



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard

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For as long as I can remember, the Chronicle has published the addresses of missionaries and service people for its readers to use to send Christmas wishes. Certainly people far from home serving their country or their church welcome this connection at this festive time of year.

Personally, we have reason to keep in contact with two great nephews who are serving missions – one in Indiana and the other in Italy - and one step grandson who is in the Navy on board the USS Ronald Reagan, a supercarrier in the Pacific. We know these young men need our love and encouragement. May I share the letter we sent to one of them. Included is some family history which we think he will enjoy.

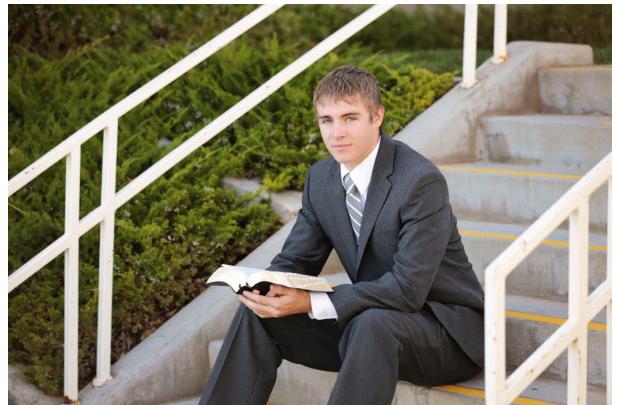
Ciao, Elder Shepard!

We're happy to be adding our letter to the things your mother is sending to Italy for your Christmas. It is such a great time of year to be in contact with family and friends.

Did you know you are only the third man in our family with the Shepard last name to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?

Shepard missionary Number Two was Billy. He served some 53 years ago in the East Central States Mission which was in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia. He spent most of his time in the back hills of West Virginia. He mentioned something once about not going on a foreign speaking mission, but when I first met him almost a year after his return, he still spoke fluent "hillbilly".

On April 6, 1855, at the General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, President Brigham Young called 27 elders to found a mission among the Indians of the Salmon River Country, Oregon Territory, with Thomas S. Smith in charge and George Washington Hill as their main Shoshonean language interpreter. One of those called that day was Shepard missionary #1, Isaac Shepard. The group traveled 380 miles in 22 days and arrived on June 15, 1855. The mission was named Fort Limhi for King Limhi who was one of the kings of the Book of Mormon. King



Limhi organized an expedition that lasted 22 days, the same duration it required the Mormon missionaries to reach the Salmon River Country. Consequently, they named their mission after King Limhi, and Limhi eventually became "Lemhi".

The missionaries made friends with the Indians, especially Chief Shoo-woo-koo and the missionaries taught them the message of the Gospel. In 1857, President Brigham Young visited the colony after which more missionaries and families were sent to strengthen the settlement. On February 25, 1858, the Lemhi Fort was attacked by Indians due to the influence of Johnston's Army encamped at Fort Bridger, and Fort Lemhi was abandoned in March 1858.

Fort Lemhi is located about two miles from present day Tendoy, Idaho, in the southeast part of the state, and is near birthplace of Sacajewea. All that remains is an adobe wall in a field.

One of those missionaries to the Salmon River Mission at Fort Lemhi was Isaac Shepard from Farmington, Utah. At the age of 50 he left his wife Eleanor Jane Davis Shepard and their three small children: Ephraim, age 6, and twins Joseph and Josephine age 4 to answer this mission call. Details of his life following that are not known. He died in 1869 in Austin, Nevada.



Isaac Shepard, who was Shepard missionary #1, was the father of Joseph Davis Shepard, who was the father of Willis Clair Shepard, who was the father of Joseph Clair Shepard and Billy Shepard, Joseph Clair was the father of Joseph Tim Shepard, who was the father of Shepard missionary number three, Joseph Wade Shepard.

We hope you have a great Christmas! Buon Natale!

Please remember those family members of yours who are far from home at this special time of year and share some family memories with them.