

Our Family Links

The Groberg/Holbrook Family History Association Newsletter

Issue 25, Fall 2017

Inger Sward Johnson

Inger Sward Johnson, Barry Stratton's maternal great grandmother, was born in 1848 in Sweden to Elna and August Sward. (August's birthname was Ake Akesson. His name was changed after he served in the Swedish army and received a new name as an honor. Sward means Sword in Swedish).

She spent an idyllic childhood "playing in the lush meadows and clear streams by the rolling green hills where wild flowers grew in profusion". Around 1856, the Mormon Elders came to visit the family. Some family members converted at that time, but Inger, wanting to be sure she was doing the right thing, waited until she was 17 before being baptized. Inger and her older brother, Andrew, being the oldest in the family, were the ones first chosen to go to "Zion." They earned enough money to pay for the Atlantic passage on the sailing vessel, "The Emerald Isle".

The crossing took 9 weeks and Inger was very sick most of the time. The boat captain "considered us little better than cattle and that is the way we were treated." The next part of the journey was by passenger train. In Omaha they changed to a train with cattle cars where they had their own bedding and food. Whenever the train would stop, they would jump off and start a fire to cook their food and then hop back on with the hot pan and half-cooked food. At the end

of the rail line, they were met by a wagon train composed of ox teams pulling covered wagons. Each wagon had a teamster who had been called to drive the saints to Zion. The wagon next to them was driven by a young man named John Johnson. (She later married this handsome young teamster!)

Inger was lonesome for Sweden and her mother, and found the prairie land barren and gray. Upon arriving in Utah she had expected a paradise and instead found a thinly populated desert. She stated "if it had not been for the Atlantic Ocean, I would have put my possessions in a red handkerchief and walked back to Sweden." The two siblings went to Utah Valley to begin life. Inger found a job as a housemaid and had very patient employers who taught her English and how to make clothes. Inger and her brother Andrew worked hard to earn money for passage to America for the rest of the family in Sweden.

Soon, Inger was being courted by John Johnson and "I finally said yes to his proposal of marriage". They rode a mule-drawn wagon to Salt Lake City where they were married in the Endowment House. On the way, they were stranded in the Pleasant Grove area when, after stopping to water the team and rest, the mules made a break for home, running off with the wagon. Several farmers helped them



Inger Sward Johnson

catch the mules.

The young couple lived in a log cabin in Lake View on the north shore of the Provo River. John earned a meager living by fishing for Peter Madsen. In 1873, the rest of the family from Sweden was on their way to Zion. "I was trying to think of a gift I could have for mother when she arrived, but I had no money. Finally I had a plan and I sold my hair, my long, wavy, black hair, for \$1.00. With the money, I bought enough calico for a dress and had it ready when she arrived."

Four children were born in this home. Finally they saved enough money to buy 10 acres of farmland in Lake View. John made bricks from the clay he found near the lake and they were very happy to get settled in it. Four more children were born in that home.

In 1889, Inger's husband, John, was called on a mission to Norway. The older girls shouldered the farm work and became quite skilled at handling a team of horses, chopping wood and milking. Inger studied English and wrote all her letters to John in English. When John completed his mission and returned home he was called as a Bishop in Lakeview.

In 1915, Inger and John retired from the farm and moved to Provo. She loved to bake Swedish biscuits flavored with cardamom. Inger died in 1928 at the age of 80. Her youngest son, August, was Barry Stratton's grandfather.



Alfred and August Johnson, riding horses at the Lake View home.

Beth and Barry

Barry and Beth Stratton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 3-7 at Seabrook, Washington. Our 4 boys, 3 daughters-in-law and 10 of the 11 grandkids were there.

Then, in September, we (Barry and Beth) “retraced” our original honeymoon to Yellowstone Park and Jackson Hole Wyoming and enjoyed biking and hiking together. Always appreciate the use of the Groberg cabin!

Barry is serving as the Finance Secretary for the Federal Way WA mission. Beth just finished 4 years of being a “granny nanny” for Jaycee, who is now attending all day kindergarten in Auburn. We are also serving as “activity advisors” for the YSA ward (which is a tri-stake ward).



Beth biking in the Jackson area.



Beth and Barry at Hidden Falls near Jenny Lake.



10 grandkids by the Sitka spruce tree, Quinault Rainforest, WA

Jason and Denell Stratton

Jason and Denell live in Layton Utah with their family. McKinley (19) is finishing her Sophomore year at UVU, and is mostly working at Costco when she's not going to school. Her family loves it when she comes home and visits on the weekends, between her school, studies and dating. Sierra (17) is a Senior in high school, and is a social butterfly! She excels at swimming and loves music (and boys). She is also working at Fiiz part time until she graduates this year and prepares for college. Whitney (14) is a freshman in high school and recently took second place in the Utah State High School Tennis playoffs. She (like her sisters) enjoys hanging out with friends and can also be found on the ski slopes in the winter months. Everest (12) just began middle school as a 7th grader! Everest loves teenage boy stuff - video games, sports (including tennis, golf, and skiing), and scouting. Ollie (our dog in the picture) loves jeep rides, chasing and pointing at birds, peanut butter, and hanging out with his family.

Denell just began working as a Zya rep/distributor, and is bringing fashionable workout clothing to women of all ages. She also loves playing tennis, and mountain biking and snowboarding with Jason. Jason works as a software/systems consultant for mid to large sized companies. He travels most of the time with his work, coming home to be with family on the weekends. In his limited free time, he enjoys golf, mountain biking, and skiing. He also is serving on the Layton Valley View Stake High Council and is responsible for Missionary Work in the Stake. We love our family, both immediate and extended, and are grateful for the gospel and the many blessings that it brings.



(left to right): Sierra, Denelle, McKinley, Jason, Everest, Whitney.

Derik and Janine Stratton

Derik and Janine live in Snohomish Washington with their 4 daughters: Aleah (17), Aviry(15), Adie (13) and Audry (9) and their cat, Luna. Janine works as a massage therapist and Derik works for a French engineering software company. All the family enjoy athletics, especially volleyball, cross country running /racing, soccer and keep busy with practices and games.



(left to right): Aviry, Aleah, Adie, McKinley (Jason's daughter), Adie, Janine, Audry, Derik.

Editors Note

We invite you to make tax-deductible contributions to the Groberg-Holbrook Genealogy Association.

If each child of Delbert and Jennie gave \$100 or more and each grandchild \$50 or more, it would go a long way. Many can give more, some perhaps less, but it would be wonderful if everyone contributed something.

Please send your contributions to:

Groberg-Holbrook Genealogy Organization
1605 S. Woodruff Ave.
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

or via PayPal to dvgroberg@gmail.com

You can pay for the cabin with PayPal as well.

We know many of the family have blogs. If you would like to share your blog with the rest of the family, please email the website to me and we will share in the next newsletter and on the family website.

Bryan and Heather Stratton

Bryan and Heather Stratton live in Bountiful with their two daughters, Venice (10) and Vienna (8). Heather works for Starbucks in Bountiful. She enjoys training for half-marathons. Bryan works for Onyx in Salt Lake and was recently honored in New York by his company and the mother company (Canon) for a significant software innovation. They have a dog and a cat which seem to get along well, also.



(left to right): Vienna, Bryan, Heather, Venice, Beth and Jaycee, on a hiking trail in Washington

Kevin Stratton

Kevin and Jaycee are living in Auburn. Jaycee started kindergarten and also enjoys gymnastics. Kevin works at Ditco where he works in electronics and is continuing his education in electronics. They have a pet friendly home and grew lots of pumpkins this year.



Kevin and Jaycee at the Sitka spruce tree, Quinault Rainforest, WA

Missionary Addresses

Sister Maddy Mortell

Cambodia Phnom Penh Mission
PO Box 165
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
madeline.mortell@myldsmail.net
[June 2016 — December 2017]

Sister Lindsey Madsen

Tokyo Mission
4-25-12 Nishi-ochiai,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
161-0031 Japan
lindsey.madsen@myldsmail.net
[June 2016 — December 2017]

Elder and Sister Hubble

Brazil Campinas Temple
hubblemission.blogspot.com/
[August 2016 — February 2018]

Elder Brian Groberg

Equador Quito Mission
Calle Robles E4-151 y Av. Amazonas
Casilla: 17-03-078
Quito, Pinchincha, Equador
brian.groberg@myldsmail.net
[March 2016 — March 2018]

Elder Adam Teuscher

France Lyon Mission
Lyon Business Centre
59 rue de l'Abondance
69003 Lyon, France
adam.teuscher@myldsmail.net
[June 2016 — June 2018]

Elder Ralph Blair

Colombia Bogota North Mission
Calle 72 # 10-07 Oficina 1005
Edificio Liberty Seguros
Bogota Cundinamarca, Colombia
ralph.blair@myldsmail.net
[September 2016 — September 2018]

Sister Maelynn Bailey

Mexico Cuernavaca Mission
Avenida Palmira # 35
Colonia Palmira
62490 Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico
maelynn.bailey@myldsmail.net
goforthwithfaithtotelltheworld.blogspot.com
[December 2016 — June 2018]

Elder Landon Bailey

Puerto Rico, San Juan Mission
(temp in California Riverside Mission)
landon.bailey@myldsmail.net
goforthwithfaithtotelltheworld.blogspot.com
[May 2017 — May 2019]

Elder Mathew Clark

Washington DC South Mission
5242 Lyngate Court
Burke, VA 22015
matthew.clark@mylds.net
[July 2017 — July 2019]