

## Final Notice!! Family Reunion August 22 Taylorsville, Utah

This is your final invitation to The Bi-annual Bennion Family Reunion — Saturday, August 22, 1992 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Taylorsville Stake Center, 1400 West, 4700 South, Taylorsville, Utah.

**Keynote speaker:** Lowell L. Bennion, grandson of John and great grandson of Samuel! Noted educator, author, speaker, humanitarian.

- Exciting Exhibits
- Gregarious Games
- Delicious Dinner (yours)
- Delectable Drinks (ours)
- Incredible ice cream bars (ours)
- Titanic Traditional Tug-of-War
- Spectacular Speaker
- Obvious Opportunity to link up with your roots.

### The Schedule:

4:00 p.m.	Exhibits, Games, Visiting
5:00 p.m.	Picnic Dinner (your food, our drinks and ice cream)
5:30 p.m.	Tug-of-War: Samuel's descendants vs. John's
6:00 p.m.	Family meeting in the chapel
7:00 p.m.	Adjourn

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## Letter from John to Samuel

*John Bennion joined the LDS Church in Liverpool, England in May 1841, married Esther Wainwright in February 1842, and the two of them left for America that same month, arriving in Nauvoo in May 1842. Meanwhile, Samuel married Mary Bushell in 1838, joined the Church in September 1842, and came to Nauvoo in 1845. The following letter was written by John to Samuel in February 1844 — both were members of the Church, but Samuel and his wife had not yet emigrated. This is but one of many of John's letters contained in our new Bennion Family History Volume 4 -- History of John Bennion by Ruth Rogers.*

Nauvoo Sunday February 19 1844

Dear bro Samuel

I could not feel satisfied without writing to you a line though I have not much to write about now I have been several times at the post office expecting a letter from you

*continued on page 2*



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# LETTER FROM JOHN TO SAMUEL (cont.)

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*continued from page 1*

but have not yet recieved it I am ancious for you and all the rest of our family to be here you know according to Scripture all things have got to be restored if so the old man or patriarch is not to be separated from his posterity until death nor the children from the father but like good old Jacob who stood at the head of his family till a good old age and then called his sons together and blessed them this doctrine along with many other glorious truths have got to be restored in there place This patriarchal order is already entered into by many families in this city This fornoon we have been hearing Joseph Smith preach in the open air to a congregation of several thousands I rejoice in the truths which I hear from time to time All the tribulation and disappointment through which the Saints have to pass is forgotten when the glory and greatness of the Eternal worlds are placed before our mind It is then of the greatest importance that we keep the commandments of God given to his saints that we may escape the judgments which await the inhabitants of the earth My desire is that you and I with our Familys and conections may stand on Mount Zion where there shall be peace and safty I conclude by subscribing myself  
your affectionate Bro

J Bennion

There are several of my old acquaintanses yet behind whom I expected to have seen hear before this time I dont know what hinders them I believe many more would come if they did not hear so many strange reports Some folks expect to find here a Sunday everyday in the week and the people all righteous and if they find some one doing wrong they run away and report we are all a wicked people I would say if any are coming here looking for perfection they must not forget to bring plenty with them, for this plant does not grow sponteniously here but we have

to cultivate it with care or it will not grow at all but the soil here is fertile and plenty of room for it to grow I wish to be remembered to the Saints at Ewloe by Joseph Ellis the folks here are all healthy generally I intend to write more soon as opportunity serves for conveyance So no more at present

Nauvoo Hancock Co U S  
Illinois

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## BENNION FAMILY VOLUME 2 UPDATE PLANNED

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### Living Family Tree!!

Your Bennion Family Executive Committee, speaheaded by computer whiz Steve Bennion, is tackling the ambitious task of maintaining a current database of all descendants of John and Samuel Bennion. This task was last tackled in 1963 and resulted in Bennion Family of Utah, Volume 2, a valuable resource item for all of us lucky enough to have a copy. Unfortunately, it's now about 30 years out of date.

Like the Marines, we're looking for a few good people. The only requirements for volunteering are: 1) you own a computer (Mac or PC) and a copy of the LDS Church Family History software package (PAF); 2) you have some Bennion blood in your veins or your spouse's; and 3) willingness to track down a few of your cousins. Please contact Steve Bennion at the reunion or at his home address: 1355 Dover Road, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, (801) 582-1300.

The result of this project will be both a printed book and a diskette that will be perpetually updated with all Bennions. Someday the whole world may be on it!!



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## John Bennion 's Death as Recorded by his Son, Samuel R.

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*John Bennion died from a horse accident on September 1, 1877 at age 57, leaving behind 3 wives and 21 children. 7 more children and an adopted son had preceded him in death, and his wife Mary Turpin was 8 months pregnant. John's oldest son, Samuel R. Bennion, was 34 years old and the father of 5 children aged 8 and under at this time. Samuel R. made the following entries in his journal. The original spelling and punctuation have been preserved.*

*Please note the tender intertwining of the families—John's, Samuel's, and their children's families.*

Fri 31 We drove to the point of the Mountain I met Johny Jones their informed me that my Father had got cerious hurt that morning He went on to Rush for to inform the Family their I made hast home Hyrum drove the sock [stock] home got home 3 P.M. Dr their wateing on him had him under the influence of cloreform he Suffered great pain Supposed for to be a rupture Dr left late in the evening But before day began for to get worse From the first Sayed no body could do him any good Seemed for to think it was fatal to him Called his Family around him he being in Bro Webstur's house and wished his family to be united Cling to gether follow in his foot Steps and do as he had been counceled them His pain and Suffering was so great that he could not talk to us mutch

Sept

Sat 1 Was called up before day haveing been up a portion of the night Father changed for worse and at 8 A.M. breathed his last without a Struggle a number of the Brethering and Sisters being presant I rode to the city with Uncle [Samuel] the team went too allso Some of the folks allso to fix for burial returned home as Soon as pofsable packed him in Ice for to keep him in a good State of preservation untill Monday Esther [John's second wife, age 44 then] and Heber [age 18

and John's oldest son by the third wife, Mary Turpin] got home in after noon All felt bad to loose a Father and friend But in hopes to live so as to meet him again

S 2 Fixing for to hold the funeral under the Shade of trees that had planted out grown big ameong hf [enough] for to Shade a great many people Bro Spencers & John & helping a great many people went to the City for to attend Pres B Young funirel it being in the New Tabernackle and a very large congregation in attendance (next day) Bp Hunter & Wife stoped at Fathers place could attend the funeral

Mon 3 At half past 9 the people gethered for funeral Survases a large number of assembled for to pay their last respects to him Bros Angus Cannon Teasdale and Bp Gardner delivered the funeral Survases made many good remarks all regretted for to lay one away in the active part of life Had many friends and family left behind At 11 A.M. Started to Salt Lake Cimetry John R [Samuel's oldest son and Samuel R.'s cousin, age 37] drove the carriage with the corps in 40 Carriages and Wagons followed him to his resting place

Tus 4 Drove beef and titheing Cattle to the city Sold 7 head to J. Cook and five for titheing Some Jents trying for to bargain for our Cattle

Wed 5 Threshing at Fathers rather a difsagreeable day for me

Thurs 6 Threshing Lucern at Fathers place and Jobing around Esther, Heber Started back to Rush Willey & Mark went to Camp Floyd after the old Sharp bull and fetch a load of posts home

Fri 7 Took my titheing wool and Fathers Wheat to the city Harden, Hyrum Started for Castle Vally Jinney with them to Lehi first day

Sat 8 Drove the Market waggon to the City Mary and Mother with me paid Fathers funeral expences and for part of a lot for burial with Uncle Samuel.

# SAMUEL BENNION CERTIFICATE

## DECLARATION OF INTENTION, TO BECOME A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

I, Samuel Bennion, do declare, on oath, that it is bona fide, my intention to become a CITIZEN of the UNITED STATES, and to renounce, and abjure forever, all allegiance and fidelity to all and any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State, and Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to Victoria Queen of Great Britain & Ireland of whom I was a subject.

Sworn before me at my office, at C. G. Salt Lake City this Seventeenth day of April of A. D. 1854.

Samuel Bennion  
Clerk of the United States First District  
Court in and for the Territory of Utah.

I, W. S. Appleby, Clerk of the First District Court of the United States in and for the Territory of Utah, do certify that the above is a true copy of the Original Declaration of Intention of Samuel Bennion to become a citizen of the United States of America, remaining of record in my office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the seal of said Court, at my office at C. G. Salt Lake City in said District, this Seventeenth day of April A. D. 1854.

W. S. Appleby Clerk.  
C. G. Salt Lake City



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# Poems by Esther Ann Birch

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Esther Ann Birch, the second wife of John Bennion, was born in England in 1833. Following the examples of her two older married sisters, she joined the LDS Church in 1852 at age eighteen. Three years later she emigrated to Salt Lake City with two of her girl friends, arriving in the Salt Lake Valley in September, 1855. She found work as a housekeeper until her marriage to John on July 20, 1856. We are not certain of how John and Esther Ann became acquainted, but it appears that it was mostly after their marriage! Apparently Brigham Young played an important role in arranging the marriage, as the ceremony was performed by him in his office, and John's first wife Esther Wainwright didn't meet Esther Ann until after the marriage. In any case, she became the mother of eight Bennion boys and one Bennion girl. In 1893 she was selected as one of Utah's three most outstanding poets, and some of her work was included in a book of Utah poems for the Chicago World's Fair the following year.

One of her esteemed granddaughters, Eileen Bennion McKean, is compiling a book of all of Esther Ann's surviving poems. It will be a treasure for all of Esther Ann's descendants, but it needs to be as complete as possible. Below is a list of all of Esther Ann's poems which are in Eileen's possession. If you know of any more, please contact Eileen at 2420 Emerson Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84108, (801) 582-8567.

## Known poems by Esther Ann Birch:

A Dixie Maiden  
A Little Leaf in the Grass, An Autumn Leaf  
A Little Story - written for the Primary  
A. P. to J. Palmer - By Request  
A Plea for the Old Folks & Foreigners  
A Song to Zion (tune: Annie Laurie)

A Story of a Cricket  
A Valentine  
Be It Mine  
Climbing the Ladder  
Eliza to Alfred (By Request)  
Esther A. Bennion - 11/2/1894  
In Memory of Sister Esther Young  
In Memory of Rachel Griffiths  
Longing  
Maud Valengia Squires  
My Heart and I  
My Record  
Never Again  
Our Trust is in God  
Side By Side  
Stars and Flowers  
The Answer Follows  
The Poet  
The Voyage of Life  
Thoughts for Sunday School Lesson  
To Jean from Grandma  
To 'Lu Dalton' (In Answer to Questions - Exponent 4/1/1878)  
To Mary  
To My Niece Mollie Goodsiell  
To Susie Y. Gates in Answer to 'By the Brook'  
Trust in God  
Truth  
Vernon "Fenced In"  
Vernon Ward Reunion 1/22/1892  
    The Children  
    The Young People  
    The Married Folks  
    The Widowed  
    The Old Folks  
Wild-Wood Leaves and Blossoms  
Written by Request for Mrs. Bennion's Monument  
Written for Bennion Reunion 10/5/1905  
Written for MIA at Close of Session  
Written in a Space Left for Baby's Picture  
Written in an Album



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## Recollections of Angeline Bennion Spencer

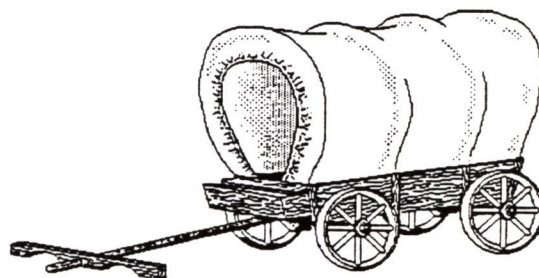
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As part of her research for her forthcoming book on Samuel Bennion, Helen Madsen has examined all the journals of all the families that traveled across the plains with Samuel and John Bennion's families. During that process, Helen came across the following commentary from Angeline Bennion Spencer. Angeline was born March 16, 1847 in Garden Grove, Iowa, as her parents, John and Esther Wainwright Bennion, were crossing the plains. Angeline therefore crossed the plains herself as a babe in arms and later, in about 1925, recounted this story, which is found in the Mormon Biographical Sketches Collection located in the LDS Church Archives. The pig incident apparently occurred sometime in the 1850's. There are a couple of inconsistencies in Angeline's recollection (she was close to 80 years old when she recounted this), like the fact that Rachel was her younger sister and born in Utah, while Mary was her older sister. But we are nevertheless grateful for the preservation of the story!

"My parents after described our trip across the plains. We had two wagons, the first of which pulled by oxen, was driven by my father, and second drawn by a yoke of oxen and a yoke of cows, by my mother. My five year old brother, Samuel R. Bennion, who died ten years ago, rode a mare with a colt. He was such a little fellow that he kept slipping off, but then my father would stop and help him back on and the train would go on. My older sister, Rachel Bennion, then about four, rode in the wagon Ann, who was only two, contracted a fever from which she died and we buried her at Sweetwater, Wyoming. We arrived in the valley on the fifth of October [1847].

"I remember a great big pig that crossed the plains with us. My mother [Esther

Wainwright Bennion] had left the house for just a few minutes to find out the time from a neighbor next door. There was washing spread on the grass to dry. My sister and I were playing in the house. I was about three and Rachel was seven. Suddenly the pig came saddling in the house, seized Rachel by the shoulder, and dragged her out into the yard. I ran alongside the pig, beating him with a club and screamed at the top of my voice. Though there were several men in the yard, my mother reached us first. I shall never forget that."



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### Bennion Family Association Executive Committee

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## Ancestral File Notes

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Several of you have noticed that there are a few errors in the Ancestral File available in the LDS Church Family History libraries. In an earlier issue of the Recorder, we suggested that all changes be coordinated through Helen Madsen, but that is slightly wrong!! Helen is coordinating only the changes to Samuel (1818) and John (1820) Bennion and their ancestors. We have other coordinators for errors on the lines of each of the Bennion wives and their ancestors:

Mary Turpin:

Elaine Nichols  
2121 Kensington Ave.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108  
(801) 581-0315

Esther Ann Birch:

Kathy Pincock  
5017 Candicewood Cir.  
West Valley City, UT 84120  
(801) 965-9780

Esther Wainwright:

Esther Davis  
445 W. 800 South  
Bountiful, UT 84010  
(801) 298-4953

Mary Bushell:

Helen Madsen  
3376 Lee Ann Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84119  
(801) 968-7848

Rhoda Jones: any volunteers?? help!!

For errors found in the generations between you and the people listed above, you should just submit the corrections directly to the Church and then coordinate with your cousins on your own. The above coordinators are only for ancestral lines — our progenitors older than Samuel, John, and their wives.

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## President's Corner

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*By John E. Bennion, Outgoing President*

Four years ago we adopted a revised Bennion Family Constitution, which called for the President of the Bennion Family Association to be rotated every two years. The purpose for the two year rotation was to allow the president to energetically pursue the goals of the family association in his/her own creative manner for two years, then to give that opportunity to another.

As my two year service draws to a close, I'd like to share my thoughts about the Bennion Family. My primary emotion is one of gratitude. As I learn about Samuel and John and their families, I am overwhelmed by their devotion to their wives and children, to each other's families, and to the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the journals and letters that they wrote and others preserved, that we might be better acquainted with them. It has increased my personal motivation for keeping a journal.

I'm grateful for my association with the wonderfully dedicated members of the Bennion Family Executive Committee. The President and Vice President come and go every two years, but the others stay as long as we can impose upon them! We have a marvelous core group of dedicated workers: Helen Madsen in genealogical research and writing the history of Samuel; Ruth Rogers in writing our new volume 4 about John and his wives and children; Steve Bennion and the mammoth task of maintaining the computerized family records; Dave Sharp and the Association finances; and Eileen McKean in taking the minutes, mailing the Recorders, and making us all feel appreciated.

This seems to be a good moment to reflect on the objectives of the Bennion Family Association and see how we're doing. According to our constitution, the objectives are to:

*continued on page 8*

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## President's Corner (continued)

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*continued from page 7*

- 1) Promote and coordinate genealogical research of our Bennion ancestors and their families;
- 2) Encourage temple work for our Bennion ancestors and their families;
- 3) Compile and make available personal and family histories of our Bennion ancestors and their families;
- 4) Encourage the formation of and maintain contact with Bennion family groups organized at lower levels of the family tree (e.g. grandparent organizations).
- 5) Maintain contact with all living descendants of John Bennion (1786-1846), to encourage participation in the achievement of the above objectives.

I think we've made some progress in most of these areas over the past 2 years:

1) Temple work was performed for about 100 ancestors, thanks largely to Helen Madsen untiring efforts;

2) Bennion Family Volume 4 - the History of John Bennion was published, thanks largely to Ruth Rogers;

3) Computerized version of the family tree was made available for distribution;

4) The Bennion Family Recorder was published, which has hopefully aroused an interest in the family and a commitment to the principles that guided the lives of our ancestors.

My biggest disappointment has been a failure to recruit a larger portion of the family to be involved in Family History projects. Our repeated general requests for volunteers via Recorder announcements have not yielded much. The current committed group cannot sustain the entire family research efforts indefinitely, and they need help! Call them up and volunteer for a two-year stint. Try it, you'll like it!!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. As a new LDS Bishop with a seventh little Bennion child newly arrived and a career that requires extensive travel, I'm ready to pass the Bennion baton on to someone else. But in the immortal words of Arnold Schwarzenegger, "I'll be baaaack!"

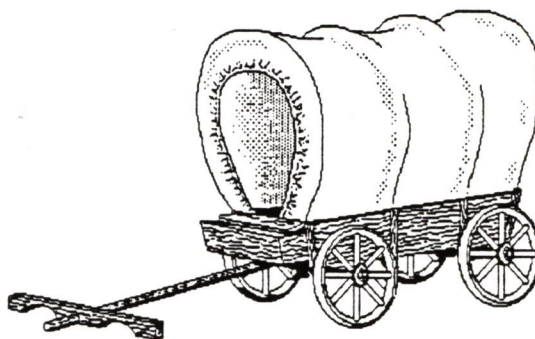
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### A Little Philosophy from John Bennion!!

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*The following is excerpted from a letter written in 1851 by John Bennion to his parents-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wainwright, who were living in Liverpool and not members of the LDS Church.*

"... their is no beggars lawyers nor Scarce any docters if there was any they have had to quit the business and go to work by which every man can live. ..."



**PLEASE COME  
TO THE  
FAMILY REUNION!!**



# ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

Once a year we ask to you indicate your interest in continuing to receive the quarterly issues of the Recorder. IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE FUTURE ISSUES, PLEASE CHECK THIS BOX ☐ AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO US! IT'S FREE! If you don't want to receive future issues of the Recorder, don't do anything!

	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Total</u>
Back issues of the <u>Recorder</u> (specify below issues desired)	50¢	_____	_____
Optional Annual Family Contribution (tax deductible)	\$10	_____	_____
<u>Bennion Family of Utah vol. 1</u> (reprint)	\$10	_____	_____
<u>Bennion Family of Utah vol. 2</u> (xerox reprint only)	\$10	_____	_____
<u>Bennion Family vol. 4: History of John Bennion</u> (new in 1990!)			
• mailed to you	\$17	_____	_____
• picked up by you at Eileen McKean's house in Salt Lake City or Ruth Rogers' house in Provo	\$15	_____	_____
8" x 10" color photograph of Daniel Weggland's painting of Samuel Bennion's 1862 Taylorsville home	\$10	_____	_____
Posterity of Rebecca Ann Bennion Sharp (paper copy)	\$3.50	_____	_____
Family Tree diskettes (be sure to specify type & format)	\$5	_____	_____
_____ 3 1/2 in. rigid diskette    _____ 5 1/4 in. floppy diskette			
_____ MacIntosh format    _____ IBM format			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	_____	_____

**Comments** (additional family names and addresses, Recorder ideas, projects, etc. Contributions to "Bennion Bits" are strongly encouraged! When you include new family names and addresses, please tell us how they tie into the family tree — very important for our computer!)

Please return this page to: Bennion Family Association  
c/o Steve Bennion  
1355 Dover Road  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108



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The  
Bennion  
Family

# Recorder

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***REUNION OR BUST!!***

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