

# The Murdoch Messenger



“Tell John I died with my face towards Zion.”

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## Message from the President

David Murdoch

Hello, my name is David Murdoch. Over the past 10 years it has been a privilege to serve with Dave Graehl and each of the officers in our family organization. I'm honored to now serve as the President of the James and Mary Murray Murdoch Family organization.

Speaking of our ancestors, R. Phillip Rasmussen, a former president of the family organization stated: “How grateful we should be for their sacrifice in leaving their native Scotland and coming to this great land that we might enjoy the freedom and opportunity it affords us. Through them we have been greatly blessed, both materially and spiritually. We have been blessed with the gospel of Jesus Christ, for which they gave their all, including their lives. Because of their efforts, we can accomplish the earthly ordinances that will bind us together as families and allow us to dwell eternally with them and our Father in Heaven and his Son Jesus Christ. These are the greatest blessings we could possibly hope to attain. I therefore challenge each of you to remain worthy of these blessings, and to instill in your families this same desire. In this way we will show our gratitude for our great Murdoch heritage.”

I am grateful for this challenge as it helps me focus a little more on things that matter most. In the coming months and years, it is my hope all of us, as members of this great family, can find small meaningful ways to increase our family history activity. To that end, I believe our family organization can and will play an important part in achieving this worthwhile goal. This is the expectation I have, and I invite you to help us meet this expectation.

It has been awhile since we published a family newsletter, so you might be wondering “who are our family organization officers?” The officers of our organization are as follows:

**President – David Murdoch**

**Vice President – Bette Ann Christensen**

**Treasurer – Robert Murdoch**

**Newsletter Editor – Greg Hall**

**Family Genealogist – Don Blanchard**

**Bulk Mailing Chairman – Dave Graehl**

**Website Chairman - James Murdoch**

New to our leadership is Bette Ann Christensen. Because of her love, knowledge, and experience in family history, she brings great strength to our leadership team. One of her most recent accomplishments is the publication of her book entitled “The David Lennox and William Murdoch Family Histories”. This volume contains submissions from many of you and is a wonderful source of family stories and histories.

As your new leadership we have several ideas as to what we feel the organization should focus on. We’d like to also get your input as to what you feel our family organization should be doing. As you know, there are many different things we could put our energy behind, but we need to be judicious in how we spend our time and resources. I’d like to hear from you as to what you feel is most important. Please email us at [JamesAndMaryMurrayMurdoch@gmail.com](mailto:JamesAndMaryMurrayMurdoch@gmail.com) and tell us what you think.

Your input is very important to us and will help shape the direction of the family organization. As time goes on, I hope we can share more of our personal experiences and histories, thereby strengthening our extended family.

I'll begin by sharing a small memory I have as a young boy growing up in the Cottonwood area of Salt Lake City, Utah, back in the late 1970's. My family and I lived down the road from my paternal grandparents, Ora and Lennox Murdoch. Grandma and Grandpa had a swimming pool which was so much fun. I loved swimming in their pool during the hot Utah summer months, especially at night as the pool light would catch the branches of the huge poplar trees overhead. If I remember correctly, there were over 70 poplar trees that lined the 1/10 mile long dirt driveway leading to my grandparents home. These poplar trees were my friends. I would climb them, use their branches and huge sections of bark to build forts, and enjoy the birds that nested in them. I can still close my eyes and hear in my mind the rustling leaves as the seasonal winds would blow the branches back and forth, back and forth.

I've since grown up, married my college sweetheart, helped raise our six children, and recently moved to Nashville, Tennessee. Once again I'm surrounded by beautiful trees, but this time, we have the added excitement of fireflies! Oh, how I love the fireflies.

In the coming months and years, I look forward to hearing from you and getting to know you as we link arms in an effort to move forward in the next chapter of the James and Mary Murray Murdoch Family organization.

Sincerely,

David Murdoch

Great-great-great-great grandson of James and Mary Murray Murdoch

## Message from the Past President

David Graehl

As my wife and I attended the services at the dedication of the Wee Granny headstone in the Chimney Rock Cemetery, in 2001, I felt impressed to get more involved in the family organization. In the following years there were opportunities to serve and to get involved in the work of honoring our ancestors and remembering the sacrifices made by so many.

Ten years ago I was asked to serve as the president of the James and Mary Murray Murdoch Family Organization. Since I began that service, the focus of the family organization has been to prepare a genealogical record of all of the posterity of Wee Granny and her husband James. The "Red Book" is a marvelous record of some of Wee Granny's children. And other histories have been published of succeeding generations. From the beginning, though, our attention was drawn to creating a record of all of her posterity. This required getting updates for the records that we already had. Our thoughts also turned to the families of her other children, those who have had little or no work done to identify them and to add them to the record.

Due to some of the recent events in my life, I have not been able to stay as dedicated to compiling the genealogical record as I would like to have been. After much thought and prayer, and after discussions with the other leaders of the family, I have determined that it is time for me to step down as the president of the family organization.

In recent months, I have worked closely with the other leaders in the family, seeking to identify the next president of this great family. As we discussed our needs and the path forward, we selected David Murdoch as the new president of the James and Mary Murray Murdoch Family Organization. I have come to know David as we have served together and I have found him to be well qualified to lead the family as we set out to accomplish whatever our future has in store. I have appreciated his love of and his devotion to the Murdoch family. As vice president, he provided needed assistance and has given wise counsel as decisions were made and as work toward the genealogical record unfolded.

I want to thank all those who have served in the leadership of the family organization during these past 10 years. Even though we have not been able to accomplish our goal, we have made progress toward a complete record of Wee Granny's posterity.

I also want to thank those who have continued to honor and respect the hard work of our ancestors. I am grateful to those who have felt the need to document and preserve the details of our ancestor's lives and of their experiences.

Working with this wonderful family has been a real pleasure. I have enjoyed getting to know so many family members through collecting names and as we crossed paths while visiting the family monuments. I look forward to doing whatever I can to keep the work moving along.

Sincerely,

David Graehl

## Message from the Vice President

Bette Ann Murdoch Christensen

The Murdoch Family Organization has a wonderful history of dedicated members who feel that by keeping the spirit of the Murdoch family history alive, the descendants of James and Mary Murray Murdoch will appreciate their histories and stories, as well as the stories of their children, grandchildren, etc. Much has been done to do this, however, there is more to do.

As a descendant of James and Mary Murray Murdoch through their son, William, I have always enjoyed receiving the Murdoch Messenger, which was filled with stories and information about the wonderful Murdoch family. I hope you feel the same and will enjoy and participate in our quest to find more information, review the Murdoch Family Tree on ancestry.com, and continually add to their stories. If you would love to just read about the Murdoch's, that is great too as we all need to learn about our heritage which shapes us as individuals and families.

The new leadership in the Murdoch Family Organization is looking forward to this assignment and the opportunity to work with you, as we all work together to continually learn about this great family.

Bette Ann Murdoch Christensen

Vice President

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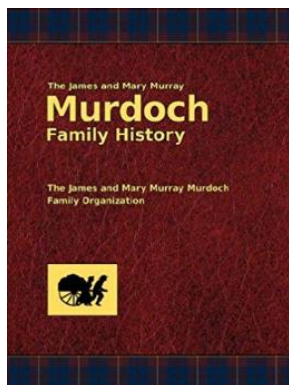
### James and Mary Murray Murdoch database on Ancestry.com

Don L. Blanchard

Murdoch Family Genealogist

**Editor's Note** – *The following article by Don Blanchard was included in the January 2015 edition of the Murdoch Messenger. The article is included here again as a reference to past Murdoch family announcements regarding the James and Mary Murray Murdoch database on Ancestry.com.*

Over the past few years, the Murdoch Family Officers have been busy assembling an on-line database containing many of the descendants of James and Mary Murray Murdoch. This file is now available for access on Ancestry.com by members of the Murdoch family. The goal has been to create an accurate as possible listing of all of their descendants. At one point in time it was estimated that James and Mary had more than 20,000 descendants. It now appears that estimate may have been a bit conservative. The current database that we have on Ancestry is at 3390 individuals and only represents seven of seventy-two 3rd generation grandchildren's lines and most of those lines are not very complete.



Most of the early generational information has been taken from or compared to what is in the "Red Book" covering approximately the first three or more generations. The hope has always been that the various family lines would submit additional information on the later generations in a computer database format that we could review and add to the file that we have started on Ancestry.com.

To obtain a clearer picture of what we currently have, you can refer to the chart on page 58 of the "Red Book" and look at the right hand column.

Note: The “Red Book” is no longer out of print and is available from the following sources:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1434102343>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-james-and-mary-murray-murdoch-family-history-dallas-e-murdoch/1013114740>

**We currently have information on the following third generation lines:**

1. Mary Murdoch line (Veronica & George Caldwell) supplied by Tammi Bain who lives in England.
2. The Joseph A. Murdoch line (John Murray & Ann Steele).
3. The David Steele Murdoch line (John Murray & Ann Steele).
4. The Millicent Sophia Murdoch line (John Murray & Ann Steele).
5. The Catherine Campbell Murdoch line (John Murray & Isabella Crawford).
6. The Brigham Murdoch line (John Murray & Isabella Crawford). *This line is fairly complete.*
7. The David Lennox Murdoch line (William & Janet Lennox).

**Accessing the James and Mary Murray Murdoch Family Ancestry File**

To gain access and view the Murdoch Ancestry file, you will be required to register with Ancestry.com to get access, but there will be no fee involved. Send an E-Mail request to register for the site to David Murdoch at the following address: [JamesAndMaryMurrayMurdoch@gmail.com](mailto:JamesAndMaryMurrayMurdoch@gmail.com).

David is the current President of the Murdoch Family Organization. He will have the ultimate control over the database. When David receives your request, he will send you the necessary instructions and code to access the database.

**Murdoch Ancestry File Privacy**

Because of concerns over “The Right to Privacy” issues, the only information that will be displayed for **living** individuals is the name and no other pertinent information. Only the moderators will have access to the full information.

## Receiving the Murdoch Messenger

As always, we sincerely hope you and your family members enjoy and benefit from receiving and reading the Murdoch Messenger newsletter. We don't want anyone to miss an issue. With this in mind we hope you will share the newsletter with family members who may not be receiving the newsletter directly. At the same time, we invite all who want to receive the newsletter directly to send us their email address so we can add it to and/or update our growing directory. Also, should your e-mail change in the future, please remember to pass along to us current address information. All information and inquiries regarding the Murdoch Family Organization should be communicated through this address:

[JamesAndMaryMurrayMurdoch@gmail.com](mailto:JamesAndMaryMurrayMurdoch@gmail.com).

Thank you very much!

David Graehl  
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Return Service Requested