

THE ELMER BLACK PICTURE PROJECT

26 July 2015 (Mom's Birthday!)

My Dearest Family. To all of the descendants of Cliff and Pat Stratton: In this report, when we say "Mom" we mean Patricia Frances Black; "Dad" is Clifford Stratton Sr; "Grandma" is Margaret Glencarn Treat; and "Grandpa" is Elmer Hyman Black.

What a special treat Megs' children are now enjoying, discovering the living family and biological ancestors of their father, Gerald Dana. I'm so very happy for them. It reminds me of the 1960s-1990s when Mom and us kids were discovering her numerous ancestors. Oh, the hours we spent in libraries, graveyards, looking at microfilms, and searching dusty, old, books. Sweet memories!



The incredible miracles we enjoyed; and even expected, and took for granted that they would always happen to assist us. In fulfilment of patriarchal blessing: Getting to visit with Grandma three times in the Spirit World; with Francisco Elias Gonzalez and an innumerable host of his family, identifying two particular families he wanted us to focus on; with one of our Mormon Pioneers, George Bryant Gardner, who showed us the night the stars fell from the heavens (a meteor shower) and how that comforted him when his wife left him. Grandpa Charles Stratton personally visiting and comforting in a time of dire need for strength. Grandma Maggie Treat showing us in vision, her Tucson home, and her children and their reactions, on the day she

crossed over and left them Motherless. Asking questions, receiving instructions and feeling their loving encouragement to keep on researching, in spite of the problems. Mom, in the downstairs bedroom describing her sacred, Second Comforter type experience. The quiet times in the Temples sealing our Welsh, Irish, Native American, Mexican, and Spanish ancestors to us as a huge, eternal, family... "Celestial." Being visually visited by Diety in the Temple. The Temple is indeed, "The House of the Lord." Dad, who was reticent about miracles, telling us when he and Mom stood up from kneeling at a holy alter in the Seattle Washington Temple, sealing Grandma and Grandpa Black together, "Pat, you looked just like your Mother!" It was a big family reunion. How beautiful the tears were on Mom's and our faces as we embraced them and each other. Mom being visited by the patron she was doing the initiatory ordinance for, on one of their missions to the Mesa Arizona Temple. How sweet the memories! Family history has changed our lives and enriched our love unmeasurably! Thank you Carole, Megs, and Chuck for the incredible journey we shared! And are still enjoying! I hope many of our posterity will pay the price and enjoy similar experiences.



Pictures: Left, Grandma and Grandpa. Right, Black family having a picnic, displaying a Navajo rug.

In my recent reflections, the Spirit quietly whispered, like He has so many times to each of us before, "Have you done all you can for Albert Hyman Black and those who touched his young life?" As you all know, like Gerald, Albert was also born of an unwed Mother. His grandparents, Arthur Black and Syrena Pennington, took him into their large family and raised him as one of their own. Grandma Black frequently used the words "unconditional love" when she talked about them and the influence they had on Grandpa.



Picture: Albert Hyman Black & Eliza Jane Morrison, Mom's grandparents. We have written their life history, attached. I hope you will all re-read it.

You all remember the wall of pictures of ancestors that Grandma had in her Glendale, guest bedroom. This picture was brought to my remembrance. It is Grandpa as a young teenager surrounded by his family, including his father, Albert Hyman Black. I know you've all seen it many times. It was one of Grandma's favorites. She loved her Elmer so very much! And she was grateful to the people in this picture who so positively influenced him during his formative years.



First Row: Florence (wife of Arthur Jerome Black). Arthur Jerome Black (son). Hattie F. or 'Tommie' Mc Guire Wooten (sister of Rosalind Mc Guire). Elmer Hyman Black (son). Sottie Rivette (housekeeper).

Second Row: Addie Evalyn Black (daughter). Albert Hyman Black. Rosalind Mc Guire (second wife of Albert Hyman Black).

Third Row: James Albert Black (son). Ellen Wooten (daughter of Tommie Wooten). George Alfred Black (son). Grace Edith Black (daughter). Picture taken about 1897.

Study it closely; Grandpa is in the back row, second from the right. I had never given it much thought. Mom and us kids did the research and the Temple ordinances for all of his brothers and sisters shown here. And then, Megs and Chuck spent several years discovering Grandpa's ancestors. They submitted hundreds of names to the Temples. I've just always thought all of the work was done.

I recently saw these illustrious people differently. Everyone in this picture influenced Grandpa to help him become the remarkable person he is. Yes, Grandpa's siblings are done. But, what about their spouses and their spouses' ancestors? Don't we all equally love Bob, Gerald and Sherrell, Peggy and Jana, and their ancestral families? Don't we equally love Aunt Betty's children, Jim, Bruce, and Pepper Parks, picture. How they have enriched our lives! Only very few of the Temple ordinances have been done for the spouses, children, and ancestors, of most of Grandpa's siblings. Picture: Back row: Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt Betty, Carole. Front row: Cliff J, Jim, Bruce, Pepper, Megs.

Nor for the "Mothers" who nurtured them after Eliza Jane Morrison passed; Rosalind and Bessie. What about Rosalind Mc Guire and her sister Tommie, and Tommie's daughter, Ellen, who played with Grandpa every day. How about Bessie Bryant Porter, Albert's third wife when Rosalind passed away. Can you imagine...she's not sealed to our family! Grandpa saw her every time the family got together, when he was an adult. Nothing. The Spirit was right!



In appreciation for Grandpa and his remarkable love and legacy, I did some research. I have researched the names of 103 individuals, 515 Temple ordinances, for the family in this picture and their ancestral loved ones across the veil. Don't panic! Obviously, we can't do all of this work. Carole, Megs, and Chuck, if you will allow me, I would like to propose a few ordinances we 4 kids might each do, in our local temples, as a token of our appreciation to these individuals. AND WE INVITE ALL OF THE STRATTON FAMILY TO JOIN US AND TO DO ORDINANCES IN YOUR LOCAL TEMPLE.

Carole: Carole was like my second Mother. She always took care of Megs and me. In High School I spent more time dancing with Carole and her girlfriends than I did with girls my own age. One of the first girls I ever kissed was one of her girlfriends. Carole, my older sister, was always there for me as I navigated my teen years.



Grandpa's older sister is Addie. Like Carole, the oldest child in the family. It is not coincidental that she and her father are sitting next to each other in the group picture that Grandma treasured so highly. Albert tells us in his life history that when Eliza passed, Addie became the "Mother" in the family for 6 years until he married Rosalind McGuire. This picture was taken soon after that marriage. This is what Addie looked like when Elmer looked to his older sister for love, comfort, and life direction during his teenage years. Please read Albert's life history, attached.

Addie married Samuel White, picture. Joe, would you and Janelle please consider doing the Temple ordinances for Samuel's father, Thomas Alexander White, PID L6ZB-N82, and his oldest sister, Mary Elizabeth White, PID LKZN-HZV? And then kneel at the alter and seal Mary to her parents? (If you decide to also ask for Baptisms/Confirmations for your family and ward youth to do, I will include Samuel's other five siblings for your youth to do.)



Cliff J: One afternoon Dad and I were working in the garage in Winslow with the large, blue, garage door opened to the alley. To our pleasant surprise, in walked Bill Treat in his military uniform. He only had two days of leave from San Diego and had come to give Dad a gift. He knew how much Dad loved to fish. In his youth, he had fished with Dad on several occasions. He gave Dad a beautiful, bamboo fly rod that he had an artisan especially craft for Dad in Korea. He then presented Dad with a medium sized, dark blue, velvet box. When Dad opened it, inside were three military medals of valor and honor that Bill had been awarded for bravery. They were very impressive. All had colored ribbons and large, illustrious medals of fine detail. Bill was not married and had no children. He wanted to give them to Dad as a gift. Of course, Dad kindly declined, and said that they belonged to his future children. And Dad assured him that he would indeed have future children. After his enlistment, Bill returned to the States, married Pat, and had Ted and Valorie. We all knew them well. They had a large, green and gold, parrot that had escaped from the movie lot next door and had made his home with the Treats. Marsha and I lived with Bill and Pat in Culver City for a while when we went to UCLA. Ted is still alive today, 2015.



Grandpa's brother, George, Left picture, was also very patriotic. He enlisted and served in both World War I and World War II. Us kids were privileged to meet Arthur and his wife on two occasions in Winslow, when they came to visit Aunt Sis and Aunt Liz. Once when I was in Junior High and once when I was in High School. I remember both occasions well. Mom took us kids over to Aunt Sis's house on Berry Avenue for the afternoon, to meet her Uncle George and Aunt Dougherty (her name is Hanorah Margaret

Dougherty, but she went by the nickname 'Dougherty.') Right picture: Grandpa, Aunt Dougherty holding a grandson, and Uncle George. During the Vietnam Conflict, I served under the National Defense and Education Act as a Title IV Fellow. I taught young people as a BYU Instructor, in human physiology



lectures and labs, to become Medics and Nurses. I became very close to some of my students. Some of them never came home.

If it's O.K. with my siblings, Marsha and I would like to do all of the Temple ordinances for Uncle George and Aunt Dougherty's two daughters, Mary M. Black, PID LKZF-BXJ, and Grace Black, PID LKZF-149. Both are deceased. It hasn't been 110 years since their birth, so I had to ask for permission from Salt Lake last week to be able to do their work. Permission was granted.



Marsha and I would also like to seal Rosalind McGuire, PID MCHB-MCK, Grandpa's first stepmother, Left picture, to his father, Albert. We would then like to seal both Rosalind and her sister, Tommie (Hattie F. Mc Guire, PID LKZC-V53), Right picture, to their parents, and thus to each other. Finally, we would like to seal Tommie's daughter, Ellen Alameda Wooten, picture below, who was raised with Grandpa, to her parents. Ellen's ordinances had already been saved by one of our cousins. I contacted her last week and she kindly agreed to allow our family to do Ellen's work. She transferred Ellen's

Ordinances File to my FamilySearch. I know it sounds kind of complicated, but now their family will be complete: Ellen will be sealed to her mother, Tommie. Tommie will be sealed to her sister, Rosalind. Rosalind will be sealed as a spouse to Arthur, Grandpa's father. And our family is already sealed to both Grandpa and his father. So, the family circle will be complete in the Spirit World.



Megs: It's hard for me to find someone special enough to ask Megs to do the Temple work for. How fortunate we kids are to have Megs as our 'Baby Sister'! She sealed Congressman Hiram Steven's illegitimate daughter, Clara Jane Knight Stevens, to him and Petra, thereby sealing Clara Jane to our family for eternity. She, Gerald, and



their young family sent me a large cardboard box full of Black/Morrison/Stump original research. I saw pages where Kimball, Margot, and Carrie, still young children, had hand written down family information off of the headstones of their ancestors in

grave yards. That box resulted in over 400 names being submitted. I know Megs and her children are currently very involved in identifying and doing the ordinances for Gerald's biological ancestors in America, England, and Czechoslovakia. Since Sherrell is an ordained Temple Sealer, can we invite Megs and Sherrell to do some family sealings for Grace, PID K6MG-997, Left pictures, Grandpa's 'Baby Sister'? Right picture: George, Grace, Grandpa.

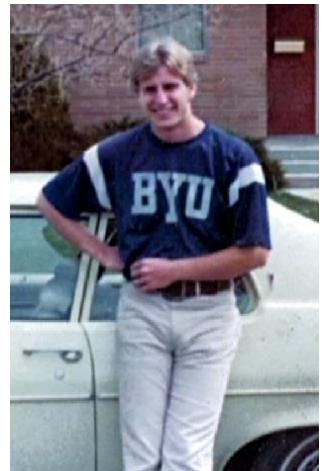


Grace married Daniel William Giles, PID KZJJ-P1B. Megs, will you also seal Daniel's sister, Mable Giles, PID LHFM-3DT, to her parents; and Daniel's brother, Clark Ransom Giles, PID K2VS-7DS, to his wife, Louise K. Palmtag, PID LK7X-WFF. That will complete Daniel's father's family for eternity.

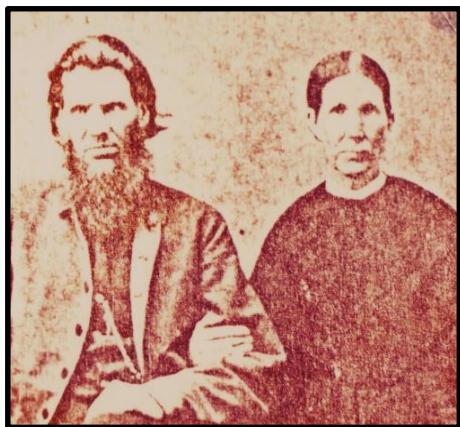
You can conclude by sealing Daniel's grandfather, Henry Giles Jr., PID KP7T-5SH, to his second wife, Sarah Sipes, PID LVV7-YWQ. That then completes his grandfather's family for eternity.

Chuck: We've saved the best for last. Chuck continues to bring such great joy into our family's lives. Here he is riding me like a horse, Left picture. Joe and I pride ourselves for being the two, best

looking, men in the family. I don't know. Look at Chuck when he was on the BYU Varsity Baseball team, Right picture. He was one of their starting Pitchers. What do you think Joe? Is it close?! ...Yah... O.K...! Chuck is the best looking man in the family!



No tribute to those who influenced Grandpa's life would be complete without recognizing his grandparents, Arthur Gill Black and Syrena Pennington, Left picture. Grandpa's father, Albert Hyman



Black, Right picture, was born to an unwed mother with the surname of Black. Arthur was either the grandfather or the uncle of the baby. Arthur and Syrena adopted Albert at birth and raised him as one of their own. Arthur Gill Black was a Dunkard Minister of no small reputation. The Dunkards believed that their worship should be based only on the Apostolic or Primitive church described in the Bible. They had no paid ministry, so Arthur worked as a farmer. Wikipedia, *Schwarzenau Brethren*. That may mean that it will be natural for many of our family to accept the Restoration message in the Spirit World, since the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is established exactly like the Savior's Church in the meridian of time.



message in the Spirit World, since the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is established exactly like the Savior's Church in the meridian of time.

Not only was Albert raised in a very religious home with Arthur and Syrena. Grandpa's sister, Grace, said that Albert likewise raised his family with Bible study and prayer in the home twice every day. They were taught Dunkard principles. Arthur died two years before Grandpa was born, but according to family tradition, Syrena was a tremendous influence on Grandpa during much of his youth.

Arthur and Syrena's first child was Sarah Elizabeth Black, PID LCQD-PHB. When a diphtheria epidemic swept Indiana in 1860, Arthur and Syrena lost three of their four oldest children. Only Sarah survived. A similar event was to occur three generations later to Chuck's namesake, Charles Abel Stratton, when the flu epidemic hit Hinckley, Utah, in 1919. They lost three of their four oldest children.

Albert and Eliza Jane named their first son Arthur Jerome Black in honor of Albert's grandfather,



Arthur Gill Black. Arthur Jerome married Florence Ellen Harris, picture. Arthur Jerome unexpectedly passed away in 1902, shortly after this group picture was taken. Florence had a one year old baby, and was pregnant when Arthur died. When she gave birth to a baby boy, she named him Albert Harris Black, in honor of her father-in-law, Albert Hyman Black, whom she so dearly loved. Picture: Top row is Florence and Arthur, center is Albert Hyman Black. To understand how all of the spouses could love their father-in-law so much, you have to read his life history, attached. I recommend you do that. A few years later, Florence remarried, John Edward Thatcher, with whom she also had two sons.

Chuck, would you like to do the ordinances for Florence's gguncle, Henry C. Wilson, PID LV61-RR5? He was born at Carthage, Hancock, Illinois, in 1844. The same place and date as the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Patriarch Hyrum Smith. I have not been able to show that his parents were involved directly in the martyrdom, on one side or the other, but they certainly knew about it, when it happened in their small town. Because they still resided in Carthage in 1880, they didn't go West, so they were probably not members of the Church. As an adult, Henry and his wife, Nellie, owned a livery stable and a hotel, the Wilson House, in Carthage. Perhaps Jana can do the ordinances for Henry's wife, Ellen E. "Nellie" Ferry, PID LV81-YY3, and then you can kneel at the alter and seal them as a couple. (Chuck, congratulations on changing your business. we know you're very busy. If by chance, one of your children would also like to participate, two of the children of Henry and Nellie, Fessa a male and Mary a female, were both born and raised in Carthage. Their work also needs to be done and to be sealed to their parents.)

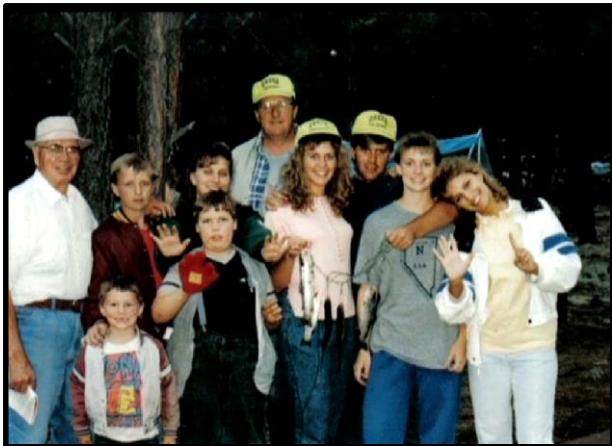
Conclusion: That concludes our *Grandpa Elmer Black Picture Project*. We hope you enjoyed reading about, and seeing pictures on, your Grandpa Black family.

AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL OF THE CLIFF AND PAT STRATTON FAMILY. Any of you who would like to support Grandpa Black by doing Temple ordinances for his ancestors, are very welcome to do so. For example, no one has been asked to seal Bessie Bryant Porter, Albert's third wife, to our family. We sealed her to her first husband, Frank Merrithew Porter, the day Joe took out his endowments in the Jordan River Temple. Frank passed; they had no children. What if Bessie, in the Spirit World, has chosen to be an eternal member of our family? Plus others; remember, 103 individuals, 515 Temple ordinances await. Any "takers"?

All you have to do is email me at cliff@unr.edu. Tell me which ordinances you would like to do: "Baptism for the Dead and Confirmation," or "Initiatory and Endowment," or "Sealing Child to Parents and Sealing Couple," or "All Temple Ordinances." Tell me how many individuals you want to do those particular ordinances for (usually 2-4 names is plenty). Then, give me your snail mail address. I will mail your blue, pink, and yellow cards to you next week. Please, don't be bashful. We have a lot of ordinances we can do. Of course, we don't have to do them all. Any that family do not ask for, I will simply turn over to Temple File for the Temples to do the work. That's fine. Please be aware that we will have 3 months to do the work for the names we request. On October 26, 2015 any work that has not been done on your cards will be automatically turned over to Temple File. So, try and do some work for Grandpa's ancestors, but don't get stressed out if you can't do them all. It's fine. Please, simply throw away all of your cards on October 26, completed or not. Thank you for your efforts. You

youth that like to do Baptisms for the Dead are especially invited to participate. Love to you all. Cliff J or Uncle Cliff

FAMILY PICTURE FUN! Do you know who these people are? Don't peek at the answers!



1. Did Carrie or Margot catch the most fish? (Fingers.) Who's the toothless cousin? Which one received more palms after earning his Eagle, than anyone else?



3. Grandma Stratton with the twins. Which is which?

4. As a teenager, he and his cousin, Clifford Lee, won the L.D.S. Regional Softball

Tournament. He scored 3 runs, leading his team to victory. Can you name his family now?



7. Where did this cousin serve his mission? What is his beautiful wife's name?



2. Who are these cousins? Which one caught more fish than both his Uncle and his Grandpa?



5. Is your parent or grandparent in this picture?

6. This little girl in the tree just had a baby. Name the baby.



8. Who is this Dad named after? Who sent this ancestor the missionaries?

Answers: As our children remember their names.

1. Back row: Cliff J, Joe.

Second row: Grandpa Stratton, Chuck, Margot, 'Leen, 'Lisha, Carrie.

Front row: Carig, Clinton.

Count their fingers: Margot caught 9 fish. Carrie caught 6 fish.

Craig lost his two front teeth.

Chuck earned 3 palms after earning his Eagle.

2. Back row: Chuck, Carrie, Will, Debra, Margot.

Front row: Joe.

The next day, Will caught more fish than either Grandpa Stratton or Uncle Cliff, on the Little Colorado River in Greer, Arizona.

3. You'll have to ask Sean or Joe. I can't tell!

4. Jon was the hero of that Championship Game.

Back row: Reid, Johnathan, Mary Beth, Macayla.

Front row: Grandma Stratton.

5. Left to right around the circle: Bruce Parks, Chuck, Grandma Stratton, Megs, Cliff J., Carole, Grandpa Stratton, Jim Parks.

6. Clifford Lee, Alexandria, Charity Stratton. Alexandria just had a baby girl, Andelynn Zitting. The first great-grandchild of the Cliff and Marsha Stratton Family.

7. Alec Stratton and his beautiful wife Cherry. Alec served in Polynesia. They live in Hawaii.

8. Benjamin, Jamie, and Katelyn. Benj is named after Benjamin Freeman Bird, one of the first of our Mormon Pioneer Ancestors to join the Church. Oliver Cowdery sent him the missionaries.

All of the photos in this handout are on FamilySearch.