

WINTER QUARTERS

The indomitable human spirit is exemplified by the early pioneers of the American frontier, who, in times of great adversity, turned suffering and hardship into opportunities for growth and experience. Many who have gone before us have demonstrated that our inner happiness has little to do with our outer circumstances. The external conditions weathered by these pioneers were often harsh, and winter's severity forced them to take refuge in temporary settlements referred to by trappers and explorers as "winter quarters."

The fact that these brave pioneers persevered, despite their struggles, suffering, and sacrifices is a testimony to their spirit. Rather than becoming hardened, adversity strengthened their resolve and deepened their communal spirit.

Fortunately, this austere existence did not crowd out of life the joy of living. Laughter, merriment, playfulness, the lively strains of violin, and the dancing party were still observed. Music and song nowhere and at no time better served their purpose of cheering the hearts of men than in these wilderness encampments.

Greg Olsen -

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Greg was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho and grew up in the nearby farming community of Iona. He is the oldest of five children. Greg was blessed with very supportive parents who always encouraged him and provided opportunities for him to pursue his passion of art. Greg remembers a time as a teenager when he had been hired to paint a large sign for a local grocery store. It was wintertime and too cold to paint in the garage so his parents let him set up a workshop in his bedroom. He promptly spilled two quarts of black and orange enamel paint all over his bedroom carpet. Amazingly, his parents still encouraged him in his artistic endeavors.

After high school Greg attended Utah State University where he studied art. While attending school he met his wife, Sydnie Cazier. They have six children and are enjoying their new role as grandparents. Greg likes being close to his family. He paints in his studio, 37 steps from the back door of their home. Greg says, "From an early age I have always been fascinated by paintings that create mood, emotion and atmosphere; especially those paintings that lift me and transport me to some far off place. These are the elements I strive to create in my paintings. My paintings in many ways record what is most important to me: my feelings and experiences with family and friends along with the spiritual aspects of my life. My hope is that in these images you will find something familiar, something which will resonate and remind you of what is important in your own life."