



## Thurn James Baker

June 9, 1917 - February 23, 2015

Thurn Baker, 97, a Moses Lake resident since 1952 passed away peacefully Monday morning, February 23, 2015 at his home. Family will greet friends from 6 to 8 p.m., Sunday, March 1, 2015 at Kayser's Chapel. Viewing will also be held from 9 to 9:45 a.m., Monday, March 2, 2015 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Stake Center, 1515 S. Division. Funeral services will begin at 10 a.m. at the Stake Center. Interment will follow at Pioneer Memorial Gardens.

Please sign the online guestbook or leave a note for the family at [www.kayserschapel.com](http://www.kayserschapel.com) Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

Thurn was born on June 9, 1917 in Basin, Idaho to Lena Annette Polson and Abraham Arnold Baker, fourth of seven children. He attended schools in Roy, Utah, Shelly and Firth, Idaho, graduating from Weber County High. He worked in construction as a youth and in 1939, he helped build Deer Creek Dam. He served from 1941-1943 in the Central States Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He met Ardath Hoggan in Burley, Idaho and was married in the Salt Lake Temple Sept. 16, 1943. He then served in WWII as a B-29 navigator-bombardier and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. After the war, they farmed in Burley, Idaho, Nyssa, Oregon and then Moses Lake, Washington. Thurn was a successful farmer as he opened up the area in the Columbia Basin. He was always busy with the farm, church, and family. He served as Stake President in Moses Lake for 14 years and then president over the Canada Halifax Mission from 1973-1976 and a Regional Representative to the Twelve for 8 years. His wife Ardath passed away in October 1978. He married Charlene Hinman Hansen on December 17, 1979. He was a temple worker and sealer in the Seattle, Provo, and Mt. Timpanogos Temples.

He loved missionary work. He served 6 full time missions including the Los Angeles Temple Visitor Center, England London North, Washington DC North and Salt Lake Family History Mission working on the Ellis Island project. He was a great teacher of the scriptures especially the New Testament. Thurn was a hard worker. He blessed the lives of his family. He was always willing to serve whenever needed including the scouting program, the youth and the community. He loved horses and hunting in the mountains, as well as traveling and seeing the world. He was known by others as a straight arrow. There

was never a question about the right thing to do. He was a direct participant in many of the grand events in American history during the 20th century and devoted his life to making a comfortable life for his family and serving the Lord.

His wife Charlene died December 23, 2011. Thurn is survived by his six children, six step children and an Indian foster daughter; Claire Baker Hess of Orem, UT, Hugh (Lila) Baker, Moses Lake, WA, Garth (Katrina) Baker, Moses Lake, WA, Leon (Lorraine) Baker, Moses Lake, Elizabeth Baker Fielding, Orem, UT, Reid (Lori) Baker, Moses Lake, WA, Arlo E. (Verlene) Hansen, Glenwood, Alberta, Canada, Arlene (Tom) Helton, Springville, UT, Nola Jane (Joseph) Morton, Houston, TX, Glorya (Bill) Seal, Tigard, OR, Camille (Gerald) Thompson, Estacada, OR, C. Rex (Pam) Hansen, West Bountiful, UT, Ardath Hendrickson (Sam) Peterson, Kechikan, Alaska; sixty-nine grandchildren and one hundred twenty-nine (and growing) great-grandchildren.

# Cemetery Details

## Pioneer Memorial Gardens

14403 Rd. 2 Ne  
Moses Lake, WA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories  
831 S. Pioneer Way  
Moses Lake, WA

## Visitation

MAR 2. 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Stake Center  
1515 S. Division St.  
Moses Lake, WA

## Service

MAR 2. 10:00 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Stake Center  
1515 S. Division St.  
Moses Lake, WA

# Tribute Wall

MO

“ Around the year 2000 I was called into the bishopric of the Orem Sharon Park 1st ward. Not long after that I had the blessing of holding an interview with Thurn as he needed to renew his Temple recommend. I was surprised by one answer he provided; I asked him if he were a full tithing payer. He answered that he hadn't paid a dime in tithing yet that year, But that he intended in paying his tithing in a few days. This surprised me! and not knowing anything about this man i was quick to admonish him to "pay as you go" and to not get behind on his tithing! Thurn was very humble and agreed with me quickly! Later I learned that his income was based on the harvest and he hadn't had any income yet! He got the best of me that day! As time passed I loved associating with this great Man! He and Charlene welcomed me into their home many times. I especially loved sitting by the side of my sons in the Baker home where my sons were instructed in Temple preparation taught by the capable Thurne and Charlene Baker.

Matthew E Owens - February 10, 2019 at 01:44 PM

JA

“ I have never met this man. But this morning I decided to do some research about the one name in my priesthood line of authority that I didn't recognize. I have been touched and impressed by his history, and the many memories and sentiments expressed here. I am truly proud to have such a righteous man in my priesthood line of authority. I only wish there were more pictures of him so I could include them in the history I am making about those in my priesthood line.

Joel Ackerman - September 28, 2015 at 11:28 AM

RA

“ I hearded a few days ago of your dads passing. Jeanne and I both loved him and your families. He is a great man and he will be missed by all. Thank yon for the great example your family as always been to us. Sincerely, Ron & Jeanne

Ron Ashcraft - March 13, 2015 at 02:54 PM

DL

“ President Thurn Baker took such an interest in our little family that it's impossible to view him in any other way than - perfect Christlike love. He always remembered me and my brothers and I could feel his unconditional love every time he spoke to me. I would no more want to disappoint him as I would my own father. Words just cannot express my gratitude, love, and respect.

Daniel De Leon - March 11, 2015 at 11:54 PM

JM

“ My husband and I joined the church in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, in 1965, and we remember President Baker well. He was a wonderful mission president. After reading his obituary I would say he has lived a long life of exemplary service to his family, his Church, and his country. If my memory serves me correctly, at District Conferences he used to say he liked to attend meetings because it helped to prepare him for the big meeting to come. He is well prepared but will be well missed. We send our condolences to his family. Sincerely, John & Janet MacLennan, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Janet MacLennan - March 03, 2015 at 03:48 PM

DS

“ President Baker and the entire family have been an important part of my life. At this time, our family shares in your loss.

Dave Stevens  
Riverton, UT

David Stevens - March 02, 2015 at 01:29 PM

GM

“ I was a newly called Maritime District President in 1973 and Pres. Baker awoke in me an understanding of how the Holy Ghost could help me in my new responsibility by giving me a teaching assignment at a District Presidents Correlation Meeting. As a first generation Latter-day Saint, I have always considered him my personal priesthood leader role model and among the first of many eternal friends. Today, 41 years later, after many years of signing temple recommends and just beginning as a temple president, I am pleased to honor this man for the initial steps he prompted me to take.

With sincere love,  
Gordon K. Macmichael  
Toronto Ontario President

Gordon Macmichael - March 02, 2015 at 10:29 AM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Darwin - March 02, 2015 at 09:43 AM

DH

*Words can not adequately express my feelings for this great man. He was an awesome mission president! He helped me become the man I am today. President Baker had such a positive impact on so many lives. My heart goes out to his family...*

*Elder Hawryluk (1975-1977)*

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**Darwin Hawryluk** - March 02, 2015 at 02:45 PM

GB

“ *I would like to express my condolences to President Baker's family and share with them my sweet memory and love for this dear man. It was 1975 and I was to be interviewed by President Baker for my first temple recommend, I was very nervous. As he conducted the interview I felt of his love through his kind, gentle words and his tender conduct. I left his presence knowing something wonderful had taken place and I have never forgotten him.*

*May you all feel the blessings of heaven as you celebrate the life of this most beautiful man.*

*Sincerely,*

*Georgina Betts*

*Canada Halifax Mission*

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**Georgina Betts** - March 02, 2015 at 07:24 AM

WS

“ *As a young missionary, I so very much appreciated this gentle giant of a missionary president. My heart fills with thoughts and prayers for the family. He will be remembered with fondness by myself and many other grateful missionaries! <3*

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**Winona (Mantta) Sheppard** - March 02, 2015 at 12:01 AM

RN

“ *One of the good ones has now moved on. But he left a bunch of good ones behind. Condolences and best wishes.*

*Ross Noble*

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**Ross Noble** - March 01, 2015 at 10:56 PM

MV

“ Dear Baker Family, I remember visiting their home with my parents, Cleon and Catherine Noble, as a small child. The first visit I remember I was probably 5 years old and I remember thinking this must be what it is like to visit a home of a prophet. He shook my hand and smiled at me. I always appreciated that!!! I bet my parents have enjoyed seeing him again!

Margaret Noble Jackson Vasquez

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**MnJackson Vasquez** - March 01, 2015 at 10:28 PM

NN

“ Thurn & Ardith Baker and their kids were a huge part of the Noble family's life. Thurn and Ardith were such good examples for all of us and we have been lifelong friends through the years. Claire, Hugh, Garth, Leon, Reed, Elizabeth, Gloria & Camille helped shape my youth. I am grateful for President Baker's life well lived. It made us all better. Nancy Noble

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**Nancy Noble** - March 01, 2015 at 09:42 PM

PT

“ My deepest sympathy

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**Pam Washburn Tea** - February 27, 2015 at 09:28 AM

KH

“ Wishing you all the very best during this time. Kathy Staheli (formerly Hansen)

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**Kathy Hansen** - February 26, 2015 at 01:59 PM