

William Nesbit

William Nesbit was born 22 February 1850 in Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland, England.¹ He was the sixth of eleven children of Robert Nesbit and Sarah Ann "Sadie" McCall. His father was a coal miner in England and Scotland. The family was living in Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, Scotland, in 1851. They immigrated to America about 1852, where five of the children were christened in the North Parish Episcopal Church in Ashland, Schuylkill, Pennsylvania.² The family lived in Wilkes Barre, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, in 1860 and 1870.³

William married Catherine Estelle Williams in 1871 in Wilkes Barre, Luzerne, Pennsylvania. They had six children (two were adopted).⁴ Catherine and the children remained in Wilkes Barre but William went west, ending up in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. William, J G Fortman and B N Pappock were the first to discover the great fire Silver Reef in May 1879.⁵ On the 1880 census, William was an engineer, living with his brother in Silver Reef.⁶

William was an incorporator and stockholder of the Ventura Mining and Reduction company at Silver Reef in 1887.⁷ He moved to Eureka, Juab, Utah Territory, by 1889.⁸ He was the superintendent of the Bullion-Beck Tunnel company in 1898.⁹ He lived in Mammoth and Eureka and was elected as the Republican representative for Mammoth at the state convention.¹⁰ On the 1900 census, he was a master mechanic at a quartz mine, living with his wife and three children in Diamond, Mammoth Precincts, Juab, Utah.¹¹

Catherine died in 1903 in Bingham Junction, Salt Lake, Utah, and was buried in the Mount Olivet Cemetery.¹² William moved to Salt Lake City by 1910 and worked as an ore mill engineer.¹³ He was working as a mine machinist, living with his daughter and adopted son in Eureka, Juab, Utah, in 1920.¹⁴ He retired in 1922 and died of pneumonia on 30 September 1924 in Salt Lake City. He was buried in the Eureka Cemetery.¹⁵

¹ England and Wales Birth Registration Index, 1837-2008.

² Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985.

³ United States Census, 1860, 1870.

⁴ *Familysearch.org*

⁵ *Silver, Sinners and Saints*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 123.

⁶ United States Census, 1880; *Salt Lake Herald*, 16 October 1880, p. 2.

⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 22 April 1887, p. 8.

⁸ *Salt Lake Herald*, 13 October 1889, p. 4.

⁹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 21 December 1898, p. 6.

¹⁰ *Salt Lake Herald*, 5 September 1898, p. 3; 18 June 1899, p. 6; 22 February 1900, p. 8.

¹¹ United States Census, 1900.

¹² Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946; Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949.

¹³ United States Census, 1910.

¹⁴ United States Census, 1920.

¹⁵ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1949; Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949.



Back row: John, Robert, Septimus, James; front row: George, Joseph, Thomas Nesbit
(image from *Ancestry.com*)



William Nesbit with Sarah, Robert, Georgina and wife Catherine (image from *Ancestry.com*)