ALFRED JOHNSON FAMILY - "JOHN & INGER'S DNA" - Part 1

Diane Johnson Stokoe

6 March · Sandy

This is a closed site for those who share the DNA of John Johnson 1849-1936, born in Norway and Inger Akesson Sward 1848-1928, from Sweden who lived and farmed in Lakeview, near Provo. Their large family included Alfred, Tenie, Nora, Julia, Ellen, Emma, August, Nora & Josephine. Go to https://sites.google.com/site/johnjohnsonfamily/

Love this photo of the Alfred and Francis Johnson family with youngest son Kay. Standing: Harold, Dean (my dad), Nathan and Ted. Kay and Leila are seated. Dale & Troy brought lots of photos back from Kay's San Francisco apartment. I'll go down and scan them to post here so we can all enjoy his collection unless <u>Troy Johnson</u> wants to do it!



Diane Johnson Stokoe

20 March at 09:28 · Sandy

Nate posted this pic with Yavonne Johnson Murnin on Face Book. She is Harold's first child. Born 31 May 1931 she is almost 88 and is our oldest Johnson cousin. Her siblings Arlen, Marlene and Carol have passed on. Only her sister Barbara Laymon, age 80, survives from the Harold Johnson family.



Diane Johnson Stokoe

21 March at 11:23 · Sandy

We have a lot more Johnson cousins than we know about. Mural Holdaway's descendancy chart lists slightly over one hundred living descendants. However official family records do not include the posterity of Jack A. Shaver, Murl's first grandchild, the son of Harold H. Johnson and Fay Holdaway Vail. If Jack's eleven children and their descendants were counted, Murl's descendants would likely exceed two hundred. Jack came to Salt Lake in the early 1970s in search of his real parents. During the course of the search, he contacted Henry D. Moyle, an attorney and prominent member of the L.D.S. Church. Elder Moyle had handled Jack's adoption. He asked if he was not happy with the family that had raised him. Jack replied that he was but that he had always wanted to know about his real parents. Elder Moyle reassured him, explaining that he came from a prominent Utah family but cautioned that it would not be wise to pursue the matter further at that time. Jack returned home to Florida dissatisfied. He still had a strong desire to know something about his natural parents. He and his wife divorced. He remarried. His new wife encouraged him to continue the search and even agreed to help. In March, 1980, Mrs. Frazier made a trip to Salt Lake City to visit her sister. She went to the church archives. She had only one lead. Upon his death, Jack's father had told him that the name of his natural father was "Myron Vail." The church archives yielded a family group sheet written in pencil listing Myron Vail as father, Nellie Fay Vail as mother and one child, a son, Harold H. Vail. Next Mrs. Shaver attempted to get copies of court records. The new clerk cheerfully located, copied and provided Mrs. Shaver with a copy of the adoption papers before she discovered that these records were sealed. The papers verified that the Shavers had indeed adopted little Harold H. Vail. Now came the task of locating Jack's natural mother. Mrs. Shaver's sister, who lived in Granger, suggested that she call all the Vail's in the Salt Lake City Telephone Directory. Reluctantly she began the task - finally ringing up Fay H. Vail. Fay answered the telephone and the questions began: "Was she Nellie Fay Vail? Was her husband Myron Vail? Was there a child born in April of 1927?" Fay's heart sank. There were no words to describe what she felt. When I interviewed her I discovered the secret she had been keeping over 53 years. For the first time I heard the story of Harold and Nellie Holdaway. They were not allowed to marry Fay was engaged to Myron who they felt was more established and because she and Harold they was too closely related.

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Seen by 18

3Sheila Ericksen, Judy Tolley and Laraine Johnson Kent

Comments

Sheila Ericksen I know this story. Are you in touch with any of Jack's posterity **Diane Johnson Stokoe** Actually there are lots listed in the "My Heritage" program. But I have not met any of them.

Connie Jones Cameron I actually had an interesting experience one summer at my Moms house when she had an unexpected visit from a couple from Tennessee who wanted to ask her some questions about Harold and this child who was adopted as an infant, and now, as an adult, was searching for his birth parents. My mother was able to produce some old pictures of Harold and Fay and informed them that she was still alive. They asked Mom if she could contact her for them so they could meet them. Mom said yes, made the call, and they were eventually reunited. A sweet and powerful reunification of a mother and son. They met up, and eventually wrote a book together about the miraculous reunification.

Diane Johnson Stokoe

22 March at 20:09 · Sandy

I looked up Harold on MyHeritage and discovered that he's posted with -- wife/partner Fay Holdaway Vail. There is nothing about Harold and Lola Winterton Johnson. I'm going to fix this. Here is the rest of the Harold/Fay story:

The young people of that day enjoyed many activities together including picnics, fishing, hiking and horseback riding in the canyons. They always went in groups. Ray Gammon often called for Fay at her home when an outing was planned but she always ended up with Harold. Gradually their friendship grew. Harold spent several months working in the mines in Nevada during this time but he did not forget Fay. He wrote to her faithfully.

Fay was drawn to him. She read and re-read his letters and kept his picture in the bottom of her bureau. But in his absence, she began dating a man six years her senior. Myron Vale had a very responsible position as a telegraph operator in Delle, Utah. He made several trips to Provo to visit Fay and they became engaged. Meanwhile Harold, now twenty, returned to Lake View and began seeing Fay. Harold was very distressed over her engagement. She was torn between the two. Fay became pregnant. Harold took her to a doctor who confirmed the fact. He pleaded with her to run away and marry him. Fay was distressed. She was seventeen and had never lived anywhere but with her parents in Vineyard and she was frightened. She finally told her parents about her condition.

From that point on the matter was out of her hands. The Holdaways contacted Alfred and a meeting was held. Probably issues relating to a marriage between second cousins surfaced for Harold was the grandson of Andrew Nathan and Fay was the granddaughter of Frances Marion. Francis, Fay's father and Murl, Harold's mother, were first cousins; Fay and Harold were second cousins. The issues were further compounded because their great-grandmothers were sisters. Lucinda and Eliza Haws were plural wives of their great grandfather, Shadrack Holdaway.

They wired Myron in Delle and he made a trip to Vineyard. Fay's parents and Myron decided that the marriage would take place on Thanksgiving Day. On that day, the Holdaways would celebrate Fay's marriage to Myron, their silver wedding anniversary and Fay's grandparent's golden wedding anniversary. Fay was not allowed to contact Harold. His photos and letters were destroyed. The entire Vail family concentrated on the preparations for the November festivities. Before the event Alfred was notified that Fay had lost the baby. But the night of the reception, Harold discovered otherwise. He slipped into the dance uninvite and danced with Fay who was in her fifth month of pregnancy. That was the last time they ever saw one another but their feelings ran deep.

On December 5th the Vails left for Denver with the intention of traveling to St. Lewis. Because of the severe snow storms of that winter they remained in Denver until their money ran low. Then they returned to Salt Lake.

Fay's parents rented an apartment for her in Salt Lake City. She stayed there while her new husband returned to his job in Delle. She lived quietly and alone in the apartment going out only at night for a short walk. On April 3, 1927 the baby was born and whisk away. She wasn't even allowed to hold it. The only thing she remembers was that the child was wrapped in a blue blanket.

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Seen by 17

2Laraine Johnson Kent and Linda Jones Cook

Comments

<u>Diane Johnson Stokoe</u> Harold, born 12-14-1906, was a minor. He married Lola Winterton on July 17, 1929. Both he and wife Lola contracted tuberculosis. He died 5-26-1943. Lola recovered to raise their 5 children.

Diane Johnson Stokoe

23 March at 10:31 · Sandy

Okay! I got Harold married to Lola and the rest of the family all posted in My Heritage. Interesting that today is Lola's birthday.

Diane Johnson Stokoe

24 March at 15:06 · Sandy

Shadrack was born in Tennessee in 1822 and became a member of the church in 1844 while living in Nauvoo. He was one of the 500 Mormon Battalion volunteers to participate in the Mexican War. He was a teamster and cook for Company C through 1847. While preparing to return to Utah, he learned that gold had been discovered at Sutter's Mill. He and seven others stopped at the forks of the American River and spent a year mining for gold. He accumulated about \$4000 in gold dust and returned to Utah on October 24, 1848. He was one of the first men in the territory to pay his tithing to Brigham Young in gold dust. (A Holdaway Family History written before 1958)

Shadrack married Lucinda Haws, who was a healer on December 24th, 1848. Brigham Young sent them East to buy equipment for a woolen mill. This photo of their family includes Murl's father Andrew Nathan standing 2nd from left.



Diane Johnson Stokoe

24 March at 15:26 · Sandy

I just talked to Dale who is busy getting Kay's taxes in and does not have time to go thru the boxes he and Troy brought back from San Francisco. If anyone wants to post photos of Alfred, Murl Holdaway or Francis Madsen's family, please do so. I'm sorry I did not interview Kay before he passed. My intent here is to share information about Grandpa Johnson's family that otherwise might be lost.

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Diane Johnson Stokoe shared her post.

27 March at 12:13 · Sandy

Corinne was on Studio 5 today: "My advice is to be happy with what you have and with who you are. Be glad you have bodies that function. Be thankful for kind, loving, parents who want the best for you and who teach you to have faith in our Father in Heaven and the Church of Jesus Christ. I grew up in Lake View which is on the lower Geneva Road just west of this very chapel. My father was a dairy farmer..." For the rest of this talk given at a stake youth conference on June 3, 2000 go to: http://www.dianestokoe.com/FamilyHistory/dean/dean.html and click epilogue.

Diane Johnson Stokoe

28 March at 14:49 · Sandy

Dad wrote of Nathan's birth: About this time there came another addition to our family with the arrival of a third brother, Nathan, born December 14, 1914 on Harold's birthday. I remember the day very well. My father and mother had spent a rather sleepless night and early in the morning I was taken over to Aunt Teens, Dad's sister. There I played with my cousins and stayed out of the way while the events of my brother's birth were taking place. Sometimes in the afternoon I was told by my Aunt that I had a new baby brother. I could hardly wait until I could get home to see him. Mother was again somewhat disappointed at the baby not being a girl. But said many times she was very happy about him because he had black eyes. Dad never quit bragging even to this day, that his third son had "eyes like his mother." This baby was named Nathan after Grandfather Holdaway, whose name was Andrew Nathan Holdaway.

Diane Johnson Stokoe

28 March at 10:07 · Sandy

I've posted info about Harold and Dean's family. Anyone want to post something about Nathan and/or Mary?

One memory I have, when dad was called to be Bishop of Lakeview he said to his brother: "Nathan, if I can be bishop, you can be a home teacher!" and although he was inactive, Nathan accepted.



1 April at 23:21 · Sandy

Writing about Murl makes her more real to me. Can't bring myself to post these in "memories," but if Noel Ericksen Thomas wants to do so, please go for it. I'm waiting until I can post the entire story in Family Search. It's hard to work from scanned documents. I can't cut and paste information but must take notes from long documents and retype everything.

Diane Johnson Stokoe

1 April at 22:46 · Sandy

Here's dad's story about Leila's birth: "I was in third grade and returned home from school on October 25, 1917 when I met father in front of the Lake View church. He told Harold and I we had better hurry home to see our new baby sister. "What?" A baby girl after all this time?" We were so excited Harold and I ran all the way home to see this wonder baby. I am sure Mother was the happiest woman in the whole world. When she was first told of the sex of the child she could not believe it until the baby was shown her and the fact proven. This new child was named "Leila" after one of mother's sisters by that name. Lila had died in infancy. Mother loved the name but did not want it to be exactly the same so called her sweet baby daughter Leila. She was a very beautiful child. Mother took great pride in making frilly, fancy dresses for her and bragging about her naturally curly hair."

Diane Johnson Stokoe

3 April at 09:04 · Sandy

After farming in Vineyard for several years, Murl's father sold the farm and the family moved to Eureka where he engaged in mining, according to Cleo. They continued to visit Murl and Alfred in Lake View. Her brothers (pretty wild guys) and Cleo often stayed with Murl and Alfred. Andrew Nathan had a serious interest in astrology and owned many books on the subject which he consulted frequently. Cleo enjoyed spending summers with her sisters and families, the Johnsons in Lakeview and the Anderbergs in Provo. She remembered how much Murl enjoyed handiwork--crocheting, sewing, and making things. Her hands were always busy. Murl served as a counselor in the Y.W.M.I.A. and she participated in many Mutual activities.

From Dad's history: "Mother took me to Relief Society with her in the old buggy and many other places around the neighborhood. This was the only means of transportation in those days. In the early spring the old dirt roads were cut up and the mud holes would become so deep that Old Queen could hardly

pull the buggy through them. Many times the teams hauling heavy loads would get stuck in the mud on the main road to Provo."



Diane Johnson Stokoe

2 April at 10:01 · Sandy

Here's Murl's family -- Lydia Riddle with daughter Cleo, and husband Andrew Nathan. Sisters Rhoda on the left and Murl on right.

Andrew Nathan Holdaway sold his interest in a mine and bought a hotel in S.L. west of where the Salt Palace is today. While managing it he became an alcoholic and wife Lydia divorced him. He checked himself into a sanitarium in California in order to overcome his illness but was not successful. One day, while opening his shirts (cleaned and packaged by a laundry) he scratched his hand on a pin. Blood poising set in and he died in L.A. March 3, 1925. This information came from his daughter Cleo Lillie Holdaway Mackie (1906-1994) who I met and interviewed in Randando Mirage, California in August 1987.

LikeShow More Reactions

Comment

Seen by 20

4Sheila Ericksen, Judy Tolley and 2 others

Comments

Sheila Ericksen I think he went on a mission and his picture is on the wall in the Vineyard church

Diane Johnson Stokoe

3 April at 10:55 · Sandy

Cleo Makie, Murl's little sister, remembered her grand-mother (Lucinda Haws Holdaway.) "If any of us were sick Grandma was the first person called and she always came. She had studied herbs with a doctor in Illinois for a time before she came to Utah. We had capsules filled with Grandma's "stomach powder" and her diphtheria medicine was always on hand.

During diphtheria epidemics mother (Lydia Riddle) would give us a spoonful of grandmother's medicine each morning. Perhaps it helped-none of us ever contracted diphtheria. Her medicines were really nasty but they did what they were supposed to do most of the time.

Grandmother had a great sense of humor and I often wondered how she was able to keep it through all the years of hardship. She outlived half her adult children dying in Provo on April 7, 1917 just three days after the death of Amanda, her youngest daughter. She was eighty-nine years old.

Diane Johnson Stokoe

4 April at 13:58 · Sandy

From Dean's biography: "It was while I was in seventh grade that my dear and beautiful mother died following an operation for gall stone and appendicitis. This occurred on March 22, 1923. It came as a great shock to me and has had a lasting effect on my life. I was a large boy of fourteen at that time. I stood six feet tall and needed the guidance of a mother very much to help me. . . I found I could receive a great deal of comfort and help in my troubled mind by using the avenue of prayer. My mother was very near to me during the times as I sought the Lord for help. I am sure it was these experience that caused me to have deep thoughts concerning religion. . . I began to recognize and really appreciate how much the church meant to me. . ."

4 April at 20:44 · Sandy

Robert Earl is pictured on the left with Leila and Nathan on the right. Grandpa said Nathan looked like his mother. Evidently the dark eyed descendants favored the Holdaways.

Comments





Robert Earl Leila and Nathan

Sheila Ericksen Robert Earl and my dad look like they could have been twins!

Diane Johnson Stokoe

5 April at 07:04 · Sandy

"Uncle Henry Williamson and Aunt Ray came to live at our home for a few weeks after mother's death. Aunt Ray helped with the household duties, cooked and helped care for our family. [Harold 17, Dean 14, Nathan 9, and Leila 6.] Mother had given birth to a fourth son which she named Robert Earl on December 3, 1921 about a year before her death. When she realized she would not recover from her surgeries she asked that Julia Hatton, one of father's sisters, be given her baby to raise. On April 13, 1924, the baby suddenly became ill and died a few hours later. I guess mother was just too lonesome and wanted her baby with her. Robert Earl was a beautiful child with big black eyes like his mother and brother Nathan. . . " [Evidently Julia felt responsible for it was not until the 1960's that she finally told Alfred that the baby had gotten into a bottle of aspirin and died of aspirin poisoning.]

Murl and baby Nathan



Dean with Uncle August's dog Snap



Dad loved this photo of Murl and Baby Nathan. He wrote: I always had a great deal of love and respect for my mother and her council and my love for her and Dad burned deep into my heart. Mother was a beautiful woman with a rather dark complexion, deep brown eyes and hair. She was well built, standing about five feet five inches tall and weighing about 150 pounds. Her hair was always neatly combed. It was naturally curly and little ringlets escaped from her neat bob and clustered around her neck. She took a great deal of care in her dress, skin and nails. She had a loving personality which brought her a host of friend. People admired for her for her beauty. She was a woman who had a great capacity for love and devotion. She seldom scolded us boys but taught us through love and affection. Dad and mother seldom had any cross words between them. . . There were very few cross words exchanged but many times I saw tears of joy and laughter because of their rich love for each other.

Sheila Ericksen Beautiful tribute by Uncle Dean to his mother and father!

Laraine Johnson Kent I do believe Nathan' granddaughter resemble Murl so much.

Diane Johnson Stokoe

6 April at 06:51

The year following mother's death was a hard one for all of us, especially dad, not knowing what was best to do for his own well-being and for that of the family. The responsibility fell to me to keep the house in good order. I did nearly all the housework and helped with cooking and washing the dishes. We were often invited out to meals in various homes throughout the neighborhood. These opportunities provided the love and support we sorely needed as well as good nourishing food. Seen by 19

Sheila Ericksen, Mandy Spice Johnson and 6 others

Comments

Sheila Ericksen Thanks for sharing, Diane!! They all had to grow pretty fast. It was devastating for them, I'm sure!



Diane Johnson Stokoe

13 hrs · Sandy

When Alfred was 21, he married Murl 19 and his father bought them this large house in Lakeview. Built 5 or 6 years earlier, it was for sale at the time because the owner had defaulted on the loan.

Dad writes: "About the first thing I remember of my childhood was my mother teaching my older brother and I to pray. At the end of each day my mother, Murl, would sit in the little old rocking chair in the kitchen near the stove. Harold and I would kneel on the floor, place our hands together in each of hers, and repeat after her the words as they fell from the lips of the most wonderful and beautiful woman in all the world. This lesson of being taught to pray has been the greatest strength and power and comfort to me. It has helped me more than anything else in my life. I soon found that the world was much larger than just the two or three rooms of our house. I remember mother placing me on a kitchen chair, where I stood up holding the back of the chair and looking out of the window to the East at the high mountains, clear blue sky and beautiful white clouds as they draped and nestled about the summit of Mt. Timpanogos. The view to the west was just as breath taking. Here was Utah Lake, the 23 many

miles of marsh lands and swamps with vast number of birds and other wild-life that played up and down the valley on the shores of Utah Lake.

<u>Diane Johnson Stokoe to</u> John & Inger's DNA

22 hrs · Sandy ·

We Johnsons descended from many generations of Norwegian farmers. "Lotenboka Farms and their Generations" lists farms, has pictures of farms and genealogical information about owners. This book, written in Norwegian, (Call number - SCAND 948.23), was likely used to trace John's paternal line back to Arne Bergson (1481-1520) in Family Search. All John's ancestors lived and farmed in Hedmark, Norway. In 1958 my father wrote about Alfred and Uncle August inheriting John's farm:

Uncle August came home from his mission to the Eastern state and after a short time married and brought his young bride, Ruth Taylor, to father's home where they occupied the big front room as their kitchen and living quarters, and had their bedroom upstairs. Uncle August and Aunt Ruth were very kind to me. They always treated me as their own son, more so than just a nephew. Father and Uncle August worked together, running the big farm owned by my Grandfather. They used the big barn west of the road where Uncle August now lives to milk their cows and care for the horses. They worked as partners for a short time then Grandpa divided his land between them and they were on their own. [The girls received stock in the Farmers &Merchants Bank of Provo which went bankrupt during the depression.] Grandpa and Grandma moved to Provo to live in the city and Uncle August and Aunt Ruth moved over to the old home where he has remained to this day. Many happy experiences of my childhood days were the trips to Provo with mother in the buggy, with our faithful horse, "Old Queen." Dad always had fine horses, both work horses as well as buggy horses. We would visit all the relatives: aunt Julia Hatton, aunt Rhoda Anderberg, grandma (Lucinda) Holdaway, uncle Wilford Holdaway, aunt Josephine Goodridge and many others. We would usually finish up at grandma Johnson's where we would always find a great big kettle of sweet soup to please our ever-increasing appetites. . .

<u>Diane Johnson Stokoe</u> Johnson family home that August and Ruth moved into when John & Inger moved to Provo.



<u>Linda Jones Cook</u> Do you know where this home was located? <u>Manage</u>

<u>Corinne Johnson Young</u> I know where this house us or was. I think they have torn it down to make condos. It wasn't that far south of grandpa's house.



Noel Ericksen Thomas It was two doors down from the home I grew up in-Alfred and Murl's red brick house. It is no longer there.



John and Inger Sward Johnson family clockwise: Alfred Henry (Murl Holdaway & Frances Madsen) Tenie (Martin A. Clinger) Emma (Conrad Maag) Julia Inger (H. Edward Hatton); Josephine (William W. Goodridge) Nora (William W. Taylor) Anna Goldie Sward (Halverson) Ellen Bergitte (Leslie L. Bunnell) August Jeremiah (Ruth Taylor & Beatrice Henderson) sits between parents.

Diane Johnson Stokoe shared a link.

22 mins · Sandy

Inger Sward (1848-1928) was born in Ostra Vram, Sweden. They were visited by Mormon Elders. At first repulsed, the Elders continued to visit and within a couple of years most of the family joined the church. Olaf, the oldest brother, never joined and disowned the family for joining such an unpopular religion. Inger was baptized at the age of 18. The family sold what they could spare to send Inger and brother Andrew to America. The siblings spent nine weeks crossing the ocean on a sailing vessel -- "Emerald Isle." Stormy weather prevented their progress and there was much sickness. Many died and were buried at sea. Inger was ill all nine weeks. From New York to Omaha the immigrants traveled comfortably on passenger trains.

From Omaha to North Platte they occupied cattle cares bedded down like so many cattle. As the train stopped at stations, people from town would rush down to see the cattle. Imagine their surprise to see tired human faces peering out. To add to their amusement Andrew would throw his voice (he was quite a ventriloquist) mimicking some animal. The people would run to the next car only to find the whole train was loaded with human freight.

At Fort Benton they were met by ox teams and drivers who were young men from nineteen to twenty-five called by Brigham Young to meet the Saints. The journey across the plains was long and tiresome, but undaunted they traveled on thinking, no doubt, of what a paradise would greet them when they arrived. To make the load lighters for the tired oxen, they took turns walking. Many a young man gladly offered mother a ride. Too bashful to accept, she trod on with the others. It was while on this tiresome

journey that mother met a stalwart Viking from the land of the midnight sun. John Johnsons by name (who later became my father.) No words were exchanged between them except an invitation to ride which mother always refused.

They reached Provo in October, 1868 –not the paradise they had expected but to a thinly populated town of a few hundred. . . Mother found employment as a housemaid in a family by the name of Lewis, six members. Mrs. Lewis was in bed with her fifth child. It was not an easy thing for either of them not being able to understand each other. Later mother found employment in the Provo Woolen Mills where she worked hard and long hours. She saved every cent to help other members of the family come to America. Two years later they received word that the rest of the family was ready to leave Sweden. Written in 1945 by daughter Julia Johnson Hatton

Photo of Inger Sward, Andrew and sisters Hannah, Kjersti Chestry and Christina Sward. [This is my issue with FamilySearch. Some photos won't download.]

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Murl's father Andrew Nathan and grandfather Shadrack Holdaway are pictured on page 129 in "Pioneers & Prominent Men of Utah."



Comment

Seen by 18

2Laraine Johnson Kent and Connie Jones Cameron

Diane Johnson Stokoe

6 March · Sandy

I took the family finder test at Familytreedna to determine my country of origin. I'm 100% European from these areas: The Johnsons came from Norway. The Holdaways and Farley's were from England.

