

Dad and Mom



827 Linden Place  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401  
8 Feb 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With Dad's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, we all remember him with devotion. As Mom used to remind us of Dad's birthday with a token gift, I want to do so also. Because our parents loved one another, I have copied some of their personal tributes to one another, their love messages; also I have been recording the correspondence between Grandma and Grandpa Holbrook, kept since 1897, from his mission call until their marriage 15 May, 1901. David McCullough wrote the John Adams biography using letters between John Adams and his wife Abigail. The Fay and Sina letters also relate their love story. Some of you may also have a collection of your personal love letters, as I do, and treasure them as I do. Because these old letters were kept for so long, I must respect them and take my time to slowly transcribe them. So far I have made a chart 15 pages long, listing the date, place and writer of each letter and how it begins. About 20 letters remain to be indexed in this chart.

Nothing is more important to a family than knowing their parents love one another. I will send you a photo of the flowers on Dad's and Mom's graves this week, and a copy of just a few of their tributes, letters expressing love one to another. Maybe by May 15, I can make available the chart listing the letters exchanged between our beloved Holbrook grandparents.

Because of another commitment for Monday 13 Feb., and because Monday is the best day for John and Jean to schedule activities, I invited the Idaho Falls family to my home on the evening of Presidents Day, Monday, 20 Feb., just about mid-way between Dad's and Mom's birthdays. We will have a program in which each guest is invited to tell something he treasures about Dad and about Mom. At Anny's suggestion I have made "Grandma's Famous Slush." At Lew's request we will also have a pot luck supper at 6 p.m. before the 7 p.m. program. For Christmas, Lewis gave me the book *1776*, by McCullough, and he is reading a new biography of Abraham Lincoln. Feb. 12 will be Lincoln's birthday, and Grandma Holbrook was born 16 Dec. 1876, just 100 years after our Declaration of Independence. For many years Dick hosted a happy birthday luncheon for Dad, and Jeanne a delightful one for Mom; we expect to combine the two. Of course each of you is freely encouraged to celebrate as you choose.

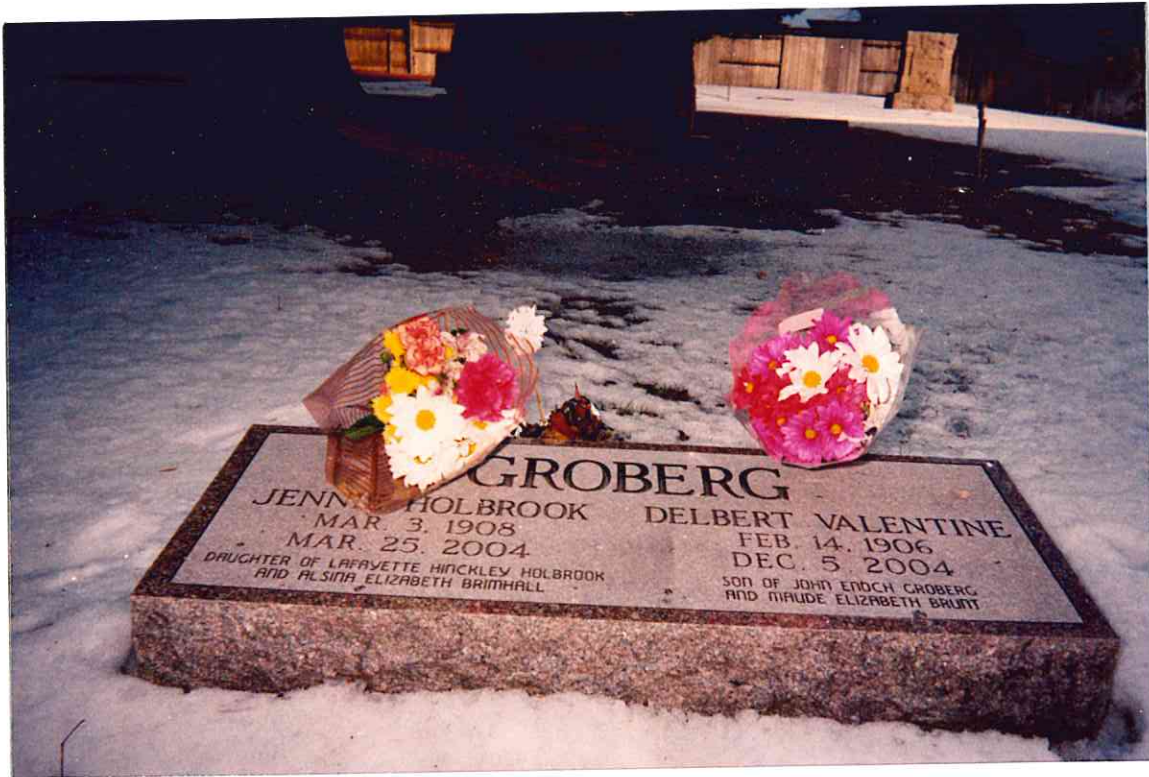
Because this Tues., 14 Feb. is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dad's special day, I will hold open house so that anyone may stop by to look at family books from Mom and Dad, remember them in words and pictures, or watch videos of them and have some slush. (Just let me know when.) In addition, with Viki's help and also help from Joe and Jeanne, I have assembled our Fritzen home movies, with a few from Dad, to be put on a DVD. The earliest is in the 1930s when our young family went to Yellowstone Park to see the bears. GHGO will fund this project. We will get together for Family Reunion in I. F. the first of July, family arriving 30 June.

Please use the 13 Feb. family home evening to honor Dad and Mom. You too have books they gave us for such a use. As I put flowers on their grave I sensed their love in this sacred spot and said a prayer.

Love,

*Mary Jane*





Mar 2-1944

Dear Father + Mother Holbrook,  
As you know, tomorrow will  
be Jane's birthday - When I try  
to contemplate the great worth  
of her life to us, I am sure  
I do not fully appreciate, or  
deserve, so beautiful + faithful  
a wife and mother unless we  
acknowledge our gratitude  
and show our devotion -

We have certainly been richly  
blessed with the challenging  
varities that make up a busy,  
interesting and abundant life.  
I have not contributed nearly  
as much as I have received,  
but by my good fortune and  
Jane's willingness to share her  
fine training, her outstanding  
ability and lovely spirit with  
me - I have been placed under  
permanent obligation. I want to  
express my Love and Thankgiving  
to you, her parents - May you be  
blessed continually with all that  
is needed for your happiness.  
Tonight I have enjoyed the Father's

opporium  
alone while mother <sup>roxy</sup>  
out - It is always a miracle to  
me to see the little boys get  
tired and cross and how the  
blessing of sleep place them  
one by one into dreamland. I  
noticed how hard baby Joe  
fought against falling off  
and several times he aroused  
and made temporary escape,  
but with the steady and  
patient influence of one who  
positively knows what is best  
sleep took over, and so seven  
pairs of eyes are now closed  
and seven healthy, happy,  
vibrant little grandchildren  
of yours will bound out  
early in the morning to  
shower their small gifts on  
large hugs and kisses on  
their mother so she greet  
the work and enjoyment of  
her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday -  
Lovingly & Affectionately

June 9th, 1945

(typed from Dad's handwriting)

My dearest Jane,

I have just finished reading the two big boys and Mary a few verses from  
Guest. One that pleased them very much ended:

"Your life from babyhood to now  
Has known the sweetness of her care,  
Her tender hand has soothed your brow,  
Her love gone with you everywhere.

Through every day and every night  
You've had an angel to adore you.  
So bear in mind, I once was right -  
'Twas I who chose your mother for you."

I never cease to marvel that I had the nerve to ask and that you had the  
faith to accept - for it did take a lot of nerve to ask you to marry me and  
it took a lot of faith for you to accept and come with me.

This anniversary will mark 15 years since our wedding day - June 11, 1930.

The experiences and joys and children that have come into our home have packed  
the years plum full of happiness and opportunities and responsibility.

You have been a real mother to the children and, in fact, you have been a mother  
to me too. That has added to your job but you have not complained. How much  
is 15 years? not in days or months but in the things we have been permitted to  
load into that period. The measure is hard to take, it is so different from  
just inches or feet or pounds - but some of the contents can't be named if not  
actually measured or evaluated.

The foundation role of sweethearts becoming husband and wife and father and  
mother sets the stage for the things that are to go into our 15 years, -  
home, children, health, companionship, friends, livelihood, responsibility  
and love. These have the same measurements as given on the ideal day for  
the airtrip - "ceiling unlimited" - That is my thought of our lives and our  
work. There are no real hindering times

*hope to find the rest*

Idaho Falls, Idaho

June 11, 1955

25 Years after marriage - Dearest Jane -

You have been so constant and devoted to the great purpose of our union - that after the first quarter I stand in love and gratitude at that which we have to show for our united effort.

Most of the credit goes to you and your clear vision of lasting values. You have kept the candle of truth burning and have never doubted.

I love you for your beauty, your loyalty, your companionship and your great motherhood -

Now that Julia and Bob have honored you with the new calling - "Grandmother" - this adds to my love for you - Happy next quarter to my sweetheart -

If you see in the "Lady with the Candle" a study in light - it is for an anniversary gift. (a beautiful oil painting which we both treasure still in 1989 - hanging in our living room)

Letter to Jennie written by Delbert

A Mother's Day - wish  
5/9/65

May your hearts  
desires - be full-  
filled - because  
they are so true  
and beautiful,  
and may we help  
them come about  
by being loving,  
kind + dutiful.

To our favorite  
pal -  
Mother!

Lewis Gloria  
Joy



June 11<sup>th</sup> 1978 - 1930

The good, the true, the beautiful  
The life, the light and the way.

The hope for now and hereafter  
Relate to this wedding day -

On this day we were united  
For time and all eternity  
we became one together  
and started our family tree.

We have grown in understanding  
The years have been full of love  
Our children have come as blessings  
From their Heavenly home above.

D. V. D.

June 11<sup>th</sup> 1930

a blushing bride  
an immature groom  
a lot of attention  
and every thing new

June 11 - 1986

a graceful Matron  
an experienced Patriarch  
a sizable Posterity  
Everything just wonderful

June 11 - 1930

Jennie ready and willing  
Delbert with faith in the future  
Both hearing the promises  
And knowing they're real

June 11 - 1986

Jennie mother and grandmother  
of beautiful children  
Delbert grateful grandfather  
Having joy and rejoicing.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert W. Groberg

827 Linden Drive

Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Feb 28 - 1987

I remember so well when we first met, you were less than 20 and I was more than 20 - As we have passed each 10 year mile post this spread of years keeps showing up - until now - with your birthday this year you are less than 30 - and I am under than 80 -

Next year you will be 80 and I will be 82. I recall when you had your 20<sup>th</sup> birthday - I was just a couple of months after we first met - I stated you are now 20 - and I am "20 too" -

It has been an opportunity to be just a little older than you and yet to be about the same age

When you <sup>are</sup> 90 and I am 90 <sup>two</sup> too we will be even closer to the same age - and won't it be fun to tell stories & joke about our age

Found - May, 1984 - date written is unknown

TO MY CHILDREN'S DAD

When first I met you, Pal of mine -  
I recognized your worth;  
I realized that few such men  
Had been sent down to earth.

You simply were outstanding  
And the prayers of all my life  
Were answered at temple altar  
When I became your wife.

Then the child-en came---  
And finer ones no parents ever had.  
My secret hope was always  
That they'd be just like their Dad.

If they possess such faith as yours,  
Their goals they will attain;  
Your honesty will prompt them  
Never to deceive for gain.

If they can be as humble  
And as prayerful and as true,  
As loving and as kind  
And sincere dear, as you --

I will have no further worries  
And for this I'm truly glad  
That you love me and I love you  
And you're my children's Dad.

Mother Jennie



Idaho Falls, Idaho

February 14, 1980

And my dearly beloved eternal companion is 74 --imagine! 74--his hair is gray and makes him very distinguished looking and handsome. I recall my mother once envisioning him as a "patriarch" with gray hair--depth of spirituality quietly radiating --

For some time I have been thinking about our houses through the years and of how they relate, or do not relate, to our home --interesting--not profound

His sister Maude had insisted the humble apartment in their Grandma Brunt's old home was totally unthinkable for one reared as an "elite" so she helped Dad select a large, imposing and unfurnished apartment on "D" street--it had a few items such as a built-in wall bed --but when Delbert left for a week to set up some "insurance" offices in towns south of here and I was alone I was even more realistically "lost" in that apartment--we both felt relieved when we'd used up the paid rent and moved into the humble apt. of Grandma Brunt--that's where our home began--altho that preliminary experience, especially having Delbert gone a week--made me realize how precious were those temple promises and we really were to be one --one in all the important ways--When Mary Jane was born our home really began in earnest--we were too involved to think enough about belonging to each other--but we did --it was fun to live close to the Joe Brunts and the George Brunts and the Nixon cousins--they made us part of their family--much, much could be related of glories that began in that dear little apt (some are recorded) Delbert was made counselor in the Bishopric--

Then when Julia was on her way Delbert decided to give me a real surprise--expression of his love for me and ours and he purchased a doll-house on 6th Street-brand-new, one-bedroom--tiny, impossible, but what stars were in his eyes as he brought me over to see it --It just had to be home when he saw it as such and indeed it was -- because we loved each other and ours so much --and we also loved the Lord and his work -that was always basic to our home --

Our home at 420-10th St. (one on 6th was also 420)-was planned by us but mostly by Delbert and the Johnsons who owned and operated the Johnson Planing Mills--I was learning more and more now what a relief and joy it was to always have a loving, understanding, dependable, happy and successful business man-husband --Yes, a relief--I could stay home and find strength and joy in doing what I was created to do --have and teach our children the Gospel--with Delbert's help always--and he always, always succeeded as a patriarch in our home -where living the gospel became more and more the way

But we soon outgrew that lovely home--again a "drop" bed for guests--cabine everywhere--(I often wondered if Johnsons regretted their statement that they would put in as many cabinets as I wanted--I wanted more than they calculated for--but it really was the selling point later--all those cabinet. And we were just across and down a ways from Kate Curly Park--and home had to include a lovely, secluded park where I could take the children each day when weather permitted --we fenced in the yard--again memory recalls happy times but always happiest when Delbert was there -which was much of the time. More and more now he was revealing other great abilities --always optimistic, grateful, full of faith--always magnifying his priesthood--the very foundation of the home that was then and now and later --I so took him for granted--not actually realizing such a husband was not the usual--just realizing that as he and I did our best to do what the Lord asked--our blessings couldn't be even counted --More Church positions--business responsibilities-- other community involvement--he was a natural leader and all who knew him, loved him

He was always an excellent provider -but especially a wonderful father

When we outgrew our wonderful house on 10th street we hoped for one as "just right" but larger--even wondered about removing the roof and adding a story --but when the big old house on 12th St. -255--came up for sale--my very recognized realtor husband gave it serious consideration for us--It was closer to the church--that was at the time a great consideration--but it was also old and not too appealing to me--large enough--but..... He sincerely and tactfully broached the subject now and again--we would soon be able to build or buy a "home" we'd really be proud of--so the children could have the influence of culture that seemed at the time to be more often found in lovely homes--Thinking it would be just a temporary move but always sensing the superior wisdom of my companion to my own wisdom in such matters as real estate (he knew it all and I very little) we moved into the 12th Street house --it had many excellent qualities--and became more and more adequate as we added a room and a bath --redid the front hall--when Delbert was made Bishop we were really glad we lived close--I was so proud of him always, yet just accepting he'd be and do all those wonderful things which he did -- We really constantly sang (at least in our hearts) "I'll be glad when daddy comes home!" --everyone adored Dad --family, friends, business associates--We spent 25 years on 12th.

The Redbarn lane home was very fine --and probably better than if we'd gone thru with our plans to finally build an adequate, beautiful, affordable home--and we enjoyed our neighbors, especially trying to interest some in the true restored Church --and we had weddings there--Dee built a fantastic room in our basement--really fantastic--it was hard to give that room up when we moved --How we spruced it up when we learned we were to have Pres. Kimball and Pres. Romney as our guests, and Elder Haycock--All the children and grandchildren came and sang with Pres. K. accompanying "I Am a Child of God" -- that was when Delbert and I had been called to serve in the Temple --He is really called of God--wherever and whenever called --but especially as head of our family --I'm there too but it is Delbert and I and the children that make any house Home --and the approval of the Lord in our constant, dedicated efforts to truly and fully live the gospel --It is home and family that will go with us into eternity--no house --

Our Temple President's home is really a home all the way--excellently designed and built and convenient to the Temple and adequate for all our family gatherings--it must be a hallowed place always --we are privileged to occupy it only as we serve in these precious callings--We have been blessed especially to bring to our home several General Authorities including Pres. Kimball, Pres. Tanner (Pres. Romney in Redbarn Lane home) Elders Ashton, Haight, Haycock, Groberg, Perry, Pres. Benson--others--With the enlarged vision and understanding of the great temple blessings Delbert and I deeply rejoice --especially as we are privileged to share with our families--Our Heavenly Father's plan for us is so wondrous and so right, all the way--as put into operation by His Beloved Son--we love them both dearly --We are now in our 5th and maybe last year--Our whole desire (next to being true L.D.S. parents and grandparents, etc.) is to have the approval of the Lord in the work we are so privileged to direct in the House of the Lord --the Temple.

June 26. 1980

In early 1984 - Delbert and Jennie visited Lima Peru where Joe and Jeanne were completing their 3-year assignment as President and mother of the Lima Peru South Mission.

Jennie awoke one morning in Lima and told Delbert she felt her greatest accomplishment in this life was being the mother of our children and teaching them the joys of gospel living - to really know, love and determine to follow and obey the Savior. As she started to express this she suddenly stopped and said - "No - that isn't right - I should say OUR greatest accomplishment in this life as PARENTS -(my greatest accomplishment with YOU and BOTH of us together) - is having all these wonderful, precious children and teaching them, first by our own and constant example, the joys of full gospel living - to really know, love and joyfully determine to follow and obey the Savior at all times - whatever He, thru his delegated authorities, asks."

FEBRUARY 14, 1989

DEAR DELBERT, DAD, GRANDPA

SIXTY-ONE YEARS AGO TODAY AT THE MANAVU WARD IN PROVO, WE FIRST CELEBRATED YOUR BIRTHDAY.....TOGETHER

FIFTY-NINE YEARS AGO-COME JUNE-WE WERE MARRIED IN THE SALT LAKE TEMPLE TO ALWAYS AND JOYFULLY BE.....TOGETHER

THESE YEARS HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, PROBLEMS - BUT ALSO WITH JOYS AND GROWTH AND BLESSINGS BECAUSE ALWAYS WE HAVE DETERMINED TO BE ONE WITH THE LORD AND.....TOGETHER

PRIVILEGED TO WELCOME ELEVEN PRECIOUS CHILDREN OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER TO OUR HOME TO BE TAUGHT THE JOYS AND BLESSINGS OF HOME LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL-EACH ALSO SEALED IN THE TEMPLE TO A BELOVED COMPANION - WE HAVE INDEED REJOICED...TOGETHER

WE HAVE LIKEWISE WELCOMED SIXTY-ONE (soon to be 62) GRAND-CHILDREN AND TWENTY-TWO (soon to be 25) GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN TO OUR FAMILY.....INDEED REJOICING...TOGETHER

AMONG THE HAPPY BIRTHDAY MESSAGES TO YOU TODAY IS ONE FROM MARILYN WHICH SAYS: "I PRAY THAT MY MARRIAGE CAN ALWAYS BE AS SWEET AND WONDERFUL AS YOURS IS AND ALWAYS WAS." "YOU ARE SO.....TOGETHER

AS WE NOW REALISTICALLY ANTICIPATE THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR EXISTENCE - WE DO SO WITH UNDERSTANDING AND GRATITUDE AND REJOICING - AND WITH SURE AWARE-NESS THAT WE WILL STILL BE.....TOGETHER

\* \* \* \*

IN THE MEANTIME - OUR CHALLENGES CONTINUE AS SOME TREASURED FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE YET TO LEARN THAT ALL THE RIGHT AND NEEDED ANSWERS ARE FOUND ONLY IN FULL AND GRATEFUL AND JOYFUL HOME LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESTORED GOSPEL

OUR PRAYER AND HOPE ALWAYS IS THAT ALL OF OUR FAMILY WILL EVENTUALLY BE WITH US AND WITH EACH OTHER IN EXALTATION IN THE CELESTIAL KINGDOM....ALL BE.....TOGETHER

  
"I love thee now and for eternity...."

Ernie

Always yours,

*Jennie*