

Our Family Links

The Groberg/Holbrook Family History Association Newsletter

Issue 9, May 2006

A Courtship By Correspondence

Delbert Groberg often quipped that he went to BYU to find a good wife and then married the first girl he met. He would add that he first spotted Jennie and knew she was the girl he had come for while he was standing in a line to register for classes. Jennie was sitting at a table, assisting the registering students in a different line. The smitten Delbert immediately left the line he had been waiting in and moved to the back of the line that would lead him to Jennie.



Jennie and Delbert while dating

According to Jennie, her reaction to Delbert was almost as immediate and intense as his had been upon seeing her. Somewhat to Jennie's chagrin, however, Delbert moved into and through the ensuing 2½ year courtship at the same slow but deliberate and determined pace at which he had approached her table on that first day. She later wrote that after their meeting at the registration table, "it was quite a while before he asked me for a date in spite of my attempts to let him know I was interested. But I happened to be having many opportunities for dates at that time and it rather discouraged him."

Probably the greatest test of Delbert's resolve was not the number of Jennie's rival suitors during the brief time they were together at BYU. Rather, it was the distance that separated them when he took time off school to work in Ogden and then when Jennie moved to Idaho to teach high school after her graduation in the spring of 1929 while Delbert continued his studies in Provo. Their faithful and frequent correspondence throughout those courtship years provides significant insight into their personalities and the ups, downs, ins and outs that helped shape their unique and lasting relationship. The excerpts that follow (including poems and jokes) are just a small sampling from this legacy of letters. More will be provided at the upcoming reunion in Idaho (see 100th Birthday Celebration article). For complete copies of all of the correspondence, contact Matt Powell at mmpowell9@msn.com or (480) 730-5289.



Dearest Jennie,

Provo, Utah Sept 16, 29

To the (my) dearest Jennie,

Hello!-Provo is very beautiful, there is a full harvest moon and a cool autumn breeze that knows both Timp and Utah Lake. If you were here everything would be just perfect-I think you are very necessary, in order for perfection to exist.

Nov. 19, 1929

My dear Miss genuine,

I have just been for a walk-alone-no not alone-for he is never alone who is accompanied by noble thoughts and I have been thinking of you.

...I am never separated from the invigorating thought that you are for me and I am for you and we are for the good that we can do-you are Jennie, genuine and true-I am Delbert, can be no one else-together besides making a very good joke-can also make the world a better place in which to live-and the joy of living-who could measure it? Would just be boundless!

...I am proud of you Jennie, I am happy that you consider me when you do noble things...To know that Delbert sees more vividly his imperfections and believes more unselfishly that he must perfect himself - because of you and for you. I'll have purpose in my work and plan thoughts in my mind and yes, be sure - love in my heart...

Good Night, Delbert

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My Own Dear Delbert:

Sept 7, 1929

Dear Brother Groberg:

What I hardly understand is why I have had just one letter since arriving in Idaho-from you...

...You have some very admiring friends and relatives here. Are you as exceptional as they think? More so-I know.

Maybe there will be a letter at Ammon for me when I return. Maybe Delbert-well anyway - I wish I had one.

Happy Jennie

Sept. 16

My dear Delbert:

...I have been thinking and somehow dear I find more interest and charm in thinking when I think with you-I recall your ideals and thots and expressions and my thinking is modified to be on a more elevated and truth plane.

Everyone but the school teacher has retired. She has been looking out at the keeper of night and now she is listening to a concert orchestra. The work for the morrow is prepared-not as it should be perhaps but satisfactorily for the present...

It is the beauty of the calm night and the strains of music that make me realize the possibility and joy and goodness of life itself-that, but more-thots of you...

Appreciatively, Jennie

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The Status Of Our Family History Work: What Is Being Done And What You Can do to Help

by Mary Jane Fritzen

I have been asked to update the family on our family history work, what I am doing, resources here and how to access them, and how others may help.

Family history has two major divisions: our present family and our ancestors. We need both categories. We should schedule time to keep up our immediate family records-entering births, marriages, deaths, and religious ordinances. We should also decide how to use the ancestral records, including the books Mom has given us. For example, to regularly schedule family home evenings to tell stories Mom gave us. She gave us Christmas stories and inspirational items. She gave us a story by her mother of "Our Folks at

Ponca," where Christmas was much different in the cold camp among the Indians in pioneer Nebraska. In family home evenings we can read parts of the dedicatory prayer from the Idaho Falls Temple history by Dad.

If we don't know where these books are, but remember receiving them from Mom, then let's allocate time to look for them at our homes. I can send a specific story copied for you at your request. However it takes me time to look, just as it does you.

What materials do we have here? The Family Center is still in the basement at the D. V. Groberg office, as Mom set it up. Dad's and Mom's personal papers also are there, generally indexed. The

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My Own Dear Delbert -continued from page 1

Sept. 18, 1929

Dear Delbert,

...Do you think if I did come home for potatoe vacation I could see you-if I promised not to interfere with studies, meetings, etc. or perhaps dates? I'd sure like to. We don't know just when it will be but I'm looking forward to it. Does that sound like a confession?

I think of you often and always with happiness and admiration and Love. Jennie

(Nov. 18, 1929)

Saturday A.M.

Your complaint although rather vague, is justified...I am conscious of my unexcusable neglect in letting myself be known and understood. Often this is due to a false modesty-not wishing to apply for praise, often it is due to an extreme cautiousness. If you are the man I am to marry, I certainly should feel and act and write more freely, shouldn't I? I'll try to be frank-Sometimes I feel so happily certain of the rightness of things as they are but sometimes I feel discouraged and lonesome.

...Not only because it is my duty to succeed here but because I know you want me to do so and know also that it is the only thing that will satisfy me, I'm trying hard to do so.

...And best of all, speaking selfishly, I am finding Jennie. I haven't known her too well before. She is full of faults but she has a wonderful heritage and background and possibilities. She's got to make good. She wasn't blessed as she has been for herself but for those to whom she is to give.

...What do you think of this:

"I dreamed and that that life was beauty I woke and found that life was duty."

But the beauty is equally as vital as the duty and the dreams as the daily existence, don't you think? The beauty and dreams are what most people need more of. You see I have philosophies too.

You already excel in true living and I'm learning how. We've got to live above the common and mechanical things of life that must be to some extent.

December 2, 1929

How shall I address you? I feel somehow as if you are so much nearer and dearer and more real-it's the most satisfied feeling and yet with the satisfaction is an active desire to do more and be more. I believe when doubts, melancholy moods, mental confusion and discouragement rush in to take the place of some of the joy I usually feel, such is partly due to a lack of a sort of inspiration that you give. Speaking for Jennie, I want everything good and fine and valuable to work out just as we "planned" it and we are going to make it so, aren't we? Whether the details or "mechanics" come our way or not. Oh my dear what a glorious future if we prove true to each other and to our task and our heritage, etc! Gee but I'm happy-way down deep-are you?

Dearest Jennie -continued from page 1

Jan 6th 30 -

Dearest of all to me,

...some of the details for those hello's each morning not in letters - are not fully worked out - but yes - I still think - and hope it will be - when the breath of summer is fresh and flowers bloom and nature smiles and says it's June - I thrill with thought of it all, sweetheart, and believe that tho June will not always stay - nature will ever reflect our smiles and happiness -

Love
Delbert

Washingtons birthday 1930

Dear Jennie,

I crave so much to dispel the unpleasant haze of doubt and worry, which is thrust upon an otherwise beautiful scene. No matter how glorious and beautiful may be the dawn or the silvery moon if they are lost to view by mist and storms - we can not thrill with vision of their delightfulness.

If I to you could speak and tell my whole self in terms unbent by surface pride, I feel certain that a beau of true light would pierce the hazy mist and

change the blur to a perfect beauty (perhaps perfected by the blur of honest tears that would no longer flow - except to express a full hearts gratitude for seeing the picture that its deepest purpose hoped to see).

I am made for living, long and much. I seek the harmony of laws, Gods and men, to live them first myself and thus and then attempt to teach the value of such harmony to others. To live much and most - I must love - It is a power that grows stronger thru excersise.

May 26 - 30

Dearest Sweetheart -

I was happy to get that lovely letter - you are growing nearer and dearer and clearer every day -

...Oh boy if we come back to Idaho and really try we can live the most of any people in the world.

Everything is great and big and invigorating here -

Love to my dearest pal - and all her folks -

Delbert

JOKES FROM DELBERT'S LETTERS

Perhaps the preacher was at fault-But anyway it annoyed him to see the old gentleman asleep in church, so he called the little boy who was with the man into the vestry and asked who the man was-

"Grandpa"-

"I'll give you 5 cents a week if you'll keep him awake in church."

For two weeks he had no trouble. But on the third Sunday the man went to sleep-and slept.

The preacher called the boy after church and said very 'cross like'-"I thought I promised you 5 cents a week to keep your grandpa awake."

"Yes but grandpa is giving me 10 cents a week to let him sleep"-

"I am going to marry a pretty girl and a good cook."

"You can't. That's bigamy."

Ad in last night's paper-cooking and tending children my specialty.

I like a lawyer; even more

I'm fond of a physician.

But I admit I'd die before

I'd send for a mortician.

Prof: "You missed class yesterday didn't you?"

Student: "Not at all, old boy. Not at all."

Katherine Wright ends long friendship by marriage to Kausos. Editor

"Dearie", said the young married man, "I have to go to N.Y. on business. It will only take a day or so and I hope you won't miss me too much while I am away. but-"

"I won't", answered his young wife positively, "because I am going with you."

"I wish you could dear, but it won't be convenient this time. What would you go for anyway? I am going to be too busy to be with you, and-"

"I have to go. I need clothes!"

"But darling you can get all the clothes you need right here on center street."

"Thank you-that's all I wanted."

"Drink is mans worst enemy" declared the preacher-and you have taught us to love our enemies.

Did you hear about the little boy who said to his mother, "If I had a little twin brother would you give him a banana too?" and the mother said, "Why yes." "Then" dit le petit garson, "why do you deprive me of the other banana just because I am not twins?"

A teacher had given a long thoughtful lecture on the value of peace - at the conclusion she said,

"Now, do any of you students object to war?"

"Yes, I do."

"Why?"

"Because wars make history and I hate history."

AND HERE'S ONE FROM JENNIE

...A man became thoroughly disgusted at a friend who insisted on borrowing from him. At the next visit the friend said "Will you be using your golf things tomorrow? ("Now's my chance," thot the man). "Yes I am going to play golf tomorrow." "Fine-then I can borrow your tennis racquet."



Family Center consists of three rooms at the office:

1) The first room contains a copy of most of the books published or unpublished by family members. For example, some of Margaret Young's are there; and some of Dad's and Mom's yearly personal journals. Also there are individual shelves for each of our siblings and our parents. The selected photos Mom copied are still on the wall.

2) The second room contains audio and video recordings by or pertaining to our family. It now also contains about thirty file storage boxes of Dad's and Mom's personal papers. These boxes are labeled, and I have listed their contents by computer print-out. These lists are general, such as "Dad's mission, correspondence from family." (He saved letters from his mission.)

3) The third room is genealogy materials; therefore it concerns our ancestors. It is organized into families, such as "Brunt," "Burnett," "Hinckley," "Brimhall," etc. I have also compiled a list of these materials on computer. Certain old books and Church reference books, etc. are on

bookshelves. In this room also are historical materials from Dad's temple history resources, etc. And a few items are stored there for you to pick up because you were not available when we moved Dad's and Mom's things from their house. For example, Dee's tea chest. If you have a particular question, you may ask me.

As to what is here at 827 Linden Drive, the den upstairs is now my local, regional, and family history library and office.

I have a good library of Church books downstairs; also bookshelves for other literature, for reference books, for American and world history. A few old publications as well as a few years of periodicals are in the newly-finished room downstairs, the old family library storage room. However we discarded most of the Church periodicals because they are readily available indexed electronically. I saved some old Relief Society magazines, but not a complete collection. Also we donated much Brimhall materials to BYU, but saved some things. We saved some L.H. and Sina Holbrook memoirs

and mementoes. I haven't specifically listed these, but when somebody interested visits me, we may find time to do that. If you want to help, plan ahead.

The first way you may help is to keep up your individual family records. The PAF computer program is ideal for this. Then schedule family history time; use family history for certain regular home evenings. For myself, since I see a need to put together my various catalogs of Groberg-Holbrook materials, I have scheduled a half day this Wednesday and Friday for that purpose. Our family history may include scrapbooks, photos, treasured letters. It must include the five-generation family group and pedigree charts, the present one brought up to date. (For example, I just added Dad's death information to my PAF.) Pioneer histories are good to use. As we get older we recognize our limitations, so please stay focused. As we give ourselves time to generate, locate, and use these charts, histories and stories, we will know how very meaningful our days are, how sincerely we love our family, and how fast time flies.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Delbert the Poet

This family just keeps getting bigger and smarter. We have at least one new baby and a whole new generation of college graduates among us.

Betty Blair joined the ranks of the Ben and Gabby Blair clan on May 9, 2006.

Joining the ranks of the family's college educated are Jennie and Delbert's two oldest great-granddaughters, Kaila Fox Lifferth (vocal performance) and Kristina Lewis Prisbrey (architecture). Sharing in the sheep skin honors with Kaila and Kristi were their respective husbands, Noah Lifferth (engineering) and Landon Prisbrey (physics).

Way to go Blairs, Lifferths, and Prisbeys!!!

I think of you
And things to do.
I can't be blue,
I don't want to.
Just want to live
and live for you
and live and do-
and I will, too.
--Monday 11 p.m. (no date)

Because of your beautiful spirit
In all that you do,
Your devotion to home
and its devotion to you
The genuine joy you are able to give
And the wonderful life you wish to live
I think of you as a pal good and true
And I want to be a pal to you.
--May 14, 1929

Have you ever been along ways off -
All lonesome like and blue,
felt you cared for no one
An' no one cared for you.
Have you had the world forget you



An' leave you all alone
With no one to talk to but yourself
And thoughts your only home?
If your life has had this richness
And you have felt its worth
You will be glad that you have found
There is more to life than mirth.
The treasures that you find within
The powers of your mind
Will help you always to enjoy
The other things you find.
--February 3, 1930

"We will do a lot of living
and we will do a lot of good -
We will fill the vision of our dreams -
We have always known we would.
No goal in life can be too high
We will always aim above,
We will expand and grow and change
And in it all we'll be
Ever animated and inspired
by the vibrant fibers of our love
--May 30, 1930



Join Us For the DVG 100th Birthday Celebration

Over the course of the past 12 months, the music world has done much to commemorate the 250th birthday of Mozart, the Church has done much to commemorate the 200th birthday of Joseph Smith, and your very own relatives have done much in preparation for a reunion to commemorate the 100th birthday of our dad, grandpa, great- and great-great grandpa, D.V. Groberg. Regardless of how interested or involved you may have been in celebrating the lives of those other two great men, you are not going to want to miss the Groberg celebration/reunion in Idaho Falls on Saturday, July 1, 2006.

Lewis (with a lot of help from Joe, Jeanne and other Groberg kin) is in charge. He will send out a detailed agenda a little later. We have reserved rooms at the Hampton Inn for Friday, June 30, and Saturday, July 1. Please contact the hotel as soon as possible (hopefully by June 1) and let them know how many rooms your family will need. The number is (208) 529-9800. Make sure you tell them you are with the D.V. Groberg family reunion. The family trust will pay for the rooms, so you should not need to make a deposit or give a credit card number.

Of course we can't celebrate Grandpa's great life without celebrating his great wife as well. This will be an excellent opportunity for the younger generations who did not know them in their prime (and us in the older generations with fading and fragile memories) to get better acquainted with our family founders as we also get better acquainted with each other. The principal gathering place will be the Woodruff 1st Ward chapel at 1660 E. 12th Street (behind Joe and Jeanne's house). The reunion will officially open at 9 or 10 a.m. Breakfast will be at the Hampton Inn. Lunch and dinner will be served at the church house or in Joe and Jeanne's backyard. In addition to family reports and presentations, there will be lots of activities available, including family passes to Tautphaus Park Zoo, feeding ducks and geese along the Snake River green belt, climbing at Stonewall's gym, games and races in the church yard, golf and tennis, visits to family sites, walks, maybe even a square dance for the whole family. Some of these activities will have to be on Friday so come early if you can. See you all there!



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