

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called wonderful, counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. *Isa. 9:6*

Dear Lorraine,

December 18, 1995

Greetings to each of you this Christmas season. We praise God for all His wonderful blessings; sunshine & rain, heat & cold, wind & snow, health & sickness, work & play, also shelter, clothing, food, friends & family. We pray that we will each use our talents for the glory of God.

We had very little snow last winter which was a disappointment. We had hoped to maybe get snowed in at least once. We were blessed with lots of rain from Easter until after our Annual Church Conference. It rained so much that we began to wonder if it was ever going to stop. The conference grounds were a bit muddy in places during the meeting, but all-in-all it wasn't too bad.

We were busy the first half of the year preparing for the conference. It was held on one of our member's farms about 3½ miles from our house. Some of our church members in western Kansas helped by preparing food for us to put in our freezers and also came and helped clean our homes in preparation for the meeting. This was all greatly appreciated. We served supper for 8 to 30 people each evening for a week. We had beds fixed for 14 people besides our family and had room for two or more campers & motorhomes to park. It was a lot of work, but we thoroughly enjoyed all our company and the meeting. My parents, Charles & Jessie Ridgway were here to help us over Annual Meeting. We also had lots of friends and relatives here over the meeting.

In May we became Great Grandparents for the first time. Denton's granddaughter, Tammy, had a little girl. They named her Ranya. Tammy's husband, Al-Hasan Ali Hamza Shararah is from Saudi Arabia. They met while Tammy was going to airline mechanic school in Tulsa, OK and were married a year ago this past February. In the middle of May we made a trip down to Tulsa to see them. Tammy's mother, Kathy (Denton's daughter) was there also, helping Tammy after the baby's birth. Kathy's husband Bernie, and sons, Cameron & Corey, had to stay home in Banning, CA while Kathy was in Tulsa for two weeks. A couple of months ago Tammy, Al, & baby Ranya moved to Jedda, Saudi Arabia. We will miss them.

Denton's sons; Kevin, Paulette and her three children live in Norfolk, VA. Kevin has been in the Navy nearly 20 years and will be retiring in June of 1997. We don't hear from them very often, but the last we heard they were getting along pretty good. Keith, Tilly and their two children live in Banning, CA.

Matthew and Samuel are doing well in school. Samuel is attending our private church school again this year, but Matthew is completing his schooling here at home using the American School Curriculum. Matthew is working for one of our members who is a farmer.

He seems to enjoy farming. He bought a four-wheeler this summer to drive back and fourth to his work, which is only about three miles from home. He spends a good deal of time working on the four-wheeler also. Matthew started going to Young Folks this past spring and enjoys that also. Samuel has learned to fly his radio controlled model airplane and spends quite a bit of time with them.

We enjoyed a trip to Indiana and Ohio in July. We went to my folks at Pendleton, IN for a couple of days and also attended David & Shirley (King) Miller's wedding at Lima, OH. They had a lovely, early morning wedding and we were so glad to get to be there.

Denton & Linda made another trip to Indiana in August to attend the funeral of my best friend from childhood, Carolyn (Cook) Sills. She was killed in an automobile/train accident. Carolyn and I were born the same year only a month apart and were married the same year, again only about a month apart. We had lived together before I went to California in 1971, had made many trips together and kept in touch for many years. I will really miss her in the years to come. I have so many, many good memories of our times together in the past. She will not come back to us here on earth, but we look forward to the day when we will be with her and Christ in heaven.

We have also enjoyed several of our family visiting again this year besides those who were here in June. My brother, Steve and his two girls, Britney & Breanna came for about three days the first of July. The latter part of September Ron & Carilyn (Denton's niece) Wilcox and their children were here for a couple of days. Denton's sisters, Evelyn & Mary, and their husbands were here at the same for a couple of days in October. Mary & Virgil were only here for two nights and one day, but Evelyn & Albert were here for two weeks. We enjoyed having all of them in our home.

We are well settled here in Kansas and feel right at home. Denton loves having lots of elbow room. He went deer hunting this year and got a deer. It had been a few years since he had gotten a deer, so was real happy. The last of September Denton started working part time at the same nursing home where I work, in Garnett. He works in maintenance. I am still doing Medical Records there, and really enjoy my work.

So far this winter we have had two snows with predictions of some more tonight or tomorrow. The last one a week and a half ago was really pretty and stayed on the ground for 3 to 4 days. We are getting some rain before this one. The last time I looked at the rain gauge it showed almost an inch. We really needed rain so are very thankful for all we have gotten.

We plan (Lord willing) to go to Indiana again this year for Christmas. It is so nice to be close enough to go several times a year instead of several years between times! This is just one of the advantages of living in Kansas instead of California. We still miss all our friends there and hope to see them there at Annual Meeting next year.

I. Thess. 1:2 "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers:" May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

In His Love
Denton, Linda, Matthew & Samuel

I had intended to write & thank you for sending the ~~the~~ Frantz book printout to me last Feb., but just never got it done. I attended an Everton Geneological Workshop here in Garnett last Oct. & have gotten interested in trying to do some research on my Dad's ancestors. Is the \$100.00 reservation the total cost or only a portion? I would like to get one but want to be sure of the total cost first.

RR 2 Box 53, Westphalia, KS 66093

Thanks

Dec. 28th, 1995

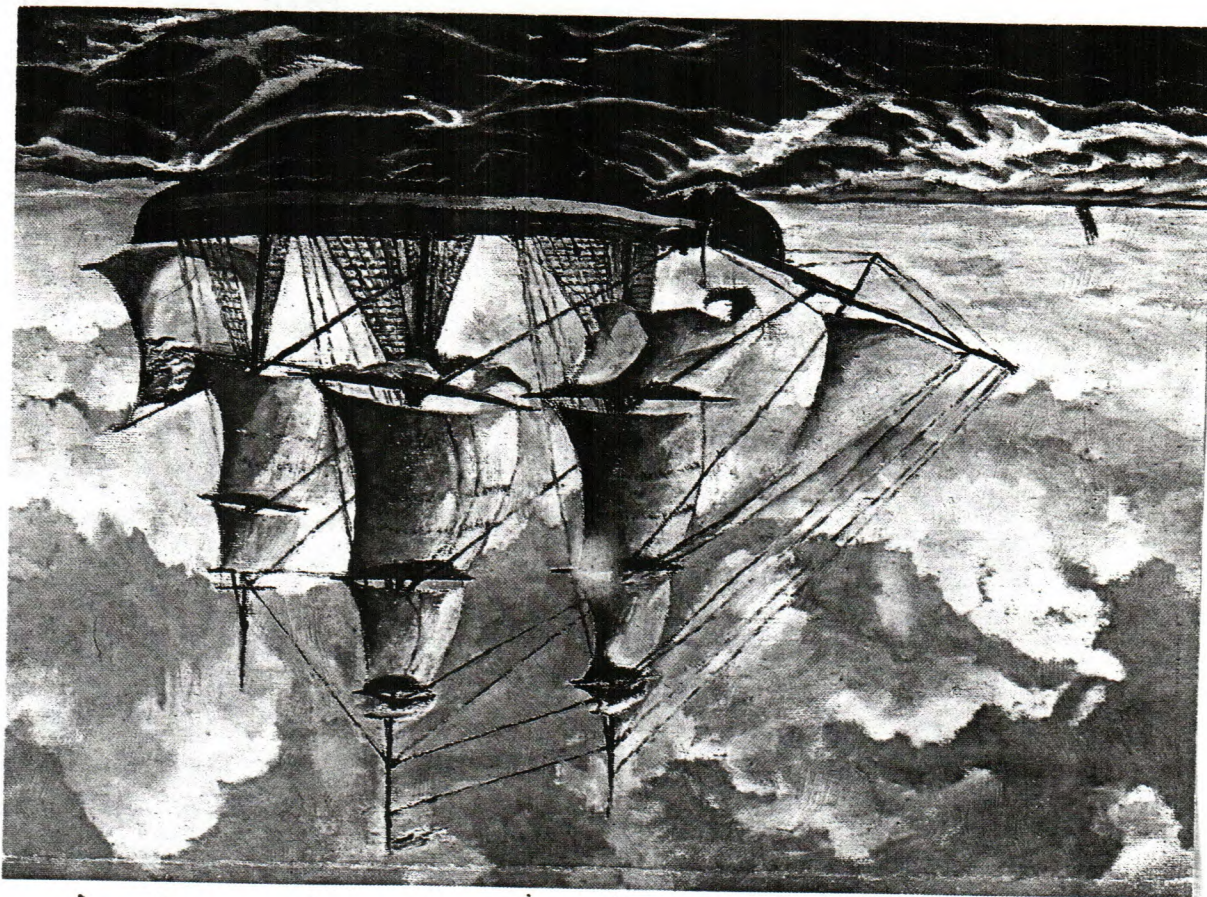
Dear Linda, Denton & all

I haven't even read your letter but I have 2 comments. 1) Do you think our immigrant Michael come over on a sailing ship like this? 2) You are obviously into rubber stamps like I am! I recognize the process of sprinkling the powder and using a hot iron or.... Isn't it fun? However, I'm too lazy; I don't usually ~~don't~~ go beyond stamping in various colors.

Read your very nice newsy letter. Lots of interesting things going on with your family. I don't think I could manage all the company but OGBB sisters grow up learning all those skills, I imagine.

I can peel potatoes (ha). That's a skill I learned at an early age. I plan on AM in Modesto so maybe I'll see you. In fact, I'll be helping Maribel Onkelt with all her guests, food, clean-up, etc, etc. I'll go early and stay after AM.

There's still time to order the books but only copies for those that pay and express their interest prior to publication. I can't afford 100, 200 or 300 sets printed and hope they eventually sell. Only sets for subscribers. \$100 is the total price. I hope to have the →



books printed within a couple of months.
 It is taking a lot of time - and
 I haven't any help - so I can't set
 an exact date. I think you'll be
 amazed with all the OGBB families
 in the books. It really is a
 marvelous heritage! I'm glad
 you're taking an interest in genealogy.
 Happy, healthy, 1996 To all.

Thank you



Love,

"cousin"

Lorraine

P.S. Note my correct
 ZIP code
 93539-2076

SAILING THE SEAS

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From an Original footpainted by P. DRIVER
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