

Our Family Links

The Groberg/Holbrook Family History Association Newsletter

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Hand-cart Pioneers: Thomas C. Christensen Fautin and Inger Jensen

Thomas and Inger Christensen Fautin were Lorraine's ancestors and Mormon handcart pioneers who left Denmark in 1859 to begin a new life in Zion. This is a very short summary of their remarkable lives using information gathered by Lorraine's Great Aunt Myrtle and a 900 page researched book written by her Aunt, La Rue Walker about Thomas and Inger.

Thomas C. Christensen Fautin was born on June 17, 1825 in Franholmpi, Hjoring, Denmark. While a teenager and young man, he worked on the farms of the large land holders in Denmark. As the Danish government required every young man to serve in the army, Thomas was sent across the Atlantic to protect Danish possessions in the West Indies. Only after his army service was completed was he allowed to marry. He was thirty years old when he married Inger C. O. Jensen, who was nineteen. She was born on November 9, 1835 in Elling, Fyen, Denmark.

They joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in Fyen, Denmark in 1857, and were advised by their Conference President to save means for their emigration to Zion. This they did, along with many other saints. Each placed in the bank 3,029 regsdaler to pay for their emigration travel expenses. In addition, anyone who wished to cross the plains to Utah with handcarts needed to pay another \$95.00 in advance to purchase the handcarts and provisions.

After this preparation, they sailed from Copenhagen on April 1st, 1859 with their 3 year old son, 9 month old daughter and Inger's parents, Ole and Annie Jensen. They boarded the ship, "William Tapscott" in Liverpool, England on April 11, 1859 along with 726 men, women and children from many nations traveling to America.

After 31 days at sea they arrived in Castle Garden in New York harbor. Because so many Saints had the same last name, Christiansen, Thomas added the name Fautin to distinguish his family from the other Christiansens. From

this point on, the emigrating Saints took a new route through the states which no former company had ever taken. They took a steamboat up the Hudson River to Albany, New York. Then they went by rail to Windsor, Canada; Detroit, Michigan; Quincy, Illinois; and on to St. Joseph, Missouri where they boarded the steamboat, St. Mary which brought them up the Missouri River to Florence, Nebraska, arriving there on May 25, 1859.

On the 9th of June the Company, consisting of 235 Saints and 60 handcarts, began their journey to Zion. Thomas pulled his cart all the way across Nebraska, Wyoming and into Salt Lake City, Utah, and Inger walked all the way, carrying her 9 month old daughter. (Their 3 year old son and Inger's parents remained in Florence and came later in oxen-pulled wagons.) As the days passed for the handcart pioneers, provisions ran low and they were put on half rations, then quarter rations. As a nursing mother, Inger and other mothers were given extra rations to help their babies survive.

This Company of handcart pioneers arrived in Salt Lake City on Sunday, September 4th 1859. Thousands of Saints and two bands went out to meet them and led them to Union Square where they were given bounteous things to eat.

Thomas and Inger received their endowments in the Endowment House and worked for Brigham Young on his farm and gardens. Brigham gave Thomas permission to help build a large fort at Pleasant Creek, Utah as the Saints needed protection from the Indians in that area. Thomas walked to Pleasant Creek and was pleased with the site and decided to bring his family there and help build the Fort.

This Fort enclosed 6 acres and Pleasant Creek passed through the center. The walls were built of stone 4 feet thick and 12 feet high with many rooms for the families. They also fenced off 1000 acres for crops. There



Thomas and Inger Christensen Fautin

were years when the grasshoppers took their crops, and they lived on corn bread, greens and sego roots. However, the Saints were able to complete the Fort and build a beautiful new city called Mt. Pleasant, Utah.

Thomas and Inger were vital, contributing members to Mt. Pleasant where they were active in civic and church affairs. Thomas was a skilled worker at many trades, was an excellent mathematician, and was a well-trained military officer. (He was a 1st Lieutenant in the Black Hawk War which lasted 3 years.) Inger loved to cord and spin yarn and make clothing of buckskin and wool all of her life. She was also an excellent weaver and made cloth for clothing and blankets for her 10 children. They built nice homes, raised cattle and sheep, and were the first to raise alfalfa on their farms.

In later years Thomas went on a mission back to Denmark to the Askhus Mission from 1881 to 1883. Thomas and Inger were always grateful for the help and care given by the Saints and also for the organization developed by the leaders in the Latter Day Saint Church which enabled them and many European Saints to make the long journey to America where they achieved a new life. They were now owners of large farms and had the freedom to live as Latter Day Saints. Their close friends said that Thomas and Inger were true Christian Saints who were exceptionally generous and kind to everyone.

David and Lorraine Groberg Family Reports

David and Lorraine Groberg



We have lived in our home on Calle Metate in Sierra Vista, Arizona for the last nineteen years. This length of stay is surprising even to us, but David's work, building custom homes and remodeling homes, has kept us busy since we first arrived and up to the present time. We looked through our files and realized David has built 80 custom homes and remodeled 20 others. We have tried to focus on sustainable, energy efficient and healthy home building practices. Sierra Vista is such an easy place to live a peaceful life: it's safe; it has clean air and water; it has a comfortable climate; we have lovely friends; and our daughters Kimberly and Heather and some of their families live close by.

We love living in our house that David built for us and working in the vegetable and flower gardens on our two acre lot filled with juniper, mesquite, and cottonwood trees. The hard work keeps us healthy! We also workout at an exercise spa three times a week, plus we try to walk every day. Lorraine had a knee replacement and is grateful to be getting back into hiking shape again. Staying healthy, energetic and happy has come easily for David with his "good Groberg genes."

One great joy is getting together with our 6 children and their spouses, 20 grandchildren with 3 of their spouses, and 2 great grandsons. Any combination of these people guarantees a fun and satisfying family time. Two grandsons and one granddaughter are now married to exceptional mates: Landon Prisbrey has a PhD in Physics, Katie Lewis is working on a PhD in Chemistry, and Sandra Groberg is getting a PhD in Health Science Engineering. Several of the grandchildren are doing well in their work and in college.

Lorraine belongs to two women's reading groups which encourages her to read more good literature than she would otherwise. We do not have a television, but we spend time on our amazing computers, iPads and iPhones. David likes to stay in tune with world events and the whole world of athletic games and tournaments. We both enjoy studying about world religions, philosophy, and psychology, and also watching TED talks and documentaries.

Of course, the computer is changing us and changing our world. For the first time ever in history we have almost unlimited knowledge available to us at the slightest touch of our fingers. This tremendous exposure to a much wider world and universe satisfies an innermost need to expand our depth of understanding about the mystery surrounding us and the mystery of our inner consciousness and world views. We begin to realize more clearly that we are one human family who all long for and are working towards happiness in our earthly life and a deeper realization of the stillness, beauty and ultimate sacredness that permeates all.

Kimberly Lewis Family



Kimberly is beginning her 7th year as a teacher at the Waldorf School in Tucson, Arizona. In February 2015 a book in which she wrote several of the essays and also edited will be published. The title may be "Creating Connections", and it is about parent/child classes. She has enjoyed consolidating two different Waldorf campuses into one large campus and creating a wonderful playground for the younger children.

Her daughter, Kristina Prisbrey, has recently moved with her family to Tucson, and has a job working as Kim's assistant at the Waldorf School. Landon Prisbrey has a new job working as a developmental scientist in Tucson. His company is developing a device which will test blood for different diseases to determine which antibiotics will actually save lives. They just bought a new home, and their boys, Corgan and Nole are both going to the same Waldorf School in kindergarten and pre-school.

Ryan and Katie Lewis are both living in Boulder, Colorado where Ryan graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a PhD. in Mechanical Engineering. He is now doing research at the University in cryogenics which has multiple applications such as outer space photography. His wife, Katie, will graduate this year with a PhD. in Chemical Engineering. Her specialty is in engineering the growth of lung tissue

which can be used in patients needing new lung tissue. Her research and publishing are now complete and she is studying for comprehensive exams.

Lara Mariah Lewis is spending a semester in Hilo, Hawaii where she is studying Human Resources in the Business School. She says she is really enjoying her classes there, loves Hawaii, the ocean and surfing. She has one more semester at Portland University where she will graduate next year. She says she loves Portland and the Northwest and would like to make a home there.

Jennifer and Tim Moore Family



Jennifer and Tim are living in Bend, Oregon. The past 5 years we have been having such an amazing time learning and growing with our very own small food manufacturing company call JEM Raw Organics. We produce delicious raw sprouted and organic nut butters. (we call them sweet spreads, healthy alternatives to Nutella). We make everything in our own factory and sell them throughout the United States and in three other countries. This year we achieved a 152% growth from last year.

Tim is the VP of Sales for our company, so when he is not traveling to different states to find more accounts, he plays a guitar in his band for Yoga classes, dances and fun events in Bend. He has been a licensed mental health counselor and still enjoys learning about and taking part in personal growth programs of various kinds with Jenny and their friends.

Jennifer is the CEO for JEM which keeps her very busy every day with running the company. She also loves people and remains very involved in the lives of her three children, her brothers and sisters, her nieces and nephews, and her friends. She has a degree in Nutrition and Exercise Physiology and maintains an interest in health and healing in all of its aspects. Dancing and singing and studying the work of Thomas Hubel are some of her main interests.

Kimberly Ann Reynolds is 25 years old and is in her first year of law school at American University in Washington DC. International Law and Environmental Policies will be the focus of her studies. She is adjusting to being on her own and making friends quickly in DC. A beautiful Lotus Garden in DC caught her attention, so she

now volunteers there. She loves flowers and animals and has been working as a floral designer to help finance her schooling. Her cat is going to be flown out to her this week.

Janessa Marie Reynolds is 23 years old and has been going to college at Evergreen College in Washington for the past two years. This year she is working at a store in Bend, Oregon where her friend (owner) is training her in how to run a retail business. Janessa wants to own her own store and sell beautiful things and also license her unique artistic designs for skateboards, snowboards, wind boards and paddle boards, clothing—all popular in Bend with its mountains and waterways.

Andrew Harrison Reynolds is 18 years old and is a senior at Summit High School in Bend. He is interested in business and loves working at the JEM factory. He puts in many hours of hard work and is appreciated for his dedication. When he graduates, he will attend Oregon State University Cascade Campus in Bend and study computer technology. He loves to snowboard, talk about interesting topics, learn on the computer, and kayak with his father on the rivers.



Randy and Ali Groberg Family

It was during those hot August nights, that I met my sweet heart Ali, just 23 years ago. We find ourselves today in Eugene, Oregon at the southern end of the Willamette Valley where today we broke the record for the most days over 90 in a calendar year.

Randy and Ali have run a mid-sized home in a nice bedroom community of Eugene for the last 9 years. Our near term goal here is to have all four of our kids graduate from the same high school—Sheldon High, just as they were all born in the same hospital—St. Luke's and started kindergarten at the same elementary school—Garfield. We have one more to go to meet that goal and what an adventure it has been.

Forest is our youngest and is currently a junior at Sheldon High. He likes video games and the endless queries of the information super highway. He is by rank a Life Scout but really enjoys all things manly or brutal as he might say. Willow, our next oldest, is a Gate's Millennium Scholar at the University of Oregon here in Eugene where she is studying Anthropology and French. She enjoys dance and culture—think Mr.

Darcy. She would make a great educator. Amara, next, is a senior at Portland State University. Her goal is to become an art therapist and work with young children. She enjoys going out with friends, social media and, of course, her smart phone. Rainy, the oldest, has her degree in physical fitness and movement. She is currently working two jobs and supports herself, two teacup Chihuahuas, a leopard tortoise and a 1996 Honda accord. She also enjoys adventure a plenty, as do we all.

Let me tell you a little about our most recent road trip to visit Grandma and Grandpa in southern Arizona for Mom's birthday. We went over and through the drying Siskiyou Mountains and down into the lush Redwood forest to walk among the earths largest creatures and we got up close with a herd of Roosevelt Elk. We pushed on for a midnight stroll across the Golden Gate Bridge and made it around the gates of LA to spend a day snorkeling at La Jolla Cove along with several species of strange fish and a local group of sea lions. It was then eastward past the great sand dunes of Yuma across the once mighty Colorado River and on through the Sonoran Desert all the way to Sierra Vista in the midst of the Sky Islands. We spent several days there in the love and comfort of Mom and Dad's home. While there, we hiked up Ramsey Canyon and down Brown Canyon; then on the way back home, we spent a few days at the Grand Canyon. We hiked the Bright Angel and beheld the Ooh Aah of Kaibab. It was then westward ho across the vast and empty Mojave where the billboards promised we could shoot machine guns at the local range and strike it rich. Then northward through a very thirsty state, made green by tamed and shrinking rivers whose ancestors carved canyons through primordial rock and now feed hungry Americans by growing 40% of our nations fruits and veggies. Oh, the trails we do make.

We made it home in time to rest up for yet another adventure in our neck of the woods, a four day backpacking trip into the Three Sisters Wilderness where we drank the crystal clear and pure waters of Obsidian springs and sat in awe of nature's endless beauty.



Heather and Michael Kutch Family

Heather is happy to help and encourage both of her two children and continue their education. She is busy every day taking care of 2 dogs, 3 cats, and 4 birds. Working on children's stories, hiking, canoeing, cooking, reading, and drawing are some of her interests. Five foster children have been under her care, and she hopes to help more. Heather's dreams include writing and illustrating children's books and having adventures with her family.

Mike continues to work at Fort Huachuca as an electrical engineer. He is busy working in his garden, rebuilding a VW 69 Bus, taking care of his big dog, and keeping the cars running. He will take an adventure to the Grand Canyon this month in his rebuilt VW. Mike is now seizure-free after brain surgery over a year ago, and he is planning more adventures in his VW Bus during his vacation times.

Sequoia (21) is attending the University of Arizona and majoring in art and biology. She loves plants and making beautiful things. Attending all her classes as a junior and working two jobs keeps her busy. She photographs plants on campus and updates their arboretum website for one of her jobs, and she sells tickets for theater performances at the U of A. Sequoia dreams of finishing school and working on having a home of her own where she can take care of lots of plants and animals and do art work.

Christopher (16) is attending Buena High School and is busy doing homework and practicing piano, cello, and guitar. He also enjoys boy scouts, playing on his PS4, hanging out with friends, cooking, helping around the house and yard, and finding funny things to say to make everyone laugh. Christopher dreams of working at Best Buy, attending college, and someday making a good living.

Lauren (17) is now living with her mother in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. She is busy in school and worked all summer in a beauty salon. She is happy playing with her little dog on the beach and hanging out with friends. She stayed in Arizona with us this summer and hopes to come again for Christmas. Lauren dreams of becoming a professional beautician and was able to buy her first car after working all summer as a beautician.



Greg and Claudia Groberg Family

Our family moved to Eugene, Oregon in 2000. In 2003, Claudia obtained her JD from the University of Oregon School of Law and Greg obtained a Masters in Special Education. We have enjoyed living in Oregon.

Greg is currently a Special Education teacher at Churchill High School. He helps students who do not thrive in a regular classroom setting by tutoring them in math and science, helping them develop appropriate social skills, and training them in using iPads to help them with their writing, spelling and comprehension skills so they can be successful in a regular classroom setting. This year, Greg was able to travel in Spain and Italy with Thiago and also take students to Disneyworld in Florida.

Claudia works for the Oregon Department of Justice as an Attorney in Charge in the Civil Recovery Section. Her section is responsible for representing state agencies, such as: the Division of Child Support, Department of Transportation, Department of Corrections etc. She appears in court regularly throughout Oregon and also represents state agencies in tribal court. In addition to trial work, she also manages 15 Assistant Attorneys General statewide. This summer she went with her parents to Europe to visit and travel with Thiago in Spain and also visit her cousins in Portugal. She is going to Brazil in December to help her mother recuperate from shoulder surgery.

Thiago is 27 years old. He graduated from Oregon State University in 2010 in Mechanical Engineering, and in 2012 he married Sandra Baker. He is working in Portland with a company developing an alternative way to store energy from solar to cheaper and safer batteries. He and his wife lived in Barcelona, Spain for one year where she worked on engineering human blood cells to use as a treatment for diseases of the blood. Sandra will graduate in one year with a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the Oregon Science and Health University in Portland. Their interests also include snowboarding and bicycling.

Matthew is 26 years old and he just graduated from Oregon State University with a Masters Degree in Botany and Plant Pathology. After graduation, he lived in Brazil for five months where he became fluent in Portuguese while living with his Garcia side of the family. He studied the culture, volunteered at a nature preserve, and studied martial arts and guitar. His other interests are music, exploring the mountains of Oregon and doing creative writing.

Kaylen is 20 years old and he is a Junior at Oregon State University majoring in physics and mathematics. He is the Vice-President of the Physics Club and excited about taking harder physics classes this year. He enjoyed watching the Cosmos Series on

TV and is known for always carrying a book with him wherever he goes. His other interest besides reading is playing the guitar.



Kjerstin and Woody Star Family

Kjerstin and Woody have lived in Bend, Oregon for the past 17 years where they have enjoyed the beautiful nature surrounding them. The whole family uses the big mountains, lakes, rivers, streams and trails for many sports and work activities. Bend is a city with many festivals which bring the community together with music, art and entertainment.

Kjerstin organizes a household of young people with her three children, plus Janessa, and a friend of Vivi's named Jamie. She is very busy cooking and running everyone around to their activities, plus she is one of the owners of PULSE Alchemy of Movement which is the experience of movement centered on meditation, higher consciousness and spiritual growth. She is also a licensed massage therapist.

Woody is the Chairman and President of Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA). He obtains grants to build and clear trails for biking, running, and equestrians. He is also a DJ with his own music radio show. He travels a great deal to listen to bands across America then brings their music to Bend on his radio show.

Kai (21) is working at a restaurant in Bend. He is a very hard worker and a good cook. He is saving his money to take advantage of the Gap Year Program where he will travel in Central and South America next year.

Vivi (18) is a senior at Summit High School in Bend. She is also taking classes at Central Oregon Community College where she is studying science and astronomy. She thinks she wants to work in the science field for her profession. This summer, she and several of her best friends traveled to Hawaii together for a fabulous vacation.

Lily (15) is presently being home-schooled. Kjerstin arranges for her to have lots of learning experiences. She takes several types of dancing classes and dances "on point" in ballet. They have a horse named Cobalt whom Lily is training in Eventing English Riding. Bend has a circus arts studio where Lily is becoming an expert in Aerial Silks.

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These are missionaries that recently returned or that will be home by the end of this month: Amber Blair, Taylor Beard, Madeline Powell and Joe and Jeanne Groberg.

Editors Note

We continue to get more names for Temple ordinances. Email tomgroberg@gmail.com with requests (2 or more options) and I'll send you what I can.

We invite you to make tax-deductible contributions to the Groberg-Holbrook Genealogy Association to help pay for this research and these newsletters.

We would like to set a goal of raising \$5,000 this year for research. If each child of Delbert and Jennie gave \$100 or more and each grandchild \$50 or more, we would be well on our way. Many of you can give more, some perhaps less, but it would be wonderful if everyone contributed something.

Please send your contributions to:
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