might have that will help to put this all together.

Biography of Mary Murdoch Mair

This text is taken from the book, *How Beautiful Upon the Mountains* ©1963 and a history written by Joseph A. Murdoch (grandson of Mary Murray Murdoch – Wee Granny).

Name: Mary Murdoch
Born: November 23, 1819
Place: Gaswater, Ayrshire, Scotland
Died: December 5, 1900
Place: Heber, Utah
Parents: James and Mary Murray Murdoch

Mary Murdoch Mair born and raised in an area of Scotland where most of the people were farmers and raised stock. In those days in Scotland the women usually milked the cows and fed them, made the butter and cheese and also had to help rake in the harvest fields in those days; all the hay was cut with sickles and bound by hand. It was very hard work and a very slow process. The fields were surrounded by hills that were covered with the bonnie bloomin' heather, which is really beautiful along in July and August when it is in full bloom. It is also the chief supply of food for the sheep and cattle, which graze on the hills most of the year.

Mary's father died when he was overcome by dump gas while trying to rescue a fellow worker from a well. This made it necessary for Mary to seek employment as soon as she was old enough. She worked mostly at farm homes, where she learned to milk cows, make butter and cheese, also to tend the cows, and at harvest time worked in the fields. She also helped knit the family stockings.

Mary had very little chance to attend school in her childhood, but went long enough to learn to read, write, spell, and count. She and her sister Veronica attended the same schoolroom. Thus she grew to be a strong, healthy, young woman, quite efficient in all kinds of women's work. These attributes plus a cheerful disposition won her many friends in the village.

When Mary was about twenty-one years of age she was married to a very steady young man, Allan Mair. They had been childhood friends, both being raised in the same little village. It was a strictly religious community, and practically everyone attended the Kirk and all very strictly observed the Sabbath Day.

Allan was a very steady, industrious

young man and a willing worker. Mary was of a frugal, saving disposition and they were soon comfortably settled down in a little cottage with plain, simple furnishings and they were happy and contented with their lot in life. This was in about 1840. In the years to come they were blessed with nine children, six of whom reached adulthood.

By 1850 the Mormon Elders came to Scotland preaching a new and strange doctrine. After hearing it, Mary and her mother were baptized by Mary's brother, John M. Murdoch, who had previously joined the Church and now had the authority to officiate in that capacity.

Mary tried hard to convince her husband of the truth of Mormonism, but he could not see the need of making any change in his religion. Allan gave his consent for Mary to be baptized, but refused his consent for the children to be baptized or practice the new religion. This position soon caused some friction in the home where all had been peace and harmony before.

The Savior had said while here on the earth that His gospel would have just such effect as it did on this family.

After Mary's brother, John M. Murdoch, his family, and her mother (Wee Granny) had gone to Utah, Mary felt quite alone. But, she had an abiding testimony of the gospel, which gave her much comfort. She had tried to convert her husband, but all to no avail and she lived on in this manner for fifteen years. Her two older sons, James and John, had gone to America and made homes for themselves in the state of Maryland, where they worked in coal mines. Another son, Foulds, was soon to be married.

Not being able to teach the gospel to any of her children brought Mary much sorrow. It was the most earnest desire of her heart that her three youngest children would be members of the Church and she could see no other way for this to be accomplished but to leave her husband and home and go to Utah, which to them was Zion.

Mary confided this to her daughter Mary, who was fourteen years old at the time. She told her of her plans and the

daughter, Mary, readily took hold of the proposition. Together mother and daughter began to make preparation for the journey.

Although Mary's brother John's two children had died on the way to Utah, and her dear mother departed this life on the dreary plains, crossing the United States while pulling a handcart, she still desired to go. As soon as plans were made, Mary began preparing small bundles and young Mary took them to the station and forwarded them to the home of a friend, John Aird, to be ready when the time came for them to leave.

John Aird, a member of the LDS Church, acted as agent for them, making all necessary arrangements and forwarded their baggage that had been sent to him in small parcels. Mother and daughter had also sent him money to secure their passage over the sea, and he notified them of when the ship, Saint Mark, would sail from Liverpool so they could leave home just at her right time. Mary had given her husband to understand that they were going on a short visit, and in this way she and the three children left him and started for Utah.

Mary and her three children, Mary (14), Andrew (10), and Alexander (7), reached Liverpool in safety, where they boarded the Saint Mark in company with other LDS emigrants bound for New York in America. They had a fairly good voyage crossing the great Atlantic, which took four weeks.

A few days after their departure Allan learned of their real whereabouts and sent a cablegram to his sons in Maryland, asking them to meet the ship and see if they could persuade their mother to return to Scotland, and if not, to at least prevent the children from going to Utah. The boys went to New York, only to find the emigrants had started their westward journey a few days previous.

This family crossed the plains with Andrew Scott's ox train and passed through all the trying experiences of pioneers making that dreary, tiresome journey of 1,000 miles.

They reached their destination, Heber, in October of 1866. They went to the home of Mary's brother, John, whom she had not seen for fourteen years. Here they were royally welcomed. Both John and Mary had passed through many sorrowful as well as

pleasant experiences and had tales to tell.

Not long after the family's arrival in Heber Thomas Todd, who had known Mary Murdoch Mair in Scotland, came to visit her and after a few visits he asked her to become his plural wife, and she accepted his offer. They traveled to the Endowment House in Salt Lake City and were married. He took Mary and her youngest son Alex to his home. The marriage did not prove entirely satisfactory and in less than four years they separated.

In about 1872 Daniel McMillan, the village blacksmith, and a widower with a grown family, asked her to marry him. Mary accepted the offer. Daniel had very little property when Mary married him, but through her thrift, economy and their hard work she managed to save enough of his means to build them a very nice, red sandstone home, where they lived comfortably many years.

One day a woman with three children stopped at Mary and Daniel's home asked if they could stay in the old house for a few weeks and of course she was given that privilege. After being there a few days, the woman asked if Mary would care for the two little girls, ages four and six, as she had to make a short visit to Park City. This request was also granted. The woman never returned and Mary cared for the two little girls as though they were her own until they married. Elva married Joseph Howarth and Nettie married James Reid Lindsay.

Mary brought additional income into the home by going out as a mid-wife and did a great deal of needlework for others. However, in about 1886 she had a stroke, and was paralyzed from the waist down, and was bedfast for fourteen years. Even through this she was cheerful and most always kept her hands busy doing beautiful netting.

In the spring of 1869 her son John, who worked on the Union Pacific Railroad as a bridge builder from Omaha to Utah, paid his mother a visit. He was quite pleased with what he found and said he was sure they were better off in Utah than if they had stayed in Scotland. John had a home, wife and two children in Lawrence, Kansas.

In 1898 her son James, who lived in Maryland, came and visited with her for a few weeks, and he too admitted the Mormons were better than he had been led to believe.

Mary Murdoch Mair McMillan died on December 5, 1900, at the age of 81 years. She was loved and respected by all who knew her. She never lost her faith in God or in the gospel for which she had suffered so much.



Mary Murdoch Mair

D. Lennox and Ora Murdoch family Racquetball Tournament

David Murdoch

The D. Lennox and Ora Murdoch family is hosting a racquetball tournament over the next few months. We would love to involve as many people as possible in some fun competition and in an effort to get to know our extended family members better.

Overview: This will be a double elimination tournament. Everyone who registers will be grouped by their starting city and randomly paired up. Everyone will be contacted with “round one” information which will include a deadline date. Individuals that are paired up should contact each other and decide upon a date and a place to play prior to the deadline date. A minimum of three games should be played (e.g. best of 3) to determine the winner. Game results will be communicated back to David

Murdoch. Once all game results are in “round two” information will be sent out. If the deadline date passes and a game was not played, both participants will be marked with a loss. Prior to the deadline date, if it’s determined that your game partner can’t play, notify David Murdoch and a new game partner will be assigned, or if needed, the individual able to play the game will be marked as the winner. At the conclusion of the tournament winners will be announced and prizes awarded.

Here are the details.

Registration Deadline: All participants must register by Feb 15th to David Murdoch 801.310.3248 or David.Murdoch@MurdochConsulting.net

When: February, March and if needed, April.

Where: Participants in each game will need to coordinate where they play.

Cost: \$5 to register – If you are unable to cover the registration cost simply let us know and we will waive the registration fee (we want everyone to participate that would like to).

Prizes:

1st Place = \$50 certificate
2nd Place = \$30 certificate
3rd Place = \$20 certificate

Please phone or E-Mail David Murdoch 801.310.3248 or David.Murdoch@MurdochConsulting.net if you are interested and provide the following information.

- Your Name
- Starting City you would like to play in (this will help us to group the starting games together)
- Contact phone number
- Your relationship to Wee Granny

The Brigham Dallas Family Reunion 2010

Brigham Dallas Murdoch Family held their annual reunion east of Ashton on July 1-3, 2010, which was attended by 65 descendants. Around the campfire, memories of Grandpa Dallas and Grandmas Winona and Agnes were shared with the

goal of helping grandchildren and great grandchildren understand their wonderful heritage.

We also sang our Murdoch Family Hymn. In addition to the great food, activities included floating the North Fork of the Snake River from the confluence with Warm River to the Ashton Reservoir boat dock; attending the Ashton Fourth of July Parade (famous for having more candy per child than any other parade in the country); playing horseshoes, frisbee golf, pool, table tennis, and the kids found lots of pennies in the sandbox.

At the family meeting, we agreed to begin putting the life history of Dallas, Winona, and Agnes together; it will become the companion book to the James and Mary Murdoch and Brigham and Thomas Murdoch Family histories. Such traditions as this reunion keep families bound together.

Murdoch Family Hymn:

Silver on the sage—
Starlit skies above—
Family that I love—
In God’s country—tonight.

Growing families—
Hearts with love ovr’flowing—
Living happilee—
In God’s Country—tonight.

Aspen covered hills—
Nature-here’s to thee—
Murdoch family—
Out, in God’s Country-tonight.

Murdoch Newsletter by email

If you would like to receive the Murdoch Messenger via email, just do the following:

Go to the Murdoch Family website at: www.murdochfamily.net and select the *Contact Us* link at the top of the page.

Fill out the form, including your email address and let us know you would like to receive the newsletter by email.

WEE GRANNY STORE

The following items may be purchased from: Dick and Judy Heinz, 1-208-652-3776

1. **Clark Kelley Price's painting of Wee Granny.** (Note: \$5.00 per order for S/H is sufficient.)
18" X 24" Limited Edition, each signed and numbered by the artist. \$100.00 per copy
2. 18" X 24" copies. \$20.00 per copy 4. 7 1/2" X 10" copies. \$10.00 per copy .
3. 10" X 14" copies \$15.00 per copy. 5. 5" X 7" copies. \$5.00 per copy.
4. **CD-ROM:** This contains all of the information in the "red" book. \$5.00 per copy plus \$2.00 S/H .
5. **Scottish Shepherd, the Life and Times of John Murray Murdoch.** \$25.00 per copy plus \$5.00 for S/H.
Contact Gary Lloyd for additional copies.
6. **Paperback reprint of the red book** by Jack Lyon (James and Mary Murdoch Family History). Available from Amazon.com. Access the website and type in "James and Mary Murray Murdoch Family History". They are listed at \$29.95.

MURDOCH FAMILY WEBSITE

www.murdochfamily.net

The following information is available on the site:

1. Upcoming Murdoch Family Events - Murdoch Family Genealogy - Past Murdoch family Newsletters.
2. Information on the past memorial services for Wee Granny and John Murray Murdoch.
3. Items for sale at the Wee Granny Store.
4. Contact page to leave requests and your current email address.
5. Family Genealogy pages.
6. Murdoch Blog (leave your messages and announcements for others to see).

JAMES AND MARY MURRAY MURDOCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (January 2011)

PRESIDENT: David Graehl
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MAIR FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE: Susan Christenson
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FAMILY PUBLISHING CONSULTANT: Jack Lyon
801-965-9765 jack.lyon@comcast.net

JAMES & MARY MURRAY MURDOCH FAMILY ORGANIZATION ANNUAL REGISTRATION FORM:

Family Member Name: _____ Spouses Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Mark branch of family you belong to: Alan and Mary Mair:

John Murray and Ann Steel Murdoch: John Murray and Isabella Crawford Murdoch:

William and Janet Lennox Murdoch: William and Mary Reid Lindsay Murdoch:

Please enter the name of your third generation Murdoch ancestor: _____

Family dues \$10.00 per year. **Make checks payable to: James and Mary Murdoch Family Org.**

Send this registration form to:

**David Murdoch
1376 North 910 East
American Fork, UT 84003**

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, select the *Contact Us* link at www.murdochfamily.net, fill out the form, include your email address, and let us know you would like to receive the newsletter by email.

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Return Service Requested