

Dear Cousins Wilmer and Minnie Phelps: 1-25-84

I am enclosing a sketch and some Phelps histories that I thought you might be interested in. Most of this represents the family of Hyrum S. Phelps who came to Mesa in January of 1879. You are probably acquainted with some of this information but there is undoubtedly a lot of it that you don't know about - and probably don't care too much about - but I wanted it to be available to you if you were interested. We really enjoyed our trip to your country and meeting you folks and we hope to get up to that area again sometime. Hope you will let us in the house when we come.

I have been thinking a little more about the General Authorities of the church and their contribution to the Church in various ways. In the first place I would hate to have to follow them around the country and be away from home as much as they have to be. Many of them were of very ordinary means when they were called into their high positions and some of them were wealthy. I have been in the homes of two of them - Elder Delbert L. Stapley and President Romney. Neither of these homes were more spacious or more comfortable than your home which, of course, is very nice. I am sure that they would not begin to compare with the description you gave of your son's home. When Brother Stapley was in his calling, the Stapley company which was established by his father here in Mesa in about 1895, was furnishing Brother Stapley with \$25,000 per year. Before President Moyle died, he made the arrangements on a personal basis for the 316,000 acres of land that the Church owns in Florida and then turned the property over to the Church. Before he died, he set his boys up in business and turned the balance of all his wealth over to the Church. Another of them gained a considerable amount of wealth by his personal investment in the "hoola hoop", which seems kinda strange but no different than a lot of other people have done. At one time, President Harold B. Lee was a Bible salesman and then was elected or chosen to positions in government and industry. My understanding is that the brethren receive allowances to meet their needs and it has been stated and testified to over and over again that none of their needs are met from the tithing funds of the Church. I am sure that the General Authorities have given a lot more to the Church than they have ever received from it. It is obvious that the monies are spent judiciously or we wouldn't be able to build temples all over the world and take care of them. And also build and take care of our chapels. One of our ward members came back from Chile about 3 months ago. He said they built 85 chapels last year and were building 85 more this year. They are coming into the church there at the rate of 2000 per month. He is a friend of mine and incidentally is an auditor for the church and he is paid nothing. It is a missionary call. I am grateful for these men and all that they do for us, and I am sure that you are too.

I know of the many stories about the Prophet Brigham Young and when I think of the obligation he accepted out on the plains of Iowa where my Grandmother was born, when he promised the 500 men of the Mormon battalion that their families would share with anything that he and

his family had while they were gone, I believe it told just what kind of a man he was. He is recognized as one of the great colonizers of the west and rightly so. When there are stories told about him I get the same feeling that I got when someone said that "Joe's Gap" was the place where my grandfather's brother hid his stolen cattle. You and I know why it was called Joe's gap. It was a sanctuary that freed him from persecution. My grandfather down here spent 3 months in the old jail at Yuma for his participation in that way of life and the Judge had tears in his eyes when he sentenced him. They were great men.

I am grateful for my heritage and I am sure you folks are too. I am mighty proud to have you and the other Phelps's as my relatives. Life has not always been easy and the Lord never promised it would be but I am grateful for the Church and the help it has been to me and to my family.

We look forward to the time when we can see you folks again either up there or down here. Your hospitality was much appreciated. I remembered that you had a lot of wood prepared there. From what I understand, you might have used some of it this winter. But down here, of course, we have a summer coming up that we will be sweating out.

Love and regards,
