

PAF EXPRESS

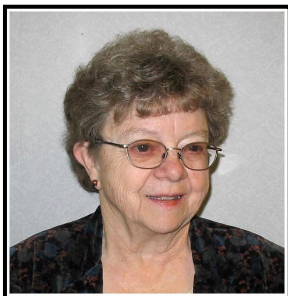
Family History & Genealogy

Washington County "Personal Ancestral File™" Users Group Newsletter

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GETTING TO KNOW:

HELEN LENZ – WC-PAF BOARD MEMBER



I was born in Spokane, Washington on May 21. My parents were James Leon Hartford and Alice Ada Colegrove Hartford. Most of my family came from England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland, eastern United States and then they went to Wisconsin and later to the State of Washington.

My mother left my father in 1939 and he was given custody of the three of us children. He sent us to Princeton, Idaho to live with my grandparents Len and Kate Hartford. We loved our time with them as they lived in the woods with no electricity or running water. You might say that I know what it was like to be a pioneer. We had a wood stove and kerosene lamps. Grandpa would drive his old Ford truck down below the house and get water from the spring.

Grandma raised chickens and I would go down to the gate and tease the rooster and make faces at it. One day the gate fell over and the rooster took after me and pecked my elbow—he should never have done that as we had chicken and dumplings for dinner that Sunday. Grandma Hartford would always read to us and tells us about our family history. She would play the organ and we would all sing. She also took us to church at the Nazarene Church.

My father married Edith Hokum in October 1944. She was a nurse. They both worked for a year to earn enough to buy a home in Opportunity, Washington and that is where I went to school. My Dad was very special to me; but it was Edith who took us to the Methodist Church. I owe my conversion to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to her.

In March 1955, before I graduated from High School, the principal suggested I be interviewed by Joe Alley, manager of the Dishman State Bank. I was in banking for 15 years.

While at the Dishman Bank I met Naomi Riggan Rudd who was a “Mormon”. She was instrumental in my joining the Church after I moved to California.

In 1959 I was living in Alameda, California and started attending the Alameda Ward where I met Roger Lenz who was from Everett, Washington. He was in the Navy. We were married in April 1960. We had three sons, Timothy, Thomas and Andrew. However, we moved back and forth between California and Washington. I became the Manager of the Oakland L.D.S. Bookstore. I also worked at the Oakland Temple and Family History Center both in Oakland and Antioch.

Roger had heart problems, so we retired to Red Bluff, California. We both worked at the Medford Temple while living in Red Bluff. Roger passed away after heart surgery in 2002 then I moved to be with my son Tom, his wife Julie their family in LaVerkin, Utah.

I worked at the St. George Temple for 2 years and then decided to serve a mission at The St. George Regional Family History Training Center. I also serve one day a week at the Hurricane Utah Family History Center.

I am thankful for the heritage of a family who supported my decision to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The love of my life is serving the wonderful people who come to the Family History Centers and helping them locate their ancestors, as well as working with the PAF Users Group.

I have a quote I really like: “My Golden Plates are written on paper”. – Here are mine! 📖

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