

## **JAMES WILSON ELLIOTT**

Husband of Sarah Fraser

Author: His son Robert Lester Elliott Who Served  
as a Bishop in Provo, Utah

*Preface.* This wonderful history was submitted to the L.D.S. Church's web site Family Tree. I retyped it from the original. I changed his birth year, added event titles, comments in parenthesis, underlining, and minor changes.  
Bruce Fraser Ogden, October 17, 2016. Revised December 4, 2017.

### Born 1840 In Scotland

My father, James Wilson Elliott, was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, (several miles south of Glasgow) January 17, 1840 (1839). When a very small boy, his mother was left a widow, and so James became the head of the family assuming responsibilities far beyond his years. He was a very serious boy, although adventurous in spirit, with high aspirations of bettering himself.

### Accident and Healing

At about the age of nine, while playing near a tailoring establishment, he ran something sharp into the bottom of his foot. The doctor opened the wound but was unable to find the obstacle, and after some time as it gradually grew worse, the doctor decided upon amputation of the leg to save his life. Father rebelled at this, and although in great pain he rigged himself up a sort of wheelchair and made his way about his daily tasks. One day, with the wound becoming more serious and the pain more intense, he happened to hear some Mormon missionaries preaching on the street corner. They told of anointing, administering, and healing the sick. This impressed my father very much. He returned home for his mother, and together they went back to the missionaries and asked to be anointed and blessed. This was done with the advice to give up his chair and stand as much as possible with the aid of a cane or crutch. The doctor and friends were very skeptical, but father's faith remained undeterred. He did as the Elders advised, and it was only a short time until the object, which was a large darning needle, worked its way out and the wound healed without complication. Naturally he looked upon this as a miracle. His faith in God, from that day on became unshakable, and to the end

of his years he remained devoutly religious, devoting his time and energy in serving God and helping others.

Baptized  
Emigrated to Utah 1868, Age 29

He and his mother joined the Church, and from then on it was his purpose and desire to go to America. Finally, in 1868 when he was in his late twenties, this dream came true. He parted from his mother with the promise he would send for her to join him, which promise was realized a few years later.

The sailing vessel, the *Constitution*, that left Scotland with James Elliott as a passenger also carried a lovely young Scottish lass, one Sarah Fraser of Kirkintilloch, who with her family had joined the Church and were on their way to America. A romance developed between them, but unlike most shipboard romances, this one endured the length of the voyage and across the United States from New York to Utah. They crossed the plains together (300 miles from Benton, Wyoming, to Salt Lake City) in the last ox team with the Captain John Gillespie Company, walking all the way. I have often heard them say this was the happiest time of their lives. Father had a very fine voice and was a natural organizer, and so was put in charge of all singing and entertainment. These leisure hours were made so gay that all in the company forgot the hardships and worries of the day taking part in the varied programs he planned for the evenings. This zest for fun and song followed him all through the years and brought sunshine and gladness into our home as well as to many others in the community.

The company arrived in Salt Lake City on September 15, 1868, and my father obtained work on the railroad at the head of Great Echo. Here, too, his singing ability asserted itself, and Brigham Young, who was the contractor, said he loved to hear Brother Elliott sing because he sang with such glee and with such a delightful Scottish brogue. He used to lead the boys as they lay the rails and hammered the spikes in singing.

At the head of Great Echo the railroad begun  
Three cheers for contractor, and his name's Brigham Young  
He knows very well what the Mormons can do  
He knows in their work they're light-hearted and gay  
And just the right boys to build a railway: Hurrah! Hurray!  
And if we stick to  
It's bound to go through

Married 1869, Age 30

After the railroad was finished, my father cut stone for the Salt Lake Temple, being a stone cutter by trade. With a steady income in view, James Elliott married Sarah Fraser June 7, 1869, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. (He was 12 years older than Sarah.)

They lived in Salt Lake City for several years. I have often heard them speak of going to Lindsay Gardens on picnics and also trading produce received for work in exchange for tickets to attend the Salt Lake Theatre. About this time, my father took up a homestead or tract of land near the site of our present Capitol Building which he afterwards traded for a Charter Oak cook stove valued at \$190.00. This transaction took place when he was called to go to settle Sevier Valley.

Moved to Prattville About 1874, Age 35

They moved to Prattville, Utah, (halfway between Richfield and Glenwood about 1874) and lived there for a short time. Even at that late date the Indians were very unfriendly, and they had many unpleasant experiences. Mother always felt that the death of the child she was expecting at this time was caused from the constant fear and strain of Indian attacks.

Moved to Richfield

The family moved from Prattville to Richfield, Utah, where they lived their entire life. The privations and hardships of settling a new country were great. Even though one had money, there was little to buy. Mother used to keep herself busy and her mind occupied by crocheting and then knitting over and over again the one spool of cotton thread (yarn) she was able to get.

Nine children were born to this couple, seven of whom survived.

## Service to Others

They were both very active in church and community affairs. Father was chairman of the finance committee in building the (first) Richfield Tabernacle as well as all of the church buildings. He never missed a Sunday School or meeting, partaking of the sacrament, and bearing his testimony. He even walked to the General Conference in Salt Lake City in the early days, a distance of 170 miles. He deemed it an honor and privilege to pay his full tithing and derived the fullest pleasure in keeping the Word of Wisdom.

My mother was secretary-treasurer of the Relief Society and also a teacher for years. She was agent for the *Women's Exponent* (magazine) edited by Emmeline B. Wells when the Women's Suffrage movement was developing and took an active part in it. When they started a silk industry in Utah, my mother raised silk worms for the Relief Society. I well remember of picking the mulberry leaves to feed the worms and watching them make their cocoons. Mother brought many babies into the world when no other help was available. She made clothes for the dead and washed and dressed them for burial.

They both were on call at all hours to aid the sick and poor. Their choice fruits and vegetables, raised by the sign of the moon, were given freely to the needy. Father willingly went out night after night to administer to the sick. He also took an active part in the activities of the young people who loved to hear him sing the old Scotch songs.

He aspired for no honor or asked for no thanks. Living and teaching his religion and doing good to all mankind and knowing he had done it well was his satisfaction and reward.

## Death 1904, Age 65

He died September 9, 1904, at the age of 66 (65). (He was buried near the southwest corner of the Richfield City Cemetery. His wife lived as a widow for 14 years before joining him in death May 4, 1919, age 66. Their grave stone is old, white, about 5 feet high and about 2 feet long and wide.)

James Wilson Elliott and his wife Sarah Fraser Elliott.  
The date of this photo is unknown, but I estimate it to be about  
1903 when Sarah was age 51 and her husband was age 65.

I found this photo in the L.D.S. Family Tree program.



The date of this photo is unknown, but I estimate it to be 1903. I found it in Family Tree.

Two people were identified. On the right is James Wilson Elliot age 64. On the left is James' mother-in-law Sarah Scott Fraser age 87.

Two people were not identified. I determined that standing is James Wilson Elliott's oldest daughter Sarah Sadie Elliott Rasmussen age 28 and Sarah Sadie's oldest daughter Norma age 3.

