

John Daniel Thompson McAllister  
By  
Alex Clark - 4 th Grade

My essay is about John Daniel Thompson McAllister. He is my great, great, great, great grandpa on my grandma's side of the family J D T McAllister was born on Feb.19, 1827 in Lewis, Delaware. When John was a year old his family moved to Philadelphia. John was just 8 years old when he went to work for a living. He was put to work in a printing office folding papers. His wage was a dollar and thirty cents a week. When he turned 10 years old his wages were increased to two and a half dollars a week.

At the age of 11 John was placed on a farm in Delaware. He worked for his clothes, board, and room. After he had worked there for one year, he received 75 cents a week in addition to his clothing, room, and board. At the age of 16 John returned to Philadelphia, where he worked as a carpenter, shoemaker, and blacksmith.

John was baptized into the church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints on Oct.12, 1844, by Elder Sutz. John was the only member of his family to join the church at that time; in fact his father was very bitter toward the church.

On sept.27, 1846, at the age of 19 John was ordained a priest and commissioned to preach the gospel. John got married to his first wife on July 5, 1847, at the age of 20. His wife, Ellen Handly, was also a member of the church. On July 2,1849 John and his family traveled to Kanesville, Iowa. There John was ordained an elder.

In the spring of 1858 John built a house for his family to live in until they could cross the plains. John and his family began their trek west on June 20,1851 .They were part of Orson Pratt's Company. John was appointed Clerk of Alfred Cardpn's Company of 50 wagons. John kept a diary of events along the way to Salt Lake Valley. John recorded that there were 278 souls, 60 wagons, 289 oxen,105 cows, 7 loose cattle, and 20 horses. They traveled a total of 1,239 miles from Kanesville to Salt Lake City.

The McAllister's arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on October 1, 1851. Their trek across the plains had taken three and a half months. John got a job as a carpenter for the public works department.

In 1852, John received a call to serve a mission for the church in Liverpool, England. John also served in Great Britain and Iowa City. In

Iowa, John dispersed equipment to handcart emigrants and wrote "The Handcart Song".

John returned home from his mission on October 4, 1856. He went to work as a carpenter, and also at a mill. During this time, he was president of the 16 Quorum of Seventy. He was elected mayor of the Second Battalion of the Nauvoo Legion in the Salt Lake Military District. He also took part in the Deseret Dramatic Association and had parts in some of Utah's early plays. John was called on another mission from 1860-1862.

From 1864-1867 John served as city Marshal. Then called as first Chief at the city Fire Department, and served for 12 years.

John was called to accompany President Brigham Young on a mission to St. George in 1877. President Young ordained John as a high priest and president of the St. George Stake of Zion. He was appointed as an assistant to the Temple President.

In August 1877, John was baptized by President Woodruff for George Washington and for all of the other presidents of the United States down to Andrew Jackson except Martin Van Buren. Then John baptized President Woodruff for the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

For about 8 years John served as assistant to President Woodruff. Then in 1884 he was called to President of the St. George Temple. John served as president for 9 years. In 1893 he was called to serve as president in the Manti Temple. He held that position until 1906. In 1909 he returned to St. George.

John had 9 wives and 31 children. He passed away on January 21, 1910 at 82 years old. The Deseret News said of him: "He was a tall, straight, and well proportioned. He built mills and dwellings, engaged in woolen and cotton manufacturing, took part in dramatics and music, preached the gospel both among whites and Indians, was ideal in manner and bearing as a military officer and in all ways was a natural leader of men."

The following are reasons why I feel that I can relate to my ancestor. I like to sing, dance and act. I think that I am a good leader. I like to play along to music. I also like to build things.