

BACKWARD GLANCES AT WALSH FAMILY HISTORY

A Letter to Edith May

This letter written on Monday, August 6, 1956 by James Holden of Darwen, Lancashire, England to our aunt, Edith May Walsh, reflects upon several episodes in Walsh family history that are both interesting to us of the present generation and of special significance to our relatives who remained in England. Through careful perusal of the content of this letter, we can feel the love that James Holden has for his American cousins and gain an appreciation of his deeply spiritual nature and his sincere sympathy for the great hardships and sacrifices of those who emigrated to the United States and made their painful way to Zion in the ill-fated Martin Handcart Company. The meeting of family members that the writer describes with such emotion occurred on the evening of February 15, 1925 near the end of our grandfather Walsh's mission to Great Britain. Grandfather estimated 40 in attendance in contrast to James Holden's youthful remembrance of 60 being present. John Walsh's diary mentions by name many relatives from his father's and mother's family lines who attended. Our relationship to James Holden is traced through our common ancestors of Robert Walsh and Ann Whittaker. This couple had seven children. We descended from one son, William Walsh, father of our grandfather, John Walsh. James Holden descended from another son, James Walsh. James Walsh and his wife, Betty Jackson, had eleven children. One of their four daughters, Elizabeth Walsh, married Walter A. Holden. They are the parents of James Holden. James Holden died on December 20, 1962. His wife, Florence (Florrie) Pickup Ward died October 26, 1973.