

## James Wanlass & Edith Elizabeth Fowkes Wanlass

Personal writing and Memories of James Wanlass and Edith Fowkes Wanlass, family records of Margaret W. Schmith, Edith E. W. Bush, Jessie W. Shew, 'Bill' and 'Larry' Wanlass, Leslie Wanlass, Dwight Stone, Bonnie W. Ellis, Fay W. Murdock

Chronologized, compiled with additional documentation and information by Alona S. Perkes  
April 2001

**1846 Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>**, James Wanlass was born in Bettis Row, Haddington, Scotland the son of James Wanlass and Margaret Nielson. James was the oldest of 13 children and was born on 9 Aug 1846; Elizabeth - 8 Jan 1848; Jane Adamson - 22 Apr. 1850; Margaret - 15 Nov 1851; Christina - 21 Aug 1853; Janet - 6 Apr 1855; Andrew - 17 Apr 1857 and died 26 Apr 1857; Robina Baird - 18 Feb 1858 and died 29 Mar 1859; Helen Archibald - 10 Feb 1860; Robina and Andrew - twins 20 Apr 1862 (both died the same day); Alexander - 26 Mar. 1864; and Joseph - 5 Nov. 1866.

**1850** James' father and family listened to and accepted the gospel message brought by missionaries and was baptized and confirmed into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on December 22, 1850 by Elder Wm. Duncan. By May 1853 James father was the branch president of the Bathgate Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ, part of the Edinburgh Conference..

**1851 April 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Census Newbattle, Edinburgh, ED #7, film #1042530

House # 14 at Barly Knowe, No 67

James Wanlass, Head, Married, age 25, Coal Miner, born Midlothian, Edinburgh

...Margt Wanlass, Wife, Married, age 28, born Haddington, Tranent

...James Wanlass, son, age 4, born Haddington, Tranent

...Elisabeth, daur. Age 2, born Haddington, Tranent

...Jane Adams Wanlass, daur. Age 11 months, born Haddington, Tranent.

**1854 Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>** James was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints and confirmed a member of the church by his father, James Wanless. He attended the public schools in Bathgate, Scotland, and his limited school days were spent the same as other boys. He also worked in the Scotland coal mines, on his hands and knees as he tried to help sustain his family needs.

**1858ish** James was ordained a deacon by Abenezer Hunter and served in that capacity for several years.

James worked in seam coal, the seam being just wide enough for his body between two ledges of rock made of slate. He would crawl back in the seam with a hand pick, and pick the coal loose and shove it along the side of his body so that he could reach it with his leg, and then would shove it out of the seam.

As a young man he was very industrious and worked hard at mining coal. He was thoroughly converted to the gospel. His greatest ambition was to help earn enough means whereby his dear parents and their younger children could immigrate to the USA. He was very anxious for them to go to 'Utah's Zion' so they could get their ordinance of endowments and do the ordinance work for the dead including his little siblings.

**1861** Census, Bathgate, Linlithgow, Scotland, District 12, Film # 103919

No. of schedule: 63; No. 45 Bathville Row

Windlass, James, Head, Mar. 35, Coal Miner, born Mid Lothian, Newton, 3 children ages 3-15 attending school, number of rooms with 1 or more windows; 2

...Margaret, wife, mar. 37, born East Lothian, Tranent

...James, son, unmarried, 14, born East Lothian, Tranent

...Elizabeth, daur, unmarried, 12, scholar, born East Lothian, Tranent

...Jane A., daur, unmarried, 10, scholar, born East Lothian, Tranent

...Margaret, daur, unmarried, 9, scholar, born Mid Lothian, Newbattle

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...Christina, daur, unmarried, 7, born Linlithgow, Bathgate

...Janet, daur, unmarried, 6, born Linlithgow, Bathgate

...Helen, daur, unmarried, 1, born Linlithgow, Bathgate

**1870 June 5<sup>th</sup>**, James was ordained a priest, in the Armadale Branch of the LDS Church of Glasgow Conference, by Elder Henry Cummack. He labored as a ward teacher in Armadale Ward in Scotland several years while earning means to send his family to the United States and on to 'Zion' in Utah. Finally, the start of James' goal was reached as they had acquired enough funds to send part of the family.

**1871 Census**, Armadale County, District Armadale, Civil Parish, Bathgate, ED #1, page 17 Film#0104110 No. of Schedule 76 at Gordon L. Street

James Wanlass, head, mar. 45, Coal & Iron Stone Miner, born Mid Lothian, Edinburgh, Number of children from 5-13 attending school or being educated in home: 2, Rooms with one or more windows: 2.

...Margaret, Wanlass, Wife, Mar. 43, born East Lothian, Tranent

...James, Wanlass, son, Unm, 24, Coal & Iron Stone Miner, born East Lothian, Tranent

...Janet, Wanlass, Daur. Unm. 15, born Linlithgowth, Bathgate

...Helen Wanlass, Daur, 14, Scholar, born Linlithgowth, Armadale

...Alexander Wanlass, son, 6, Scholar, born Linlithgowth, Armadale

...Joseph Wanlass, son, 4, born Linlithgowth, Armadale

(The older 4 siblings were obviously working and living elsewhere)

**1874 June 24<sup>th</sup>**, Leaving Liverpool on the ship "Idaho" was James Wanlass, "Father", 49, Jean A. 24, Helen A. 16, Alexander S. 9" with a group of 540 adults from Copenhagen to Liverpool, then on to New York (025,692).

**1874 July 6<sup>th</sup>**, Father James and his 3 children arrived in New York after just 12 days passage with 806 people, (025,692) and later settled in Salt Lake City, Utah. Father James was re-baptized as a re-committance to live the gospel, at the 16<sup>th</sup> Ward, Dec. 5, 1874 by P. Field and reconfirmed by L. Jackman.

Young James' work was not yet done and after another two years of mining and saving it was time for his mother to go meet his father at Zion.

**1876 May 24<sup>th</sup>**, Margaret, "Mother", 52, of Glasgow and Joseph, 7, of Glasgow left for Zion. They left Liverpool on the ship "Nevada" and arrived in New York on June 5<sup>th</sup> after 12 days at sea with 131 LDS Saints (025,693).

**1877 June 13<sup>th</sup>**, At last it was James' turn, he had earned enough to go to Utah! "James 28, of Glasgow Conference and his sister Christina, 23," left Scotland and then Liverpool on the vessel called "Wyoming", June 13<sup>th</sup> 1877 and arrived in New York June 23, 1877 (025,893). His remaining two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth (William) Wilson and Mrs. Margaret (James) Stark would not immigrate because their husbands were both high up in the Masonic order, so they remained in Scotland with their families.

**1877 July 5<sup>th</sup>**, James arrived in Salt Lake City with Christina and what a great joy for the family to be reunited after 3 years of separation. His family was living in the SLC 16<sup>th</sup> Ward (026,585).

**1880 Census** Compact Disks the United States has been searched along with SLC to no avail, it is the assumption that the family was missed being enumerated.

**1881 June 26<sup>th</sup>**, James had been a miner in Scotland and it was natural that he should find his way to the mines in Almy, Wyoming. James was received into the Almy Branch of the LDS Church, 26 June 1881 from 15 Ward S. L. City. Now 35 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 160 lbs with a 40" chest, James came to Reuben and Mary Bacon Fawkes' boarding house, hoping to find work from Reuben who was superintendent of the Almy mines. There he saw the dark eyed beauty with gorgeous hair, named Edith Elizabeth Fowkes, very trim, very good looking and he fell in love with her right away. She couldn't stand him, even if he was very handsome and 19 years older than her, she though he was a bigoted Scots.

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.....  
Time for the background of the gorgeous Edith Elizabeth Fowkes as the stories intermingle.  
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**1865 Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>**, Edith Elizabeth Fowkes was born at Coleville, Lancastershire, England, the daughter of Reuben Fowkes and Mary Bacon.

**1865 Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Edith Elizabeth was given a name and blessed by her grandfather, William Bacon who died just a month later on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1865.

**1868 June 30<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben Fowkes 26, Mary 26, Edith 2, Esther an infant, and Mary's younger sister, Catherine Bacon 11, migrated from England to America on the ship "Minnesota" with a company of 534 emigrating Latter-day Saints (025,692).

**1868 July 12<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben Fowkes and family arrived in New York City after spending 6 weeks on the ocean and traveled by railroad to Fort Laramie, Wyoming which at that time was the terminal for the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

**1868 July 25<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben Fowkes purchased two oxen and a wagon. They continued their journey across the plains and mountains, they traveled along the Platt River and had to forge the river many times. It was very dangerous because of the quick sand it contained. Most of the way Reuben carried Edith Elizabeth on his back, over the sand. The heat was so terrible that Mary had a sun stroke and lost so much weight that she lost her prized wedding ring in the quick sand. They never found it. Wood was scarce and it was difficult to gather even enough to make fires to cook on, however, they were a happy group in spite of all the discomforts with Indians and sickness.

**1868 Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben Fowkes and family arrived in Salt Lake City on Edith Elizabeth's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, with only what they stood in. Disappointment waited the Fowkes family for there was plenty of work to do but no money to pay for labor. They lived at First West between 3&4 South, belonging to the SLC 7<sup>th</sup> Ward (13) or they settled in Logan, Utah (obituary of Edith Elizabeth Fowkes) history, or they settled in Cokeville, Wyo (letter) or Coalville Utah, statements.

**1869 Spring**, the family moved to Coalville, Ut where little, Edith helped carry rocks to build their rock home.

Union Pacific Coal Company learned that Reuben owned a set of surveying instruments and offered him work as a mining engineer in the Territory of Wyoming. Wyoming Territory was acquired from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and was first settled in July 25, 1868. Uinta County was just established in 1869 within the Territory of Wyoming. The new mining town was named Almy, Wyoming. Reuben accepted the offer and since there was no money to buy transportation he determined to go on foot.

**1870 June** The Fowkes family moved to Almy, Wyoming which was located in the newly recognized Territory of Wyoming during the time of the 1870 census and therefore missed being enumerated. (They are not at Coalville, or Logan, UT as stated in Edith's obituary, nor at Almy, Wyo., where her father was later given the position of Superintendent of Mines and where Edith attended district school.

**1873 Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>**, Edith Fowkes was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints, perhaps in the Bear River. Her father Reuben, homesteaded a ranch north of Almy when Edith was younger than 8 years old. She spent most of her time with him and one younger sister for company. One night when the two girls were bringing the cows home from pasture the Shoshone Indians chased and lashed them until her father came in sight, when the Indians turned and ran.

*An undated Patriarchal Blessing by Patriarch Thomas Ball upon the head of Sister Edith Fowkes: Sister Edith Fowkes, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I lay my hands on your head to bless you. I bless you with the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the blessings of the new and everlasting*

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*covenant. You are young in years and experience, but your mind shall be cultivated by the Power of the Holy Ghost inasmuch as you will be guided by the same. Honor your Father and Mother in everything lawful and just and you shall be blest with long life. A partner shall be selected by Divine choice. You shall become a mother in Israel. I pray that you be preserved from evil, and may the withering hand of the almighty rest upon any who shall try to lead you from the path of holiness. I bless you with health, and with guardians who shall guide you in the narrow path which shall bring you back into the presence of your Heavenly Father.*

*You are of the stock of Abraham. God is well pleased with you. You shall be saved and exalted in His presence. I seal these blessings upon you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**1875** Edith was re-baptized a re-committance ordinance by Samuel Pike (034,535).

### **Back to the intermingling stories:**

**1877** As a boarder, James Wanlass had come into the Fowkes boarding house to get the water for their bath. Edith was pouring the water from the reservoir in the kitchen into his tub, and she kept pouring and pouring as he kept looking and looking at her. In exasperation she said, "Well, how much water does it take for a little man like you?" He was very close to 6 feet tall, but he replied, "that would be enough now" and he went off and took his bath. James had blue eyes and very curly dark brown hair and he wore a cap. His hair was so curly that it curled up around the edges of his hat and you wouldn't know that he had anything on his head. He kept right after Edith and courted her until he won her heart.

James joined the Almy LDS Branch choir along with Edith and he sang lead bass, and also became a ward teacher. At first he could see Edith in the company of her parents, and when they went somewhere her parents usually went with them because the only place to go was to the church. James was such a clean living man that Edith appreciated him for that, she had seen so many living in the boarding house who were not clean. After a while they were allowed to go by themselves, usually walking the mile and half to the church, as they had no other way of conveyance.

**1877 Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**, Almy LDS Branch became a Ward with James Brown as the new Bishop and Edith was a counselor to Alice Barton, President of Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association when that organization first started throughout the church.

**1878** Edith was a teacher of the Sunday school Primary Class.

**1880 June 5<sup>th</sup>**, Almy, Uinta, Wyoming Census state, (1,255,454 page 329):

Fowkes, Reuben, white Male, 38 Married, Mine Foreman, parents and self born in England.

....Fowkes, Mary, white, Female, 38, wife, married, Housekeeping, self and parents born England

....Edith E. white, Female, 15, daughter, single, attending school, self and parents born England

....Esther #. white Female 13, daughter single, attending school, self and parents born England

....Evaline M. White, Female, 9, daughter single, at School born Utah Terr., Parents born England.

....Caroline, White, Female, 8, daughter, single, at School, born Wyoming Terr. Parents born England.

....Mary L. White Female, 6, daughter, single, at School, born Wyoming Terr. Parents born England

....William R., White, Male, 5, son, single, at School, born Wyoming Terr. Parents born England

....Charles M, White, Male, 4, son, single, at School, born Wyoming Terr. Parents born England

....Kate, White, Female 2, daughter, single, born Wyoming Terr. Parents born England

....Richard B. White, Male, 10/12 Aug, son, single born Wyoming Terr. Parents born England

Boarders....Lists 5 boarders between ages 29-55 but names are unreadable due to water damage.

**1882** Edith became a member of Almy Relief Society at the age of 17 years.

**1882 Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>**, *Almy Wyoming Territory, A Patriarchal Blessing by Thomas R. McCann - Upon the head of James Wanlass, son of James and Margaret Wanlass. Born Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1846 in Betties Row, Haddingtonshire, Scotland. "James, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, I place my hands upon your head to*

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*bless you with a patriarchal or Father's blessing. Inasmuch as thou hast been baptized for the remission of thy sins thou hast had hands laid on thee for the gift of the Holy Ghost thou art entitled to the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Lord hath brought thee here to do a great work and to educate thee and prepare thee by the ordeals through which thou wilt have to pass. And His spirit shall be with thee to enlighten thy mind and quicken thy understanding for thou shalt converse with angels. They will make thee acquainted with the genealogy of thy Father's house and thou shalt be ordained to the Holy Melchisedec Priesthood and thou shalt enter in to the temple of the Lord and receive thy washings and anointings and endowments. And thou shalt represent thy Father's house and be baptized for the dead and thou shalt approach the Alter of God and seal the dead to the dead and the blessings of Almighty God shall rest upon thee and upon thy posterity for thou art of the seed of Abraham and shall receive thy blessings through that lineage and thou shalt honor the revelation of Jesus Christ as revealed in this last dispensation and thou shalt have wives and a numerous posterity and thou shalt erect thy monument in their minds and the time worn ages of eternity will not obliterate it and thou shalt have knowledge given unto thee, which is power to govern and control in righteousness - and thy children shall rise up and bless thee. Thou shalt see the signs of the coming of the Son of Man in the heavens and thou shalt assist in gathering up scattered Israel. And thou shalt preach the gospel of repentance and of baptism for the remission of sins and thou shalt heal the sick and defend the priesthood of the Son of God. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon thee and upon thy posterity throughout all succeeding generations and thy seed shall never beg their bread. I seal these blessings upon thee through thy faithfulness in the name of the Messiah, Amen." Signed John L. Russell, clerk.*

**1882 Apr. 4** James was ordained an Elder in the LDS church by James Bowns just a few days before his marriage.

James and Edith traveled all the way to Salt Lake City and even though the Salt Lake City temple wasn't finished they wanted to start their lives with the gift of their endowments and marriage sealing to each other because they wanted any future children to be eternally sealed to them.

**1882 Apr 10<sup>th</sup>**, At the Salt Lake City Endowment house, Edith received her temple clothing (garments) from Eliza R. Snow who attended and helped her through the endowments. James and Edith's marriage was performed by Pres. Joseph F. Smith for time and all eternity, Edith Elizabeth Fowkes became the eternal wife of James Wanlass in the Endowment house in Salt Lake City

Soon after her marriage Edith was released from Young Ladies MIA and made a Relief Society Ward teacher and a member of the committee to look after the poor. Edith held these offices for many years.

Edith had received the kind of training that was necessary to also operate a boarding house like her mother Mary B. Fowkes. It was a log house trimmed with white, and had a picket fence around it and a garden. James raised a fine garden and had to battle the neighbors chickens who would come over into the garden to take the fruits of his labor. There was a fork of the Bear River near the house where they got water.

**1883 Oct 4<sup>th</sup>**, Mary was born at Almy, WY, and blest Nov. 4, 1883 by James Wanlass & James Bowns (JWRecords).

**1885 July 8<sup>th</sup>**, James Fowkes Wanlass was born at Almy, WY and blessed on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1885 by James Wanlass & James Bowns (JWRecords).

The Rocky Mountain Company was the first to employ Chinamen and brought in about seven hundred. After a strike of the white miners in 1874, the Union Pacific depended largely upon their labor and at one time there were as many as twelve hundred employed by the two companies. Each big mining company had its store for supplies (Uinta Co, It's Place pg 127).

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**1885 Sept.** A deadly race riot occurred in Rock Springs, Wyoming which triggered fierce anti-Chinese sentiment in a number of other area coal mines. In Almy area, the Wyoming cowboys were a reckless group and they made up their minds to run the Chinamen out. One afternoon a fine looking cowboy came on horseback and told Edith to put a red light in the window next to the road. At first she said she wouldn't, and he said "You'd better". Edith walked two miles to ask her father, Reuben, about it and he said she had better do as she was asked because there was going to be trouble and not much could be done about it. Edith went home and put a red checkered tablecloth over the window facing the road and set a lighted lamp on the table behind the cloth to make a red light. Everyone living near the Bear River bridge put a red light in their window as a guide for the cowboys to Chinatown. At 12:00 midnight the cowboys went into Chinatown and forced the Chinese onto flat railroad cars and forced the conductor to transport the Chinamen out of the country and told them to never come back. They had no more trouble with the Chinese and the mines, however the Governor was pretty angry and sent a telegram stating he would put Almy in a hole if anything ever happened again like that. Word was sent back to the Governor to come and try.

**1886 Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>,** Shortly before midnight, there was an explosion in Mine #2 that shook the earth for miles around and resulted in the death of eleven men: John Cummock, William Horsley, Frank Mason, Enoch Thomas, Robert Murdock, John H. Hood, Joseph Evans, John Peat, Ellis Gradman, John Hunter and two boys named Horn and Peterson. Work was resumed at the mine, but two years later it was closed on account of fire (Uinta Co., It's Place page 128).

**1886 April 16<sup>th</sup>,** James Wanlass received his certificate of Citizenship of the United States of America in the territory of Wyoming.

**1886 Sept 13<sup>th</sup>,** Both James and Edith received their Patriarchal Blessing.

Almy, Uinta Co, Wyoming Territory. *A blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch upon the head of James Wanlass son of James and Margaret Wanlass, Born in Betties Row, Haddingtonshire, Scotland Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1846. "Brother James by virtue of my office I place my hands upon thy head and seal the blessings of thy father upon thee with also the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob For thou art thru through ---- of Lineage and by obedance to the gospel. And I say unto thee continue firm in integrity, honor the Priesthood and hold sacred thy covenants for the eye of the Lord has been upon thee from thy youth he has yet a work for thee to do in which if thee art faithful thou shalt see his arm made bare in behalf of his people thou shalt see changes and witness trying events, and probably distress among the wicked. Then the Lord shall come out from his hiding place and vex the nation, for the day is not far distant when he will cease to strive with man. It shall be thy privilege to see Zion redeemed. Therefore let thy faith fail not and Be Prudent in thy daily walk and conversation seek in humility to know the will of the Lord concerning thee and to know thy duty. Let thy voice be heard in the defense of truth and Virtue, wheresoever thou shalt sojourn and thou shalt have work and sentiment to enable thee to confound the wisdom of the wicked and to set at naught the councils of the unjust. Live up to thy Priveleges and thou shalt travel at home and abroad laboring in the ministry. Thou shalt find friends among strangers. Thou shalt meet with friends and foes, many shall point the finger on scorn at thee, wicked persons shall seek to take thy life. Thy guardian angel will preserve thee and warn thee of danger, give thee power over thine enemies and when necessary thou shalt Prophecy notwithstanding the gift of healing is thine through Prayer and faith. Thou art of the Lineage of Ephriam and entitled through thy faithfulness to an inheritance among those who shall stand upon Mount Zion Saviors of men. Be upon thy guard and thou shalt be prospered in thy Labors spiritual and temporal and in Council thou shalt preside among thy bretheren and peace at all be in thy circle. Thy posterity shall be many and thy sons shall be mighty in the Priesthood and hear bear thy name in honorable remembrance from generations to generation. This blessing I seal upon thee in the name of*

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*Jesus Christ and I seal thee up unto Eternal Live to come forth on the morning of the first resurrection a savior unto thy fathers house. Even So Amen.*

No 643 Almy Uinta Co., Wyoming Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 1886 A blessing given by John Smith patriarch upon the head of Edith Wanlass, daughter of Reuben and Mary Fowkes born in Coalville, Leistershire, England Aug. 20, 1865. “Sister Edith, according to thy desire I place my hands upon thy head, and in the name of Jesus Christ, pronounce and seal a blessing upon thee that thy heart may be comforted, that you may realize thy position and that the hand of the Lord is over thee for good. Thou are of the house of Israel, Thou has listened to the words of the Lord through his servants with an honest heart and have yielded obedience thereunto for the sake of salvation. Continue firm and thou shalt verily receive thy reward, for the Lord is pleased with thine integrity. He has heard thy petitions and knoweth the secrets of thy heart, and I say unto thee, listen to the whisperings of the spirit for the angel who was given thee at thy birth has watched over thee, preserved thy life and delivered thee from the evils of the world, for the Lord has yet a work for thee to do in which if thou art faithful thou shalt see His arm made bare in behalf of His people. Again I say unto thee be prudent and listen to the promptings of thy monitor within thee and thy mind shall expand thy health shall be restored and thy body receive strength and thou shall be made equal unto every task. Therefore let thy faith fail not, and all shall be well with thee. Teach thy children the principles of truth and virtue and they shall grow up around thee and be a comfort unto thee and bear thy name in honorable remembrance and thou shall receive thine inheritance in company with thy companion and in the same and tribe and lineage which is also the lineage of many of thy kindred who have gone behind the veil and look to thee for salvation. Therefore look forward to the future with pleasure, listen to the promptings of the law of nature and it shall be well with thee, and thou shalt receive thine inheritance among the mothers in Israel who have fought the good fight and won the prize and in the same tribe and lineage of Ephriam. This blessing with all which thou art heir to, I seal upon thee and I seal thee up unto Eternal life to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection. Even so Amen.” (Signatures not available)

**1887 Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben Fowkes Wanlass was born at Almy, WY, and blest May 4, 1887 by James Wanlass & James Bowns (JWRecords).

**1887 Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>**, James gets his brand for his animals to be placed on right side of body for \$1.50 .

**1889-1890** The first meeting house was erected by the Latter Day Saints in Almy. (It was later destroyed by fire) ( US Utah H2J).

**1890 July 10<sup>th</sup>**, Wyoming became the 44<sup>th</sup>, state of the USA. A great day for celebration!!

**1889 Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>**, Margaret was born at Almy, WY., and blest April 21, 1889 by John Sims and Arthur Briers (JWRecords).

**1889 Nov.** When Margaret was 8 months old, she appeared to be dead, the mid-wife was in and she had the water ready to wash and dress the baby and lay her out for dead. James looked at baby Margaret and said, “Take that back now because you won’t need it.” He then administered to Margaret and claimed he saw ‘my (Maggie) eye lids move’ and she lived. Edith promised her Heavenly Father, that if Margaret got well, she would dedicate her as far as she could influence Margaret to the work of the church.

**1890 July 10<sup>th</sup>**, Wyoming became a 44<sup>th</sup>, state of the USA. A great day for celebration!!

James went to night school in Almy for his elementary education had been in the mines in Scotland to help support his parents. He would go to work at 4 a.m. and work until 4 in the afternoon then go home to get something to eat and go to night school to further his education. The school wasn’t far from the boarding house and there was a big spring next to the school, where water for the school had to be dipped out of the spring for the children. Edith read and knew the scriptures and instilled a love for them in her children.

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Edith's physical presence had its own characteristic. She presided in dominance wherever she was. It wasn't what she said, just her physical presence, posture spiritual radiance, the stand and gesture of her every move commanded those about her to listen and hear what Edith Elizabeth Fowkes Wanlass was going to say. Her manner of self presentation was one of warmth, genuine qualities, and a sincere woman. She was a woman who listened, and she was a woman who was listened to when she spoke. Edith believed in prayer and practiced that principal.

James had a heavy bass voice and he sang everywhere, at funerals, in the Almy church choir of 46 people. Brother Beverage also had a bass voice and the two brothers balanced the bass voices with the choir. Edith loved to sing and taught her children favorite songs of hers. "Kitty Clyde" and "I Want to Be Happy" were her specialties.

**1891 Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>** Earnest was born at Almy, WY., and blest Apr. 12, 1891 by James Wanlass & James Bowns (JWRecords).

**1891 May 11<sup>th</sup>**, James was ordained a Seventy in the LDS Church by Jacob Gates and has always had great faith in the gospel. He resided in Alma Ward, Wyoming, laboring for 15 years as a ward teacher always bearing a strong testimony to the truthfulness of the gospel. Although he has many times been persecuted and scoffed at, on account of his religious belief, never has he been afraid to open his mouth in defense of the truth as he understood and sees it.

**1891 Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>**, Mary was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints by James Wanlass and confirmed by John Crawford (JWRecords).

**1891 Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>**, Little Earnest died of quick pneumonia or Mastoid (inflammation of the mastoid bone behind the ear). It just grabbed him away before anything could be done.

**1892 Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>**, Edith's father, Reuben, had not been feeling well and had just celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday when he died of inflammation of the bowels, (appendix) (Salt Lake Tribune obituary). He was buried at Almy.

**1892 Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**, James was now 46 years old, when Edith Elizabeth was born at Almy (034,535), and was blest Jan. 15, 1893 by James Wanlass and James Bowns (JWRecords).

Even with such a large family, Edith would always find time to read or tell stories.

The 4th of July was something the whole family looked forward to. Everyone enjoyed the parade and the children especially enjoyed getting in line to receive the candy and nuts they had for them. In the afternoon everyone attended the children's dance held in the bowery. The bowery was just a frame work with a rough board floor and willows cut and put over for a roof. The willows provided a fine shelter from the sun and for seats the parents sat on boards, placed on gun powder cans, around the wall. It was a peculiar thing, but almost every 4th of July a big rain storm came up and the willows just let the rain come through, getting everyone wet. It was all in the day's fun."

Mary and young Edith had very lovely voices and sang in many programs, the first time Edith sang she was so small she had to stand on a table to be seen, her nick name was "Edie", two songs that were favorites were: "Our Dainty Fair Haired Lena" and "The Spider and the Fly".

Even with the busy schedule of raising children, Edith taught her children games: Run Sheep Run, Hide & Seek, Tag and Hopscotch. She taught the nursery rhymes and always found time to either read or tell a story as she worked with her children. They had a playhouse with dolls which were a great part of the children's amusements.

Family get together's were common in both summer and winter. With all the Aunts and Uncles who had families they would get wagons together and go Sage Hen hunting and all the children would go along, they all camped overnight and were happy times never to be forgotten.

Other times they would get together and have oyster suppers which both the adults and children

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enjoyed. Wonderful bonfires in the evenings, the songs were sang, and stories were told while potatoes were roasting in the campfire embers.

Christmas times all the families would get together for dinner. Some cooked turkeys, some pies, others fixed the puddings and all the other Christmas goodies.

Indian Chief Wasakie came to their home many times, he became a great friend of James. Other Indians came and Margaret would roll under the bed and hide until they were gone. Reuben was different, he always wanted to see what the paraphernalia was that the Indians wore. One day Edith was making biscuits for the family supper and she used a big square pan the size of the oven to fill with biscuits for so many mouths. Indians came to the door as she was making the biscuits and as the biscuits were nearly done Chief Wasakie said he wanted food. Edith wanted to share the biscuits with him and intended to give him half but he opened his sack and lifted up the pan and tipped them all in and Edith had to make a new batch to feed the family. Chief Wasakie was renowned for his desire to cooperate with the white man, and with the saints who had been kind and good to him.

Chief Wasakie once came into the house and pulled the strings from his garments (they used to be tied or buttoned down the front) out and showed that he had been thru the temple and had his endowments. He said to Edith "You good woman, you good woman" He wanted her to show him her garments to find out if she was a good woman. Edith inched the ruffled neck of her garments up above her dress line so he could see that she also wore garments and that she was a good woman. He said "You good woman" James invited him to stay to dinner and he wanted to say the blessing. He spoke in the Indian tongue and it was rather long and impressive. A choice experience for the family.

They had a modest, but neat, white cottage which they lived in. Edith's cottage was kept so very white with a coat of calcimine or lime each year. A very large log gate opened into the yard, and it was a delight to ride on each time it was opened or closed by an older brothers or sisters, who let someone in or out.

All of the family attended church, 'every Sunday morning we were up bright and early getting ready for Sunday School, in the afternoon we all had to attend Sacrament Meeting. The Wanlass family was a very large family so we filled one complete bench, which were long benches. Usually one or two of the youngest children would go to sleep during the meeting in the beautiful church house.'

**1893 Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**, James F. was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints by Wm Gibbs and confirmed by his father James Wanlass.

**1895 Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**, Wilfred was born at Almy, WY, (034,535) he was named for Pres. Wilford Woodruff on Mar. 17, 1895 by James Wanlass and James Bowns (JWRecords).

**1895 Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>**, The most disastrous of all Almy explosion occurred just as the 60 men were just about to come to the surface for the evening meal (Uinta Co., It's Place pg 128). Without doubt touching the lives of the Fowkes family friends at #5 Mine....."Several mining disasters occurred in the Almy Red Canyon coal mines from time to time, but the most disastrous one, was the explosion on March 20, 1895 whereby 62 of the brethren employed at the coal mines, lost their lives. Among those killed were the following: Henry Burton, Benjamin Coles, Edmond Cox, William Sellers, Hugh Sloan, William Sellers, Jr., John Lester, Aaron Buttle, John L. Morris, William Grieves, Jr. Thomas Hutchinson, Willard J. Brown, Joseph Hyden, James B. Bruce, John Lock and son, James Clark, John Clark, Samuel Hutchinson, James Woodhouse, Andrew Mason, Jeremiah Crawford, John Pheby and George Hardy (US Utah H2J)" and William Graham age 17 yrs 1 month (599,291). Seven on the outside were killed by flying timber, Death came instantaneously to James Bruce, the mine foreman and O. Maltby, superintendent of motive power, died about two hours after being found. Those within the mine were killed instantly. The bodies were all rescued through the heroic efforts of rescue parties. The following Sunday interment services were held by

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ministers of the various denominations. Thirty-two were buried from the Mormon church, and the others from the chapels to which they belonged (Uinta Co. It's Place pg 129).

James was a very strict, frugal and abrupt Scotch Man. One day young Edith went with him to the store, where he lifted her up onto the soda counter and asked her if she wanted a soda. She was scared to answer but he had a twinkle in his eye, so she nodded 'yes' and got a soda.

**1895 May** Reuben Wanlass wrote he bought: *two rolls of wire tape 4 cents, ½ pint rubber cement 12 cents, two sheets patching rubber 14 cents, hawthorn repairing outfit 8 cents, one dry Morgan & wright valves and stems 85 cents.*

**1895 June 30<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben Fowkes Wanlass was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints by Alonzo Hutchinson, confirmed by James Wanlass Sr. (JWRecords).

**1895 Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>**, James' father, James Wanlass died at 70 years 13 days, residing at 7th S. #548 in SLC, male, white, married, Labourer born at Scotland. No physician at death, undertaker was C. A. Carlquist, (026,554 page 622, #6724) James was buried Oct. 10, 1895 in the Salt Lake City Cemetery - plot S-15-3-1, 2-3. There is not a headstone to mark the grave.

**1896 Apr.** James and Edith made the trip by train to Salt Lake City to attend conference and visit his widowed mother, Margaret Wanlass. Baby Wilford and young Edith went with them and after conference when they returned home, 10 year old 'Jim' James, came to the depot to meet them and lifted Edith down from the Union Pacific platform.

**1897 May 20<sup>th</sup>**, James now 52 and Edith just 34 years of age when William Clarence was born at Almy, Wyoming, and was blest July 11, 1897 by James Wanlass and James Bowns (JWRecords)..

When a visitor came to their home, the first thing Edith asked was "were you hungry?" Before they were ready to leave she wanted to make something, a cookie, piece of cake, sandwich or slice of bread and jam. She would go into her pantry and take out a loaf of bread and hold it up to her bosom and clamp it with her arm and cut across the top toward her breast with the bread knife and lay a nice slice of bread on the cutting board to spread with butter and jam.

Breakfast at her house often consisted of such things as cornmeal mush with cream and sugar, a platter which was kept in the warming oven until serving time with eggs, bacon or ham. The platter with bluebirds on it, was cracked and crazed from years of service in that hot oven.

Edith bottled meat, smoked and cured meat. Hams were buried in the grain after they had been cured and smoked, to keep them cool and further preserve them until they were taken out later in the summer as they were needed. Her bottled supplies created meals in a minute, potatoes and carrots from the cellar, meat and gravy from a bottle, with pickles, fed a hungry way-farer.

Christmas time family got together for dinners, some cooked turkeys, some pies & puddings, others fixed goodies and we usually met at Mary Fowkes' house to eat.

**1897 Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>**, Margaret was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints by Alexander Easton and confirmed by Richard R. Hudson (JWRecords)..

**1898** At the time of the Salt Lake City temple dedication, the family was visiting James' mother who was still living in SLC and young Margaret who was her namesake, broke some cookies up and James was upset because he didn't like to see her waste food. His mother said, "Leave the wee thing alone because she din't come to see me very often, and if she doesn't want to eat the cookies, we will feed them to ghe dog." Grandmother Margaret N. Wanlass was tall (5 feet 7 inches) and slender, a very calm person who spoke with a very broad Scots accent, which required listening hard in order to really understand what she was saying. She lived in Salt Lake City just a block and half away from her son Alex and kept her small house spotlessly clean.

At this time James noticed that his mother needed a pair of shoes and he said that he was going to

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get her a pair of heavy shoes that would last. Edith said "James you are not going to put heavy shoes on your mother's feet. We have got to go get her a nice, dainty pair of shoes, a pair of shoes that she can step lightly around in." They went to the store and James bought dainty shoes, took them to his mother who was dubious claiming that they would not wear like the heavier ones would. Edith said, "No, but the wear you get out of them will be dainty wear, and it will be footwear that will not make you tired." His mother would reach out to anyone who came to see her.

The Almy mine closed down and the Wanlass family moved to Glencoe and Diamondville, Wyoming area where a new mining town was being born. Edith became the First Assistant to Maria Easton of the Relief Society and looked after the Temple clothes.

**1899 July 12<sup>th</sup>**, Alexander was born at Diamondville, Wyoming and blest Sept. 10, 1899 by James Wanlass and George Haddock (JWRrecords).

Edith was a well trained woman, she used to go out with Dr. Cyrus Gamble as his nurse in Diamondville, Wyoming on many different cases. Because she had had Smallpox as a child, they felt she wouldn't get them again so she went with him to take care of Smallpox cases (to what they called the pest house) and took care of people there. Edith demonstrated great courage and compassionate feelings for those desperately sick people.

**1900** Edith often went out nursing and caring for the sick and the poor, many nights she would have Jim and Reuben have take food to people who didn't have anything. Edith always said if it's taken at night then the people won't be embarrassed to receive it.

One night she was helping Jessie Sneddon with Eva who was very sick and at midnight Edith went to see how things were at her home because Bill Sneddon was home for a while. A Finlander tried to get into Bill's house so Bill tried to guide him to the new mining camp Finish quarters. However, he came back and went on to Bob Sneddon's place. Bill heard an awful noise so he went over there and as he went by there wash house the Finlander jumped out at him and he cut his throat, just missed the jugger vein, and Bill shot the Finn in the hip. The Finn couldn't go far but there was some sage brush in front of the Wanlass house where he lay groaning. Edith was going to see if she could help him but something seemed to tell her to get into the house and lock the door. She had barely gotten it locked when the Finn was at the front door hammering on it until it seemed he would break it in, and he did crack a panel in the door. She moved the bed the children were in for fear the Finn would shoot and hurt some of them. Finally a mine guard came and the Finn was kneeling by the door when the guard raised his gun. Edith said "Oh, don't you dare shoot him there" Edith helped with him (Finn) until he was able to be around again.

**1900 Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>**, Fri. A sad time came to the family when James was brought home from work at the mine which had just had a cave-in. He had a compound fractured leg which was so badly broken that the local physician, Dr. Cyrus Gamble, was afraid they would have to amputate.

There were no hospitals in those days, so James was cared for at home by the physician, Dr. Cyrus Gamble with Edith as nurse. It was pitiful to hear James cries of pain, so Margaret and young Edith would go away where they couldn't hear him. With his strong faith added to that of the Elders who administered to him each night, he held out against the amputation and his leg was saved. He was in bed eight months. The savings had been used up so something had to be done so Mary decided to take over the company boarding house to help out.

Edith kept the boarding house work for 8-9 months but when her health gave away and she quit. They moved into a mine company house where Edith received medical care and after several months was well again.

By this time James recovered sufficiently to get around on crutches, the doctor advised he be given light work of some kind to act as therapy after his long inactivity. When James was able, the

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superintendent gave him a job sawing mine timber, which did not pay much, but made him feel useful. He worked just across the river from the boarding house and once in a while young Edith would take the giggles and she had a great way of drawing her breath back between giggles. One day James heard her and limped across the river bridge to the boarding house and came in. He was frightened some one was choking, but when he found everyone was alright he looked at Edith and said "I say there, stop that back action of your breath" then they all laughed again, Edith was the real giggler of the family.

Young Edith had a set of blocks with letters on one side and birds or animals on the other. No one could catch her in a wrong answer because she knew every block front and back which amused everyone because she was so young.

**1900 June 8<sup>th</sup>**, At Diamondville Town (#1,2741,827) Uinta Co, Wyoming 1900 census we find:

Wanlass, James, head, white male, born Aug 1846, 53 years old, married 18 years, self and parents born in Scotland, emigrated 1877 and been in the US for 23 years. Has his Naturalization papers, a Coal miner, can read, write and speaks English. Owns his home.

...Edith E. Wanlass born Aug 1865, 34 years married 18 years. Mother of 9 children 8 living. She and parents born in England. Lived in US for 31 years, can read, write and speak English.

...Mary Wanlass dau, born Oct, 16 years, single, born Wyo., Father Scotland, Mother born England.

...James Wanlass, son, born July, 14 years, single, Born Wyo. Father Scotland, Mother born England, a coalminer.

...Reuben, son, born Apr, 13 years old, Born Wyo. single, at school 9 months, can read, write and speak English.

...Maggie, dau, bn Mar, 10 years old, Born Wyo. single, at school 9 months, can read, write and speak English.

...Edith E. dau, born Dec, 8 years old, Born Wyo. single, at school 9 months, can read, write and speak English.

...Wilford, son, born Feb. 4 years old, Born Wyo. Single

...William C., son, born May, 2 years old, Born Wyo. single

...Alexander, son born July 1899, 10/12 months, Born Wyo.

...Boarding with the Wanlass family is Edith's brother: William R. Fowkes, boarder, white male, born Jan. 25 years, single, born in Wyo., parents born in England. A Clerk Grocery, can read, write and speak English.

**1900 Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>**, The Almy Ward was again made into a branch, becoming part of the Summitt Stake.

**1901 June 10<sup>th</sup>**, James F. and Reuben F were both ordained to a deacon by Joseph Lynn, Arthur Haddock, Francis Rossen (JWRecords).

**1901 June 15<sup>th</sup>**, Edith Elizabeth Wanlass was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints and confirmed by George Haddock.

**1902 Mar.** Annie Flockart, a friend of Mary's, came to the house and didn't feel very well, she had been visiting in Evanston with some friend and had picked up the German Diphtheria, unknowns to the family. Wilford thought she was the most wonderful person alive and wouldn't stay away from her even though she was sick. Every house with a sickness had a different flag or a different color on it for quarantine. There was a flag for Scarlet Fever, German Measles, Pneumonia and Diphtheria. The Wanlass house put up a Diphtheria flag, there was no help because the town was full of different kinds of sickness and no one would come where the house was reported to have someone sick with diphtheria. Whoever was in that house was on their own. Annie nearly died and little Wilford came down with the disease 4 or 5 days later.

The doctor said that he couldn't get better.

**1902 April 1<sup>st</sup>**, Wilfred died at Diamondville, Wyoming, Edith and James washed his little body, dressed

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him in a shroud made for him by Mrs. Gamble and a night gown as there was not time for anything else and put him in a casket made by James. Little Wilfred was buried at night because no one would come to help out with the burial (978.782V3m). It was such a dark night, the moon wasn't shining, but the stars were all the family had as they went out to the cemetery was a kerosene lamp which gave such a small light. Mrs. Hood, a dear trusted friend and neighbor came and she sang "Through Deepening Trials" with her beautiful trained voice and it was so beautiful on that dark night. Her lovely voice drifting thru the night as James and Edith lowered their son into the grave and prepared to put the rocks on top.

Alex also had contracted Diphtheria and was sitting on his little chair reading as Dr. Cyrus Gamble came in. Alex looked out of the window and said "There is Wilford" (who had died the week before). Dr. Gamble asked him what he was doing and Alex said, "He is digging a hole." Dr. Gamble said, "Well, what does he have on?" and Alex replied, "A cap". Just before Alex died he called out "Wait, Wilford, and I will go with you."

**1902 Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>**, Alex died at Diamondville, WY The same song was sung by Mrs. Hood when little Alex also died of diphtheria. Mrs. Gamble made another shroud and night gown as there was not time for anything else. It was important to bury the diseased dead as quickly as possible. Edith said "The Lord fits the back for the burden that must be born." The cemetery was on a hill a long ways from water and Edith planted some flowers on their little graves (978.782V3m). These had to be watered and the job fell on Margaret and young Edith. They had a little red wagon in which they would put two five gallon coal oil cans, fill them with water, then wend there way to the cemetery to water the flowers, back and forth.

One day as young Edith and Margaret were returning and stopped to rest by the church they heard such a funny sound and looking around they saw what looked to them like buggies without horses coming down a hill a little distance off. The horseless buggies soon got to the girls and stopped, the driver of the first one asked them how far it was to town and they told him it was just over the next hill. He informed them that these peculiar buggies were automobiles which was a new industry just started in 1902.

Each spring the Hamsford River, which flowed through the area, was high from melting snow so logs were floated down the river to a site reserved as a lumber yard pond. At that point a heavy log was attached to a harness of a horse and pulled into the sawing area where the logs were piled into neat piles ready to be sawed into the proper lengths used in the mines, railroad or various other purposes. The sawing was done manually...at least the sawing where James worked. It was one of young Edith's pleasant girlhood chores to carry a hot lunch, in a pail (bucket), to him each day. Edith always put in a sandwich for her also and it was sheer joy to go over to the fragrant lumber yard. She could smell the aroma of pines all over the area. To play in the fresh, clean sawdust while James ate his lunch was a pleasure beyond words. James was always very anxious to get back to his regular work as it paid better wages and he had a big family to support. He was quite an austere man but loved his family deeply and had our welfare at heart."

During the summertime the children used to swim in the Hamsford River.

**1902 Oct.** James always tried to go to SLC for general conference once a year and would stop to see his widowed mother. The family had previously arranged to have a LDS lady live with Mother Margaret and care for her in the last years of her life. Alex (younger brother) was a mail carrier and did a lot of delivery on foot and James didn't think he checked on their mother as often as he should have. James was very angry when he discovered Margaret hadn't been eating well. James found that the care giver had put their food stuff in a cupboard, one of those large ones with tall doors on the top and two shorter ones on the bottom, but they were all locked and his mother couldn't get at any food between meals and didn't get much to eat at meal time. Yet the helper seemed to have plenty of food to feed the friends that came to call on her. James went to the neighbors and borrowed a hammer, came back and sent those locks flying in

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every direction. He told the helper to get out and he hardly gave her time to get her clothes. James reported the woman to the Church.

**1903 Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>**, Jessie was born at Diamondville, WY and blessed April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1903 by James Wanlass & William Bell.

**1903 July 26<sup>th</sup>**, James' mother, Margaret N. Wanless died at age 84 yrs, 6 mo, 1 day at 6th South #535 W. SLC, female, white, widow. Born Tunent Scot, father Nelson, mother Nelson. Died from old age, physician name A. Wanlass & J. E. Taylor, Undertaker J. E. Taylor, buried July 27th, 1903 in SLC. Resident of SLC 27 years (026,545 pg 216, # 8174) There is no headstone to mark the grave.

**1904ish** Two versions of what perhaps is the same incident, or it could have been two different times..

Version 1: James was in Utah and while he was gone Edith saw a men walking by who passed several homes and stopped at theirs, and asked if he could have something to eat. Edith said that they didn't have much, but that he was welcome to what they had, so he came in. Edith had a little table that she and James would sit at when James would go to work so early in the mornings. Edith put a little white table cloth she made out of a sugar sack on the table along with milk, butter and bread. The man blessed the food and never ate just like the other man. When he left he put his hands on Edith 's shoulders and said, "God bless you sister." and things seemed to change for us from then on. They only saw the men part of the way from their house and they just seemed to disappear when they left. They felt that he was one of the three Nephite and had come at a time in the lives of Edith and James when they had great sorrow.

Version 2: James and son, Jim, had gone to work but Edith was very ill and stayed in bed. Margaret was helping care for her mother. A man came to the door and was different than Margaret had ever seen. He had homespun clothes on, in a large plaid in natural colors of tan and cream, and a very peculiar hat. He wanted to know if he could have something to eat and Margaret said "I'll see." They had a lot of tramps that came to the door, so she went and told Edith he was there. Edith said to ask him if she, Margaret, could take it to him, so Margaret did. He said that he would like to come in, if it won't be too much trouble. Margaret again went to tell Edith and she replied, "Well, the nervy old thing!" Edith got up and got dressed and came out and put food on the table for him. He never touched it, he didn't eat a bite, but he gave them a type of sermon from 7:30 until 11:30. He spoke of different trials that people have, and told us he was from the North country. He said he tried to do everything that his Heavenly Father wanted him to do, because he knew that in His hands he was safe. He said "I am guided by my Heavenly Father, and I live by it night and day." He said to Edith, "I trust that you will do the same" and then he got ready to go and he gave each of us a shell. He blessed our home in a lecture type of way. Edith always felt that he was another of the Three Nephites.

**1904 Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben F. wrote "*went hunting and got one cottontail and came home.*"

**1905 Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>**, William C. was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints and confirmed by Benjamin Bell.

**1905** Maggie, (Margaret) was 15 years old and had contracted typhoid fever and they didn't think she would live. At 6 p.m. on Saturday night her temperature was 106 degrees and the doctor said if her temperature didn't go down she would burn up and die. That night Edith gave her ice water to keep the temperature down and ask her if she would like to have the elders Sunday morning. Margaret said "Yes". There were six elders all together including James. They pulled the bed out from the wall and they knelt down around the bed and had prayer. After they had prayer, they administered to her and James gave his daughter the blessing. After the blessing, Margaret felt as though a cool breeze was blowing over her and she knew that it was the faith of her father and his righteousness in the priesthood. The stronghold that James had on the priesthood was the reason that Margaret was able to get out of bed the next day, the doctor couldn't believe it.

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**1905 Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>** Lawrence Fowkes Wanlass was born at Diamondville, Wyoming when James was 59 and Edith was 41 years old.

Young Edith and her girl friends went over town for a walk one evening, one or two of them had a nickel or dime and a few of them, including her had nothing. At that time James was back at his work as watchman for the Mountain Trading Co. Store. He was sitting on the big porch of the store and Edith went over to see if he would give her a nickel to spend along with her friends. James had a wonderful smile as he took out his purse and gave her a nickel and a dime. He was happy to do it and Edith suddenly felt rich. That didn't happen often as the children had a meager allowance and were taught to plan its use carefully, make a dime go far, they were an independent family.

**1906** Salt Lake City Directory, page 921 (979.225E4p)

Wanlass Alexander, carrier PO res 936 W 9th South

- Alexander jr, messr A C Smith, bds 936 W 9th South.

- Mrs. Margaret, bds 126 S 7th East

**1906 Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Mary was married to Ephriam Fayette Marshall in the Salt Lake Temple by John R. Winder (JWRecords).

**1906 Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Both Edith and Margaret got their Patriarchal blessing by J. A. Quibell (JWRecords)..

**1906 Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**, Lawrence "Larry" was blessed by Benjamin Bell and Andrew Easton (JWRecords).

**1906 Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>**, Edith Elizabeth Fowkes Wanlass was sealed to her parents, Reuben Fowkes and Mary Bacon Fowkes in the Salt Lake Temple, and did endowments in behalf of Jane Hubert (JWRecords)..

At Diamondville they were fortunate to have a nice school house for those times and also very good teachers. Wyoming was in its infancy and had few high schools and no Universities. Thus teachers had to be brought from the East, where Universities were well established and were turning out many fine educators each year. Due to the heavy taxes paid by grazing interests on the Diamond Coal and Coke Company Mining Chain, the Union Pacific Railroad and the Mountain Trading Company Store, they were able to pay above average wages for teachers. Wyoming had beautiful autumns and the teachers thoroughly enjoyed them. However as the long, severe winters set in, they did not like it so well and few came back to teach a second term. Not only did they dislike the winters but also the lack of cultural and social life, which was a far cry from what they were used to in the East. A few did stay, marry and become staunch, progressive citizens eager to become a part of the community and help in its development.

One day Edith along with Jim and Margaret had been shopping and were at the bridge across the stream on the way home. There was a man on the bridge who had a cap over his arm and a cane. There had been a dance at the Temple of Honor at the Masons and Edith assumed that he was from there. He was a good looking man dressed in a swallow tail suit with a cane on one arm and a roll of papers in the other. At first Edith said she didn't feel that she could cross the bridge with him standing there, but she finally did cross to the other side but Jim had not come yet. She hollered "Come on Jim", and Jim raced across the bridge. The man on the bridge looked rather sad. The next day Edith told her mother, Mary Bacon Fowkes, about it and described his face and appearance and Mary said "that was my father, William Bacon." They always felt that because he had a roll of papers it might have been genealogy, but Edith was so nervous to visit with the stranger.

When the last of her family were yet young and things were somewhat out of hand, Edith warned the children to stop and she had power of conviction in her voice. The children knew that they must mind their mother.

Both James and Edith loved a little game or joke. James has surprised Edith by throwing a bucket of water on her when she rounded a corner. She had been carrying a bucket of water and thus the game began, she was trying to catch up with him to get even and have her chance in the water fight. She missed

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several good opportunities but thought she would hide behind the kitchen door. There were three steps up to a small porch and then into the kitchen and she heard someone walking up the steps, ready to step in the door. She stepped out from behind the door and swung her bucket of water and soused the ward teachers who had come to make a call. There they were at Sister Wanlass' back door, she with a now empty water bucket in her hands, and they were standing before her in their best Sunday suits and starched collars, now unstarched and beginning to roll up. Her humiliation was without bounds.

Edith and James enjoyed a little levity, both enjoyed their children about them, to hear them perform singing in groups or singly and playing their instruments. Music in the Wanlass family was important. All sang, James sang bass very well with a powerful voice. Mary, James, Edith and Bill and Margaret played the violin, Reuben the valve and slide trombone also had a beautiful tenor voice. Some of James favorite songs were: Song of my Heart, When a Girl loves You, I know in Mighty Happy when Your in My Arms, You Always remind me of Summer, In the Valley where the Old Sweet Water flows, R.F.Carrol, and Oft in the Stilly night.

James never had a heavy accent until he was in later years, instead of saying "Look here now", he would say, "I say there".

**1907 Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben F. Wanlass got his patriarchal blessing by J. A. Quibell (JWRecords).

**1907 May 27<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben F. Wanlass wrote "*I was in gravy yard 27 day of May 1907 Diamondville, Wyo, gaves in good order: Wilford Wanlass born Feb. 11, 1895 died Apr 1, 1902; Alexande Wanlass born July 12, 1899 died April 6, 1902, Baby Fowkes born July 12, 1902 - died July 12, 1902*"

**1907** They moved to the beautiful Teton Valley in Idaho for eighteen months where Edith was Relief Society President for those months.

**1908 Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>**, James was transferred to the 113 Quorum of Seventy at Victor Ward in Idaho.

**1908 Apr. 24<sup>th</sup>**, James, living at Chapin, Idaho purchased one 3X wagon coup and 8 pz wagon cover from Studebaker Bros. Co. Of Utah. (Receipt)

**1909 May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Reuben F. was ordained a priest by James Wanlass (JWRecords).

**1909 May 20<sup>th</sup>**, Mrs. Edith Wanlass was chosen for President of the Chapin Relief Society.

**1909 Late Fall** They moved back to Cumberland/Diamondville, WY. where both James and Edith sang in the choir. Edith ran the boarding house along the Hamsfork River, and now had a family of children, mostly teenagers. Edith had some fashionable fiends coming from Ogden and she wanted to make a good impression on them. They served a very fine meal, the boys went to play, the girls went to their room read while the adults visited. James and Reuben decided to pull a prank with the tick tack which they had made (a big 4 inch spools with notches cut along the edge, wound up with a thread to make it move). One of the boys went across the Hamsfork River and the other was up against the window with the tick tack. When the one across the river pulled the string, the sawed edge of the spool made a lot of rattely noise on the window. Young Edith was reading Paul Revere's Ride and just got to the part where the Red Coats were coming and Margaret had just gotten into her nightgown for bed when the rattley noise came from the window. Edith had been holding a shoe in her hand and Margaret was certain that she had made that noise to frighten her, so she grabbed the shoe and gave Edith a couple of cuffs with it. Margaret was so frightened she went running down the stairs waving her arms, James had gotten up to see what the matter was, along with the guests. At the bottom of the stairs was a landing and at the landing was a cellar door that opened to a flight of stairs leading into the cellar where vegetables, milk, cream and butter were kept to serve the kitchen of the boarding house. Margaret still throwing her arms and fleeing from the frightening noise, knocked Mr. Bightle down thru the cellar door, down the 5 steps onto the cellar floor. Now, Mr. Bightle never went anywhere without a big black hat, which he lost in the fall down the cellar. Margaret quickly found her mother, and wrapped her arms and legs around her so tight she couldn't move.

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Margaret told her father that there was a rattle snake in her room so he got the broom and said he would go have a look to see. He went up and couldn't find a rattle snake anywhere, then asked where Jim and Reuben were. Edith didn't know so James went outside looking for them, as he suspected something was a foul. Jim knew his father would really be angry and was so excited he ran right thru the river without bothering to take off his shoes. James 'grounded' Reuben and Jim for a long time. The next morning when Edith went down the cellar to get things to prepare breakfast for the boarders, she saw a big shadow which frightened her. She hurried up out of the cellar and said to James, "There is an animal down in the cellar" He said, "Not again" and went to look around. In a moment he came up and said "Is this the animal?" and there was the hat lost by Mr. Bightle.

**1910** Edith Elizabeth graduated from High School in Idaho and taught Elementary school in Wyoming.  
**1910 April 21<sup>st</sup>**, The thirteenth census of the United State at South Cumberland Precinct, Uinta, Wyoming, (pg 8/59 film 1,375,760) shows the following:

Wanlass, James, Head, Male, white, 63 years, married 28 years. Born Scotland, parents Scotland, emigrated 1877, speaks English. Occupation; Top hand coal mine Pit No. 4, Can read, write, rents a house.  
...Mrs. James Wanlass E. head, married, white, 45, married 28 years, mother of 11 children 8 living. Self and parents born in England. Emigrated 1867, Speaks English, no occupation, can read, write and rents a house.

...James, son, male white, 24 years, single, born Wyoming, father born Scotland, mother born England. Speaks English, Draw shovel in coal mine Pit No 0. Can read, write, 12, 9, 0, 1

...Reuben, son, Male, white 24 years, single, single, born Wyoming, father born Scotland, mother born England. Speaks English, occupation, Foreman coal mine pit no 0, can read, write.

...Margaret, daughter, female, white, 21 years, single, born Wyoming, father born Scotland, mother born England. Speaks English, no occupation

...Edith E. Daughter, female, white, 17 years, single, born Wyoming, father born Scotland, mother born England. Speaks English, no occupation

...William C. Son, male, white, 13 years, single, born Wyoming, father born Scotland, mother born England. Speaks English, no occupation

...Jessie, Daughter, female, white 7 years, single, born Wyoming, father born Scotland, mother born England. Speaks English, no occupation

...Lawrence F., Son, male, white, 4 years, single, born Wyoming, father born Scotland, mother born England. Speaks English, no occupation

**1910 Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>**, William C. was ordained to the office of Deacon by George F. Wilde under the direction of Bishop. George F. Wilde and signed by Lillian Starkey as clerk, recorded in Cumberland #33.

**1911 Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>** Jessie was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints by H. T. Williams and confirmed Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, by G. F. Wilde at Cumberland Ward with Bishop Geo F. Wilde.

**1911 Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben Wanlass wrote: "*My weight on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 146, height 5 feet 10 inches, size hat 7, gloves 8, hosiery 9, collar 14 1/2, cuffs 10 1/2, shoes 6*".

**1910 Nov 1<sup>st</sup>**, I (Reuben F.) started to work for the U.P. and I also quit working for the U.P. the same day!

**1910 Nov 25<sup>th</sup>**, William C. was ordained a deacon by George F. Wilde.

**1911 Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>**, James is living in Cumberland, Wyoming when he corresponded with Union Savings and Investment Company President, B. H. Roberts at Salt Lake City.

**1911** Edith was determined that the family had to get out of the mines. She wasn't able to bear the thought of years of wondering who was going to be killed or maimed in explosions in the mines. They sent for a newspaper from Idaho where James and Mr. Snedden and others had thought of investing in Idaho land. They traveled to Victor, Idaho located in the Teton basin, located their newly purchased farms, then

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returned. The friends sold their Idaho land, but James moved to Idaho and they rode the train all the way from Wyoming to St. Anthony, Idaho. They stayed in the hotel that night and hired sleds to drive them over the winter roads from St. Anthony to Driggs where they again stayed in a hotel that night. The next day they engaged a driver to take them out to their farm which was located on the banks of Fox Creek. The land had been chosen near the mountain because there weren't a lot of ditches made to carry the water to farms lower down, so they thought to buy closer to the water source.

The family purchased a 1889 one room hand-hewn and squared log cabin nested on the west slope of the Tetons. The family was large, and soon felt owlsh and cramped in the tiny one-room cabin, by now about a quarter-century old. The new building was made of wood partly milled by machine, partly cut by hand, but all of oldfashioned honest dimension, meaning that a one-by-four actually measured one by four inches. Sheathing was of boards applied diagonally for strength. Floors were red fir, now extinct in the mountains bordering the valley. The roof was corrugated tin. (TetonValley News)

In the Chapin Ward, Edith is set apart as Relief Society President. Bill and Larry start farming on the ranch at their young ages of 15 and 7 years or age to help out the family.

**1912 Jan 16<sup>th</sup>**, William C. was ordained a Priest by Alexander Burnside at the Chapin Ward.

The family moved back to Cumberland for a time.

**1912 Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben F. continues *"walked from the Cumberland branch to Dville, have the 12 road to sublet in a flat car but coming back it was a hard old jont. Not livery stable so was compelled to walk all the way. When they arrived in sublet they saw Mr. Peter Peterson and John Lofgren but this man Moaney it seems imposible to find. Chances are he is with that woman in the moon this man Mooney goes on a speeder. He is crazy say Mr. Lofgren because he does like a flaming arrow."*

**1912 Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>**, Work was hard to find but Reuben F. was persistent, he wrote *"After travling up there among these little mining town I decided to come to Superior Coal Co. and see F. L. McCarty and he said, 'you can start driving team in the morning', I told him I did not like that kind of work, so he starts me in the boilder house on the 21 of Nov. 1912, worked there for 15 days and was going to quit and Mack said 'stay with it about 2 more days' and I did. Then Mac started me on an electric hoist in E mine, then he took the night shift of. I just worked 43 days at that then Cowdrey offered me a job running the well pumps and I went and looked at it and it was a fright of a job. Then he wanted me to go and fire boiler, I tolkd him I didn't want to go back to that boiler house as I had enough of it before, so I go up and ask steam shark for a job. He said 'he never had any Co jobs' so I says, give me a job loading coal. So he said all right and he gave me a hiring blank and told me to come on Monday that was C mine an my way down to the brink house I called in the office to turn the hiring blank in and the boss from E mine was in there. He said 'you are just the fellow I am looking for,' he said 'I want you to start running pumps tonight, the 2 Jan.,' I said, well I have got a job up at C. He said 'Have you signed the blank yet?' I said no, 'Well' he said, 'tare it up and come and work for me.' so I said all right, so I signed up for Macintouch. Am down the mine right now at bottom of shaft the time is 1:20 a.m., I have the mine all to myself. Quit boarding with McQuarreys on the 28 day of Jan 1912, started shaft pumps at 8:30 p.m. went down to the slope pump"*

**1913 Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>**, *"Margurate left here on the 2 day of Feb, left Superior and went to Cumberland, Wyo."*

**1913 Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>**, Reuben F. states: *"Started shaft pump at 8:00 p.m. went to slope pump at 8:30 p.m. came on top to see the tank at 20:20 p.m. Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, ...Went up to the boiler house and both arck lamps was burned up, fireman now helpers & now have to fi them so they ask me if I know how to fix them. I told them I had never fixed any but had seen them fixed, so they said they had seen them fixed to but that didn't do any good when you had never fixed any. So I said, firing your carbin (material that burns for miners light) and I will try and fix them for you, so when I got through they burned just as good as if an*

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*electrician had paid them. It is a quarter past 9 p.m. so I will go over in the Manway and take some pipes to Peires. They are 2 ½ inch pipes, both pumps was stoped when I came on shift tonight Wed. 12, 1913. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, ...."cupled up my first cable today at 4 S over cast roof was crakking a little. Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, ..."Started shaft pump at 8:15 p.m. found corporation cack open on B-line."*

**1913 Spring** The family worked together and soon had things going. Margaret worked in a store in Victor and rode a horse back and forth when she could. If she couldn't she boarded in and sent money to her parents to help keep things going and get the ranch producing food. In due time they built on a living room, two bedrooms on the main floor and enlarged the upstairs bedroom. Their house was one of the nicer houses in the Chapin community in Teton Valley.

Two columns graced the front porch, each turned from a single log. Indoor plumbing and electricity weren't even conceived of; the water supply was from the ditch that the Wanlasses built with extraordinary effort to bring irrigation water from far up Fox Creek. A sturdy barn was also built, a granary and other outbuildings. Apple, plum and cottonwood trees were planted near the house. Machinery was bought, used, worn out and abandoned in various places on the property, in the usual agricultural fashion. (TetonValley News)

The house was heated by a wood stove. There was the range in the kitchen, and in the dinning room a small black chrome trimmed stove heated that area, with another small stove in the living room. The fires were tended during the day by Edith, the boys would go to the mountains in the winter and cut down wood, load it onto the sled and pull it home with the horses, saw it up and stack it so there would be a reserve of wood to keep their home warm and inviting.

Edith loved plants, her south and west windows were lined with plants. Small tables were also placed next to the window to hold more, she always had a petunia that bloomed thru the winter which added a lovely touch to her kitchen. Between the kitchen and dinning room she always had a fern on a little table. In the winter time when the fires would go out at night, and the cold would creep through the single pane glass, Edith would see that a sheet of the Denver Post was placed next to the window pane to keep the plants insulated from the winter wind.

Edith loved flowers and had a small flower garden in the east corner of her yard, and enjoyed working in the flowers there. She always protected her face and arms from the sun by wearing a hat and covering her arms with black stockings with the feet cut out.

Edith throughout her life, gave personal services to those in need. Nursing the sick, feeding the poor and anything else that was called for. She was a splendid nurse and was well recognized as such and gave of her nursing services freely, willingly and without charge until she was unable to do so later in life.

The younger children walked 2 ½ miles to the Chapin school house. Education was important to Edith and she expected her children to do well. In her home the local paper, city news, fiction magazine called Argosy, and the National Geographic were all part of the reading service in this house.

James still suffered from his broken leg and he was a little lame so it wasn't easy for him to walk, but he would walk from his home to the church when it was necessary. One time he walked from his home all the way into Driggs for conference.

**1913 July 21<sup>st</sup>**, Edith Elizabeth was married to Samuel Edward (Holly) Bush at Driggs, Idaho by Don C. Driggs (JWRecords).

**1914 Mar 18<sup>th</sup>**, The family is living at Victor, Idaho.

**1914 May 30<sup>th</sup>**, James F. Wanlass was ordained a Teacher by Thos. M. Grover in the Chapin ward, Teton stake.

**1914 Oct 31<sup>st</sup>**, Larry was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints by David Nelson and confirmed by Don C. Driggs 7 Nov. 1914 at the Chapin Ward.

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**1915 Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>**, Edith 's mother, Mary Bacon Fowkes, died at her home in Evanston, and was buried by her husband Reuben Fowkes in the Almy Wyoming Cemetery.

**1915 Mar 17<sup>th</sup>**, Will Fowkes wrote: "Mrs. James Wanlass, Chapin, Idaho; Mrs. Harry Harris, Superior, Wyo.; Mrs. Norah Harris, Salt Lake City, Utah; Mrs. Kate Sellers, Cumberland, Wyo. Dear Sisters! Having been requested by some of the girls to look after the division of Mother's personal belongings, I have endeavored to act impartially and with the hope that my judgment in the matter would meet with your approval. However, should there be any suggestion from any of you after reading the list of articles which I have selected for each of you, it can be made at any time. Edith: Silver tea pot, Silver spoon, Glass jelly dish, Silver tray, 6 pie plates, 6 wine glasses & decanter & tray, 4 dessert dishes, pr. Vases, 6 napkins, table cloth, oil cloth square painted. Esther: Silver tea pot, silver spoon, Glass fruit dish, Silver spoon, 5 dessert dishes, Water pitcher & Glasses, ring, Pr. Vases, Pr. Slippers, Apron & center piece, Table cloth, colored center piece. May: Silver cream pitcher, Silver spoon, cup & saucer, Painted dish, 4 pc. Glass set, 1 "Mother" pin (from May), shell pin cushion, 6 napkins, 2 center pieces, picture, fruit dish. Carrie: Silver sugar bowl, silver spoon, Glass fruit dish, Painted dish, sugar & Cream pitcher, 4 pc. Glass set, 1 pearl spoon, pr. Vases, 1 dresser scarf, center piece, picture. Nora: Silver spoon holder, silver spoon, cup & saucer, Painted bowl and Pitcher, Glass wine decanter, Cameo broach (requested), Center piece, Dresser scarf. Kate: Silver utter dish, Silver spoon, cup & saucer, Pitcher & fruit dish, Jelly dish & Pitcher, 2 novelty pitchers, shell pin cushion, hand satchel, all handkerchiefs, Table cloth, Doilie, all of Mother's clothes, black Cape, white skirt, woolen jacket, Pr. Kid gloves, gingham waist, black waist, black satin waist, blue skirt, blue underskirt, gingham waist, silk waist, serge waist, black cape, woolen bonnet, heavy coat, gingham skirt, serge skirt, black brilliantine waist, serge skirt, white waist, 2 gingham waists, or wollen gloves, quilt blocks, pr. Shoes, pr. Rubbers, pr. Stockings, 2 hats, 2 chimise, 2 underwaists. It was decided by all that Kate should get all of Mothers' clothes. Please advise as soon as possible if you want articles shipped by freight or express. With best wishes, I remain, Your Brother, Will".

**1915 Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>**, Margaret was married to George W. Schmith at Driggs, Idaho by Don C. Driggs (JWRecords).

When the grandchildren started to visit, Edith let them help with what ever chore she was doing. Digging grass from the garden, cleaning the smoke house, turning the washer, carrying buckets of water, firewood, gathering eggs, picking raspberries or other crops and other errands. As they helped, Edith talked about God, the church, prophets, spiritual experiences that she had, her family history through experiences and sacrifices made for their beliefs in the Church, all things that their parents knew but could not teach as easily as Edith could.

**1916 Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>**, William C. was ordained a Priest by Alexander Burnside (JWRecord).

**1916 Sept.** James while still living at Victor, wrote to the European Mission in Liverpool in the hopes of locating information on his younger siblings burial place.

**1917 Jan 7<sup>th</sup>**, James was set apart as second counselor by James Griggs to Bishop A.L. Burnside in the Chapin Ward for several years, during which time he bore many strong testimonies to the truthfulness of the gospel. James has been a man of great faith. In his patriarchal blessing he was promised he should have faith to heal the sick and he has borne his testimony many times in the Chapin Ward that he has seen the sick healed by the power of faith. He has also done work in the temples as he was also promised that he should do. Bro. Wanlass and his dear wife have always been hospitable and kind and among the first to help in sickness and trouble in the communities in which they have lived, with their hearts full of love and charity for all. Their lives have not always been a bed of roses, many thorns and briars having crossed their path, but their trials have always been met with fortitude and a strong and resolute will. Several times James Wanlass had met with very severe accidents, but through the power of the priesthood, and the

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nursing of a loving wife, his life had been spared. He has always praised and acknowledged the hand of the Lord in his recovery.

Family times were special when everyone got together. James had a real sense of humor and no one could tell when he was going to break loose with it. Once grand niece Laura Starkey was at a Christmas gathering at their home (usually because they had the largest home). Laura was to recite "Grumbling Jim" and the minute she said "Grumbling Jim" James said, "What did you say?" - referring to his nickname. It took her a minute to get hold of herself because it really floored her to have the interruption. James laughed so hard, it had just thrilled him to death. Of course, as Laura saw him laugh, it broke the ice and she gave the recitation. When she finished James said, "Am I as bad as all of that?"

**1917 June 28<sup>th</sup>**, James and Edith went to the temple and James did the endowments for Anders Jonson and Edith got endowments for Sarah Ravensdale. James was then sealed to Ellen Stacey who was born Jan. 25, 1834 at Tipton, Derbyshire, Eng. She had been baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints Mar. 4, 1863 and she died Feb. 2, 1895 at Almy. (JWRrecords).

**1917 June 29<sup>th</sup>**, A Special day as James and undoubtedly Edith, again went to the temple. James got endowments for Hans Schneider and then James was sealed to his parents - James Wanlass and Margaret Nelson, for all eternity and had his brother Andrew and sister Robina sealed to his parents (JWRrecords).

**1917 Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**, Edith received a card from Sgt. Chandler Co. C. 361 at Camp Lewis, Washington stating: *"Dear Mrs. Wanlas, perhaps a tarty thanks is better than none at all but I shall never be able to thank you enough for the good things you sent me for Thanksgiving and they were in such perfect condition. Surely it would put the right spirits into any one to have the loving support you folks give us Chapin boys. Saw Rubin Monday. He was on guard and looked well and happy as ever, Milvin C."*

James was a deeply spiritual man, very prayerful and as member of the Chapin Ward bishopric along with his companion, Brother Neal had gone block teaching, out into the outskirts of the community to a family away from the settlement. It was necessary to travel over stony Deseret like places to some of the houses. One place in particular had a very sick lady and they went there to administer to her. It was so dark they could hardly see the way but when they reached the house, the lady was indeed ill and they did administer to her. They stayed and visited awhile and when they left it was darker than ever. They had some distance to walk where the walking was difficult and James said that he wished they had the light that the Lord spoke of in "Lead Kindly Light" and a light appeared over their heads and showed them the way to the cross roads where the light divided and part went with Brother Neal and part went with James to their homes.

### **Reuben Fowkes Wanlass' letters sent home with his experiences in World War I.**

**1917 Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**, .... "I was drafted from Driggs on the third day of October 1917, I never kept any diary of my trip until today, but we arrived in American Lake on October 5, 1917, went to the depot Brigade, stayed about a month under the command of Lutendant Biggie, the crankiest officer I have met up with yet, then we was transfered from Depot Brogade to Co., L 361 inf, N.A. Stayed there under the command of Captain Potter a fine lieutendant to, they were all fine officers, Lutendant Colts and Valintine, Linforth and Evelerie and first Lutendant Forturne left there on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. 1917 for a logging camp but I don't know where I am going yet. Captain Potter gave us a talk before we left, he said he was sorry to see us go, but he said wherever you go, always obey orders and you will be alright, he sure felt blue when we left his command. On the 15 day of Dec. We left for a little pleasure in Olmypia, came back on the 16<sup>th</sup>, day of Dec. Olympie is a nice little city but it is small, about 25,000. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, We are still in camp Louis, but prospects of leaving in the morning. We are quarnteed for measles but they are going. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, We arrived at Vancouver on the 20<sup>th</sup>, about 7:30 p.m. it looks like quite a nice town but haven't had any chance to look it over yet. Last night we slept on the floor but there was plenty of straw. Jo said I guess they will

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count us up just the same as they did at Camp Louis. Today we had boiled fish for dinner and it wasn't worth a dam. Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Today's Saturday inspection day. We have had inspection. Now we are going to try and get a ..... We have got two months pay coming but we don't know just when we will get payed. We hope it won't be long because we are all broke flat as hell and we are quarantined for the measly measles. So we will have got to stay in the Baricks, so we all spend a miserable day tomorrow, I suppose I will be glad when the quarantine is lifted. Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Had Co formation this morning and they picked out guards, 128 men but I am thankful that they missed Joe and I, there is 206 men in our Co. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, today I was on fatigue duty haling firewood and turkeys for Xmas. They have split me and Joe Beard up now so it cuts me entirely out from the boys that I came into the army life with that happened Dec. 24, it made us both feel pretty sore, Xmas because we figured on being together all through the war. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, Today is Christmas and it is a lonesome day, we are quarantined and can't leave the camp but we had a turkey and dressing mins pie cake, sider and coffee, olives, ice cream an apple and orange and the boys had a program arranged among themselves so the afternoon went along pretty good. The captins intended wife sat under the mistletoe and one of the privates went over and kissed her, but altho we had a good dinner it wasn't like being home. Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, Today is 26<sup>th</sup>, the day after Xmas, I don't have any idea what they will do with us today. The balance of Dec. Passed along mostly staying in the barracks."

**1918 Jan.** Reuben continues: "The starting of a new year, the quarantine was lifted on the new year's night so we all went to Vancouver but the majority of was broke we have been expecting a payday for a long time it has been two months since we got paid, but we will have that much when we do get it. Rec'd five dollars from mother for a Xmas present, a box of cigars from Margaret and a box of cigars from Edith and E & H a package from the red cross at Portland and a red cross bag from Chapin red cross. I have been working on the new government mill for about a week but I am still expecting to get moved out somewhere anytime, there is talk of sending a bunch of us to the Mexican border, but a fellow can hear lots of different things that ain't so such as pay day. We have heard someone saying pay day tomorrow but we haven't got it yet. What I have written now is from the first of this year is up to date today being Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>. Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, On my way to some place, I have forgotten the name of it but we go to Seattle and take a boat from there and it takes us four hours to go to Port Anglus. I was trying to write this on the train but it was ruff. In a boat then it is twenty miles from there to where we are going. We arrived at Seattle at one AM. I don't know what time we will leave here. We are waiting in the depot now, it is ten minutes past two now and it is a sinch we won't get out of here before 6 a.m. Came through Camp Louis about eleven o'clock it looked familiar but I don't care about going back. We caught the boat Siaux from Colmans Dock and road on the boat as far as Port Taunans then we took the train from there to Blyn Wash. We arrived in Blyn Jan. 8, 1918. When we had been here to weeks I went to a dance at Sequin. Had a good time I got acquainted with the girls so when I go down there now I have a good time. Sequine is only a small country town the surrounding county of Sequinn has about 200 population and they are a sociable bunch of people the best I have met since I have been in the Army."

**1918 Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>,** "On the 17 Feb. We attended a sailor boys funeral at Blyn it was a sad affair. I have continued to work in the spruce production for the U.S. getting timber for Areolplains and ships. We hope the war will be over before long but if it ain't we are just waiting patiently for Uncle to say the word, we are all more than ready to cross the sink to lick old bill although we are all doing work here. That is a big blow to Germany our plains and ships is what he fear he knows when we are turning out ships and plains that we fellows in the S.P.D. are doing lots of damage to him, the government calls for 3300 feet of spruce and fir each month. Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, I worked pritty steady in January but yesterday was Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, and I layed off on account of an awful cold, but it is some better today 26<sup>th</sup>."

**1918 June 24<sup>th</sup>,** "By order of Colonel Disc only 4 days for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. My furlaugh was turned down

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*so I don't go home, went to Seattle last month and got my teeth fixed."*

**1918 July 1<sup>st</sup>**, *Had a trip home from June 30 till July 7, 1918, had a nice trip and a enjoyable time spent some pleasant hours with my sweetheart and folks from July 1, 1918 until Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. I worked steady in the woods in the U.S. Army it was reported las week Dec. Third that we would leave Snow Creek for VanCouver but it was a false alarm."*

**1918 Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>**, *"...But it may be a false alarm to. Left S.C.L. Co Dec Wed 10<sup>th</sup> was examined for discharge on Thursday Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1918, will leave here on Dec. 23, 1918."*

**1919 Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Reuben Fowkes Wanlass was married to Clennie May Cover at Driggs Idaho by Don C. Driggs - Stake President (JWRecords).

**1919 Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>**, Due to his failing health James was released as second councilor in the bishopric.

**1920 Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>**, Lawrence was ordained a deacon by Alexander L. Burnside with Joseph Jacob acting as mouth.

**1920 Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>**, James was ordained by President Don Driggs and Victor Heckstead to the office of a High Priest

Edith was also a clown and her children loved to tease her with words of slight Scottish burr in their voice and she enjoyed it. Bill often did so using her given name Edith.

**1921 Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>**, William C was ordained as a Teacher by Joseph Jacob at the Chapin Ward.

**1921 April 10<sup>th</sup>**, James Wanless died on the anniversary of his 39th wedding day, aged 74 years, 8 months and 5 days.

He was very industrious being willing to do more than his strength would permit, both spiritually and temporally. His labors will stand as a monument to his memory, and his example was worthy for us to follow. It can well be said of him "we will not go far astray, if we follow in his footsteps". He has gone to join loved ones who have gone before and to meet the great reward of a well spent life.

Two newspaper obituaries give us the following information: *"James Wanlass, Sr. of Chapin died on April 10<sup>th</sup> at his home in Chapin, at the ripe old age of 74 years 8 months a 1 day. He was buried on April 18<sup>th</sup> in the Victor cemetery, a large number of his friends and neighbors following the body of the deceased to its last resting place, thereby showing their respect and regard for the departed and their sympathy for those left behind. Stake President Albert Chonles, Don C. Driggs attended the funeral, acting as speakers, and John J. Johnson, James F. Griggs and wife furnished the music and singing. Several other people from Driggs - friends of the deceased - attended the funeral. Deceased leaves a wife and eight grown up children - four boys and four girls - and a large circle of friends. Mr. Wanlass has been ailing all the winter past, and his death was not unexpected, although the taking off of a beloved member of a family and a respected citizen always causes grief to those nearest them and sadness to all who knew the departed. The funeral was under the direction of the W. J. King Undertaking Co."*

*"Bro. James Wanlass, Sr., of Chapin Laid to Final Rest. Funeral services over the remains of James Wanlass, Sr., of Chapin were held in the Chapin Meeting House on April 13, 1921. The deceased passed quietly away on April 10<sup>th</sup>, after a brief illness from heart trouble. The speakers were: Joseph Jacobs, Don c. Driggs, James F. Griggs and Stake President Albert Choules. Singing was furnished by Bro. Griggs and wife and John J. Johnson, The floral offerings were very beautiful and profuse. Interment took place in the Victor cemetery. Bro. Wanlass was born in Battersow, Hedingtonshire, Scotland Aug. 9, 1846, and emigrated to Utah in 1877, preceding his parents by a few years. While yet a boy and a young man he worked hard in the coal mines to earn money to help bring his parents over and pay for his own emigration. On April 10, 1882, he was married to Edith Elizabeth Fowker in the Endowment House, Salt Lake City. Bro. Wanlass was a hard worker all of his life, and he and his devoted wife endured all the*

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*hardships incident to raising and supporting a large family. They were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom survive the deceased father. They are: Mary Marshall of Salt Lake City, Margaret Schmith and Mrs. Edith Bush of Lima, Mont., and James, Reuben, William, Lawrence and Miss Jessie Wanlass. Bro. Wanlass was a devoted husband and father and a true Latter Day Saint. He bore a strong testimony of the truth of the Gospel to the last. He certainly overcame and endured to the end, and we feel sure he will receive his place in the celestial glory of our God."*

He is also survived by his wife Edith and five grandchildren. At his funeral it seemed that the whole church yard was filled with teams and vehicles.

**1921 April 18<sup>th</sup>** James Wanlass Sr. was buried on Apr 13<sup>th</sup> at Victor, Teton, Idaho.

(The following is taken from the Wanlass family record book)

"Talking things over with your Boy"

You wonder, Dad why there is such a gulf between you and your boy.

You cannot understand why he has, apparently, so little regard for you.

But has your manner ever been anything but dictatorial to him?

Don't you always ridicule the ideas he sets forth?

He never mentions anything he has on his mind nowadays, and it hurts you.

But you must remember that you have been teaching him to keep his own council by  
your cold disdain for anything he may, or may not think.

You are reaping what you have sown, and this law of the universe does not vary.

Now, you young fathers of sons, profit by the experience of older ones.

Make a chum of that little lad of yours

Try to be a brother - a big brother - rather than a father

When your boy wants to talk things over confidentially with you, be a confident  
don't think everything he says silly or alarming in its reach.

Your son wants a pal and you ought to qualify for the position.

by J.J. Mundy

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Could we now hear our father.  
Our loving brother, friend  
Would be dear ones, I love you  
Be faithful to the end.

We all hope to met each other  
In the celestial kingdom of our God,  
Where we may all dwell together  
In peace, love and sweet accord.

Grieve not for me to cause me pain,  
I'm happy and at rest  
Tis joy to meet with loved ones,  
And dwell among the blest.

In the kingdom of our Father  
There is room for every one  
If we will but love and serve Him  
And always say "Thy will be done."

Remember that your calling  
Is to love and serve the Lord  
That you may gain salvation  
The greatest of rewards.

**1921 June 12<sup>th</sup>**, Jessie got her Patriarchal Blessing by Samuel Knuz (JWRecords).

Edith determined to remain on the farm with the children, toughing it out in a tough place, and even surviving the terrible winter when snow licked the window sills and the children had diphtheria and the neighbors were afraid to come in but passed through a window the food brought to help out. (Teton Valley News).

**1922 Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>**, William C was called as a missionary in the Teton Stake, and was released Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1922.

The entire family revolved around Edith. She played the piano and accompany herself and everyone paid attention as she corded more than played to her songs as she sang in her soprano voice. She taught the grandchildren an English song called 'Kitty Clyde' and "I'm starting my boy on life's journey, Along the high way of life, He'll meet with a thousand temptations, Have courage my boy, and say 'No', Have courage my boy and say 'No'" When the family got together they all played their instruments in harmony and sang, James F violin, Larry on the Saxophone. Edith Bush used to come from Ogden with her daughters Audrey and Edith Martha. They would have a real cultural treat with Edith at the piano, Edith Martha playing the violin and Audrey playing the bass violin and they would play Frans Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody.

**1923 Jan 18<sup>th</sup>**, James Fowkes Wanlass was married to Evelyn Jane Woolstenhulme at Driggs, Idaho by Albert Choules - Stake President (JWRecords).

**1924 Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Edith was determined to be helpful and be at the arrival of her grand baby, child of Reuben and Clennie May. Reuben sent for his mother because the winter storm was so bad that the Doctor never came, but Edith arrived with her team of horses thru a wild winter blizzard. Edith helped deliver little Leslie Wanlass and immediately Edith could tell that the baby boy wasn't well, he had pneumonia and if he was to survive, he would have to have all precautions taken. Edith stoked up the stove, heated a large bucket of water and into this bucket she put the new born baby, she administered hot water baths and changed the body chemistry until he became well.

Edith was called upon to deliver babies, save the lives of the sick and the ailing. Edith drove her team of horses in the winter carrying food from her own closet, bottles of fruit from her own cellars to those who didn't have food, her stores were always given to the public. Edith didn't care for the responsibilities given to her as Relief Society President. When Lizzie Nicholas Burnside was very sick and

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pregnant, they couldn't get a doctor so Edith spent 3 days caring for her. Finally the baby was delivered and Lizzie's life was saved along with the baby.

Edith washed her clothes in a hand turned washing machine. It had a series of gears and a fly on the side and a holder for a stock. A shove on the fly and a push and pull motion on the stick would send a plunger swishing around inside with the water, soap and clothes to make an agitative motion to get the clothes clean. What determined the size of the load of clothing was mostly who was turning the washer and how strong they were. The clothes were rinsed by hand in a tub and rung out in a hand wringer then hung on the outside lines to dry.

At the annual March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1924 anniversary of the founding of the Relief Society program, Edith always had a big feed and invited all the members and non-members alike to the church for this special day and occasion. Families would bring dishes for this, noodles, chicken, pies and cakes. The big boys in the ward knew that they could always depend on Edith to slip pies out of the window so that they could have a preview of what was to come. They were honest because they knew that Edith was honest. She would make sure that they got a piece of pie whether anyone else did or not.

Edith was responsible for purchasing and obtaining money for the new organ for the Chapin Ward through her Relief Society efforts. They held bazaars and food sales, she was in charge and everyone helped. Edith was artistically developed, she was educated, chiefly by reading and keen observation. She was a good cook and loved her family and served them well. She loved the scriptures and serving the Lord and community. When her health started to fail she was released as Relief Society president.

**1926 Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>**, Edith was set apart to take charge of the advanced Seniors in Young Ladies Mutual by Bishop Voss Cordon. (JWRecords). She had a noble look about her as she spoke endearingly of her family and her husband. She was faithful to the Lord, and had the ability to speak with God and to be answered when she asked for wisdom or direction. Her children all held active positions in the church at one time or another which demonstrated that they had been taught well at their mother's knee.

On the same day, William C. was set apart as President of Young Men MIA of the Chapin Ward by Leon Strong (JWRecords).

**1926 Jan 31<sup>st</sup>** William C. was ordained an Elder by J. J. Choules and called to assist in the local missionary work (JWRecords).

**1926 Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>**, Lawrence "Larry" was ordained a Teacher by Henry Beesley and called to assist in local missionary work (JWRecords).

**1930** Christmas time at the Wanlass family started at Christmas Eve with the complete family. Grandson Leslie recalls "The chores would be done and father (Reuben) would say, "Well, wife it is time to go, Let's load up", and mother (Clennie) would see to it that we all carried our heavy blankets out and we would go to the sled which would have been filled with straw so that we would have a nice place to sit. The straw smelled so clean, the snow and air would be so cold that the horses as they moved about on their feet would squeak the snow. I remember lying down, looking up at the millions of stars in the sky and thinking about Christ, wondering just where he was and his part in the Christmas and in my life. Christmas melodies would float thru our minds, the jangle of the butt chains on the tugs would sound in the night air as father would hook up the horses to the sled. Finally he would step in and the creaking of the sled box, he would speak to the horses and the squeak and crunch of their hooves and sled on the frozen snow would let us know we were on our way. Father would drive the family to grandmothers house in a sled drawn by horses, it was truly over the river and thru the woods to Grandmother's house we go. The road in the winter went thru Fox Creek bottom lands, over a bridge where the snow had a tendency to blow and build up. One stormy night the wind was blowing and piling up, the horses ran in the dark into a snow drift where it crested over the hill. They just leaped in the harnesses struggling thru that snow to get the sled

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thru it and on top. We went thru trees, parts on an very uneven road. Sometimes the sled would lift high up over a drift only to drop quickly down the other side, causing one's stomach to be left in the air, 'thank thee bombs' “.

“The excitement would be just more than we could stand. In the corner of the dinning room, there would be a tree at least 8 feet tall and decorated to the very last inch. The ceilings in her house were at least 9 ½ feet so it is easy to understand how she could put such a tall tree in. The tree was decorated with lovely decorations and the tip of many of the limbs held a lighted candle which was in a holder with a spring clamp holding it to the tree. We had to be careful when they were lit, if one candle happened to be beneath the top of another branch, you can bet there would be a big fire. Everyone was asked to leave the room while the candles were made ready. No effort was spared by Edith to make it a truly a children's Christmas. There would be some singing, playing the piano and saxophones, violins a glorious time and then Santa would come.”

“Santa in the early years used to come in person. Oh the excitement and the thrill knowing that he was coming, and the ability to fantasize how he got there, and what his reindeer looked like, and what was he going to bring, all was real and played a vital part in the happy agitation of anticipation. Santa Claus would arrive with a lot of noise and stamping of feet and ringing of bells. Edith would be in the possession of the whole show and would open the door and invite him in. There he would be, dressed in red with white trim on his suit and a white beard. He would ring his bell and come in with his bag of gifts. Edith seemed to know him well, and would bade him welcome. Leslie thought “My it is nice to have a Grandmother who is so friendly with Santa Claus” Santa would insist that Leslie hold the bag with the gifts in it while he gave out the presents and he was terrorized and yet wanted to hold the bag.”

Dinners at Edith's was always good. One of the favorite dishes was a rice milk raisin pudding that was baked in the oven. Boiled pudding, applesauce cakes and cookies seasoned with nutmeg or sesame seeds or raisins. At the dinner table Edith sat at the end of the table, Leslie on her left, then Larry.

After the chores were done in the morning and the hay was hauled for the night feeding, in the wintertime Bill and Larry would spend the day in, if they had gotten the winter's wood out. They would read and study, both had inquisitive minds that was fostered by their mother. They subscribed to the Denver Post to learn of what was happening to other people. Bill and Larry were always such fun loving men, always clowning with their fine sense of humor existing because it was a Wanlass inheritance.

When Oral was ill Edith would often times (in the absence of his parents) clean and set in order the family home and comfort family after Oral's death.

When Dwight Stone was bishop and was still visiting with Edith about 11 o'clock in the evening, she related to him memories of her marriage in the old endowment house in Salt Lake City. The temple clothing was made from different fabric and she showed him the apron part of that clothing. For some unknown reason Dwight held it up so he could look through the fabric toward the light, since it was nighttime. To his amazement he stated “As I picked up her apron and held it up I was surprised to see her name Edith Fowkes in beautiful handwriting from one top corner across the apron to the bottom corner, it was like woven into the fabric, a part of it, and the only way it could be seen was by holding it up against the light. I exclaimed over it and she said, “What's the matter?” and I showed her, she did not know it was there --- very strange.” She was pleased to be able to see it as Dwight had done toward the light. This discovery made her temple apron more valuable and treasurable.

**1949 Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>**, Obituary: “*Edith Elizabeth Fowkes Wanlass died at age 84 of heart failure and ailments incident to advanced age at, Victor, Teton, Idaho and was buried Wednesday, Mar. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1949 under the direction of Hansen Mortuary of St. Anthony. Surviving children lived at: Reuben - Smithfield, Utah.; Mary Marshal at Los Angeles, Cal, Margaret Schmith in Nebraska, Edith Bush at Logan, Utah; Jessie*

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*Wanlass at Boise; William C. and Lawrence F. at Victor, 9 grand children and 19 great-grandchildren.*

*Obituary: "Edith E. F. Wanlass Victor Ida. Funeral services for Mrs. Edith Elizabeth Fowkes Wanlass, 84 Victor, who died Saturday at her home of ailments incident to advanced age will be conducted Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Chapin Ward chapel of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Dwight Stone, bishop. Burial will be in the Victor Memorial park, under the direction of the Hansen mortuary of St. Anthony. Mrs. Wanlass was born Aug. 20, 1864, at Coleville, Lestershire, England, a daughter of Reuben and Mary Bacon Fowkes. When she was three years of age her parents moved to the United States and located at Logan, Utah. Later the family moved to Wyoming. Mrs. Wanlass was married April 10, 1882, in the old Salt Lake LDS endowment house to James Wanlass. The ceremony was performed by the late Pres. Joseph F. Smith. In 1907 the couple moved to Idaho and two years later to Wyoming. In 1913 they returned to Idaho, locating at Victor in Teton basin, where Mrs. Wanlass has since resided. Mr. Wanlass died April 10, 1921. Active in the LDS church, Mrs. Wanlass was especially active in the Mutual Improvement Assn. and the Relief society. Surviving are seven sons and daughters, Reuben Wanlass, Smithfield, UT; Mrs. Mary Marshal, Los Angeles, Cal; Mrs. Margaret Schmith, in Nebraska; Mrs. Edith E. Bush, Logan, Utah; Jessie Wanlass, Boise; William C. and Lawrence F. Wanlass, Victor; seven brothers and sisters, Joseph Fowkes, Salt Lake City; William Fowkes, Los Angeles, Cal; Mrs. Kate Sellers, Mrs. Mae Sharkey, Mrs. Lillian Hood and Mrs. Esther Thomas of Wyoming, and Mrs. Nora Harris, Utah; nine grand children and 19 great-grandchildren."*

**1949** Bill and Larry sold the ranch, the end of an era.

## James Wanlass & Edith Elizabeth Fowkes Wanlass

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