

The Groberg/Holbrook Family History Association Newsletter

Issue 13, July 2009

WHOLESOME RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

"Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of [among other things] wholesome recreational activities." Long before that apostolic pronouncement was set forth in The Family -A Proclamation to the World, George H. Brimhall was teaching and living that principle in his home. He was an avid outdoorsman. He especially enjoyed hiking, fishing and hunting. One close acquaintance commented that "George H. Brimhall rules his children with a rod, but it is a fishing rod." A compilation of some of GHB's writings called Long and Short Range Arrows includes many musings on the significance of hiking to the tops of mountains (see excerpts below). As president of BYU



Church Normal Training School, with a gymnasi-

In May 1901, while act- he was active in promoting and supporting ing president of BYA, the schools athletic programs as well as GHB urged construction general fitness among the students. His Seen here in 1912 on their favorite horses, GHB and of a building for the love of both sport and travel was noted in a his wife Flora enjoyed riding together for recreation.

newspaper article at the time of his death which listed as one of the highlights of his life um on the upper floor. his 1930 trip to the Hawaiian Islands to watch the BYU football team play the University of Hawaii. He was actively involved in scouting and other young mens programs, serving most of his adult life

on the general board of the Church's young men's program and as the first chairman of the court of honor committee of the Timpanogos council of the Boy Scouts of America. In 1932 he was Utah's first ever recipient of the BSA's highest honor for scouting leaders, the Silver Beaver award.

Many of GHB's descendants in the Groberg/Holbrook clan have paralleled his achievements and enjoyed the blessings of closeness, fond memories, and fitness derived through wholesome recreational activities. Accounts of some of those descendants and their efforts have been collected in this newsletter from responses to requests made of the 11 Groberg siblings and from information gleaned from Grandma's family letters. [For those of you active and fitness minded folks who would like your experiences added to the family archives and possibly to future editions of this family newsletter, your input is always welcome at mmpowell9@msn.com]

THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN

Upon hearing a talk regarding the importance of knowing our needs, GHB compiled a list identifying 6 categories of "needs" with 3 items in each category. In his very first category. "Places I need to visit at least once a year," he included: "The top of a mountain. The temple of the

Lord. Some place of note that is new to me." Getting to the temple does not pose the same kind of challenges it did in GHB's day and (as highlighted in our last newsletter) is a "need" that most of us can and should fulfill much more often than once a vear. For those of us wonder-



ing why hiking a mountain might be on the list, GHB explained: "Hike the mountains because the breath of freedom is there. Mountain races will be free. Real mountain lovers are of a William Tell type of man; they may be captured but never conquered. Hike mountains because of the spiritual expansion felt in nature's loftiness....An apex of the great out-doors is one of the places where man feels most like saying to all forms of evil, 'Get thee behind me."

A more modern "William Tell type of man," Travis Hubble, can attest to the truth of his greatgreat grandfather's advice. Travis shared the following account of his May 2008 climb with a friend to the top of Devil's Tower in Wyoming:

Climbing Devil's Tower is done in 3 phases: a somewhat treacherous scramble over boulders for the first third, the technical climb portion for the middle section, and another steep scrambling section for the last third, for a total gain of about 850 feet. It was a challenging but very fun climb up.

The way down was a bit more interesting. A thunder storm came in just a few minutes after we took the picture on the summit. The wind became so strong that when we tossed the rope down for our rappel it came right back up over our heads. After the first (of four) rappels, the waterlogged ropes got stuck, and so,



after several hours of our best efforts to free ourselves, we chose to call 911. Six inches of protruding ledge and bolts on the mountainside never meant so much! The rescue team climbed up the scramble portion, but then determined that climbing in the rain and dark fog was too dangerous, and so shouted up instructions on how we would have to ascend the rope in order to free it. It was a long process



■and a long night, everyone survived without much too hypothermia. After happy reunions, long explanations

descriptions, and an evening out to a nice dinner, Becca will let us climb again. In the end, the whole event turned out to be a positive and spiritual experience, and we are glad it turned out so well.

As an addendum from my devil's tower experience, I learned that I need to learn the hymns better. As we were stuck on the six-inch ledge for several hours, we sang hymns to stay warm and alert, but learned that our mental catalog got exhausted faster than we cared to admit.

A DEVOTED FAN

There has probably never been a greater promoter and fan of her family's involvement in wholesome recreational activities than Grandma Jennie Groberg. While we may not particularly remember her personal athletic or outdoor achievements, she left behind a typewritten, cut and pasted, many times photo copied testament to her devout admiration for the recreational accomplishments of her children and grandchildren. Of course, her chronicles, here pay tribute to Grandma the fan with shows she has a sense of style to match her sense of adventure.



What Grandma may not have achieved in mountain climblike her devotion, were not limited to or ing she made up for in the other GHB "places to visit" catespecially focused on sports and recre-egories as a regular temple goer and visitor of places of ation, but this newsletter is. Therefore, we note. Seen here with son Dee and some locals, Grandma

this acknowledgement and with a sampling throughout these pages of her typewritten, cut and pasted, many times photo copied praise (you'll know it when you see it). And as you remember Grandma and her pride in each of you, also remember the insightful words Charles Dickens penned in his novel Nicholas Nickleby: "Pride is one of the seven deadly sins; but it cannot be the pride of a mother in her children, for that is a compound of two cardinal virtues - faith and hope.

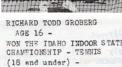
TENNIS: ALL FOR FUN AND FUN FOR ALL

Tennis is a pastime enjoyed by many Groberg/Holbrook family members. Dick Groberg relates that in 1974, he and brothers John and Joe built an indoor tennis facility in Idaho Falls. The facility now has 5 indoor courts. Dick says that "owning a tennis facility hasn't been a real good financial investment

but has given an opportunity to many to improve their skills." Among those who improved their skills at



clockwise: Stephanie G Mortell with mixed and women's doubles partners; Todd Groberg; fan notes.



GR.GR.GR. STILL GET EXCITED RECALLING THE SKILL AND DEDI-CATION EXHIBITED BY THIS CHOICE GRANDS ON AS THEY OBSERVED HIM



the IF facility were Dick's 3 children -Stephanie, Todd and

Mike. Stephanie won high school state championships in both women's and mixed doubles. Dick shared the following interesting story regarding Stephanie's first state win: "Stephanie was playing doubles as a freshman for the state championship against a team from Boise. They had split sets and a big wind and storm came up. Stephanie said to her part-

ner that this is just like Idaho Falls weather; we have it now. They then went on to win the championship set." Todd won state championships in men's singles, was a 2 time All-American (only 75 from entire U.S.A. are named each year) and 2 time top 10 High School Academic All-American. Mike won a district championship in men's singles the same year that cousin Brenda Groberg (Christofferson) won the women's singles title. Regarding that accomplishment, the Church News published the fol-

lowing notice of achievement in its August 6, 1994 edition: "Brenda Marie Groberg and Michael Andrew Groberg, cousins who served as president vice respectively, of their senior class at Idaho Falls Brenda G Christofferson



High School last year, were co-valedictorians at graduation. They each also went to the state tournament after winning a district tennis championship." Dick reports that of his 3 children, Mike is the only one who still plays tennis.

Away from the IF scene, Mark and Matt Sabey play and enjoy the game in Colorado. John's grandsons Ryan Garner and Sam Powell enjoyed successful high school tennis careers in Utah and Arizona respectively.



Tom and Paul Powell also participated on their high school tennis team and, though they may not have taken it

IN THE SWIM OF IT

Many in the family have been avid swimmers. Most of the Blairs participated on swim teams, and Lisa Blair Sabey's sons Brian and Matt have carried on the tradition. All of Lew and Marie's kids swam and qualified for state on their high school team; four worked as lifequards. John and Jean's daughter Jane was also an accomplished swimmer, and now several of their grandchildren (2 Blasers, 2 Grobergs, 1 Garner and 1 Powell) are on swim teams.

Grandma included the following swimming story written "by a proud daddy" (aka Joe Groberg) in a 1983 family letter:

Kristin rose upon the starting platform and looked about. Tall, blonde hair pulled back, limber and very young. They're off. The dive. Seven are in the race. Half-way through the lap - nip and tuck. Kristin looks good, but a girl at her side and a boy in each of the far & Jonathan Groberg back lanes are up with her. We urge from deep inside.



Anna (Glenn), Kristin (Clark) in their swimming days

With outstretched arms they reach the other end. The far lad, then the second. Kristin touches third. It is a 50 meter sprint, free style. We are glad for third, forgetting only half the race is swum. A nimble turn, a light blue summersault, as it were, beneath the water. A touch and kick that seemed not to touch at all, and they then are even in the stretch. Then with steady, lovely strokes, the same as those with which she left the block less than two dozen seconds ago, she takes the lead and rows ahead. An inch, a face, a shoulder, then a stroke between them. They race on. The little crowd around the pool begins to dance with excitement, feet and hearts and hands and eyes all swimming with their might in unison with the living pool, bursting with arms and legs and gasping breaths. Kristin in the lead. Her speed unmatched; her lead uncatchable.

The clocks are broken into seconds and less than second's time. All the spirit of the race released in bursts of gay applause, and Kristin, our sweet thirteen-year-old Kristin, springs from the pool in one breath, rises triumphant on the block from which she leapt, both hands held high in sure victory even before the winner is announced.

Grandma added the following handwritten postscript to the above story in the family letter -

bit inaccurate tristing wach have to ung her to stand with arms extended but the way it is written is better literature!)

as seriously as their brother Sam, they had just as much fun. After high school, Ryan Garner continued play on the Weber State tennis team. He is taking time off from the game right now while serving a mission



in Fiji. Ryan's dad Family Champ Troy Garner

Troy Garner – a high school and college player himself - continues to play regularly and competitively. At age 47, Troy is an example of fitness and stick-to-itivness for us all.

ON THE GRIDIRON

The family has its share of football players and fans. Among those players who have taken it especially serious are Sarah Groberg's husband, Michael Ray (playing both quarterback and defensive safety on his high school team) and Gayle Groberg's husband, Craig Teuscher (playing defensive back on the Princeton University football squad). Lew and George Groberg also played on high school teams. Lew, however, particularly enjoyed playing sandlot football on the east side of the family's 12th Street home in Idaho Falls. Lew relates:

We as neighborhood boys played most every afternoon. It was tackle with no shoulder pads. I was average speed, average strength, but above average desire. I always felt I was as quick and fast as the others and more imaginative. I had so little fear but often reality came screaming in as I would be pushed into the asphalt so I couldn't catch a touchdown pass. I remember trying to catch touchdown passes in the street and getting bruised and scratched and mom would just bandage me up and send me back out. Sometimes we had some of the best athletes in the neighborhood come.

We had an extremely good football player named Ray Groth come and play with our group several times. He had beaten me up a few

DID YOU ALL SEE THE B.Y.U. FOOTBALL TEAM BEAT PITTS BURG THIS P.M. 20 to 147 One of B.Y.U.'s greatest wins! PITTS BURG WAS FATED THIRD IN THE NATION. THE

ANNOUNCER SAID MANY FAMS FOR B.Y.U. HAD TRAVELED FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO SEE THE GAME, INCLUDING MISSIONARIES FROM THE NORTHEAST PART OF THE U.S. HE ALSO SAID "A LOT OF TRAVEL FOR THEM BUT IT WAS SURE WORTH IT!" WE AGREE!

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

There are almost as many ways to stay fit and active as there are Jennie and Delbert Groberg descendants. In addition to the recreational activities specifically noted elsewhere, here is a rundown on what some of those descendants have been and are doing:

From the Blairs, Jenette Lambert reports that she and her daughter Aly are taking a triathlon training class with the intent that by the summer of 2010 they will be able to complete a modified triathlon at Island Park. Jenette and Aly invite any and all family to train and participate. The run would be from Big

ture of George was wanted to hit him so featured in Gr.Gr.Gr.'s hard when I had a

times in elementary and junior high school so even though he was a hero to many neighborhood kids to me he was sort of a bully. Anyways he and his friend Dave Norton came strutting over to plav our sandlot tackle foot-This photocopied pic-ball game. I just 1968 Christmas letter chance to tackle. I

got the chance when a clear shot at him carrying the ball came. I aimed and threw everything in my body at him and he went sprawling down. He was really mad but didn't dare beat me up on the spot because I had many of my friends and my mom was home. My friends were amazed that I would take such a chance. He let his friends know to plaster me when I got near the ball. Anyway after that hit, Ray Groth had a little respect for me and I had a lot less fear of him. He ended up being first string quarterback at the University of Utah, but he never gave me any grief after that experience.

> Posing [left] with Notre Dame mascot Shamus, Mike Groberg (like his great-great grandpa Brimhall) enjoys traveling to watch BYU's away football games. This in Grandnote ma's September 1984 family letter [far left] shows that she and Grandpa were also fans of the team and the

Springs to the family cabin (4.5m) then bike to Henry's lake (22m) then swim in the lake. Anyone could do any part of the race, all of it or none. For more info or input on that event, you can contact Jenette at Jenette.Lambert@va.gov. On the Sabey front, Lisa informs us that Mark enjoys racquetball and walleyball, Brian has participated in wrestling, Josh ran track (200, 400 and 800 meters), Matt and Daniel play basketball, and many of the boys also play or played soccer.

In John's family, Karl Owens, just back from a buffalo hunt, is an avid outdoorsman [see photo]. Jennie Blaser has trained for and participated in marathons, triathlons and other similar events.



Left: Mountain man Karl Owens in period attire with handmade rifle. Right: Jennie Blaser is joined by daughter Eden as she reaches triathlon finish line.

Providing an update on her family's recreational activities, Beth tells us that she likes to walk 3-5 miles a day "just to keep healthy." Barry has played volleyball for many years in a city league and ran in the Sawtooth Relay last summer. Golf is a big focus with Jason, and he and Barry also went skiing last December in UT. Denell, Jason's wife, is a runner/biker. Derik's wife Janine ran the Portland

Marathon last year (and her 2 girls both seem to be taking after their mom, both winning 1st place in their school races). Derik has played beach volleyball at the tournaments



ELLIOTT and DERIK STRATTON

at Oceanside, OR whenever there is a year that his back is not acting up. Bryan and Heather like to play "Wii" games and Kevin has been enjoying racquetball.

From Lew we learn that Sarah's husband Michael Ray was a starting pitcher and shortstop in baseball, a point guard in basketball, won an all-around best high

EVERYONE - continued on page 4

2B The Salt Lake Tribune, Tuesday, March 22, 1988

With a nod to the goodness of those who have gone before, we remember Jared Groberg's winning smile (as seen in this newsclipping about his invention of "basketball buddies" (shoes with springs) for a school project. We also remember the smile that Del Groberg brought to the faces of all of his fishing companions.



EVERYONE -continued from page 3 school athlete award, and pitched two years at Treasure Valley Community College as a relief pitcher. As a wrestler, Rachel's husband

Win Scott earned a varsity letter, placed in district and received the coach's award for senior men. Becky's husband Matt Reeder won 3 state championships, two in crosscountry and one as the starting forward on his high school basketball team. Regarding the basketball championship, Lew adds the following story: When Matt was in the 5th grade, he and a group of fel-band) is probably the only low cub scouts started playing family athlete to earn his own updates you would like includbasketball together. The boys magazine cover. See article ed in the Family Links newslet-

and chemistry. After a successful beginning, they challenged each other to stay together for the next 7 years and in their senior year in high school win the state championship. They practiced together and improved each year. When their senior year came, they upset a highly talented Teton HS to win the district championship and went on to defeat Melba for the 1999 HS class 2a state championship.

Finally, Gloria wrote in that the most sports oriented in her clan right now are

> Jeremy and Kim's oldest girls, Gabi and Dani – both active in avmnastics.

As noted in the opening article, there are many of you that have been or currently are engaging in just as many athletic and outdoor ventures as those recounted here. Thanks again to those of you who responded to the request for stories. For those of you who have additional stories or seemed to have a lot of ability in July 99 New Era for details. ter, we are always looking for

> material to include in future editions. [And by way of reminder to you 11 who received the original email and as notice to you readers who didn't, the next edition will focus on family involvement in arts and letters (music, painting, theater, poems, dance, etc.). Send submissions, comments, or suggestions to Matt Powell at mmpowell9@msn.com].

ELEMENTARY TIES

There are many fine facilities and institutions where athletes go to train for participation in sporting events. Many Olympians, for example, go to a training facility in Colorado. Major league baseball teams go to facilities in Arizona and Florida for training every spring. Todd Groberg and tennis greats like Andre Agassi and the Williams sisters have trained at the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Florida. But can it be said that such an institution exists for training future Groberg/Holbrook in-laws? Durrant Elementary School in the remote town of Price, UT has at least an arguable claim to that distinction. Daniel Madsen, Greg Bailey and Matt Powell (now married to Carolyn Blair, Viki Groberg and Marilyn Groberg respectively) are all Durrant Elementary Alumni. Maxine Blaser, grandmother of Dave Blaser (husband of Jennie Groberg) was one of the school's original and long time teachers. Was there something in the Price water, do Groberg girls just have remarkably good taste, or was it merely coincidence? Whatever the explanation, here are a few of the tales of recreation that the Durrant connected in-laws add to the family saga:

471 miles around the block



Matt in front newspaper article.

As part of a school sponsored fitness project in 1974, 6th grader Matt ran around the Durrant school block 942 times (the equivalent of 471 miles or the distance from Price to Yellowstone Park). Had he know when he reached the IF mile marker that his wife-to-be was there at Teresa Bunker Elementary, of getting to that point may Durrant Elem. in '74 have meant a bit more to him. As it was, however.

he was satisfied at the time with the cake his teacher baked to mark the accomplishment.

ELEMENTARY - continued on page 5

GENERATIONS OF EAGLES

Though raised in a

cess in that regard is reflected in her favorite accessory - the eagle necklace. Scouting values, like the values Dee was honorary of successful families identified in the IF Mayor for a day (like newest Eagle Kyle

SCOUT MAYOR family of girls, Grandma tried to instill her Grandpa Brimhall's love of scouting in all of her sons. Her suc-

Family Proclamation, were being taught and lived in Groberg-Holbrook homes long before there ever was a scout oath or Family Proclamation. These values

generations as so many grandsons (like the Hubble brothers) and now great-grandsons

Eagle rank.



have passed through the Brothers Earn Eagle Rank | Grandma's necklace symbolizes not only the success of her boys and the passing of scouting values through the generations, but the key role that she, her daughters, and her granddaughters have played in making it happen.

Dan also began running in his Durrant days and has been much better than Matt at keeping it up in more recent years. His daughter Lindsey has inherited the same enthusiasm for running. Last year Dan and Lindsey participated on a team in the "Wasatch Back Relay." Dan explains that the race began in Logan, UT and went through the high mountain valleys east of the Wasatch front to end in Park City. The race course went over the mountain passes between the valleys with a total elevation change of 26,000 feet over the 180 mile route. Each team in the race had 12 people, with each runner completing 3 legs of 3-7 miles – meaning everyone ran a total of about 12-18 miles over two days. Each team had two vans, so half



Above: Lindsey encourages Dan during relay. Below: Lindsey runs her final 13 mile leg of race.



the team would drive ahead and rest while the other van followed and supported the runners. Calling themselves the "Gene Pool Joggers," the other 4 runners in the van with Dan and Lindsav included Durrant grads Dan and Jane Madsen (Dan's parents),

Andy Powell (another Durrant boy who is Dan's brother-in-law and Matt's brother) and Andy's son Ben. The Gene Pool Joggers finished in 28 hours and 19 minutes. When Dan asked Lindsey (who also runs on her middle school cross-country team) if she would like to do it again, she enthusiastically responded, "Yah!!" Dan, on the other hand, says that he would rather not train for another summer race while they are living in sunny Tucson, AZ.

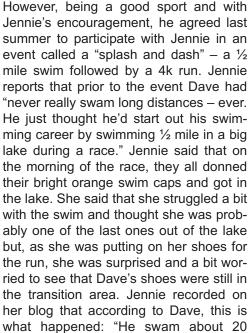
Like many in the Price area, Greg and his family enjoyed hunting and fishing together. Matt recalls staring at walls covered with the hides and heads of Bailey hunting trophies as Greg's father (a local dentist) drilled on his teeth. Never one to let stereotype get in the way of a good



Above: The Greg and Viki Bailey family in their hunting attire. Below: Viki bags an antelope

time, Viki took a liking to the Bailey family pastime in addition to her liking for Greg. She is now a skilled hunter herself with a mounted antelope head on her wall to prove it.

Dave Blaser, like his father (still a celebrated local sports legend in Price) excelled at the game of football.





Having completed an eventful swim, Dave Blaser tackles the 4k run of the Splash and Dash event.

yards, realized he was going drown and die, so he swam over to the edge of the lake and sat on the concrete siding. He looked up about 20 feet to see [his friend] Aaron doing the same thing. People on the side were shouting all sorts of comments about them all and just got back in and tried to breast stroke or back stroke the rest of the way. Every so often, both he and Aaron had to rest on the side. For most of the race, the ASU kayak was following Dave. He was on his back, taking his sweet time getting through the water, and asked, "Am I last? Is that why you are following me?" They looked around and simply nodded. At the last turn, Dave made a push for it and passed Aaron and a 78 year old Grandma. Aaron, who is a runner, passed Dave and a few others on the run. Dave stuck with it, and never let the grandma pass him. He finished the race second to last! Afterwards, both Aaron and Dave were in awe of those of us who had done the triathlon. They have new-found respect for swimming." Jennie adds, "I am SO happy that we did this race. It was a fun memory -- and to hear Dave tell the story, with hand motions, and facial expressions is just priceless!"

Since there are probably thousands more boys with Durrant Elementary connections that didn't marry into the Groberg family than the 4 who did, calling it an in-law training facility may be a bit of a stretch, but it makes for a good story anyway. Oh, and unfortunately for the current generation of spouse-seeking Groberg/Holbrooks, you will just have to look elsewhere. Durrant Elementary is no longer standing.

Missionary Addresses

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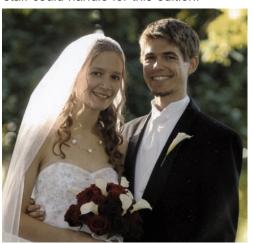
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MORE JOY AND REJOICING IN GR.GR.GR.'S POSTERITY

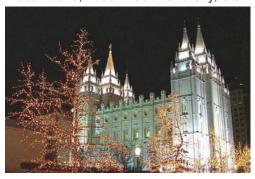
A number of of DV and Jennie Groberg's grandchildren and great-grandchildren have gotten married in the past year. A number of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren have had new children. For the final page of this newsletter, we feature photos of all of the newlyweds and the new 5th generation babies. While Gr.Gr.Gr. are certainly just as excited about the arrival of new 4th generation babies, keeping track (and especially gathering a complete set of photos) of that growth proved to be a bit more than your Family Links Editorial staff could handle for this edition.

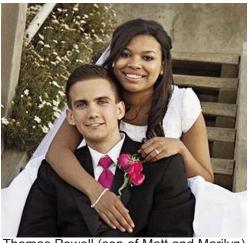


Ryan Lewis (son of Kim and Rob) and Katie Reeder were married July 20, 2008 in Richland, Washington

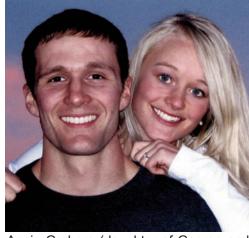


Eliza Tingey (daughter of Nancy and Steve) and Trent Guzy were married on December 6, 2008 in Salt Lake City, Utah

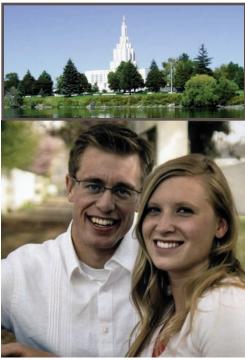




Thomas Powell (son of Matt and Marilyn) and Sarita Red Thunder were married on May 7, 2009 in San Diego, California



Annie Groberg (daughter of George and Bonnie) and Benjamin Otte were married on May 28, 2009 in Idaho Falls, Idaho



Andrew Groberg (son of George and Bonnie) and Tanisha Amerpohl were married on June 20, 2009 in Bountiful, Utah



David and Lorraine's great-grandson Corgan Jude Prisbrey was born to Kristina and Landon Prisbrey April 11, 2008 (he's grown a bit since this picture was taken).



Karl Hemsath was born to Whitney and Dustin Hemsath on November 23, 2008



John and Jean's 2nd great-grandbaby Callie Jean Powell was born to Jim and Christie Powell on December 7, 2008

Don't forget to send your tax deductible contributions to the Groberg/Holbrook Family History Assoc. c/oTodd Groberg 1605 S. Woodruff, Idaho Falls, ID 83404. Also, please send updates on family information (e.g. marriages and new babies), new addresses, and any other information requests that you may have to Matt Powell mmpowell9@msn.com