

James C Liddle

James C Liddle was born 6 October 1836 in Colborne, Norfolk, Canada.¹ He was the third of seven sons and one daughter of William Francis Liddle and Mary Ann Cooley.² The family immigrated to America by 1850 and lived in New York. James moved to Wisconsin in 1851.³ He was a boatman, living in Rushford, Winnebago, Wisconsin, in 1863.⁴ That year he married Angeline "Angie" Matilda Clark in Wisconsin.⁵ They had no children.

By 1879, James was a merchantman in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. His business was threatened by the great fire, and he served on the fire committee.⁶ On the 1880 census, James and Angie and his brother Donald are living in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. James was a grocer and Donald was a lawyer.⁷ James was one of the leading merchants in Silver Reef, operating a grocery store with his brother Donald under the name Liddle Brothers & Company. He was the father of the public school and brooked the opposition of those citizens who taught the parochial school should be given a clear field.⁸

Angie died late in 1880 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory, and buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery.⁹ James and Donald sold two-thirds interest in their business to Woolley, Lund and Judd, who were doing the principal business at the mines.¹⁰ In February 1881, the miners at Silver Reef were told their pay would be reduced from \$4.00 to \$3.50 per day. This action resulted in the formation of a miners' union, which immediately took action by calling a strike and running the Stormont manager, Colonel W J Allen, out of town. The mines were shut down and twenty-two union leaders arrested.¹¹

James accompanied Colonel Allen on his train trip to Salt Lake City.¹² Rumors were that he, too, had been run out of town, but James told the newspaper correspondent that he had received no such threat, and was in the area for business. However, it "seems that a resolution was passed by the Miner's Union that no members should trade with Mr. Liddle."¹³ Both James and Colonel Allen returned to Silver Reef a few days later.¹⁴

Seven months later, Liddle Brothers & Company was dissolved by the mutual consent of James and Donald, and their interests sold to Woolley, Lund & Judd. The business was continued by Lund and R T Gillespie under the name of Gillespie, Lund & Company.¹⁵ It may have been the boycott of his business by the miners that induced him to sell. About 1884, James married Carrie Dey Elte

¹ United States Census, 1880.

² Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949.

³ Obituary of John Ransler Liddle, Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, 12 June 1923.

⁴ US Civil War Draft Registration.

⁵ Wisconsin County Marriages, 1836-1911.

⁶ Silver, Saints and Sinners, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, pp. 125-7.

⁷ United States Census, 1880.

⁸ Memories of Silver Reef, by Mark A. Pendleton, in Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol 3, No 4, October 1930, p. 113.

⁹ Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946.

¹⁰ History of Utah, by Orson Ferguson Whitney and G Q Cannon, 1904, Vol 4, p. 554.

¹¹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 5 February 1881, p. 3; 1 March 1881, p. 3; 20 March 1881, p. 3.

¹² *Salt Lake Herald*, 6 March 1881, p. 3.

¹³ *Salt Lake Herald*, 10 March 1881, p. 3.

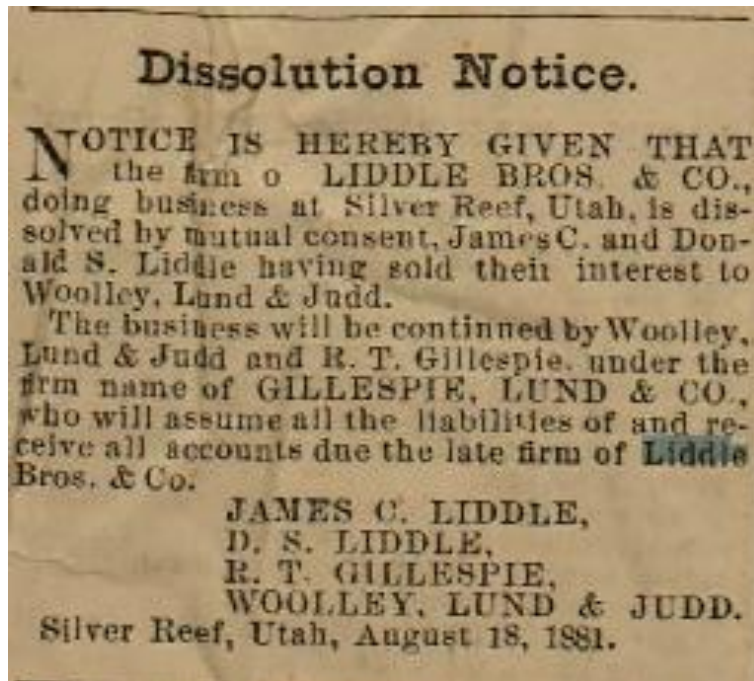
¹⁴ *Salt Lake Herald*, 8 March 1881, p. 3.

¹⁵ *Silver Reef Miner*, 8 October 1881, p. 4.

Walker¹⁶, the first school teacher in Silver Reef. James was 48 and Carrie was 25. They had no children.

By 1886, James and Carrie were living in Fillmore, Millard, Utah Territory. James incorporated the Liddle Agricultural & Cattle Company with his brother Donald, both company directors.¹⁷ In 1889, they were living in Mt Pleasant, Sanpete, Utah Territory, where Carrie served as a “missionary teacher to the Mormons”¹⁸ at a Presbyterian school. By 1895, they had moved to Salina, Sevier, Utah Territory, where James was the proprietor of the Jim Liddle Hotel.¹⁹ He was elected president of Salina Republicans Club²⁰ and nominated for state legislator.²¹

James had been quick sick for several days and was so much worse morning that it was deemed advisable to remove him to Salt Lake City where he could be under the care of a good physician.²² He died six days later, on 8 January 1896 in Salt Lake City, at age 60.²³ He was buried in the Mount Olivet Cemetery in Salt Lake.²⁴ James was “an intense American, having a keen sense of the duties of a citizen to the community. Misfortune seemed to pursue him, but he was a “Genial Jim” to the last.”²⁵ Carrie remarried twice and lived a full life, dying in 1946 in California.²⁶



(Image from the *Silver Reef Miner*, 8 October 1881, p. 4)

¹³ United States Census, 1900, 1930.

¹⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 21 February 1886, p. 1.

¹⁸ Presbyterian Church in the US, 1890, p. 48; Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, 1889, p. 153; Reports of the Missionary and Benevolent Boards and Committees to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the US, 1891, p. 146; Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. General Assembly, 1890, Issue 20, p. 140.

¹⁹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 2 January 1896, p. 6.

²⁰ *Salt Lake Herald*, 25 August 1895, p. 7.

²¹ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 23 September 1895, p. 8.

²² *Salt Lake Herald*, 2 January 1896, p. 6.

²³ Utah, Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949; Utah, Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946; obituary.

²⁴ Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946.

²⁵ Memories of Silver Reef, by Mark A. Pendleton, in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol 3, No 4, October 1930, p. 113.

²⁶ California Death Index, 1940-1997.



(Image from *Findagrave.com*)