

Bio for John R. Matthews

I was born August 1, 1928 in Bayridge (a section of N.Y.C.) to non-member parents of mid-west stock.(My father had been transferred to N.Y.C. from Chicago) I graduated from East Rockaway H. S. on Long Island, joined the Navy and graduated from Hofstra University (Hempstead, N.Y.)(1952) after being discharged. I worked in public accounting and am a C.P.A. While working for Allstate Insurance company, I was transferred to the home office in Skokie, Illinois(1960) and then to Los Angeles(1962) as the CFO of the Saving and Loan associations they purchased (later Sears Savings). I left Allstate but remained in the Saving and Loan business until I retired. While working in the S&L business, I was active in the Financial Managers Society, a 5,000 member professional society, becoming it's national chairman in 1986. After retiring, my wife and I moved to St. George(1995)



In 1952 I married Carolyn Bedell, also from Long Island, and we have 5 children, 14 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. In 1956 two young men tracting in our neighborhood knocked at our door in N. Y. They had been teaching Carolyn's folks the gospel and had sent her folks a picture of them from the Palmyra pageant which Carolyn had seen so she recognized them . They had never met her, so they were shocked to have her address them by name and invite them in. The rest is history, with our having had many opportunities to serve including a mission at the Visitor Center and Historic Sites Mission in St. George. I also had the opportunity to serve on the High Council(2X) Bishop and Stake Clerk among other callings and Carolyn had many callings including being a soloist in the 125 voice Southern California Mormon Choir. Since being in St. George I've had the opportunity to be the treasurer and board member, since it's inception, of the Doctors' Volunteer Clinic, which provides free medical service for those unable to afford medical coverage. We've enjoyed our association with the Sons and particularly the Treks. During the course of doing Family History, I found out my grandfather, great grandfather and great, great grandfather all were church members(possibly even my father, though he didn't say a word to us when we were investigating the church.) and came to Utah in 1862 in the James Wareham company. At least now I can come in the front door as a true Son, rather than the side door. Currently, I'm the secretary and enjoying the association with the board members.