

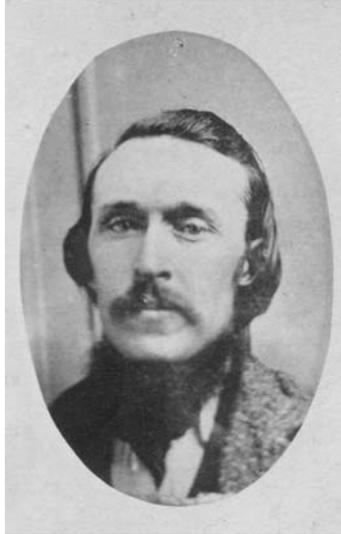
EXTRACTS FROM PITMAN SHORTHAND JOURNALS

No. 1 & 2 of

HENRY HOLMES (1837-1876)

Transcribed by Thelma Hill, granddaughter, 1966

Edited by Ellen Claire Weaver Shaeffer, great-granddaughter, 2006



The following thumbnail sketch is taken from the publication, *North Ogden First Ward, 150 years Celebration*, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints North Ogden, Utah First Ward, Jefferson Project 2003; Family History Library CD-ROM #1525:

Henry Holmes, Sr., son of John Holmes and Mary Ann White, was born at Hockliffe, Bedfordshire, England on May 8, 1837. He was baptized into the Church in March, 1850, at Hockliffe, by Elder William Love and confirmed by Elder Thomas Smith.

He came with his parents to the Rocky Mountains in 1851. They first lived in Salt Lake City where he helped his father make adobes. During the summer and in the winter they went to the cedars in Tooele County and engaged in burning coal. They succeeded in burning 2,000 bushel, which they hauled to Salt Lake and sold to the blacksmiths for their forges.

He served as second counselor in the Sixth Ward Bishopric for some time while he was still in his teens. March 29, 1857 he was married to Ellen Anderson by Bishop William Hickenlooper. February 22, 1868 they received their endowments and were sealed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City.

They moved to North Ogden for one summer with all their belongings in one wagon box, but returned to Salt Lake while he went into the Echo Canyon War to help stop the approach of the Johnson Army. His first child, Henry John Holmes, was born on February 13, 1859. He later responded to the call to move south, and went as far south as Spanish Fork, but returned to make a permanent home in North Ogden.

September 20, 1863 he was sustained as the Bishop of the North Ogden Ward, over which he presided until January 30, 1875. He also served on a mission to the Lamanites in Arizona.

He was an energetic, enterprising, public-spirited man, and he held many positions of trust, among which were postmaster, county commissioner, president of the Co-op Store Association, and president of the Canal Company.

He was especially enthusiastic along educational lines and while his school privileges were very limited, he attained great heights by ardent self-application. At the time of his death, November 1, 1876, he left a 14-year diary record in Pitman shorthand as a sealed book, which was afterwards transcribed and typewritten by B. F. Blaylock.

Because Blaylock inserted data not recorded in the original, the diary was re-transcribed by the granddaughter of Henry Holmes, Thelma Hill, in 1966. Excerpts of the official diary transcription follow. That which is underlined is of questionable transcription or translation from the Pitman shorthand. Parenthesis () were in the original. Editorial notes are in brackets [].

HENRY HOLMES JOURNAL NO. 1

My ancestors were natives of Milton Keynes, a little town in Buckinghamshire, England. My grandfather, John Holmes, was born in Milton Keynes and married and went to reside at Simpson in Buckinghamshire, a few miles distance from his native place. He was a sober, industrious man, not belonging to any sect but bringing up his children to the strictest moral standard.

My father's name was John Holmes he being the oldest in his father's family. When very young he met with an accident: in falling over a fence he put out his hip. The doctor, not understanding his case, doctored him for White Swelling [tuberculosis of the bone] and the result was he was made a cripple for life. He went with crutches for several years, but getting stronger, he was able to travel about for a number of miles. He left home when nineteen years of age and went to live at Sir Gregory Turner's to assist the gardener and to work in the garden. He then went to live with Madam Moore, a lady in Bedfordshire, as gardener, there becoming acquainted with my mother, Mary Ann White. They were shortly after married. They moved to the town of Hockliffe in the County of Bedford.

I was born in the town of Hockliffe in the County of Bedfordshire, England on the 8th of May, 1837, at which place my father resided until I was about two years old. He then moved to the town of Eversholt in the County of Bedford, at which place we resided about six years. At this place he heard and obeyed the fullness of the Gospel. Some men came to his house and inquiring for lodging and boarding, being sent there by the man that owned the house and small farm my father then occupied. He took them in and they soon began to preach Mormonism to him.

After hearing them preach and reading the books and publications, he became convinced of the truth of the work and on the 29th of March 1842 he was baptized by Elder Samuel Howard and was shortly after ordained an Elder.

In 1846 he moved to Aspley Guise, a little village in the county of Bedford. He resided there about two years, and in March 1850 I was baptized in Simpson River by Brother William Luck, and confirmed under the hands of Brother Thomas Smith. I was then thirteen years of age. I went forth valiantly and asked to be baptized. For a long time I had heard the Elders preach and read the Book of Mormon and I felt to love the work; and I can say I felt to rejoice in the work that God had set up in the last days.

On the last day of December 1850 we bid farewell to our friends and neighbors and set out for the Valleys of the Mountains. We started from Leighton station on the 1st of January 1851 and arrived in Liverpool the same evening. We set sail on the ship "Ellen" on the 6th of January 185[1]. Brother James W. Cummings was president of the ship's company. The night we set sail there arose a storm in the Irish Channel. We were run into by another smaller vessel which broke our jib boom and fore and main yards and so damaged our rigging that we had to put into Cardigan Bay on the coast of Wales. We were detained there by contrary winds about two weeks, at the end of which time we again started on our journey and arrived in New Orleans and took passage on the "Alex Watt" for St. Louis.

We stayed there about two weeks, at which place my oldest sister stayed. We then took passage on the Sacramento, a boat going to Kanessville. We arrived in Kanessville ... and there bought a small farm about one mile east of Kanessville. We stayed there about two years and raised sufficient means to carry us to the Valleys of the Mountains. We started in ... and arrived in Salt Lake ... We bought a house and lot in the Sixth Ward and in the Winter I hired out to obtain means to help support the family. I worked out in Tooele Valley for Brother Robert Watson burning coal and the next Summer I and Father made adobes or sun-burned brick; and in the following Winter we went out to the cedars in Tooele Valley and burned about 2,000 bushels of coal which we hauled into Salt Lake City and sold to the blacksmiths. The next Summer I made some adobes and the Winter following we went to the cedars again, but the Winter set in so severe we were obliged to come home. This Winter was very severe, hundreds of cattle dying and being frozen to death. I spent the remainder of the Winter at home - was studying shorthand and in the Spring and Summer following I made some adobes.

Names of brothers and sisters and other incidents of myself (my father had five children, three sons and two daughters):

*Elizabeth Holmes born [12 July 1829]
Samuel Martin Holmes born May 2 [1835]
Henry Holmes born May 8, 1837*

*Emma Holmes born May [31, 1842]
Hyrum Howard Holmes born [3 February 1846]*

After I arrived in the Valley, I was rebaptized by Brother Jesse West and confirmed by Bishop William Hickenlooper, and the same Fall I was ordained to the office of Teacher.

In the Spring of 1854 as I was going from the cedars with a load of charcoal in company with a young man by the name of Josh White, a double barrel shotgun on the wagon, and some geese were flying over, and I in a hurry reached for the gun. The muzzle of it lay towards me. The caps being ... it caught the trigger somehow and it went off, the load passing between my breast and right arm. As I was in a leaning position, it took away one sleeve of my shirt and part of the bosom of my shirt. The other part of the bosom that remained was quite black and on fire; yet I was not touched by the bullets that were in the gun, with exception of a slight scratch under the arm. I could hardly believe my own eyes. I had great cause to be thankful to the Lord for this remarkably preserving myself, as nothing but the hand of God could have saved me.

I commenced from the 6th of October 1856 to keep a daily account of my transactions.

1856

Mon. Oct. 6 - I went to Conference today. The first business brought before the people was to get men and teams to go back to meet the Hand Cart Companies. Brother Brigham told the attendance if they would not turn out their teams and go that him and the Twelve would go. About forty of the brethren volunteered and the Conference proceeded.

Tues. Oct. 7 - I was at Conference today, heard Brother Brigham and Heber and J. M. Grant speak on the subject of reformation. Brother Brigham admonished the people to live their religion. He dismissed the meeting - he prayed for the return of the Jews, the restoring of Jerusalem, and redemption of Zion, and the cities of the Gentiles to be laid waste, and inhabited by the Saints.

Wed. Oct. 18 - Took a load of tything and in the evening settled with tything office for my tything from April 1854 to July 1856. The amount was 81 dollars and 50 cents.

Sun. Oct. 19 - As I had previously been appointed Teacher over a block, I went around in company with Brother Sextus Fullmer and visited the people there.

Tues. Oct. 21 - Helped my father dig potatoes and pit them. I rented a farm from Brother Shelley. He contends it was good. It is at Ogden, about forty miles north.

Tues. Oct. 28 - This morning I and father started up to Ogden City, forty miles north. We camped at Farmington.

Tues. Dec. 8 - It was a snowy day today. Intended going to work but went to a writing school in the evening, taught by Brother Langton in the schoolhouse.

Fri. Dec. 12 - I began to go to the day school today. In the evening at writing school.

Sun. Dec. 21 - I was at meeting at the tabernacle. Brother Kimball addressed the meeting. He spoke by the power of God. He exposed an individual for his wickedness (he did not mention his name) but it was Judge Stiles who professed to belong to the Church but is a wicked and adulterous man, the nation's judge for this place.

Mon. Dec. 22 - I went to see Bro. Fawcett, a first counselor to the Bishop of our Ward. He assured me I would be called and ordained as second counselor to the Bishop of the Ward in a few days.

1857

Thurs. Jan. 1 - At a fast meeting today. In the evening we were visited by Brother Orson Hyde of the Twelve.

Fri. Jan. 2 - I was at Brother Fawcett's today, he was settling tything. Bishop Hickenlooper was there. He said he wanted me to act as his second counselor if I was willing. I told him I would do the best I could. I was ordained a High Priest and then second counselor to Bishop William Hickenlooper, Bishop of the Sixth Ward, under the hands of Brother Hickenlooper and William Foster, his first counselor. I pray the Lord to help me to magnify my calling. [Editor's note: He was 19 years old.]

Wed. Jan. 7 - I went uptown this morning and sold my house and lot in the Fifth Ward to the Church on tything as I expect to buy a farm up at Ogden and pay in tything for it.

Mon. Jan. 12 - At school today. This evening I had an interview with Miss Ellen Anderson, a new lady in this Ward. I requested her company which she granted. I think it is about time I had a wife.

Tues. Jan. 13 - At school today and in the evening I spent the evening with Miss Anderson.

Wed. Feb. 11 - I went up in the City today and paid for my Deseret News also for Brother Shelley, as I have bought his farm at Ogden for \$200.00 in tything.

Sun. Feb. 15 - At the tabernacle today. We had a discourse from Arapeen, chief of the Utah Indians. It was spoken in Indian and interpreted to us by Brother Warren Snow.

Mon. Feb. 16 - It was appointed for us to go on the canal today, but it stormed, we didn't go.

Wed. Feb. 18 - This morning I went around three blocks to tell the brethren to get ready to go on the canal. We started about noon and camped out all night.

Fri. Feb. 20 - Worked on the canal till about 3-o'clock then started home, got there about dark. I went to writing school in the evening.

Tues. Feb. 24 - I was writing shorthand today, it is a very rainy day. The bishop called upon me to go and get my endowments on Friday next.

Thurs. Feb. 26 - This day I was baptized in Mill Creek by Bishop William Hickenlooper and in the evening I was confirmed by him and then helped to confirm seven others. [Editor's note: Rebaptisms were not uncommon then.]

Fri. Feb. 27 - This day I went into the House of the Lord and received my washings and anointings, and I pray the Lord my God to help me to keep my covenants all the days of my life that His spirit may be with me and His power deliver me from all evil and from every snare of this life that I may be useful in spreading His work upon the earth to a good old age, to see Zion redeemed and His coming fully established. I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, Amen.

Tues. Mar. 10 - I had an interview with Miss Ellen Anderson today; as we have been keeping company for some time, we agreed to be united as man and wife. Although very poor, the Lord will help us.

Tues. Mar. 17 - This morning I, in company with Brother John Burton, started to go up to Ogden City to see my farm and look at the country. We arrived there after (traveling) forty miles.

Wed. Mar. 18 - Went this morning and seen my farm. The wheat looks pretty well. Went over to Bingham Fort and then back to Brother Shattuck and stayed there the night.

Thur. Mar. 19 - Brother Burton and myself went as far as Bingham Fort and rented a little log house and some land and then went back to Ogden City and stayed at Brother Sanfield the night.

Sun. Mar. 29 - I went to meeting. It was held in the Bowery, and at noon I was married to Miss Ellen Anderson by Bishop William Hickenlooper. I am very poor and have nothing but what little I get from my father. He is also poor, but we shall have to fight through it. I have no home in the Sixth Ward and I shall have to move up North this summer and attend to my farm. I have rented a little house in Bingham Fort. I expect to return in the fall again to this Ward, my father will move up there and I shall have his house here.

Sat. Sept. 19 - This morning I and Ellen started down to the City having finished what I could up here today. I have put Father up a house 12 feet wide and 16 long. He will move up here and I am to live in his house in the City.

Thur. Oct. 1 - I arrived home last night about 12-o'clock and found the Brethren had gone out on the plains to meet our enemies and keep them from coming in.

Fri. Oct. 2 - Fixing to go out on the road if I should be called.

Sat. Oct. 10 - The news came in today that our Brethren had taken and burned fifty-one wagons. Father started for his home at Ogden today.

Mon. Nov. 2 - This morning I went around the Ward to gather up some things to take up to the Brethren in the mountains. As there was no one to go with the team, I volunteered expecting to be back in four days. I started this afternoon, camped up the canyon.

Tues. Nov. 3 - We arrived in camp on the Weber River today, found the Brethren all well.

Wed. Nov. 4 - The Brethren wanted me to stay with them, so the team went home and I stayed.

Thurs. Nov. 5 - I began to cook for the Major's men.

Nov. 10 - 13 - I was attending to camp duties, about 2,000 of our brethren are coming from the City. We had orders to move up the canyon.

Mon. Nov. 30 - We had orders from our General to disband and go to our homes.

Sat. Dec. 26 - The bishop came to me this morning, said the brethren wanted to have a dance and I was to get it up. I went to work and did so. We took half the ward, expecting to have two parties. Had a good time.

Mon. Dec. 28 - Preparing for the party to come off tonight. We had a good time and the best of order.

1858

Sat. Jan. 16 - Went up to a meeting in the tabernacle. Several resolutions were adopted and are being sent to Washington for a redress of our grievances and to show our determination.

Sat. Feb. 13 - Ellen was sick last night and today and this evening before ten-o'clock she gave birth to a fine son. It weighed nine pounds [Henry John Holmes].

Thurs. Feb. 18 - Some news from the East today. The tide of public opinion seems to be turning in our favor.

Mon. Mar. 22 - At home today taking care of Ellen. She is getting along first rate.

Wed. Mar. 31 - I, with a number of others, started out to Echo Canyon.

Sat. Apr. 3 - Arrived in the canyon before noon today.

Sun. Apr. 4 - We had a meeting in the afternoon. The weather is fine and pleasant.

Apr. 6 - 11 - Attending to camp duties, standing guard, etc. Governor Cummings passed through camp together with Colonel Kane last Wednesday. He addressed a few words to us, stating he was going into the City to try to settle the difficulty and hoped he should be able to accomplish it. It was dark when he came through and he thought there was some 2,000.

Mon. Apr. 19 - Two men passed through the camp bearing dispatches from Governor Cummings to the troops [illegible] and before noon we were called together and a number of us were dismissed and sent home [illegible]. We started and camped at Cottonwood Grove for the night.

Wed. Apr. 21 - My wife and little son had gone South and father had moved down from the North.

Sun. Apr. 25 - I arrived in Spanish Fork before noon, found Ellen and the little son there, all well.

Sat. May 1 - I was making a wagon box to camp in, made it without nails, packed it good.

Fri. & Sat. May 21-22 - Finished the cabin and moved into it. After, started for the City to fetch Mother and Emma.

Tues. July 6 - Started on this morning and arrived at the Point of the Mountain just as the soldiers, Johnston's army, were passing. We had to stay there until they passed. It was a very windy day. They were going out to Cedar Valley.

Wed. July 7 - We arrived in town today, the City looks beautiful as ever, but awful desolate as very few people have come back as yet.

Fri. July 9 - I went up in the City and bought me and Ellen a pair of shoes each for paper money. I have concluded to move up to my farm to live as I have no team and no home in the City. I think it would be best for me to live in the country for the present at least and try to raise a team.

Wed. Sept. 1 - Digging a well.

Fri. Sept. 10 - Laying the foundation of my house.

Wed., Thurs. Sept. 29-30 - Cutting willows for the roof of my house and making adobes.

1859

Tues. Jan. 25 - I went to Ogden City, saw Chauncy W. West about the hay. Stated he could not give me money, would give me wheat at \$1.75 a bushel.

Wed. Jan. 26 - I took my team and went to Ogden City and got 23 bushels of wheat and \$10.00 on the store for four tons of hay here was two bushels wheat over. I paid father the \$40.00 I borrowed from him. I got him a sow and pig for \$24.00 and the rest in wheat at \$1.50 a bushel.

Sat. June 4 - I was working on the Ogden Hole canal.

Tues. June 28 - I watered the wheat on Martin Harris's place and finished fixing Ryland's fence.

Thurs. June 30 - I was mowing for Rylands, I get \$2.00 a day. Last month has been very dry o rain this month. It is now very hot, crops are rather light this season.

Sun. July 17 - I and Ellen and some more of our young neighbors went over into Ogden Valley to get some currants and see the place as the road has been newly made. Our team was the first that had come up the road no other had been down before us.

Tues. Aug. 9 - I was reaping for Rylands. I finished today, made four bushels wheat in three days.

Thurs. Aug. 11 - Harvesting my own wheat.

Sat. Aug. 27 - I made 600 adobes, Hyrum [his brother] helped me.

Tues. Oct. 4 - Went to the canyon today and got a load of poles. Sold them to Chapman for four bushels beets and one bushel corn, \$6.00

Fri. Nov. 18 - I killed three pigs today, my own and two of father .

Sat. Nov. 19 - I and Ellen and Father started down to the City, camped at Farmington.

Mon. Nov. 21 - Went up in the City this morning and sold my pork, it weighed 120 pounds, for 15cents. Got an order on the store.

Tues. Nov. 22 - Started for home this morning, Ellen's sister, Elizabeth, went with us.

Sat. Dec. 24 - Went and cut a load of cedars.

Sun. Dec. 25 - Christmas Day today. It is a very cold day. I was about home today reading the Journal of Discourses.

Mon. Dec. 26 - I went to a concert in the Fort this afternoon. Ellen gave birth to a little son. She had a good time and is doing well.

1860 Leap Year

Mon. Jan 16 - I was reading the History of the Prophet Joseph Smith written by his mother. It is an interesting account for truly the hand of the Lord was manifested in his behalf in bringing forth this Work.

Fri. Jan. 20 - I was home today reading the Book of Mormon. I mean to commence at the beginning and I mean to read to the end, and I pray the Lord to give me the spirit of understanding that I may be able to put its principles into practice during my life and be useful in my day.

Sun. Jan. 22 - I and Ellen went to meeting today, Brother Crandall Dunn, counselor to the Bishop, is also a member of the State legislature. He addressed us this morning. The report is that the State of South Carolina has broken from the Union and declared herself an independent state. Surely the word of the Lord is being fulfilled to the very letter which He spoke by the mouth of His servant Joseph, the Prophet, that the North would be divided against the South and that

trouble should begin in South Carolina. I went to evening meeting I bore my testimony to the truth of the work of God.

Sun. Feb. 19 - Went to meeting this morning. The bishop called me upon the stand to make a few remarks. I did so [illegible] and bore my testimony to the truth of the Latter-day work. But I plainly see that I need practice before I am able to address a congregation of the Saints, and also need a great portion of the Spirit of the Lord. But I hope to be able at some time to express my feelings in a much better manner than now. I was reading the Mountaineer this evening. The spirit of persecution seems to be ripening in the East. A great many of the officers of government, both here and in the United States, they cry that there is no law and order in this Territory, that they are unable to bring offenders to justice and that the Territory should be put under martial law.

Mon. Apr. 23 - I was breaking up a piece of new land. I bought twenty acres of land from Brother Orton, next to my other twenty for 19 bushels of corn after harvest.

Tues. Apr. 24 - I planted some parsnips, carrots and onions and lettuce and pepper greens. Plowed at Berrett's for corn.

Tues. May 8 - This is my birthday. I am twenty-three years old today. I planted some mushmelons, watermelons, tomatoes, cucumbers, beets and beans and some lettuce this afternoon.

Tues. June 5 - A fine pleasant morning; birds warble and sing and nature has put on her green apparel. Vegetation is springing forth with all its beauty, but we need a little rain the ground is very dry. Working on the canal, finished at the head and turned in the water. I had my team.

Wed. June 13 - A fine, clear, warm morning and nature is arrayed in all her beauty. News came here today that Brother Brigham would preach in Ogden City this evening. Ellen and myself went over. We had some good instruction from Brother Brigham, Brother Heber and Brother Wells. They exhorted the people to live their religion, stated that they would be blessed, that the time would shortly come when the wicked in our midst would leave. Brother Brigham said that the yoke of the wicked leaders of this nation was broken, their bands were burst asunder, and they would all go down [illegible]. They encouraged the Saints in the way of well doing. Brother Brigham said go and work and raise grain and lay it up. Said the time was not far distant when we would return to Jackson County and build up Zion there.

Fri. Aug. 24 - I picked the first mushmelons of this season last night. Tomatoes are ripe and quite plentiful, and green corn [illegible] season. Helping Father

haul his hay this morning. Visited around the District with Brother Price as teachers this afternoon.

Mon. Sept. 3 - I was making adobes today, made 470. The weather is cool and pleasant.

Sat. Sept. 29 - Hauling some corn and squash. Went over to Ogden City; traded on some wheat bushels to get some things for Ellen. Took 4 bushels to 1.

Mon. Nov. 26 - Put 4 loads of dirt on my house as a covering.

Fri. Nov. 30 - Putting in the windows of my house and working about home. The past month has been pleasant and delightful weather nearly all the time; two slight snow storms. We have not had such a fine Fall for several years.

Sun. Dec. 9 - About two inches of snow on the ground this morning. I was getting ready for the school which is to commence tomorrow.

Mon. Dec. 10 - I began my school today. I had eight scholars today.

Tues. Dec. 25 - Myself, Ellen and the little ones went to Father's to dinner and supper. Ten years [ago] today we spent Christmas in England at my uncle's house, my father's brother, Thomas.

1861

Wed. Jan. 9 - At school again today. Clear cold night last night. I went up to the evening school in the Fort. A school was organized into what is termed the Educational Association of North Ogden Ward, and I was elected Secretary for the Association. The record was placed in my possession this evening.

Fri. Jan. 25 - Went up to the Fort this evening to the High Priests meeting. My father was ordained a High Priest by Bishop Dunn and Crandall.

Thurs. Feb. 28 - Attending school today 7 scholars today. It's the end of the term. I quit today; we all parted with good feelings. Some of them have done very well, and other not so well.

Wed. Mar. 6 - About home today making molasses from beets. The day was warm and pleasant.

Mon. Aug. 26 - Training day in the Fort today. General West from Ogden and Colonel Kunz were present. Had a general instruction of arms. I was elected

Adjutant to the Major, Bishop Thomas Dunn. We had instruction to get ready for whatever might transpire.

Wed. Oct. 23 - About home today shucking corn. Attended a school meeting in the Fort. New Trustees were elected and I was appointed their clerk.

Wed. Nov. 20 - The snow lay on the ground thick this morning and in the evening it was a very cold storm and driving snow from the North. Marshall Allen and [my] sister Emma passed by this evening moving into Ogden valley. They stayed at Father's all night.

Sun. Dec. 15 - Went to meeting today, about twelve from this Ward have gone and joined the prophet Morris. They expect great things to transpire in a few days.

Sun. Dec. 22 - Started down to the City this morning, traveled to the other side of the Weber, stayed at a Brother (Gaines).

Tues. Dec. 24 - We stayed at Ellen's brother James Anderson's all night. It rained some last night. I went up in the City and sold my pork for 12 cents a pound. It weight 234 pounds and fetched \$29.25.

1862

Mon. Jan. 6 - Attended school today. My school increased to sixty-one scholars, about fifty there. The weather changed last Saturday and has been snowing ever since, about eight inches of snow now.

Thurs. Jan. 16 - Snowed some today but fine in the afternoon. The road between here and Ogden City is not passable, the river has burst over the road and up the canyon the flood has carried away all the bricks and damaged the saw mills.

Wed. Feb. 12 - Attended school again today, I have a full school. The people want me to teach all Summer.

Wed. Mar. 12 - Attended school today, the weather is milder but snowing and raining. Ellen gave birth to a fine little girl today about three-o'clock. She was well when I went in the morning and in the afternoon when I got home the baby was born, she had a [good] time. I thank the Lord for it and I pray Him to bless it and its mother and myself that we may live to bring up our children in the fear of the Lord and guide them in the way of truth is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

Fri. Mar. 14 - Attending school again today, the school is growing smaller for some reason or other, and I have understood this evening that some have taken

their children away from school because I had punished them, if that is the case [illegible].

Sun. Mar. 16 - Went to meeting today, not many there. Last Friday the Bishop spoke to me, said he would like me to act as one of his counselors. I told him I would rather be excused and I said that I felt my weakness in the matter. He said that was alright, that it was better to feel that way than to feel too much confidence in the matter.

Tues. Apr. 15 - I started down to the City [Salt Lake] this morning to take Ellen's mother home. Stayed all night this side of Farmington. Snowed last night, and snow lay on the ground this morning.

Tues. June 17 - We stayed at Brother Cole's last night and arrived home after a beautiful ride about sundown, after seeing what I trust I may never see again among this people. [Ed. note: See his lengthy account of the Morrisite War.]

Wed. Nov. 12 - Last Monday evening I had visits from two of the trustees in this ward requesting me to take the school this Winter, but I told them that I lived so far away it would be too far to walk and besides I had too much to do to home, and too much to take care of to think of taking the school. Went to the canyon over in the valley, got some wood and poles.

1863

Fri. Jan. 16 - About home today studying shorthand and geography.

Sat. Jan. 31 - At home studying reporting. I write a sermon from the Deseret News every day, Father reads for me. I am making great progress in the art, I can now follow a slow speaker.

Fri. Feb. 27 - Went up in the Fort this morning, reading the news. Attended the Lyceum in the evening. The subject was which deserves the greatest honor, Columbus for discovering America or Washington for defending the country. I was on the side of Columbus. I spoke my feelings and the people said I spoke better than they ever heard me. The side of Columbus beat. They said I brought forth the best arguments.

Sun. Mar. 8 - Went up to meeting this morning, I was called upon the stand. The bishop rose and said that there was but one counselor and it was his wish to have another, and it was also his privilege to make the selection, and would select Brother Henry Holmes, (myself). The people voted for me unanimously. May God my Heavenly Father help me and grant me wisdom to magnify my office and

calling and that I may live long upon the earth to do good and help build the Kingdom of God. Amen.

Sun. May 3 - A cold wind this morning. Went up to meeting, I was called upon to speak, did so, spoke about an hour. This afternoon I officiated at the wedding of Brother William Hill, a good man in the ward who I married to Miss Elizabeth Humphris. The first time I ever acted.

Thurs. May 7 - Shearing my sheep this morning, I have 16 pounds of wool.

Fri. July 24 - Went up in the Fort early this morning. At sunrise the artillery was fired and the flag raised, the martial band played lively tunes. About 9-o'clock the procession was formed and marched up the street and back to the bowery where the congregation was seated and we had a delightful time. Every speaker seemed fired up with the spirit. After meeting we shared a dinner, about 250 persons and children partook; in the evening a dance. The brethren said it was the best 24th they had ever had. In the afternoon a caucus meeting was held, I was appointed to go to Ogden City to attend the convention for this precinct.

Sun. Sep. 20 - Went to meeting Bishop West read a letter of instruction from President Young instructing him to preside and to reorganize the ward or leave the people to select a president. Brother West asked them who they would like to have for the president, several cried out for Brother Holmes (myself). He was about to put it to a vote when Alfred Berrett cried out for Brother Chadwick. My name was put to a vote and about 2/3 voted for me. The contrary vote was called and about ten voted against me. The vote was put the second time with about the same result. After that a vote was called to see if the brethren would all sustain me when I was elected. All voted but a few, some three or four Brother West said, Brethren, Brother Holmes is your president. This is the most responsible position that I ever was called to, and may God my Heavenly Father assist me as He has done before and grant me His Holy Spirit that I may keep humble and faithful and magnify my office and calling before Him; this is my humble prayer and desire in the worthy name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sun. Nov. 8 - Attended meeting today. Brother McFarland from Ogden City was up to preach to us. We had a meeting this evening, I selected two counselors, Brother Cazier and Brother Rose, also appointed two traveling teachers to visit the whole ward.

Fri. Nov. 13 - Working on the house in the Fort, fixing the roof.

Fri. Nov. 27 - Ellen went up to the Fort today and white-washed the house and cleaned up ready to move.

Sat. Nov. 28 - A fine day today, we moved up to the Fort today.

1864

Sun. Feb. 7 - Attended meeting in Ogden again today. Ellen went over with me. I went into the vestry, I was then called upon the stand and took my seat with the Brethren. Brother Brigham Young Jr. addressed the people for some time Bro. George A. Smith delivered an excellent address Bro. Joseph A. and Brigham Young stopped at my house all night.

Wed. Mar. 16 - Yesterday a little boy three years old, son of Brother William Barker, went off on the bench and was lost. We turned out and hunted him nearly all night but we didn't find him. Went up again this morning, and an Indian had found him and brought him to us. He had traveled about three miles through the rocks and brush. The little fellow was very hungry when we found him.

Tues. Apr. 5 - ... Having now brought my Journal to an end, I have begun in a new book. My life this far has been rather an even course, striving to serve God and keep his commandments and do good here upon the earth and help build up His kingdom, promulgate the principles of life and salvation. In my weakness the Lord has been with me and borne me off. I have desired to do right, although I have failed many times. I trust that the Lord will be with me in the future as He had been with me in the past, that I may serve Him and spend the rest of my life to His service and never ever regret anything I have done. This is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

HENRY HOLMES JOURNAL NO. 2

1864

Wed. Apr. 6 – Started down to conference last evening and traveled during the night, arriving in the City this morning about 2-o'clock. Attended a meeting of the Priesthood this evening, received some good instructions from president Brigham Young, said, “Lay up your wheat. If you would be great you must be very good and live near to your Heavenly Father and be humble and prayerful.”

Sat. Apr. 23 - Plowed some land for potatoes. I had the post office placed in my charge today. I act as deputy for the present, Bro. Dunn, the old Bishop, has had it but he is going away.

Sat. May 28 - Went down to Ogden City to the general training. There was an election of officers, Brother Cazier was elected to fill the place. I was requested to act as Major but I declined feeling that I had as much as I could attend to. Bro. Samuel Dean was elected for Captain of fifty.

Mon. May 30 - Made a drive of the stock to take over in the other valley; 205 head of young stock were driven away. I went over in the valley to help drive them. Some of the Josephites were unwilling to send their stock. We have now over 1,000 head of sheep and 300 head of young stock in the herd.

Mon. June 6 - Went down to the county court in Ogden with Brother Gardner. We presented a petition for a grant for herd ground in Ogden Valley and for Cold Water Canyon. We got a grant for Cold Water Canyon, but not for the herd ground.

Fri. June 17 - Watering this morning. When I came home about 10-o'clock Ellen had given birth to a fine son. She had a good time and is doing well, her mother waiting upon her. I pray the Lord to help me to bring up my family in the ways of righteousness and peace that they may live to serve Him and behold His kingdom upon the earth, this I ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mon. July 4 - The people met in the bowery today, we had a good time. I was orator of the day. I spoke for some time, had an outpouring of the Spirit of God, and spoke referring to the downfall of the nation, showing the cause, even that of disobedience to the commandments of God, and driving the Saints from their homes. We had a good time, some said it was the best celebration they ever had in this place. We had dinner; after dinner the martial band played, and the children marched through the place, they also marched in the procession which was very interesting. I spoke again in the afternoon. The people seemed to feel well. The Spirit of God brooded over the people and we seemed to truly realize our position here in peace but the world was in war and trouble.

Sat. Sept. 3 - Finished helping Bro. Evans. Went down to Ogden in the evening, attended a teachers meeting. Wheat is now selling at \$5 per bushel for gold. Flour at \$24 in greenbacks, which is about half the price in gold, or green backs being nearly worth half.

Thurs. Sept. 15 - Arrived in the City [Salt Lake] early this morning, went to breakfast with some of brother John's friends, then went into the stores and priced the stoves. No. 7, \$75 in gold, No. 6, \$65. I bought a No. 6 and David bought a No. 7. We started home about sundown, traveled all night, arrived home in the morning.

Fri. Sept. 16 - Arrived home about 10-o'clock today. I was resting mostly through the day. Ellen was much pleased with our new stove. Had done without getting things that we needed for a long time. In the evening I nailed up the windows of the old tithing house to preserve it against a wind.

Sat. Sept. 17 - Our teams arrived home today from the States, all well, nothing lost in animals [assisting in rescuing the handcart companies]. They brought a Swedish boy with them. I took him in to live with me. His father and mother are left behind.

Sun. Nov. 20 - At meeting today, Brother Godfrey [Editor's note: his daughter, Sarah Jane Godfrey would later wed the first son of Henry Holmes, Henry John Holmes] addressed the Saints, after which I spoke some time. The brethren and sisters seemed to feel well.

Wed. Dec. 21 - Started down to the City this morning early. Went with Bro. Cazier and a Mr. Williams that is stopping in the ward with his brother, Lafayette Williams. Arrived in the City about 4-o'clock. Attended the theater in the evening, enjoyed ourselves well.

Thurs. Dec. 22 - Looking around town and doing some trading. Got two records for the ward and some tallow and some dishes for the sacrament. Visited Brother John Young - stayed at Brother James Anderson .

Sat. Dec. 31 - Went around the ward, got a report of the kind of [illegible] ditches and expenses on the same for the legislature, as President Farr wished me to do so. This is the end of the year, and may the Lord forgive all that has transpired that is not right in His sight.

1865

Sat. Jan. 28 - Teachers meeting today, nearly all the Teachers were there. I sent for the herdsmen as they seemed determined to go to the law with the brethren. They had made out a summons for one brother. I told them before the Teachers quorum that if they went to law, we should disfellowship them from the Church, and law it out with them. I reprovved them severely for the course they had taken. Told them both to repent of their sins and be baptized [illegible] and not try to bring trouble upon the people by court of law.

Mon. Jan. 30 - Had a trial of the herdsmen and the people, they settled their difficulties very well; got through the most of them.

Wed. Mar. 22 - The trustees met in the afternoon in the schoolhouse to contemplate the work on the Ogden ditch or canal. Elected Bro. Chadwick president, Bro. James Barker, treasurer, and myself secretary.

Sat. Mar. 25 - There was a meeting appointed today, but it was so very stormy, blowing and snowing from the North that there was not many out, and we didn't do any business. I went down to Ogden City this evening with Brother James

McKnight. I attended the theater there, it was very creditable to Ogden City, and the actors would do justice to any audience, considering the time they have been in practice some of them that never were on the stage before. The play at the theater was The Merchant of Venice, and a short piece called The Spectral Ghost. I stayed at the bishop's all night.

Mon. May 8 - My birthday, I am 28 years of age, and I pray the Lord to help me to do His will more through the next year than I have for the past, that I may have the light of His Spirit to lead me in the way of truth. I was putting in wheat at Mud Creek, the last wheat I shall sow this season. In the afternoon I went down to Ogden city to teachers meeting.

Tues. May 9 - In response to a call from our Bishop in Ogden to get about twenty hands and five teams, went to work on the Ogden levee and bridge to keep the water in bounds.

Thurs. June 1 - I was watering on Chadwick's lots this morning to replant some sugar cane. Just after dinner as I was watering a patch of carrots Brother Jones, who was in his lot called to me to look, I looked around and my stables were just bursting into a flame. I was barefoot. I ran with all my might and cried, "fire, fire." I tried to save my harness that was in the stables, but it was no use, the fire appeared to be on the inside, though it commenced on the outside. It was so hot I could not venture within. The brethren quickly assembled and the water that was running by was turned down, but it was too late. A stack of hay belonging to President Young that was cut on the Church land took fire and enveloped the stables, so that we could not get within them. Everything was consumed, except a little of the logs. The fire scorched my wheat and destroyed several peach trees and the wind set in the right direction so that my house was saved. It appeared strange to me at first how the fire came, but my little boy, William, owned to his mother that he took a match to make a little fire and after it started, tried to put it out, running to the house for a cup of water and then for a bucket. His mother was not in at the time and he was alone. He is nearly five years of age.

Tues. Aug. 29 - It rained some last night, wetting the ground several inches deep. Wrote two letters and visited a sister in the ward in relation to a bill of divorce from her husband who is not a member of this ward.

Mon. Dec. 25 - Christmas day bright and pleasant, but very cold. Sleighs are running around today. Myself and Ellen were invited to dinner at Brother Wesley Rose's. There family connections were present and we enjoyed ourselves very much. Two fine turkeys were roasted, also the abundance of the good things besides. Attended a dance in the schoolhouse, enjoyed myself very much.

Thurs. Feb. 1 - Fast meeting today, quite a number were out, several children were blessed. We had a good meeting. Married Brother Moroni Coleman to Jemima Price [Editor's note: younger sister of our great-grandmother, Sarah Ann Price Godfrey].

Thurs. Feb. 15 - Went around with my sleigh and horses, collecting wheat and pay for the News and other papers. Attended a Lyceum again this evening. Took part in the debate.

Thurs. July 5 - I took the mail this morning, being the first trip as I have contracted for carrying it. Brother Williams took it from the Government for me, it stands in his name, I do the business. About home the rest of the day.

Sun. July 22 - Attended the Sunday School this morning. At meeting, I addressed the congregation about an hour upon a variety of subjects. I was writing some letters to England in the afternoon.

Sun. Aug. 12 - Attended meeting today, I spoke very freely about 40 minutes upon the practice of bringing whisky to parties, said it should be put a stop to.

Sun. Aug. 19 - Went to Ogden Valley. I spoke about 40 minutes. Ate dinner with the chiefs of the Shoshone Tribe of Indians, who dined and ate as other humans. They were quite intelligent and cleanly.

1867

Tues. Jan. 1 - The children had a dance in the schoolhouse today. I fixed up my sleigh and took Ellen up to the party. Had a fine sleigh ride today. Attended a party in the evening, over fifty numbers were out.

Wed. Jan. 30 - Went down and viewed the lumber fence on the state road with the rest of the company, as the party offering to take the land to fence wished that fence to stand as a pattern of the job to be done. Went to Ogden with my family, had our likenesses [photos] taken.

Sat. Feb. 2 - Went to Ogden this morning, attended the teachers meeting. The bishop said that the late instructions from President Young required that all those who wished to get married should go to the City; consequently the bishops and presidents and elders no longer had authority to marry any persons. All those who were worthy to get their endowments and had settled their tithing could go down to the City and get married.

Wed. May 1 - Went down to Ogden for the mail. Received a draft from the auditor of the Treasury for \$187.50, two quarters payment for carrying the mail.

Sun. Oct. 6 - Arrived in the City this morning about 9-o-clock. Went to the morning meeting. The conference was held in the new tabernacle. It is a splendid building, supposed to seat 10,000 people. President Young made a few remarks, Brothers Campbell and Wells addressed the meeting also Brother Hyde.

Sat. Oct. 26 - Finished making molasses. I have made about sixty gallons. The weather has been very favorable for some time past.

Tues. Dec. 3 - Working at home, writing most of the day. Wrote a letter to the Deseret News, also one to Brother Dixon, one to the News Office and one to the Juvenile Instructor, and one to Brother Welchman.

Wed. Dec. 4 - Went to Ogden City today, carried the mail. Bought me a plow at Woodmansee's for \$40.00. Brought up the clerk, Brother Thompson, to settle tithing.

Wed. Dec. 25 - Christmas Day. Quite wet and raining hard nearly all day. I attended a wedding party at Elihu Warren's. Married Sister Sylvester Rice to Lewis Severn, a man who came in here one year ago, joined the Church this Summer, got acquainted with Sister Rice. Quite a large company were at dinner. I invited the company to attend a party at the schoolhouse this evening I gave the party to the brethren who had hauled me some wood, inviting nearly all the young unmarried people in the ward. The night was very dark and stormy, we continued the dance till nearly daylight. It was so dark I thought it was not safe to let the young people go home.

Tues. Dec. 31 - About home today resting myself. I attended a Phonographic School this evening. This school I have opened here for the benefit of the young people here, if they wished to learn the art [Pittman shorthand]. I teach thirteen lessons for \$2.00, eleven in attendance this evening

1868

Wed. Jan. 1 - Quite mild and pleasant this morning. Some little snow on the ground and a little rain falling, perhaps there is about two inches of snow on the ground the weather is very mild. I have now commenced a new year and I feel thankful to my Heavenly Father for His mercies to me during the past year. I know that He has been with me in my past life, that I have been sustained under all circumstances wherever I have desired to do good, and has brought about the results of my labors in the past year. We have finished our meetinghouse. It has been dedicated. Our Land Company has been successful. The fence will soon be

finished. Much of the land has been broken up. I can truly say that I feel an increase of strength and purity today among the people. I trust that the Lord my God will help me during the coming year, that I may be successful in all of my endeavors to do good. I desire to increase my family by entering into that Order that God has instituted in His Kingdom for the salvation of His faithful children, and I pray the Lord to grant the desires of my heart if it be sustained with His will. His will be done and not mine is my prayer, for Christ's sake. Amen. I married Brother Nathaniel Montgomery to Sister Nancy Clark, and attended the dinner at Sister Clark. Ellen and myself, sister Emma (who was on a visit) went to the wedding with me. Attended a dance in the school house this evening. It was a very rainy, wet day.

Fri. Jan. 3 - Went over to Brother Garner's to settle some difficulty between him and Jenkins acting as selectman.

Tues. Jan. 7 - About home today. The bishop West and Brothers Herrick and Parry, with Brother Wright, visited us. Held meeting in the meetinghouse, gave us much good instruction. Ate dinner at my house. In the afternoon held meeting and organized a Female Relief Society.

Tues. Feb. 4 -Went down to Ogden, got a recommend for Brother David Evans to go to the City to take another wife (Sister Elizabeth Jones, Brother Richard Jones daughter). Phonographic School this evening.

Wed. Feb. 19 – Went down to Ogden City, got a recommend from the bishop to go to the City to be married to Miss Martha Mockerson [Marcussen], a young woman about eighteen years of age. She is a native of Denmark – came here this Fall.

Wed. June 24 - Went up on the water ditch to work this morning, it began to rain and rained nearly all day. It will do much good as the wheat on some of the dry land was commencing to burn. We have much cause to be thankful to the Lord for His mercies this Summer in sending the rain to water our crops. I have done no irrigation this Summer so far, and crops of all kinds look remarkably well. I have the best looking crops I have had since I have been in the mountains, or ever in my life; commencing the new farm this Summer in having water for it until our new ditch was finished. I, of course, in putting in crops, ran considerable risk, but so far everything has done well.

Thurs. Sept. 3 - Attended fast meeting today, not very well today - troubled with the blues and nervous complications.

Fri. Dec. 25 - Christmas Day, fine and pleasant, like Spring. Went down to Brother George Rose's with Ellen and Martha to dinner. In the evening I attended a party in the school house, which was got up for the purpose of raising means to

obtain a library for the ward. Had a fine time, people enjoyed themselves very much.

1869

Wed. Jan. 6 - Received a parcel of Sunday School tickets by mail for the use of our Sunday School. Attended to some ward business. The railroad is progressing finely, and the cars will soon be here.

Wed. Jan. 13 - Ellen's mother and brother, Peter, came up today to make us a visit, they were quite unexpected. Attended a social party this evening, also a supper at Alfred Berrett's, enjoyed the evening very pleasantly.

Thurs. Jan. 14 - Attending to some business with the brethren who have contracts on the railroad. Did not feel very well, stayed up late last night and a late supper and it disturbed the equilibrium of my system.

Sun. Jan 17 - Went to meeting, Brother Joseph Godfrey and myself spoke some time. The people seem to feel well.

No journal entries from January 19, 1869 to July 1, 1870

1870

Wed. July 20 - Getting ready to go to the canyon today. I understand that the smallpox is very bad in Ogden City.

Sun Aug. 28 - Went down to Ogden City to attend meeting there, Elder George Q. Cannon and Bishop Sharp from Salt Lake City addressed the meeting, both morning and afternoon. They came to lay before the people the business of the railway, desiring the brethren to take stock in the Utah Central Railway, and thereby furnish means to assist President Young to pay those he is owing on the Union Pacific.

1871

Mon. May 1 - At a meeting of the people to elect officers for the water company to bring out the water from Ogden, I was elected president. The people seem to feel energetic about the country.

Sept. 26 - I started down to Salt Lake City early this morning about 3-o'clock. Went as a witness on a law suit before the District Court. The matter was brought up but the lawyers made a compromise of the matter and I was very glad for I did

not wish to appear as a witness before that court. The case was between two of our brethren and should never have went there. The parties have spent more in the transaction of this case than would pay their original claims.

1872

Sat. Apr. 27 - I attended the School of the Prophets this afternoon, received some valuable instruction on a variety of subjects. President Richards called upon me to speak, I did so a short time on matters pertaining to the business of the County Court. Ellen went down to Ogden with me. I bought a cultivator, which is an excellent farming implement. The day was warm and pleasant.

Thurs. June 6 - Working at the farm, working sugar cane and going over it with the cultivator.

Tues. June 11 - My boys were watering at the farm today.

Sat. Dec. 14 - Attended the conference in Ogden City. The presidents of the different districts all got in their reports today. In the afternoon President Richard spoke a short time was called upon to make a few remarks. Said I had presided over North Ogden eight or nine years, it was one of the oldest settlements in the county, we had [illegible], a Female Relief Society, also a day school, a good Sabbath school. I knew this work was of God and if a man was faithful to his duties, he would prosper.

1873

Wed. Jan 29 - Went up to Willow Creek to see my Sister Emma, Ellen, Martha and Mother went with me. We spent the day very agreeably. The snow is about fifteen inches deep here and about four inches in Willow creek. Arrived home about dark.

February 15 - On the 15 of February I received word from Bishop Herrick that I had been called to go on a mission to the San Francisco Mountains in Arizona Territory and that I must meet him in Ogden on Monday morning to obtain further information. Accordingly I met at the bishop's house in company with some 15 other brethren who had been called from Weber County. He read a letter from Pres. D. H. Wells containing our names with instructions to send our answers whether we were willing to go. I answered that I was on hand to go. The instructions were to the effect that we were to be ready by about the 10th of March and to fit up a team with provisions arming and other tools, arms and ammunition and the object of the mission was to make a settlement and build up a city among the Lamanites.

Not having sufficient means to fit up, I sold my farm (Ed. note: at Pleasant View where 2nd wife, Martha, lived) to Brother George Mower for \$900 taking one span of mules and a new light spring wagon capable of hauling about 1500 lb. The rest he paid me in cash, this was about the 15th of March. I was very busy at this time settling up my business and getting ready to go.

*Sun. March 9 - Attended meeting in the ward, spoke a short time old the brethren that someone would be sent to North Ogden to preside as I should most likely reside in the southern country, but for the present my council would have charge of matters. (Ed. note: David Garner, first counselor to Bishop Holmes served as Bishop while the Bishop was on a settling mission in Arizona. *North Ogden First Ward 150 year celebration, p. 32)*

Mon. Mar. 31 - This morning I visited several aged people in the ward and bid them goodbye. They seemed much affected at my leaving and said they prayed God to bless and prosper me on my mission. Bid my father and mother adieu and my little children. Father accompanied me about a mile on the road and his last words to me were, Henry, my son, always remember that the God of Heaven has revealed to me that this work is true. I replied that the Lord had also revealed it to me and I also knew the work was of God. Ellen and Martha and my son Henry and Little Milton and the youngest child, Margaret, came as far as Ogden and there I bid them goodbye, feeling to commit and commend them unto the kind care and protection of God my Heavenly Father. I must here say that the many expressions of kindness and good feelings from the brethren and sisters in North Ogden where I have labored and presided during the past ten years afforded me much consolation. I may say the same of my many friends through the county as also of some not in the Church and I may say that notwithstanding my many weaknesses and imperfections I feel that the Lord has accepted of my labors.

* * *

The following mission report in the form of a letter from Henry Holmes to President F. D. Richards dated June 27, 1873 was reprinted in THE EVENING NEWS of Salt Lake City published July 17, 1873:

*The Arizona Mission - Mohave Springs, Yavapai Co., Arizona, June 27, 1873.
President F. D. Richards,
Dear Brother,*

It affords me pleasure to have another opportunity of writing to you. I wrote from Johnson Ranch on the first of May, informing you of the organization of the first company who were placed in charge of Bro. Horton D. Haight. Brother Haight was also appointed by Bro. Jos. W. Young to preside over the mission, subject to any other appointment that might be made by the First Presidency. We were also furnished with a letter of introduction from Bro. Jos. W. Young to proceed to the Little Colorado and make a settlement at the most suitable place above the falls.

We left Johnson on the first of May. Seven miles travel brought us to Navajo Wells, at the foot of the Buckskin Mountains; thirty-seven miles further, over a very fair road, brought us to House Rock Springs, where encamped on the evening of the 2nd. We remained here until the 6th, waiting for some ox teams, and went eleven miles to Jacob Pools. On the 7th traveled seventeen miles and camped at Badger Creek. On the 9th went ten miles and came to the ferry on the Colorado, at the mouth of Parla, a small stream that here empties in the river, and encamped at Navajo Springs, six miles from the ferry. We found the roads heavy and difficult on account of the loose sandy soil and numerous ravines and gulches, teams rather jaded when reaching camp. Found it necessary to lay by a day or two at the watering places to recruit.

Left Navajo Springs on the 12th, went eight miles to Bitter Creek, water not good. One cow died from its effects. Twelve miles further we found a good supply of water in the Rock Pools. A thunder shower had passed over here a day or two before and filled the holes in the rocks; but for this we must have traveled forty-seven miles without water. Twenty-seven miles more and on the evening of the 17th we camped at Mohave Springs (or the Mooen Cupy)[Moenkopi]. From this place we explored and found a tolerably good road to the Little Colorado River.

Left Mohave Springs on the 21st and traveled twenty-five miles and arrived at the river at noon of the 22nd. Found a very small stream of water, quite brackish and salty, but by digging in the sand a few feet from the water we found it much better and in the morning quite cool and drinkable. In the morning started up the river, traveled about four miles and encountered gulches and heavy sand drifts, when we turned in among the small cottonwoods on the river bottom and camped. Concluded to explore up the river and look out a wagon road before proceeding further with the train. From the ferry to this place we have broken a new road; the route is a tolerably good one. We drove our wagons right along, not being under the necessity of stopping to make road. However all the way from Kanab the roads are rather heavy when compared with the hard, solid roads of northern Utah. The feed so far has been very dry, no green grass having made its

appearance this spring. With the exception of one slight thunder shower we have not had rain enough to wet our wagon covers since leaving home.

On the 21st Pres. Haight with fourteen men and pack animals and twelve days provisions started up the river. During their absence the company made a crossing over the river, the quicksands rendering it difficult to cross; the most feasible route appeared to be on the west side. Animals would frequently mire down, but we suffered no loss. We observed the water failing every day, and to our great surprise, on the morning of the 18th we found the water had ceased to run, but by digging in the sand we obtained sufficient for our use while we remained here.

On the first of June our exploring party returned, having been absent for eight days and traveled over 120 miles up the river. Reported the country very barren, scarcely any grass, river bottoms narrow, soil alkali, and water bad and failing. On their return they found the water did not run within twenty-five miles of our camp, and appeared to be failing fast. While up the river they met a party of Moquich Indians. The Indians said the river was generally dry in the summer, and the water was not good to drink in hot weather; said their forefathers once lived on the river, many years ago, and nearly all died off. Our explorers had observed the ruins of several Indian villages above the falls. The explorers had found no place, in their opinion, suitable to make a settlement on. It was decided upon to telegraph the facts to Pres. Young, and in the meantime fall back to Mohave Springs, where we could obtain feed and water for our animals, and there await instructions. It did not seem proper for us to proceed beyond the Little Colorado, as Joseph W. Young counseled us not to proceed too far to get into the Apache country, but make a settlement at the most suitable place above the falls. On the even. of the 2nd we started an express of two men to Kanab with our dispatch (which you may perhaps have seen). On the 3rd we left the river for the Mohave Springs. While we remained at the river the health of the camp, which heretofore had been good, was found to be failing, many complaining of the bad effects of the water. I felt anxious to go with the explorers up the river, but was afraid I would not be able to endure so much horseback riding. We have remained here patiently waiting a reply to our dispatches, but have as yet received none.

Feeling anxious to learn from our express, and thinking something might have befallen them, we started another express to the river on the 19th. At the Ferry they met three Indians, who were bringing a letter from our express at Kanab, stating our dispatch had been sent to President Young, and they were still waiting a reply. They had learned that the wires were down somewhere along the line, which might have caused the delay. Some of the brethren are a little impatient, think nothing can now be accomplished this season, and they might as well return home; but when our express returned from the river they brought news that has settled that question for some time. The river was high, being hardly safe to cross with a skiff, and furthermore the ferryboat had broken loose and gone towards the Gulf of California. We desire to remain here and hold ourselves in readiness to do what may be required of us. Many are discouraged and feel much disappointed in the country, and think the mission is a failure. But I am inclined to

think if the country is barren and forbidding in its appearance, (and it certainly is) the Lord has a purpose in it. It seems to me I can see the providence of God in some of these things. I observed that the watering placed from Kanab to this place just afforded water enough for our use, and frequently when our animals were supplied there would be hardly any left, but during the night the little pools we made around the springs would fill up and we were again supplied.

None of the creeks or springs run more than a half a mile from their heads and some only a few rods; yet we have not suffered for water. Large bodies of men and animals could not travel this route with safety. The Colorado River is only approachable at the ferry; this being the only place suitable for a ferry within many miles. The river runs in a deep gulch or chasm, several hundred feet in the earth. The country on each side of the river, on the line of our travel is met with chasms from fifty to three hundred feet deep and during times of heavy rains vast torrents of water pour down them to the river, washing them still deeper.

The country around the Little Colorado is also volcanic and cut up with gulches and ravines that carry the rains and floods from the rocky cliffs and hills, for many miles back. For example, the Moon Cupy [Moenkopi] gulch or wash, extends back from the river some seventy miles and looks like an old river bed; has some cottonwoods growing along its course and Judging from the drift-wood I saw, carries a torrent of water at times. These gulches are found all along the Little Colorado. The Oriba chief, Tuby, told us that some times the river would swim a horse, and at other times, was dry. This country has undergone some terrible volcanic eruptions at some time.

Four miles from our camp we found a number of petrified trees; the trunks still entire and turned to solid rock, the knots looking quite natural. I measured one five feet six inches across the butt and one hundred and thirty feet long up to where it was two feet two inches through at the end where it was broken off; it must have been one hundred and fifty feet long when growing. Another was found two hundred and ten feet long. This petrified wood is found all through this part of the country. A wonderful change has taken place since those trees grew here; not a tree or bush is found growing here now. This may give you a faint idea of the country. We are now in full view of the San Francisco Mountains. Streaks of snow are still visible on the peaks and the geological appearance of the country over there looks quite different to this; but no water runs from those mountains into the Little Colorado. The Indians tell us that there are good streams of water on the southwest side; these are the waters of the Verde, I presume that head in those mountains. Over there is a country, no doubt, more desirable; however, I do not know that it makes any difference whether a country is barren or fruitful, if the Lord has a work to do in it.

Here are thousands of the Lamanites, who have inhabited this barren region for many generations, and they have managed to obtain a living and depended mostly upon the rain to water their corn, etc. The Moquis Indians, for example, have been located at their villages for generations, and raise corn, peaches, onions, etc. When they need rain they meet together and dance and sing and supplicate the Lord to send rain. A big time of this kind has just taken place at

the Oriba village, which contains about four hundred souls. There are seven villages of the Moquis Indians, numbering in all about two thousand five hundred. They are industrious and intelligent, have much faith in the Lord, and their hearts are being prepared to receive the gospel. Some Navajos have visited our camp and are very friendly.

I have felt extremely well while on this mission, and have felt very desirous of seeing the object of the mission carried out. A better fitted-up company, perhaps, never started out to develop a new country—seeds, farming implements, mechanical tools of all kinds, good teams and wagons, and willing and ready hands, but so far the elements or circumstances have not seemed to favor us much. It gave me sorrowful feelings when under the necessity of turning back from the Little Colorado, but the nature of our instructions did not seem to warrant us going beyond that place and we know nothing of the country beyond. The only course left for us seemed to be to await further instructions. The Little Colorado may not be a suitable place for a settlement, but I am satisfied that other parts of the country will bear investigation. Back among the hills we find Indians farming on little springs of water, where white men would be able to develop a good farm or two. The Indians perhaps cultivate an acre or so back from the river. The country is not so desolate as it appears.

Another thing is evident: men can obtain but a limited knowledge of a country by passing through it at the rate of thirty or forty miles a day. We may not be able to find large streams of water like those which are in Utah, but I am convinced that in the vicinity of the San Francisco Mountains is a country that does not need much irrigation. Whenever it was cloudy I observed showers pass around the mountains, and the clouds gather there; this was frequently the case. We have been in view of these mountains now some seven weeks. Our situation here affords an excellent opportunity to explore that country, should it be advisable. Eighty miles from our camp on the Little Colorado, the explorers passed a wagon road that runs south of the mountains towards Prescott. When that eighty miles is located we then have a wagon road into Southern Arizona. As we have been expecting instructions every day we have not explored much only in the vicinity of our camp a few miles round.

What will be done under our present circumstances, I can form no idea. There are some twenty wagons at House Rock, the other side of the river. On Monday some twenty wagons, under Captain Day, moved back to Navajo Springs; the remainder, thirty-two wagons, are here with President Haight. It is becoming difficult to obtain feed in the vicinity of the watering places for so many animals, so the company on this side the river separated. Those at House Rock did not come across the river, but waited the result of our dispatch, our express that we sent met them there. The health of the camps is good; we have only lost two animals (one cow and one horse). All the brethren from Weber Co. are here, also Sister King and little girl, and Sister Stevens. I have already written more than I first intended, but perhaps the details may not be uninteresting to you. I have often felt a sincere desire that something should be accomplished here among these Lamanites, for they are a very intelligent, good people. I am led to ask myself the

question: Are we not prepared to introduce the Gospel to the Lamanites, and build up a city to the Lord, or is the love of Babylon still too strong with us, and our hearts upon what we have left behind? If so we may have to pass through another school of experience before we realize these great blessings, but all will work out for good, to those who serve God.

Hoping my hastily written and rather lengthy letter may not weary your patience, I subscribe myself you brother in the Gospel,

Henry Holmes

Ogden Junction, July 16.

Note:

From *A Comprehensive History of the Church*, B. H. Roberts, Vol. 5, p. 476-7:

Colonization in Arizona - In 1873 a colonization movement was undertaken for the establishment of settlements along the Little Colorado River in northern Arizona. The first company in this enterprise, led by Horton D. Haight, one of the veteran plains captains of an earlier period, failed to find any suitable country for planting a settlement and returned to Utah the same year. (See letter of Henry Holmes to F. D. Richards for these movements, *Millennial Star*, vol. xxxv, pp. 532-5.) Two years later... a second colonization company... followed the same general direction of the colony of two years before, but by extending their explorations further up the Little Colorado than the first party went, they found a region of country suitable for settlement... between Winslow and Holbrook. The settlements then formed afterwards constituted the Little Colorado Stake of Zion; they were Brigham City, formerly Ballinger; Sunset, St. Joseph and Taylor, the last on Silver Creek, a tributary of the Little Colorado.

* * *

The daily journal of Henry Holmes was resumed for a time during 1874:

1874

Feb. 14 - Went down to Ogden and attended teachers meeting, the first after my return from Arizona.

Feb. 19 - Bro. Thadeus Alvord, aged 93, died last night. Bro Hyrum Montgomery was buried in a snow slide and killed, causing untold excitement; the whole town nearly rushing up to the canyon with shovels to dig him out.

Feb. 21 - Attended the funeral of father Alvord and Hyrum Montgomery, both held at the same time in the meetinghouse. Bro. Wheelock and myself were the speakers.

* * * * *

Note from the Blaylock edition: “While President Holmes continues to write shorthand it is generally in the form of Discourses and other items of information, but seems to leave off noting current events after he returned from the Arizona Mission, as he had been so careful to keep up before. However, he was reinstated in the bishopric Jan. 30, 1875 and labored as first counselor to Bishop Cyrus H. Wheelock up to his death...”

There were no journal entries after mid-March, 1874. In 1876 Henry Holmes was called to fill a mission to the Southern States, and while making preparations he contracted smallpox and died at his home and was buried 1 Nov. 1876 in North Ogden, Utah, age 38. [See Autobiography of Ellen Anderson Holmes, which follows.]

Less than 10% of his entries have been transcribed herein, but included are those which would portray the character and typical activities of Henry Holmes and the community of North Ogden, Weber County, Utah in which he lived. The original journal which has been microfilmed by the Family History Library of Salt Lake City [see www.FamilySearch.org for catalog listing] is over 200 pages in length, and can be accessed through any Family History Center.

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OBITUARY OF HENRY HOLMES

The Ogden Junction – Nov. 2, 1876

We are again called to chronicle the death of a well-known highly respected and excellent man. Henry Holmes, of North Ogden, died at his residence in that place last night. His death was as unexpected as it was sudden. Being taken very sick, Dr. P. L. Anderson was sent for. The Doctor went to North Ogden last evening, and on examining Mr. Holmes, and finding a number of pustules, he pronounced his disease small pox. The Doctor returned to Ogden to forward some medicine and after preparing it at the City Drug Store, he dispatched it by a messenger. Before the medicine arrived Mr. Holmes had breathed his last in this world. Deceased had been troubled for several years with heart disease, and his death is generally attributed to this than the small-pox. This rather calamity will be deeply felt by the people, as Mr. Holmes was well and favorably known throughout the county, having been a public man, filling from time to time many public positions. He served the county as selectman; he once presided over the settlement where he died, and he was always ready to respond to the call of duty.

* * * * *

CHILDREN OF HENRY HOLMES & ELLEN ANDERSON:

1. Henry John Holmes, b. 1 Feb. 1858, Salt Lake City, UT; md. Sarah Jane Godfrey (Evans), d. 24 Dec. 1924, Raymond, Alberta, Canada.
2. William Robert Holmes, b. 26 Dec. 1859, North Ogden, UT; md. Charlotte Clifford.
3. Elizabeth Ann Holmes, b. 12 Mar. 1862, North Ogden, UT; md. Marlon Berrett.
4. Heber Chase Holmes, b. 17 June 1864, North Ogden, UT; md. Hulda A. Vanderhoff.
5. Mary Ellen Holmes, b. 13 Dec. 1866, North Ogden, UT; md. Eli Tracy.
6. Milton Keynes Holmes, b. 18 Feb. 1869, North Ogden, UT; md. Martha Dudman.
7. Margaret Holmes, b. 9 Nov. 1871, North Ogden, UT; md. William James Hill.
8. Lamoni Holmes, b. 27 Jan. 1875, North Ogden, UT; md. (1) Alta Campbell; (2) Anna VanBoerum.



Photo: about 1910

Seated, left to right: Milton Keynes Holmes, Elizabeth Ann Holmes Berrett,
Helen (Ellen) Anderson Holmes, Margaret Holmes Hill, Lamoni Holmes
Standing, left to right: William Robert Holmes, Heber Chase Holmes, Henry John
Holmes
Not pictured: Mary Ellen Holmes Tracy

Ellen Anderson Holmes never remarried after the death of Henry. She lived until 1916, having been a widow 40 years. She is buried beside Henry in the North Ogden Cemetery. [See *Autobiography of Ellen Anderson Holmes*.]

No children were born to the union of Henry Holmes and Martha Marcussen of the 2nd marriage. In 1881 Martha married Francis A. Hammond. She died in Moab, Utah in 1935.

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ADDENDUM

Correspondence dated Sept. 26, 1884, addressed to John Holmes of North Ogden, Utah, from Thomas William Holmes, his nephew:

*Sept. 26th, 1884
Tanner's End Farm
Toddington
Nr. Dunstable, Bedfordshire
England*

Dear Uncle,

Thank you very much for the paper you sent me. The parish clerk of Simpson has sent a letter to me, which you sent him, asking the registers of grandfather's and grandmother's, uncles' and other relations' deaths. He says he could get you the registers but the clergyman would charge half crown for each register. He wrote to me not knowing what to do about the money and thought I would let you know.

Did you receive a letter from my sister ... a card telling you of my dear Father's death? Please to say he lived a Christian life and died very happy. It was beautiful to be with him. He often spoke of you and said he hoped you would meet him in Heaven. His last words were he was going to his beautiful mansion in Heaven -- the beautiful gates were wide open for his admittance. Dear Father very much wished that I should have his farm. I have made application for it, but have not heard at present if I should have it. I am settled in a farm, at Toddington and am very happy, feeling thankful for the Blessings which my Heavenly Father bestows upon me. Dear Father was very pleased that I was settled so near him. We little thought we should so soon have to part in this world, but by the grace of God I mean to meet him in Heaven.

Dear Uncle, we shall be very pleased to hear from you any time. My dear wife sends her love. She says she should love to see you, and so should I. Dear Uncle, I should love you and Aunt's portraits. My wife wants to see if your features [are] like my dear Father's.

*Hoping you and all are well, my wife wishes with me in kindest love to all.
I Remain Your affectionate Nephew,
Thomas William Holmes*

In the flyleaf of a book that was at one time in the possession of Margaret Holmes, granddaughter of John Holmes, was found the following poem in the handwriting of John Holmes. Keep in mind that spelling has not been standardized until the last century:

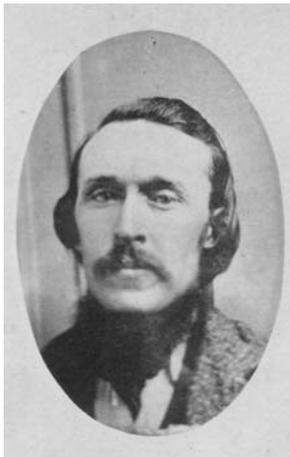
Margaret Holmes, North Ogden, Utah

*If this book is borrowed by a friend, rite welcome shall he be
To read, to studdy, not to lend, but return this book to me;
Not that imported knoleg doth diminesh learning store
But oftimes books, I find, when lent return to me no more.*

John Holmes

* * * * *

The following notes were transcribed from the Elders Quorum genealogical records and minutes of meetings 1869-1886, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, North Ogden Ward, Utah. FHL US/CAN Film #0025652 Item 1:



p. 16: “Oct 24, 1869 – Bro. Holmes, President of the Ward, met with the Elders today. He spoke of the different organizations of the quorums and the Beauty of Zion.”

p. 36: “April 1, 1872 – Bro. Holmes gave us some information respecting the duties of Elders. Made some [illegible] remarks of the Teachers not supporting their president – for their negligence in not holding meeting during his absence, setting forth that it was their imperative duty to hold meetings in the absence of the president and to assist him to the utmost of their ability and to keep this quorum of the Elders alive to their duties

and to make reports of the same. He also made some remarks about tuition and educational power, remarking that some were fitted for one employment, some for one thing and some for another. [He] made some remarks on the dancing manner, concluding his remarks to the Elders by exhorting the brethren to be up and be alive to their best interest, invoking the blessings of Heaven on their efforts in support of the Kingdom of God.”

[Editor’s note: His was by no means a lone voice in chastising the brethren, according to many of the minutes of the Elders Quorum.]

p. 39: “Sept. 15, 1872 – Pres. Holmes being with us, spoke to the Elders on the principles of the gospel and counseled us to be careful in encouraging the influences that [were] coming amongst us, and showed the necessity of prayer and said that he felt it difficult in his own family and that the lack was general among the Saints.”

p. 79: “Jan. 4, 1874 – [This was after his return from the Arizona mission.] Bro. Henry Holmes (visitor) then got up and gave some valuable remarks and he spoke of the evils of drinking liquor and he said that he had no hard feeling against Bro. White [previous minutes had to do with Bro. White’s selling liquor] and he counseled him to give it up as it would be a curse and damnation to his family if he persisted in selling it, and that he would rather take his family and live on the Deserts of Arizona amongst the Indians than to bring his family up amongst the wicked and corrupted, and he prayed that wickedness might be done away and righteousness reign. Even so, Amen.”

p. 138: “Mar. 21, 1875 – Bro. C. Wheeler was then re-ordained an elder by H. Holmes.”

p. 194: “June 11, 1876 – Bro. H. Holmes then gave some valuable instruction to the brethren and that he was proud in seeing the brethren so willing in throwing their might toward the building of the temple in Salt Lake City.”

Transcription by Ellen Claire Weaver Shaeffer, 2006