

My Grandfather Jensen

Reflections about Junius Charles Jensen by by his Grandson Robert Junius¹ Burnside

INTRODUCTION

I grew up in the shadow of my Grandfather Jensen—figuratively and physically. My family came to live with my grandparents in 1947, the year I started first grade. My family² came to help my Jensen grandparents run the Hotel La Moyne in Burley ID. My grandfather Jensen was 70 years old that year. Therefore, my grandfather had already spent a life time of living before I really got to know him.

I wish I had paid more attention to the goings on and stories that were told to pass on in this prose, but I didn't, so you get what you get. I have some help from missives written by some of his children which I will use liberally!



JC Jensen around 1930s

JUNIUS CHARLES JENSEN

Grandpa³ was born 21 January 1877 in Preston, Franklin, ID. His name is Junius Charles Jensen but quite often by all those around him you would hear him referred to JC except, of course, Grandma who

¹ Guess where my middle name came from. Junius was a popular name in the 1800's and early 1900s.

² My family consisted of my dad, mom and me. It was easier for my folks to move to help my grandparents than any of the other children.

³ It is grandpa not grandfather to me.

called him June. He was the third son and fifth child in his family.⁴ His father, David Jensen and mother, Julia Constance Peterson, were both born in Norway⁵ and emigrated to the USA. They both were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. David and Julia married in UT in the endowment house on 18 November 1868.

David was a polygamist and Julia was second wife. His first wife was Berthe Sorena Petersen born in the Oslo area. They were married in Olso on 20 August 1859 and sealed in the Endowment house 23 November 1868. They had eleven children. Julia and Berthe were sisters where Julia was about 10 years younger than Berthe.

Berthe joined the Church in 1862 and Julia in 1863. When they came to America I am not sure. It was well before David's marriage to Julia in the Endowment house in 1868.

In his later years he married a Leanore Agnete Arnesen on 29 September 1897 in the Logan Temple. They had two children.

Grandpa had a lot of siblings to play and work with.



Remains of JC Jensen's Birth Home

David and Julia had the 18th homestead registered in the state of ID.⁶ The homestead was between one and two miles northeast of Preston, Franklin, ID on what was called Worm Creek Flat. A two room log house with a dirt roof sheltered the family; the log chinked walls largely hand made; hand made candles lighted the house nightly. Perhaps by 1877 the floor in the house was no longer dirt. Even though the logs were rough and everything in the house was hand made it still was home. And what a wonderful home it was that Junius came to live in! It was a home filled with love and understanding one another; a home where the principles of the Golden Rule were taught and practiced.

A log school house had been completed on the crest of the Creamery Hallow by the time Junius was ready for school. A monument was erected a few years ago to mark the site of the school. The log school house served the dual purpose of school and church. Other schooling came from attending the Oneida Stake Academy just across the street and the Brigham Young College at Logan.⁷

David was a farmer so his large polygamist family grew up doing farming. I am sure that life was hard as Grandpa grew up and he learned to work hard in those trying times. One of the telling facts of how hard of life it was is the number of his siblings who did not reach adulthood. Three or four of David

⁴ JC's siblings in order of birth: Samuel David, Peter Simon, Christina (twin), Annie (twin), JC, Nettie, Jeremiah, Bertha Rosella, Arthur Parley, Wilford Leo, Elmer Leonidas, and Edith. Annie, Nettie, Jeremiah, and Edith all died before reaching the age of one. Bertha and Arthur died before the age of eight.

⁵ East Toten and Oslo respectively.

⁶ Idaho first permanent settlement was only 17 full years old when David and Julia started homesteading.

⁷ From Grandpa's obituary by David Jensen.

and Berthe's children also died well before adulthood.

Grandpa had all of the character traits that are depicted in novels and movies from growing up in the west in those days. He was honest, loyal, helped others, worked hard, and loved his family. He was "true blue thru and thru" Mormon. He read a lot but of course in latter years he spent most of his time reading in the scriptures.

When Grandpa reached adulthood he was a big man at 6 foot 4 inches tall. He had dark hair until it turned grey. Although it thinned, he had hair until he died—if I only could have inherited that gene.



JC Jensen in 1891

He wore glasses in his later years but his eyesight was excellent. He carried some extra pounds as he aged but he never looked fat. I made him a belt in a shop⁸ class in high school at 52 inches. Grandpa always dressed in dress pants, dress shirt, and tie. This was his every day attire. I never ever remember seeing him wear a sport shirt or jeans. He of course would wear a suit to church or the temple. His clothes always fit him. He never wore clothes that were too tight or small—no "beer belly" like you see today. His pants always fit around his waist. This is one reason that Grandpa looked big but never fat. I don't think his weight changed at all while I was growing up.

His youngest daughter, LaMoyne, wrote the following stories he told her about some experiences in his youth that helped form his character:

He told me that as a child he never had time for 'play' and he never wanted to play after the day he was herding cows when he found some clay which he fashioned into marbles. He was busy playing marbles and forgot the cows and they got into the corn. He did not recall harsh treatment for this misdemeanor but any displeasure from his mother was powerful enough to make him see the need of a change. As father went to bed that night he was still feeling remorseful that he had been playing instead of watching the cows. His prayer was to promise the Lord that never again would he play, he would spend his time working. I remember a time we persuaded him to attend a baseball game. During the game once of the players was hurt on the leg from a thrown ball. My father's empathy was so strong for that man that when he stood to leave the ball park, father had a searing pain come in his leg. The pain served to remind him of the promise he had made to the Lord. Father lived at the time of the fame of babe Ruth and the other greats from the world of sports but they never did captivate his mind.

I can't forget the poignant story of young Junius walking to the store in Franklin to sell butter or eggs and he purchased a small piece of cheese with a few pennies of the profit to be used as a gift for his mother. On home it was hot and dusty and along those weary fifteen miles he took small crumbs from the cheese and ate them. By the time he reached nearly home he realized he had reduced the size of the cheese so alarmingly he thought he couldn't give it as a gift so he finished the cheese, but it stayed with him all of his life as he developed a selfless nature.

⁸ Note: Me and a shop class is a oxymoron.

In 1933 in his own words he describes to my mother, Anna, what he did and how he got his testimony of the Restored Gospel at age sixteen:

"When I was about sixteen years old my Brother Peter had just returned from a mission to Norway and while he and I worked together one afternoon he said to me, 'Junius, can you say that you know the gospel to be true? Do you feel that the Lord has blessed you with the personal knowledge? If you have not that testimony I promise you if you will ask the Lord in prayer faith not wavering, you will be given a testimony so you will know for yourself.' I told him I couldn't say that I knew the gospel was true but had faith that it was. As the hours wore away that afternoon that promise by my brother impressed me more and more until when it came time for going to bed. I was sleeping alone. I knelt by my bed and asked the Lord in faith believing that my prayer would be answered to show me if the church was true that I might have a personal testimony regarding the same. When I laid on my bed the room appeared to become light and a voice spoke to me telling me that the Gospel was true, that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and that Jesus is the Christ and if I would be faithful always paying my tithing and doing my duties as a member of the church this testimony would always remain with me. . . . "

He was faithful and committed all of his years to living the Gospel as he understood it. Aunt LaMoyné further recorded this experience that Grandpa had that shows his fierce commitment to live the Gospel as best he could and that he would listen to the spirit of the Lord for guidance:

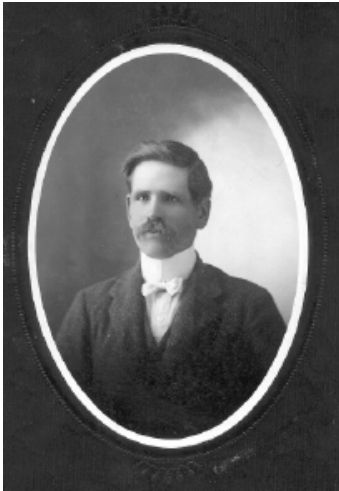
Father told me that as he went to leave home the first time to go and seek work his mother said, "Junius, I know you are a clean boy, now see to it you return home clean." He went in town and got situated in a job and one night he wanted to mingle with people before he retired so he walked down town and as he approached the tavern he could see someone he knew and he thought to enter. About that time the town drunk, called "_____ Jack", was thrown outside and he landed about at my father's feet. My father said he then heard a voice warn him that if he did enter that building he would end up like this man at his feet. He said it wasn't hard to turn and return to his bed to thank the Lord for the help he had been given.

Another experience recorded about Grandpa and his ability to work hard:

When he was older, his first job away from home was to help mother's Uncle Joseph Golightly with his summer farm work, for which he was paid his room and board and, believe \$12 a month. His room was an open shed and when it rained he moved into the crowded granary. They would begin harnessing the horses before the sun was up and worked until it was dark. A neighbor lady said "That she saw him prop a book onto the 'handle of the plough so he could read as he ploughed." She called to him and said, "Joe Golightly will never tolerate to have you waste time like that. He is a hard worker and he expects everybody else to be that Way too." A few days later this neighbor lady heard Joe Golightly yelling, "Hey, You long legged Dabishman slow down. Do you think I want you to kill my team off?!"

When Grandpa reached missionary age he went on a mission for the Church. He was called to Wisconsin but he also spent time around Independence MO where the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had and still have their headquarters.⁹ He was in Kansas City also. He enjoyed his time spreading the Restored Gospel word. He had many spiritual experiences during his mission. He had some miraculous healings. It meant very much to JC to spend time working for the Lord.

⁹ The Reorganized Church changed its name to Community of Saints in the past two years but is still headquartered in Independence MO.



*JC Jensen Missionary
Picture*

He was ordained an Elder January 15, 1899 by George C. Parkinson and about a month later ordained a Seventy in February 1899 by George Teasdel. I believe he served his mission as a seventy which was how the missionary's were ordained for the work in those days.

Grandpa did know a lady by the name of Sylvia E. Low who lived in Smithfield [UT], before he left on his mission, since he wrote a rather long letter to her while on his mission about why the Reorganized Church was not the Lord's true church. This was about 1900. The letter is in the appendix. There may have been other letters but I have no record of them. How he came to meet her or other particulars of their time together is left to our conjecture—unfortunately!

It did not take Grandpa long after he got home to court and then marry Sylvia Euphemia Low who was born 11 December, 1877, in Smithfield, Cache, UT.¹⁰ They were married on 18 June 1902¹¹ in the Logan Temple. Then began the odyssey that I and all of my cousins are the result of. I cannot over emphasize the closeness that June and Sylvia had with each other. I of course viewed it after nearly 50 years of marriage together but it was real and they created it over their life together!

Grandpa did write to Sylvia's father, who was living in Canada at the time, for his daughter's hand in marriage. We do not have Grandpa's letter to Sylvester Low, but we do have the letter Sylvester sent back to Grandpa giving his permission to marry Sylvia. (Guess where Sylvia's name came from!)



Jensen Wedding Picture

Their family came as listed below:

Lowell Charles Jensen born 11 April 1903 in Preston, Franklin, ID. He married Grace Eveline Anderson in 2 June 1926 in New Sweden, Bonneville, ID. They were sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple in 1951. They had four children, three boys and one girl—the last two boys were twins. Lowell worked¹² for the Oregon Highway Department and died 11 June 1972 in Portland, OR.

Peter Low Jensen born 6 January 1905 in Preston, Franklin, ID. He first married Edna Harris on 3 July 1929. They had one son. He later married Flow Arney on 23 Jan 1947. They had three children, one son and two daughters. Peter was a Pharmacist and run a drugstore in Stanwood WA. He died 24 April 1971 in Stanwood. He was one of my favorite Uncles. He always spent time talking to me even as a boy and he knew so much about all kinds of things like firearms, photography, etc. He was the photo taker for the family when they got together. Sad time when he died for

me.

¹⁰ Note: Grandma came also from a polygamist family too. Her experience was not very good as her father took the younger wife & family and moved to Canada and left Sylvia's mother & family in the US to essentially take care of themselves.

¹¹ I can't resist to note since I am writing this that June 18 is also my birthday.

¹² I believe he was an engineer.

Della Jensen born 3 February 1907 in Preston, Franklin, ID. She passed away on 23 October 1918 in the flu epidemic.



Jensen Family in Preston (1925 ish)

married Robert Burnside on 13 May 1937 in the Idaho Falls Temple. They had two children, the first was stillborn, the other was me. She passed away on 15 May 1987 in Richland, Benton, WA while visiting us. The folks lived in Burley, Cassia, ID for most of their married life.

Junius Low Jensen born 30 June 1915 in Preston, Franklin, ID. He married Margaretha Maria Boettcher in Pocatello, Bannock, ID on 9 January 1933. They were sealed in 1951 in the Idaho Falls Temple. They had three children, one boy and two girls. He was a Pharmacist and ran a drugstore in Olympia, WA. He passed away on 5 July 1988 in Olympia, WA.



Jensen Family in Burley (1945 ish)

Bessie Jensen born 5 April 1910 in Preston, Franklin, ID. She married James A Criddle on 1 June 1937 in the Salt Lake Temple. Uncle James had been married before and had three boys but his first had an illness and passed away. Bessie had five children, three girls and two boys. She passed away 26 October 1962 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, UT. Two of her daughters, Carol and Jean just older and younger than I was became the sisters I never had. We visited them often as they lived in Downey, ID which was within a days round trip drive for us from Burley. Mom became very close to Bessie. Uncle James was another favorite uncle and aunt Bessie was a favorite aunt.

Anna Jensen born 13 May 1912 in Preston, Franklin, ID. She married Robert Burnside on 13 May 1937 in the Idaho Falls Temple. They had two children, the first was stillborn, the other was me. She passed away on 15 May 1987 in Richland, Benton, WA while visiting us. The folks lived in Burley, Cassia, ID for most of their married life.

La Moyne Jensen born 3 November 1919 in Preston, Franklin, ID. She married James L Barrus 16 August 1941 in Glens Ferry, ID. They were sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple in 1944. They had nine children, five girls and four boys. The “other” Uncle James was a teacher at University of Idaho in Moscow, ID. She passed away 7 December 1983 in Moscow, ID. She was a grand lady. She took care of me right after I was born as my mother was a long time in the hospital recovering. She lived with my grandparents after they moved to Burley, ID in 1937 before she was married.

Grandpa and Grandma had seven children and 29 grandchildren¹³ and many great and great-great grandchildren. I do not have good genealogy records about the children of the children and so on to indicate the size of the descendants of these two marvelous people at this time but it is a large number.

Almost every family with girls, had at least one with the name of Sylvia—first or middle name. That shows the impact that Grandpa’s wife had on the family. He chose well, oh so well.¹⁴ Jean Densley (Criddle) remembers, Grandpa Jensen would sit in his overstuffed chair and tell you; “See that little woman over there? If I searched the whole world over, I’d still marry that little woman over there.” He always told this to family—and most people he got to know in the lobby too! He was always solicitous of Grandma.

¹³ This includes Bessie’s step children who they loved just like any of the other grandchildren.

¹⁴ This was done for the same reason that Helaman named his sons after Lehi and Nephi. Sylvia did have a legacy of faith, love, prayer and commitment to the Gospel to pass on to her name sakes.

Grandpa was evenly tempered as I remember him. He didn't get to emotionally upset or every emotionally depressed. He didn't yell or anything like that I remember—unintentionally I am sure I tried his patience when I joined the family in Burley, he being 70 and me 7.¹⁵ Two experiences to show even temper. The first is one that La Moyne had while learning to drive the other I had as a young driver. As you will see Grandpa was the master of understatement.

His gentle nature led him to raise his children by the maxim, "You can't catch a fly with vinegar Mother, you have to use honey." I [La Moyne] remember the day I learned to drive the car. He was supposed to go someplace to the north and he said, "You see if you can drive today." I got along beautifully until I came to a right angle turn in the town of Clifton. I was going too fast to make the turn and drove down onto a lawn and around a tree and back onto the road, never slowing down until I was back on the road and then father just said, "By George, do you think you learned anything from that?"

Storey 2

I [RJ Burnside] was a young driver and was able to get a license in ID at fourteen. I had been driving for a couple of years when my grandparents, Mom and I went for a visit to Downey to see Bessie's family. I was allowed to drive. On our way home, it was raining hard and we only had two lane roads in those days not the nice interstate that courses through Inkom now. We had been following a slow tanker truck which was spraying the road with water in every direction. I could not see around the truck because of the spray. Having followed the truck for quite a ways at slow speed I attempted to pass. Of course there was a car coming I could not see and by the skin of the car I passed and got in front of the truck. I was shaking and Mom was white as a sheet. Grandpa then says: "My, the car runs really well." Of course he did not say much about the driver.

Grandpa had two loves: Work and Church or Church and Work. Take your pick, he enjoyed both very much. Until he bought the hotel, the family lived in Preston. A sampling of his activities in the church is as follows:

- *A missionary to Wisconsin*
- *First and second Councilor* Preston Second Ward Bishopric. He was not married when chosen as the second counselor.
- *Stake High Council Member* He was set apart as High Councilor in Oneida Stake March 5, 1916 by Apostle George F. Richards. He served as a member of the High Council in Oneida and Franklin Stakes from March 15, 1916 to July 1937 when he moved to Burley, Burley Stake, Idaho.
- *President of Stake Religion Class* He taught classes and was chairman of the genealogy committee
- *Stake Missionary* He was called as a stake missionary, during which time he allowed himself only a minimum number of hours to be devoted to making a living and the rest of the time he was engaged in missionary work coming home to sleep and eat but he did not allow himself any free time around home.
- *And many others we can't enumerate.*

¹⁵ I know I gave Grandma a few gray hairs.

His ability to persuade his fellow man into action was excelled by few if any. Therefore, he found joy and happiness pursuing a sales activity as a livelihood. Through the years his time was spent in many diverse activities as shown in the following list:

- *General Farm Work*
- *Lumber Man in the canyon around Preston*
- *School Teacher in East Preston*
- *Managed the Cache Valley Implement Co.*
- *Real Estate Dealer*
- *Insurance and Load Agent*
- *Field Inspector for Federal Seed loan*
- *Land Appraiser*
- *Reader in the State Legislature for several terms*
- *State Representative to the Legislature for Franklin County*
- *Member of the Burley City council*
- *Owner and operator of La Moyne Hotel (Burley)*



Jensen Preston Home

Grandpa lived in Preston all his life until the move to Burley in 1937. As you can tell from the above list he worked hard. They were not rich but did well enough. Mom indicated that they had one of the first cars in Preston and usually Grandpa bought Grandma the latest in appliances as they came available in town.

Grandpa was very intelligent. He read a lot and always tried to improve himself. He was a good teacher and had lots of patience.

Grandpa was active in the communities he lived in— both Preston and Burley. He was very friendly and would listen to anyone with problems.

I do not know what financial things happened as Grandpa reached 60 but he had some real concerns about what they would live on. I will let La Moyne tell the story about the move to Burley and buying the hotel as she got it from Grandpa and wrote it down.

I asked him how he came to buy the hotel and this is what I remember he said. Anna also remembers him saying: “I was worried about money for us to live on. Everywhere I turned seemed to be wrong so I concluded to fast and pray for help. I told your mother I wanted to spend the day in the Logan Temple. I prepared myself

as well as I could and went to Logan and was speaking (the speaker) and as he said, There is someone in the audience who is worried about money. He does not know where to turn, and I say to him that because of his faithfulness he has no need to worry all will be well with him." As this was said, my father recalled he received a sweet welling in his breast and he knew his prayers had been answered. He said he went to Salt Lake and walked into the Beneficial Life Insurance office and the man there told him about the hotel and we talked it over and I agreed to take it. When I told your mother about it she said, "We don't know anything about running a hotel." I said not to worry everything would be alright. Mother had somehow managed to save \$500 from the meager amount we had been living on. I went back to Salt Lake and we signed the papers and as you know we moved to Burley and left you there while we went back to Preston to close out the home there."

My brother Peter was with Dad through all this time and he gave me this account of how he observed this happening. "You know J.C. had bleeding ulcers from worry and had been so affected for one year. I was traveling the mountains for Sharpe and Dolme. The three nights I worked Cache Valley I stayed in Preston and paid them board. Dad got the idea as long as I was going to Logan [he would attend the temple] and back he and a few others would ride down and back even though it entailed going two hours early and waiting till close to 10 P. M. Of course I got well acquainted with the druggist in Logan. Dad finished all the names available to him so the temple authorities gave him a part in the temple ordinance. There were three sessions per day and he had a lot of time for thinking and prayer. In his prayers he asked for guidance for he and mother in making a living. One time we were going home he asked when I was going to Salt Lake City. My schedule called for me to be in Salt Lake City the following Monday and he requested passage down. I took him and parked on South Temple in the middle of the block and told him I would meet him at the Brigham Young monument at 12 o'clock. He was there. He had been across the street talking to the man in the Beneficial Life Insurance Company. He told Dad they had to foreclose on a hotel in Burley, Idaho, and wanted Dad to dispose of it for them. I had had a successful morning on detailing and had finished the required amount for three days ahead. So I turned the car north and a little west. We got there and sent over with a fine tooth comb in examining it. Going home about at Snowville he came out of a light sleep and stated, 'I am going to buy that hotel for Sylvia and myself. I thought he was out on a long limb so went along with him and took him to Preston where he informed Mother of his intentions. She was dubious, but told him she could not see any more money for a down payment than \$500. That was the total amount all of us could scrape up. Naturally he wanted to go to Salt Lake City promptly so I delivered him in Salt Lake City the next A.M. and he took off like a scared rabbit and I followed. The first thing he went to the Beneficial Life Insurance Company and stated his intentions. On the tail end of some pointed questions he said he would go along if the two other people connected with the foreclosure would. The second man gave in after about an hour of haggeling. The third man in the Sun Life Insurance company really went berserk (crazy like) for a couple of hours and said he couldn't see turning a hotel over to two older people also couldn't see signing over the bottom stores returns to Dad and Mom all with a measly \$500 down. Dad was very confident he was going to purchase the property. I had kept quiet and chimed in and said, "If the rent bothers you we will write a contract paying the stores rent directly to you to apply on the principle of the contract."

He calmed down some and asked Dad if he were in agreement and Dad said "Yes'. He then brought up Dad and Sylvia's ages and I said, "I and Edna would sign'. Dad again said yes. He went in the next room and called the two other people on the phone and they said they would go along with the deal. He came back and said, "I am the _____st fool ever was and the other two had recommended the \$500 be used for needed supplies."

Eight years later I asked J. C. how he was so sure he could purchase the hotel. He said on the day he wanted to go to Salt Lake he had experienced a strong feeling to go to Salt Lake City. When I parked where I did he had the same feeling to cross the street to the Beneficial office. While at Burley he was intending to sell the place for them. Coming back he seemed partly asleep passing Stravell, and made his declaration 50 miles further on. He said that the feeling was so strong within him he was sure in his own mind that things would

work out."



Hotel La Moyne in Burley ID

So now Grandpa and his wife are in Burley in 1937. Move 10 years later and my family comes and joins them in the hotel to help manage it. We are now a family of five. Dad made an apartment for us in the back area of the hotel off from the kitchen so we were all cosy. The apartment for my grandparents was already finished. This apartment was like a long hall so you moved from one room to the other. The kitchen was at the end of the "hall."

The hotel had 36 rooms—oops 35 since there was no room 13. All the rooms were on the second floor. There were business store fronts along the street that were part of the hotel—they paid rent. Most of the hotel guests

were traveling salesmen, truck drivers, and laborers who came to work in Burley. The hotel was a working man's type hotel—no five stars for us! The hotel phone number was 97 and we had to use an operator to make phone calls. By the end of the 1950s we were like everyone else and had dial phones..

Christmas' were fun and I get my grandparents up early every Christmas, and they get up and join us in the early hours. We had family home evenings all the time too. The enjoyed me playing the accordion—that took love I will tell you!



Hotel Kitchen with Jensen 50th Anniversary Cake

Grandpa just loved milk and ice cream. We always had both. I liked ice cream with him but not the milk. When I first got there we had milk delivered to the back door of the kitchen which opened onto an alley. They were half gallon glass bottles with cardboard caps. Grandpa would drink out of the bottle and Grandma didn't like that. He always did it and she caught him about a third of the time. Looking back on it now it seems that it was one of those activities that couples develop and then continue to do together. By the end of the 1950s we got our milk from the grocery store rather than delivery by a milk man.

Grandpa worshiped his wife. She was more important than life itself to him I believe. Grandma ran the books for the hotel until my folks bought the hotel. Grandma was good with the books and her scotch blood was very strong.



Jensen's at 50th Anniversary

By their 50th wedding anniversary in 1952 Grandpa was 75. He could tend the desk during the day but not much else. He would sit in the lobby by the hour and talk to anyone of the guests who would want to stop by. He talked the church to everyone who dared come in the front door. Always the salesman for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And people always stopped and talked and listened with him. No one that I ever knew about was upset with him talking the Gospel with them. In fact after he died, people would stop and ask where JC or the old man was, they missed him and his friendliness. We worried he was bothering guests but he was not.

Grandpa and Grandma's children threw a 50th Anniversary party for them. Everyone and most grandchildren were there. It was a fitting memorial for them.

Neither my folks or my grandparents lived lavishly. They had what they needed and were content. Both of my Grandparents supported from 2 to 4 Mexican missionaries over many years from profits from the hotel. Again from Aunt La Moyne's writeup is the description of this activity:

They [JC and Sylvia] were at conference and were approached by one of the authorities of the Mexican mission to give financial aid." I asked James Criddle to write down what he knew about this participation and he sent the following: "I only know that your father and mother kept from two to four missionaries in the field for a number of years. I also heard your father say that he had been informed that their labors there had seen enough converts come into the church to form a good sized ward. I [Aunt La Moyne] was living at home at this time and knew the joy that came to them to be able to participate in this way: Father said many times that he felt that the Lord had directed him to the hotel and he felt it was his responsibility to use the money that came from it in doing the Lord's work. I'm sure they did not live extravagantly and gave the Lord the credit for their success and were constantly looking for ways to repay Him. They made contribution to the of the Idaho Falls Temple and gave generously to their children to assist them in becoming established..

I remember the notes, cards, marriage announcements and birth of children that these missionaries sent to them who they had supported.¹⁶ It pleased them so much. They eventually took a trip to Mexico to visit and also stopped off in Arizona. It was a long trip and they went by bus. We did not have airplanes then. It was an exhausting trip but very enjoyable for them. Finally the hotel business was impacted by motels being built in Burley and they had to stop supporting those missionaries. I know they wanted to continue to help but finances would not let them. May we in our opulence today have a tinge of conscience to share our resources that God gives us with the less fortunate!

The first time I remember Grandpa, was when he visited us in Odgen, UT during the war. I was 4 or 5 and I remember this big guy talking to me. He bought me my first bike. Just my size and it used a belt instead of a chain to drive the wheel. I loved that bike.

In those years I was at the hotel, Grandpa and grandma traveled by bus to see their children a few times, but most of the time my dad drove them in the car to do visits. These trips were hard as help was needed to run the hotel while they were gone, hence, they occurred but not often. Usually their kids came to visit them. Of course the closeness of Downey was one reason we saw more of Bessie's family than the other kids.

Grandpa's health was always really good. In my time at the hotel I do not remember more than a day or two when Grandpa would not get out of bed. He did have a few times when he had a fever or flu and would stay in bed for a day. The worst I remember was his hernia operation. He was in bed for a few days because of this one. In my dad's words, Grandpa wasn't sure if the "fix" wasn't just as bad as the "disease". Grandpa was very healthy, even in his old age.

In the last years, Grandpa was not able to help much at the hotel. He would sit in the lobby and converse with anyone who had time to talk. He of course talked about the Restored Gospel. As he aged he did lose a lot of his hearing. We didn't have to shout to loud but he had to looking at you to hear you easily. One time near the end of his life, he was conversing with an older guest. Grandpa was talking about the Gospel and the guest was taking about fishing and as the maid indicated she wasn't sure whether the Lord was going fishing or what.¹⁷

¹⁶ In piles of pictures I still have many of the pictures sent to them by the missionaries.

¹⁷ Thanks to Jean for remembering this humorous incident. After she reminded of it I had to laugh once more as my memory of Grandpa was refreshed.

Grandpa wished and hoped for the best for everyone of his descendants. He loved them all and would do anything in his power to help or assist them. He always bought grandchildren ice cream and always had plenty on hand!

When Grandpa was 85, it was a Christmas morning in 1959, December 25, ¹⁸ and he passed beyond the veil to be with his Della. I remember when dad came into my room early in the morning to let me know that Grandpa was dead—it was my Senior in High School. Although Christmas wasn't great that year due to his death, since then viewing his dedication to Jesus Christ, what more benefitting tribute for him than to die when we celebrate Christ's birth. I did and still do miss him. To let you know he does not ever give up talking about the Gospel to everyone—ever the missionary—here is what La Moyne recorded of the last thing he said to the Doctor attending him before passing on:

... I [La Moyne] find such great delight in the report that the last thing he said [was] to admonish the Dr. who bent over him "to straighten out his life and live to make his wife and children happy."

I find much delight also and a grand memory of this man I am descended from and named after. I might also add that this is good advice for all of us to follow even today starting now.

Grandma Jensen lived another five and half years and died 4 June 1966 in Burley, Cassia, ID. She was just short of being 89. She joined Grandpa and Della for a grand reunion.

My words do not do justice to the memory or life lived by Grandpa Jensen. He is like Captain Moroni as described in Book of Mormon:

"... if all men had been, and were and ever would be, like unto [JC Jensen], behold, the very power of hell would have been shaken forever; yea, the devil would never have power over the hearts of the children of men."

I cannot say it any better than that. We, his descendants, should look forward with anticipation to a family meeting in the future with him. He will be happy to greet us.

Robert Junius Burnside

2007

¹⁸ He died in Burley, Cassia, ID

Letter to Sylvia E Low From JC Jensen While on His Mission
May 5, 1900

917 E. 8 St. E.C. Mo. Kansas City Mo.
These are a few reasons why I would
reject that as being a revelation from
God. 1st Admitting for a moment that
(that is the Reorganized church) were the people
that God acknowledged. Alexander Smith is
not according the order of their church
never could become president of their church
(Alexander is a brother of Young Joseph and
son of the Prophet Joseph, he (Alexander)
is one of the counselors of Young Joseph
in the Presidency of the Re. Ch.) But that
exalted position (as they would call it)
would not give him authority to give Revel-
ation as he has done, affecting the whole
church. If the revelations that the Prophet
Joseph gave were true (as the Lord gave through
Joseph) and they both Josephites and Methodist
except them as being the word of God.
(B) Sections of the D & C. These we will see that
the Lord has but one at a time who can give
revelation & ^{thereby affecting the whole church} and he shall stand at the head even
as did Moses. Oliver Cowdery was given to under-
stand very emphatically that he was not to write
by way of commandment, or command him.

that was at his head.
Thumain Dec 42. were there the Lord tell the church
that they have received commandments & revelations
who through the one who had been appointed
(which was Joseph) & were there were given to under-
stand in very definite terms there shall be but the
one at a time, & as a wonder shall be appointed
unto this gift except it be through him, & what
gift? The gift of giving revelations to the whole
church, & as a law, & this shall be a law unto
you, that ye receive not the teaching of any
that shall come before you as revelations or
commandments, and thus I give unto you
that you may not be deceived, that you may
know they are not of God.
What now would we need then this to
see that God was not the author of that
revelation, for that was given to the church
as a law. If it was a law it must be known
and by this the Lord says ye may know
that they are not, & we can say to Mr
Alexander Smith we do not have to reject his
revelation but the word of God ^{done} and we
will follow the word of God. Too deluded
people, they are more to be pitied than

centured. Now in the beginning
I admitted for the time being, that theoph-
ites were the Church of Christ, then we have
found from the word of God that admitting
that we would have to reject the revelation
because it never came through the one
appointed. Then when we take into consid-
eration the facts of the matter and see they
have no authority of God what were to do
in the ordinances of the gospel? Then we
cannot help but see the cunning and
sly hand of Satan in trying to
deceive the children of men. For the tempted
shall be deceived if possible, it has been
the work of the devil to make men blind
believe that God no longer speaks, now when
that cloud of darkness is raised. Then we
find some of his servants coming along
and giving revelations and saying thus
saith the spirit. What spirit? Read the
purported revelation and judge for your-
self. I will admit that in the revelation (or so
called revelation) there are some little truth
for Satan has to use some little truth to
blind the eyes of the people and get

them to believe a lie, that they may be
condemned. Yea Joseph Smith was a
prophet of God, lived a Prophet and
died one, that is true, and all People
would do well to cease contending against
the work which God called him to do that
distraction be not their ruin.
In the Reported revelation the Josephites and
Hedrickites are commanded to cease contend-
ing against each other for the Mastery.
Yea the Savior said that a house that is
divided against its self cannot stand
therefore the wise one see the dangers of
his children contending against each other
for the Mastery but that they should
commune one with the other in loving
kindness, admitting that one of the two
had the authority they would have to
admit they both had, for all they
were to do is cease contending and com-
mune one with the other in peace and
loving kindness and none but members
of the Church have the right to commune
with the Saints, Further we can see the
intent to decide that the Josephites are laying

Elder J. C. Jensen

417 E. 8 St. K. C. Mo.

art³ trap to get hold of the Temple
lot, by your sacrifice and sufferings and have
whitened and answered pleased. Now where
have the Hedrickites seen at their greatest
sacrifices. The greatest sacrifice they have
had to meet ~~it~~ was when they were fighting
against the Josephites to prevent them
from getting the temple lot. Many of
them lost their homes and all they had
and when did it go to the lawyers reform
ing. Now we find out by this revelation
that the Lord was well pleased with
Did we ever hear that the Lord was well
pleased with Paul while he was fight-
ing the Saints of God no. And to think
that the Lord was well pleased with the
Hedrickites fighting the Josephites if they
were the true church, would be contrary
to all scripture, not only scripture but
also reason. We know that the scripture
Matt. 23 tells us to judge not that we be
not judged, but when such as that comes
we do not have to judge them but the word
of God will, and after they are weighed in
balance they are found wanting. Then again
it says "It is my will that my children

