

# The Johnstonian

1980

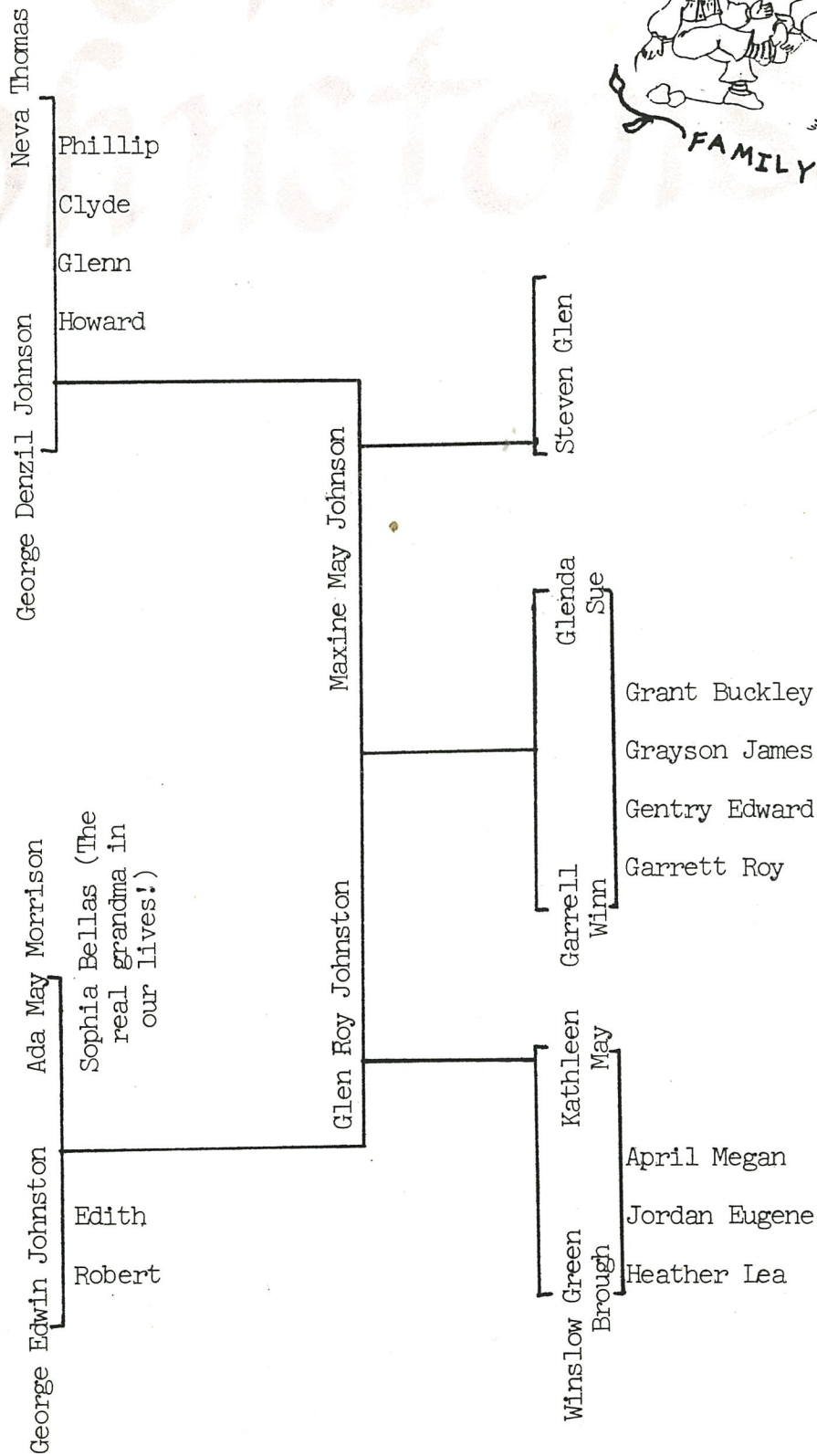
# Families are Forever



Garry, Glenda, April, Kathie, Winslow,  
Denzil, Neva, Steve, Maxine, Glen,  
Grayson, Gentry, Heather, Jordan, Garrett, Grant



THE CHARACTERS IN THIS BOOK



# The Johnstons



Maxine and Glen



## GLEN AND MAXINE IN 1980

1980... A year of sadness, happiness; worry, relief; prayers said, prayers answered. Perhaps all years are a combination of these, but we seemed to have reached the peaks and valleys in all areas this year.

We started off the year being thankful that our children were trying to live the gospel and that they were all very attentive with gifts, phone calls and invitations to come and see them as well as spending their vacations visiting us. We were grateful that we were comparatively financially secure--not rich but few debts and a small savings. We both had jobs and were in good health and the gospel a wonderful part of our lives. Glen was ward clerk and Maxine was stake Laurel Leader. Steve was still on his mission and that was a special blessing too. In January we received a letter from President Rhee telling us that Steve had been called to be a Language Assistant at the Mission Home. He said that Steve was humble, a good example, a hard worker and had a good command of the Korean language. It was about this time that we received word that Steve's mission would be extended past the usual 2 years, as he had requested, so he did not arrive home in February as he would have ordinarily.

In March we learned of the new church block program which would eliminate weekly meetings of Primary, Mutual and Relief Society on week days. All meetings would be held in a 3-hour block. Since many of the Mutual presidents were also Laurel leaders there was no longer need for a stake Laurel Leader. President Bennion came to our home to tell Maxine of her release and asked her to be a specialist for the Laurel Conference which she had worked on for months. She was happy to do so. She was immediately called to be chairman of the Activity Committee by Bishop Ainge. Soon after that, Bishop Ainge--who was also Maxine's boss at Smith & Crakes Insurance Agency--confided that he would be moving to California in August. This was a real loss to Maxine as well as to Glen, since Glen was his ward clerk and we were both good friends to Kay and Don Ainge. Also about that time it was confirmed that Dr. and Marie Royal would be moving to Las Vegas so we were losing our doctor and also close friends. About two months later another couple we had been friends with moved to Las Vegas--Gladys and Harold Wright. We really felt deserted!

On March 10, Mother [Johnson] had her gall bladder removed. She had spent the night at the Soda Springs Hospital in January and they hadn't known what made her ill so this operation seemed to be the solution to her health problem. She progressed well and came home from Logan March 16. About this same time our former foster son began having some serious problems and we spent a great deal of time and prayers trying to help him.

We were especially excited as March 13 arrived, as that was the day Steve arrived at the Eugene Airport from Korea. We hung out a sheet with the words "Welcome Home, Steve" on it. It was so great to be able to squeeze him again and have his special spirit in our home. It was special to have him home to assist Bishop Ainge and Glen with a blessing of health when Maxine was set apart as Chairman of the Activity Committee.





We had planned to take a week off in April and take Steve to California to see the girls before he went back to school but Glen put on a special show March 22 and had a heart attack. It was a humbling experience for all of us. We are grateful to Dr. Turner who pulled him through, along with the help of all the prayers that were offered for him. Garrett—who had just turned 8—decided to fast for his grandfather and we know Heavenly Father listened to his prayers. So many people called and set flowers and showed their caring while Glen was ill.

Steve and Maxine gave their scheduled talks in Sacrament meeting, which was March 24th. It was an emotional day, not knowing how Glen really was or how much he would recover.

Glen was in the hospital until March 31, when the sheet was hung out again, but with a different name at the end. Glen's recovery was much faster than anyone had hoped for, but of course not as fast as he would have liked. As soon as he could get out he did his walking to regain his strength and it wasn't long before he was doing more and more wood working.







The Laurel Conference was March 29th and Maxine didn't go to the Coast with the Laurels, but went to the luncheon at the stake center where she was given a lovely bouquet of long-stemmed roses and a book as a farewell gift.

Steve left for Provo to start school again on April 22—he rode the bus.

Our second granddaughter and 7th grandchild was born April 19—April Megan Brough.

We were anxious to get to California to see our newest member of the family but the doctor did not OK a trip for Glen until May 8, and then only if we just drove short distances. We took 2 days to get to Livermore and enjoyed the trip tremendously. We spent a few days there enjoying Kathie, Winslow, Heather, Jordan and April.

Maxine's brother, Glenn, called from Salt Lake to say Mother was much worse, so we decided to go to Glenda's for a few days and then on to Idaho. We left early in the morning and when Heather found we were gone she said, "You know what? That just makes me so sad."

We stayed in Monrovia a few days visiting with Garrett, Gentry, Grayson and Grant, as well as Glenda and Garry. One of the highlights was going to the Rose Bowl to an Area Conference and seeing the Prophet Spencer W. Kimball (Glenda and Maxine) We left for Logan on May 18th, the same day Mt. St. Helens erupted. It was very exciting and people were having all kinds of problems with the ash. Several people were killed and many were missing. On our way to Logan we enjoyed a drive through Zions Park.







We stopped and visited Steve at BYU, spent the night with Sophia. She has been having trouble with her health but was doing better at that time.

As we were traveling and calling the hospital Mother seemed to be doing much better so by the time we arrived at the hospital she was up and about and even talking about going home. That night she hemorrhaged and we thought we were going to lose her for sure. All the family gathered around. Phil

flew in from Chicago. She rallied somewhat, but by Saturday the doctor had given up hope and transferred her to Salt Lake. She got immediate help and we began hoping again. She had a minor operation May 29th and went home June 27th.

On May 22 we headed back to Eugene. When we arrived home it was a thrill to see the shop that Glen had dreamed of so long beginning to take shape. Friends... especially Chad Roderick...had begun it while we were gone. It wasn't long before we ran into complications concerning the septic tank drain field and ended up tearing up both front and back yards, including some of the garden. It was a traumatic experience. Maxine worried about Glen doing too much between the yard work and the building. We were so grateful to several special friends that helped finish both.

Glen was given permission to start swimming in May for his daily exercise, so we

both went. It was a breathless experience--taking 45 minutes to swim 6 lengths the first few weeks. By October 8 we had worked up to 36 lengths -  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile - in the same length of time.



On June 7 we went to Roseburg with LaVar and Louise Kempton to a reunion. Tom and Eileen Gruwell flew in from Burley and it was so special to see so many of our old friends.



Glen started working half days on June 16, which helped the finances as the disability payments were only \$100 a week. On June 30 Glen worked a full day and continued to do so except for the occasional days he would come home early if he didn't feel too chipper. We were blessed with our income tax refund and unexpected insurance dividends which helped get us through this time, as well as not having any bills except house payments, and also having our food storage. Glen also worked in his shop and made and sold many clocks, pen sets and lamps, which helped financially. Another blessing has been Maxine's health. She has felt so well and her feet especially were better, which has allowed her to wear shoes without metatarsal bars on the soles for the first time in 25 years.

On July 3 Mother was back in the hospital but was able to go home again July 9.

The first part of August, Glen, Maxine and Edith (Glen's sister) drove to Toutle, Washington, to see some of the devastation of Mt. St. Helens. It was awesome.

Steve arrived home August 9 and painted the shop for us. It was so good to have him home again. We three went to Bandon for a three-day trip...lots of fun.

Glenda, Garry and family came Aug. 20. We enjoyed having them here and especially appreciated the help Garry gave us in painting our rental and finishing the shop. We took a trip camping and to the coast crabbing and fishing.



Our renters moved in September and left the house and yard a disaster. We both painted, cleaned and repaired all month. Lots of work and money. We were fortunate to rent to a special couple starting Oct. 1, but we did lose a month's rent.

So many things had happened to make me [Maxine ] feel 'picked on' and I was very depressed. In September I was asked to participate in a Relief Society lesson. We related pioneer stories of sacrifice. One of the other sisters told one that especially touched my heart. It was about a young mother who had lost her baby and was bitter about many things. She kept going over and over all the things that were wrong. She had a dream where she was dragging a chain with bundles attached. Someone told her that if she must keep the bundles to put them on a shelf so she could look up and see the sun. She did so and as she examined the bundles found that they were the things she was bitter about. When she awoke she resolved to get rid of those bundles--gave the baby's clothes away, helped others, etc. I felt that had been my problem, too, of recounting all my problems, so I tried very hard to start counting my blessings instead of my problems. It did help.

Alan Theriault, our foster son, needed some help so he came and stayed with us from October 8 to October 23, when he returned to Oakridge.

We held a shop-warming party for those who had helped in any way to build the shop. It was fun. We gave small prizes for the games we played.



Glen, Maxine, and Edith went to the open house of the new Seattle Temple. Although we stood in line  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours to go through it was a good experience to feel the spirit there. No one was pushing or cross. The temple is beautiful.

On October 24 Mother was operated on again and went home Oct. 30. She had problems again and went back Nov. 9 and finally home again Nove. 19--for the rest of 1980, at least, and hopefully for a long time.

Glen's sister, Edith, had a car accident Nov. 4 and totalled her car. She was shaken up and hurt her back and leg, but was not badly injured.



Glen took vacation on Thanksgiving week and Kathie and Winslow and family were here, too. Enjoyed having Heather, Jordan and April to love. Steve came home for Thanksgiving—had a terrible time getting back to Provo, but made it safely in spite of the biggest snow storm all year.

Dec. 5 Maxine, Glen and Edith went to the Portland Trail Blazer vs. Chicago Bulls pro basketball game. Phil got us super good seats since he is assistant coach for the Chicago Bulls.



December 11 Glen went to the doctor and was released from supervision and treatment. The doctor says he has about 20% damage to his heart which will limit him somewhat, but he is doing very well.

December was spent finishing ceramic and wooden gifts. Glen sold several clocks:











Maxine received her pin with a diamond for working at Smith & Crakes Insurance for ten years.

Steve came home for the holidays December 17 and we had a lovely holiday season with lots of lovely gifts and hearing from our friends and family.

We especially enjoyed delivering thank you gifts for working on the shop, which included pen sets, clocks and bowls.

Several people came to admire Maxine's nativity set and the snow village she has begun.



As the year ended, we counted our many blessings and prepared to take Steve back to BYU and to visit Mother and Dad and Sophia.