



Homer's of America

RUSSEL KING HOMER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Fall 1990

New Officers for Family Association

The Russel King Family Association was recently filed as a non-profit corporation in the State of Utah. This action made it possible to file papers with the Federal Government for a 501(c)(3) status. With this new status all contributions to the Family Association can be considered as a charitable contribution on your tax returns. Many thanks to Ray Longhurst (financial Vice President), Kay Anderson (family member who is also a CPA), and Fred Anderson (family member) for their efforts to complete this process.

Under the direction of John Homer, previous President, new family officers were elected 19 June 1990. The officers, and their areas of responsibility, are:

- President** — Russell Y Anderson , General supervision of activities.
- 1st Vice President** — Gareth B. Homer
Organize computerized pedigrees and family group sheets.
- 2nd Vice President** — Brian L. Homer
Organize ancestral research and temple work.
- 3rd Vice President** — LaRene Tanner
Organize and arrange printing of historical research.
- 4th Vice President** — Ray Longhurst
Financial management of the Association.
- Secretary** — Sarah Balls
Provide notices and minutes of membership and board meetings.
- Newsletter Editor** — Susan Roylance
Preparation and mailing of the Homer Family Newsletter.
- Reunion Chairman** — John Homer

August 16-17, 1991 • Homer Reunion

John Homer is finalizing plans for the Russell King Homer Family Reunion next year. All the descendants of Russell King Homer and his four wives (Eliza Williamson, Mary C. Anderson, Eliza Thornton, and Mary Prianna Petty) will be invited.

A highlight of the reunion will be the **Martin Harris Pageant**. Pageant coordinators have expressed a desire to honor Homer Family members at the pageant in 1991 (William Harrison Homer was instrumental in bringing Martin Harris to Utah, where he lived with his son and daughter-in-law, Nancy Ann Homer). We plan to attend the first Friday of the pageant, with the reunion on Saturday.

We have contacted Utah State University Housing, with the possibility of staying in college housing. There will be an area for motor homes or tents. Further details will follow.

Russell Anderson is scouting out an area for computer use, with the hope of having Gareth Homer conduct a Personal Ancestral File class for interested members.

Please pass this information on to all known descendants of Russell King Homer. This should be a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

• Your family will want to be included •

Homer's of America and Family Association Marry

by Bill Homer

This issue of *Homer's of America* marks the beginning of a new relationship.

Sometime ago, the Russell King Homer Family Association, which has existed for more than 100 years but never published a newsletter, approached me with the idea of publishing an official family newsletter. They wanted to publish a newsletter for their members, which include a majority of our subscribers.

Since it didn't make sense to publish two competing newsletters to the same people, the marriage was made, incorporating the following:

1. The name will remain the same.
2. I will write a Homer article for each newsletter.
3. Current subscriptions will be honored.
4. Funding will be underwritten by the family organization.

I pledge every effort to this new marriage and that the newsletter will continue to meet your expectations.

Your contributions of time or money will be greatly appreciated.

Notice the new address for sending family memberships or research contributions.

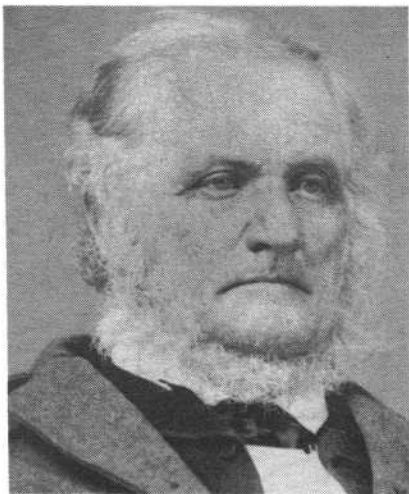
**Russell King Homer
Family**

TEMPLE SESSION

March 16, 1991 • 10:00 am

Jordan River Temple

All family members invited



Russel King Homer
and

President George Albert Smith
by Maretta Rushton

When my mother (Rachel Maretta Homer Crockett) was writing the history of the Homer Family, she wanted to include some information about Martin Harris. He and Grandpa Homer were very dear friends before Martin's involvement with the organization of the LDS Church was organized, and he was later connected through marriage with the Homer family. She asked me to go and ask the President of the Church, who at the time was George Albert Smith, what he knew about Martin Harris.

As I entered President Smith's office I noticed a picture of Grandfather Homer over his desk, above his head, and I said, "Oh, that's my grandfather!"

"Russel King Homer is your grandfather?" he said.

"Yes, he's my mother's father," I replied.

Then he told me, "You know, my main ambition is to live long enough to write his history." (Now this may not be his exact words, but this is the way I remember it.) "He did more for the LDS Church than any other person that I can think of, and he's never been recognized for what he did, and I would like to write his history."

Then, of course, I told him my mother was writing his history, but it was my other grandfather, Martin Harris, that I had come to talk to him about.

Apparently Martin Harris and Russel King Homer had grown up in the same area, and were acquainted most of their lives.

Mother wanted to know if Martin Harris had ever been excommunicated from the Church.

When I asked President Smith this question he hit his desk with his hand, a loud hit, and said, "absolutely not! He was never excommunicated. There are minutes of a meeting where it was discussed, but the President is the only one who can excommunicate a person from the church, and there is no record of it ever being done."

Family Archives

The Family Association is anxious to gather pictures, documents, diaries, etc. These will eventually be made available to the entire family.

Recently, the following people have contributed items to the family collection:

Maretta Rushton: Maretta Homer Crockett's (author of Homer Family History) records, which include old family letters, family reunion minutes, early genealogical records, and two scrapbooks — which will undoubtedly be of great interest to many members of the family.

Vera Burrell: Copies of the Russel King Homer Family Bible, and pictures of Russel King Homer and Eliza Williamson

Grant Homer: Joshua Homer's genealogical records, diaries, pictures, patriarchal blessings, signed Martin Harris testimony, farm records, etc.

Sarah Clark: Deed of farm in Pennsylvania, and handwritten early genealogical papers.

The Family Association will be making these valuable documents and pictures available to family members through individual copies, pamphlets and/or books.

? Do You Have . . .

1. William Harrison Homer diary
2. EARLY genealogy records
3. Family pictures

Contact LaRene Tanner
(801) 250-7319



Eliza Williamson Homer

(Eliza's comments, as recorded in Family Reunion minutes)

1903 – Grandma Eliza Williamson Homer said she felt well to meet with her family once more. She reflected on the time when "*Russel and I were newly married, two of us in the family. And now this large and beautiful family.*"

She said it seemed strange that all belonged to her, but she was proud of everyone and loved and welcomed them all. . . . "*My sons, all good and true, worthy to hold and do hold good positions in church and State. My daughters are good wives and mothers. I love and bless you, everyone, and ask God to bless you.*"

1911 – She said she thanks God that he had put it into the hearts to hold these family meetings. For "*nothing ever pleased Russel (my husband) better than to see his family all gathered together and enjoying each others society.*" She said she hoped the family would all do our part and try to make every member to the family feel at home. . . whether she herself was permitted to be present or not.

She said she felt to thank God for such a family. "*There is not one drunkard, one criminal or thief in it. Not even so much as one divorced person in the whole family.*" She again thanked God for such a noble family and asked Him to bless us all.

(Eliza W. Homer died in 1912)

New Family President by Susan Roylance

As the recently elected editor of the Homer Family Newsletter, I have been assigned to write a short article about our new President, Russell Y Anderson. I am admittedly biased, as Russell is my brother.

As a child, Russell was not expected to live beyond the teenage years, and was confined to bed at 4 and 5 yrs old. During those early curious years he developed his mind—rather than his physical body. Later, through faith, prayers, and the priesthood, Russell was healed.

The development of his mind continued, and today Russell is an Electrical Engineer who designs new products.

Early on, Russell also exhibited an extraordinary curiosity about his ancestors. Older members of the Anderson, Lemmon, and Homer families know Russell well, as he has personally contacted many of them. He also loves early Mormon history.

While living in Washington State, Russell helped Bryce Homer with the reprinting of Rachel Maretta Homer Crockett's book, *Homer Family History*.

Russell is a descendant of Russell King Homer and Eliza Williamson through their daughter Anna Eliza Homer, who married Willis Lemmon. His parents are Newell and Cora Gene Anderson.



The simple facts about Russell are:
 • Born in Idaho Falls, 19 Feb. 1949.
 • Lived on a farm in Darlington, Idaho, and Othello, Wash.

RESEARCH REPORT

With the re-organization of the Homer Family Association, a new flurry of research on Homer ancestral lines has begun. The initial impetus began with an examination of two documents found by Sarah Balls among her mother's family documents.

One of the documents (a reduced copy is printed below) contains a list of names, many of which are known ancestors of Russell King Homer. Following the name of William Warner are the words "my grandfather".

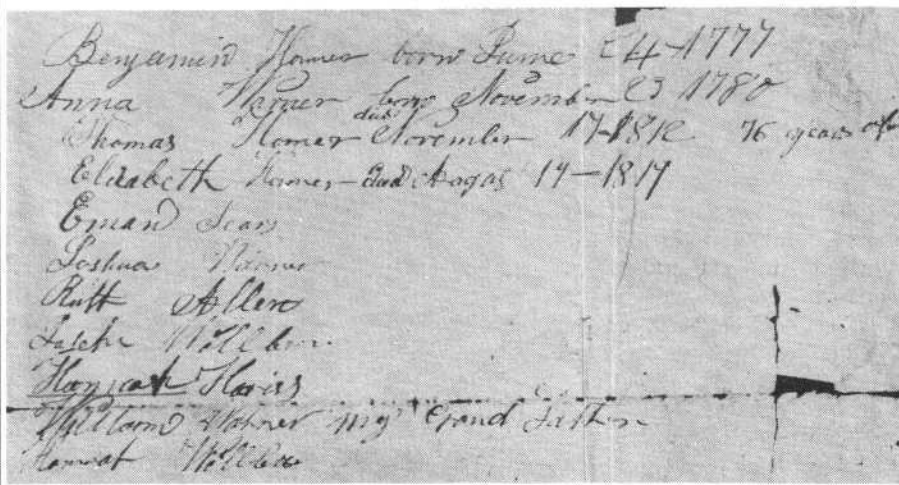
The other paper contains a list of Russel King Homer's brothers and sisters, and the statement "Father's own handwriting, record of his father's family" which appears to have been written by Rachel Maretta Homer Crockett (Sarah says

the handwriting is not that of her grandmother, Sarah Homer Clark). This two statements gives rise to the belief that these documents have been written by Russel King Homer. The question is:

Who is Ruth Allen?

Because she follows in sequence behind Joshua Warner, it would appear that she is the wife of Joshua. However, early family records indicate Hannah Harris as the wife of Joshua Warner. Later (about 1930) family records change that name to Honor Harris. More recent research shows Mary Hutchins as the wife of Joshua Warner.

The next issue of this newsletter will discuss the Warner ancestry. All suggestions or comments will be appreciated.



- Served a mission to Florida from 1968 to 1970.
- Married Karen Boyce in 1973.
- Graduated in Electrical Engineering in 1975 (BYU).
- Father of seven children (five boys and two girls).
- Currently employed by Campbell Scientific of Logan, Utah.

As the new President of the Russel King Homer Association, Russell travels to Salt Lake from Hyrum (near Logan) every month for the family meeting. He has completely transcribed the book of early family reunion minutes, and has prepared several charts of family members from the names initially provided by Bill Homer.

Maretta Rushton told me a story of how Russel King Homer returned from the spirit world to one of his daughters, who was having a very difficult time getting over the recent death of her husband. He told his daughter she needed to quit grieving, and take care of her children. Her response: "Why did you come instead of my husband?" Russel King replied, "Because he was not yet ready to make the sacrifice that is needed to return."

When I told Russell this story his reply was, "I guess if we are in tune with spiritual promptings they would not need to make that sacrifice in the spirit world to physically return to help us." I think this response tells a lot about Russell.



From Joshua Homer picture collection (courtesy of Grant Homer)
 Left to right: Marinda Jardine, Sarah Clark, Joshua T. Homer, Maretta Crockett, Rebecca Costley



Copies of pages from Russel King Homer Family Bible (courtesy of Vera Burrell)

RESEARCH TRIP REPORT

by Susan Roylance

Although the basic purpose of my trip back East in July was to do research on another line, I had the opportunity to also contribute to Homer family research.

The first day my daughter, Alice White, and I traveled to Albany, New York, and met with Fred Q. Bowman, a well respected researcher. He helped me check a few sources at the New York State Library, and then he agreed to continue helping us with research in the Albany area—in exchange for our research in probate and land records in the Salt Lake Family History Library, when needed.

Mr. Bowman also found some Warners in the Newport, New Hampshire area, and more data to support the Westmoreland Warners.

We left Albany about 4:00 pm toward Westmoreland, New Hampshire, and traveled across Washington County (where Hoosick is located—this is where the Williamsons first lived in New York State). Then we crossed Vermont, and arrived in Westmoreland, New Hampshire, about 8:15 pm.

It was hard for me to believe that so many people had their roots in this small town, with only half a dozen buildings at the town center.

The town hall had a light on, so I ventured inside. I opened the door of the Town Clerk's office, and there was someone sitting behind the desk. I must have looked surprised because she said, "What's the matter?" and I replied, "You're here?"

She said, "What time is it?"

"8:20," I replied.

"I'll be here for ten more minutes," she said, "what do you need?"

[After returning home I learned that the Westmoreland Town Hall is ONLY open one and a half hours on Monday, one and a half hours on Thursday, and two hours on Friday. I felt very blessed to find someone there.]

After I recovered from my surprise, I told her I needed to look at some of the old town records. The town clerk was not there, so she had me write down what I needed. Then she said, "You might want to look



Westmoreland Town Hall

at this book we have printed, it contains genealogical information for Westmoreland families."

As I thumbed through *The History of Westmoreland* I was thrilled with the seemingly exhaustive work it contained.

If time had permitted, I could have spent several days following the leads provided by this new book.

The next day we traveled to Syracuse, New York, and spent a couple hours in the Syracuse Library. The President of the Onandaga County Historical Society was very helpful (her name had been provided to me by Elizabeth Nichols)..



In Appreciation

A report on Russel King Homer's Warner ancestry, prepared by Elizabeth Nichols for Elder J. Richard Clark (a descendant through Sarah Homer Clark) was recently provided to the Family Association.

Dr. Brian L. Homer, Vice President in charge of ancestral research and temple work, is having his

Further follow-up will be needed.

I did find a little Warner information there, but mostly I found Williamson data. James Williamson was a very active town leader, and his son followed in his footsteps.

I also gathered many names of the descendants of Eliza Williamson's brothers and sisters. This information should provide several names for the family temple session in March.

When I arrived back in Utah I was anxious to carefully review the information in the Westmoreland book. It was disappointing to discover that the William listed as the son of Joshua did not contain the same children as our William.

Since that time I have been in contact with the Historical Society of Westmoreland, and they have requested us to send our Warner information. They were already aware of some problems in the Warner genealogy, and would like to compare with our information.

Hannah Wilbor's parents also lived in Westmoreland. Her father, Joseph Wilbor, was a major part of the early development of the area. The following picture is an artist's 1870 painting of the First Wilbur homestead. Small building at right is a school.

research assistant, Kathy Allen, prepare a report on this work—in addition to the research she has recently completed on the Warner line.

The family group sheets provided with the report are being added to the family computer base by Gareth B. Homer, Vice President in charge of computerized pedigrees and family group sheets.

Thank You!

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VOICE FROM THE PAST — (Edmund Homer)

*The following is an excerpt from the minutes of the July 15th, 1915
Russel King Homer Family Reunion (at Clarkston):*

I will try and give you some of my views which can be accepted or rejected as you choose. After familiar greetings [at the reunion], the principle object is temple work, and how it may be accomplished.

The first consideration is the financial end, how to obtain means for the expense that is necessary to meet — I do not know whether it will be best to take up a subscription for all to sign, or choose a finance committee and give them power to levy an assessment on each one. In either case, care should be taken that no offense is given to any one, as there are some of the members that are not much interested in that work. But it should be remembered that we are all our Father's (children) descendants and should be willing to carry on his work or the work he so much desired to have done.

The last talk I had with him he said "do not neglect the Temple work," and that obligation is just as binding on the rest of his children as it is on me, or any other one. It is for all!

Each, and all, should be willing to contribute to the fund, that the work may go on.

It will not be long till some of us go where he is. And he will say, "My son or daughter, what have you done in Temple work." Some of us can only say we have talked about it. Now there is none of us that would be satisfied if we could say no more.

Now is the time to remedy that condition by signing a subscription and paying the amount—let it be ever so little. More can be contributed next year. Now the amount of the contribution is not so much the object as a reunion of effort and the object to be accomplished.

When those that meet in Clarkston at the reunion have a good and enjoyable time, which they will, just think for a moment how much more enjoyable will be the meeting over the great river where Father, Mother and all that have gone before are, where there will be no more parting if all are there, none lost.

Now I will close by bearing my testimony as to the efficacy of the Temple work. As you know I was in Southern Utah when the St. George Temple was opened for ordinance work. My wife Eveline and I went there and did some work, were baptized for forty persons, she for fifteen female and I for twenty-five males; had endowments for one couple, a Benjamin Homer and his wife, the oldest names we had at the time.

On our way home, I was taken slightly sick. I lay down in the bottom of the wagon while she drove the team. I got into a doze of sleep. A vision passed before my view as plain as the noonday sun. And those two people appeared to me and said, "You have broken down the prison walls and we are free."

Which is in accordance with my Patriarchal blessing given by Patriarch John Young, which says "you shall have power to break down prison walls and let the captives free."

Now, this is evidence conclusive, if I had no other, that ordinance work for the dead is accepted by those for whom it is done.

I will say again, if there are those (which there is) that can not personally go to the Temple, all can contribute of their means to help others do the work. Be liberal with your means that thereby you may become interested, for where your treasures are, there your heart is also.

Edmund Homer (July 1915)

**Use the enclosed form for mailing in contributions.
Your help will be greatly appreciated!**

Russel King Homer Family Association
345 Panoramic Drive
Hyrum, Utah 84319

Address Correction Requested

IVA MCKINLEY
4-8-?
900 S HIGHLAND #8
FULLERTON, CA 92632

