

About My Grandpa Holt's Life

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I am in the fourth grade, and we are doing an ancestry report. I knew my grandpa's life was pretty cool, so I invited my grandpa and grandma to my house for dinner, which worked out perfectly because my brother had a band concert. My Grandpa and Grandma were going to go to that, so like I said, we invited him early for dinner so I could ask him some questions.

My Grandpa's name is Robert Jay, but people call him Bob, or Bobby Jay. He was born on January 22, 1943. He was born in Cedar city, Utah. When Grandpa was young, he loved to ride horses, and he still does. He also likes to farm and play basketball. He played basketball in highschool and was on the Enterprise Wolves.

He has four brothers and one sister. His brothers' names are Kerry, George, Ralph and Clint. His sister's name is Leanna. His brother Clint has passed away. When Grandpa was younger, he and his brother rode horses almost every day. One day he and his brother went out to ride. Kerry had a really fast racing horse, and my Grandpa had a fast one but not as fast as Kerry's horse. They wanted to race. Once it started, Kerry had the lead. There was a barbed wire fence up ahead and Grandpa's horse jumped right over but his brother Kerry's horse stopped right in front of the gate, so he was in the hospital for a few days.

He told me another cool story. When he was about my age, he rode horses bareback a lot. And when I say bareback, I mean he rode with no saddle—only a bridle. So he and his brothers rode up to a pond. As they were walking through the pond, Grandpa slid off his horse and held on to the tail, and the horse just dragged him until they got out of the pond. When he got out of the pond, he got out and kept riding along the trail.

Grandpa wanted to serve a mission. He was praying, and he asked Heavenly Father if He would let him know if the church was true or not. Because if it was true, he wanted to spend his life in it. And if it wasn't true, he didn't want to waste his time and energy and money, and so he prayed to know whether it was true or not. Heavenly Father let him know that it was true. Once he knew it was true, he wanted to serve where God wanted him to serve. He served in the Southern States mission, which are Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina.

He ran the church farm for a long time. He loved that so much, he wanted to start a farm of his own. So he bought 80 acres. He planted hay on all 80 acres. Then he tore up fifty acres to plant potatoes. He grew potatoes for about 52 years. After Grandpa's kids were raised, he started a dairy farm. That's where my dad works.

I asked him how he met his wife, JoAnn, and he said that she was a cheerleader, and he was a basketball player. He also said she would hug him when he played well so he thought that she liked him. Grandpa and Grandma had 14 kids! My dad is the 11th child, and he works on the same farm as my Grandpa and lots of my uncles. One of my Grandpa's daughters (my aunt) died when my dad was younger. Before I was born, my Grandma JoAnn died in a car crash. My grandpa was very sad and wanted to remarry. Grandpa's sister had served a mission many years before, and she met a family in California. That family moved to St. George, and his sister and the family kept in touch for 40 years. They were in the same ward as a lady named Marge. Marge was engaged to be married to somebody else, but then she called it off. Then she felt really bad about it, so she was moping around in the church one day when this lady came up to her and said "I'm going to get you a husband." Then Marge said, "go ahead." So this lady asked Grandpa's sister (who served her mission in California) if there were any good men in Enterprise because she had a sweet girl down in St. George that would like to marry. They gave Grandpa Marge's phone number, and he called her and arranged a date and Marge said yes. Then Grandpa said that he would be down in one hour. She said no because she was in the garden, and then he said an hour and a half and then she said yes. Then she got ready, and they had their first date. They eventually got married. So now I have another grandma, Grandma Marge.

I learned a lot about my Grandpa, and I thought this was fun. I also really love horses, so when I heard the awesome stories he told me, that made me want to write my ancestry report on him. I am proud that I have a good Grandpa and Grandma!