

**Life Sketch
and
Remembrances
of
James William
Nixon I**

~ ~ ~ James William Nixon I ~ ~ ~

James was born in Liverpool, England, then moved to Bangor in Wales. In America, he lived in New York State, then Ohio, then in Minnesota. In Utah, he served in the Standing Army, at Echo Canyon, as Johnston's Army was moving into Salt Lake. He went to Provo, Camp Floyd & married Johannah Marie Schultz, in Salt Lake City, October 26, 1859



James & Johannah went to East Weber, UT, then to Salt Lake City. In 1865, James was called to St. George Utah, on a mission; he went to CA, to buy tinner's tools, etc. to start a business; went to Pioche, NV; went back to St. George; had a store built & did tinsmithing. In May of 1874, James gave himself & his property to The United Order; he served in the St. George Temple; was Bishop of the 3rd Ward; went to Mt. Trumbull often, to work & he organized the huge lumbering effort. He passed away at 46 years of age



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~ * **To The Descendants of James William Nixon I** * ~

&

~ * **Johannah Marie Schultz Nixon** * ~

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Loretta D. Nixon has given to our family, many years of her time, completing, as one of her many genealogical gifts to us, an exceptional autobiography of James William Nixon I. Following her research, Loretta expanded & enhanced James' self-written autobiography, by gathering & including timely facts & many photographs, which gives us, as James & Johannah's descendants, an enlightened understanding of their lives. James & Johannah are the parents of our beloved, Josephine May Nixon Whitehead & many other dear children. James, in his adult years, wrote down, in quite short, right to the point sentences, his very busy life, including his travels; his many business successes; his becoming a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; his mission call to St. George, Utah; his work as a tinsmith, builder & farmer; his hours of service in the St. George Temple & as a Bishop. James William Nixon I, gave willingly, his time & labor, equaling a devoted sacrifice, over-working at Mt. Trumbull, Arizona, [when not in the best of health], for the sawing & then hauling of lumber, needed in St. George, for the building of a new tower on the St. George Temple. The tower, when the Temple was dedicated in April of 1877, was not pleasing to President & Prophet, Brigham Young. To him, the tower appeared too short. Sadly, Brigham Young passed away the following August 29, 1877, before any changes could be made to improve the tower. In October of 1878, a severe thunderstorm in St. George, brought many lightening strikes, one which violently struck the tower, completely destroying it, thankfully not causing any damage to other parts of the Temple. In 1880, James William Nixon I, was able to report to James G. Bleak, that he had finished the sawing of the "Bill of Lumber" required

for the rebuilding of the Temple Tower. [Please find a copy of the letter from James G. Bleak, to President & Prophet, John Taylor, confirming the above information, concerning the lumber for the tower - courtesy of The Church Historical Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in Salt Lake City, Utah]. James, in his adult years gave nearly every moment of his time & every day he had strength, to caring for his families & contributing to the building up, of the city of St. George, Utah. James' businesses & seemingly endless work, provided for three families. The St. George Temple, especially, was of great importance to the people of St. George, who were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. James also gave of his time, to see that the blessings, which may be received in the Temple, were completed for many of his & of course, many of our ancestors. PLEASE go to James William Nixon I's, FamilySearch MEMORIES & read & see, his life's story of serving & giving, enhanced through the work & research of Loretta Nixon. Also, PLEASE enjoy the presentation entitled, James W. Nixon and Mt. Trumbull, also gathered by Loretta Nixon. The three pages, which follow this writing, are a scattered sampling, of the photographs you will see & the information you will read, in James William Nixon I's, autobiography, so thoroughly done, by Loretta. As descendants of James William Nixon I & Johannah Marie Schultz Nixon, we are fortunate to have an opportunity like this, to get to know them. Judy Ann Hall Combs, May 10-15, 2023

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After the three pages, is a copy entitled "AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY of James William Nixon Sr., 1836-1882" submitted [perhaps - to "The Daughters of the Utah Pioneers"] by Elizabeth Jane Nixon Foster, November 20, 1935.

In May of 2023, a few corrections were needed & are written here, by Judy Ann Hall Combs, a great-great-granddaughter of James & Johannah. These corrections are as follows - James' father, William Abraham Nixon, was born, 24 March 1816, in Dublin, Ireland. James' mother, Bridget Degnan or Dagnall, was born in Longford, Ireland, in 1804. Please note

St George, Utah
13th Sept^r 1880

To ^(pp) President John Taylor,
Salt Lake City.

My dear Brother,

I have just received word from Bro. Nixon that he has finished the sawing of the Bill of Lumber required for the Tower of St George Temple. We have had considerable of it hauled to the Temple Block from Trumbull and what is not yet hauled is put in shape to season.

In response to my application to the Bishops of Kanab, Mount Carmel, Orderville and Glendale, I am happy in informing you that Bishop W. W. Johnson Jun^r of Kanab Ward states that he has made arrangements to haul the Temple Plaver from Trumbull to Kanab, then that ward or Orderville will send it on to Naute. The work of hauling will commence in ten days or two weeks.

Blessings attend you, Sir, and all your co-labours.

Your Brother in the Gospel
James H. Black.

in the FamilySearch MEMORIES of William Abraham Nixon, is a gathering of information; a biography of William's life, which has been made available to us, by Loretta Nixon. The photographs & genealogical information, are priceless. If any further corrections were needed, Loretta, likely made sure they were done, just as she did, with James William Nixon I's autobiography, in his FamilySearch MEMORIES.

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As has been mentioned before, a copy of James' autobiography, as it was written by James, in the 1800's, is also included in this "Life Sketch" collection. It shares James' exemplary character; his willingness to serve others & to work, more than many others would - in the areas of business, farming & in the giving of his time through his callings, in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It shares how effective James was in difficult situations & also shares hints about his determined personality. Our James, worked diligently at Mt. Trumbull, to help provide the lumber needed, for the building of the Temple & Tabernacle in St. George, Utah & also to fill the "Bill of Lumber" required to complete the new tower on the Temple - even as his health was declining. James passed away on Sunday, February 19, 1882, before he was able to see the taller, more majestic tower, on the St. George Temple. The tower was completed in 1883. James passed away, at just 46 years of age.

The
St. George
Temple
in St. George
City, Utah



This lovely
photograph
was taken
in November
of 2022,
by Lacy May
Moultrie



AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF J. W. NIXON THE FIRST
TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED BY RICHARD AND LORETTA NIXON

© RS NIXON, Richard Smoot Nixon=St Clair=James William D=James William Nixon the First

Draft Copy 4/30/42016

I was born on the 17th of February 1836 in Liverpool, England. My parents William Abraham and Bridget Degnan [or Dagnal] were born in Ireland. My mother was born in Longford, Ireland in 18??,. [1804-according to William Nixon in his divorce complaint, Bridget was 49 years old in 1853] My father was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1816 [24th Mar 1817 from the back of a G.E. Anderson picture of William A. Nixon. A copy is in possession of Richard Nixon.]

Note: Abraham Nixon and Bridget Dagnal were married 2 Mar 1835, St. Peters Church, Liverpool, England. William Smith and Ann Dagnal were witnesses to of Bridget Degnan (Dagnal) William was found in the Green, a great-granddaughter Cavendar. The picture on the Mary Nixon Johnson photo possession of Richard S. Nixon. Billy Nixon. Billy Nixon has the boy. It was probably taken just immigrated to America or was Billy was born in 1846. The taken when he was about



the marriage. The picture Nixon on the right of possession of Dorothy of Jennie Marie Nixon left of Billy Nixon is in the album that is in the The little boy is probably same hair line as the little before William and Bridget taken after they arrived. picture of Billy Nixon was sixteen years old.

St. Peters Church, Liverpool, England



William Abraham Nixon
Bridget Degnan
and Billy Nixon



James and Johanna Nixon

Possibly Johanna

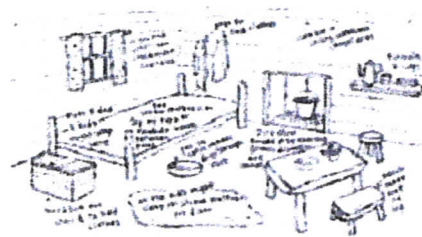
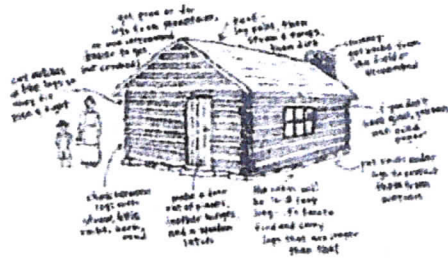


Home where James and Johanna Marie Nixon were married.

Note: The home is located at 10th East and 3rd South. Estelle Thomas, a deceased great-granddaughter told Loretta Nixon this was the home where James and Johanna Marie Nixon were married October 26, 1859. It is interesting that James William Nixon had an English accent and Johanna Marie spoke Danish. The picture of the young girl was found in the picture collection of James W. Nixon II. The features seem to match the features of the known pictures of Johanna Marie Schultz.

Johanna's History gives the following:

Brother Nixon purchased a small farm in wild, unsettled East Weber Valley. A rude log cabin was Johanna's home - six miles from nearest neighbors. The cabin, originally one-room, was made two-rooms, and a small six pane front window of glass put in. After a time Johanna was able to afford narrow bleach cloth curtains for the window. The tiny house originally had only the ground for a floor, but Brother Nixon managed to obtain some lumber and to make a rough board floor, which was however carpetless. There was a dirt roof, and in the bad weather the rain and mud would stream into the room. Milk pans were put under the places that leaked the most. The furnishings of the home were three-legged stools, slab tops with holes for the legs, made by Brother Nixon, a huge chest, which held every odd thing, for a table and homemade lumber bedsteads, cumbersome and awkward. In the logs of the walls, holes were bored and wooden pegs fitted in these. The pegs, on which clothing was hung, constituted the wardrobe, when Johanna's first baby was born. She was then seventeen. Her husband hewed her a crude cradle out of a log.



In October 1865 I was called to St. George on a mission. I sold out my farm, house, lot and other properties. I 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. I returned home on the 16th of May 1866. I 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. Picture is the home that James William Nixon I built in St. George for his family.



James W. Nixon II



James William Nixon I Family about 1874. Sena, James W. Nixon, Emma, Johanna, Adelia, Hannah, George, James William II.



Early Pioche Nevada

Henry Walland was listed as a merchant in Pioche in the 1880 census. James W. Nixon's store may have looked like this. Note the iron doors on the windows and door for security.



My oldest son James W. was born on the 7th of September of 1866. Soon after his birth my house was completed. In 1865-1870 and 1871 I was teaming [freighting] principally. In the fall of 1871 I bought a place in Pioche, Nevada. I had counseled 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. [See Appendix for a transcription of James W. Nixon's Journal during his years in Pioche, Nevada.]



A tinsmith, also known as a sheet-metal worker, is a person who makes, repairs, and finishes metal products. The practice of tinsmithing, or making and repairing items of tinplate arrived in the United States in approximately 1720. Tinplate is created by dipping iron sheets into molten tin, thus coating it in tin. This process prevents the items from rusting. Tin cups were a popular product of tinsmithing.

In St. George I had had a store built and engaged in the hardware and tinsmithing business which I followed until the 16th of May 1876. I joined the United Order and turned in



James William Nixon I

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY
of James William Nixon Sr.
1836-1882

I was born on the 17th of January 1836, in Liverpool, England. My parents, William Abraham Nixon and Bridget Degnan were born in Ireland. Father in Dublin in 1816, and mother in Langford 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, then to Minnesota. I have one brother and three sisters, namely: William Nixon, Catherine Stuart, Matilda Gregory, and Jennie Maria. My parents afterwards separated, then my father married Mary Elizabeth Perine, by whom he had six children, Mary Elizabeth, Agnes Nixon Rathbun, Clarence, Frederic, and Harry. I was in business in St. Paul, Minn. from 1853 to 1856 when our establishment took fire and burned up. In May 1859, I started across the plains with a Mormon oxtrain, arrived in Utah on the 2nd of Sept. On the 26th of Nov. I was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of L. D. S. in the rear of Pres. Brigham Young's residence in City Creek, by Elder Robert Martin, and confirmed by Dunbar X Allen, 20th ward. In Dec. I received my first endowments and was enrolled in Brigham Young Jr. regiment of cavalry called the Standing Army, served 2 months in Echo Canyon, then was disbanded and organized into John Sharp regiment of infantry and again sent out to Echo Canyon, serving until May 1858, when Gen. Johnston's army was moving into 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 by counsel of Bishop John Sharp, who fitted me out, I started to camp Floyd working at chopping wood, driving team, and during the winter of 58-59 I done some trading, cleared about \$1500., bout two span of mules, a wagon and three cows. On Oct. 26th 1859 I married Johanna Marie Schultz, and worked during the winter of 59 and 60 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 64 and 65 for Alfred Bean. In Oct. 1865 I was called to St. Geo. on a mission. I sold my farm, house and lot and other property. I started on the 14th of Jan. 1866 for Dixie with two wagons and two span of mules. We had at this time three children. We arrived in St. George on the 14th of Feb. I bought a lot pitched my tent and started next day for Los Angeles to buy a set of tinnerns tools, machine and material to start a business with in St. Geo. I returned on the 14th 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 67-68. In 69-70-71, I was teaming principally. In the fall of 71 I bought a place in Pioche to do business and continued until March 15th, 1873, when having sold out, I returned to St. George, where I had a store built, and commenced the tinsmithing and hardware business; continued

until the 16th of May, 1874 when I turned in myself and property into the United Order. I was first appointed 2nd Vice Pres., then Treasurer, then President and Treasurer in the fall of 1875 and still acted as such during 75, 76. Feb. 21st 1876 I married Hannah I. Fawcett, Jan. 1st 1877, the St. George Temple was dedicated. I was called to labor there giving endowments to the living and for the dead. In Feb. and March I had been acting for some of my wife Johanna's folks. On Mar. 27 I, Johanna M. and Hannah F. received our second anointings under the hands of Wilford Woodruff in the temple. On Sept. 2 we fitted up _____ rooms for the Seventies. April 6-7-8 conference was held in the temple, all the Twelve except _____ Carrington were present. All spoke freely in favor of the United Order. They adjourned to meet in the new Tabernacle on the 6th of Oct. next in S. L. C. A violent dust storm occurred at the close of Conference. Apr. 16th, Pres. Young and others bid us good-bye and started north. Oct. 17, I was ordained Bishop of the 3rd Ward, St. Geo. with C. A. Terry and A. P. Winsor councillors in the Temple under the hands of Wilford Woodruff and John D. T. McAllister. May 11th, I started in company with J. G. Bleak and Sister Nixon and Emma to Mt. Trumbull to organize the company there as a United working Co. in Lumbering, farming and manufacturing of lumber, organized them as a branch of the Church with Eli Whipple as Presiding Elder. June 26th sending teams with supplies to Trumbull. 27th still laboring in the Temple. Aug. 22nd had Mary Anne, Emma Amelia, and Hannah M, our children, who were born out of the covenant sealed to us. On Aug. 28-29, we held Prayer circles meeting in behalf of Pres. Young who was very sick, at 4 P. M. he died on the 29th, . Sept. 2nd funeral was held. We had a large attendance from the other settlements. The Tabernacle was draped in mourning. He left the Church fully organized. Sept 25th, we started to Trumbull with A. Nelson to look for water. Arrived on the 26th found all well, explored for water and was satisfied we could get more water by digging. Sept. 30th, attended meeting in Trumbull Big House. Oct. 5th started home with Hannah F., Bro. Nelson and my son James W. Arrived 7 P. M on the 6th. On 22nd started in company with T. J. Jones to Sebitts Mt. sheep herd, with load of salt, arrived home on the 29th. Nov. 28th, I married Zephyr Kelsey. Jan 10th, 1878, I was baptized for 5 g. fathers and uncles. 22nd I was baptized for 9 more relatives and friends. On 23-24-25 endowed for 3 more. I have continued to labor in the Temple as a missionary from the time of its opening until the present time. May 7th, 1878, I have moved my family out to Trumbull, I having with others bought the Trumbull property, including live stock. Arrived on the 9th, planting corn and potatoes and taking care of stock. Mill running, sawed about 200 feet per day, planted corn, peas and rutabagas. June 1st started to St. Geo. with Sister Nixon. On the 7th [started back to Trumbull arrived on 8th at 7 P. M. Oct. 7,] met with board of United Order at St. Geo. 12th started with Zephyr to Trumbull arrived 13th, digging potatoes and moving mill timbers, hauling ashpoles, working at the barn, hauling planer and other mill

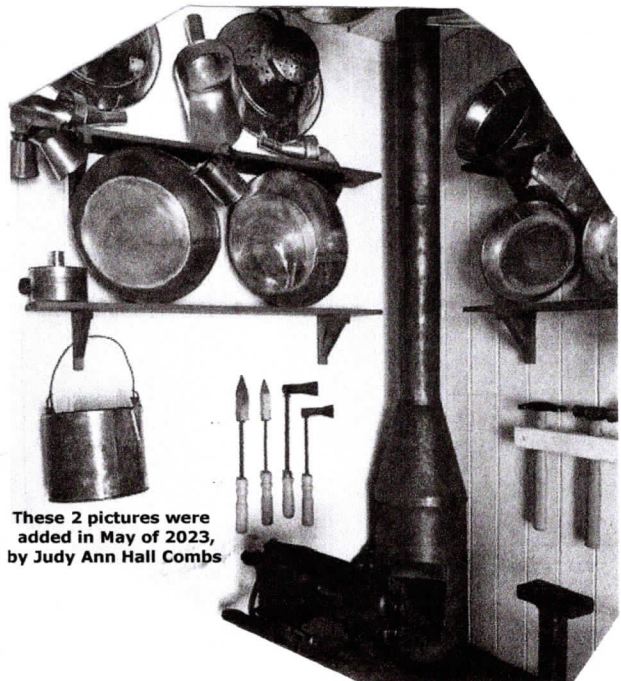
property down to the houses. 28th fitting up wagon for Dan Sill to go to Panguitch. 31st Dan and Walter started. Nov. 2nd I started for St. George with Hannah F. and Geo. A. Nixon attending to business in St. Geo. My father who arrived on the 8th, going out to Trumbull with me and Hannah F. and J. F. Deluche. We arrived on the 15th at 9 P. M. and found all well. On the 19th McArthur and Orson Foster arrived at Trumbull with their mill. I assisted Deluche to fit up a logging truck to haul logs. Nov. 20 I went up to the mill and measured out lumber. On 22nd took down smoke stack and timbers from mill, had a talk with Perkins and Blake and Co. I made a proposition to them to let them half of all the timbers on the mts for \$1000, or all of it for \$2000. Canaan or Winsor which they refused to accept. On 23rd worked on tank. 27th worked on spring. T. Hancock came out, we worked at mill laying sleepers until 20th of Dec. then started to St. Geo. Attended to business until Dec. 28. Started back to Trumbull Jan. 7, 1879. Arrived 9th. 10 inches of snow had fallen up to this date. Jan. 21st started to hunt for Dan Sill. In Panguitch we found he gone to Sanpete. I followed him there Feb 1st and after talking to Dan, I decided to sell the oxen he had for wheat. I stored it at the mill until Spring. I returned home, St. Geo. Feb. 16th to attend to business until 27th. Arrived at Trumbull March 1st with Chidester, Boggs, and Harmon and Howard Deluche working at the mill fitting it up. On 16th started to St. Geo. with father, Boggs, and Chidester. On 24th took father to Washington to go to York with T. J. Jones on his way to St. Cloud Minnesota. I remained in St. Geo. until 27th. I arrived on 31st in Trumbull with my son J. W. Jr., worked about the mill and farm 14-15 April making smoke stack for mill. (This is the last father wrote_Mother finished it as follows):

During the summer they finished the mill and began to saw lumber. Boggs, the engineer got angry and left so Bro J. W. Nixon tended 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 illness in his family they had to come to St. Geo and left him out to Trumbull with his son G. A. Nixon. He was taken very sick and thought he would die. He gave his little boy instructions what to do. He said that if he should die, to drag him out and bury him in the snow. As soon as the weather cleared up so that his son J. W. could travel he went out to relieve his father and let him come in to be doctored. He remained in St. Geo until Spring then he took part of his family and went out and commenced to run 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 up till they sawed out the bill, then he had to give up. It was the last work he did. 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 to Trumbull until Oct, then through the persuasion of his family he came to St.

Geo to get medical assistance, but found he would have to go to S. L. C. for an operation to cut out the tumors. He started Dec. 7th, 1881. After he arrived in S. L. C. the Doctors advised him to wait awhile until he was rested before undergoing the operation. He waited until Jan, 17th. One tumor weighed a pound, the others were smaller. He seemed to get considerable better for awhile and came home, but his blood had become so poisoned with the tumors that they started to grow again. He suffered very much. Warm weather came and he decided to go out to Trumbull again. He was quite poorly for a while. When Sister Nixon learned of it, she came out to him. He was advised to use some powders which seemed to help him and he felt a good deal better. Then he began to be restless and wanted to go to Panguitch for a few weeks, so on the 8th of July he and his daughter Hannah started. They were gone about two months. He got very much worse while he was gone, but his son J. W. Nixon had gone to S. L. C. with a load of wool so he had to wait until he returned before he could start for home. When he did start he was so feeble that he had little hopes of getting home alive, but when he arrived at Kanab Bro McAllister and Bleak were there and took him in their carriage and brought him home as he was too weak to travel in his wagon to Trumbull. Sister Nixon had gone to St. Geo so she was there to receive and care for him. They got Dr. Higgins to care for him. He rallied a little but soon his leg began to turn black in spots and he suffered a thousand deaths. His family worked faithfully with him, bathing his leg with herbs until it was better, then a hard cough set in; He coughed with every breath, then dropsy commenced to set in. The Doctor worked faithfully but finally gave up and he died a few weeks after, Feb. 19, 1882 at his home in St. Geo and was buried on the 20th. Funeral services held at 12 noon in the Tabernacle, a very large crowd in attendance.

Submitted by Elizabeth Jane Nixon Foster, Nov. 20, 1935

THE 19TH CENTURY TINSMITH AT WORK



These 2 pictures were added in May of 2023, by Judy Ann Hall Combs



"The old Pioneer Temple Trail, was used to move lumber 80 miles from Mt. Trumbull, Arizona, to St. George, Utah, for use in the construction of the St. George Temple."

BRIGHAM YOUNG AND THE TEMPLE TOWER

(Compiled and written by David Kenison, Orem, Utah,

The St. George Temple in southern Utah was the first temple to be completed after the Saints moved to the west; the Salt Lake Temple was a much larger and more involved project, and since the warmer southern Utah weather allowed year-round work, construction proceeded more rapidly. Brigham Young was eager to see the completion of the temple, so he could assure that the ordinances were correctly established.

The site was dedicated and construction begun in 1871. By the beginning of 1877, the temple was approaching completion. Brigham was not in good health, suffering from rheumatism; and had spent the winter in St. George, watching the construction. The Saints were so eager to receive the temple blessings that sections of the new temple were dedicated and put to use as they were completed, starting with the baptismal area in January.

However, Brigham expressed displeasure about one aspect of the new temple. He felt the tower of the temple was too short for the building, that it should be higher and more dignified. But the people declined to make the change at that late date, and worked to finish the construction with the tower staying as it was.

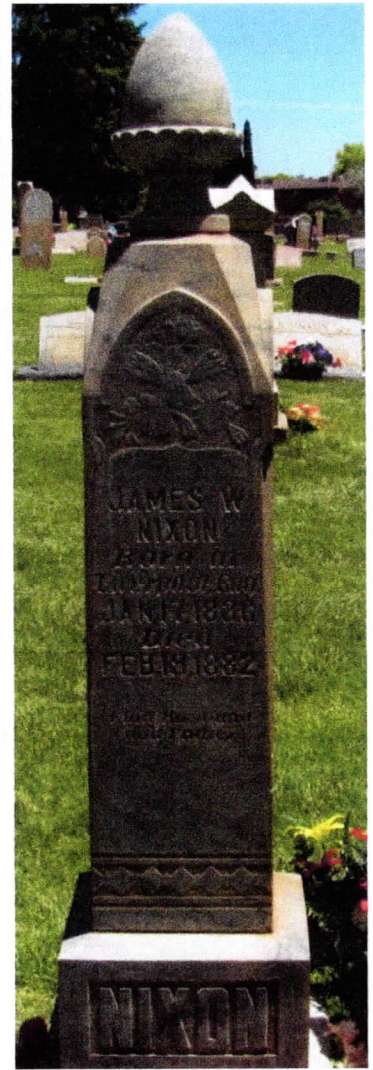
The temple was completed and the dedication took place in April 1877, in connection with a general conference which was held in St. George. Brigham soon left and returned to Salt Lake City, where he passed away in August of that same year.

In October 1878, a severe thunder storm passed through St. George, and the temple was struck by lightning. The tower and dome were almost completely destroyed by the strike; miraculously, the damage from lightning and subsequent fire did not spread to the roof and the rest of the building.

After the damage was assessed, it was decided that the tower needed to be rebuilt. This time, it was made higher, giving the temple "a more majestic appearance." Not a few of the people remembered Brigham's objection to the earlier design of the temple, and commented that even though Brigham didn't get his way during his life, he managed to have the change occur from beyond the grave!

(See "Brigham Got His Way," *Color Country Spectrum*, April 13, 1977; quoted in DeMille, *The St. George Temple, First 100 Years*, pp. 87-88. Also Black and Porter, *Lion of the Lord* and Arrington, *Brigham Young, American Moses*.)

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Death -- Deseret News 1882-3-8

In St. George, on Sunday February 19th,
JAMES WILLIAM NIXON, aged 48 years, 1
month and 2 days.
He lived Faithful and died true.—[Com.]