



Milo Andrus

Family Organization

Newsletter

**Spring
2009**

President's Message

It's a new year, a new look and there are new opportunities to connect with your Milo Andrus relatives. I probably sound like a broken record (for those of the iPod generation, you may need to have your parents or grandparents explain what a broken record sounds like), but I am always amazed to find new cousins that I did not know previously, and I am humbled by the responsibility of leading this organization.

New in this issue:

- ◆ **Laura Anderson's trip to Mormon Grove 2009**
- ◆ **De Lane Hyer's transcription of the Simkins wills**
- ◆ **Research Team's Family History Library meetings**
- ◆ **Connect on Facebook!**

In March of this year Laura Anderson travelled with a group of ladies doing research at Mormon Grove (Atchison, Kansas), and she has found some great new information. Be sure to read her full account here, and then go to miloandrus.org to link to the Atchison Globe newspaper article featuring her trip to

the area.

De Lane Hyer has done a marvelous job transcribing the Simkins wills. I found these very interesting as they give a glimpse into times past, and what these people felt was truly important. They will be of particular interest also to those in the Ann Brooks wife line, as these are the wills of Ann's father, uncle and paternal grandparents. You will also find an open invitation to participate with our research team in their weekly meetings at the Family History Library. For those who live outside the Salt Lake area, we don't want to exclude you from participating. We are looking at the possibility of conducting meetings over the internet with our research team. Be sure to check the box on the enclosed reply form if you are interested in participating from a remote location.

Have you heard of Facebook? It's the fastest growing social networking website on the internet. This year is my 40 year high school reunion, and I learned about it of all places by going on Facebook. I joined primarily because my brother told me there was an active group of Milo Andrus descendants there, and I was curious to see who was on it.

(Continued on next page)

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Need more info?
Go to www.miloandrus.org

President's message continued

We have 54 descendants of Milo Andrus currently connected on Facebook, and the site is also linked to our organization website. Anyone can join—it's free! Go to www.facebook.com and sign up. If you are already on Facebook, search for Milo Andrus descendants and join the group. Post photos, connect with your Andrus cousins and keep in touch. We also have a Facebook page for the Jane Munday wife line, and hope to have all the wife lines connected eventually. I believe this is a great way to get our younger generations more involved with the organization.

We are continuing to find new photos that have not been available before (see the 1880's photo of Milo recently posted to the website). Many of these photos have been sitting in boxes or old family albums

that have only recently been rediscovered. If you have any photos that you would be willing to share with the family, please let us know. These can be scanned and posted to our website and to Facebook, where they will be available to all of the family.

Our best wishes go out to Mark Andrus, our organization vice president, who underwent cancer surgery earlier this year. We miss you Mark, and wish you a full and speedy recovery.

My thanks go to all of you for your continued support of this organization. Whether it is financial contributions or hours donated, it is all very important to the success of this organization. May God bless each one of you.

-Brent M. Andrus

Research Report

Laura Anderson's Mormon Grove trip, March 25-31, 2009

Jolene Allphin was the organizer of this trip. She has written biographies of most of the pioneers on the Willie, Hunt, Hodgets, and Martin companies and is one of the most knowledgeable persons I know about the pioneers. She has wanted to go to Mormon Grove and experience the "Forgotten City", so when she called and asked me if I wanted to go, I jumped at the chance!

Each member of our group had their own interest in Mormon Grove. My interest was in Milo Andrus, and Mary Anderson who I am related to. Jolene's interest was in Maren Kjirstine Johansen's life history. Julie Rogers, an amazing painter who has won both church and national competitions, also felt close to Maren after she had painted Brigham Young holding 7-year-old Maren Kjirstine Johansen (see *Atchison Globe* article posted on miloandrus.org). Sheril Fowers is an expert on the Mormon Trail and specializes in leading trek groups. Dorene Pay Lloyd and Joanne Pay Baird are the last two in the group. These two delightful women are sisters-in-law of President Hinckley. They had ancestors who passed through Mormon Grove, as did Lisa and Sheril Fowers.

We were supposed to go to Mormon Grove on Saturday, but a huge storm came in and made that impossible. We rescheduled to Sunday after church, and we could not have asked for better weather. This was I believe the plan from the other side as Dea Yankee, the local specialist on Mormon Grove, could not have been there on Saturday.

We spent 6 hours with the local Historical Society people and a reporter from the *Atchison Globe* newspaper (article link is posted on miloandrus.org).

This research is in uncharted ground but as the *Globe* article indicated, I have gone from 7 when I started to 30 known burials in the Mormon Grove/Atchison area in 2005 (the 150th anniversary of the Mormon Grove exodus). The count is now close to 70, and if you took a 30 mile radius of Mormon Grove it would be more than 130 persons known to have died there that year (1855-56).

I Have been in touch with Melvin L. Bashore (Church History Department) who did a 10 page article with Fred E. Wood (BYU) for the *Kansas Historical Society*. He shared his "Mormon Grove" research with me and I will share mine with him in the near future.

I do believe that when you become dedicated to something the Lord opens a way for you to accomplish the things that you set your heart on. This trip was one of these times. This group of women know a lot of people who can help me to tell both Milo's story and the story of those who passed through Mormon Grove in 1855 and 1856.

A journal has been recently donated to the Church of a grave digger at Mormon Grove. His information is not yet available to us as the Church History Museum is in flux at the moment with their move, but this is another answer to my prayers for more information on these persons!

-Laura

For additional information and a link to the complete Atchison Globe article, go to miloandrus.org.

Get involved!

***Contact our research team or
your wife line representative
today!***

De Lane Hyer's transcription project

I have been working on the transcriptions of the four wills we found this past year; that of Edmund Simkins and Mary Simkins—his wife, and the respective wills of James Simkins and his brother William Simkins, sons of Edmund and Mary, which you will find copies of the transcriptions as well as copies of the original wills of Edmund, James and William at:

http://miloandrus.typepad.com/the_milo_andrus_family_or/2009/04/the-wills-of-ann-brooks-father-uncle-grandfather-and-grandmother.html

(You can also find the link by going directly to miloandrus.org).

We have found sufficient proof that the father of Mary Ann Brooks, James Simpkins Brooks and Ann Brooks was James Simkins, a Butcher.

In addition, we found a codicil attached at the end of Edmunds will dated the 30 of Apr 1849, it was part of Elizabeth's effort to claim her inheritance. She signed it "Elizabeth Simkins Widow". It is the only place we

can find where she calls herself Elizabeth Simkins, or indicates she was married. This should clear up any questions about the relationship between Elizabeth Brooks and James Simkins. The English research specialist we talked to told us that at that time a marriage could be performed between couples just by them declaring it so between themselves, without any witnesses. He said if this happened between James and Elizabeth it could be for various reasons such as families' relationships/feuds etc., or they had a common law marriage. We have located a descendant of Elizabeth's son, James Simpkins Brooks, who we are hoping will do a DNA test for us; so that we can have irrefutable proof that James Simkins and Elizabeth Brooks had children together. We are currently looking for a descendant from Edmund Simkins in England to do a DNA test. This will help us greatly in solving this very intriguing genealogical mystery and confirm that we have indeed unraveled the hidden truths concealed so many years ago by the family when they switched the last name of Elizabeth and James. (For example in the death record of Ann Brooks her son, Orson stated that Ann's father was James Brooks and her mother was Elizabeth Simpkins a complete flip of their last names.)

—De Lane Andrus Hyer

Connect on Facebook!

If you are already on Facebook, search for the Milo Andrus descendants page and join in!

To sign up for your own Facebook account, go to www.facebook.com and get signed up. Then join the Milo Andrus group.

If your wife line is not currently represented, contact your wife line representative and have them set up a wife line page.

It's easy, it's free, and it is fun!

(be sure to keep checking for what's new at miloandrus.org!)

Come join us!

Who: the Research Team

**Where: Family History Library
35 North West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT**

(English floor just outside the "Special Collections" door)

When: Thursdays starting at 10:00 am

(We will meet every Thursday through May—summer schedule is flexible—please call ahead to confirm meeting schedule)

Who to call:

Laura Anderson—801-898-9085

De Lane Hyer—801-426-5003

Ray Andrus—801-492-7985

All experience levels (including no experience) welcome!

Current projects include Jane Munday and Ann Brooks research. Be sure your wife line is represented!

Milo Andrus Family Organization Reply Form

- Please list me as a dues-paying member of the Milo Andrus Family Organization, accepting my dues of \$25.00 (for 2009 dues).
- Please accept my contribution of _____ for ancestry research work. Please send me a receipt so I can keep track of this donation for tax purposes to the address below.
- For future newsletter mailings, I want to help cut print and mailing costs. Please send me an electronic version to the email address below.
- I am interested in getting involved in general research for the organization.
- I am interested in assisting my wife-line representative in family research.
- I live outside the Salt Lake area, but would like to participate in research through the internet.
- I am interested in learning about charitable remainder trusts and other ways I can contribute a significant sum to the organization.
- I would like to discuss major contributions with an officer of the organization.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail address _____

I descend from this wife of Milo Andrus _____

Choose any one of the items below (free with 2009 dues)

Photo CD that was shown at the reunion (2007).

Milo Andrus and his wives play (presented at the reunion) DVD.

Andrus Recorder CD (released in 2004)

Milo Andrus, His wives and children CD (released in 2003)

You may order additional copies of any CD/DVD for \$10.00 each. Please indicate additional items desired and enclose your check with this form

Mail form to:
Donald R. Andrus, Treasurer
Milo Andrus Family Organization
540 West Kim Drive
Perry, UT 84302

Make your contributions online using our PayPal account at www.miloandrus.org

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