

President's Message

By Lynn R. Stratford

We are finally publishing another issue of **The Recorder** and apologize for missing the May, 1995 issue.

Future Direction of BFA

During this last year the present and past leadership of the Bennion Family Association (BFA) has met together several times to review the present status of the organization and to define its future direction. It has been a difficult question to address, especially since the BFA has been operating with such success for the past 65 years. The Association is growing to unwieldy proportions and therefore prompting the need for new direction.

We have decided to scale back the present scope of the BFA so that it conforms better to the reality of today, which includes 2,300 mailings, higher production costs, and the large and somewhat disconnected posterity of Samuel and John Bennion.

Future publications of The Recorder will be sent out twice yearly in a more abbreviated form to notify the Association members of current happenings and to inspire them as to our great Bennion heritage. Fewer family group sheets will be included in **The Recorder**, since this takes up a large amount of space and increases costs.

The Bennion Family Reunion, currently being held every other year, will cease, except for one last great reunion to be held the Summer of 1997 to commemorate the 150th. anniversary of the arrival in October 1847 of the Bennion bothers and their families to the Salt Lake valley. We encourage all Bennion descendants to organize their future family reunions based on the first or second generations down from Samuel and John, or other organizational groups as their respective families may determine.

Bennion Family History - Vol. V will be printed in a hard copy book form in March, 1996. We have struggled with this printing because of it's large size and cost, and also because

(Continued on page 2)

New VP Accepts Challenge

A new Vice-President has accepted the challenge to assist in directing **The Bennion Family Association**. He is M. Grant Sharp of Redmond, Washington. Grant is a descendant of Samuel Bennion, so he fits into the pattern of leadership of the Association where we alternate each term between the descendants of Samuel and John, as determined by the Board of Directors some years ago.

Grant is married to Wendy Lee Nielsen and they are the parents of one son and five daughters. Grant is self-employed in marketing, is computer-oriented, and is anxious to lead the Association into the electronic era, as indicated in the President's Message in this issue.

He will succeed to the presidency the Summer of 1996 and we will then be searching for another vice-president, preferably a descendant from John's side of the family. We look forward to his leadership and enthusiasm to carry the BFA into the next era.

*Future
Direction
of the
Bennion
Family
Association*

Inside This Issue

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| President's Message..... | 1 |
| New VP Accepts Challenge..... | 1 |
| Bennion Family History-Vol. V..... | 2 |
| Bennion Descendant-New Apostle. | 3 |
| Tax Exempt Status of BFA..... | 3 |
| Bennion Reunion-Westcoast..... | 3 |
| 10 Reasons We Were Different..... | 4 |
| Israel Bennion-Patriarch..... | 4 |
| Bennion Mush = Pobbies..... | 5 |
| Samuel & John's Tree..... | 5 |
| Research Brings Correction..... | 5 |
| Father Bennion's Marriage Cert.... | 6 |

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

of the new alternatives to printing which are now becoming popular, such as CD ROM and Internet communications. (see related article on Vol. V)

The Samuel Bennion Book, which is being written by Helen Madsen, will be published probably within a year.

The future mission of the BFA will be that of a family history resource library for the Bennion descendants. This will included research, production of family group records and pedigree charts, dissemination of family history information and books, as well as other projects that future requirements may dictate. We anticipate that the most efficient way to distribute new information may be through the newly emerging electronic media; using a computer modem, Internet, or other media yet to develop.

It may well become general procedure that, as research is completed, the existing Bennion Family files which will be on the Internet, will be periodically updated. Any Association member with Internet access can review, select, and down-load desired information. This may seem foreign (and even scary) to some of you now, but it is certain that this form of communication will become increasingly popular, more accepted, and easier for everyone to use. We are looking forward to future technology as the solution to some of the problems we now face.

Of course, the future will bring its own problems, but they will be resolved also in new and better ways (we have been doing things that Samuel and John never could have imagined). Even now your children and grandchildren are learning this Internet technology; thus, it would be beneficial to promote this effort by encouragement and financial support (a fax/modem card for their computer would make an excellent Christmas present). This new direction will be further defined by the future leadership of the BFA.

As we approach this Christmas season and reflect on those things that are most meaningful to us, our family heritage takes on a warm and tender place in our hearts. We wish a **Merry Christmas** to all of you, our close brothers and sisters in the Bennion Family Association.

Bennion Family History Volume V

The Bennion Family History - Vol. V will be printed in book form in March, 1996. This book will be an update of Volume II, published 35 years ago, and will include the descendants of Samuel and John Bennion, as well as the descendants of their two sisters - Mary, who stayed in Wales and Elizabeth who, with her husband, came to the United States and settled in Omaha, Nebraska. The new Vol. V will be in a similar format to Vol. II and will include current addresses (insofar as they are known) and an index for easy reference.

One thousand copies will be printed at an estimated cost of \$30.00 each. Packaging and shipping costs must be added to this price. Orders are being taken until January 31, 1996, at a "pre-publishing" price of \$25.00. Orders placed after February 1, 1996 will be priced at \$30.00 or actual costs (including packaging and shipping), whichever is higher.

This will be the last book of this kind to be published by the BFA and we cannot be sure that any reprints of this edition will be made. This will be a "one-of-a-kind" edition, so **NOW** is the time to place your order by filling out the order form on the back page of this issue and sending it in. If you have previously ordered Vol. V, your order stands and will be honored.

IMPORTANT NOTE!!

For those who have not submitted their family history data to be included in Vol. V, or for those who have changes or additional information to be submitted, i.e. births, marriages, deaths,

FEBRUARY 1, 1996 is the ABSOLUTELY LAST DATE

for receiving your data. It takes about one month to assemble and enter the information (this effort is done on a volunteer after-regular-work basis, your know), so the material must be in the hands of Steve Bennion by FEBRUARY 1, 1996. Information received after that date cannot be included.

(If you haven't believed it before...believe it now).

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Bennion Descendant Is New Apostle

At the April, 1995 LDS Conference, we watched Henry Bennion Eying introduced as the newest member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. We are proud of him and his Bennion heritage.

Elder Eyring was raised by two wonderful parents - his gifted mother, Mildred (granddaughter of John and Mary Turpin Bennion) and his outstanding father, Henry Eyring. An article in the May 1995 Ensign, page 105, chronicles his family life, schooling, and professional years, as well as his church service.

A few years ago, Elder Eyring was the principle speaker at our Bennion Family Reunion. He spoke of watching his mother work tirelessly as she compiled the third volume of our Bennion family books, containing the journals of her grandfather.

Elder Eyring felt compelled to read these journals himself, and remarked how such stories of his ancestor's faith and dedication to the gospel, hard work and unbelievable endurance, helped him understand and appreciate his mother's devotion to her pioneer ancestors.

May we take this opportunity to congratulate Elder Eyring, his wife and family and wish him well in this important calling.

Tax Exempt Status of Bennion Family Assoc.

Recent Inquiries concerning tax deductibility of contributions to "**The Bennion Family Association**" lead to this reaffirmation of the IRS logging information.

When filling out your IRS form 1040 income tax return, simply list the donee as "**The Bennion Family Association**". The other information is optional and is needed only when and if the IRS asks for it.

Please note that for some strange reason, the listing is not under "B", as you might expect, but under "T", as The Bennion Family

Association. The listing is in a very large two-volume Publication 78, "Cumulative List of Organizations in Section 170c of IRS Code of 1986". Another identification would be the Association's EIN which all businesses have. This number is **87-0430580**.

One other reference might be the letter to the Association informing us of the approval of our charitable status which was listed in **The Recorder** of March, 1990. This letter is from the Regional IRS Office in Dallas, TX. The letter reference is 947 DO-CG.

All this may seem very complicated, but it isn't, really, because most of these references should never be needed. However, this space is a good place to preserve the information for future reference, and we want all our donors to feel secure in their giving to **The Bennion Family Association**.

Bennion Reunion Westcoast Style

For all those Bennion relatives in the Northern California area, there is good news for a closer reunion than the Salt Lake Valley. Margaret Widtfeldt Green is organizing a Bennion Reunion in honor of the 150 years since the pioneers settled in Northern California.

This special event is scheduled to be held Saturday, July 10, 1996 at the Muirwood Park in Pleasanton, CA from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

The reunion will include: Softball game & tug-of-war (John vs. Samuel's descendants), family picnic, talent show, family history information, speaker, and even some live sheep for the young ones to get a sense of the old Bennion homestead.

Bring the whole family and meet your relatives. For those wanting to help and those wanting more information, please contact:

Margaret Green
4665 Helpert Court
Pleasanton, CA 94588
(510) 462-0523

Be there July 10, 1996 or be square!

*Bennion
reunion in
Northern
California is
scheduled
Saturday, July
10, 1996 in
Pleasanton, CA*

10 Reasons The Mormon Pioneers Were Different

From 1835 to the time the railroads were finally joined at Promontory Point in 1869, wagon travel was the normal mode of transportation for those moving West. John and Samuel Bennion traveled by wagon train arriving in the Salt Lake Valley in the Fall of 1847. Was there any difference in the Mormon wagon migration Westward versus the non-Mormon travelers on the trail to California or Oregon? Yes! Reflection on this mode of transportation gives us an insight and pride into the travel of our Bennion forefathers.

The following ten aspects of the Mormon pioneer migration to Utah, as summarized from T. Edgar Lyon's article, "Uncommon Aspects of the Mormon Migration", are strikingly unique from all other wagon travelers:

Number 1. The motive that took the Mormon people West was religion. Utah was the only Western State settled for this reason - others were settled for economic betterment, improved health, adventure, or to escape the long arm of the law.

Number 2. The Mormon pioneers made the trek alone without guides; in fact, it was the only migration in this early period in which somebody did not guide such large groups. The reason no guides were used was because it was too expensive and the Mormons were confident in divine help.

Number 3. The Mormon pioneers were financially destitute in comparison to other wagon train companies moving West. They were forced to leave Nauvoo where they gathered from England and the Eastern states. They had brought little material wealth with them to Nauvoo and used a barter-economy to build the city. When the people were forced to leave, they were unable to dispose of their homes and property at fair prices.

Number 4. The Mormons were not basically frontiersmen; they were craftsmen, artisans, miners and such. This movement Westward turned the Mormons into first-rate pioneers and frontiersmen. This transformation to handle oxen, mules, horses and wagons required tremendous leadership, as well as faith and devotion.

Number 5. These people came West in wagon trains with a greater percentage of women, children, and older people than any other Westward migration. Most other companies had few, if any women because they wanted to move rapidly, but the Mormon purpose was to settle families in the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

Number 6. The Mormon Migration was a two-way road. Wagons would return East to pick up new family relatives, to bring missionaries to preach the gospel, and to carry out the purpose of the perpetual immigration

program. Therefore, the Mormons would build bridges, improve fords in rivers, and upgrade roads.

Number 7. The underlying force of the migration was to help people socially and economically improve their circumstances. The pioneers would donate some of their meager assets to help pay for others back home to immigrate and had the vision that they were building the Kingdom of God.

Number 8. The Mormons were a highly structured organization and focused keenly on their objective to arrive in the Salt Lake Valley. Other wagon train companies experience quarreling, choosing new leaders, splitting into smaller groups, and even returning back home in despair. Our forefathers maintained their organized party and discipline.

Number 9. Those in the Mormon Migration showed an uncommon respect for those who died on the trail. For the most part the Mormons would take the time to dig a six-foot deep grave, haul cobblestones to protect the body, place a name marker, and hold a religious funeral. Even making coffins during the travel was not uncommon. John Bennion, father of Samuel and John, traveled by wagon train, but due to his age and the rigors of the journey, died and was buried in Garden Grove, Iowa.

Number 10. The Latter-day Saints moving Westward were a community moving as a community. Because of the intense persecution, Brigham Young declared at general conference on Oct. 1, 1845 his intent to pick up and move out of Nauvoo the next Spring. They prepared to sell their 2,000 homes and form wagon train companies of 100 families (about 6 people to each family). The Mormons transplanted the whole community with all its trades so that Salt Lake City, before it was two months old, had nearly 2,000 people in town which increased to 5,000 fourteen months later, our Bennion brothers' families among them.

Israel Bennion - Patriarch

On July 23, 1893 Israel Bennion (son of John Bennion and Ester Ann Birch) was ordained a patriarch by Francis M. Lyman, while he was raising his family in the west desert near Vernon, Utah. Throughout his journals there are references to blessings given to those in his ward, Tooele stake, and his extended family.

Patriarchal blessings given by Israel cover a period from 1893 to 1943; thus, his service in this calling spanned an amazing period of 50 years, and probably included 100's of blessings.

If you are from the "older generation", perhaps you might check your blessing and see if Israel's name is listed as patriarch. Anyone wishing a copy of their own or a relative's blessing can contact the church offices.

Bennion Mush = Pobbies

By Joyce B. Peaden

At Israel Bennion's fourth birthday party, as related by his son Glynn in The Bennion Family of Utah, Vol. III (561), he tells about the breakfast of "pobbies, a tasteless mush or thick gravy made of flour boiled in skim milk..."

Many years ago I asked my father, Angus P. Bennion, about the "pobbies" and he said, "Why that is whole wheat flour mush just like we ate for breakfast most of the time! Apparently Esther Wainwright cooked it in milk instead of water."

The Home Comfort Cook Book, published by the Wrought Iron Range Co., in 1924 (a reprint and revision of a 1864 book) calls this breakfast food "Children's Porridge" and refers to cereal grains cooked in water as "mush."

Here is the recipe: Bring 1 quart of milk (or water) to boiling point. Add 1 scant teaspoon salt. Whip 1 cup (or slightly less) whole wheat flour into boiling liquid. Turn heat down and cook for 2 to 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Use a good wire whip.

Esther may have sweetened the porridge. She speaks of "treacle" (molasses) made by the family in a letter to her mother (Nov. 10, 1861, Vol. III, 525); however, our family has always cooked it without sugar. Esther also writes, "We have plenty both of cloathing and eatables, few people here are in a better way of living than we are, such as this country affords..."

In a letter to Esther's parents on April 29, 1849, John and Esther say, "So far are we from any place of supply that we as a people have seen scarce times for food and will be until harvest. Yet no one has died for want. When our stock is out, we take it Indian fashion, live on flesh, meat, roots and herbs and such things as the country affords."

"As to myself have not been out of bread stuff yet; we have a little all the time until harvest. Esther used to go fishing and in two or three hours get 20 or 30 fish, and after I got my crops in I went a hunting amongst the mountains and in three days I returned home with about 75 pounds of mutton or mountain sheep." (BFH, Vol. I, 36)

Wouldn't it be interesting to stir up a batch of "pobbies" on a Monday night and let our families experience a real part of our Bennion heritage?"

Samuel & John's Tree

The following list includes the children of Samuel and John Bennion who lived to maturity, married and had families. You are descended from one of these lines:

Samuel Bennion

First Wife: Mary Bushell

1. John Rowland Bennion
2. Hyrum Bennion
3. Joseph Bushell Bennion
4. Emma Bennion Lindsay
5. Rebecca Ann Bennion Sharp
6. Samuel Heber Bennion
7. Alice Jane Bennion Harker

Second Wife: Sarah Williams (no decendants)

Third Wife: Rhoda Jones

1. Wilford Bennion
2. Arthur Bennion

John Bennion

First Wife: Ester Wainwright

1. Samuel Roberts Bennion
2. Mary Bennion Calder
3. Angeline Bennion Spencer
4. Rachel Bennion Spencer
5. John Edward Bennion
6. Maria Bennion Cannon
7. Harriet Bennion Harker Cowley
8. Ira Wainwright Bennion

Second Wife: Ester Ann Birch

1. Israel Bennion
2. Harden Bennion
3. David Bennion
4. Owen Bennion
5. Ida Bennion Chase
6. Archie Birch Bennion

Third Wife: Mary Turpin

1. Heber Bennion
2. Alfred Bennion
3. William Bennion
4. Marcus Bennion
5. Edwin Bennion
6. Milton Bennion
7. Zina Bennion Cannon

Research Brings Correction

In a recent family history research trip to England and Wales, Helen Sharp Madsen found the original record of the marriage of John Bennion and Elizabeth Roberts, parents of our Samuel and John Bennion. In earlier family publications the date of 14 or 21 September 1811 was stated, but memories can be faulty. The documents written at the time of the event are much more reliable. The record shows that "John Bennion, Farmer, and Elizabeth Roberts, Spinster, were married on the 18th. day of September, in the year 1813". The print of the document published herein on page 6 is a copy of the marriage record made by Helen on October 19, 1995 in the Cheshire County Record office, Chester, Cheshire, England.

Marriage Document of John Bennion & Elizabeth Roberts
(Parents of Samuel and John Bennion)

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of *St Mary on the Hill*
in the County of *the City of Chester* in the Year 18*13*

John Bennion of *this* Parish
Samuel
and *Elizabeth Roberts* of *this* Parish

were married in this *Church* by *Banns* with Consent of
this *eighteenth* Day of

September in the Year One thousand eight hundred and *thirteen*

By me *Wm. William* Minister

This Marriage was solemnized between us *Mark of John Bennion*

In the Presence of *Mark of Elizabeth Roberts*

Mark of William & *Gradshaw*

Mark of William & *Nield*
No. 53.