

Colby Family History

Barbara Jean Colby (wife of Richard Groberg) was born April 5, 1941. The older of twin girls, she was raised in California. Her mother, Olive Ilda Hansen, spent much of her growing up years in Whitney, Idaho. Her father, Willard Archer Colby, was raised primarily in Los Angeles, California.

Barbara's maternal great, great grandmother is Ann Owen Hobbs. She was widowed at the age of 37 with 7 children, including twin baby girls, while living in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England. One of the twin daughters was Mary Ann Hobbs (Barbara's great grandmother). A few years later, two Mormon missionaries were preaching in Cheltenham about a new gospel which had been restored in America. Two of her sons attended the meeting to be amused. Instead, they were interested in the missionaries' message and persuaded their mother to attend the meetings. She did and was converted the first time she heard the gospel. She was baptized along with most of her family. In 1864, Ann Owen, Mary Ann, and the rest of the family sailed for America on the "Monarch of the Sea." They endured many hardships on the ocean and on the plains. They went to Franklin, Idaho where Mary Ann was sealed to Joseph Dunkley and became his second wife.

In 1866, while Mary Ann's husband was standing guard on Franklin's "Little Mountain," Mary Ann gave birth to a baby girl. Unfortunately, the 20-year-old mother died in child-birth. The baby lived and was named Margaret Ann Dunkley (Barbara's grandmother). She was raised by her mother's twin sister.

Margaret eventually moved to Logan and began dating Christian Lewis Hansen. Christian had come from Copenhagen, Denmark with his parents on the sailing vessel "Emerald Isle" in 1868. They came to Utah with Captain Holman's ox train. Even though Margaret and Christian were dating, she was persuaded to become a second wife to William Watterson. Christian had been building a house for him and Margaret to live in after they married. He was so upset that he left the home half-finished and went away. When the Manifesto was issued, Margaret was given some land from the Benson acreage and a divorce. Soon after this, Christian Hansen returned and showed his interest in Margaret. He began courting her, finished the house and married her. They had 8 children. The youngest child, Ilda (Barbara's mother) was born in Logan in 1909.

The Hansens often traveled by buggy to Whitney, Idaho to see their cousins. The cousins would play and have talent shows. One of the cousins was Ezra Taft Benson. They called him "T." He was the son of George Benson and Sarah Dunkley. Ilda has written, "Uncle George and Aunt Sarah reared their children in an unusually harmonious way. She was a queenly even tempered mother and Uncle George was quite stern and a good manager. When he said no, he meant it and we knew it." Ilda's father died when she was 14, so her mother sold the farm and moved to town. All of Ilda's sibling were much older and on their own so Ilda and her mother were alone. Ilda graduated from Preston High School and soon after, Ilda's brother invited Ilda and her mother to visit him in San Diego, California. Ilda fell in love with California and remained there with her brother. They soon moved to Los Angeles where Ilda was hired to work at a soda fountain in a drug store. There she met a handsome young pharmacist, Willard Colby.

Willard Archer Colby (the Colbys were



Willard and Ilda in Provo

German) was born in Los Angeles, California. As a child, he loved sports, earning 2nd place in the city handball championships. He also attended baseball games every week. Willard was always a huge sports fan, especially a USC fan. He was a hard-worker and always had a job. After high school, Willard attend the University of Southern California to study pharmacy. He became a pharmacist and started working at the pharmacy where Ilda Hansen was working at the soda fountain.

They began dating. Ilda always called him "Colby." He would occasionally attend church with Ilda and agreed with the teachings. Colby asked Ilda to marry him. Ilda said she would love to, but she felt like she needed some more education first. Ilda, therefore, returned to Utah and enrolled at BYU. Colby came to see her at Christmas in his model A Ford. Later that summer, Ilda and her mother returned to California. Ilda and Colby continued dating. With their parents' blessing, they were married in Yuma, Arizona by the Branch President on January 15, 1940. Ilda gave birth to twin girls, Barbara and Beverly in 1941.

They moved to Santa Barbara where Ilda was active at the small branch. They had the opportunity to buy a pharmacy in Oceanside and before leaving Santa Barbara, Colby was baptized into the Mormon Church. Colby had not been taught any of the lessons. The branch president said he

continued on page 2



Christian Lewis and Margaret Hansen

Ronda's Life and Ancestry

Ronda was born in the Idaho Falls LDS Hospital on December 9, 1941, two days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. She was the seventh child born to Paul C. Holm and Zula Wilcox Holm. Three brothers and three sisters were at home to welcome the new baby.

Ronda has two daughters living in the Salt Lake area. Stephanie is the Music Specialist in the Jordan district. She has three grown children who are presently in college. Andrea teaches third grade and choir in a Davis County grade school. She has five children. Her oldest son is married and is a pilot. The other four are studying hard, two at University of Utah, one in high school, one in junior high. Hilary lives in Dallas, Texas. She is the office manager of a financial planning group. Two sons are in Idaho Falls. Jason is a local attorney. He has three children, two in college. Bradley is a construction finisher, and part-time musician. He has one son.

Ronda's father, Paul, was the first child of Swedish emigrants, Carl Otto Holm and Karolina Viktorina Melin Karlsson. Carl Otto and Viktorina both joined the LDS church in Sweden before they met. Carl Otto was baptized at the age of 18, in February, 1892, in a river that had frozen over. The ice was chipped away until there was enough water for the baptism.

Carl and Viktorina met in Orebro at a district Conference the day before he left for America. He was twenty-one years old. After the Conference he joined a group of young people. He wrote: "In this company I found a little sweet girl who seemed perfect in every way....As I did not know how to act....I simply took her hand and asked for her name and address."

After a rough fourteen day trip on a small vessel called "Lord Gough" (a coal boat fixed up for third class passage with poor accommodations), he arrived in Philadelphia. He proceeded toward Idaho. His ticket ran out in a small town in Wyoming. He had left Sweden with \$100. By the time he got to Wyoming he had only \$6 left and the ticket to Montpelier cost \$6.70. He was told to get off the train, but before the train started up he crawled up on some steps between the coaches and rode through several stations. A brakeman noticed him. At that point he had \$1.17. He gave the brakeman \$1 and he hid him in a vacant dark coach the rest of the way. His reason for immigrating? "I had left all [my beloved homeland and family] for the Gospel's sake and came up to "Mount Zion" to learn more of the laws of God that I may walk therein."

He eventually ended up in Iona. Through much grit, determination, and hard work he saved up enough to bring his parents to American. After five years of correspondence, he could finally send

for his little Swedish sweetheart. She was introduced to the barren Snake River Valley, after leaving the lush greenery of Sweden. She was a stalwart woman of faith, and didn't complain. She bore nine children.

Ronda's mother, Zula Wilcox Holm, was born May 22, 1900, to John Elbert Wilcox and Helen Mar McCullough. John's father, John Dingman Wilcox, was born in Nauvoo and with his family crossed the plains to Utah.

Helen Mar McCullough's grandfather, Levi Hamilton McCullough, was born in 1810. He and his wife, Clarinda, joined the church in Michigan, causing his family to disown him. They were determined to heed Brigham Young's admonition and cross the plains. They stopped at Council Bluffs with many of the Saints to regroup. Levi again heeded Brigham Young's plea and joined the Mormon Battalion. After seventeen months of suffering under the most extreme conditions and having traveled nearly five thousand miles, a band of survivors including, Levi Hamilton, returned to Council Bluffs. He was met by a friend with the news that his wife and baby had died five months earlier. Stunned, he fell to the ground as if shot.

He eventually took his three remaining children on to Utah and was part of the settling of Fillmore, Utah. It is interesting to note that he and Chandler Holbrook were contemporaries and leaders in this small community. They were no doubt friends. Levi's only son, Henry Judson, [Ronda's great grandfather] was called to serve a mission and "traveled to Salt Lake City in company with Orson C. Holbrook" and two others. Orson was a son of Chandler Holbrook.

Ronda's early life was on the family farm northwest of Idaho Falls. She graduated from Madison High School in Rexburg. She also graduated from Ricks College in the Nursing program.

Dick and Ronda were married in December, 2000—the beginning of a new millennium. They served two missions together. The first was a proselyting mission to Finland in 2003-05. The second was in the Helsinki Temple in 2009-11. They have also served together in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple for a number of years. At present they have a combined family of eight children and twenty-one grandchildren. Perhaps DV Groberg and Paul C.



Dick and Ronda's combined families, December, 2000

Holm, who were dear friends and business partners, are smiling down upon this combined posterity.

Colby History

continued from page 1

did not want it on his shoulders to not baptize him, so he talked with Colby. On a Sunday morning, a few members assembled on the Santa Barbara beach and Colby was baptized in the Pacific Ocean. The family was sealed in the Los Angeles Temple in 1957.

The Colbys remained active in the Oceanside Branch. The members of the branch wanted the church to build a chapel in Oceanside. Each time they had a conference, they would ask the authorities about building a chapel. While in Hawaii, the Colbys entertained Ilda's cousin Ezra Taft Benson at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. They told him how much the people of Oceanside wanted a chapel. Shortly after they arrived home, the mission president was given the authority to start a chapel, but the members would have to build it. The Colbys were members of the building committee. They, along with many members, worked on the chapel for the next 3 years. Members who had not been coming to church began to attend the services and the branch experienced tremendous growth. From this branch, there are now many Stakes.

In 1958, the Colbys sent their twins to BYU, where Barbara met a Groberg boy from Idaho Falls. Their first date was, of course, a BYU football game. They were married August 25th, 1962. It wasn't until after they were married that Richard found out she didn't like football at all.

Willard and Ilda Colby remained in Oceanside until Willard died in 1985. Ilda stayed in Oceanside until 1993 when she moved to Utah and died in 1994. Barbara died of cancer in April, 1998. Richard and Barbara have 3 children, Stephanie, Todd

Richard Groberg Family Reports

Tom and Stephanie Mortell Family Meridian, Idaho

We have lived in the Boise area since 2002 and we love it.

Tom is a partner at the Hawley Troxell Ennis and Hawley law firm. He began in the Pocatello office in 1996, and then moved to the downtown Boise office in 2002. He serves on the Firm's Board of Partners and several community boards. He is currently serving as the bishop of the Vienna Woods Ward.

Allyson is 21 and just returned from serving a mission in the Philippines Baguio mission. She had a wonderful experience.



She learned that every day is an adventure in the Philippines! We have loved having her home for a few months. She will be returning to BYU for spring term.

It has been a wonderful blessing to all of us to have her serve a mission.

Stephanie keeps the house running sort of smoothly. She found that her mother was right when she said, "Having a missionary is a full-time job." She currently serves in Young Women and in Primary.

Maddy is 18 and a senior at Rocky Mountain High School. She participates in many activities. She serves on the Stake Youth Council. In addition to normal high school senior things, Maddy also participates in: varsity tennis, musical theater, French Club, Art Club (President), choir, and Honor Society. She



likes doing many things so she is a busy girl! She is a sweet girl and a joy to have in our home. She will be a freshman at BYU in the fall.

Todd and Angie Groberg Family Idaho Falls, Idaho

We have lived in Idaho Falls for over 17 years. It has been a neat experience for our kids to live so close to 2 sets of grandparents and lots of cousins!

Todd is a financial planner who loves to try and learn new things. He started his own business, Groberg Wealth Management and is serving as a board member for the Bank of Commerce. He serves as a Scout leader, teaches Primary and is actively involved in the lives of his children.

Jack recently turned 12 and is enjoying life! He loves sports and school, is an active Scout, plays the piano, serves as a ward organist and is a really happy kid. He finished basketball season and is now playing lacrosse.



Eliza is 8 and was just baptized. Since her baptism, she has been really aware of doing good things. Yesterday she picked out all the clothes that her little brother should wear to school on such a cold day including his coat and hat and then wrote him a note in the shape of a heart that read, "I love you Ty. It is going to be cold today so you better dress warm." She is a



true Christian and loves to help out. Eliza is dancing on a local dance team and taking piano lessons.

Ty is 7 and absolutely loving 1st grade. He has a strong and fun personality. Recently Ty went to the dentist and didn't like what he was having done on his teeth so he jumped out of his chair, ran out the front door and hid in the bushes. He loves to ride his bike and do tricks (lots of stitches), loves to play chess, read and play basketball. Most of all he just wants to be outside playing with his buddies.



Angie spends most of her time with family, either at home or volunteering at the school, or in her church calling. Right now she is serving as the Stake Primary President and has learned a lot working with such great people. This season she will work on the 6th grade graduation party, plant a yard full of flowers and veggies, attend ball games, piano recitals and dance competitions.



Mike and Natalie Groberg Family Idaho Falls, Idaho

Mike is working at DV Groberg Company and also helping Todd with his financial planning business, "Groberg Wealth Management." He is serving as Executive Secretary in the ward. He plays tennis occasionally and loves to watch his kids in their various activities.

Natalee has a salon in our home and she enjoys cutting and styling hair a couple of days a week. She is serving in the Primary Presidency. She loves to keep our home decorated for every imaginable season and holiday.

Max is 10 and in the 4th grade. He is busy with sports and the piano. He plays basketball, football and baseball. In his down time he likes to play Xbox and hang out with friends.



Ozzy is 8 and in the 2nd grade. He was just baptized on November 8. He also loves sports (basketball and football especially) and he tolerates playing the piano. His passion is playing catch. He will play with anyone - anytime, anywhere (Sorry if that phrase is copyrighted Uncle John).



Indy is 6. He is in kindergarten. He is so happy to be in the same school as his older brothers and ride the bus home from school with them. He loves to swim. He is happiest jumping in the waves at the beach.



Paris is 4. She is attending her first year of pre-school. She is taking dance. She very much enjoys bossing everyone around in our house and generally making it known that she is in charge. She loves her brothers as long as they stay away from her stuff.



Missionary Addresses

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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:

Groberg-Holbrook Genealogy Organization
(or GHGO)
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