

President's Message

By Lynn R. Stratford

Goals for 1994-1996

As the new officers take the helm of the Bennion Family Association (BFA), it's time to set the goals and direction for the next two years. Using the BFA objectives as a guideline, we have decided to:

1. Publish The Recorder newsletter twice a year, sending it out Nov. 1st. and May 1st. Even though we will publish less often, **The Recorder** will contain more material. We will try to eliminate incorrect addresses and those not interested in being on the mailing list.

2. Publish the Samuel Bennion Book now being worked on by Helen Madsen.

3. By February, 1995, finish the detailed genealogy work on the updated publication of Volume 5. This book outlines the names, addresses, and critical dates of each descendant of John & Samuel Bennion and sisters Mary & Elizabeth, updated to the present time. This is a difficult task requiring your help - we need the current genealogy information for your posterity. We have set the February, 1995 deadline in order to complete the work, so if you want your family included, please send in your information now. (See related article on Vol. 5)

4. Determine the long-term direction of the BFA. There are serious questions arising concerning the current purpose and viability of the Association. Since the inception of the BFA in 1904, the descendants of John & Samuel Bennion, through their 29 Children, have grown to an estimated posterity of 40,000 people. As the size continues to grow (A) there is less interest and connection between family lines and (B) the cost to run the organization becomes greater. A more viable direction seems to be for families to organize in smaller descendant organizations. Please voice your opinion on this issue.

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Bennion History - Vol. 5

By Steven Bennion

Your family can be in it. Your parents and your children can be in it. Your birth-place/date and your marriage place/date can be in it. Your address can be in it. And there will be an Index! You can see how each family is related to you and to each other.

The book is organized by family groups. It is in the same format as Volume Two. Volume Two was prepared in 1962 and is out of date. Photocopies of Volume Two are available for just \$10.00 now. In Volume Five we want to correct any errors in Volume Two; add the new marriages and children; and have an address for each household. Volume Five will list the permanent address of single adults as well as families.

Volume Two has the families that descend from Samuel and John Bennion. Volume Five will also have the families that descend from Mary Bennion Williams and Elizabeth Bennion Davies. These are the sisters of Samuel and John Bennion.

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**The
Bennion
Family
Goals for
1994 -
1996**

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President's Message

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Need for a Vice President

We have been unable to enlist an individual to serve for the next two years as Vice President of the BFA followed by two years as President. We need someone from Utah (unless you can travel here for meetings), motivated, and willing to serve the members of the Bennion Family Association. We alternate between the John and Samuel line so we're looking for a Samuel descendant. If interested, please call me.

Mailing List

We currently have 2,300 addresses (3,300 households) on our mailing list, with an out-of-pocket cost of about \$.35 per issue mailed bulk and \$.50 sent first class. When we send out bulk mail, if the address is incorrect, the newsletter gets thrown away. Also, unless we get a positive response from our addressee, we're unsure you want the newsletter. This issue will be sent out first class postage in order to clean up our mailing list. If you want to continue to receive **The Recorder**, you must give us a positive response by updating your address, making a donation, buying a T-shirt, or some positive indication you want to remain an active member of the Association. So...buy a T-Shirt now.

Need for Donations

Because of the large membership, we need more donations to effectively run the BFA. Your donation is tax deductible to a Non-Profit Foundation under Section 170-C of the IRS code. If you need a charitable donation confirmation, please notify us. We also need some LARGE donations in order to publish Volume 5. Your contributions are for a good cause and are very much appreciated. Thank you.

Richard G. Sharp - A Great President

Being President of the BFA and **Recorder** editor is no easy job and all involved would like to express a special and heartfelt "Thank you" for your wonderful years of service. Richard was diligent, resourceful, and a wonderful President. We all express our appreciation to you!

Because of the large membership, we need more donations to effectively run the BFA !

Bennion Volume 5

(Continued from page 1)

How can you get your correct information in Volume Five? Contact your brothers, sisters, parents, aunts, uncles, and first cousins, and find out who is collecting and submitting the information for your family. Get your page from the Volume Two Book, add to it and send it to your family contact person. Please include the mailing address for every adult. If it is a temporary address, it will not be published, but they still will receive the newsletter.

If you cannot find your family contact person, then you can be that contact person. Please send in the name and addresses of your near relatives and we will send you the information that we have. You can review it, collect more information and send it in again.

When will the book be printed? We are planning to print it in June of 1995. We are having some problems locating some of the families and some families are not responding; therefore, some will be left out. About 75% of the information is already to print, and many families are completely finished. The deadline for all submissions is February, 1995.

How much will it cost? The book will be hard-bound with about 1,200 pages. The Association will sell the book for the cost of printing, but we need to know how many books to print. Please send in the order form on page 9 to show how many books you would buy at \$25 each and \$35 each. The price cannot be set until we know how many will be printed. The book will cost \$5 less before printing than after.

Send in \$25 per book before June, 1995 to reserve your book at the pre-publication price. If the final price is less you can choose to have a refund or extra books. If the price is more, you can choose to receive fewer books or to pay more money. Send in the form today so that we can set the price for the May, 1995 newsletter.

In order to print the book, we need to raise between \$40,000 and \$75,000 depending on the number of books printed. We urgently request that any family member that is in a financial position to donate or to loan money to the Association for this printing

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Richard Lindale

told about Frank helping him yrs. ago.

Richard was working at the U - Frank came by and said why haven't you gotten your doctorate? you should do it. Came by again said lets see if you can do it - if you've worked here long enough - next time he came to see & hear about the progress Frank said lets see if you can take a sabbatical - check that out - how long would it take you to do the work - R. said if I could hide away at the library it would ^{be} ~~up to~~ 3 mos. max. - OK - how can I do it?

All you need to do is delegate everything out.

It worked - Richard said it was the best advice I ever had - it helped me with everything that came along afterwards. I was 50 yrs old and never thought I'd be able to go after it. I'll always be grateful for this advice and his follow thru & keeping on it.

Bennion Volume 5

(Continued from page 2)

should call one of the members of the executive committee.

You can order a draft copy of any part of Volume 5 for just \$3.00. We can send you the subdivision that contains your family or any other subdivision. There is a subdivision for Mary Williams and Elizabeth Davies. There is a subdivision for each marriage of each son or daughter of Samuel Bennion and John Bennion. This makes a total of 41 subdivisions.

Please specify on the order form your ancestor name. If you want your own subdivision and are not sure what name to list, then just specify your parent's names.

Bennion Trivia

Have you ever wondered how to get your children interested in their Bennion ancestors? Try these trivia questions at the dinner table or family home evening:

1. The Welch name **Bennion** was originally derived from what natural resource?
2. Where were John & Samuel Bennion born?
3. Who was the father of John & Samuel?
4. At 11 1/2 years old, Samuel became what type of apprentice?
5. What church general authority taught John & Samuel the Gospel?
6. Which brother left Wales first?
7. What date did Samuel leave Wales?
8. Did the father of John & Samuel ever arrive in Utah?
9. How long did it take John & Samuel to cross the plains?
10. How far was the longest day they traveled on this trek?
11. What bothered John & Samuel most about the trek west?
12. About what month & year did John & Samuel arrive in the Salt Lake Valley?
13. What Indian tribe did they trade with after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley?
14. When was the Bennion Family Association formed?

(The answers are found on Page 7)

Reunion '94

The Bennion Family Reunion was held August 20th. in Taylorsville. After a sit-down picnic, the John Bennion descendants extracted its revenge for last year's loss in the traditional tug-of-war and landed a sound victory in only a 35-second struggle (the Samuel victory in 1992 had to be a one-time only event). The displays included Bennion books, past **Recorders**, T-shirts, antique quilts, and a Mary Bennion Calder ancestor display.

Lively interchange was the response to the "**ID Your Relatives**" game where each participant needed to get a signature from some relative in each line of the 29 children of John & Samuel. The top 5 winners came up with 15 signatures and walked away with a free T-shirt.

The program in the chapel included a financial report, introduction of new officers, progress on genealogy research, and a wonderful and warm concluding talk by Richard Lindsay remembering found memories of past Bennion reunions.

Financial Summary

By David R. Sharp

The Bennion Family Association maintains both a checking and savings account in the name of the Association. We receive money from donations and from selling books and other material as indicated on the order form of **The Recorder**.

The financial summary for the last two years is as follows:

	For Year Ending:	
	9-30-93	9-30-94
Beginning Balance	8,481.35	9,552.89
Add: Donations/Sales	2,598.19	5,330.11
Interest Income	107.32	164.55
Less: Expenditures	1,633.97	5,926.07
Ending Balance	9,552.89	9,121.48

Lively interchange was the response to the "ID Your Relatives" game where each participant needed to get signatures...

Excerpts from Samuel Bennion's History

By Helen Sharp Madsen

In response to a letter from Eliza Ann Harker Bennion, daughter-in-law of Samuel and Mary Bushell Bennion, Mary carried on a touching correspondence with her to bridge the distance between the family home in Taylorsville and the rugged and lonely living conditions in Rush Valley, in the Western Utah desert:

(Spelling and punctuation retained)

January 28, 1872

Dear Children,

Sunday evening Dear Lizzie as I am alone I embrace this opportunity of writing a few lines to you hoping they will find you all well as this leaves us a present. (Illegible) have had a very nice social party They are all well Your mother is well and was there also. Dear Lizzie you say you would like me to write you a good Mormon letter I have no other desire in my heart but to do you all the good I can. A word of kindness how good it is I expect you will all be tried sometimes It seems we would falter by the way but never mind we will put our trust in our heavenly Father and he will bring us safe into the Kingdom of our Lord. We must try and overcome our own feelings. That seems to me to be the hardest thing I have to overcome We have had some very cold weather lately Last Wednesday was the coldest day I have felt for some years I was thinking many times through the day whether the boys were out. We are going to have our Annual Relief Society Party on the 10th of February next I think the Sisters fell well our last meeting was a very good one there seemed to a very good feeling amongst the sisters. I must bring these few lines to a close give my kind love to Hyrum (her husband, Samuel and Mary's son) I often think of you all and pray for you to I hope you will remember us in your prayers You must forgive me for not writing to you before I hope you will write as often as you can If anyone comes home from Rush It seems quite natural to me to ask them for letters please excuse all mistakes Good night

I remain your
affectionate Mother

Mary Bennion

Out in Rush Valley, Lizzie wrote in her journal for February 17, (Sat),

"Cleaned my room went home to Father's out (?) Helped to ... Went to Shurtliff's to a kissing with Sharp's.

Back in Taylorsville, Samuel and Mary's youngest daughter, Alice Jane, (age 16) sent the following account of activities at the Samuel Bennion home.

(Sunday) February 18, 1872

Dear Sisters

I embrace this opportunity of sending you a few lines hoping it will find you all well and I am happy to say it leaves us at present except Emma Jane is not very well. There was a leap year party here last Friday night Becca Mantle got it up It was very crowded wherefore we did not get to dance a great deal Otherwise it was a good dance There is going to be another dance next Friday night to the mill. the Relief Society Dance is coming of the first Tuesday after fast meeting in three or four weeks I wish you could be here Do try come if possible We were very glad that Hyrum wrote to us he said when he was at home he would send us a song I wish he would do so if opportunity affords I have been up to Bringham today It has been like a summer day it is blowing up a storm tonight. I should like and I will come out as soon as I can did you get any Valentines out your way they were scarce here It did not seem like Valentine day to me. when you come home you get tired of traveling and so on as this wherefore if you could first come and just come and eat a Sunday dinner and then go home and know your home was all right and close by you would be all right, but blow me by way of adventure there is a great many worse things than that to encounter. Mother is well and sends her best love to you all. I cannot think of any more at present - please excuse all gross errors write as often as you can and I will do the same Do try to come home for Conference.

I remain your affectionate sister

Alice Bennion

Correspondence between the two Bennion establishments seems to have been a frequent pastime, especially for the women. The men and boys spent most of their time out with the herds, as that was their principal means of survival, but we do not have any record of Mary Bushell Bennion having gone out there. Consequently, frequent correspondence was the only way to keep in touch, unless the women from Rush Valley came in to Taylorsville.

In Taylorsville, Mary made a visit to Lizzie's mother, Eliza Smith Spencer Harker on Sunday. The following day she penned this note to Lizzie:

February 19, 1872 Monday -
Taylorsville

Dear Lizzie

I have just returned from your mothers have been taking tea with her she wished me to write and tell you she has not got you those things yet but will get them and send them the first chance. Relief dance is coming of soon there is going to be an exhibition in the day time I would like very much if you could make some little thing and sent it in. Beck is going to make a white shirt and baby's

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Excerpts from Samuel Bennion's History

(Continued from page 4)

petticoat. I should like to see you all very much excuse haste write every chance my peace abide with you from you affection Mother - Mary Bennion

The Relief Society Sisters made regular contributions to the Society funds to assist the needy. In the minutes of the West Jordan Ward Relief Society, the following contributions were made by Mary Bushell Bennion in 1872:

Jan 9	By cash	.50	Labor	.25	.75
Feb	By cash	.25			
Mar	Cloth	3.00			3.25
Total contributions for 1872					\$4.00

After the March entry, her contributions abruptly ended. About the middle of March, Mary became severely ill, suffering from typhoid fever. The illness progressed in spite of all that could be done for her by the loving care of her family and the limited knowledge and ability of the physicians at the time. Her condition continued to deteriorate and on the morning of April 24, she slipped away from this life. The Deseret News published notice of her death in the evening news that night, as follows:

DEATH- Mary Bushell Bennion In West Jordan ward, April 24, after five weeks illness, of typhoid fever. Mary Bushell, wife of Samuel Bennion. Aged 65 years, 1 month and 24 days. Died Wednesday morning, twenty minutes past eight o'clock a.m.

The news of Mary's death quickly reached Rush Valley. Lizzie Bennion recorded the following in her journal for that day:

April 24 1872 (Wed) Got breakfast made bread mended 7 pairs of stockings finished two caps Made Joshua's vest Joseph Lindsay came for us to (prepare for) Mother's (Mary's) funeral

The funeral was held on Friday, April 26. Many of those who were coming in for Conference came early for the funeral. What a privilege to have Elder John Taylor speak! A large gathering of friends came for the occasion, many of whom would have stayed on for the April General Conference.

Lizzie's journal entry for the day of Mary's funeral read:
April 26, 1872 Helped the girls to do a few chores there was a large Funeral John Taylor spoke the choir sang three hymns We then went to the graveyard

The Salt Lake City Cemetery records have the following information concerning Mary's death and burial:

"#5118 West Jordan Mary Bennion wife of Samuel (born) 1 mch 1816 Roby, Lancs., Eng., 24 April 1872 (cause) Typhoid (Medical Attendant) D. Davis (plat) A Block 2 Lot 4.

The day after the funeral, Lizzie's journal entry reads:
April 27 1872 Went over to Mother's Mary (?) and sat in the afternoon went back to supper felt bad
April 28 1872 Went over to Mothers felt bad went to John's John Bennion was in southern Utah on his mission when Mary died. It was a shock when Esther Ann learned of the news sometime later.

Samuel felt the loss of this dear wife very deeply. He took the opportunity to receive a comforting blessing from the Patriarch to the Church a few weeks after Mary's burial. It read:

May 13 1872 A blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of Samuel Bennion, son of John and Elizabeth Bennion. Born at Hawarden, Flintshire, North Wales, December 11, 1818.

Brother Samuel, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, I place my hands upon thy head and seal the Blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob upon thee, and say unto thee, be of good faith and of good cheer, for the Lord knoweth thine integrity. He hath heard thy petitions and will answer thee according to thy faith. Thou shalt live until thou hast finished thy mission. Thou are also entitled, through obedience to the gospel to the blessing of the New and everlasting covenant, with the gift of the priesthood. Thou art numbered among the fathers in Israel and thy name shall be written in the Lamb's Book of life. Thou has seen many changes and passed through trying events for which thou shalt verily receive thy reward. Again, I say unto thee be of good cheer and let thy heart be comforted for thy last days shall be thy best days Thy posterity shall be numerous and shall be honorable in the land. Thou shalt assist in gathering scattered Israel, and shall comfort the heart of the poor and needy, and feed many in time of scarcity. Thou shalt also be a saviour among thy kindred and rejoice with many hereafter. This, with thy former blessing, I seal upon thy head and I seal thee up unto eternal life with power to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection among thy kindred and friends. Even so, Amen.

H.E. Lewis, recorder

Recovering from his bereavement, Samuel lived an active life for another seventeen years, enjoying his large family and being active in his milling business and livestock interests. He was called to serve a mission to his ancestral home, returning to Wales and England. He served as Bishop for twenty years, until his death in 1889.

Where do Bennions Live?

By Steve Bennion

Where are the descendants of John Bennion and Elizabeth Roberts? Where do the Bennion families Live?

At the time of this newsletter we think we know where 2,273 Bennion family households are. We expect many have moved and we hope to find out where. There are another thousand households that we know about, but we do not know where they live. We also expect to find at least another thousand.

World-wide Distribution

United States	2,207	97%
Canada	42	2%
Europe	18	1%
Asia	4	0%
Africa	1	0%
South America	1	0%
Totals	2,273	100%

United States Distribution

West (13 States)	1,987	90%
East (14 States)	83	4%
Plains (13 States)	71	3%
South (4 States)	66	3%
Totals	2,207	100%

Top Nine States Distribution

Utah	1,317	60%
California	268	12%
Idaho	87	4%
Washington	74	3%
Arizona	53	2%
Nevada	47	2%
Oregon	37	2%
Wyoming	34	2%
Colorado	33	2%
Others	357	11%
Total	2,207	100%

The ten top Zip codes are all in Salt Lake City except for one each in Bountiful and Vernal, Utah. Salt Lake County has 35% of the total and the four states with no families are Rhode Island, West Virginia, Mississippi, and Alabama.

The distribution in Canada is Alberta with 37, Manitoba with 3, and British Columbia with 2. The distribution in Europe is United Kingdom with 14 and one each in Spain and Italy.

Perhaps you want to meet the Bennion relatives that are in your area. Just send in an order form request and we will send you a list of your relatives that live near you. We can also send you a list of your own family, which you can correct and return back to us.

Your Bennion family is everywhere!

What is the Value of the BFA?

What is the value in selecting out two of our ancestors, recording their history & genealogy, and using this theme to communicate with each other? There are several thoughts that come to mind.

1. To learn the hardships and circumstances of our ancestors so as to teach us appreciation for our material blessings and circumstances. These include the value of hard work, the health and safety of our children, and our comfortable living conditions.

2. To understand and learn of the values of our ancestors in order to inspire us to live better lives. Values are the major core principles that guide the direction of our lives, and influence our important decisions. Examples of values are family, honesty, hard work, charity, duty, service, and gospel principles.

3. To complete the genealogy research and perform temple work that teach us service to our family members.

4. To provide us with helps to aid our struggles through life, such as inspiration, strength, support, friendships, and security.

The Bennion Family Association is a great organization!

To learn the hardships of our ancestors so as to teach us appreciation for our material blessings...

"Bennion is the Name"

By Eileen B. McKean

This song was written by Eileen McKean especially for the 1994 reunion and was sung by her children and grandchildren during the program to the tune: In Our Lovely Deseret:

(Verse 1.)

In Old Wales and on Moor Lane, There's a family with your name!
Gentle parents, loving home from which they came,
Sam and John lived in that cot, gained from all that they were taught,
Then into their lives the Gospel Message came.

(Verse 2)

Sam and John and Families, sailed across the rolling seas,
The Gospel net had drawn them close, yes it is true!
They had listened with their heart, from their homes they must depart,
Soon they came to join the Saints in old Nauvoo.

(Verse 3.)

We remember stories told, from Our Pioneers of old
And we hope our faith and courage matches theirs!
As they settled in the West, where the Lord their families blest,
May we keep their memories bright and clear for years.

(Verse 4.)

It's up to us to carry on, remembering who and where we're from,
Their gifts to us are very plain for all to see,
Keep our values shinny bright, work hard and spread the Gospel light,
They would want us to succeed and happy be.

(Chorus)

Hark, Hark, Hark, the Bennions gather,
Reunion time has come once more!
Take a look around this crowd, and you'll feel so might proud
That you've got a drop of Bennion blood in you!



Bennion T-Shirts

Many of you were unable to attend the Bennion Family Reunion held this last August, so you were unable to purchase the eye-catching commemorative T-shirt. The 100%-cotton Hanes Beefy-T's were Hunter Green with a 5-color silk screened graphic on the back with the pictures of John & Samuel Bennion and the Samuel home; the reunion date/location; the motto of "a reputation for honesty, good judgment, & square dealing"; and the Bennion logo on the front (see the actual the above).

The T-shirt is a true collector's item that teaches family values and Bennion heritage. There are a few youth sizes and adult sizes to X-Large still available, so order immediately for the whole extended family using the back page order form.

Don't delay! Order now before they're gone. The price, you say? A mere \$8.00 each prepaid - truly a bargain. This would make a great Christmas present for some dear family members.

Answers to Trivia

(1) Stream. (2) Hawarden Parish, Flinshire County, North Wales. (3) John Bennion. (4) A baker. (5) John Taylor. (6) John Bennion. (7) May 23, 1845. (8) No, he died in Winter Quarters. (9) Five months. (10) 21 miles. (11) The dust from the wagons. (12) Oct / Sept, 1847 (150 year anniversary coming up) (13) Utes. (14) Oct. 4, 1904.

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**The
Bennion
Family**

Recorder

from the Bennion Family Association Executive Committee

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