

LIFE OF MY FATHER  
ROBERT CAMPBELL LITSTER

My father Robert Campbell Lister was born 1 September 1854 at Crossgate Fife, Scotland. The son of John and Margaret Campbell Lister. He was the second of ten children.

My grandparents, John and Margaret Campbell Lister were married 1 November, 1851 at Dumferline, Fife, Scotland. To them were born the following children; Henry Lister 21 August 1852, Robert C. Lister, 1 September 1854, John Lister, 25 October, 1856, Catherine Lister 27 May, 1859, Thomas Lister, 26 February 1861, Andrew Lister, 22 April 1863, Margaret Lister, 1 July 1865, Elizabeth White Lister, 23 September, 1867, Campbell Lister 25 March, 1870, and Mary Lister, 17 May 1872.

Father and his five brothers and four sisters grew up in Scotland like other children did, as best they could. At the age of ten years father began to work in the coal mines in Scotland, and gained a good understanding of the workings of a coal mine.

He and my mother, Jane Cumming were married 23 November 1874, at Dumferline, Fife, Scotland at the age of twenty years. They were converted to the Latter-day Saints Church in Scotland.

Father came to the U.S.A. in 1876. He left mother in Scotland with three children; John, 5 May 1875, born at Dumferline, Fife, Scotland, died 15 December 1879. Joan, 20 September, 1876, New Main Lanark Scotland and Robert C. Jr., 11 December 1877, Sterling, Scotland. Robert was killed in the mines at Coke Dale, Colorado 12 April 1912. He was brought home by his brother William and buried in Cleveland, Emery County, Utah.

When father came to America, at any job that he could get on the section, road work, and the mines. In 1879 he got employment at the mines at Alta, Utah. In the winter of 1879 a snow slide came and filled the canyon covering many of the homes and houses of the miners. The snow slide across the canyon was so high that the miners could not climb over it, so a tunnel was made through the snow bank. Each miner and his wife and family was brought out through the tunnel to safety. Father then moved his family to Salt Lake City, to live while he went to Winter Quarters, Carbon County, Utah. At that time Emery County and Carbon County were known as Castle Valley. Father got work in the mines at Winter Quarters. In June 20, 1880 his son William Thomas was born in Salt Lake City. In August of that year mother moved to winter Quarters to live with father.

At Winter Quarters there were three children born: Maggie Rosaline, birth October 30, 1884; a brother Dawn, February 2, 1887, and Lily Jane born December 23, 1888. Dawn died at Winter Quarters June 1, 1888. Lily Jane died January 29, 1889. Both were buried at Scofield, Carbon County, Utah. A brother Leonard was born at Cleveland, Emery County, Utah April 17, 1893. He died at Cleveland June 18, 1953. A sister Winnie born September 9, 1896 at Scofield, Carbon County.

In 1885 the family moved to Cleveland, Emery County, Utah where filed on 160 acres of land. Father made three filings before he could land that he could get water on. The family lived on the farm in the summer time and took care of the farm and cattle. In the winter they moved back to winter Quarters where father worked in the mines.

The farm and home was about three miles east of Cleveland School house. We lived on the farm for many years and had a nice house on the farm. One day when we were all in town the house burned down. We never knew the cause. Our crops were of grain, hay, corn, and cattle. Cash was hard to get. Many times father would pay his bills with grain and hay. Cattle was our best cash crop.

After the fire father moved the family up in town. For some time we lived on a piece of ground owned by Mr. L. P. Oveson. While living on this ground we kept the stage horses for the

mail carrier from Price, Carbon County to Emery, Emery County. It helped father to sell his hay and grain and gave us some spending money. Then father and mother bought land from a Mr. John Lewis, the home that my sister Winnie Allred now lives. On this property father and mother owned and operated a General Merchandise store until their death. Father died January 5, 1907 at the home of postmaster George H. Richards in Sunnyside, Carbon County. He was buried in Cleveland, Emery County January 7, 1907. At that time I was on my mission living in Columbus, Ohio. After Father's death mother and the children took care of the farm and store and cattle for about twenty years until my mother's death 2 May 1927, at Cleveland, Emery County, Utah

My father was a small man 5 ft. 2 in. in height weighing about 140 lbs. He had black hair and a pleasant cheerful face. When he was married he was clean shaven. Later in life he grew a heavy beard. I do not remember father ever shaving. He was kind to children, and liked to have them around him. He was an honest worker and honest in all his dealings. He tried to teach honest principles to his children. He taught by example. Father was not a public speaker, but was a deep thinker. Around the table he could carry on an intelligent conversation.

He had a deep conviction of the mission of Christ and that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God. It was his strong belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that caused him to leave his all in Scotland to come to America and build a home in the valley of the mountains near the house of the Lord. He was sealed to his wife and family in the Salt Lake Temple March 25, 1896.

Father was active in Church and civic affairs.

By his son  
William Thomas Lister  
627 West 8 North  
Provo, Utah

(Retyped January, 27, 2007 by his daughter, Geraldine Lister Walters.)

(Some more information about his parents found on a separate sheet.)

Robert Lister born 1 September 1854 at Crossgate, Fife, Scotland, a miner, baptized 20-9-1867 by Elder T. Watson, (cut off church 20 June 1875), re-baptized 24 June 1875 by Elder Allen Wilkinson and confirmed 26 June 1875 by same.

Ordinations to office of Deacon by Elder Robert Watson 31 July 1870, to office Teacher by Elder George Adgar 7 September 1872, to office of Priest by Robert King 20 April 1873.