

William Smith Muir

(1822 – 1896)



Mormon Battalion and Utah Pioneer

West Bountiful, Utah Farmer
Polygamous Husband of 5 Wives
Father of 36 Children

Family History Coloring Book



In 1822, William Smith Muir was born in famous Bannockburn, Scotland where Scottish tartans¹ were woven from dyed wools.

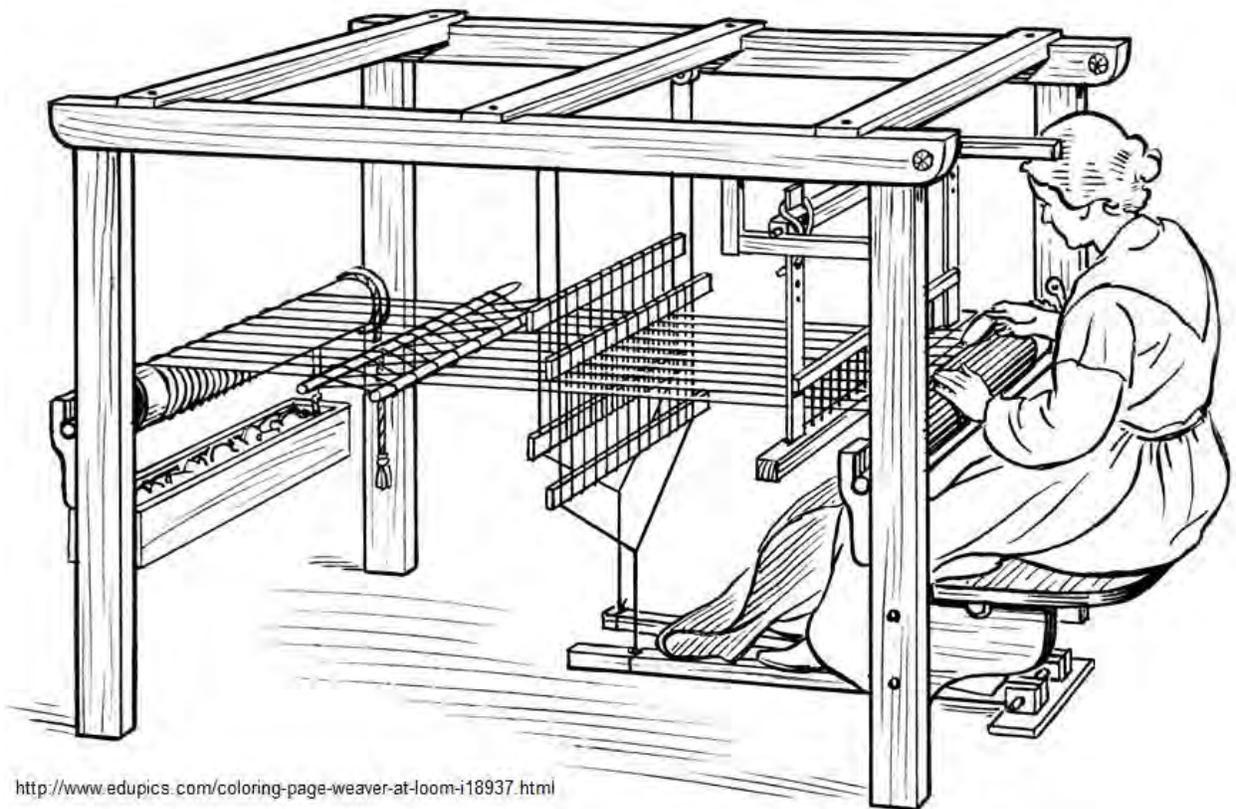
Please color the threads of this tartan which was named for the Muir Clan.²

		Vertical Threads (Warp Threads)																										
		Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green	Black	Blue	Black	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green	Black	Blue	Black	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green	Yellow		
Horizontal Threads (Weft Threads)	Muir																											
	Yellow																											
	Green																											
	Red																											
	Green																											
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Green																												
Red																												
Yellow																												

¹ Tartans are plaid fabrics with unique patterns and colors, which are used to make kilts. A kilt is knee-length skirt of pleated tartan cloth, sometimes worn by Scottish men on formal occasions.

² The Clan Muir tartan with its color patterns was probably created after William S. Muir left Scotland.

William was just a boy when he began working at a weaving factory, starting early morning and working until late at night.³



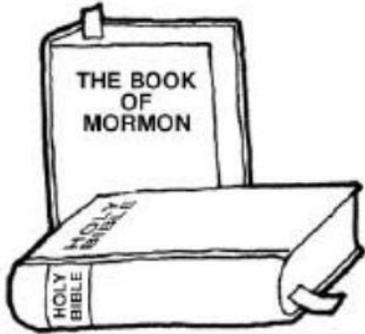
<http://www.edupics.com/coloring-page-weaver-at-loom-i18937.html>

His job was to put the warp⁴ threads (yarn) on the looms.

³ Source: Deseret News obituary for William S. Muir - December 24, 1896, p. 2 (not seen).

⁴ Warp threads are the long threads held tight in the loom, through which the shorter “weft” threads are woven.

When he was 19 years old he met the Mormon missionaries and joined the Church⁵.



William noticed a pretty girl who started coming to church. Her name was Jane Robb. She also joined the Church.



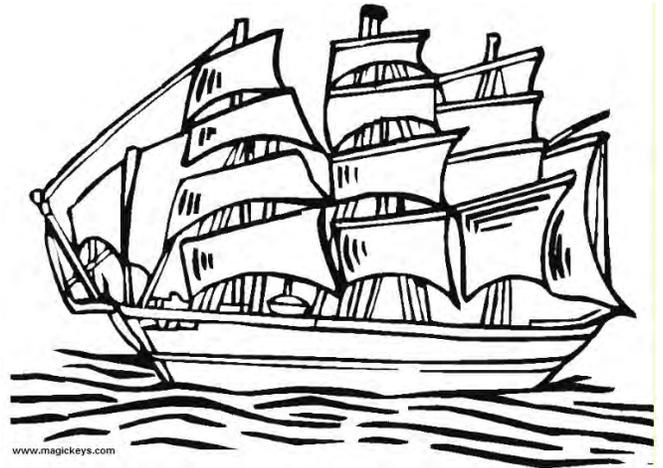
She was a servant girl, but the family she worked for wouldn't let her out at night to see William, so she would sneak out after the family went to sleep. One night, William came as usual and waited in the barn for Jane to come see him. Unfortunately, that night she went straight to sleep, and William got locked in the barn until she let him out in the next morning.⁶

⁵ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was baptized by Elder Robert Menzes on January 17, 1842.

⁶ <http://www.familytreerings.org/2011/01/happy-189th-birthday-jane-stewart-robb.html>

William and Jane decided to get married and go to America.

They crossed the Atlantic Ocean on the ship Swanton⁷



At New Orleans they boarded a steamboat⁸ and traveled up the Mississippi River to Nauvoo, Illinois

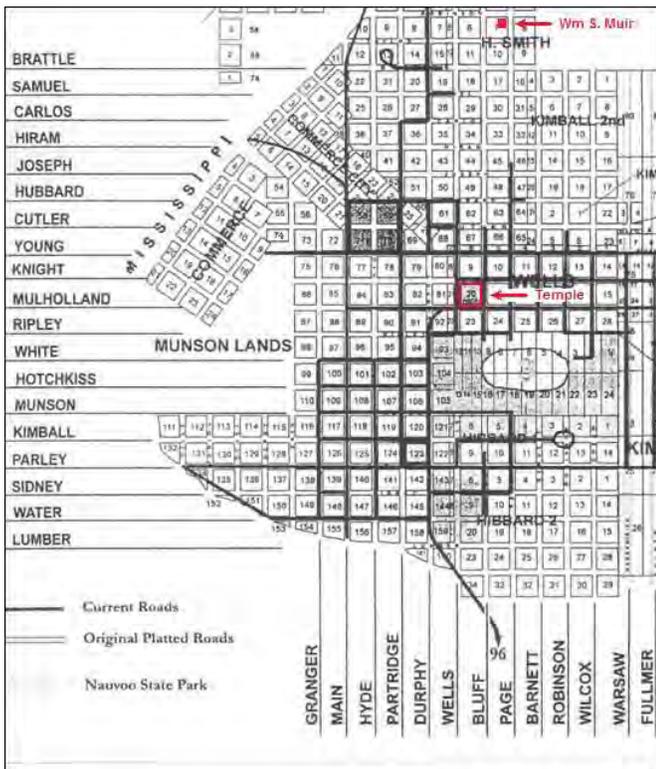
⁷ Under Captain Davenport, the *Swanton* sailed from Liverpool on February 11, 1844 with 81 Saints, bound for Nauvoo, via New Orleans

⁸ The *Hugh Patrick* steamboat docked at Nauvoo about midnight on April 18, 1844.

Joseph Smith wrote in his journal that about 80 saints arrived in Nauvoo. William and Jane were among them.⁹



http://www.durgans.com/webquestfun_joseph_smith.gif



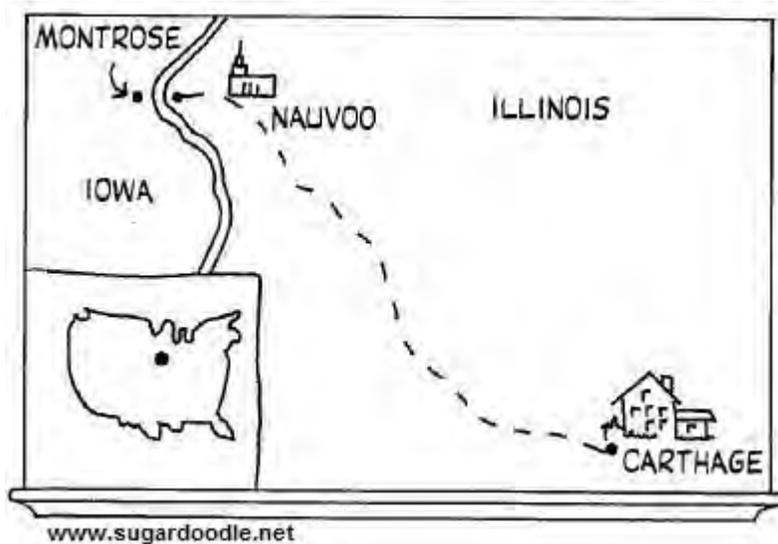
They found a place to live just 10 blocks north of the Nauvoo Temple, which was under construction.¹⁰

⁹ History of the Church, Vol. VI, page 341

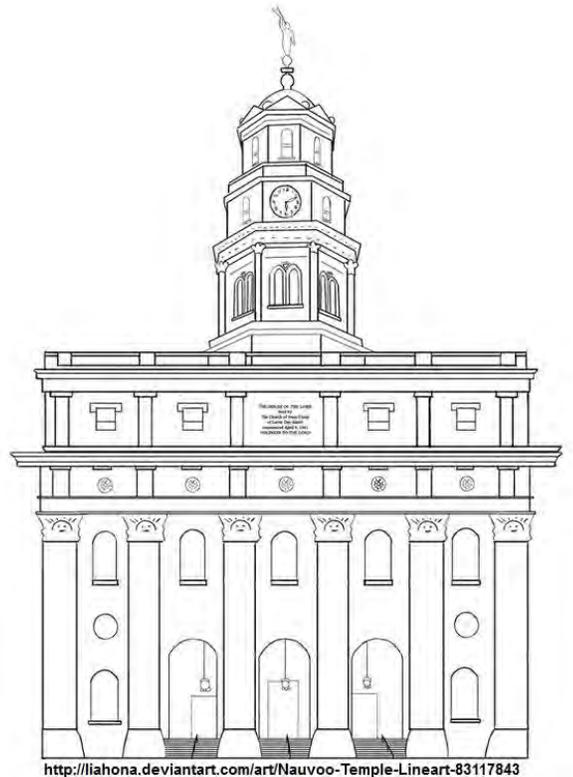
¹⁰ Historic Nauvoo Land and Records Research Center, Nauvoo, Illinois.

Just 70 days after William and Jane arrived in Nauvoo, Joseph

Smith was killed in Carthage. They were shocked!



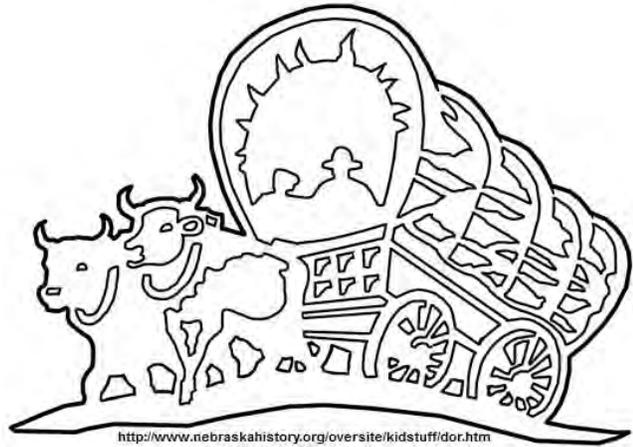
Brigham Young began to lead the Church. He helped them be endowed and sealed in the Nauvoo Temple.¹¹



¹¹ William S Muir and Jane Muir were endowed December 25, 1845 and then 3 weeks later on January 17, 1846 they were sealed to each other in the Nauvoo Temple. He also did proxy baptisms for ancestors.

They went west with the Saints.

When they
got to
Council
Bluffs, Iowa



Brigham Young asked young
men to join the
United States Army.



Mormon Battalion Monument
Edward J. Fraughton - 1968

William left his wife
and baby and
marched off to war
with the Mormon
Battalion.¹²

¹² William's leadership talents became evident as he advanced in rank to become First Sergeant of Company A

They walked all the way to California, but they didn't have to fight in the war.



When the Army let William go,¹³ he went to work at Sutter's Mill, and saw the first gold be discovered there!

¹³ William S. Muir was mustered out of the Army on July 16, 1847

He and other Mormon Battalion members left¹⁴ California for the Salt Lake valley. They gave some gold to help the Church.



William went to Council Bluffs to get his family. Only Jane was alive after a bad winter without him.



The next year they trekked to Salt Lake valley, settling in West Bountiful.

¹⁴ July 4, 1848, after overwintering in California because they learned that food was scarce in the Salt Lake valley.

One day Brigham Young asked Jane if she would consent to William marrying a 2nd wife. She said it was OK.



William married Mary Ann Berry¹⁵ in 1853. At first, Mary Ann and Jane lived in the same home, sharing family work and duties. Jane loved Mary Ann.



bookofmormonposters.com

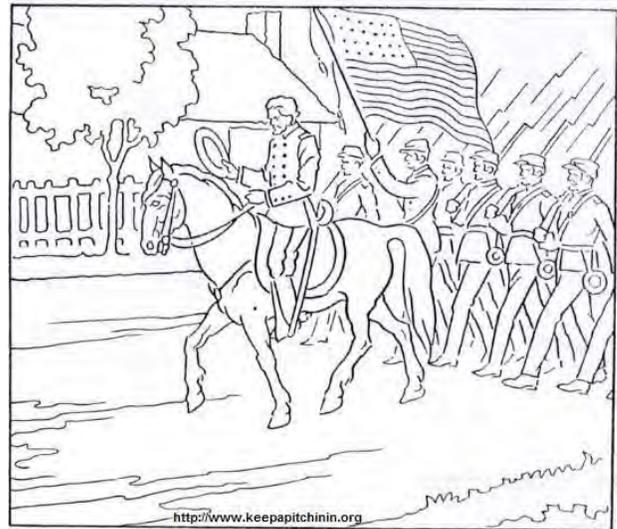
¹⁵ Mary Ann Berry was a 20 year old Mormon immigrant who joined the Church at age 18 in Sussex, England



<http://www.mormonshare.com/lds-clipart/early-missionaries>

William was called to serve as a missionary to the Indians¹⁶ and later to Great Britain.¹⁷

He returned to Utah in 1858, just before Johnston's army arrived, during the Utah War.



<http://www.keepapitchinin.org>

¹⁶ Mission call to Indians at Fort Bridger, Wyoming in 1854

¹⁷ Mission call to Great Britain in 1855. Labored in Manchester and Birmingham, England as well as in his native Scotland. He presided over the Birmingham Conference in 1856.

In 1861, William hired school teacher Lucy Darke¹⁸ to educate his children in West Bountiful. The next year he married Lucy (3rd wife). Then in 1865, William married Elizabeth Staples¹⁹ (4th wife). He married his 5th wife, Martha Sarah Salt,²⁰ in 1869.



<http://webspacespace.cal.net/~callaway/tarika/graphics/pioneerfin.gif>

The wives shared family duties, but each had her own home in the West Bountiful area.



www.bookofmormonposters.com

His first wife, Jane Robb, outlived William and his four other wives. She raised Mary Ann's six children after Mary Ann died in 1874 at age 41.

¹⁸ Lucy Darke was a 24 year old immigrant school teacher who had joined the Church in 1849 at age 11 with her family in Birmingham, England. William S. Muir knew the Darke family from his missions to England in 1855 - 1858.

¹⁹ Elizabeth Staples was a 30 year old immigrant who had joined the Church at age 21 in Warwickshire, England

²⁰ Martha Sarah Salt was a 50 year old Mormon immigrant from England who joined the Church at age 38.

William was arrested during anti-polygamy raids in 1887. He pled “guilty” to “unlawful cohabitation” charges.



When the judge asked if he would “put these women away...and never see them again,” William answered, “No.”

He was fined \$300 and sentenced to six months in prison. He got out in 5 months for good behavior.

William was an effective farmer. He also started several other businesses. He served as the first postmaster of Woods Cross (just south of West Bountiful).



<http://www.nothingwaver.org>

The large Muir family had a big impact on the West Bountiful area. They were leading influences in the civic, industrial and religious life of the community. He was ordained as the Davis Stake Patriarch.

William died in 1896 at age 74, leaving a large posterity.

William Smith Muir's 36 Children from his 4 Wives:²¹

(Put a check mark next to the name of your Muir ancestor....)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Child's Given Name	Mother's Name	Born	Died	Years Lived
	Elizabeth Jane	Jane Robb	20 Oct 1844	8 Mar 1846	2 years
	Stephen	Jane Robb	14 Nov 1846	14 Nov 1846	1 day
	William Stewart	Jane Robb	14 Oct 1849	18 Mar 1928	79 years
	James	Jane Robb	14 May 1851	23 May 1851	9 days
	Moses Vasco	Jane Robb	11 May 1852	19 Nov 1919	67 years
	Aaron (twin of Moses)	Jane Robb	11 May 1852	11 Mar 1922	70 years
	Mary Ann (Polly)	Jane Robb	26 Jan 1854	13 Jul 1939	84 years
	Eliza	Mary Ann Berry	4 Aug 1854	5 May 1931	77 years
	Levi Richard	Mary Ann Berry	25 Oct 1855	2 Oct 1921	66 years
	Asenath McFarlane	Jane Robb	19 Dec 1855	18 Nov 1863	8 years
	Priscilla Blackwood	Jane Robb	19 Apr 1858	2 Feb 1937	78 years
	Elizabeth	Mary Ann Berry	13 Feb 1860	27 Jan 1861	1 year
	Alice S.	Jane Robb	22 Oct 1860	19 Jul 1914	54 years
	Sarah Ellen (Nellie)	Mary Ann Berry	30 Sep 1862	23 Mar 1930	68 years
	Frederick James	Lucy Darke	17 Apr 1863	7 Apr 1936	73 years
	William Wallace	Mary Ann Berry	28 Feb 1864	12 Mar 1915	51 years
	Margaret (Maggie)	Jane Robb	17 Jun 1863	14 May 1946	83 years
	George Henry	Lucy Darke	10 Oct 1865	12 Dec 1956	91 years
	Dan	Jane Robb	27 Jan 1866	18 Nov 1939	73 years
	Marian Elizabeth	Elizabeth Staples	10 Oct 1866	18 Aug. 1869	3 years
	Edith	Mary Ann Berry	7 Dec 1866	21 Jan 1879	8 years
	Benjamin	Lucy Darke	27 Jun 1867	18 Sept 1922	55 years
	Wilhelmina	Elizabeth Staples	3 Mar 1869	28 Aug 1869	5 months
	Lillian Jane	Lucy Darke	19 Oct 1869	12 Nov 1925	56 years
	Frank	Mary Ann Berry	7 May 1870	6 Dec 1884	14 years
	William Henry	Elizabeth Staples	8 Nov 1870	19 Jul 1941	71 years
	Sidney Wellington	Lucy Darke	9 Mar 1871	9 Mar 1879	8 years
	Florence May	Lucy Darke	2 Nov 1873	28 Aug 1938	65 years
	Mary Ann	Mary Ann Berry	31 Jan 1874	5 Feb 1874	5 days
	John (Johnnie) Staples	Elizabeth Staples	3 Mar 1874	28 Feb 1879	5 years
	Jessie Centennial	Lucy Darke	1 Jan 1876	15 Mar 1879	3 years
	David Staples	Elizabeth Staples	28 Mar 1877	7 Mar 1879	2 years
	Mary (Marie) Woodin	Lucy Darke	21 Apr 1878	17 Jun 1950	72 years
	Leo Joseph	Lucy Darke	9 Mar 1880	3 Aug 1967	87 years
	Rhoda	Lucy Darke	30 Dec 1881	30 Dec 1881	1 day
	Abraham (Abe W.)	Lucy Darke	19 Dec 1883	30 May 1954	70 years

²¹ William's 5th wife, Martha Sarah Salt (who was 50 years old when they married), bore him no children.