

George Watson

George Watson was born in East Cottingwith, Yorkshire, England.¹ He was christened 21 March 1813 in Aughton, Yorkshire, England.² He was the fifth of eight children of John Watson and Frances Harrison.³ On the 1851 census, George was a single clockmaker, living in East Cottingwith, Yorkshire, England, in the home of Charles and Sarah Winter.⁴ George joined the Mormon Church that year in England. He immigrated to America and was living with his younger sister and her family on the 1860 census, in Platte, Nebraska.⁵

George married Isabella Watson in 1869 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory (he was her third husband). They were living in Richmond, Cache, Utah Territory, on the 1870 census.⁶

Isabella helped care for her four grandsons and she and George followed them to the Dixie Mission and helped in building the St George Temple.⁷ On the 1880 census, George was listed as a wood hauler, living with his wife and her grandson. She was the oldest women in the town; George was the third oldest man.⁸

A granddaughter remembered the Watson house: "Among my memories of Silver Reef was our house, a lumber room about fifty feet long. Frank Fish and family lived in the back half. One time, a man who was boarding with us walked over to the looking glass then stepped backward, forgetting the trap-door which was open, and fell into the cellar. This man was Henry Lyman, son of Amassa Lyman."⁹

Isabella and George lived in Virgin City and were kept busy in the St. George Temple doing ordinance work for their ancestors. George died 3 September 1881 in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.¹⁰ Isabella moved to Kanab, Kane, Utah, and died there during the winter of 1909-1910. She is buried in the Kanab City Cemetery.¹¹

George was sealed to Lilly Trumbull or Turnbull in 1870 in the Salt Lake City Temple. She died that same year. He was also sealed to Margaret Taylor in 1881 in St George Temple; she died that same year.¹² It may be that they were not married but only sealed upon the death of the women. George did not have any children since he first married at age 56.

¹ England and Wales Census, 1851.

² England Births and Christenings, 1538-1868.

³ *Familysearch.org*

⁴ England and Wales Census, 1851.

⁵ United States Census, 1860. His sister traveled with the Oscar O Stoddard Company and arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley on 24 September 1860.

⁶ United States Census, 1870.

⁷ *Familysearch.org*

⁸ United States Census, 1880.

⁹ Silver, Sinners and Saints, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 145.

¹⁰ *Familysearch.org*

¹¹ Kanab City Cemetery records.

¹² *Familysearch.org*