

The Life of John D. T. McAllister received from Dave Monke

John D. T. McAllister was born in Lewis, Sussex Co. Delaware on the 19th of Feb 1827, being the 3rd son of William J.F. McAllister and Eliza Thompson. W.J.F. McAllister was born 15 July 1799 in Laurel, Sussex Co. Delaware, he was the son of Richard. J.D.T.'s grandfather on his mother's side was James Thompson who was born 20 Aug 1777 in Lewis, Sussex, Del. James's father William Thompson was born in the county of Antrim, Ireland.

The McAllister's (we hope) were descended from Alaster McAllister who was the son of Alaster McDonald who was the son of Angus the Great Lord of Hebridees Iles on the West Coast of Scotland. Angus the Great descended from Somerlid, Baron of Argyle and First Lord of the Isles. Somerlid was the son of Magnus the 3rd, Rorfold, King of Norway. McAllister McDonald was descended maternally from Isabella, a sister of Robert the Bruce.

When J.D.T. McAllister was 1 year old his parents took him to the City of Philadelphia. At the age of 8 years he was put to work folding papers in a printing office at \$1.50 per week. At the age of 11 years he was put to work on a farm in the state of Delaware for his room and board. After 3 years he received 75c per week and his board. He remained 1 year and then came to Phil and at the age of 16 he started to school and continued until he was 18 years old. He then went to work at carpentering and later shoemaking and from that to

blacksmithing. On the 12 of Oct 1844 he was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. At the age of 19 he was ordained a priest and on 5 July 1847, at the age of 20 he married Ellen Handley, a Latter-day Saint, who was born 4 Nov 1829 at Halifax, Nova Scotia. Their children were Moroni Handley, John Daniel Handley, Ellen Handley, Daniel Handley, and Mary Jane Handley. He also married Angeline Sophronia Goforth, she was born 10 July 1840 at Belville, St Clair, Illinois. Their children were Angeline Goforth, James

Goforth, William Wallace Goforth, Eliza Thompson Goforth, Josephene Goforth, and Effie Dean Goforth. He married Cornelia Agatha Lenzi who was born 13 April 1844 on the corner of 2nd and New Street, Philadelphia, Penn. Their children; Jane Lenzi, Martin Lenzi, George Lenzi, Annie Lenzi, Grace Temple Lenzi and Wilford Lenzi. He married Elizabeth Bell 2 Aug 1869, she was born 4 April 1827, Barnard Castle, Durham, England. He also married Ann. He married Alvina Mackley who was born 5 Mar 1840. Their children were Laure Mackley, Deward T. Mackley and Edna Mackley. He married Matilda Christina Neilson. Their children were Lucy Templeine Neilson, Julia May Neilson and Amy Neilson. He also married Ann Eliza Wells born 20 Aug 1859 their children, Minerva Wells, Zina Wells, Brigham Wells, John Wells, Stephney Wells, and Elga Wells. When his first child was only 2 months old, he and his wife started West and succeeded in getting as far as St Louis, Mo. There he went to work at blacksmithing which he followed until his health failed, at which time he commenced selling medicines, soaps etc. After remaining 9 months in St Louis they took the steam boat for Kaneshville, Council Bluffs, Iowa where he was sick for 3 months. After his recovery he went to work at carpentering and later clerked in J.E. Johnson's store where he worked for 18 months. During his 1st year in Kaneshville he was ordained an elder in the church. After 2 years in Kaneshville they began to prepare to go to Salt Lake City with Orson Pratt's company, James W. Cummings, Captain. Alfred Gordon was chosen captain of the 2nd 50, and J.D.T. McAllister was selected as secretary. The emigrants assembled at a hollow near Little Pigeon about 8 miles from Kaneshville. On the 20th of June, 1851 the company started Westward and after many interesting experiences arrived in Salt Lake Valley, 1 Oct 1851. He then traded his cattle for a city lot and sold his wagon and all belonging to it for \$32.00 in produce and went to work on the public works. In Nov 1851 he was ordained a Seventy and he joined the 8th Quorum of elders. In March 1853, he and his wife received the

endowment and were sealed for time and eternity. During this same month he joined Capt. Domineco Ballow's Band. He also joined the Deseret Dramatic Assn. and played many parts until April Conference when he was called on a mission to Europe to preach the gospel. He lost no time in getting ready and on the 21st of June started on his mission leaving his 2nd wife living in a wagon box. Previous to starting he was commissioned to take a sculptured stone from Utah to be placed in the Washington Monument at Washington D.C. He was set apart for his mission by Brother Lorenzo Snow and promised, among other things, that he should have power to overcome every obstacle and difficulty. While on the ocean the ship sprung a leak in a great storm and began to fill with water. The ship was loaded in the hold with wheat and the wheat got into the pipes and swelled and choked them up. They tried to pump the water out but could not do it. Everybody was frightened and it looked like they would go to the bottom. The carpenters were diving into the water to find the leak but were unsuccessful. It was at this time that a Presbyterian Minister was pacing the deck and wringing his hands and seemed very much frightened. He said, "Mr. McAllister what comfort does Mormonism give you in time like this?". Elder McAllister answered "Everything in the world". He then left the minister and joined the sailors. They got a heavy iron and heated it hot and ran it up and down the pipes and this swelled the pipes and allowed the wheat to move so that the pumps could work. They took hold of the pumps and Elder McAllister started to sing Away Down South in Dixie and the sailors joined in the chorus. The leak was found and mended and the ship was saved and the promise of the Lord was fulfilled. It was during this mission while in Phil that he converted his mother, sisters and brother Richard to the Gospel. In 1860 he again went on a mission to the states after which he continued on to the British Isles and did missionary work in Scotland and Wales. He presided over the Birmingham and Belfast conferences and returned in charge of a large company of emigrants. For a number of years, he was clerk and worked in the

endowment house in Salt Lake City. He had charge of President Young's Woolen Mills when called to St George and followed President Wilford Woodruff as Pres of the St George Temple. He had the distinction of presiding over the only active temple in the world for a great many years. On April 5, 1877, he was made Pres of the St. George Stake. He was active in life's affairs. He baptized President Woodruff for George Washington and the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was called to Manti in 1893 and made Pres of the Manti Temple in fulfillment of a dream he had. He was

counselor to Bishop Elijah Sheets in the 8th ward in Salt Lake City. He raised a company of life guards in 1857. He served as Major of Cavalry of the Great Lake Military District during the Echo Canyon war. In Jan 1863 he was made Territorial Marshall which office he held for several years. From 1869 to 1876 he was Salt Lake City Marshall. He was Marshall of the Chief of the Salt Lake Fire Department for 13 years. In 1869 and 1870 he was sergeant at arms in the Territorial Legislature. He was Marshall on the day 10 Jan 1870 at the driving of the last spike of the Utah Central Railway when it reached Salt Lake City. The 3 Sept 1872 as chief of the Salt Lake Fire Dept assisted in dedicating and breaking ground for the water works in Salt Lake City. He also served as Brigadier or General of the Utah Militia. He assisted in building many of the early bldg. in Salt Lake and was connected with the old 8th ward coop and ZCMI. He was one of the leading soloists and often sang on the stage at the request of Brigham Young.

In the fall of 1909 he came to St George to visit his old home and relatives arriving on 5 Sept. He went to the Temple, spoke in the public meeting and enjoyed himself with his friends. On Nov 21 he contracted a cold and went to bed. He gradually grew weaker and on Friday evening Jan 21, 1910 at 8:05 surrounded by his family he peacefully passed away. He was 82 years, 11 months and 1 days old.