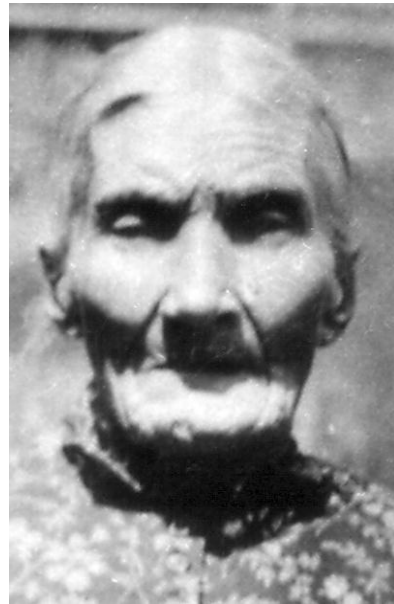
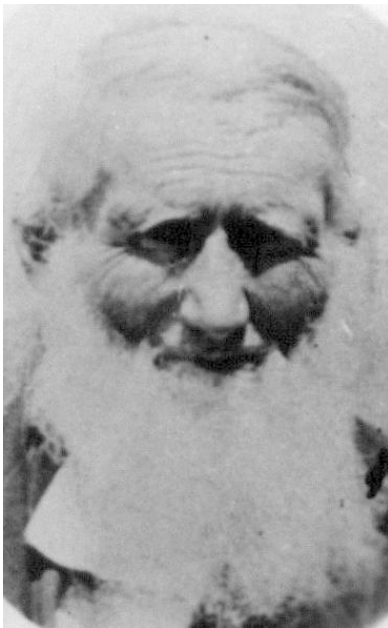


James Wanlass

(1825 – 1895)

Mystery, Miner, and Mormon

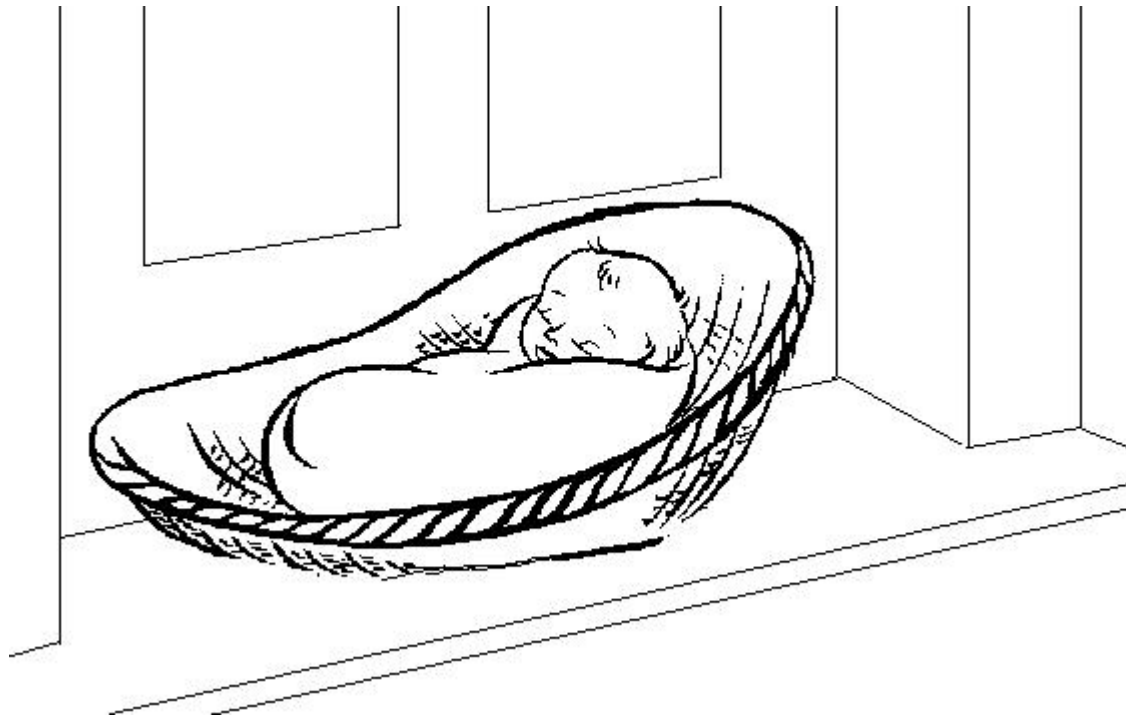


The story of James Wanlass and Margaret Neilson

Coloring Book

The James Wanlass Mystery

James Wanlass didn't know who his father or his mother was. Family tradition said he was a foundling baby who was left on someone's doorstep in Scotland in 1825.



Note: We now have evidence that our James Wanlass is related to a Wanless family in Scotland. We discovered an exact Y-chromosomal DNA match with a man in that Wanless family who was named James Wanless, who married Christine Parkinson. He was a baker by trade, lived in Edinburgh, Scotland, and was about 2 years younger than our James. See current research into the mystery at:

<http://jameswanlassmystery.blogspot.com> and more from this website:

<http://www.southwickresearch.com/Genealogy/AncestorsOnly/p5.htm>

Some people said our James was raised in an orphanage or in a workhouse for poor and abandoned children.



Edinburgh Charity Workhouse, 1820

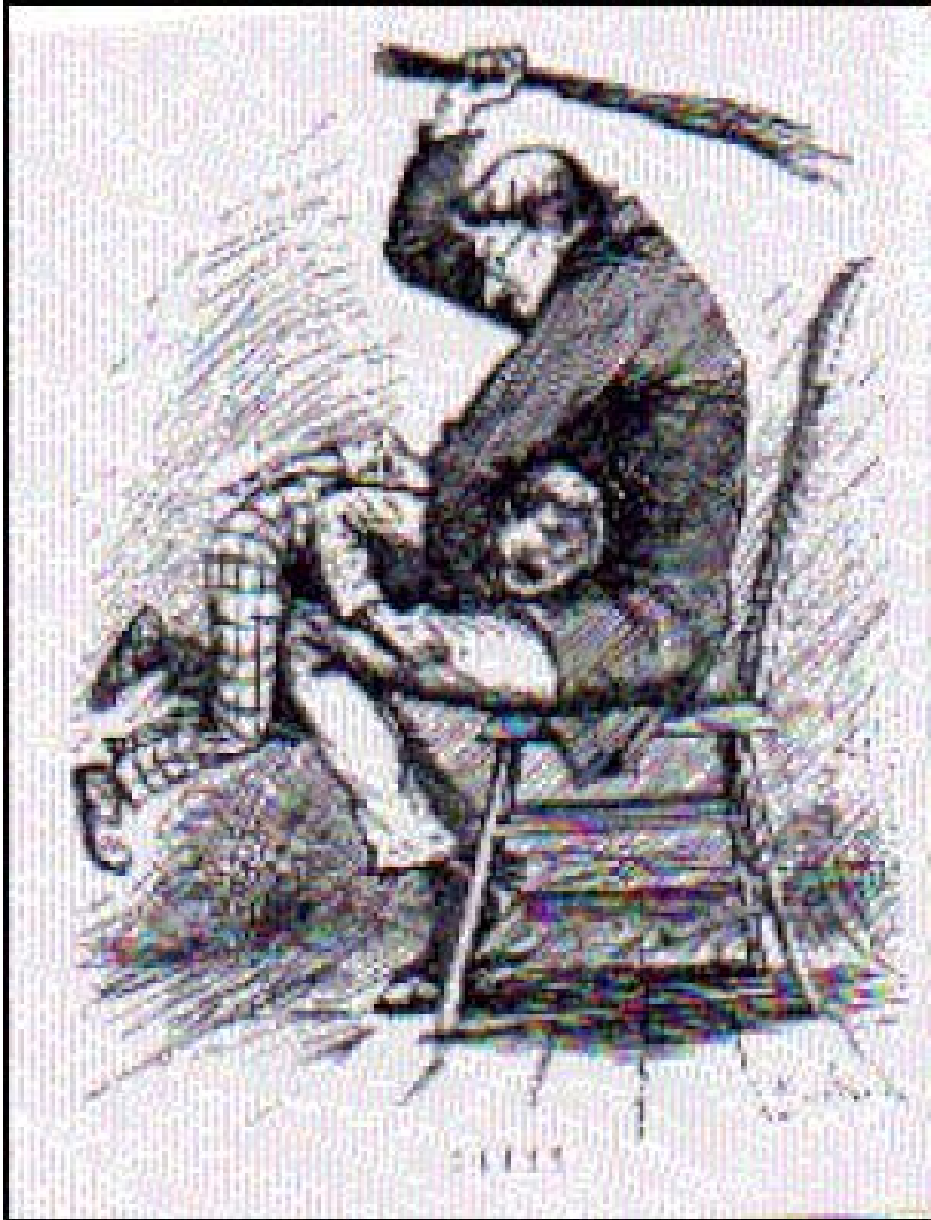
There were lots of poor people and abandoned children in those years. Some Scottish workhouses were very large and had hundreds of poor adults and children living there.

Children had to work in Workhouses, but they were expected to go to school classes for a few hours each workday.



We know James learned to read, to write, and to do arithmetic. He had very good handwriting.

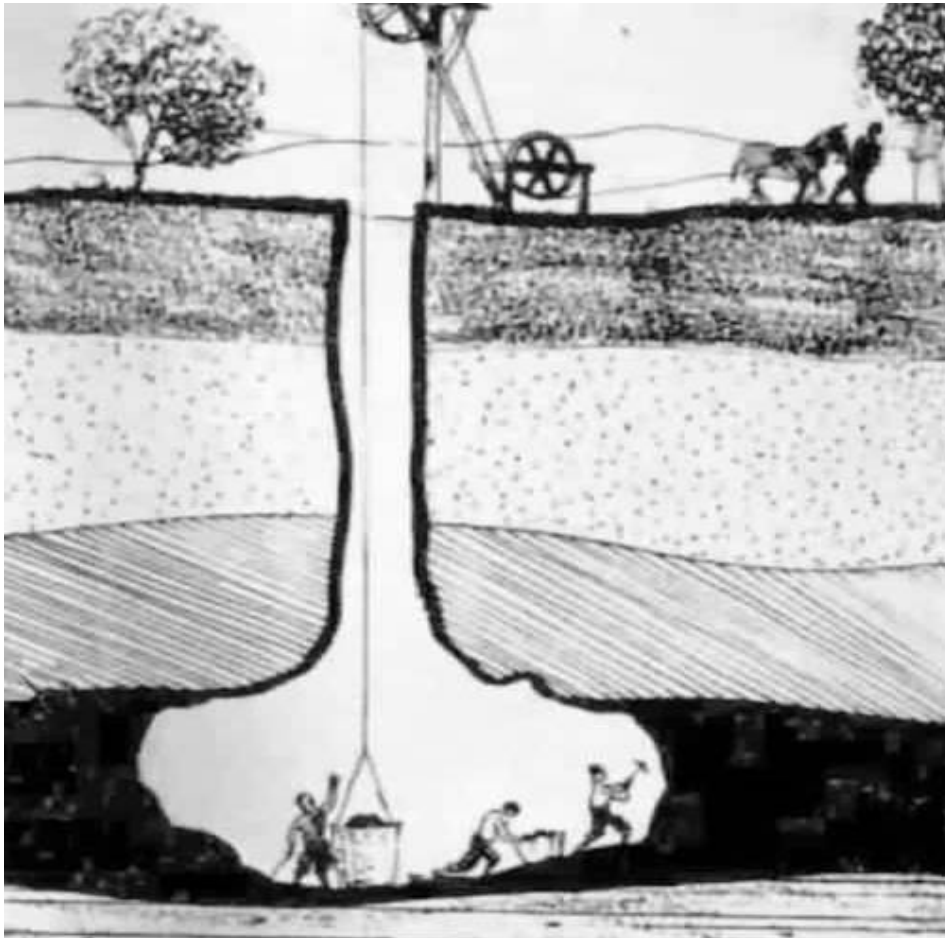
Sometimes children in Workhouses were punished



Some people said James ran away from the Workhouse and lived with a family named Ramsay for a while.

James Wanlass the Miner

Coal is a black rock that burns. In Scotland, they discovered layers of coal underground. People started digging holes to get to the coal.



The holes were called mines. Miners dug coal and lifted it out of the mines. People burned coal in their home fireplaces and in stoves to make heat.

James Wanlass probably started working in a coal mine when he was very young. Back then, they let children work in mines.



This group of men and boys are gathered round a coal wagon or hutch into which the coal was loaded underground for transport to the pit bottom, and from there up to the surface.

Here's what one boy said about working down in the mines:

John Robertson, ten years old, from Pencaitland Colliery, Haddingtonshire said: "Have been below two years, and not been to school since last harvest. I dinna like the work below, and have tried to rin away twice, but they aye brought me back again."

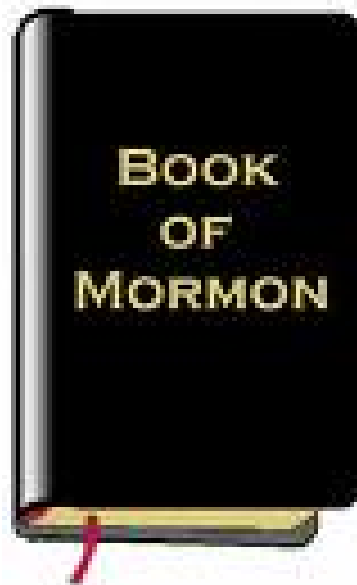
When James Wanlass was older, he met a coal miner's daughter. Her name was Margaret Neilson. They fell in love and got married in 1847.



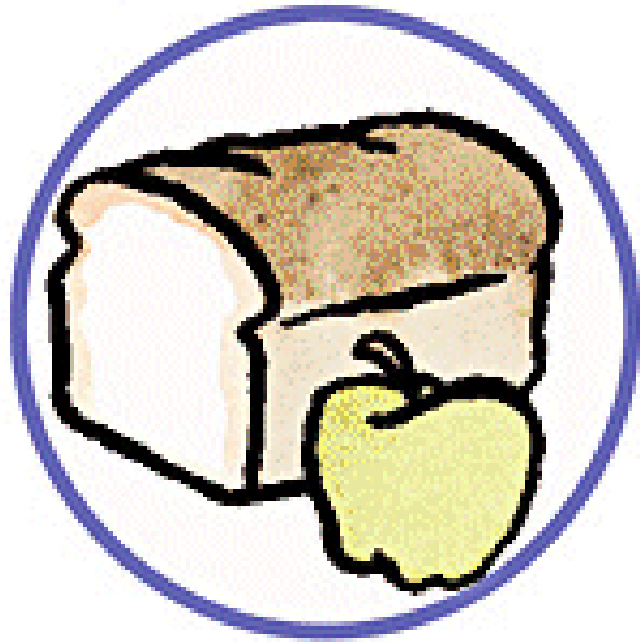
Marriage

James Wanlass the Mormon

James and Margaret had three children in 1850 when they met the Mormon Missionaries and were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



James and Margaret loved the missionaries. They sacrificed to feed the missionaries many times.



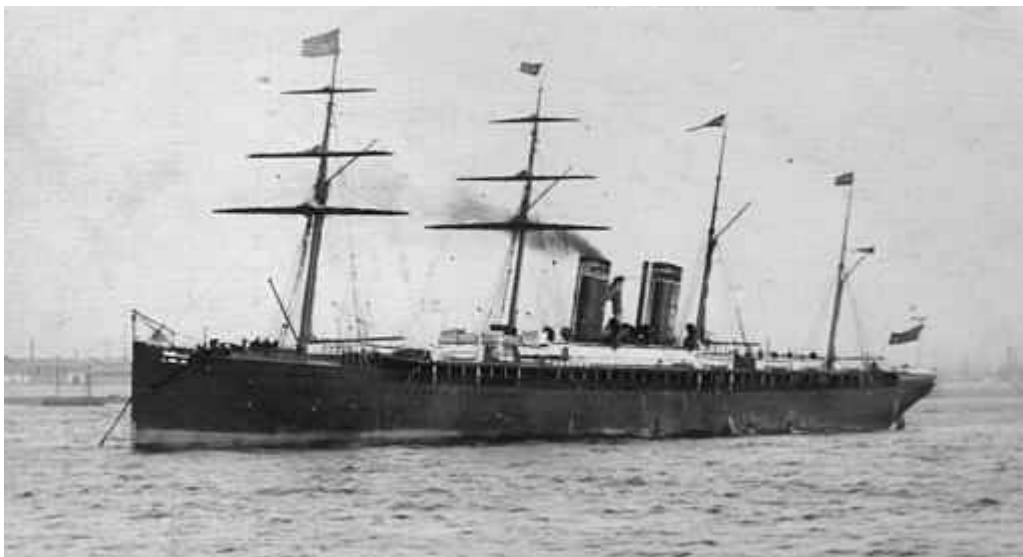
James received the priesthood and held leadership positions in the Church. He baptized and confirmed his children into the Church.

James Wanlass's family grew. He and Margaret had 13 children. They moved from mine to mine where James worked.

The British Isles



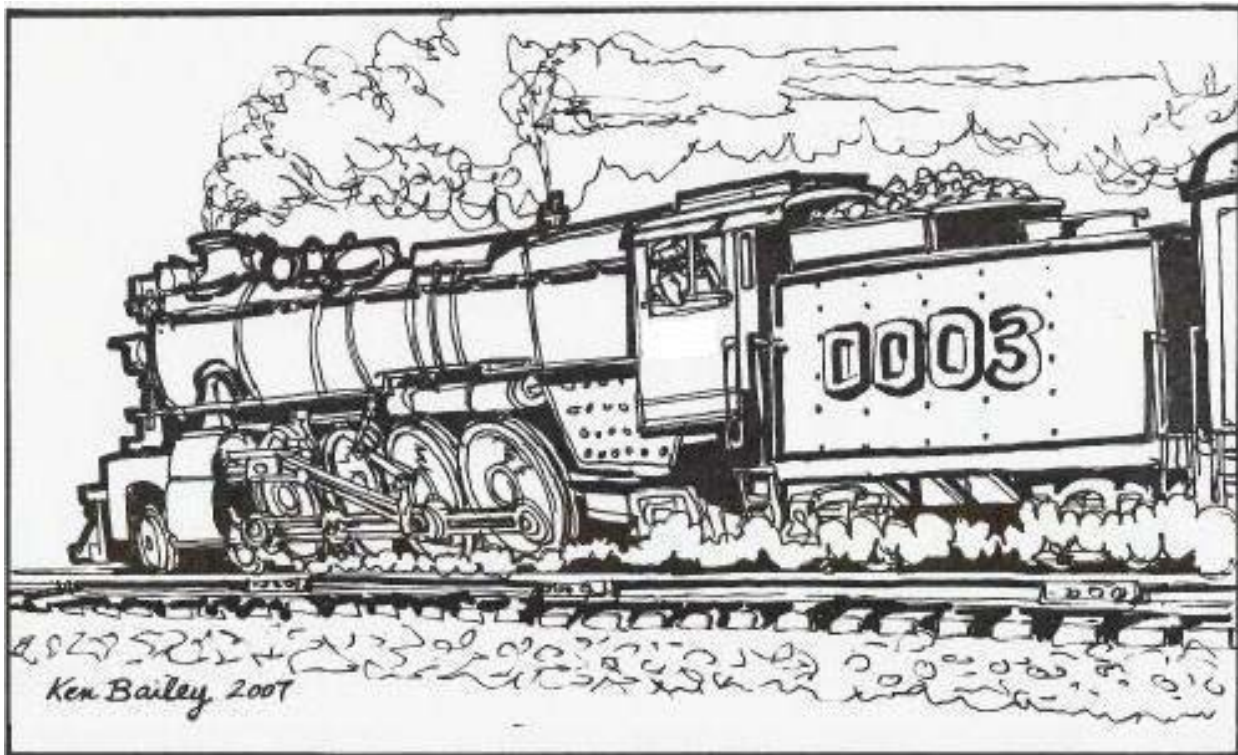
As Mormons, they wanted to immigrate to Zion in Utah. They didn't have enough money for them all to go at once.



So... in 1874 the father James Wanlass (age 49) boarded the steamship *Idaho* for America, taking three children with him: Jane (age 24), Helen (age 14), and Alexander (age 10).

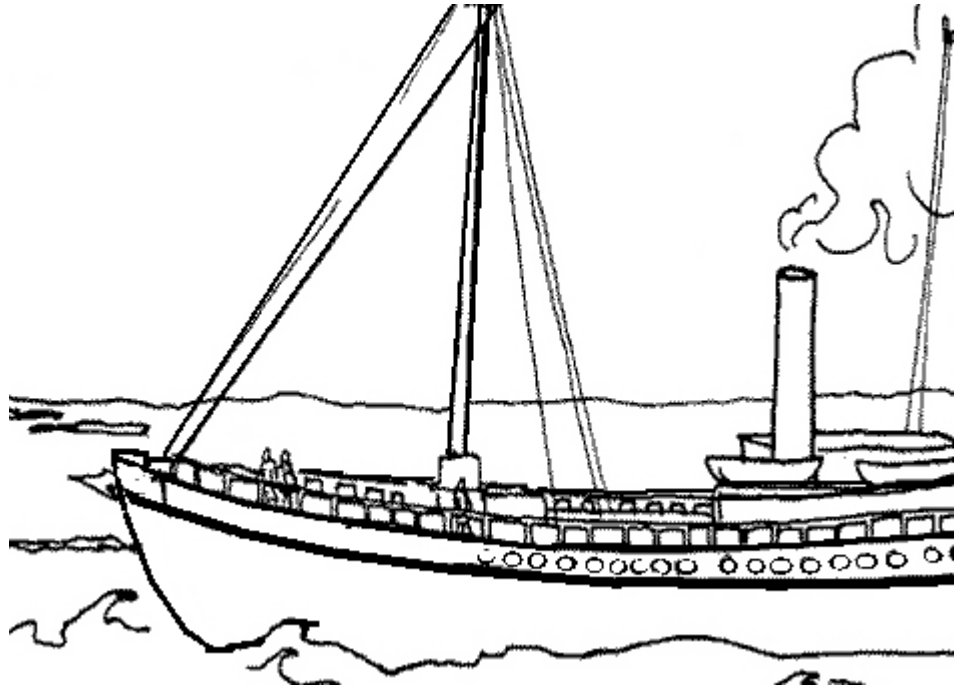
James baptized and confirmed his son Alexander into the Church just 5 days before they left for America.

They arrived in New York City and then took a train to Salt Lake City in Utah.



James found work in nearby mines. Together they started to make a home for their family in Salt Lake City.

Two years later, in 1876, the family had earned enough money for his wife Margaret (age 55) and their youngest child, Joseph (age 9) to cross the ocean on the steamship *Nevada* and make the train trip to Utah.



Part of the family was left in Scotland. They waved goodbye as their mother and baby brother left for America.

The oldest son, James and his sister Christina worked in Scotland for another year to earn more money for their trip to Zion. Finally, on June 13, 1877, it was their turn. James (age 30) and Christina (age 23) boarded the steamship *Wyoming* to cross the ocean to America, together with 184 other Mormons.



Inside the Ship

James Wanlass and his wife Margaret Neilson were able to realize one of their immigration goals when they were sealed to each other for eternity on October 10, 1878 in the Endowment House. (Construction of the Salt Lake Temple was not yet complete.)

The James Wanlass Family

Statistics: Three children (all girls) stayed behind in Scotland. Four children died in infancy. Six children immigrated to the United States with their parents. James and Margaret had 77 grandchildren.

(Put an “X” next to the names of your ancestors)

X	Name	Born	@ Age Married to:	Kids	Settled in:
	Father: James	1825	@21 to Margaret Neilson	13	Salt Lake City, Utah – worked as a miner
	Mother: Margaret	1821	@25 to James Wanlass	13	Salt Lake City, Utah – helped earn money for extra income
	James	1846	@35 to Edith Elizabeth Fowkes	11	Almy, Wyoming - coal miner; Victor, Idaho - farmer
	Elizabeth	1848	@25 to William Wilson	9	Muirkirk, Scotland – husband was a coal miner
	Jane Adamson	1850	@25 to William Thompson	13	Ogden, Utah – husband a telegraph line layer and “truckman”
	Margaret	1851	@22 to James Stark	6	Edinburgh, Scotland – husband was a “pipe layer”
	Christina	1853	@26 to John Hunter & @37 to Robert Allen Hunter	4 4	Ogden, Utah – Husband killed in coal mine accident in Almy WY Scofield, Utah - Husband killed in coal mine accident in Scofield
	Janet	1855	@25 - Unmarried?	2	Muirkirk and Edinburgh, Scotland – Domestic Servant
	Andrew	1857	-	-	Died as a 9 day old baby
	Robina Baird	1858	-	-	Died as a 1 month old baby
	Helen Archibald	1860	@20 to John Adam Lampert	4	Ogden, Utah – husband a barber and “bell porter”
	Robina (twin)	1862	-	-	Died on day of birth
	Andrew (twin)	1862	-	-	Died on day of birth
	Alexander	1864	@25 to Jane Dyet & @44 to Alice Olive Hancock	10 6	Salt Lake City, Utah, worked for U.S. Post Office, mail carrier
	Joseph	1866	@31 to Rachel Kirkham	8	Lehi, Utah, worked for Utah Idaho Sugar Company

Thanks to Alona Southwick Perkes for her in-depth research into the James Wanlass family. Her genealogical data can be found at: <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=bushwanlass&id=I74>

Thanks to Holly Wanless Cochran who maintains WanlessWeb, “A one-name study of the surnames Wanless, Wandless, Wanlass, Wandlass, Wanliss, and Wanlace, with associated genealogy research.” See: <http://www.wanlessweb.org/TNG/getperson.php?personID=I74&tree=12>