

Our Family Links

The Groberg/Holbrook Family History Association Newsletter

Issue Five, November 2003

A Heritage of Public Service

Our Groberg/Holbrook family tree is replete with examples of men and women who have done their part to promote the public good. Estella Marchant (granddaughter of George W. Brimhall and a family genealogist worthy of considerable note and thanks) once stated that "we come from a long line of fighters, fighters for religious freedom, fighters for integrity, fighters for education." The preface to a Brimhall history book compiled by descendants of Noah Brimhall (George W.'s brother) similarly states that "four fundamental ideals have inspired the family since time began with us: 1) Leave a worthy posterity 2) Honor and defend the Flag 3) Build community 4) Sustain the Church." The accompanying article highlighting achievements of Chandler and Eunice Holbrook shows that the Holbrooks share in the heritage. Grandpa Delbert Groberg and his son Joseph, through their community service in Idaho Falls, are proof that this heritage is alive today.

(For fun, a few Groberg/Holbrook ancestral over-achievers who exemplified these values in the extreme are noted on page 2--but be sure to read the footnote.)



Joseph Groberg (2nd from right) with Idaho Falls City Council.

A special Thank You to Kim Lewis for her original work and Mary Jane for updating and printing the new Family Address Book.

REMINDER: If you have not yet made your annual tax-deductible contributions to the Groberg-Holbrook Family History Association, now is about your last chance to do so in 2003. (Send to Groberg/Holbrook Family History Assoc. c/o Joseph Groberg 1605 S. Woodruff, Idaho Falls, ID 83404. We suggest at least \$25 for single adult or young families [note the lower case "y" any who might be inclined to read more into that], \$50 for the "doing fine on an established budget" individuals or families, and anything more generous than that for those of you with more generous means to dispose of. Also, if you need a duplicate or have not yet received a receipt for contributions you have made in the past, please contact Matt Powell at mmpowell9@msn.com.

Chandler and Eunice: City Builders

Chandler Holbrook was born Sept. 16, 1807 near Utica, New York. He was the 2nd of 3 children born to Moses and Hannah Morton Holbrook. Eunice Dunning was born April 6, 1810 in Scroon, N.Y. She was the 8th child of David and Susannah Colvin Dunning. Chandler and Eunice met and were married in Wethersfield, New York in 1831. They heard the gospel and were baptized members of the LDS Church on January 14, 1833. Chandler and his brother were members of Zion's Camp. On January 27, 1846, Chandler and Eunice were sealed in the Nauvoo temple by Brigham Young. Later that year, they and their first 5 children fled from their Nauvoo home and ended up spending a very eventful winter of 1846-47 at a Ponca Indian camp. The handful of other Saints who also spent that winter with the Ponca included families of our ancestors Ira Hinckley, George Mayer, and Lucian Noble. The Holbrooks arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in September of 1848. Two Septembers later they welcomed their 6th child, Lafayette, to their Salt Lake home.

In an early bid for statehood, Brigham Young and others decided that moving the territorial capital to a new county (Millard) and city (Fillmore) named after the US President might improve their chances. In 1851, Brigham sent Chandler to survey and layout Fillmore and other towns in Millard County. Chandler was subsequently elected to the surveyor position, and remained as the county's official surveyor and public notary for many years. Chandler also oversaw the construction of the first schoolhouse in Fillmore (still standing) and served for many years as trustee of the school. When Chandler was too old to farm, he built a large brick house and barn in the city's center which were used as a hotel and stable for

the California mail drivers and stage horses. He also owned and operated a molasses mill and was one of the first directors of the Fillmore branch of the ZCMI. Two Millard County history books note that Chandler was "an industrious man, a born leader and businessman."

The history books also record that Chandler and Eunice were dedicated to their religion. "They were very charitable. They paid the passage for many young men emigrating to Utah from England. Eunice's energy and endurance seemed limitless. She was quick, dynamic, and excelled in preparing and serving delicious meals." The Holbrooks adopted and raised two Native American children. Eunice also served as the area's first Relief Society President, and at the October General Conference of 1868, Chandler was made "President of the Mass Quorum of the Seventies." In 1874, at the age of 67, Chandler served a mission for the church to the Eastern States. Chandler's mission overlapped with the mission of his son, Lafayette, to Great Britain. Looking out for the home interests of her missionaries, Eunice apparently sensed the potential for a great posterity

when Emily Angeline (Jean) Hinckley (daughter of family friends from the Ponca Indian winter) moved to Fillmore to teach school. Aware that the new teacher was very popular and had many suitors, Eunice approached Jean one day and suggested that she "wait until Lafay comes home from his mission before becoming engaged." Although Jean had never met or even seen Lafayette, she obliged the mother. The result, at least in part, is us.

Chandler died in 1889; Eunice followed in 1890. They are buried side by side in the Fillmore cemetery.



Do We and Our Posterity Know Who We Are?

By Mary Jane Fritzen

"I've Got to Find out Who I Am." This poignant song from Seminary is true. It is essential that each member of our family knows who he or she is. God has commanded us to keep a Book of Remembrance. This is essential today and in the future. It blesses us with family unity, love, individual security and faith. It fortifies us against Satan's devious attacks against our families. When we know who we are, we should honor and transmit this heritage of faith. Beginning with family charts. Each of us needs at least two charts at our fingertips-com-



Jacob Ballard is accounted for. Are you and yours?

pleted and easy to find in our home. First our four-generation pedigree chart. Second our present family group chart, kept up to date.

Then the family group charts for our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, etc.

Alma asks, "Are ye stripped of pride?" In our pride, we may try to skip the first steps, and rely on others to provide a later step. But in humility we are responsible to keep our present family group charts, recording events as they occur. For my grandchildren, Lindsey and Jacob Ballard, for example, their pedigree may show parents,

—continued on page 2

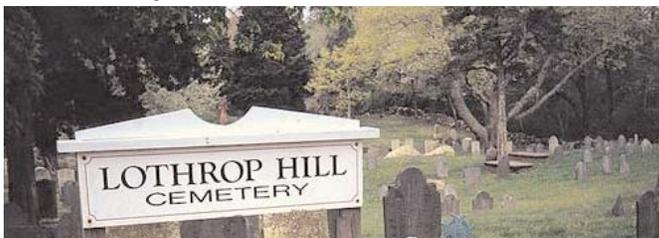
Ancestral Headliners*



The Emperor Charlemagne (742-815), called Magnus in his life-time, now remembered as a man who put order into his immense Empire and who reformed and stimulated the educational and spiritual life of the West.



John Lathropp built and lived in a portion of this home/library in 1644. It is the oldest still existing library in North America. John Lathrop is among the four most prominent colonial ministers. His descendants include US Presidents Grant, FDR, and the two Bushes, US Supreme Court Justice OW Holmes, poets OW Holmes and HW Longfellow, LDS church leaders Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdry, O and PP Pratt, W Woodruff, GA Smith, HB Lee, MG Romney, and GB Hinckley.



A raised flat headstone you can barely see in this picture reads: Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of Thomas Hinckley He died AD 1706 aged 85 years History bears witness to his piety usefulness and agency in the public transactions of his time. The importance offices he was called to fill evidences the esteem in which he was held by the people. He was successively elected Assistant in the government of Plymouth Colony from 1658 to 1681 and Governor except during the interruption by Sir Edmond Andros from 1681 to the junction of Plymouth with Massachusetts in 1692.



Many Groberg/Holbrook ancestors were among the Barons who drafted and "persuaded" King John to sign the Magna Carta in 1215. Although of short-lived consequence under King John, its guarantees of individual freedoms and its acknowledgement that the king was servant rather than master of the people have inspired political revolution and reform ever since.

**Of course in recognizing these notable ancestors, it is important to remember the following admonition from President J. Reuben Clark: "In living our lives let us never forget that the deeds of our fathers and mothers are theirs, not ours; that their works cannot be counted to our glory; that we can claim no excellence and no place, because of what they did, that we must rise by our own labor, and that labor failing, we shall fail. We may claim no honor, no reward, nor respect, nor special position or recognition, no credit because of what our fathers were or what they wrought. We stand upon our own feet in our own shoes." Our ancestor's legacy to us is one of example. As we turn our hearts to them, come to know them, emulate their good works, and learn from their weaknesses our lives and our families can only be blessed and enriched.*



Connecticut's "founders monument" includes the name of Thomas Welles, life-time magistrate with two terms as colonial governor on the side. "Governor Welles possessed the full confidence of the people, and many of the most important of the early laws and papers pertaining to the founding of the colony were drafted by him."

Posterity —continued from page 1

grandparents, and great-grandparents still living, but not for long.

What is included? Names, dates and places for births, marriages, deaths and essential Church ordinances. These charts show family relationships and set priorities.

Don't rely on Grandma to do this for you. Grandma Groberg can't, and many of us now are the Grandmas or grandparents. The most efficient way to do this is to use PAF (Personal Ancestral File), a computer program. Our children are more apt than we with such tools. PAF enables us to organize and maintain our records. When someone is born, marries, dies, is baptized, sealed or endowed, we soon enter that into our record. This is the first part of our Book of Remembrance.

Let's not neglect the first steps. Then we and our posterity will know who we are.

Missionary and Military Addresses

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Editors Note: November, probably more than any other month, provides us repeated opportunities to celebrate and rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual rights upon which the United States is founded. On Thanksgiving we remember the Pilgrims who came to this land in search of religious freedom and planted the seeds of a new nation. On Veteran's Day we commemorate those who fought and otherwise served or are currently serving to protect and preserve our freedoms. Most importantly, though, it is on November election days that we can give honor and thanks for those who have gone before and secure the continuation of our liberties for generations to come by participating in the process, making our voices heard, and ensuring that ours continues to be a government answerable to the governed - a government of, for, and by the people.

In harmony with these November themes, we have included in this November newsletter a brief accounting of some of the Groberg/Holbrook ancestral contributions to the public good, with more particular accounts regarding the public service of our pioneer ancestor Chandler Holbrook (Grandma Jennie Groberg's paternal great-grandfather). As emphasized in the article from Mary Jane Fritzen, we also encourage you to gather (and provide us copies of) updated information on your respective immediate families. Registering your family data and records, like registering to vote, guarantees that your voice will be heard and your mark will count. More importantly though, it is an essential means of preserving the blessings of the past for the blessing and benefit of the future.