

Our Family Links

The Groberg/Holbrook Family History Association Newsletter

Issue 12, August 2008

WHERE TURNED HEARTS TURN FOR HELP

Our grandmother Alsina Brimhall Holbrook wrote of her father, George H. Brimhall, that he “supported and believed that those who neglect their ancestors, will see the day when their children will neglect them.” That belief of Grandpa Brimhall poses an interesting corollary to Malachi’s prophetic pronouncement that Elijah would come in the last days to “turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” (3 Nephi 25:6.) To restate both propositions with a little more positive spin, as we turn our hearts toward and pay attention to our ancestors, we are helping to ensure that when our kids come visit us in the retirement home, they won’t have to worry about melting polar ice caps (or other such earth smiting curses).

So, you may ask, how do we go about obtaining such assurances of future blessings? Well, providing such assistance is what the Groberg/Holbrook Family History Association is all about. Hopefully, past editions of this newsletter have helped to turn your hearts toward DV and Jennie Groberg progenitors and posterity by making you more aware of who they are. In this edition, however, the focus will be on making you aware of resources available to help you turn your ancestral awareness into active involvement.

In a family as big as ours with roots running back to the earliest days of the Church, it is easy (though erroneous) to assume that all that can be done has been done. Indeed, thanks in part to tireless research and work on the part of ancestors like Grandma Holbrook and Aunt Mattie Groberg, and contemporaries like Mary Jane Fritzen, there are not a lot a direct line Groberg/Holbrook ancestors who have not been identified and had temple work done for them (many of them several times over). But that does not mean there are not many relatives still waiting to be found, known and assisted. In many instances such involvement is literally just a couple of mouse clicks away. So get ready turn your hearts around, turn your computers on, hone those internet browsing skills, and get involved with some extended family.



In 1932, Jennie Groberg’s mother, Alsina Elizabeth Brimhall Holbrook (above) wrote of her family history research that “there are many things to do of great importance, [but] Sunday afternoon from two till three o’clock is sacred to this work.” Her prolific achievement in searching out and seeing to the temple work of both Brimhall and Holbrook ancestors shows that much of great good can be done in many small increments.

Aunt Mattie (Martha Hermine Rasicot Groberg)(below) not only raised her orphaned nephew DV Groberg as one of her own, she expended many hours and resources researching Swedish records to find and do temple work for Groberg ancestors.

An important lesson to be gleaned from the example of both women: When searching out ancestors in need of help, don’t overlook the in-laws!

The FamilySearch logo features a stylized tree above the text "FAMILYSEARCH™" and "WHERE GENERATIONS MEET". To the right is a testimonial from President Thomas S. Monson, accompanied by a small portrait of him. The testimonial reads: "I testify that when we do all we can to accomplish the work that is before us, the Lord will make available to us the sacred key needed to unlock the treasure which we so much seek." Below the testimonial is the name "-President Thomas S. Monson".

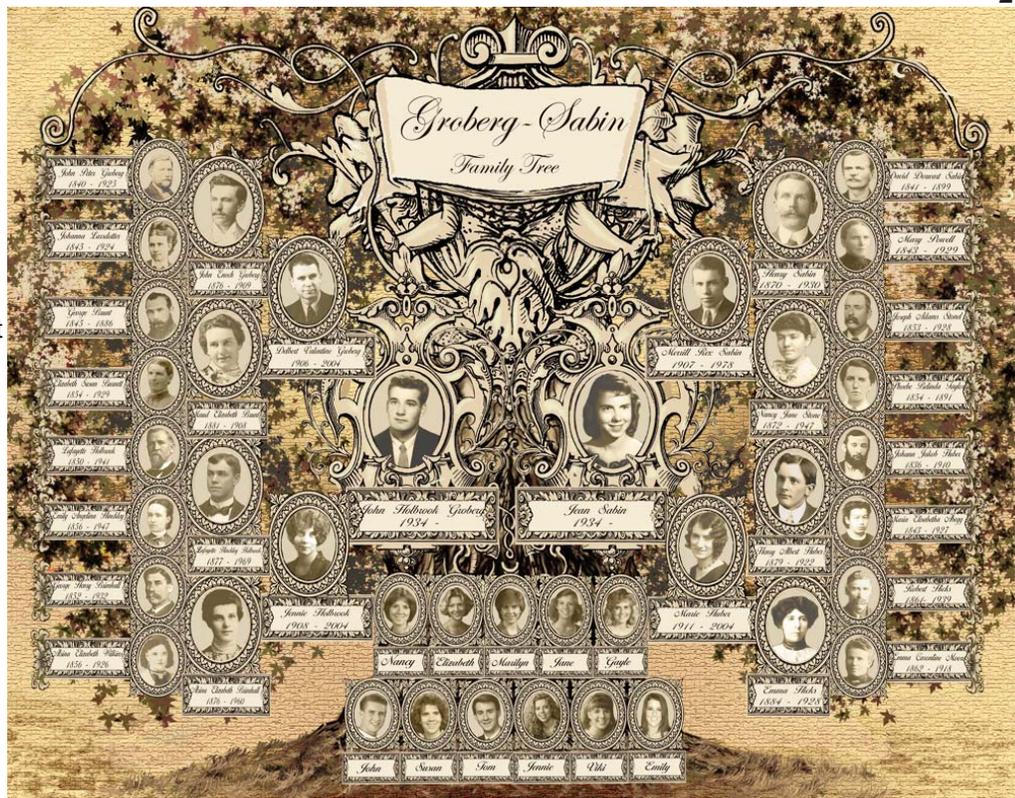
One of the primary goals of family history work is to make sure all of our family members receive their temple ordinances. The Church has a new website designed to make it easier for us to achieve that goal. The site -- new.familysearch.org -- allows you to quickly discover which ancestors have been identified, what temple work has been done for them, and what work remains to be done. For those needing work done, the site provides an easy means for you to have the name sent to the temple nearest you and held in reserve under your name so you can go and do the work yourself.

The first time you go to the site, you will need to register. In order to register, you will need to know your church membership number and your confirmation date. Your membership number is on your temple recommend or you can get both your number and the confirmation date from your ward clerk. For any who would like to visit the site but don’t have access to registration information, contact Matt Powell (mmpowell9@msn.com) for additional instructions. The site is new and there are still a few bugs (e.g. watch for duplicate names with different birthdays or genders, one whose work is completed and one ready to complete. Chances are the one not done has incorrect information. One example you may run across early on is Moroni Wilkins: He is male and his work is done). Still, the site is a great starting point for finding out what has and what needs to be done.





Ever the entrepreneur, John E. Groberg has launched another new project, this one designed to "bring your family heritage to your family room." John E. explained that his idea is to make "family heritage come alive through customized art you would be proud to display in your home." At a recent John and Jean Groberg family reunion, John unveiled his prototype -- a beautifully designed family tree with photographs of John and Jean Groberg and their children, parents, grandparents and great-grandparents (see right). John E. has a website under construction (www.geneartogy.com) "where people can upload their own photos, names and dates and choose from different artistically designed templates, then have the custom piece of art printed in large format giclee printing on art canvas ready to be framed, or optionally framed, and then shipped to their home." John E. also noted that once the web site is up and running (hopefully within the next 30 days),"it will likely need to be 'field tested' and improved by use - so I hope family members will try using it and give me feedback for improving it." He said he is "also open to any ideas on marketing the service so that it can help lots of people who would enjoy having the final product in their homes. Also, to help populate the 'testimonial' part of the site, I'll initially be looking for family and friends to provide comments and pictures of their art piece in their homes." If you have questions regarding Geneartogy and can't wait for the website, you can contact John E. directly at john@greymtn.com.



MORE INTERNET OPTIONS

There are two additional on line options of note fore those of you looking to learn about and help those who have gone before. The first is www.ancestry.com. In addition to family pedigree information, the site provides access to census, military, death and other records, as well as 1000s or old newspaper articles, books, periodicals and other reference works. For login and password information, contact Matt Powell (mmpowell9@msn.com).

A second rewarding way to help is to sign up as an extraction volunteer. The details and sign up information are available at www.familysearchindexing.org.

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George Henry Brimhall

GOING BACK; LOOKING FORWARD

George Washington Brimhall and his first wife, Lucretia, were the parents of 3 children: Rufus, Sylvanus, and Mary. When George W. left Illinois to join the Saints in Utah, Lucretia refused to go with him. She kept the children with her, and subsequently filed for divorce. George W. later remarried and had a large family with his second wife, Rachel Ann Mayer. Although, George never again saw Lucretia or their 3 children, he did keep apprised of their activities through correspondence with his father and others who remained in Illinois. Upon learning of Lucretia's death, George W. and Rachel traveled to the Manti temple, where George W. had Lucretia sealed to him (with Rachel acting as proxy for Lucretia).

Later in his life, George H. Brimhall, the oldest son of George W. and Rachel, sought out and reestablished contact with his older brother, Rufus (by that time, Sylvanus and Mary had passed away). They became close friends. They maintained a warm correspondence, and George H. visted Rufus and his family on several occasions. After George H. died, his daughter Alsina found the letters from Rufus in a tin box containing her fathers most cherished papers, correspondence and other memorabilia.

As mentioned in the opening article, much of the work for our direct line ancestors has been done. However, as was the case with Rufus Brimhall, many of the descendants of those direct line ancestors were not raised in the Church. Due in large part to George H's loving effort to find and get to know his brother Rufus, others became aware of and eventually performed the temple work for Rufus and his family, eternally linking them back in with their Brimhall ancestry. Perhaps the greatest opportunities and need for us to help and be blessed in this work lie in looking back and becoming acquainted with the siblings of our direct line ancestors and then working our way forward, making sure that not only we, but all of our forefathers' children are sealed to them and with them for time and all eternity.