

Our Family Links

The Groberg/Holbrook Family History Association Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Two, December 2002

Cousins Around the World

God promised Father Abraham that "in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Gen. 22:18. For almost half a century now, the seed of DV and Jennie Groberg have been active participants in the fulfillment of that promise. Those currently blessing and being blessed through experiences in nations outside of the continental US include David and Lorraine's daughters Kim Lewis and Heather Kutch (both living in Germany), Bob and Julia's daughter Carol Madsen (living and Guam), and Jon and Gloria's son Geff Hubble (living in China). We asked each of them for a brief update:

—**Heather and Michael Kutch Family**
(michael.kutch@hq.5sigcmd.army.mil)



Heather and Michael Kutch

We are living in Reilingen, Germany, a little town near Mannheim. Mike is an electrical engineer with the US Army Civil Service. He gets to travel around Germany and Belgium. I am a busy mother and chauffeur. I drive Sequoia (10) to a nice Waldorf school in Mannheim. Her favorite class is hand arbeit where she makes things with her hands (currently cross stitch). She also takes French, English, music, sports, art, Religion, and eurhythmy dance classes. I take Lauren (5) to a Waldorf kindergarten in Schwetzingen. She is weaving, making candles, easy dolls, a wooden sword, and has many little girlfriends. Both girls are picking up German. Christopher (4) is doing "homeschool" with me. We do painting, easy woodwork, lots of cookie baking, and other fun activities, but he mainly wants to play with Sequoia and Lauren. Sometimes I find time to read, paint, play our electric piano, or work on children's stories. It is fun to travel on day trips with the family to Trier, Wurzburg, Heidelberg, the Black Forest, Rothenberg, and many more nearby towns. Right now in Germany there are many nice Weinachtsmarkts or Christmas Markets. We are getting into the Christmas spirit with many fun family activities. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

—**Kim and Rob Lewis Family**
(wanderingstar@t-online.de)

Soon after we found out that Heather and Mike were moving to Germany, we decided to look into jobs here for Rob. He ultimately

secured a 3-year contract with the Corps of Engineers (our last overseas employer). We live in a quaint little village just 20 minutes from all the hustle and bustle of Wiesbaden, where Rob works. Kristi says everything is 20 minutes from here. We've enjoyed many travel opportunities, including weekend trips to Amsterdam, Belgium, and Switzerland, a night in a castle on the Rein, a family trip to Disneyland, Paris, and a trip with Kristi to the Alsace region in France "for lunch." I hope I can visit some of the counties in Scandinavia and England where our ancestors once lived.

For all the changes, our lives are still much the same here as they were in Arizona. I still have to get to the grocery store, do the laundry, and run the kids around. Kristi's taking college courses here from the University of Maryland. Ryan and Lara go to the American School. My least favorite trip is at 6:15 a.m. when Ryan goes to Seminary - especially now that it is so dark in the morning.

We are getting so adjusted, that it is difficult to think of what seems unusual about Germany. It's all becoming so normal. We are trying our best to learn German. We use Powerglide, and a few other tapes. We are looking into a German school for Lara next year, where I also hope to work part-time. I hear Ryan, Kristi and Rob downstairs, returning from their final in German 111. I hope they all passed.

—**Carol and Dan Madsen Family**
(madsenc@guamcell.net)



The Madsen Family

Carol, Lindsey (6), Kimberly (3), and I moved to Guam in October 2001 as part of my new job as a flight surgeon for the Air Force. We enjoy many of the great things about Guam (always hot, usually sunny, great scuba diving, Island culture, and a great base

school) but could do without a few of the bad parts (typhoons, power outages while still always hot). The latest of the typhoons hit on Dec 8 and the power is predicted to be restored in 2-3 months. So you can guess which side of Guam we are enjoying now.

I really enjoy my job. I see regular clinic half the week, and work for a rapidly deploying airfield assessment team the other half. I love flying when I get a chance and have been able to ride in all kinds of military planes, helicopters, and even ships. I applied for a radiology residency, and may know by the end of the month where we'll be headed next. We have learned to love our little branch where I serve as a counselor to Hoa Fonua, a Tongan who knows Uncle John well.

Carol is expecting our third child on Dec 28 (sex still unknown, despite multiple ultrasounds). She was able to escape one of the typhoons we had and take the girls to Disneyland Tokyo, then go back to the states for a few weeks. She wasn't so lucky with this typhoon being grounded for pregnancy reasons. She deferred the initiation to spend the typhoon in the hospital and instead spent the typhoon at the home of a doctor in our branch with an emergency OB kit there just in case.

Lindsey and Kimberly enjoy school, but love the beaches, gymnastics, swimming, and riding their bikes. They're good travelers and recently added feeding Australian kangaroos to their list of favorite activities.

—**Geffery Hubble** (geffshubble@yahoo.com)
I got back from my mission in Venezuela Caracas in April, went to BYU in June, and came to China at the end of August. I'm in a city called "Jiamusi". It's up by the Russian border. It's very cold. I'm teaching English at a kindergarten. It's the Blair's fault that I'm in China ☺. Bob and Dell wrote a book for teaching young children how to speak English. Now, I'm teaching them from that book. I like working with the kids. I think that these are some of the smartest kids that I've known. They know a lot of English. We have a lot of fun together. It's a learning experience for all of us: them learning how to speak English, and me learning how to teach English. I'll be in China until after Christmas.

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Missionary and Military Addresses

Tyler Jonathan Hubble

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Elder Tyler John Owens

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Thanksgiving Hosts or Guests?

We have all grown up with romantic stories of the first Thanksgiving feast - one of the earliest and most successful potluck dinners in recorded history. Legend has it that Quadequina, a native medicine man and the younger brother of Chief Massasoit, showed up with popcorn (but apparently no video). Regardless of who may have contributed what to the party, there were among the party-goers significant contributors to the genetic make-up of Jennie Holbrook Groberg and her posterity (in other words, most of you reading this letter).

With respect to this topic, Lafayette Hinckley Holbrook (Grandma's father) once wrote a short personal narrative containing this interesting 3 sentence commentary:

It may not be amiss to state, on both sides my progenitors are among the earliest settlers of America, and played an important part in its various struggles and war for independence. Perhaps I can not say they came over on the Mayflower as its passenger space has long been over claimed and subscribed, but they did arrive at near contemporary time. Not many have better claim to being a pure Yankee or preferably American, as our family genealogy shows unmistakably that on my mother's line, I am a direct descendant of the only son of John Rolfe and Pocahontas. (a complete copy of the narrative is available at www.dvgroberg.com).

Though absolutely correct regarding the first of those sentences, Grandpa Holbrook later discovered that his assertion in the third sentence was incorrect. In a more complete family history written with his wife, Alsina, he offered this explanation and correction:

Sina and I [attended a meeting at which] Archibald Bennett, enthusiastic, newly appointed Church genealogist said: "We now have a splendid record of the genealogy of all general authorities of our Church, including the latest apostle, Alonzo A. Hinckley. He is a direct descendant of Pocahontas." This was news to Sina and me. ...Sina dug into the matter. With access to the church records and some eastern correspondence, we came up with the real facts.

The Hinckleys on the paternal side are direct descendants of Margaret, full Indian daughter of Quadequina, younger brother of Massasoit, and not Pocahontas. (from Lafayette Hinckley and Alsina Brimhall Holbrook Family History - also available at www.dvgroberg.com).

As it turns out, what Grandma and Grandpa actually "came up with" is a topic of continuing interest and often impassioned debate among genealogists to this day. At the heart of this heritage issue sits an enigmatic English immigrant named Gabriel Whelden (spellings vary). He, a wife named Margaret, a daughter named Catherine (aka Catone), and several other children start appearing in Plymouth records in the mid-1630's. Many (like Grandma and Grandpa Holbrook) have concluded that Margaret is the daughter of Quadequina and the mother of Catherine. Others have concluded that although Margaret is the daughter of Quadequina, she is a second wife and only a step-mother to Catherine. Still others are adamant that whether Gabriel had one or two wives, neither was Native American. Finally, some assert that Margaret was among the Native Americans taken captive to England by John Smith and company in the early 1600's, met and married Gabriel Whelden and gave birth to Catherine there, and then returned with the family to Massachusetts.

Each of these theories is interesting. The first three are plausible. None, however, is currently verifiable. In short, it appears that all we know today regarding the circumstances of Catherine's birth and the identity and ethnicity of her birth mother is ultimately rooted in folklore and oral tradition. As long as such is the case, our blood connection to Quadequina and any accompanying popcorn bragging rights must remain in question.¹

[this is a middle of the text note (aka a footnote we didn't want you leaving until after you read everything else): Any final verdict on the real facts is beyond the scope of this article. We simply present it as a topic of interest needing further research. Suffice it to say that given



Lafayette Hinckley Holbrook

the current state of the evidence, the alleged Quadequina connection is as likely true as not true (and visa-versa). For any wishing to take on the project, we offer our thanks and the following warning: While the stuff of legend is just fun and interesting to most, it is pure caffeine to professional historians and genealogists - pulse altering and addictive. Our recent (and somewhat thorough) review of sources addressing Quadequina's daughter and her descendants reveals it as a topic some should write in the margins of the Word of Wisdom as "other things to be avoided."]

Ironically, though the verifiable facts regarding Catherine Whelden are currently insufficient to prove a family link to the natives at the big feast, what we can prove of our relationship to Catherine still earns us a family seat at the first Thanksgiving table - which brings us back to Grandpa Holbrook's initial statement on ancestry and (mercifully) to our final point: While Grandpa may have overestimated his Native American roots, he unquestionably underestimated the Mayflower passenger space. For once in Plymouth (with or without her natural mother), Catherine married Giles Hopkins (who as a teenage boy sailed to America with his father Stephen aboard the Mayflower and later feasted in gratitude with colony survivors and native guests). As years passed, Ruth Merrick, great-granddaughter of Giles and Catherine, married Thomas Hinckley, a great-grandson of Massachusetts' colonial governor Thomas Hinckley. Ruth and Thomas, in time, became the great-great grandparents of Ira Nathaniel Hinckley - great-grandfather of Jennie Holbrook Groberg. (Following other branches of the Ira N. Hinckley line, we can also connect up with Mayflower passengers William and Mary Brewster and Edward and Ann Fuller.)

Having now set before you the real "real facts", we acknowledge that we will probably "be telling this with a sigh, somewhere ages and ages hence," wondering how our newer sources proved even more unreliable than the church genealogist who first misled Grandpa Holbrook. Most significantly though, Grandpa (and each of us in turn) will never be amiss in stating **"my progenitors are among the earliest settlers of America, and played an important part in its various struggles and war for independence."**



Family of Lafayette H. Holbrook and Alsina E. Holbrook (about 1935-36).

(Left to right) Back: Elizabeth Holbrook Berry holding David Kay Berry, Alva Maxwell, Delbert Groberg holding David H. Groberg, Elaine Holbrook, Vera Holbrook, Helen Holbrook, Clair Anderson, Raymond B. Holbrook. Middle: Ruth Holbrook Brown holding Floyd Brown, Mary Holbrook Maxwell holding Phillip Maxwell, Jennie Holbrook Groberg with Julia Gay Groberg, L.H. Holbrook, Sina B. Holbrook, Rachel Holbrook Anderson holding William Anderson, Esther Hamilton Holbrook, Lafayette Hamilton Holbrook. Front: Nora Mae Brown, Carol Maxwell, John Groberg, Mary Jane Groberg, Lafayette Robert Anderson, Jane Anderson, Ruth Anderson, Diane Holbrook.

Christmas with the Ponca Indians

By Mary Jane Fritzen

Each of us has two sets of grandparents (making four), and each of those grandparents had four, etc. Delbert's four grandparents were born in Europe, two in England (his mother's parents) and two in Sweden (his father's parents). Jennie's four grandparents were born in pioneer Utah, 1850-1856. This means that while Dad's grandparents were immigrants from Europe, Mother's eight great-grandparents all were early Utah Pioneers. Six of them crossed the plains from Nauvoo, two from New England:

The following had lived in Nauvoo, and arrived in Utah at the date indicated:

Chandler and Eunice Dunning Holbrook (1848)
Ira Nathaniel Hinckley (Utah 1850) his wife Angeline Wilcox Noble (1850), married in Utah
George W. Brimhall (1849) his wife Rachel Ann Mayer (1848), married in Utah.

The 4th set, George W. and Catherine Augusta Lovett Wilkins, who were married in Massachusetts in 1846, emigrated to Utah from there in 1849.

Our pioneer ancestors didn't have cosy homes and bright Christmas lights, but suffered through hardships so we can enjoy Christmas in homes of faith. Some of our direct ancestors spent the cold winter of 1846-47 in a Ponca Indian village in northeast Nebraska. They were Chandler and Eunice Holbrook, George and Ann Mayer and daughter Rachel; Lucian and Emily Noble and daughter Angeline. (Newel and Lydia Knight, whose grandson became mother's Uncle Will Knight,

were also in the camp.)

Instead of a peaceful Christmas, they fought a perilous prairie fire. Chandler Holbrook wrote of 25 Dec. 1846:

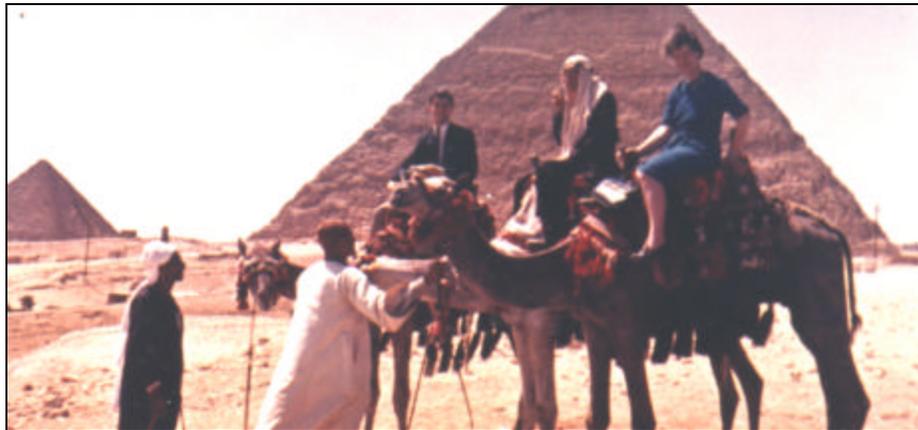
"[The prairie fire] soon reached our camp and the stacks of hay at the back of the fort. There were some 200 men and women engaged in bringing water from the river....

"About 11 o'clock this evening we succeeded in stopping the fire. The loss was some \$200 or \$300, besides burning up much valuable feed for 30 miles to the west and south. [It] greatly endangered the whole camp and was the cause of a number of deaths afterwards from exposure. [Newell Knight was one who died.]

"If it had not been for the cabins being built of green logs, our fort would have been burnt, and we some 200 miles from the nearest settlement in the midst of winter, without provisions or other necessary comforts of life. We cannot think but it a narrow escape from almost utter destruction."

Each of us should have a pedigree chart beginning with a child of Delbert and Jennie. You may use your own records, download one from dvgroberg.com, or print it from your own PAF, or write to me.

After you have the basic charts, if you want to read more about the Ponca winter, you may order a book by Louine Berry Hunter, for \$10 from Mary Jane Fritzen, 1304 So. Woodruff Ave., Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404.



Egypt 1963—Jennie H. Groberg provides son Dee example, training in fundamentals necessary for his future career in international business and world travel.

Cousins

—continued from page 1

—Blair Family— We understand that Bob (Sr.) and Dell Blair have just returned to China with plans for extended stays. Aunt Julia explained that the Utah China Trade Representative (in response to a challenge from the Chinese Ministry of Education) asked Bob if he would develop a curriculum to teach English in Chinese elementary schools. The result was the book Geff Hubble talked about. Both Bob and Dell have made previous long term Chinese stays in connection with this project. Dell's children were able join him there throughout last summer; Kathleen made it over for a few brief visits. Bob and Dell's December return to China is evidence of the project's great success. During this extended stay, they will complete a second book and oversee its implementation and the expansion of the program. At the same time, Bob is involved in the beginning stages of a new project to teach Chinese media personnel in preparation for the Beijing Olympics. And so it goes - the Blair crusade to wipe out Babel's curse continues. ...

And in the seed of DV and Jennie shall all the nations of the world be blessed.

Editors' Note— In the spirit of the season, our 2nd Ed. focuses on ancestors (and their Native American associates) at the first Thanksgiving and at an 1846 Christmas. Also in keeping with the "then and now" format of the 1st Ed., we bring you news of cousins now living and working in foreign lands - cousins now emulating and redistributing abroad that same pioneering spirit that inspired their earlier kinsmen to journey to and across the North American continent.

As our Merry Christmas wish to each of you, we have included a CD with the newsletter. The CD contains hundreds of classic family pictures that you can both view on a computer and print out into photo quality copies. We owe a special thanks to Mary Jane Fritzen for compiling the pictures. If you have questions regarding the use of the CD, contact Tom Groberg tom@govirtuoso.com. Send any other questions or concerns regarding the newsletter to Matt Powell mmpowell9@msn.com. Send all contributions (which are always welcome and encouraged) care of Joseph Groberg at 1605 S. Woodruff, Idaho Falls, ID 83404.

LH HOLBROOK SONG

(sung to tune of "You Ain't Nothin' But A Hound Dog")

By Emily Groberg

Chorus:

You ain't nothin' but a Holbrook
Fishin' all the time.
Lafayette Hinckley Holbrook
Fishin' all the time.
You were the father of eleven
And you never complained or whined.

You ate sweetened condensed milk,
Ate it all the time.
And you called your wife Sina
Well that was just fine
And, you moved her to Alberta
Where you were a pioneer.

You ain't nothin' but a Holbrook
Fishin' all the time.
Lafayette Hinckley Holbrook
Fishin' all the time.
Well you came back to Provo
And raised your girls, all nine.

Well your dad was the Ma-yor
Of Provo two times.

And your father-in-law was
President of BYU.

Well, your daughter Jennie Groberg
Is an ancestor of mine.

You sold Utah Woolen Mills
And then got a mine.

No one knew what your job was
They asked you all the time,
Even though you didn't graduate
From college you were just fine.

Chorus.

Trivia Challenge

1. Grandma Groberg's aunt and namesake, Jennie B. Knight, was the first sister called to a full-time mission in modern church history. How many DV and Jennie Groberg granddaughters have followed in Aunt Jennie Knight's footsteps? (Can you name them all? Where did they serve?)

11—Anny Fritzen (Czech Republic); Jenette Blair Lambert (Bolivia); Lisa Blair Sabey (Taiwan); Gayle (Canary Islands); Sue (Uruguay); Jennie (Slovenia); Viki (Brazil); Angie Groberg (Taiwan); Anna Groberg Glenn (Russia); Heather Hubble (Nebraska); Brenda Groberg Christofferson (Czech Republic).

2. Who is a descendent of brothers Joshua Merrick (through his dad) and Nathaniel Merrick (through his mom), closing a 345 year loop and making him his own mother's 10th cousin. (Joshua and Nathaniel are grandsons of Giles and Catherine Whelden Hopkins - see article).

- A. Jeremy Hubble
- B. Ryan Lewis
- C. Jim Powell
- D. Kevin Stratton

3. Which 3 Ira N. Hinckley descendant's spoke together in a rededication session of the Monticello temple?

President Hinckley, John H. Groberg, and Robert Anderson (Son of Grandma's sister Rachel Holbrook Anderson).