

## Reunion Notes SHELLEY FAMILY REUNION

*Author: Unknown*

*Transcription:: Chad Glen Nichols, 31 Oct 2004*

The semi-annual reunion of the Shelley family was held Friday, February 15, in the basement of the tabernacle. Considered from every angle it was a splendid success, there being present more than three hundred members of the family and invited guests. The main feature of the entertainment was the highly enjoyed program which was as follows:

Community Singing---"O, Ye Mountains High."

Prayer---Bishop Earl S. Greenwood.

Speech of Welcome---Leo T. Shelley.

Vocal Solo---Ray Shelley.

Reading---Charlotte Binch.

Instrumental Music---Mary Wild.

Reading---Mary Abel.

Vocal Solo---Mrs. Mary Shelley.

Reading---Mada Shelley.

A biographical sketch of the Shelley family---George F. Shelley

A story relating how Mary Bathgate became Grandfather Shelley's housekeeper was interestingly told by John Hunter. This was followed by the enactment of a scene depicting the proposal of marriage and the marriage ceremony of the two. Mary E. Abel and William Hunter playing the roles of bride and groom while John Hunter impersonated the officiating Bishop Harrington who performed the ceremony. Following the marriage ceremony a grand march was led by Grandfather and Grandmother Shelley.

*Note - Included in the original Reunion Notes in this section were the complete texts of "Biographical Sketch of James Boyer Shelley" and "Short History of Alice Jane Shelley Campbell." They are NOT included here. However, below is a partial transcription of a newspaper article highlighting the family reunion (unknown source). Page one of the article is missing. The original page two of the article is in the possession of Carma Roberts Cornell:*

### SHELLEY FAMILY HOLDS REUNION (Continued from page 1)

father and Grandmother Shelley with their sons, William, Thomas, James, John and Joseph, and their daughter Sarah, together with the wife of Thomas and the wife and four children of William, set sail on the ship Ellen Maria and after a voyage of several weeks landed at New Orleans, April 5, 1851. Within a few days the party proceeded by steamer up the Mississippi River. When near Memphis Tenn. On April 13<sup>th</sup> Grandmother Shelley was drowned while attempting to draw a bucket of water from the swift and turbulent stream.

Upon reaching St. Louis, the Shelley family, with the exception of William and his wife and children, started across the plains by team for the abode of the Saints in the Rocky Mountains, where they arrived on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 1851. William and his family came west the following year. In the fall of 1851 Grandfather Shelley and a portion of the family moved down to American Fork, being among the earliest settlers of what was then known as Lake city. Other members came a year or so later and American Fork became the home of the Shelley family who have been associated with the upbuilding and growth of the community, its civil, social and spiritual life.

Grandfather Shelley took a later companion in life, Mary Bathgate, being married December 21, 1856.

He died at American Fork, November 19, 1870, in his 79<sup>th</sup> year.

The writer remembers the old home just cross the creek in the street west of the Nielsen Blacksmith Shops, in the vicinity of which was the old saw pit, where muscle and energy converted, by hand, timber into lumber for the use of the people.

The direct descendants have all passed to the other shore, having died at the following ages: William 57, Martha 55, John 72, James 79, Thomas 82, Joseph 94, Sarah 75.