

Our Family Links

The Groberg/Holbrook Family History Association Newsletter

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The Blessing of Temple Work

A true event written in 1982, Auburn, WA

Beth Stratton

It was Thursday evening, 6:15. The last piano student was finishing "Love somebody but I won't say who" and the 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, hold: 1, 2, 3 & 4 & 1, 2, hold: were still ringing in my ears as I hurriedly put dinner on the table. Derik had set the table grudgingly and I had to rearrange the spoons, forks and knives and then turn Jason's cup right side up (this was a sign from Derik to Jason that he

was mad at him) and Barry was not home yet.

The first question was from Derik: "Do you have to go to the temple tonight?" "No," I replied, "but if Daddy gets home in time, we would like to. It's Stake Temple Night."

Then the questions came: "Why do you have to go? Do I have to tend Bryan? Do I have to do

the dishes? Can we have ice cream? What time are you going?" I answered the last one: "7:00". Well, Barry did get there on time and we did leave for the temple at 7:05 with one toddler crying, two boys very sad, one house a mess, and one mother wondering why she was going! As I ran out the door, I called my neighbor, Sue, and asked her to check on the boys in an hour to make sure everything was all right. I figured the "Muppet Show" would keep things in some kind of order till then.

The temple session was small, peaceful, and we were in the prayer circle. My mind hadn't wandered back home until I repeated the words: "Bless those who labor here that they may return home to find peace and

order." "That would take a miracle," I thought. In fact, on the way home, before I fell asleep in the car, I said to my husband that I wished we could go home and find peace and order, but I expected to find a sink full of dirty dishes, warm milk on the table, ice cream melting on the counter, toys camouflaging the family room floor, the TV set still on, two boys asleep in their clothes on the couch, and one toddler up in his crib. I could

hardly bear to think of it!

It was 11:00 when we pulled into the garage. I was not anxious to see what condition the house was in, but was anxious to check on our three precious children. As I viewed the kitchen, I saw a miracle had happened...right here in my house! The kitchen was beautiful, and it really sparkled! The family room was spotless, the boys were in their beds, the TV was turned off, the curtains were closed...a MIRACLE! I had returned home and found peace and order!

With gratitude the next day I thanked Jason and Derik for what they had done. They sheepishly accepted my thank yous, then Jason acknowledged that Sister Victor, our neighbor, had come over and "helped" them clean up. Since that event, I have wondered who received the blessing of temple service that night. Surely, the answer is many fold: The ones whose names we did endowment work for, the neighbor who gave love and service, our children who saw this act of kindness, and I, who was blessed by a MIRACLE.



book and its pages are made of gold. The book lays open in the center with a leather braided bookmark. On the open pages is the symbol for eternity and a photograph of Grandpa, Jennifer, and I on the steps of the temple after our marriage. It's a meaningful symbol of our connection to the temple. With Grandpa and Del both now deceased, it's also a symbol of how they felt about the temple.

Julia Blair

I remember the many Sundays our Dad took us over by the Temple Site in Idaho Falls to see how the Temple was coming along. No one was more excited about the Temple in Idaho Falls than Dad. I connect honey comb with the Temple. I remember sucking on a honey comb while walking around the Temple in construction. I remember being there in bitter cold as well as windy, warm days.

When the dedication finally occurred in Idaho Falls, all of the General Authorities came. George Albert Smith was the President, Harold B. Lee was a new apostle. Thomas E. McKay and his wife, Faun Brimhall McKay were our guests. I was twelve years old and shared the family excitement about the Temple Dedication. We had to wait for the War to end and for President Smith to set a date for the temple to be dedicated.

When I go to the Temple, I often remember how Dad loved the Temple. I try to clear my mind of worldly things and realize that someday I'll be in another waiting area as I prepare to pass from this life. This is a helpful and solemn thought to me. I appreciate the opportunity to be taught in the Temple.



Madsen children at Washing DC Temple

Temple Memories and Moments

Geoff Groberg

Jennifer and I were married the day before Valentine's day in the Mesa, Arizona temple. Any day around Valentine's day is a busy day for marriages. I remember crowds of people in and around the temple and being told that because it was so busy we would need to wait a while longer. Then one of the temple workers asked if Jennifer and I would like to wait in the celestial room. That was an interesting idea. We were escorted straight to the celestial room. And although the temple seemed packed and busy, I can't remember anyone else

being in the celestial room. We talked quietly, maybe for 30 minutes and felt privileged. If there were other people there, I don't think I noticed them, and looking back I can't remember anyone else. It was just us in the celestial room until it was time for the marriage ceremony. I was also so happy that Grandpa, in his nineties, was able to come down from Idaho and perform the marriage. I have a wedding gift that my older brother Del gave me sometime later. I don't know where he got the idea, but he painted an old book with metallic gold paint, so it looks like the

Jon Groberg

My first memorable experience with a temple was when we lived in Peru and we were part of the ground-breaking ceremony for the Lima, Peru temple. I first went to the temple in Idaho Falls to be sealed to my younger sister, Pamela. I later returned to do baptisms for the dead. I was able to receive my

endowment in Logan. The first temple wedding I attended was that of my older sister, Anna. Katie and I were married in the Washington DC, temple. I have been a veil worker at the New York temple. I can already tell that many of the most important moments in my life have involved temples.

Mary Jane Fritzen

I met my future husband, Achim, following a session in the Idaho Falls Temple. Mom introduced me to George's German teacher while we were in the Celestial



Fritzzen

room following the session. Five months later, following a session at the Manti Temple, he asked me to marry him.

Mom and Dad had just moved into the temple home when Achim was hospitalized in December 1975. They invited me to stay with them and bring baby Rosalee, who was about 4 months old. During the early morning of December 11 a temple security watchman dressed in white, came over to the home to give me a message to come be with Achim during his final earthly hours at the nearby LDS Hospital.

Selection of Temple Sites

John H. Groberg

Temples are houses of God, and since He owns the whole earth He places His temples where He wants them by telling His Prophets where that is. Even though Prophets receive the final inspiration on specific sites, they often ask others to help by making recommendations.

As a family we have been blessed to have been asked to assist in this process. Dad (Delbert V. Groberg) told me several times about his involvement with the site for the Idaho Falls Temple. When he was a teenager his Grandmother Elizabeth Susan Burnett Brunt told him that she knew a temple would someday stand on the banks of the Snake River near their home.

Delbert never forgot her words and years later when the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce was given the opportunity to recommend a site for a temple, they asked Delbert to gather information on various possibilities. Because of his grandmother's words he had for years been gathering information on the lots by the river. Thus he was able to give this information to the Chamber of Commerce immediately. They purchased those lots and offered them to the Church as a donation.

President Heber J. Grant accepted the donation and approved the site saying that is exactly where the Lord wanted His Temple to

be built. Grandma Brunt passed away many years before the temple was built, but true to her words it now stands where she told her grandson Delbert it would. Dad always said the influence of her spirit helped him and others secure this land for the temple.

Years later I received an assignment from President Spencer W. Kimball to gather information on and recommend three sites each in Samoa, Tahiti and Tonga for temples to be built there. Many challenges stood in the way and many things had to fall into place to make the best sites available. Eventually they did and with the help of others I was able to present the sites in each country to President Kimball. He personally looked at and prayed over each one and later told us which ones the Lord wanted. In both Samoa and Tonga our #1 recommendation was chosen. In Tahiti our #2 recommendation was chosen. Time has proven that in each country the best site was chosen.

Later, under an assignment from President Gordon B. Hinckley, I had the opportunity of helping recommend sites for temples in California and later in Central America. These assignments involved recommending general locations, such as countries and cities for future temples as well as some specific sites. The eventual construction of new temples in several cities in California, and in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras has been very closely aligned with those recommendations. What a privilege and an inspiration to be even a tiny part of the magnificent process of temple building!

While we may not all have such specific assignments, the privilege of attending temples is open to everyone. As we attend I hope we remember to express gratitude for all the work, effort, faith, prayers and inspiration that have gone into recommending, selecting and obtaining sites, as well as in building and dedicating those temples. I know these temples are acceptable to Him. I know that as we go often to His House and keep the covenants made therein, we also can be acceptable to Him.

Family Temple Connections

As the posterity of Jennie and Delbert Groberg continue to increase and spread throughout the world, so do the Lord's temples. Of the 134 currently dedicated temples, the descendants of Jennie and Delbert have performed ordinances in at least 78 of them. Family members have done proxy work for our ancestors on every populated continent and many remote Pacific Islands. For living ordinances, though, most of that work is still being done in the western United States. Not surprisingly, the two most utilized for that work remains the Salt Lake and Idaho Falls Temples. From those who have provided information, we count 18 individuals who were endowed and 16 couples who were married in Salt Lake; 16 endowed individuals and 14 married couples have told us that they received those blessing in Idaho Falls. However, showing the shifting family demographics from those traditional hubs, Mesa (with 10 endowments and 3 weddings reported) has edged out Provo (with 9 and 2 respectively) as the 3rd busiest spot.

Hopefully in the next newsletter we can have a more complete update, as there were several family members we did not hear from. We will be uploading a spreadsheet to Google documents and instructions on how to access it will be emailed out. Please take a look at it and fill in what information you can.

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