



WORKMAN NEWSLETTER

John and Lydia Workman Family Organization

Fall 2007

Message from the President

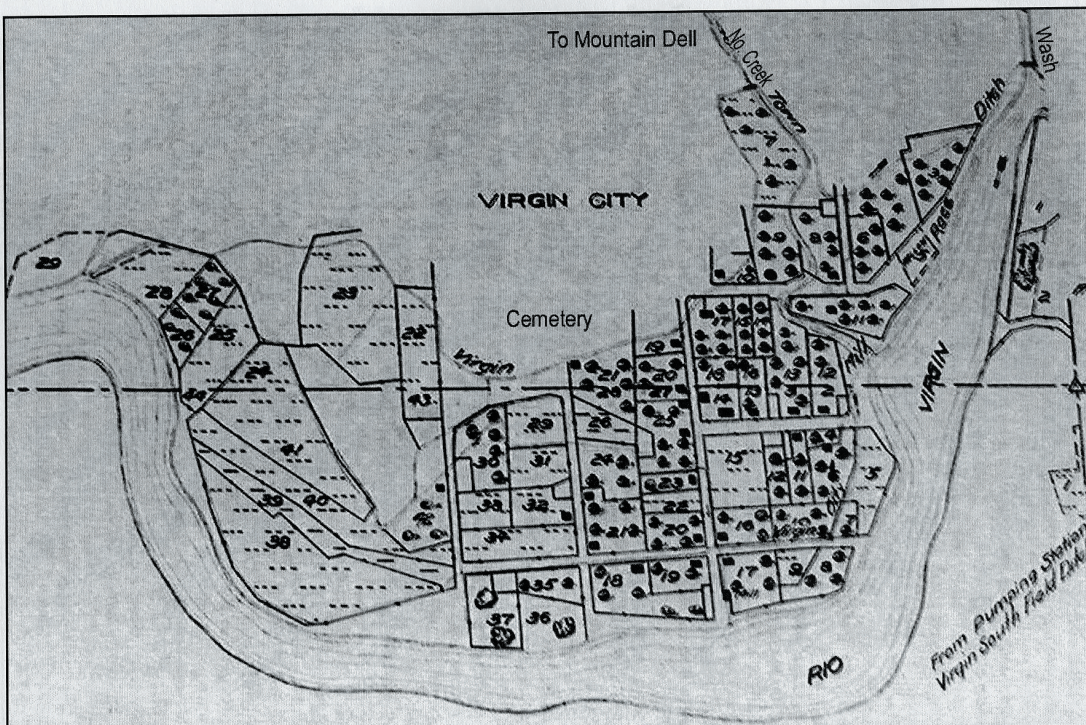
Hi Cousins!

We recently held the 4th Annual John & Lydia Workman Family Organization Reunion in the St. George, Utah area this year, and I (personally) had a great time. I have been through St. George many times, but had never been “off the beaten path to California” to see the local family settlement sights. Yes, I had seen pictures of the cemetery in Virgin City, and the Workman school house, but I had never been out into the area to see the challenging grazing terrain, or the meager strips of farmland along the very unpredictable Virgin river, or the layout of the quaint little town of Virgin City. **This trip has rejuvenated my efforts to find answers to several questions (outlined below). Do you have the answers for me?**

I would like to give special thanks for the coordinated efforts of our great reunion committee. **Annalyn Beus Osborn** was the reunion chairperson,

serving with **Randy Shaw, Mark Workman, Jeanene Workman Brown** and **Don Shepard** who rounded out the great committee. Each of them did a marvelous job in their areas, and since those areas will be re-capped in another article (I believe), I will just offer a heartfelt “Thank You” to each of them. While **Dale Workman** and I were visiting along the way, he turned to me and said “this is our best reunion, ever”, and I agree. What can we do to “top” that for next year?

While we were being so graciously entertained at the Hurricane Museum, My sister, **Carol Streadbeck Mugleston**, mentioned that she would like to buy a book that would help us understand some of the local history. She presented me with a copy of “**Hurricane Valley**”, containing stories of the Founding of Hurricane, LaVerkin, Toquerville, Virgin and Surrounding Area. This book was sponsored by the Hurricane Valley Sons of Utah Pioneers, and is has been very interesting to read. It contains the following: When Water Came to



Kane County Map for Virgin City Early Ditches – Source Kane County, Utah, Courthouse – Photo by Than Naegle

Hurricane, by Richard L. Evans; The Story of the Hurricane Canal, by Alice Stratton; The past 40 years on the Canal, by Alice Stratton; Cats Vs the First Settlers, by Mark Tolman Hinton; Hurricane’s Magnificent year 1917, by Alice Stratton; Beginning and Growth of Hurricane, by Wayne H. Hinton; Hurricane, Utah 1996 by Dell C. Stout; Goulds Shearing Corral, by Alice Stratton; Toquerville, by Wesley P. Larsen; Virgin City, by Lenny Brinderhoff; LaVerkin, by

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Walter Church; The LaVerkin Sulphur Springs, by Alice Stratton.

Later, as I had a chance to visit with **Verna Hinton** and **Phyllis Lawton** at the museum, I asked them what books they knew of that might have some reference to the Workman family in particular. They suggested the book compiled and written by **Cherrie Gubler Naegle**, called “**Hurricane Hintons and Spendloves**”, so I purchased a copy of this book also. In this book, on page 44, there is a photograph of an early map taken by Cherrie’s husband **Than Naegle** that shows the layout of the lots and farms and ditches in early Virgin City (see attachment). Also, in Cherrie’s book (p47) there are descriptions of where the A.J. Workman and Jacob. L. Workman families lived. The problem I had after reading the descriptions (such as Virgin City, South Virgin River Flat, and Virgin River Flat), was that I couldn’t tell whether the descriptions all applied to the same map, or whether they applied to other maps in the surrounding area. This leads to **Question #1**. Where, exactly, did the Workman families live and farm? I wrote to Cherrie and asked her to help me clarify this issue. Cherrie replied: “Larry, I am afraid what I printed is as much as I could make out of the sources I found. **Lenora Meeks** had each owner of Land Certificates for Virgin City and close area listed for 1865. Perhaps you could find out more by going to the Kane County Courthouse. Than and I found it was a lot of reading to get much and thus used Lenora’s research.”

Since conversing with Cherrie, **Lance Wilkerson** has written to me, and he will make the pilgrimage to Kanab in the near future and see what he can learn for us. Here’s hoping Lance will be able to answer my question, and tell us just what lots and farms belonged to the Workmans. Maybe someone else reading this, has already done the research and has the answer?. If so, please let Lance and the rest of us know.

Some while back, I found a reference to Jacob L. Workman in a book about John D. Lee by Juanita Brooks, page 133. Lee’s record gives some vivid accounts of near tragedy on the emigration trail. “On June 21 (1848) he found a boy who had wandered from his own company and hurt his foot so badly that he could not travel. Lee picked him up, bound his injured foot, and carried him to his father, Brother Biflington, an Englishman from Staffordshire. The child had been missing overnight. Two days later, at about ten o’clock at night, Brother **Jacob L. Workman** captain of ten in Lorenzo Snow’s company, came back in search of his

son, who, he was told, was very ill and had lain down by the wayside. Lee unhitched a team and gave him a horse to ride in the search. **Captain Workman** went and found his child lying in the open Prairie, returned to Captain J.D. Lee’s wagon, wept with joy & gratitude because his child was yet alive.” **Question #2**: Who was that boy that Captain Jacob Workman found?

Recently, as I have been trying to determine what family members Jacob L. Workman traveled with, while coming across the plains, I read an account in the LDS church emigration archives that stated “William Smoot Workman, age 6” traveled with the party. William is a son of Jacob and Nancy Reader. This was a big surprise! Our PAF file shows that William died in 1841. I next checked with the Red Workman book, and the 300 Years of Workman families in America book and found the same information. Both state that William died in 1841. **Question #3**: If William didn’t die in 1841 as most records show, and if William did travel with the family across the plains, when did he die? Could he have been the young boy who “was very ill and had lain down by the wayside” in question #2? I have checked with the 1850 Census for Great Salt Lake City, where the family is also listed, and William is not listed with them at that time. Did William die along the trail? Did William make it to the Salt Lake Valley? or, did William die in 1841 as most records indicate, and the emigration record is incorrect in listing him? Please send your thoughts to us on this.

News Updates: We sure missed **Ken and Sue Workman** from Idaho at the reunion this year. They are still serving on their mission, and are where they need to be. We look forward to the time they can be with us again. Ken is the Director with responsibility for Genealogy & PAF. **Mary Jeanne Jenness**, our Director for the Jacob L. Workman family, has just notified us that she is turning in her mission papers. Great job, and best wishes Mary Jeanne! Hopefully she can update us from wherever the Lord takes her. **Dan Workman**, our Director for Nancy Reader descendants, is busy with Temple duties, so we (reluctantly) have to share him as well.

I hope all of you get a chance to look at our fine website, maintained by our great webmaster

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Joseph Buchanan. He has posted some of the nice photographs taken by **Craig Davis** at the reunion. It is my understanding that Craig has more that he will be adding from time to time. Please look at the group shot in the driving tour when you get a chance. There are a few people who didn't go on the driving tour, but most did. There are many other fine things to view on our growing site. Please take a look when you get a chance. www.workmanfamily.org

As always, we ask you to please pass newsletters and organization information to family members who may not have an email account. Thank You for all that you do, and have a happy and safe holiday season!

Sincerely,

A. Larry Streadbeck



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