

# PART 4: TO AMERICA

## CHAPTER 1: WIGTONSHIRE TO NEW YORK

*“The road from Liverpool to New York, as they who have traveled it well know, is very long, crooked, rough, and eminently disagreeable.”*

*- Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1833*

### Reids and Mormonism

The Reid family was part of the Church of Scotland. In America, that would be called Presbyterian. Sometime between 1845 and 1851, Richard Reid and his family joined the LDS (Mormon) church. Richard had a relative, George Reid. George's family was Mormon as early as 1848. Richard probably joined about the same time as George. In 1851, Richard and his daughter, Agnes, were baptized Mormon. Agnes was 28. Margaret, Richard's wife, was baptized in 1852.

James' grandparents, Richard and Mary, emigrated from Scotland to America in 1863. At the time, James was 10; his grandfather was 62 and his grandmother was 58. They traveled with a large group of LDS (Mormon) emigrants. The immigration of James Reid was beautifully written down in the Enid biography and will be quoted in this part with comments.

### From Wigtonshire to Liverpool

*“At the age of 10 years, on May 1, 1863, in the care of his grandparents, who had been converted to the L.D.S. Church by the missionary's, sailed from Wigtonshire to Liverpool, England where they planned to sail to the United States and come to Utah where the Mormon settlement was.”<sup>1</sup>*

At that time there were sailboats that traversed between Wigtonshire from the towns of Wigton and the Isle of Whithorn to Liverpool. Passenger fares were about 5-10 shillings for the one-waytrip.

### Financing the trip

The task of transporting thousands of church members to America required financial resources beyond what many emigrants or the British Mission could provide. There were three classes of emigrants: those who could finance for themselves, those that needed partial assistance, and those who had to depend entirely on outside support. The emigration converts were expected to travel to Liverpool with their own finances, to buy provisions for the trip to America and then once landed, were expected to finance the trip to the Midwest<sup>2</sup>. Liverpool was the main port of embarkation for the Mormon emigrants.

### Boarding the Sailing Vessel

*“Upon arrival at Liverpool, they boarded the ship Antarctic, a sailing vessel. They took a cabin passage, which in those days cost more money but was more comfortable. They set sail on approximately May 23, 1863 with 750 other Latter-Day-Saints for America.”<sup>3</sup>*

According to the 1977 Church Almanac there were 483 to 486 passengers.

Although some steamships had started to make the journey, the Reids were on a sailing ship called Antarctic. This vessel is not found in any emigration logs. It is found only in the maritime information for LDS members.<sup>4</sup>



Liverpool 1847<sup>5</sup>



What the "Antarctic" Sailing ship looked like

Antarctic was 1116 tons, Master G. Stouffer, Liverpool to NY. This one is in 1859. and took 42 days:

The Antarctic's Mormon company came from thirteen different countries: England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, America, France, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.<sup>6</sup>

# GUION LINE

ROYAL & UNITED STATES MAIL.  STEAMERS TO NEW YORK.



ALASKA .....	Dec. 200	NEVADA .....	Jan. 300	WYOMING .....	Feb. 375
ARIZONA .....	Dec. 200	WISCONSIN .....	Jan. 300	PENNSYLVANIA .....	Feb. 375

**General Sailing from LIVERPOOL to NEW YORK**

ALASKA .....	Dec. 215	WYOMING .....	Jan. 300	WYOMING .....	Feb. 375
WYOMING .....	Dec. 115	ARIZONA .....	Jan. 300	ARIZONA .....	Feb. 375
ARIZONA .....	Dec. 115	NEVADA .....	Jan. 300	NEVADA .....	Feb. 375
NEVADA .....	Dec. 300	WISCONSIN .....	Jan. 300	WISCONSIN .....	Feb. 375
WISCONSIN .....	Jan. 100	ALASKA .....	Feb. 100	ALASKA .....	Mar. 100
ALASKA .....	Jan. 100				

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The Steamers of this Line have always sailed the fastest route to New York, as a proof of this they have not lost a single passenger by accident for 30 years, they are all built in water tight compartments, and are furnished with every requisite to make the passage across the Atlantic both safe and agreeable, having Deck room, Smoking-room, (on deck), Day-cabin, Mess and Library; also experienced Surgeons, Stewards, and Cabin on each Steamer. The State-rooms are all on the upper deck, 1200 having those granted of all features of sea, perfect ventilation and light.

**SALOON PASSAGE** from Liverpool, via Queenstown, to Providence 20 Pounds each berth, according to the size, situation, and accommodation of the State-rooms occupied; all having the same privileges as the Saloon. Children under 12 years, Half-Fare; Infants Free.

A Deposit of half the full fare is required to secure a Cabin berth, the balance to be paid the day before sailing.

**RETURN TICKETS ISSUED AT REDUCED RATES.**

These rates include a General Ticket and Steerage Pass, but without Wine or Liquors, which can be obtained on board.

Passengers booked through to Low Rates, to all parts of the UNITED STATES, CANADA, MEXICO, and the West Provinces in AUSTRALIA, CHINA, JAPAN, and INDIA.

**LUGGAGE** of what is called free for each Adult is allowed, but will go on board with the Passengers in the Trunk and under the Landing Stairs for the Steamer on the day of sailing.

**NEW ZEALAND** passengers booked by the New Zealand Shipping Company's fast Royal Mail Steamers from London. For particulars, terms, &c., apply to the Agents, as appended to GUION & CO., or any of their Agents.

**FASTEST PASSAGES.**

S.S. ALASKA	-	6 days 18 hours 37 minutes.
S.S. ARIZONA	-	7 " 3 " 58 "

For Passages, Plans of Ships and further information, apply to

## GUION & CO.,

A. E. GROVES, Drury Buildings, 21, Water Street, LIVERPOOL,  
A. E. Groves, 5 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, LONDON, S.W.  
PARIS. And A. M. UNDERHILL & CO., 29 Broadway, NEW YORK.

No shipping company was more important to Mormon emigration than the Guion Line. Twelve steamships flying the Guion flag transported more than 40,000 converts across the Atlantic. *Courtesy Church Archives, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.*  
*A poster about steamship travel for Mormon Converts circa 1850's*

### Life On Board the Ship

The Mormons used their own ships and there were primarily four types: Brigantine, Brig, Schooner and Bark.<sup>7</sup> The crew were usually not Mormon members. Onboard, there was the threat of diseases that caused death (measles, chickenpox, smallpox, dysentery). the food consisted of soup, fish, biscuits, and potatoes. Water was stored in wooden barrels. Burial at sea was commonplace. People were often

apprehensive about sailing on the ocean and were frightened of the weather and shipwrecks. From Liverpool to New York the voyage took from 29-44 days.

### Different Classes

There was Cabin (Poop Deck) and Steerage. The wealthier people traveled in cabin, which were located above deck where they could receive more air and light, were relatively spacious and private. They received better food than the steerage passengers.

In contrast, the steerage section, was located below deck and was dark and stuffy with little room. Each person's only private space was a bunk bed.<sup>8</sup>

*"They took a cabin passage, which in those days cost more money but was more comfortable."<sup>9</sup>*

The Reids were on the "poop" deck.<sup>10</sup>



Poop Deck



Steerage

### Leaders on Board

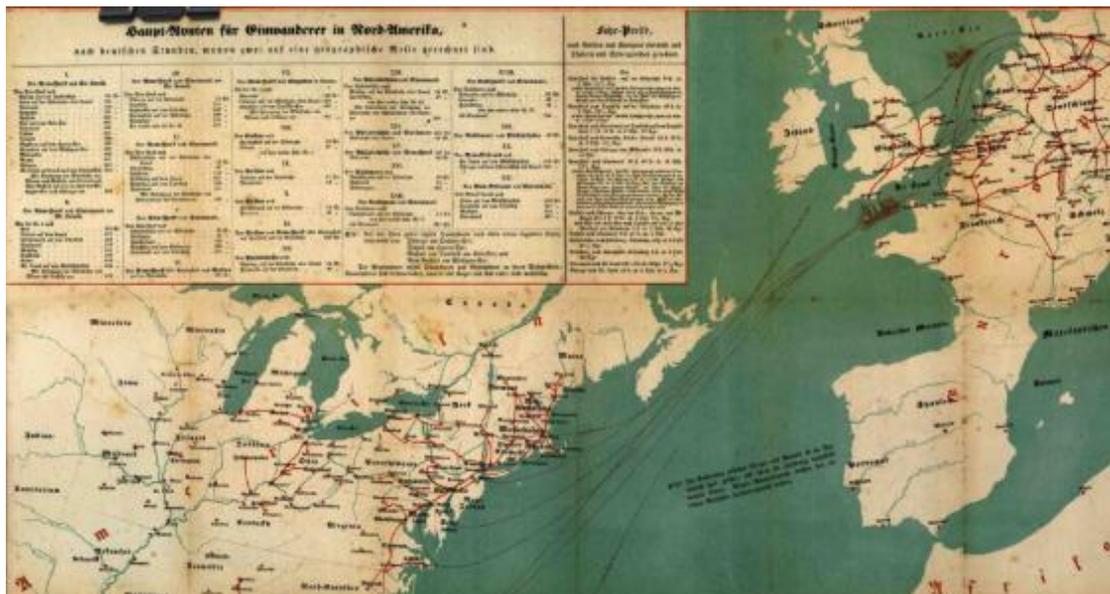
*"Their company leader was John Needham, who ably handled the large vessel. They depended upon the wind to drive them over the great deep. They had two presiding Elders to take charge of the Saints while sailing. One they called "Delama", who was in charge of the French and British and the other they called "Needam," who took care of the Swiss, German and those that spoke that language."<sup>11</sup>*

John Needham was aboard the ship, age 43. He was an American that made these trips to and from New York.

Name:	John Needham
Gender:	Male
Ethnicity/ Nationality:	American
Age:	43
Birth Date:	abt 1820
Place of Origin:	United States of America
Departure Port:	Liverpool, England
Destination:	USA
Arrival Date:	10 Jul 1863
Arrival Port:	New York, New York, USA
Ship Name:	Antarctic

Delama was a name found on a lot of immigration sheets, however, this ship did not list a Delama as a passenger or a crew member.

### The Map from Liverpool to New York



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### Sickness

*“They had an enjoyable trip until sickness overtook them. Many young people died with Measles and other diseases. Grandpa Reid had the Measles and was very ill. As the Doctor would come to inspect him every morning, grandmother would wipe his face off with a cold cloth so the Measles would not show because if the Doctor had known he had Measles he would put him down in the sick room with the others who were rapidly dying, and his grandmother wanted to take care of him and get him well. As she did this, the Doctor thought he had just a bad cold and let him stay in the cabin with his grandmother and grandfather.”<sup>13</sup>*

*“Lots of sickness and death occurred on the ship. Most of the sickness was due to measles, many died and were left in watery graves.”<sup>14</sup>*

*“Their drinking water had become so low also that it was so rotten no one could drink it.”<sup>15</sup>*

A major problem for emigrants travelling to America was disease. Contaminated water was a major health problem as well as the overcrowding which allowed for diseases to spread very quickly.

During its voyage, passenger Thomas Henry White said that “the sailors were kept busy several hours each day, pumping water out of this ship, which leaked badly” and that “the drinking water was bad and we couldn’t drink it without boiling it.”<sup>16</sup>

## A Friend on Board

*“He had a chum his age while on the journey. His name was Douglas Swan, an English boy. They passed many hours away together playing marbles, jacks etc.”<sup>17</sup>*

James said he met Douglas Swan on board. Reviewing the ship’s roster, there is no Douglas Swam listed. There is, however, documentation to show a Douglas Sexan and his sister, Janet Sexan, ages 13 and 12. Upon closer look at the roster, the names have been mislabeled in the document. The actual ship roster states Douglas and Janet Swan not Sexan. Someone transcribed the last name incorrectly.

Name: Douglas Sexan	Name: Janet Sexan
Gender: Male	Gender: Female
Ethnicity/ Nationality: Scottish (Scottish)	Ethnicity/ Nationality: Scottish (Scottish)
Age: 13	Age: 12
Birth Date: abt 1850	Birth Date: abt 1851
Place of Origin: Scotland	Place of Origin: Scotland
Departure Port: Liverpool, England	Departure Port: Liverpool, England
Destination: USA	Destination: USA
Arrival Date: 10 Jul 1863	Arrival Date: 10 Jul 1863
Arrival Port: New York, New York, USA	Arrival Port: New York, New York, USA
Ship Name: Antarctic	Ship Name: Antarctic

*“They had traveled for one month and were only half way to their destination. There was no wind and they couldn't move because they depended upon the wind to sail the vessel. A ship passed them and told them that there was a band of pirates ahead, but they missed the pirates because of the calm which would not let them sail.”<sup>18</sup>*

## The Storm

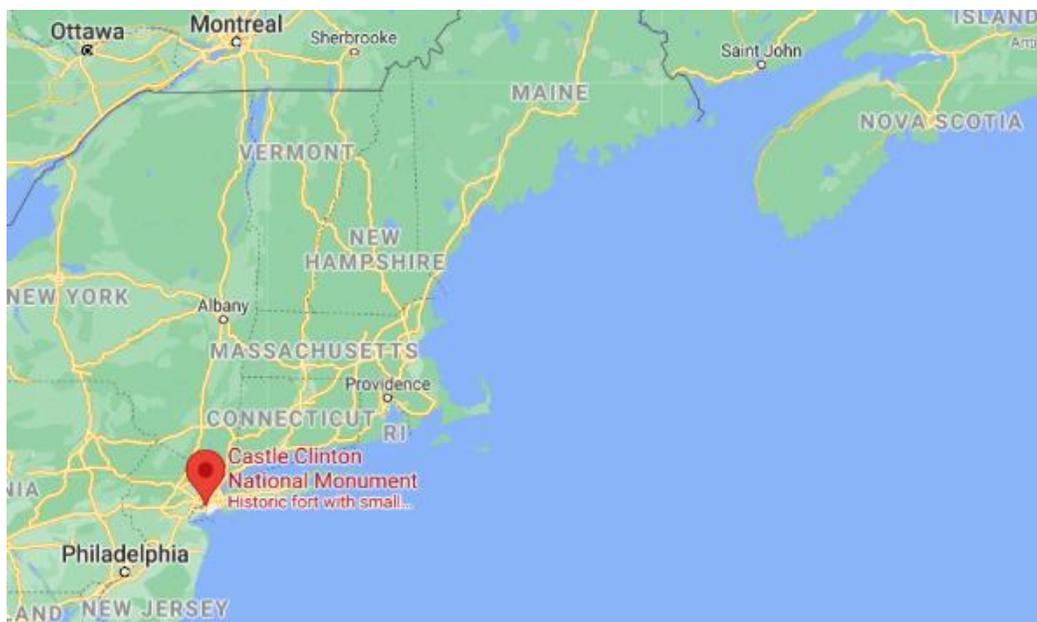
*“After five weeks journey there came a dreadful wind from the Northwest. The waves rolled so high that they looked like mountains. The sailors were up the masts, rolling up the sails to keep the wind from wrecking the ship. Grandpa and his chum, Douglas Swan, were sitting on the deck watching the waves when the sailors saw them. The sailor gave them a kick and told them to get into the hatchways that they would soon close them up. The storm was very severe all night, but none of the Mormons had a fear.”<sup>19</sup>*



## Arriving in New York

*“When they neared the banks of Newfoundland, it became very foggy but as it cleared off a little breeze sprang up and they sailed toward the New York Harbor. They were 7 weeks and 3 days from Liverpool to New York, a distance of about three thousand, five hundred miles, they arrived approximately July 14, 1863. Their ship hove anchor two miles out and they were taken to the Castle Gardens on steamboats.”<sup>20</sup>*

The Reid Family actually landed July 10, 1863. After passing Newfoundland, the ship would have sailed south, pass Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, west pass Rhode Island, then enter New York on the southern tip.



They would enter the harbor that lies between New Jersey and New York, dock and

then disembark and enter Castle Garden. In the picture below, Castle Garden is the round structure at the center bottom.



Castle Garden was opened as an immigrant landing depot in 1855. New arrivals were processed there.<sup>21</sup>



Castle Garden outside



Castle Garden inside

## Arrival Records

New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957

Date: 1863 Jul 10 Antarctic

District of New York—Port of New York.

I, *George H. Stouffer* Master of the *Ship Antarctic* do solemnly, sincerely and truly swear that the following List or Manifest, subscribed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs of the Collection District of New York, is a full and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board of the said *Ship Antarctic* at *Liverpool* from which port said *Ship* has now arrived; and that on said list is truly designated the age, the sex, and the occupation of each of said passengers, the part of the vessel occupied by each during the passage, the country to which each belongs, and also the country of which it is intended by each to become an inhabitant; and that said List or Manifest truly sets forth the number of said passengers who have died on said voyage, and the names and ages of those who died.

Sworn to, this *10 July* 18*63*

*George H. Stouffer*  
Master of the *Ship Antarctic*

List or Manifest of ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the *Ship Antarctic* *Geo. H. Stouffer*

<i>Agnes Susan</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Scottish</i>		
<i>Douglas</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Scottish</i>		
<i>James</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Scottish</i>		
<i>Margaret</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Scottish</i>		
<i>William</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Scottish</i>		
<i>George</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Scottish</i>		
<i>Albion</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Scottish</i>		

Richard Reid 49, Margaret Reid 48, James Reid 9

New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1957

Name:	Richard Reid	Name:	Margaret Reid
Gender:	Male	Gender:	Female
Ethnicity/ Nationality:	Scottish (Scottish)	Ethnicity/ Nationality:	Scottish (Scottish)
Age:	49	Age:	48
Birth Date:	abt 1814	Birth Date:	abt 1815
Place of Origin:	Scotland	Place of Origin:	Scotland
Departure Port:	Liverpool, England	Departure Port:	Liverpool, England
Destination:	USA	Destination:	USA
Arrival Date:	10 Jul 1863	Arrival Date:	10 Jul 1863
Arrival Port:	New York, New York, USA	Arrival Port:	New York, New York, USA
Ship Name:	Antarctic	Ship Name:	Antarctic

Name:	James Reid	
Gender:	Male	
Ethnicity/ Nationality:	Scottish (Scottish)	
Age:	9	
Birth Date:	abt 1854	
Place of Origin:	Scotland	
Departure Port:	Liverpool, England	
Destination:	USA	
Arrival Date:	10 Jul 1863	
Arrival Port:	New York, New York, USA	
Ship Name:	Antarctic	22

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<sup>1</sup> From the Enid Biography

<sup>2</sup> [saints-on-the-seas-a-maritime-history-of-mormon-migration-1830-1890](#)

<sup>3</sup> From the Enid Biography

<sup>4</sup> [https://user.xmission.com/~nelsonb/sailing\\_v.htm#1863](https://user.xmission.com/~nelsonb/sailing_v.htm#1863)

<sup>5</sup> [saints-on-the-seas-a-maritime-history-of-mormon-migration-1830-1890](#)

<sup>6</sup> Thomas Henry White, autobiography, excerpt on Mormon Immigration Index, ship Antarctica 1863 accounts.

<sup>7</sup> Peabody Museum of Salem. MA

<sup>8</sup> <https://teara.govt.nz/en/artwork/29714/immigrant-ship-class-divisions#:~:text=Cabin%20passengers%20had%20sole%20use,and%20stuff%20with%20little%20room.>

<sup>9</sup> From the Enid Biography

<sup>10</sup> The Illustrated London News

<sup>11</sup> From the Enid Biography

<sup>12</sup> <https://renaissanceanddotcom.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/emigrants-guide-map-page.jpg>

<sup>13</sup> From the Enid Biography

<sup>14</sup> From James Reid's Autobiography

<sup>15</sup> From the Enid Biography

<sup>16</sup> Thomas Henry White, autobiography, excerpt on Mormon Immigration Index, ship Antarctica 1863 accounts.

<sup>17</sup> From the Enid Biography

<sup>18</sup> From the Enid Biography

<sup>19</sup> From the Enid Biography

<sup>20</sup> From the Enid Biography

<sup>21</sup> Peabody Museum of Salem. MA

<sup>22</sup> New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1957