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# **A LEGACY OF LOVE**

News of the  
JUSTUS AZEL SEELYE FAMILY ORGANIZATION

Objective: To “turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers.”  
—**Malachi 4:5-6**

Volume XXVIII      June 2017      Number 2

## **MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT BRUCE SEELY**

The JASFO Executive Council is excited about the coming Summer Reunion. There are full details in this newsletter, but you need to know we are combining our annual summer meeting with the biennial summer pageant, “Martin Harris—The Man Who Knew” in Clarkston, Utah. We hope you can arrange to be there with us. We have some important business to conduct involving changes in the JASFO Executive Council, and each of you has a vote.

We are grateful to those who have put much time and effort into this amazing family organization over the years, and we look forward to more wonderful things to come. As we learned at our Winter Conference there is just something

Justus Azel Seelye Family Organization

# Summer Reunion

at the LDS Meetinghouse at  
660 West 200 North  
Smithfield, Utah

## Saturday, August 5, 2017

- 11:30 am Registration
- 12:00 Potluck Luncheon  
A-I, bring dessert  
J-R, bring salad  
S-Z bring main dish
- 12:45 pm Business Meeting and family song  
Presentation on Seely family from baptism to arrival at Nauvoo
- 2:00 On Your Own for afternoon activities  
(check out parks and playgrounds in Smithfield, Logan, or Clarkston)
- 6:00 Optional community supper (\$7.50 per person) at Clarkston LDS Chapel  
25 East 100 South, Clarkston, Utah  
call 435-563-9090 to reserve a spot
- 7:30 “Martin Harris —The Man Who Knew”  
outdoor pageant, 11000 N 8400 W  
in Clarkston, Utah; for tickets go to  
clarkstonpageant.org (tickets are free but are required)

about being a member of the Seely family, and we would love to see many more cousins getting involved with JASFO. There are many fine family things to see and do in the Logan area, so make your plans and reservations now so we can see you there. And why not give some thought to who in the family you could bring with you?

But first you need to reserve your free tickets for the pageant as soon as possible. Space, as they say, is limited.

Bruce Seely

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## RECAP OF THE JASFO WINTER CONFERENCE

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The attendees at the JASFO Winter Conference enjoyed a succession of interesting activities at Temple Square in Salt Lake City on Saturday, March 11, 2017. We began the day by gathering in the computer lab on the main floor of the Family History Library to conduct business and receive a schedule of the day's agenda. JASFO President Bruce Seely welcomed the group.

Business items included a short slide show encouraging JASFO descendants to attend the national reunion of the Seely Genealogical Society in summer of 2017, an overview of the functions of the Family History Library and the recent remodeling there, and the presentation of *Seely History, Volume III*, as a gift to the library. The hard copy will be preserved in the library's archives, and a digital copy will be available to search at branch libraries all over the world. Then we received an in-depth tutorial from cousin LaVona Lewis, a family history missionary trainer, on how to use the Seely information contained on FamilySearch online. Plans are underway for LaVona and others to continue the tutorials at future family conferences.

At the conclusion of the opening session, we adjourned to the Discovery Center area on the main floor of the FHL to experience the hands-on family history activities there. Some participated in sitting for a family photo; some learned all about the fascinating things that happened in the world on his or her birthday; some explored information about their ancestors' countries of origin; some found out they are related to church leaders, world leaders, and other famous people!

Around 11 am, the group made their way over to the Legacy Theater in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building to watch "The Horseman," a segment of "Meet the

Mormons." Following the movie, we informally convened for lunch at the various restaurants at Temple Square, using \$5 gift cards from the Lion House Pantry (our family dues in action!) for each attendee over 10 years old. Lunch and conversations were enjoyable.

To round out the day, we had a tour of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, led by cousin Margaret Petersen, a missionary guide there. We learned about the architecture and history of the building and marveled at the view from the observation windows at the top! The rest of the afternoon was used by participants to visit other sites at Temple Square.

If you missed the JASFO event, plan to take your family there soon!

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## YOUTH OF THE NOBLE BIRTHRIGHT

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*[Editor's note: This is an open letter to youth and leaders who are about to embark on a "trek" or other pioneer-type activity as part of their Young Men and Young Women experience. The letter was written by past JASFO enthusiast, Montell Seely, in about 1998. At that time, he was a facilitator of youth treks in conjunction with the Castle Valley Pageant in Castle Dale, Utah. After some experience leading youth on treks, he wrote this letter to send to groups who were planning to do a trek, hoping to make their experience even more meaningful. The letter has been edited for length.]*

Dear Youth of the Noble Birthright:

Thank you for doing a handcart trek as part of your youth conference. You have chosen an activity that will bring into your life a tremendous amount of growth and maturity. It will cause you to have a greater love for your parents and all of your ancestors, whether they were pioneers or not—but especially if they were pioneers.

Those persons who "pioneered" the West and established the Church in the valleys of the mountains suffered and endured extreme physical

hardship. They had trials and hardships that we cannot comprehend. We owe to them our undying love, our honor, our devotion, and our sincere appreciation.

During the era when Joseph and Hyrum Smith were murdered, and the members were being persecuted, they came West to escape the persecution. Coming West was almost like going from the frying pan into the fire. During all of this era, many members of the Church quit. They were weak in the faith, and they quit the church. Their descendants are not in the church today. They are lost, unless they were later happily found by missionaries. Many of you are in the Church today because your ancestors would not quit. When the going got tough, they would not give up. However, it matters not if you are a descendant of pioneers or of more recent converts. We owe our forefathers our love, honor, and respect.

One way we can bring that feeling into our souls is to go through an experience that will give us an inkling of what they endured—and that is what your whole Youth Conference is designed to do. You can enter this experience with an open mind; with an attitude of receiving into your bosom a greater love for your heritage. If your attitude is to receive this feeling, then it will happen. But if your attitude is to scoff at the event; poke fun at the activities; complain at your leaders (or about them) for depriving you of your “comforts,” then you will not gain that love for your heritage. You will be like the Children of Israel who complained against Moses for leading them out of Egypt into the wilderness where their life became more complicated—forgetting to be grateful that they were no longer slaves.

Our stake recently held youth conference. The leaders wanted the youth to come away with a greater love for their heritage—and particularly their pioneer heritage. Part of the plan was for groups of 10 to push a wheelbarrow up a semi-rough trail, a distance of five miles. They didn’t have handcarts. The wheelbarrow activity was designed to generate unity of the group and give them a common cause and a bit of a challenge.

At their testimony meeting, you could tell that the majority had the right attitude and received the message. But not all! I home-teach a member of our

Stake Presidency. During our June visit (after the youth conference), his son, a husky boy who could have pushed the wheelbarrow all the way by himself, scoffed at the event and said to us, “I thought the whole thing was dumb. I couldn’t see any point in it.” He is a good boy, and I was shocked at his comment. His parents were embarrassed, and I didn’t want to make matters worse, so we changed the subject, but I have pondered over his comment. Why did he think it was dumb? Why did he not get the message? Perhaps no one had told him the objective, which was to cause them to have greater love and respect for their pioneer ancestors.

The climb up the trail in the heat of the sun was the “vehicle”; it was a physical activity. The wheelbarrow was the “tool” to bring unity to each group and give them a common cause. He entered the event with the wrong attitude, and thus he missed the point. Or maybe he began it with the right attitude but got with some peers who were scoffing and he followed their example.

You have a great event planned. It won’t be easy. It was not intended to be easy. You won’t be coddled and entertained—that is not the objective. You will grow from the experience if you want to grow! It will be a great event if you personally make it a great event!

And to the Youth Leaders:

One of your reasons for doing this handcart trek is to have a pioneer experience—so have the experience! Don’t make the plans and then try to figure out ways to avoid the impact of the trek. You will have a little hunger, thirst, fatigue, and discomfort. Those are necessary byproducts of a true pioneer experience. Additionally, remember that your attitude will inform the attitudes of those you lead. If you are hanging back and rolling your eyes and grumbling, your youth will find it very easy to follow along with that mindset. But if you are enthusiastic and willing, your youth will have a better chance of mimicking your approach.

A couple of suggestions from my own experiences and from other groups:

1. Have your youth and their leaders dress in pioneer-style clothes to help them get the spirit of the

occasion—with girls in long skirts or dresses and sunbonnets, boys in long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats. Modern living has made us think this type of clothing is restrictive and uncomfortable in the summertime, but remember we are not used to being outside in the sun all day; and I mean ALL DAY. Full-length sleeves and pants are ideal for avoiding sunburn, not to mention scratches from rocks and bushes and for wicking away sweat so the body can cool itself. The girls will be tempted to wear shorts under their skirts and then pull up their skirts while they are walking. Please discourage this. It not only creates an impression of immodesty, it actually defeats one of the benefits of the skirt, which is to swish around the legs and create air movement. Girls should wear pantaloons under their skirts, if available, or lightweight slacks such as pajama pants, and then remember that these are representative of undergarments and should not be on display for all to view, if it can be avoided.

2. Keep your meals simple, and have the youth prepare their own meals. You don't need a cooked meal for every meal, so plan on having sandwiches and veggie sticks for lunch sometimes. Don't skimp on healthy food for breakfast, but don't let it take all day. Do not even bring soda pop, candy, or junk food. Carbonated liquid reduces lung capacity for walking and does not quench thirst. Each person should have a canteen or water bottle and refill it often.

3. Bring first aid supplies—a big kit for the group, as well as personal kits with plenty of band-aids for scratches and blisters. Sunscreen and lip balm are recommended. Also bring soap and hand towels and personal toiletries.

4. Talk about your experiences while you are having the experiences and again at the end of the day and after the trek is finished. Keep a journal and take plenty of photos.

In conclusion, it is a good idea to remind your group that a handcart trek is not a walk in the park. It will be rough and hot and uncomfortable—but that's why they will remember it and get something out of it!

Participating in this handcart trek is not intended to be recreation. When our forefathers made their wagon treks and handcart treks, they were not in search of fame, fortune, wealth, gold, or “fun.” They were trying to save their lives and to save the Church. Your trek is a tribute to them. You will gain a greater respect and appreciation for them.

The objective of your experience is to cause you to have a greater love for your ancestors. If at the end of this trek you are just hot and tired and grouchy and disgusted and wishing you hadn't come, the trek will have been a failure. If you are hot and tired and humble, then you will have had a great experience!

Sincerely, *Montell Seely*

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## **ANOTHER STORY FOR SEELY HISTORY, VOLUME III**

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The story on the following pages was inadvertently left out of the recent publication of Seely History, Volume III. Our apologies! It is shown here in a format similar to how it would have appeared in the book.

Please print out the story front and back and glue or tape it into your copy of the book (with archival adhesive, if possible). It is numbered page 819 so that it will appear just after the last page of the index. Then add a reference to it on the last blank lines of the index.

Future stories that we find that were accidentally omitted from the book will be printed in a similar way for your convenience.



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## DUES REMINDER

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Donations to the Justus Azel Seelye Family Organization fund the production of newsletters and other mailings, the hosting of family reunions and conferences, and other worthwhile family history projects.

Annual dues are just \$15 per family, by donation, payable at the beginning of the year. Send your checks to David Astle, Treasurer, at the address on the page 9.

Additional gifts are welcome!

*You see your children growing. You look at your grandchildren, and you say to yourself, "What if I weren't here? Have I done all I can to prepare them for their role in life?" You realize that you never quite do everything, but you want to do better than what you have done.*

*President Thomas S. Morrison*

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## SEELEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL REUNION NOTICE, 2019

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The Seeley Genealogical Society would like to have your participation at their international conference in the **San Diego, California, area** in Summer of 2019.

If you are a resident of Southern California or could otherwise help make arrangements for this event, please contact SGS President Lynda Simmons at 801-649-9878 or 801-910-0300.

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## TRIBUTES TO DECEASED LOVED ONES

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*[Editor's note: We honor the memory of our beloved "cousins" who have recently passed away. These notices have been edited in order to make them fit into the available space. To view the full obituary, please go to our website at [www.jasfo.org](http://www.jasfo.org). If you send us an obituary, we will include it in a future edition of this newsletter.]*

**Beverly Patterson Tidwell**, age 85, passed away on February 20, 2017. Beverly was born on March 9, 1931, in Montpelier, Idaho, to James Willard Patterson and Pearl Susanna Price. She married Frank Ray Tidwell on December 28, 1956, in the Salt Lake Temple. Funeral services were held February 25, 2017, at Centerville, Utah. Interment at the Centerville City Cemetery. [Frank Tidwell's lineage: Delbert Franklin Tidwell, John Franklin Tidwell, Sarah Seely Tidwell, Justus Wellington Seely I, Justus Azel Seelye]

**Doreen Rogers Johnson** passed away on March 23, 2017. She was born March 17, 1930, to Verlin Dell Rogers and Leona Coates Rogers in Lewiston, Utah. Doreen married Reed Alden Johnson in the Logan Temple in Logan, Utah, on June 16, 1947. Funeral services were held on March 31, 2017, at Logan, Utah. Interment in the Hyrum, Utah, Cemetery. [Lineage: Nora Leona Coates Rogers, Jesse Agnes Wilcox Coates, Hazard Wilcox, Mary Young Wilcox, Elizabeth Seely Young, Justus Azel Seelye]

Lt. Col. **Edwin "Ed" Leon Jalszynski**, 96, passed away on March 23, 2017. He was born on April 11, 1920, near Warroad, Minnesota, to John and Maryann (Kuligowska) Jalszynski. Ed and Ruth Guymon were married on December 28, 1946, in Dayton, Ohio. Funeral services were held on March 31, 2017, at Colorado Springs, Colorado. Interment

followed, as well as military honors, at a graveside service at Memorial Gardens Cemetery. [Ruth Guymon Jalszynski's lineage: Una Geneva Seely Guymon, Justus Wellington Seely III, Justus Wellington Seely II, Justus Wellington Seely I, Justus Azel Seelye]

**Andrea Louise (Hansen) Seely**, 51, of West Jordan, Utah, passed away on Friday, March 24, 2017. She was born 6 November 1965 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Forest Andresen Hansen and Karen Anderson Hansen. In 1995 she married Nathan Louis Seely in the Jordan River Temple. Funeral services were held on March 28, 2017, in West Jordan, Utah. Interment, West Jordan City Cemetery. [Nathan Seely's lineage: James W. Seely, Karl A. Seely, Justus Wellington Seely II, Justus Wellington Seely I, Justus Azel Seelye]

**Duane S. Guymon** passed away on April 10, 2017. He was born on October 11, 1929, in Orangeville, Utah. He married Charlotte Skofield in the Salt Lake LDS Temple on February 9, 1962. Funeral services were held at Tooele, Utah, on April 14, 2017. Interment at Valley View Memorial Park, West Valley City, Utah. [Lineage: Una Seely Guymon, Justus Wellington Seely III, Justus Wellington Seely II, Justus Wellington Seely I, Justus Azel Seelye]

**Marilyn Jeppson Choules** passed away on April 11, 2017. She was born in Berkeley, California, on Friday, July 12, 1940, to Gertrude Elnora "Kay" King and Lee Ralph Jeppson. Marilyn married Jim Lowry; they divorced in 1978. In 1987, she was married to Albert Choules, Jr., in the Salt Lake Temple. Marilyn's funeral was held on May 13, 2017, in Salt Lake City, Utah. [Lineage: Gertrude Elnora "Kay" King Jeppson, Anna Seely King, Justus Wellington Seely II, Justus Wellington Seely I, Justus Azel Seelye]

**Lucy Rae "Birdie" Seely Capel** passed away on May 20, 2017, in Syracuse, Utah. She was born on June 14, 1928, in Mt. Pleasant, Utah, to John Leo and Edna Lucille Rolph Seely. Lucy married Neal Conrad Capel, on June 9, 1950, in the Salt Lake Temple. Funeral services were held on May 25, 2017, at Bountiful, Utah. Interment at Salt Lake City Cemetery, Salt Lake City, Utah. [Lineage: J. Leo Seely, John H. Seely, Justus Wellington Seely I, Justus Azel Seelye]

**Ilo Ann Rogers Corless** passed away on May 27, 2017. Ilo was born in Lewiston, Utah, on December 8, 1934, to Verlin Dell Rogers and Nora Leona Coates. Ilo married Frank R. Corless on September 27, 1963, in the Logan Temple. Funeral services were held June 3, 2017, at Roy, Utah. Interment Roy City Cemetery. [Lineage: Nora Leona Coates Rogers, Jesse Agnes Wilcox Coates, Hazard Wilcox, Mary Young Wilcox, Elizabeth Seely Young, Justus Azel Seelye]



## Color by Number

- 1 RED
- 2 BLUE
- 3 YELLOW
- 4 LIGHT GREEN
- 5 BROWN
- 6 DARK GREEN
- 7 TAN
- 8 WHITE

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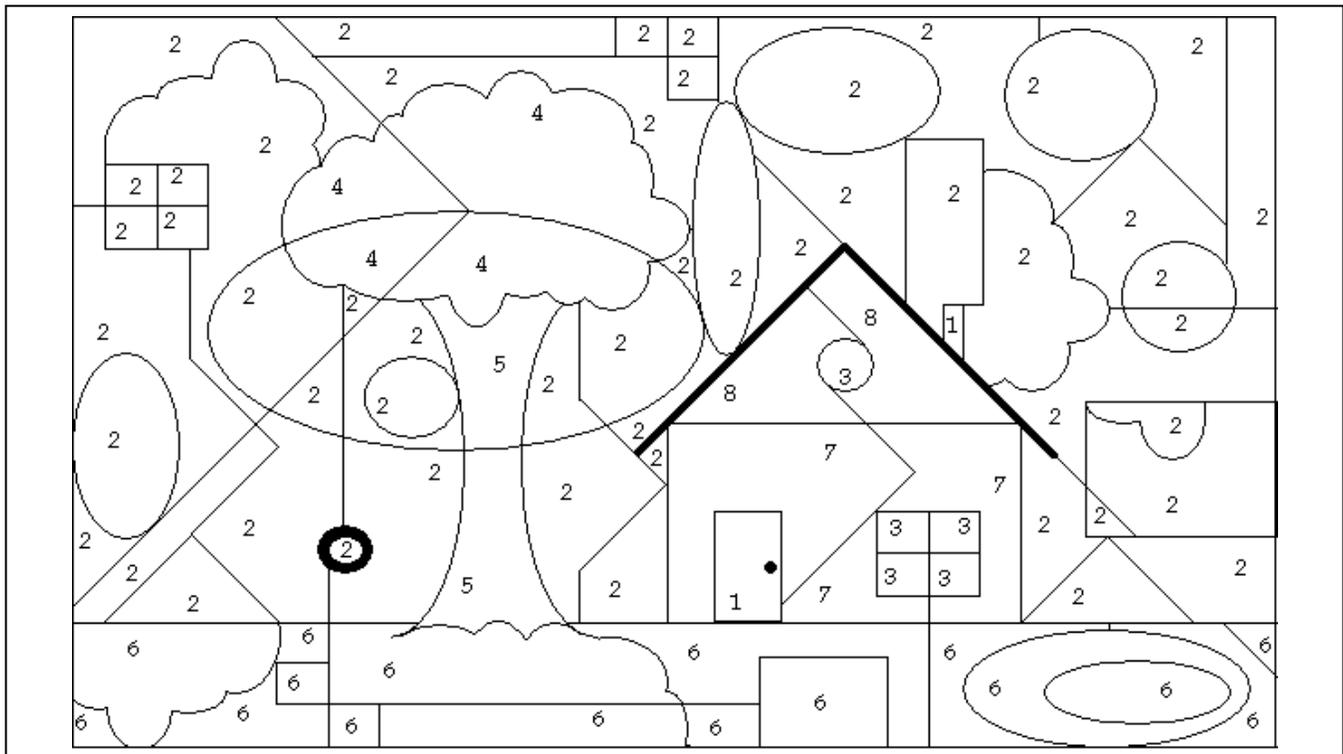
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**JUSTUS AZEL SEELYE FAMILY ORGANIZATION Membership Form**

NAME (first, middle initial, last)

TELEPHONE NUMBER (optional)

ADDRESS (post office box and/or street and number)

EMAIL ADDRESS (optional)

ADDRESS (city, state, zip)

LINEAGE TO JUSTUS AZEL SEELYE (if known)

DUES (\$15.00 annually)

ENCLOSED

WILL PAY AT NEXT GATHERING ATTENDED

**MAIL FORM AND MEMBERSHIP FEE TO: David Astle, 1770 N. Country Springs Cir., Bountiful, UT 84010-5963**

## MARIE NELSON DURNEY

Clarissa Elizabeth Jones Nelson  
Charlotte Sybil Seely Jones  
Don Darlos Seely  
Justus Wellington Seely I  
Justus Azel Seelye



*Marie and Carl Durney*

It is a joy to be a Seely, a family that prays together; stays together and gets together often to memorialize the lives of ancestors and forge familial bonds within current generations.

I was born December 15, 1933, at home in Price, Utah, to Melroy Ole Nelson and Clarissa Elizabeth Jones Nelson (aka Benjamin later). My maternal grandmother is Charlotte (Lottie) Sybil Seely Jones. Lottie was a daughter of Don Carlos Seely.

My initial schooling was at Southside Elementary where my mother was my third grade teacher; then on to Harding Elementary; Price Jr. High; and Carbon High School.

The main reason for mother's going back to teaching was my father's death (May 13, 1941) when I was seven. I was the fifth child of seven children so Mom was left a widow with seven young children. My dad died on his 42<sup>nd</sup> birthday, which was also my brother Bruce's birthday.

We had a small income for our large family but all of us supplemented it by babysitting, ironing, cleaning house, and in my particular instance, working as a candy bagger, etc. at Peterson Candy Company. My younger siblings worked there as well. Karl and Ethel Peterson were good to us.

We children had the usual childhood fighting among us but would defend one another extensively if one of us came under attack from outsiders.

Following graduation from high school, I went to Blackfoot, Idaho, to live with my brother, Lynn, and his family, and to work at the Westinghouse nuclear submarine reactor at the Atomic Energy facility at Arco, Idaho.

While living in Blackfoot, I met Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Carl Durney on a blind date. Carl had just returned from a year's duty in Korea, and was on a 30-day leave. I met him three days before he was to go to Lake Charles Air Force Base in Louisiana.

We corresponded for six months and then got engaged. After exchanging letters for six more months, we married in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple on December 11, 1953.

Our oldest child, Carla, lives with her German-born husband, Roland Riese, in Maryville, Tennessee. She was previously married to Chris Curtis, with whom she had five children.

Carolyn, who graduated from BYU, is married to Larry Ipson, a Certified Public Accountant. They live in Sandy, Utah, and are the parents of six children.

Edward, an attorney, lives in Millbrae, California, with his

Japanese wife, Noriko (Shonai), and their two sons.

Brian, a professor of computer science at Utah Valley State College, lives in Santaquin, Utah, with his wife Kristy (Lippman) and their four children.

Alan, a mechanical engineer, lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with his wife Lori (Steadman) and five children.

Dyla graduated from BYU in elementary education and is married to Karl Miller, an electrical engineer. They have four children and live in Boise, Idaho.

My husband, Carl, was a professor of Electrical Engineering and professor of Bioengineering at the University of Utah for 34 years. He earned a BS degree from Utah State University and a Master's degree and PhD degree from the University of Utah. From 1977 to 1982 he was chairman of the electrical engineering department at the University of Utah.

I was a stay-at-home mom until Fall, 1978, when I entered college at the University of Utah, graduating with a BS degree in psychology and speech communication in 1982. I then went through the Graduate School of Social Work at the university and received a Master of Social Work degree in 1985. I worked at Salt Lake County Youth Services for five years and then finished my career as a medical social worker at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Salt Lake City.

I will always be grateful that my mother, Clarissa, who died in February of 1986, lived long enough to attend my two college graduations because

she valued education so highly. At the 1985 ceremony for my Master of Social Work degree, she sat close enough to the stage where I was handed my diploma that I could see tears of joy running down her cheeks.

Because of Carl's schooling and employment opportunities we were able to live in various place in the United States and to travel outside the country. We lived in New Jersey for 15 months in 1965 and 1966 while Carl was on leave from the University of Utah and doing research at Bell Telephone Laboratories. We lived in the Seattle area three different times and spent the 1983-84 academic year in the Boston area where Carl was a visiting professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Carl and I both retired in 1997. In 1998, we sold our home in the Holladay area of Salt Lake City (where we had lived for over 30 years), built a home in Santaquin, Utah, and moved there.

From October 1999 to March 2001, we served a mission to Sacramento, California. We spent the whole time in Stockton with beautiful people of Asian descent: Hmong, Cambodian, and Laotian.

Of the seven siblings in my family: Lynn, Dean, Doris, Bruce, me, Norma and Rhea, none of us thought Norma would be the first to depart this life, but she died in July of 1998 of ovarian cancer. Doris was killed in an automobile accident while Carl and I were on our mission on what I call the first tragic 9/11 for us—it was the year 2000.

We five siblings that were left felt the need to get together at least once a year, but with family weddings and funerals we have been able to make it more often.

Lynn died on November 14, 2016, and now in 2017 we are down to siblings numbering four: Dean, Bruce, Rhea, and me—Marie.

Yes, I am grateful to be a Seely and a Nelson, a Jones, etc., etc., but most of all I am grateful to be a daughter of my Heavenly Father. I'm sure His love sustained my earthly parents as they endured the trials of bearing and rearing seven children in times of depression and rumors of war, and I know that His love has sustained me and my family.