

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2004

### OVERVIEW

It has been an exciting year with our reunion last August, our Family History Presentation at BYU in July, the discovery of family historical items of high interest and our DNA advances helping us target our researches in the right area for our Farr line. There is much to relate to you about current happenings.

We will be writing about our April Meetings that introduced a resolution of our DNA studies and the sale/donation of the Farr historical items to BYU. Tim Farr has submitted an article on DNA and our current efforts in England to tie our last know Farr ancestor, Stephen, to our Bedfordshire ancestry.

We will continue the serialization of Lorin Farr's history. The author of Winslow Farr Jr.'s history, Wilma Smith, is moving so she won't have an installment this letter. We are hoping eventually to have a serialization of Aaron's biography. It would prove interesting if you our readers would be willing to write a brief biography on the child of Aaron, Lorin or Winslow Jr whom you come through. Finding out about their spouses and children would add interest and color to our newsletter. There may be other articles you think would be of interest. Just email us your thoughts. I fear that this newsletter is pretty heavily weighted about matters of Lorin Farr due to the historical documents and other items of interest. So I do look to Aaron and Winslow Farr Jr. descendants to submit articles to me in the future for a more even balance of reporting. There is much out there about these two outstanding brothers and their descendants that needs reporting.

We also have a picture of Lorin Farr's watch and gun that Harold and Marian Nufer have sent us. They will comment on the significance of these items. I will be summarizing the historical visit of Lorin Farr to a Nauvoo Missionary Conference in 1905. I had dinner with my former missionary companion, Bill Parmley, now a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quorum. When I found out he would visit Nauvoo to participate in a Missionary Conference I could see a very interesting parallel to compare to 1905. Unhappily his visit was postponed until the fall as a new mission president is being called in July. There will be another General Authority assigned to participate in this fall visit. Hopefully I can get a report on this parallel for our January 2005 letter. It will display quite a change. Fortunately our own Douglas Farr Higham, Vice President of Legal and Finance, visited Nauvoo very briefly this spring and will report on his findings.

We are also notifying you of three family member's who have passed away. We

were most sad to hear of their passing and offer our heartfelt sympathy to their families. These individuals are Joanne Farr Bair, Melvin Kimball Farr and Nellie Irene Farr.

## **EMAIL'S**

Please remember that we are sending out periodic email's reporting on up to date findings so if you haven't been receiving these please email us you address. We do not correct changes in your email address unless you notify us. Eventually we probably will go to electronic mail to get our stories out to family members.

## **OFFICER/TRUSTEE MEETING**

We had a lot to discuss in our meeting as the week of April 24<sup>th</sup> (date of our meeting) I had met with both Weber State and Brigham Young University regarding the Farr Family Historical Documents. In a successive article I will tell you in detail what happened. I mentioned to the attending officers and trustee's that I had extended an interest free loan of \$4,000 in July of last year to help finance our organization through our reunion and duplication of the historical documents. Since we now have the money from the sale of these documents I requested approval to repay me that loan It was so motioned and voted on by those in attendance so that I could be repaid. Thanks to all of your generous donations we were able to report that we have completely paid for the magnificent new monument and grave site to Winslow Farr Sr. and family. This is located in the Salt Lake City Cemetery. You can view the pictures of the monument on our website. The total cost of the monument was \$7,376.

We had quite a discussion about the coming reunion in 2006. I was of the opinion that I wanted to finish the Lorin Farr book before the next reunion being not sure that I would finish by then. However there was a lively discussion and a majority vote to deny that and hold to the 2006 date which we will do. Bruce Lloyd is our Reunion 2006 chairman and is already in process of thinking about activities for this reunion. It was suggested that we have a tour of family historical sites during the reunion similar to the one we had during a previous reunion. Bruce has been talking to Duane Manscill about putting that tour together so it will be a highlight of the 2006 reunion. We appreciate Bruce's willingness to head the 2006 reunion.

Karen Gall agreed to follow up with membership renewals. We always seem to end up with quite a group of family members who delay in renewing their memberships. So Karen since has sent out a reminder notice which brought in a number of renewals since then. We are grateful to Karen's efforts. Right now we have about 170 dues paying members with a number on the renewal list who have yet to renew.

## **RESEARCH MEETING**

We were happy to have a good representation of family members and two of our researchers, Dean Hunter and Dr. Arlene Eakle, at our Research Meeting. Joe Reimann conducted. I spoke briefly about our documents and then Harold Armstrong discussed our downline research efforts. Then Tim Farr made a very interesting power point presentation on our DNA project and research efforts in England. Tim had prepared an exhaustive study compiled on a CD of our Farr research efforts in Bedfordshire, England and how DNA helped us focus there. Tim's article and one of the chart's is included in this newsletter. It was good to see some new family members and have some volunteers to transcribe some of our historical documents. We look for more volunteers. Tim has carried his efforts on the Farr line about as far as he can go now. So we look to Dean Hunter and Dr. Arlene Eakle to help us finalize the connecting of our Stephen Farr to his ancestors in England. This will require increased funding so your donations are going to good use!

## **TIM FARR-DNA & RESEARCH**

### **What We Have Learned From The DNA Project To Date Spring 2004**

The Farr DNA project has been a very essential tool in solving some of our long term road blocks in our Farr research. I would like to start by explaining why I have been so stubborn about my belief that we had evidence of Thomas Farr being a son of Stephen Farr when in fact we didn't. Pam Bott volunteered at the last reunion to verify the children of the people on our chart in two different assigned sections. She completed one of the sections recently and sent the results to me showing that only Ebenezer, Stephen Jr. and Mary are in the Vital records of Concord. I went back to my 1996 research notes from my trip to SLC and discovered my error. I had written down Stephen Farr Sr's(our last known ancestor in America born abt. (1640/50) family as listed in "The Farr Genealogy" by the Rev. Chase N. Sinnett. When I got to the library I had also found the vitals for Ebenezer, Stephen Jr. and Mary, but I made the mistake of copying the source to my PAF file for all of the children because they were all on the paper I took to the library with me.

Thanks to the DNA project, we now know that Thomas Farr was in fact a son of Stephen Farr Sr. and a brother to Stephen Farr Jr. Because of the exact match of DNA between Ben Farr Sr., David Farr (descendants of Thomas) and participant #15338 (descendant of Stephen Jr.), there is no need of a vital record (see chart below). We also have evidence of why there are no vital records for some of Stephen Sr's children. (Below Jonathan Danforth, Senr. expresses his frustration and lack of compensation for the job of keeping birth and death records in their towne. He wants to resign. One of the families that gave him grief by lack of payment and appreciation was our own Steven Farre (as Jonathan identified him). Steven's (Stephen) lack of attention has caused us grief due to the lack of

records! Following this article we are presenting the chart Tim made showing the lineage of Stephen Farr's son's Thomas and Stephen Jr. -Editor's note)

The following was taken from the NEHGS Vol. 151, Jan, pg. 59, 1997:

UNRECORDED EARLY BIRTHS  
IN BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS:  
BACON, FARR, BROWN, AND HINDES

Melinde Lutz Sanborn

Most genealogists are only too familiar with frustrations caused by records that are inadequate because of such hazards as illiteracy, court house fires, water damage, and occasional theft. Negligence was often a factor as well, as shown by the following communication from a frustrated registrar in 1686. The document was unearthed recently among Middlesex County Court Files.

Billerica decembr 15, 1686

Capt Hammond, sr I received yours, dated Novembr 6th wherein you are pleased to signify to my self, ye Honrd County Court appointing myselfe to take the account of births & deaths in our Towne, sr, I have here enclosed a list of all that I have heard in our Towne, since my last returne, with a penny a name, according to former customes, but I have not sent ye shilling over pluss, for my purpose is not to hold ye Service any longer; if I may obtaine that favour of ye Honrd Court, & therefore do intreat your self to motion it to ye Court to appoint another. I have served in ye place about twenty year and have returned many a name, & money with them, that I never got a penny for. here is six names in this returne, that none take care of to pay for, in deed ye law made is strikt enough, if p[er]sons would regard it, or that there were a way found to execute it for my owne [blot] I am weary of running after many p[er]sons, & minding them of ye law, unless [blot] would regard what ye law is. Sr. I will only mention ye names of 3 or 4, which have bin often spoken to, as Michail Bacon, Steven Farre, John Browne has had 2 children since he came into this Towne, & has given account of none. John Hindes, was married 4 year since, often Called upon, but to no purpose, & now is removed to lankastere. So, if men may be p[er]suaded to attend ye law in these respects, I shall be willing to do any service in this kind, w[he]n called to it, but to have so much labour to looke after these things & nothing but ill will for my paines, this I am weary of Pray P[ar]rdon my boldness with yr selfe, I humbly request ye Honrd Court to appoint another in my stead Sr, I remaine yor Humble, servt, Jonathan Danforth, Senr.

We also have found a match with a participant who descends from Bedfordshire Farris. We have his genealogy traced to the late 1700s with documentation. I have proposed a connection from this point back to the 1500s to <sup>1</sup>William Farr Sr. of Aspley Guise. <sup>1</sup>William Farr Sr. has a son named <sup>2</sup>Stephen who's will just came to light. <sup>2</sup>Stephen in his will mentions sons <sup>3</sup>William and <sup>3</sup>Stephen. It turns out that his son <sup>3</sup>Stephen has children in Husborne Crawley (none named Stephen) and he dies in England. His brother <sup>3</sup>William appears to be the William who marries Faith Taylor and has a son named Stephen b. 1640 in Lidlington. This Stephen does not appear in the death records or probates of England and could be the Stephen Farr who shows in Concord and Billerica Massachusetts. We have hired Dean Hunter to verify this find and we are awaiting his report.

Robert Charles Anderson of the Great Migration Project and Dr. Arlene Eakle have determined that Stephen Farr of Concord is not a son of Thomas Farr of Lynn and that Stephen Farr is an immigrant. They have determined that Thomas Farr of Lynn is really Thomas Farrar(er) of Lynn and Salem who was accused of witchcraft. The land deed that seems to support the existence of a Thomas Farr turns out to be an 18<sup>th</sup> century hand

written transcription of the original. Robert Anderson has determined that the original is no longer available and that the ar or er on the end of the name was probably a flourish at the end of the name and left off by the transcriber.

As soon as Dean Hunter verifies the research that I have done with the Bedfordshire DNA participant, and if it turns out to be correct, I will publish the proposed MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) between Dave Farr and the participant from Bedfordshire.

The DNA project has also pointed out very clearly that not all FARRS are related. Please read the results of our project at [www.geocities.com/dustyhills/FarrDNATestResults.htm](http://www.geocities.com/dustyhills/FarrDNATestResults.htm). ( See Stephen Farr Group Chart at end of Newsletter)

## **HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS**

I will briefly tell you of the discovery of the Farr historical documents. A more complete story can be found on our website. A granddaughter of Lorin Farr, daughter of James Witherspoon and Nora Farr, Helen Monday had several interesting documents come to her in the past. She made a large donation of these items through Elder Richard Scott to the Church Historical Department in 1997. I researched those for my book on Lorin Farr at the library. Then the library was nice enough to send me copies of those items I couldn't get to. Last year I learned that Helen Monday had died so I contacted their nearest living heirs, Harold and Marian Nufer. Harold was her nephew. Helen had no children. At the time I was looking for family pictures of the Witherspoon family as I only had poor ones. Marian was kind enough to send me some very good pictures of the family which I used in the Lorin Farr booklet giving short biographies and pictures available on Lorin, his wives, children and their spouses. This booklet is available via our order form on the web.

Marian told me of a lot of additional documents that she didn't know what to do with. She said I am going to box them up and send them to you. Her priority mail arrived on my doorstep some days later containing the list of documents you can also see on our website. We have some of the more interesting documents available for sale. I told Marian that they were probably worth some money and at least she could have a tax deduction. She indicated that they wanted to donate them to the organization for research purposes and not necessarily interested in the financial aspects. I had no idea what the documents would bring at sale. Our idea was to copy the documents for research and then sell them to raise money for our organization. We completed a bill of sale between the Nufer's and the

organization.

At this point I found historical documents dealer, Curt Bench, in Salt Lake City. He had been in the business twenty years and possessed a good reputation. Curt came up with the idea of selling and donating them to the Special Collections Library at BYU. It would have been difficult and time consuming to sell the documents individually and then they wouldn't be in one place for later research. Curt negotiated only with BYU. I wanted to investigate the possibility of seeing if Weber State would be interested. They were. I arranged for an appointment on a Tuesday in April with their special collections curator, John Sillito. I also invited Weber State's Professor of history, Richard Sadler, and Robb Alexander, a good friend and Weber State's head of fund raising. Both men had attended the rededication of the Lorin Farr monument in 1997. We had a very interesting meeting. They were interested and would be willing to pay our price if BYU failed to come through.

The next day I met Curt Bench at the L. Tom Perry Special Collections Library at BYU. David Whittaker is the curator there. We met around a beautiful redwood table that President J. Reuben Clark once used. Diane Parkinson, a cousin of ours and head to the BYU Family History Library sat in with us. Diane is retiring in August and will probably will be able to help us in our efforts. After careful review of the articles there seemed to be interest. I wanted to net \$25,000 for the organization but BYU Curt had structured the deal after his commission that we would net \$22,500. I held out for the \$25,000 so BYU came back with an offer to do just this. David Whittaker got the approval of his committee to offer this amount so we agreed. I delivered the documents up to BYU to be held in their facilities which are controlled as to temperature and cleanliness. I was able to see their vast storage room and ability to preserve these valuable documents. Now scholars and family will be able to see all of these documents at both the Church Historical Department and BYU. I feel very good about this income and hope you do.

Please note that the funds raised through this sale will be used for future research and publishing. When it comes time to publish the Lorin Farr book I am working on there will be expenses to publish. I will need an editor with a background in church history and preferably Ogden history. Getting a book ready for publishing is a major effort as it needs to be well foot note and indexed. I for see expenses of some amount to get this help. Eventually we will publish the book. It is planned that the proceeds of the sale of this book will come into the organization. It will own all rights depending on any possible publishing agreements with an independent publisher. We won't know this for some time.

We are currently transcribing some of these documents. These transcriptions along with copies of other of the documents are being filed by book topics. Once this is done I will begin to finish the topics. I currently have written about 350 pages. So you can appreciate my happiness and pathos at seeing these documents come forth knowing that I had much more research to do!

In the travel journals that were sold to BYU I have found references to Lorin writing in his other journals. Between the Church Historical Department and BYU there are over 20 travel journals. Perhaps this is somewhat analogous to the Small and Large Plates mentioned in the Book of Mormon. I would love to find those larger day to day journals of Lorin if they are still around. A small part of me doesn't want to find them because of the increased research that would require! However giving into my better feelings if anyone has any ideas where these larger journals might be let us know. While carrying these valuable documents around in a briefcase in Utah this April I must have felt somewhat like Joseph Smith in taking charge of the gold plates Moroni put into his charge, on edge and protective. It is the historical content and not the money that counts.

### **NAUVOO MISSIONARY CONFERENCE-1905**

The Deseret News of October 16, 1905 reported that the Nauvoo Independent reported about recent Mormon visitor's in the past year. The Independent reported that there had been quite a number of Mormon's visit their town. Before then they had occasional visitors but not in the number currently experienced. Those that visited found a welcoming hand from the citizens of Nauvoo. The Independent reported that they found the Mormon visitor's as well as missionaries..'.to be anything but good people-zealous in their religious beliefs, industrious of exemplary habits. The people never molest them and on the other hand extend them a kindly welcome...They found people here bore no animosity towards them for they believe in the spirit of the brotherhood of man. There fore the church leaders determined to have a meeting of the Northern and Southern Illinois Missionary Conferences in Nauvoo. Sixty five elders and two lady missionaries were in the company at the conference.

The Independent continued its report as picked up the Deseret News. They reported that public meetings were held on a Saturday and Sunday. The meeting was especially well attended with the missionaries bearing strong testimony to the divine calling and mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. The addresses were very good and interesting. From a biblical standpoint the addresses seemed very strong. Most of the missionaries were very well versed in scripture. Despite the fact that most were not old enough to vote they were very excellent speakers,

sincere and great believers in their religion. Lorin Farr, 86, was identified as the second oldest member of the church as to membership gave a talk. He gave many interesting stories about his experiences in Nauvoo. A number of older Nauvoo residents remembered him and enjoyed visiting about those days. Lorin Farr was described as energetic and keen. One speaker compared Nauvoo with Jerusalem saying that as the Jews regarded Jerusalem as the holy city of Judaism so do the Mormon's regard Nauvoo as the sacred city of Mormonism.

In an October 3<sup>rd</sup> article the Deseret News reported on the recently concluded Missionary conference. It was reported that the missionaries were able to secure the large city hall sitting next to the Nauvoo temple site and constructed partially from rocks from that temple for their services. Through the courtesy of the town folk these missionaries stayed with many of them and were pleased to see that they were warmly received. They stayed in some of the historic homes that belonged to Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and others of their day. Their was a beautiful spirit manifested throughout the conference. Their Sunday meeting was held in the Nauvoo House on the banks of the Mississippi River. This opportunity came with the approval of the son of Mr. Bidamon, who was second husband of Emma Smith. This closing session was full to overflowing with many sitting in the window sills rather than stand. Many reported that they never had experienced such happiness as they felt at this conference. That Sunday morning was preceded by a rainstorm that left the view of the Mississippi River clear described by those who gazed upon the waters as sparkling and placid. Two missionaries were assigned to stay in the area with hopes of a fruitful harvest of souls. Those that ran out of money during the conference were able to cash their checks with the bankers of the town without any further identification than that they were members of the church. There was a town sentiment that the Saints should come back sometime and build up this town to its former glory. (editor's note-we have certainly seen the fulfilment of this wish and prophecy in the conference as Nauvoo today is a great Mormon historical center complete with a beautifully restored temple)

Among other sites visited were the Mansion Home owned by Alexander Smith, son of the Prophet. It has eight rooms and five closets. It rents out for \$42,50 a year (can you imagine that?). All other property in the region is in that proportion. The railroads just missed the town bringing aggravation as they lacked the financial rewards that could have been.

The town was reported to be strongly Catholic with one third of the town to be of that faith. They have two Catholic schools and a convent.

The article further reported that Lorin Farr spoke of his trying experiences in Nauvoo at age 26 as pleasures for God was trying His people for the future. He made quite an impression because of his vigor of body, testimony, exhibition of Christ like example in forgiving those that had trespassed against the Mormon people. Lorin pointed out to the visitor's many of the historic homes with which he was familiar. He showed his home now empty half way between that of his father's and Wilford Woodruff's. It was mentioned that the Farr family property is now owned by Mr. J. J. Rheinberger in spite of the fact that Lorin Farr at that time still had the deeds for the property. (Editor's note-This most likely refers to the copy of the deed that we received and sold to BYU)

Lorin Farr was described as age bent with his white locks and honest countenance. As he arose to speak there was an intense silence as he said this work was of love and sacrifice. He said he did not like quarreling. He said he would walk a way and leave a quarrelsome person. When the people became abusive and quarrelsome the people of the church left them to themselves. His testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith was strong and rang with a tone of one who knew.

Lorin Farr himself wrote an article for the Deseret News(Oct. 6, 1905) about his trip. He reported that he left Utah for Chicago September 20<sup>th</sup>. He said he found many friends to visit holding several meetings. They wanted to know how the Saints were getting along in Utah. He stated they were prospering and growing. He told the ministers that their opposition is of no use for Mormonism is here to stay. Lorin recalled his time with Joseph and Emma Smith as young man. They called him 'their boy.' Lorin thought of Joseph as a man who strove to live his religion, as a good man, a man of God no matter what his enemies said of him. He suffered persecution like His Savior before him. He said that the whole Christian World rose up to persecute him who was just bringing forth the teachings that Christ taught in his time. The plan of salvation has to be the same in all ages of the world. Lorin reported going down to Nauvoo where he had not been for 60 years. He said there were about 20,000 inhabitants when he lived there. Now there were only 1,400. Some of the better built homes still stood but most of the homes were now gone replaced by apple orchards.

Lorin stated that he has never been better received elsewhere than in Nauvoo by the residents. He said that the people living here are good people and want to do as near right as they know how. There appeared not be more than six members of the church in the city. The missionaries and their leaders were well received by the town. It seemed to Lorin that it was like the old times when the Prophet and other leaders taught the people. Lorin wrote that he never had

enjoyed meetings any more than the ones held at the conference. Lorin said that the townspeople he talked to all wanted the Mormon's to come back and live there. Lorin told the people that, 'I thought some time in the near future many of the Latter-day Saints would come and assist in the building of a beautiful city, as I consider that Nauvoo is one of the prettiest sites or locations for a city lying on the Mississippi river.' (Editors note-with the complete restoration of Nauvoo including our temple it seems Lorin's statements were indeed prophetic)