

William Nixon's Great-grandfather - in 1866
William & Bridget Degnan
William - Great-grandfather of Nixon 66
William - great-grandfather in the 1860's

BIOGRAPHY OF J. W. NIXON THE FIRST

I was born on the 17th of February 1836 in Liverpool, England. My parents William Abraham and Bridget Degnan were born in Ireland. Father in Dublin in 1816 and Mother in Longford in 18--.

When I was two years old my parents moved to Bangor in Wales where we lived until 1850 when we moved to America. First to New York State and then to Ohio and from there to Minnesota where they still reside. I have one brother and three sisters, namely: William Nixon, Catherine Stewart, Matilda Gregory and Jennie -----.

My parents after separated, then my father married Miss M. E. Perine by whom he had six children, five of whom are living--two girls and three boys. I was in business in St. Paul, Minnesota until '56 then our establishment caught fire and burned up. In May 1859 I started on the plains with a Mormon oxtrain. Arrived in Utah on the 2nd of September. On the 26th of November I was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the rear of President Young's residence in City Creek, by Elder Robert Martin and confirmed by Dunbar and Allen in the 20th Ward. *St Paul*

In December I received my first endowments and was enrolled in Brigham Young Juniors Regiment Cavalry called the standing army. Served two months in Echo Canyon then was disbanded and organized into John Sharps regiment of infantry and again sent out to Echo serving until May 1858. When General Johnson was moving in to Salt Lake we moved in ahead of them, remained in Company with John Wheeler about Provo in employ of Levi Stewart herding sheep and cattle, moved back to Salt Lake when through counsel of John Sharp who fitted me out I started to Camp Floyd. Worked at chopping wood, driving team and during the winter of 1858-1859 I did some trading, cleared about \$1500.00 bought two span of mules, wagons and three cows. On October 28, 1859 I married Johanna Maria Schultz. Worked during the winter of 1859 and 1860 for Dustin Amy at Tin Smithing. In the spring we moved to East Weber, opened up a farm and made considerable improvements. In 1864 I rented my farm and moved to Salt Lake City and bought a house and lot in the 9th Ward and worked at my trade part of 1864 and 1865 for Alfred Best. In October 1865 I was called to St. George on a mission. I sold out my farm and house and lot and other properties and started on the 14th of January in 1866 for Dixie with a span of mules and two wagons. We had at this time three children, Annie, Emma, and Hannah. We arrived in St. George on the 14th of February. I bought a lot, pitched my tent and started next day for Los Angeles to buy a set of tinner's tools, machines and material to start business within St. George. Returned on the 16th of May 1866. Had a good trip. During the summer of 1866 I built a house and worked in the basement at my trade during 1867 and 1868. My oldest son James W. was born on the 7th of September of 1866. Soon after my house was completed. In 1869-1870 and 1871 I was teaming principally. In the fall of 1871 I bought a place in

Floche after having counselled with President Young on the matter of going into business and was promised by him that if I would pay my tithing and keep the commandments of God that I would prosper, which business I continued until March 15, 1873 at which time I sold out and moved to St. George where I had had a store built and engaged in the hardware and tinsmithing business which I followed until the 16th of May 1876, when I joined the United Order and turned in all my property. I was first appointed 2nd vice president then treasurer then I was appointed president and treasurer. in February 1875 and filled this position until 1876. On February 21, 1876 I married my second wife, Hannah I. Fawcett. In January 1877 the St. George Temple was dedicated. I was called to labor there giving endowments to the living and the dead. February and March I had been acting for some of my wife Johannah's folks. On March the 27th I and Johannah and Hannah F. received our second anointing under the hands of Wilford Woodruff. April 2nd fitted up a circle room for the Seventies in the Temple. On the 6th, 7th and 8th conference was held in the Temple. All of the twelve Apostles were present but Albert Carrington. All spoke freely of the United Order. Adjourned to meet in the new Tabernacle on the 6th of October next in Salt Lake City. A violent dust storm occurred at the close of the Temple conference. April 16th President Young and others bid us good bye and started north. On the 17th I was ordained a Bishop and set apart to preside over the 3rd Ward of St. George with C. A. Terry and A. P. Winsor as Counselors, in the Temple under the hands of Wilford Woodruff and John D. T. McAllister. May the 11th started in company with Jas. G. Bleak and Sister Nixon and Emma for Mount Trumbull to organize the company there as a United Order Working Company in lumbering, farming and manufacturing of lumber. Organized them as a Branch of the Church with Eli Whipple as President Elder. June the 26th sending teams with supplies to Trumbull. 27th still laboring in the Temple. On August 22nd had Mary Anne, Emma, Amelia and Hannah M. our children born out of the covenant sealed to us. 28th and 29th in prayer circle meeting in behalf of President Young who is very sick. At 4 P.M. on the 29th he died. 1877 - (Aug)

September 2nd President Brigham Young's funeral was held in the Tabernacle which was draped in mourning. He left the Church fully organized. On the 21st started to Trumbull with Arron Nelson to look for water. Arrived there on 26th and found all well. Explored and became satisfied that we could get more water by digging. 30th attended meeting in the big house at Trumbull. October 5th started home with Hannah F., Brother Nelson and my son James. Arrived 7;00 P.M. on the 6th. 22nd started in company with T. J. Jones to Sebits Mt. Shepherd with load of salt. 29th arrived home. November 28th I married Zepher Kelsey. January 15th, 1878 was baptized for five fathers and uncles. On 22nd I was baptized for nine more relatives and friends. 23rd, 24th and 25th was endowed for three more. I have continued to labor in the Temple as a missionary from the time of its opening until the present time. On the 7th of May 1878 I moved my family out to Trumbull. I having with others bought the Trumbull property including the live stock. Arrived on the 9th and planted corn and potatoes--taking care of the stock. Mill running sawed 2000 feet of lumber per day. June the 1st started to St. George with Sister Nixon. On the 7th started back to Trumbull and arrived on the

8th at 9:00 P.M. I omitted keeping this journal until October 7th when I met with board of United Order at St. George. 12th started with Zepher to Trumbull--arrived on 13th. Digging potatoes and mill timbers, hauling poles and working at barn hauling planer and other mill property down to the houses. 28th putting up wagon for Dan Sill to go to Panguitch. 31st Dan and Walter started. November 2nd started for St. George taking Hannah F. and George A. Nixon attending to business in St. George. My father who arrived on the 8th going out to Trumbull with me and Hannah F. J. S. Deluche, we arrived on the 15th at 9:00 P.M. found all well. On the 19th A. McArthur and Orsen Foster arrived at Trumbull with their Mill. I assisted Deluche to set up a logging truck to haul logs. November 20th I went up to the Mill and measured lumber. 22nd took down smoke stack and timber for the mill. Had a talk with Perkins, Blake and Company. I made a proposition to them to let them have one half of all the timber on the mountain for \$1000 or all of it for \$2000. Cannan or Windsor, which they refused to accept. 23rd working about the Tank. 27th working at the spring. T. Hancock came out and we worked at the mill, laying sleepers etc. until the 29th of December. Started to St. George attending to business until the 28th. Started back to Trumbull January 7th 1879 arrived the 9th. 13th and 14th preparing to move the engine. 10 inches of snow fell up to date. Working at the mill. 21st started to hunt for Dan Sill. I went to Panguitch and found he had gone to San Pete. I followed him there, February 1st. After talking to Dan and getting a statement of his doings since leaving Trumbull I concluded it was best to sell the oxen for wheat. I did so and stored the wheat at the mill until spring. I returned home to St. George February 16th attending to business until the 27th. Arrived at Trumbull March 1st with Chister, Boggs Harmon and Howard Deluche. Working at the mill fitting it up. 16th started for St. George with Father, Boggs and Chister. 24th took Father to Washington to go to York with T. J. Jones on his way to St. Cloud, Minn. I then remained in St. George until the 29th. I arrived on the 31st at Trumbull with my son J. W. Nixon, Jr. Worked about the mill and farm. 14th and 15th of April making a smokestack for the mill.

The following is written by his wife Hannah F. during the summer they finished the mill and commenced to saw lumber. Boggs the engineer got angry and left so Brother Nixon attended to the engine himself. His health had been poor for some time but still he labored whenever he was able until winter, when owing to sickness in his family they had to come into St. George and left him out at Trumbull with his son George A. Nixon. He was taken very sick and thought he would die. He gave his little boy instructions to drag him out and bury him in the snow if he should die. As soon as the weather cleared up so that his son J. W. could travel he went out to release his father and let him come in and be doctored. He remained in St. George until spring. Then he took part of his family and went out and began running the mill, working as engineer himself. His health was very poor, but he was anxious to saw out the bill of Temple lumber before he quit, but they had to haul water to finish it. He kept on till they sawed out the bill, then he had to give up. It was the last work he did on earth. He suffered a great deal of pain in his shoulders and sides. He had a large

tumor growing under his right arm and some small ones on his left ribs. He stayed out at Trumbull until October then through the persuasion of his family he came to St. George to see if he could get medical assistance, but he found that he would have to go to Salt Lake City to have an operation performed by cutting out the tumors. He started for Salt Lake City on the 7th of December 1880. After he arrived in Salt Lake City the doctors advised him to wait awhile until he was rested before undergoing the operation so he waited until the 17th of January which was his birthday. The tumor taken out from under his right arm weighed one pound. The others were smaller. He seemed to get considerable better for awhile, but his blood had become poisoned with the tumors so that they started to grow again. He came home to St. George as soon as he could travel and it was after he had been home some time that the tumors began to grow again. Warm weather coming on he concluded to go out to Trumbull again being quite poorly for some time. Sister Nixon hearing of it came out to him. After awhile he was advised to take some powders for the liver. He sent to town and got some and took them. They seemed to help him so he began to feel a great deal better. He began to be restless and wanted to go to Panguitch for a few weeks for an outing. On the 8th of July he and his daughter started with J. W. Jr. driving the team for Panguitch Lake. They were gone about two months during which time he spent part of the time at Cammerons Mill on the Mammoth and the Lake. He got very much worse but his son J. W. had gone to Salt Lake City with a load of wool so that he had to wait until he returned before he could come home so when he did start he was so feeble that he had little hopes of getting home alive. Providentially the Stake Presidency came along and took him with them to St. George and J. W. and Hannah his sister went back to Trumbull with a load of flour that he had purchased with the money earned by hauling the load of wool to Salt Lake City. Sister Nixon had gone to St. George so she was there to receive him. They procured the service of Doctor Higgins for him. He rallied some little but soon his leg began to turn black in spots and he suffered a thousand deaths. His family worked with him faithfully, bathing his leg with herbs until it got better, then a bad cough set in and would cough with nearly every breath and through this dropsy commenced. The doctor battled with all of these diseases for some time, at length he gave him up and said he could do nothing for him and nothing but the hand of the Lord could raise up from the bed of sickness. After that the cough stopped and he seemed to be getting better for awhile. He lived for awhile but he had to succumb at last and died on the 19th of February 1882 at his residence in St. George. He was buried on the 20th. Funeral services were held at the Tabernacle at 12 o'clock.

The following are my children and their respective birthdays:

Mary Anne Nixon, Born January 2nd, 1861, *Died July 16, 1867*
 Emma Amelia Nixon, Born December 22nd, 1862.
 Hannah M. Nixon, Born October 22nd, 1864.
 James William Nixon, Born September 7th, 1866.
 George A. Nixon, Born February 7th, 1868, *Feb. 5th 1869*
 Sena L. Nixon, Born December 4th, 1871. *Died July 30, 1888*
 Adelia M. Nixon, Born March 16th, 1874.
 Josephine M. Nixon, Born June 30th, 1876.
 Della Maude Nixon, Born March 27th, 1879.

My Parents and Brothers and Sisters:

Father-- William A. Nixon
 Mother--Bridget Degnan Nixon
 Self-- James W. Nixon
 Sister--Katie Nixon Stewart
 Sister--Matilda Nixon Gregory
 Sister--Marie Nixon (Called Jennie)

My second wife Hannah I. F. Nixon, whose children were:

Mary Johannah Nixon, Born November 8th, 1876.
 Elizabeth Jane Nixon, Born December 9th, 1879.

My third wife, Zepher Kelsey Nixon, whose children were:

Franklin Nixon, Born February 22nd, 1879.
 Eva Nixon

Grand children by Mary Johannah Nixon Andrews;

Lola Andrews, Born May 8th, 1897
 Gilo Gwynne Andrews, Born May 7th, 1903

Grand children by Elizabeth Jane Foster:

Joseph Riter Foster, Born December 12th, 1910, Died Oct. 23,
 1912.
 Zona Foster, Born October 5th, 1912. Died October 8th, 1912.
 Karl Franklin Foster, Born February 1, 1914.
 Irwin Foster, Born January 15, 1916.
 Grace Foster, Born July 25, 1918.
 Rulon Arthur Foster, Born September 12, 1920.

Hannah M. Nixon married [Tobe] James Montgomery Whitmore

Emma Amelia Nixon married John Henry Mathis.