

Subj: Re: Humor book, yak yak, London trip, Brandon, funeral, family secret
Date: Thu, Feb 27, 1997 8:49 PM EDT
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Hi, Liz (and the rest of you--sorry, I got to answering Liz and then decided I wanted to share some of this with the rest of you).

Great to hear from you. Brandon's doing much better. We are going to Logan this Sat. for the wedding of his brother, Todd, whose fiance is a nurse in intensive care. She recommended a medication which made all the difference (you have to wonder why Utah Valley did not think of it), but he improved so rapidly they let him go "home" yesterday. Actually he and Laura both went to the hotel room of his parents (Todd works for the Marriott chain, so got them a bargain). Laura had been up watching over Brandon two nights, and they both sacked out for a while. But he is up, walking around several times a day. Still can't sit up or get out of bed without help, but the Doc thinks in a week or so, he won't even need nursing care and can get around without help. We feel very grateful, to say the least and Laura and Brandon very enthusiastic about his progress. Also, their attorney is getting them some settlement dollars up front and all their medical will be covered, plus they got some back pay for work time Brandon lost. So lots of things are looking better for them.

Doug's father's funeral is tomorrow (Friday) about 11, Mom thinks. I never found last night's paper (we got home late after taking Brandon's parents

to

dinner and after that Dan had Stk. business and I went to work) so neither of us has read the paper yet (it's probably out there buried under all that snow. I think the Lord is greening this place for the Olympics. But I'm in the mood for some daffodils. Anyway, if I find the paper and the obituary says something different, I hope to let you know.

Mom and I went to Saint-Petersburg Ballet the other night. It was excellent, but lacked that pure sparkle that radiates from our BYU dance teams. Skill and craft alone are not enough. I've decided it takes genuine character to lift others through dance movement. The professional talent of

these dancers did not override the look on jaded faces that did not seem all

that happy. Still, we were glad we went. I'll probably never again see such a mesmerizing rendition of a dying swan (Prima Ballerina Assoluta Galina Mezentseva).

My big excitement is that with Brandon's surgery a success and news from Daniel that he's not even planning to come home this summer (extra classes),

we decided to check out those fabulous fares to Europe. I couldn't believe it. I thought I still had a couple of weeks to think about it, but when I finally called yesterday, Delta flights were totally booked, and I had to call all day, waiting for cancellations to finally find tickets through United--then changed them again when Dan changed his mind about his plans

(he was not excited about going at first--too busy).

I called Jackie Westergard (the cousin from Farr West, UT I met through genealogy, who is descended from Helon Henry Tracy's third wife, Phoebe Draper), and she at first said, "No," then changed her mind. She is coming with me for the whole month and Dan is coming for the first two weeks. If

you can believe, we got round trip fares for only \$353. (each) p[us tax (abt. \$390 total). You have to travel Mon. thru Thurs., stay at least one Sat., and can stay up to a month, as long as you return before May 1. (I wondered when this eye surgery made me drop out of school, but then I

would

not have been able to get this "education" in London because I'd have classes--there truly is a silver lining to every cloud.) Dr. Cracroft gave me his enthusiastic go-ahead to cut out early, though I will be under real pressure to get this Bibl. done before I leave (he's getting a lot of extra hours he didn't count on, and he knows it--and even if I don't get it done, he generously suggested I could finish after I get back). If any of you others want to join us, you could probably get single tickets, and we are now pursuing renting flats in downtown London that are owned by a friend of

Jackie's (this is what gets expensive--I want to figure out how to use the internet better to see if I can find someone LDS in London who wants to rent

a couple of rooms for two weeks and one for a month and maybe someone LDS

who would like to rent two rooms in Countesthorpe/Leicester area, too, for a

few days. As long as I'm dreaming, why not hunt out a Burdette or Draper relative there who is not LDS, so we can bring them a Book of Mormon (no smokers, please--Jackie has asthma). OK you kid computer whizzos, this can

be your contribution to family genealogy and could even land a reward genuine rock from the driveway of the Blaby poorhouse or other such unestimable esteemable).

I was ecstatic to finally find three flights out at the same time. I told Jackie I would pay her flight out of my assistantship earnings (which I've dedicated to Tracy line research) if she'd accompany me wherever I want to

go and help research whatever I want to search on our joint lines. She has already done a lot of research, so I will not have to train her. Last year I took two semesters of Dr. Pratt's rigorous British genealogy research courses. I have since persuaded my committee to count one of them as a "methodology" course (since my thesis is on Helon Henry Tracy and involves

British genealogy), but at the time I knew it would probably kill my g.p.a., but I'd learn more if I knew I was getting graded. I'm so glad I did.

Pratt was merciless, but I learned much (most of which I've probably

forgotten--but I have about 15 binders filled with his handouts, research I did, and class notes--all filed by subject). I'm taking those binders in about three suitcases, so I can consult them all the time I'm there (which means there will be only room left for about one outfit of clothing and a lot of deodorant). One thing I learned from his class is that there is a lot of research to be done in records that are NOT available at the Family History Library. I can hardly wait to get my hands on some of those records--most of which are centered at about ten archives in downtown London.

Jackie is a nutso genealogist like me who wants to be at the library at the crack of dawn and has to be thrown out when they close. She has been very interested in the same lines I am tracing--she's my same age and also an M.A.

student, so I am thrilled that she can come. Dan likes it, too, because he gets restless at libraries--he can leave us there go do other things. She's going to pay all her other expenses (housing, etc.) while there, but took me up on the flight bribe and is even dropping a couple of weeks of her quarter's schooling to do this (she's going to argue with her prof. that the course she's taking in reading middle English will be put to actual application). Dan also wants to do research on his own lines. Jackie went last year to see Scotland, England, and Wales, so she will be content to do research and limit sight-seeing to visiting places like Blaby, Leicester, and Countesthorpe in Leicester County, where our people came from.

You may recall that I found Thomas Burdett Sr. with his wife and seven children, including a baby, in the census of the Blaby workhouse (poorhouse). Salt Lake does not have poorhouse records for that area, and I

am anxious to get hold of the local records and see if there are clues about their former address and other family connections. I never did find out why they were in the workhouse, but it must have been a very difficult experience--perhaps preparing them for accepting the gospel later. I found some members of Dan's ancestors living just down the street from the

poorhouse and like to imagine that when Dan's ancestor, James Mellor, came to visit his wife's relatives there (Paynes), he stopped in that poorhouse and that's how the Burdettes first heard the gospel. We do know that James Mellor (who was president of the Blaby Branch and walked from his home in Leicester City over five miles to visit his flock that included our Burdettes in Countesthorpe) baptized a brother of our Burdette ancestor. When Helon Henry Tracy left his two sister (Burdette) polygamous wives in Utah (one of whom is our ancestor) and went on a mission to his relatives in the Eastern States and then to England, he sought out these ancestral towns of his wives and, while ill in Leicester City, was taken in and nursed by the family of another missionary, the Thomas Drapers. That is how he became acquainted with their daughter Phoebe (see, Brandon, some folks think throwing up is romantic).

Helon almost died in the Draper home and had to go home from his mission early for special medical attention. After he recovered in Utah, he sent for the Drapers, helped them emigrate, and married Phoebe. Phoebe died young, as did Helon after he got out of federal prison for "cohabitation," but they left three children. The oldest, Aaron Ward Tracy, was taken into the home of Pres. David O. McKay's father and later became the Pres. of Weber College and ancestor of Jackie Westergard, who is coming on this trip with us. So we have good reason to be exploring these places together. I will look in my records for Drapers and she'll look for Burdettes, too, and we'll get "double the pleasure."

The tickets I have on reserve have us leaving Wed. March 26, taking a direct flight to London from Denver (not anymore at Dulles, Ginger). Dan will come back about Apr. 11, and Jackie and I will stay until Wednesday, Apr. 24, if

I remember correctly.

By the way, I don't know if I told you, but especially Virginia will be interested to know that Jackie is a fabulous quilter. She makes quilts and sells them to sponsor her own genealogy (she sent me a photo of a winning quilt she did that was featured in a magazine). She is doing a Nancy Naomi Tracy Quilt for some contest they are holding in connection with the sesquicentennial of the Pioneers' entering the Valley. Dad, if you get that huge Draper award, you should buy Jackie's quilt in honor of the fact that she is a Draper. I have never met her, but we've sure run up some phone bills talking long distance.

We got an e-mail from Daniel asking for a copy of those materials I got from

Dad that were submitted for that Draper prize, including the photos. So I made him and Laura both a copy and am mailing his today. Daniel had to give

a talk in Hebrew for five minutes on a topic that would involve some new words, and he chose to talk about his grandfather Hall and his experience with G.E. and making diamonds--said it was quite an experience looking up all the words to explain this. I got a little alarmed until he assured me he let everybody know G.E. got rich, not Dad (I had visions of his being held by somebody for ransom over there). Anyway, his teacher asked for some additional materials on the subject (probably didn't believe him).

By the way, his LDS roommate decided to stay in Israel after all--just changed his major. He did not enjoy the Hebrew study. I'm hoping Daniel will stay with his LDS roommate, closer to the Jerusalem Center, and not take off to more dangerous parts to rent with his Turkish friend, as planned

when he thought Scott was leaving. Daniel's LDS friend Lisa is at Hebrew U.

on a one-year program--her undergrad. work was at Stanford. She just got news that she has been accepted to Stanford's Ph.D. program, and they will pay her tuition, plus a stipend for four years (Daniel's M.A. program involves another year at Hebrew U.), so next year might not be quite so much

fun. I'd say it will be good for his grades, but they couldn't be any

better. He's had a terrific year, just finished an accelerated Ulpan language study that put him on a track with even better teachers, and now wants to take additional classes all summer--so we won't even get to see him. But it's great to see him so enthusiastic. I got a call this morning from "Howard" at Hebrew U.'s NY office about one of his mis-sent stipend checks (D.--if you'll go to the bursar's office, it's waiting), and he said he had seen Daniel a couple of times recently and he could tell D. was basking in this experience.

Liz, that book sounds very interesting. Yes, let's trade books and (early) celebrations. I'll send you some humor. The trouble is, the ones that make me laugh out loud definitely border on the "light minded" (but also do a good job, butchering some sacred, gold cows). But you can handle it. You might want to hide it from your children, though. I must be getting jaded in my old age. A few years ago, I would have burned some of this stuff--not

laughed. Then again, that was before I sat through some Payson and Orem Relief Society meetings. (I'll send you the R.S. satire, if you think you'd like it. There are also some great new Grondahl and Bagley cartoon books on general topics of Mormon experience, if you think you'd prefer that. Then there is that one I described about Mormon food. Indicate your preference, and it will be in the mail.)

I asked Mom if there was any family news, and she said "Yes," but she had been sworn to secrecy. 'Ruins your whole day, wondering. So, which of you is pregnant? You're too old and tired for this, you know. For sure it's not me. Hot flashes might be cold comfort in dreary, rainy London.

Love, Sherlene

Rats! Jackie just called, and she changed her mind again. She had a job interview for next fall today, and it looks like another interview is in sight and she doesn't dare leave under the circumstances. She said her husband wasn't too thrilled, either, though he's sent her off many summers for a month at a time, doing genealogy. I think Dan's changing his mind and deciding to come scared her off. Now just watch him change his mind. He

is

under a lot of pressure with tax time coming, and FOUR new languages to learn now in connection with his new job. On the other hand, we both could use an adventure like this. I'll promise to sometimes leave the library and even take in a Shakespeare play or two. Well, the tickets are only reserved

until midnight, so we have to decide for sure by about ten when I'm planning

to call in. Any of you want to buy her ticket? Jackie told me the London Temple has an "Accommodations Center" where there is reasonable lodging--so

I'm going to call Salt Lake and see if I can get their number--but I've heard it's a long train ride from London's center. The one-room, two single

bed flats (with a little kitchen and fridge) that Jackie's friend owned in London are \$100 a night! I found this student hostel run by the Church of England for traveling Christians (mostly students) with a Bohemian-like atmosphere that I heard was \$25 a day a couple of years ago. Now it's \$35.

a day. But with that come breakfast and supper and lunch, too, on Sundays. But when I'm at the library, I'm not going to be coming for meals. Any of you with London experience, I would appreciate your tips.

----- Headers -----

From drb@itsnet.com Thu Feb 27 19:48:47 1997

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