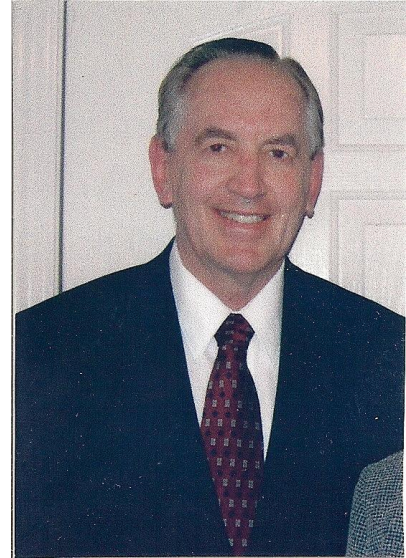


Leland Royce Griffin

I was raised in Southern Utah in the small community of Henrieville, which is located approximately 15 miles east of Bryce Canyon National Park. With the exception of one grandfather, who joined the church later in life, all of my ancestors were from early pioneer lines, including Allen Freeman Smithson and Thomas Washington Smith, who were called to Washington to help establish the Cotton Mission.

Even though we traveled some when I was a boy, due to the fact that my father was a construction worker, most of my time was spent there in Henrieville. I attended school in a small two room school house, which had three classes in each room, until the sixth grade when all schools in the area were consolidated into one in nearby Tropic. There I graduated from Bryce Valley High School in 1961. More importantly, it was there that I met my future wife, Suzanne Wintch.



After graduating from the College of Southern Utah, now Southern Utah University, in 1963, with an Associate degree in architecture, I accepted a call to serve a mission in the North Central States mission with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

As my fiancé had agreed to wait for me with an engagement ring on her finger, we were married in the St George Temple only a few months after I arrived home. By the fall of 1966 we were in Provo where I had enrolled at BYU. There I changed my major to geology, graduating in 1969, as I had been offered full time employment with Exxon as a petroleum geologist. My first assignment was Kingsville, Texas, located near the south Texas Gulf coast.

In the summer of 1972 I was transferred to Midland which is located in the Permian Basin of West Texas, where we lived for the next 32 years. Eventually I worked for several small oil companies and at one point became a partner in a new oil company, Erde Exploration. For the last ten years I worked as a consultant involved in the drilling of numerous oil and gas wells in that area. In 2004 I retired and we moved back to Southern Utah where we made our new home in St George.

We raised a family of 8 children including seven sons and one daughter and now enjoy the added blessing of 16 grandchildren. The church has always been an important part of our life and we have had the opportunity to serve in numerous ward and stake positions. My wife and I were called to serve a full time mission in 2007. We were called to the Headquarters Mission and assigned to the Natural Resources Dept. After six months of work in the Real Estate Dept we transferred to N. E. Wyoming where we watched after the churches interest on one of their ranches where gas drilling operations were taking place. Since coming home we have once again been called to serve in the temple.

I still enjoy geology, and this is a great place for that, but also enjoy family history and pioneer history. We also manage to spend a good deal of time running back and forth to northern Utah to see family members.