



Homers America

RUSSEL KING HOMER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Spring 1991

500 Seats Reserved for Homer Family

August 16 and 17 the site of the Russell King Homer Family Reunion will be Clarkson, Utah. The evening of August 16th the family will attend the Martin Harris Pageant. Five hundred seats have been reserved for family members. This will be a glorious opportunity to join with other Homer family descendents, in honor of this great man who sacrificed much to help bring the world the Book of Mormon.

Because Russell King Homer was a childhood friend of Martin Harris, he maintained contact with him throughout his life. It was Martin Harris that sent Russell King Homer a Book of Mormon to read, which sparked his interest, and eventually led him to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When Russell King's son William brought Martin Harris back to Utah, Russell King Homer helped provide the necessities of life. Russell's daughter Nancy married Martin Harris, Jr., and Martin Harris was living with them at the time of his death.

The two families have many ties. It is certainly fitting that family members should gather to honor Martin Harris at the Martin Harris Pageant, August 16th. Please send your family reservation as soon as possible, so you can be a part of this special occasion.

Russell King Homer Family Reunion

Please fill out the *Reunion Question and Answer* form as soon as possible. We want this reunion to be a special experience for all family members, and we need your input. A few questions we need help on:

Dinner Friday Evening

The Ward in Clarkson sponsors a dinner, but we would like to have a dinner with the Homer family members. Would you be able to attend? Would you prefer a pot luck, or catered dinner?

Computer Class

Gary Homer has consented to teach a computer class on the Church genealogy program. If we have enough interest we will gather together enough computers to provide this instruction.

Family Band

In years gone by some branches of the family have joined together a family band at the family reunion. Do you have family members that would like to play in a family band?

Quilt Auction

A quilt auction could help raise needed funds for research, and the Family History Book. Is anyone interested in making a quilt?

HOMER FAMILY HISTORY BOOK

The family is gathering valuable information for a Family History of the Descendants of Russell King Homer.

Two hundred and thirty pictures were recently added from the collection of William Homer, son of Benjamin John and Mary Adelia Petty Homer.

Forty eight pictures on the descendants of Russell King Homer II were provided by Gary Homer.

Newell Anderson provided original photos of Anna Eliza Homer and Willis Lemmon.

If you have valuable old pictures please phone Susan Roylance at (801) 266-0343 or 266-0076 (or write her at 5141 Clover Meadow Drive, Murray, Utah 84123). She will make halftones of your pictures, and return them unharmed. By including these valuable pictures in the family book all members of the family can enjoy them.

Many other valuable items have been added to the family collection, and will be included in the Homer Family History Book. One of the interesting items added in the past six months is a 1837 Ten Dollar note from the Kirtland Safety Society, signed by J. Smith Jr. and S. Rigdone. (see copy later in newsletter)

**Homer Family Organization
First Vice President**

GARY HOMER

Gareth B. Homer, more commonly called "Gary", was born in Logan, Utah on October 13, 1924, to John M. Homer and Eliza Leone Theurer. When but one year old the family moved back to Idaho Falls, Idaho, where he has lived ever since.

Gary's early life was quite uneventful and followed the pattern of most youth of that era, with one exception. During the formative years he found that he had neither the ability nor the interest to involve in sports activities and to this day has little or no interest in sports. During school he seemed to have a natural bent toward the more technical subjects and early on determined to become an engineer. Coincidentally, he developed a keen interest in electricity which, then, determined what kind of engineer he wanted to become.

During those Jr. High School years he also developed an interest in genealogy that has grown and intensified during the years. A contest in genealogy held by the Sunday School class drove him to Aunt Lyda (Eliza Loreen Homer Longhurst), who taught him the basics and helped him to gather enough genealogical information to satisfy the requirements of the contest. This interest in genealogy has always been there since, even though it has had to be pushed into the background several years running due to the pressures of other church



Gareth & Maurine Homer

calls and earning a living, etc.

After completing the local schooling, Gary attended Ricks college in Rexburg, Idaho, for one year. At the end of that first year, he like millions of others, was drafted into the US Army for service in World War II. After requisite training, maneuvers, etc., he found himself in Europe affiliated with the US Ninth Army which cut across the northern part of Germany. Incidentally, he was serving with the Combat Engineers. . . . After returning from overseas and before his discharge, Gary married his high school sweetheart, C. Maurine Olsen, also of Idaho Falls.

Gary completed his schooling at the University of Utah and found employment with General Electric Co. in the Eastern part of the USA. However, within a short 16 months was called back into active duty in the army to fight in the Korean War. After some 17 months active duty, 13 of which were in Korea, he was again discharged to pick up the threads of his life.

During those years the US

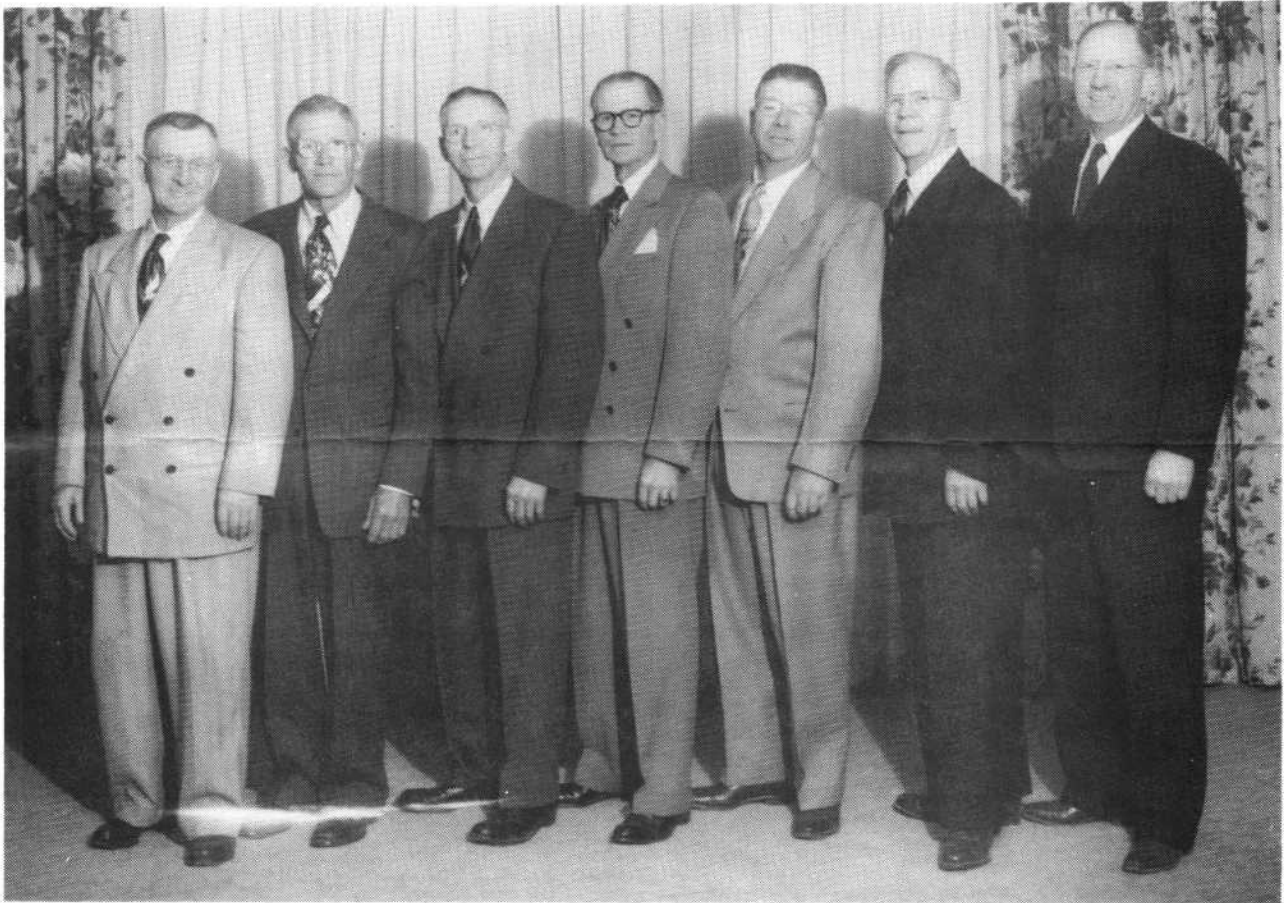
Government had established a "Nuclear Reactor Testing Station" (NRTS) in the vicinity of Idaho Falls, so it was very easy to decide to stay in Idaho and forgo returning to Massachusetts to the position with General Electric. Gary spent about 34 years working at the NRTS site as an electrical engineer, being responsible at various times for the high voltage distribution system, the reactor instrumentation, conceptual designs of new proposed reactors, etc.

Gary and Maurine have always been very involved in the LDS Church. He has served as Bishop, High Council, Counselor in the Stake Presidency, etc. In October 1986 they left home to serve a mission for the Church in Reno, Nevada. After a short two months of totally satisfying service, they were called to preside over the Michigan, Detroit, mission of the church, where they served until July of 1989. Gary and Maurine have six children (5 boys and 1 girl), all of them married and raising families in the Intermountain West.

Gary has been asked to serve as the 1st Vice President of the family organization directly charged with the responsibility for computerizing all of the family records and genealogy. He thoroughly enjoys the blending of his two interests in technology and genealogy. As noted elsewhere in this bulletin, he invites all members of the family to send to him copies of your records together with appropriate documentation to be included in the family genealogical record.



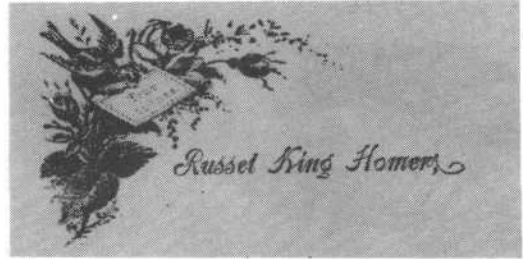
Russell King Homer II and Eleanore Maria Atkinson



Left to Right: George Albert Homer, Brigham Ezra Homer, Russell King Homer III, William Harrison "Harry" Homer, Edmund Earl Homer, Alfred Raymond Homer, John Mayhew Homer
(notice how much Gary Homer on page two looks like his father, John Mayhew Homer)



Delania Homer Cooper
 Russel King Homer II
 Rachel Maretta Crockett



This is a card sent by Russel King Homer. The words on the card in the bird's beak say "True to Thee." (This is one of 37 in the William H. Homer Collection)



Left to Right: Anna Eliza Homer Lemmon, Rosetta Katherine Homer Lutz, Louisa Matilda Homer Thornton, Rachel Maretta Homer Crockett, Lavina Marler Homer, Russell King Homer II, Susanna Rebecca Raymond Homer, William Harrison Homer



Notice the signatures of J. Smith Jr. and S. Rigdon.

We Need Your Family Records

A major objective of the family organization is to gather virtually all of the available family genealogical records into one central repository and to make it "a record worthy of all acception".

Gary Homer, First Vice President, is entering all of the available information into his computer and **it will soon be available to all members of the family on request.**

If you already have the information entered into the church genealogical program (either PC or Macintosh) you can send the information on a computer disk. However, if you have not entered complete documentation (source material) into your computer, please send copies of documentation or references to documentation (sources used).

Genealogical information, and any documentation which verifies the information, should be sent to:

Gareth B. Homer
180 Marjacq Ave.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

After posting the records to the computer, he will send to you a typed copy, as he has input it, for you to review and keep in your records.

If you would be willing to coordinate the gathering of family records of your immediate relatives, please contact our President, Russell Anderson, 345 Panoramic Drive, Hyrum, Utah 84319.. Phone: (801) 245-4649

RESEARCH REPORT

Under the direction of Brian Homer, 2nd Vice President over ancestral research and temple work, a report was prepared by Kathy Allen on the research on the parentage of William Warner. The entire document is available to any who would like a copy. The following information is part of that report.

The Children of William Warner

Joseph:

A Jean Booth of Athens GA was searching for relatives of a Joseph Warner, who appears to be our Joseph. This Joseph died in Rawsonville, Wayne Co. ME, and married Anna. . . 10 children, all born in NY.

Wills and Probates of Wayne county checked to locate Joseph Warner's will - none found.

New York 1830 census locates the family in Genesee County, Elbe Township (page 397)

Deed of Genesee County checked. They bought land there in 1827 and sold it in 1837.

Joseph and Caleb Together:

Three deeds, from 1800 to 1802, show Joseph and Caleb Warner in Onondaga County (and a Jonathan Bullard). In the final deed Caleb sells his claim to Joseph and moves to Weston, Windsor county, Vermont. This establishes Joseph and Caleb in the area as Benjamin Cobb Homer in Onondaga County. Jonathan Bullard is thought to be related to Anna.

Deeds were also searched in Oneida, Monroe and Livingston counties. Some good clues. Needs further research.

Susan (Susanna):

Homer tradition states that Susan Warner married Joseph Simmons. Several Simmons entries are in the Onondaga records—no proof of relationship.

Page 544 of the History of Westmoreland states that Joseph Simonds, merchant of Boston, married Susanna, and owned farm in East Westmoreland, where he and family spent their summers. Further research needed, but this entry appears promising.

Dianna (Diadanna):

Homer tradition is that Dianna Warner is the oldest child of William Warner and that she married Barnet Waite. The marriage is recorded in Westmoreland, N.H. 1790.

The History of Londonderry, Vermont (near Westmoreland), page 192 states (under Warner heading): "The wife of Barnet Wait was a Warner (see Wait family sketch) but her relationship to any of the others of that family name who have resided in Londonderry cannot be traced." p 196 states (under Wait heading): "Major Jason Wait. . . had a son, Barnet, born in 1768, who married Diadama Warner, daughter of William Warner, who was among the early settlers of Chester, Vt., and had settled on what is now the main street of that village.

Earlier research has shown that there is a William Warner buried in Londonderry who is the correct age to be the Homer tradition William Warner. Perhaps the old grandfather, William Warner lived near these grandchildren the last part of his life. They would know of Chester too, since it is nearby, and would have been a fine place to visit with their grandfather.

to be continued. . .

REPORT ON CAPTAIN JOHN HOMER

by William Evan Homer, 5th Great Grandson

(The following was prepared from a more complete 16 page document. Copies of the entire report can be obtained by writing the Russell King Homer Family Association at the address below.)

Captain John Homer of Boston, Mass. is one of the earliest known Homer immigrants in America and patriarch of a large posterity, estimated to be between 50,000 and 100,000 descendants, including all descendants of Russell King Homer.

Though much has been written about him, most is unverified, leading to speculations about his birth, parentage, home and even children.

It would appear the family's origins were traced back to Captain John while Russell King was still alive, as a letter from Russell's cousin, Stephen Homer, dated January 7, 1867, identifies Russell as a descendant of "the master of a ship that traded between this country and England long before the Revolutionary War" though the name John wasn't given in the letter. It appears early links to John Homer are based on a booklet written in 1889 by Thomas Homer Dixon.

After the LDS Church began microfilming original records, it became obvious in checking these records that some of Dixon's facts, dates, etc. concerning Captain John were contradicting original records.

The Homer Family Organization hired researchers at the LDS Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City, and later they tried researcher Winifred Lovering Holman, a New England family history expert living in New England.

During the 1960's and 1970's the family again hired local Utah genealogists to follow up on Ms. Holman's work, but nothing new was found.

In 1976 another New England researcher, Fred Bowman, was hired. In one of his reports he

states: "Rev. Jonathan Homer's account of his great grandfather, John Homer, is about as accurate an account of the man as can presently be obtained. It is significant that Capt. John Homer's widow was living in the home of this Rev. Jonathan's father Michael even when Rev. Jonathan was a young boy. . . In his Genealogy, Rev. Jonathan states that Capt. John Homer is from the West of England. If we start with the premise that Rev. Jonathan has his signals straight, we have to discard 'Ettingshall' as Captain John Homer's 'hometown' in England."

Mr. Bowman notes that he found an item listing what were perhaps business partners of Captain John's: "A. Honeywell and J. Ballantine."

In summation, most of what we thought we knew about Captain John and our British ancestry is based on various supposition, hearsay, and unverifiable data dating between 150 and 200 years after his death. The two professional genealogists who have done the best work in our behalf both say they would begin searching among the seaports of western England.

Captain John was apparently a mariner of substance, born and raised in an ancient British seafaring family. He had important business connections in Boston. He was married to Marjorie Stephens (Stevens) in the Boston's Third (Old South) Church, 13 July 1693, and was father of six sons and two daughters, both named Mary. His son, Benjamin, is Russell King Homer's great-grandfather. He has a large and rather distinguished posterity scattered primarily throughout the United States and Canada. *Much research still needs to be done!*

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

Address Correction Requested



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1109 #8 Deakin Ave
Moscow, ID 83843

Coal Car 1870s
13.2 Bulk Rate
USA

