

March 13, 1997

My Dear Verna-

You asked that I write a few things?? I remember about Morgan Smith- "Morg" as I always heard him called.

Well, he was my second cousin- his Mother, Aunt Minnie Smith, as we always called her, except my Dad who was Charles Hinman- he called her "Min"-and she called him "Charl"-they being first cousins. Aunt Minnie's Mother, Edna, and my Dad's father, Patriarch Henry Lyman Hinman were brother and sister.

Morg and Aunt Minnie, it seemed, were forever in Hartley -a small community my grandfather Hyrum Hartley settled. They came to visit-stay with Henry Smith, Morg's older brother. Henry's wife, Rhoda Pitcher Smith, had passed away- also his daughter, Margaret who was going on 13 or 14years old -so Henry was there alone with two boys, Chase and Marvin. Soon Vera came to live there and cook and care for and take care of. Thus, Morg and Aunt Minnie came too. Now, we knew they lived in Champion but during winter months and much of summer, Champion didn't see much of them as they seemed always at Henry's.

Now I was about 8 when Rhoda died as Chase and Marvin used to stay at our place when needed- Vera was very active in our community - parties, Primary President, church.. One of my first recollections of Morg was at Henry's home. My Dad, Morg, and all the men folk of the gathering -this included Vibert Woodruff and the younger Woodruff kids who were about Morg's age. Aunt Alice Woodruff was my father's sister so, of course, cousins all- too and we gathered often.

Well, Henry's place boasted a lake and so this cold winter night they had most everyone, except Aunt Minnie and the Aunts, Alice and Eliza, in a sleigh, a big box sleigh, with a team hitched to it. My Dad had an excellent horse- Morg had the reins ~~and~~ and the other men pushing to get it started and so soon that sleigh ~~was~~ was whirling in a

circle- a big one! I don't know just how they managed it but we had one grand ride over that glistening ice - the horses sort of pivoting- well regardless of---- as the sleigh slowed down it tipped over and what a scramble and tumble there was but we had a very breath-taking ride.

When we got to the house Sheridan Jacobs ( school teacher - another cousin - his mother also a sister to my Dad) was there. He had chosen the warmth of the kitchen to the sleigh ride and he and Vera were dipping chocolates. He was rolling the center and she doing the dipping. Aunt Minnie in her usual place, the rocking chair by the stove in the living room. Now Henry's house only had 3 rooms- but that never seemed to matter to any circumstance of gathering nor at our house as all came there too- and to the Woodruff's, tho, their house was somewhat bigger.

One Christmas?? ,as to which don't ask, but Vera was Primary President and Vera always seemed to have Morg's help and support at her disposal. Well ,Vera, Henry, Morg and ??? made popcorn balls for a children's dance to be held the afternoon of the Ward Christmas Party. Now that was such a fun and wonderful thing to me- live music no less and what fun I had. I remember Morg and who else??? Giving out the very good sized pink popcorn balls. Now that had been an effort. Visualize coal stoves and wire poppers- was hot work- these gathering again to cook syrup in that tub (wash tub) or two of corn for the balls and the quick and fast action of all to form those balls before the syrup hardened - but even more, the ability to cook that or those batches of syrup just right - my sister older than I a few years was usually in on the fun and pranks etc. Vera and Morg instigated -like a Cheverie- for Delsa and Hardin Lybbert- some 64 or 66years ago now. They brought Delsa to our place- weather much below zero which never did or ever seemed to me to put much of a damper on their fun.

Well, they managed to keep the bride a few hours. I remember

the fun scuffle as Hardin came for his bride- the fun teasing and merriment and good will-as he tried to reclaim her and then they were gone taking them home, I guess - sleighs and snow flying , horses - and dogs. I was 10 or 12 then.

Vera was such fun and she and Morg certainly “sparked up” Hartleyville. One summer early morning they were going to Waterton Lakes for a few days. By they I mean Vera, Morg, Vibert Woodruff, my older sister Charlene and just who else??? But Morg had a grey Ford car (straight sided) and as they waited for Charlene, the teen sweetheart of the Ward and very favored by Vera and Morg, and whoever else to arrive at our place ( ah, yes and also Rhoda Woodruff- Vibert’s sister- Morg’s age ) Vera and Morg danced and others out there on the grassy dirt- a portable gramophone or record player??? or was it they all sang or??? but they danced- they were such fun - so full of spirit so lively and sweet. I was about sick with wanting to go too ,of course.

Morg had many girl friends. One school teacher , Arminto Kearn boarded at our place and Morg came to court her. Now even I could see he teased more than took it serious but none the less they kept company very often -so many fun visits Morg had at our place courting Arminto. You see the church or school house-the same building was the only community building where any activity could be held except at a home and my Dad was well liked and loved and his smith cousins appreciated both he and my Mother and as they were very fun loving and charismatic type people and so well much fun and merriment occurred at our place too.

One day ,a Sunday, Morg had gone to Cardston to bring Arminto back to Hartley. Now as they came in they had a secret! My Mother had a hurt leg so was on a cot laying down when they arrived. Arminto whispered” the secret to my Mother but would not tell me- as Mama and I were the only ones home or at least in the house at that time , I was hurt to be excluded. Well they left again an my Mother

then told me "the secret". Arminto's Mother had given birth to a baby girl and they were naming her "June" and as I was "June" too I felt quite somehow disregarded or some such a feeling- and especially as I loved babies so would have rejoiced greatly for Arminto's family but as it was I had my feelings hurt and I didn't know if I much cared for Morg to marry her or not- because that was a big question for all- which would land Morg?? Arminto?? The Law girl from California?? a Stanford girl ?? Rhoda Woodruff-after all Fred had married Zina.

Well, but let me tell you about Aunt Minnie and my Dad. His personality just tickled her all over and she enjoyed him no end. One day when Vera, then Orcutt, lived in Cardston my Dad went to see Aunt Minnie who was visiting Vera. She heartily complained to him- "Charl- I can't see, I can't hear, (only she said "cain't") - I cain't even play checkers any more nor crochet!" He let her finish and then he said, "Minnie- your not a hell of a lot of good are you?" Well how she laughed!!! Vera said Charlie was always the best medicine she ever got.

(Note: Aunt Verna Forsyth said that Charlie Hinman was her Dad's best friend. He came from a huge family that couldn't afford any luxuries and her Dad had a little more being an only child. One time they were going to ride together in the Cardston Parade on their horses. For the occasion her Dad had been given a brand new saddle which he was very thrilled with. When he got to town and saw that Charlie didn't even have a saddle he took his new saddle off so they would look the same and Charlie wouldn't feel sad for not having one.)

Morg was a pleasure to see in church- always so nicely groomed and very handsome . All of Aunt Minnie's children and I knew most of them except Jeanette who I met later on, were always immaculate in their grooming.

Henry needed Vera at that point in time and Morg being still foot-loose and fancy free needed Vera and Aunt Minnie needed them

all- her back always so bad. I stayed one summer in Champion for 3 weeks with Aunt Minnie and Morg- I remember I was 13-14?? that summer. I listened to and visited with Aunt Minnie for hours while she crocheted a curtain for the beautiful oval glassed front door of that beautiful big house. She told me that she had to know when she left home that all of her children would do what she wanted them to do when she was gone. And they did. She could depend on them- except for Vera- well she needn't have worried , Vera turned out fine.

One day that time Morg had me drive the car- only it was an open air "run about" with 4 wheels - a seat and a steering wheel while he sat in the trailer behind throwing grasshopper poison- and how the grasshoppers flew as we drove along. If they got a crop that year I would be surprised.

Fred, Zina and Monte came one Sunday (Zina soon to give birth ) in a truck and rode home or to Cardston in the back of it. I did enjoy that vacation - Morg always fun and happy- Aunt Minnie and I weeded the garden- put up rhubarb. I loved being there- Morg's bedroom which I looked into once was full of curios from mission?? travels?? Aunt Minnie's pantry was full of interesting old kitchen utensils, well not old but would be now, pots, kettles, churns, grinders, shredders, colanders and rolling pins etc. etc.

Well, we always called Vera, "Aunt Vera".

One day Morg came to our place and he had a lovely blonde girl, his wife, and I was some surprised!!!- guess I'd never considered that he would settle down and then to later much later find that she had a sister who was to become my sister-in-law. How wonderful!!!

Well, life was kept alive so to speak in Hartleyville those depression years by Morg and Vera -any occasion was a party. My sister's ( about 16th or 17th) birthday and here came a surprise birthday party only, of course, the "secret was sprung" early so Charlene and I went to bed. Well, when the "surprisers" came in they went into the bedroom

wrapped her up in the bed sheet and brought her out to the living room and sat her up and sang Happy Birthday- and spanked her, modestly, of course,- and then played games and had a wonderful time the rest of the evening- Oct 21. Now, they all had to travel- Henry's home was 2 full miles from our place and they came in buggies or sleighs. Morg usually had a car but others did not.

A supper table at our place spread for all- our living room was full of a "make shift" table. It was a MIA ward event- progressive supper- My Dad was asked to say the blessing. He bowed his head and said, "Oh Lord, what a jolly fine spread,- Thanks much." Well, a prolonged second of silence then the Bishop said-"Good enough , Unc" meaning Uncle , as Vibert Woodruff was the Bishop.

Well, so the Spirit of that little community was fun and wholesome and the tone was set for years to come by those pioneers of party spirit and heritage. I hope all of you- Morgan's family and Vera's to carry it on.

Much love to all of you, tho I don't know you, I certainly knew your father.

As ever, love to you all,  
June Hinman Forsyth

ps You are 2nd cousins once removed to me

One summer with Morg and Aunt Minnie- He said Aunt Minnie was sick and wanted a cucumber and the Dr. said, "well peel one- slice it , fix it up nice in vinegar and sugar and salt and pepper and then feed it to the pigs"- and Charlene says she really enjoyed telling her of that story