

# FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

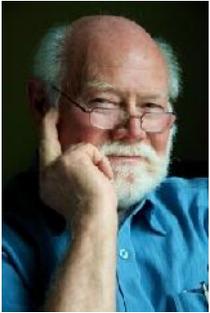
January 2014

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## From the Director's Desk



### On the Power of Storytelling

The Church has always emphasized the importance of the family unit. And every member of each and every family has lived a life worth remembering, not just the family patriarch, whose story is often the only one written. Elder Dennis C. Brimhall, said, "Every person who has ever lived has a right to be remembered and is a story waiting to be told," As the main character in the Movie 'Australia' observed, "After all is said and done all we really are is our story." One doesn't have to think about that very long to realize what a truism that statement is. When we come to realize that our story is all that remains behind when we are gone causes us to realize the sadness of the following statement; "When a man dies, they bury a book!"

Personal histories are the primary link that the living have to the past and to those who broke the trails and bridged the rivers of life that we cross over every day, usually, with very little thought to their hard work and bravery. It is important to write our own story and the stories of our kindred dead because that is the only way to keep those important memories alive. Let us exhume as many of those buried books as we possibly can.

My wife and I have often spoken at various ward and stake meetings where FamilyHistory was the topic. My wife, Joanne, always spoke first, usually surprising the Congregation by telling a story about two families who had to move away from their family homes during the hard times in the mid 1920's; things were not good, financially, in the whole country.

"The White family moved from Basalt, Idaho, a small farming community, to the big city, Salt Lake, in Utah. At about the same time, the James family also moved to Salt Lake from the mining town (not the ski resort) of Park City. They moved within a few blocks of each other but it would be at a dance at the Coconut Grove that William (known as Bill) James was smitten when he saw pretty Norma White. The feeling was mutual and after some dating they married in 1930, right in the midst of The Great Depression.

They never moved into a new house, they never moved into an old house or even an apartment but they became part of Charlie and Addie's family. It would take both the wages of Charlie and Bill to support the family. After a few months they found that the now Mrs. James was expecting a baby, the first grandchild for both sets of grandparents. So Addie and Norma began to make preparations. They did not rush off to Walmart or Babies-R-Us and definitely not Dillards nor Nordstroms (they did not exist at the

time) but they began to sew, knit, crochet, embroider and quilt. This baby would have a personalized wardrobe: nightgowns, booties, sweaters, diapers (not pampers) and even belly-bands (what's a belly-band?).....Then a wonderful, marvelous, exciting event occurred on March 18, 1932. I WAS BORN!!!!!!"

Joanne finishes the narration of her birth by saying, "Now you know more about how my parents met and how I was born into the world then you know about your own parents and probably more than your children know about how your own family started out." By the reaction of the audience it was always obviously true that most of them had never shared their stories with their own families. She concluded by challenging them to go home that very afternoon and write down those very important family events, not only for their immediate children but for future generations.

President Spencer W. Kimball said in a talk titled "The Angels May Quote from It", "What could you do better for your children and your children's children than to record the story of your life, your triumphs over adversity, your recovery after a fall, your progress when all seemed black, your rejoicing when you had finally achieved? Some of what you write may be humdrum dates and places, but there will also be rich passages that will be quoted by your posterity. Get a notebook, a journal that will last through all time, and maybe the angels may quote from it for eternity. Begin today and write in it your goings and comings, your deepest thoughts, your achievements and your failures, your associations and your triumphs, your impressions and your testimonies."

Who do you believe could tell your story best, you or one of your descendants long after you are gone?

Many readers may have seen the September, 2013 Readers digest article titled "The Stories

That Bind Us" the article described research where the results indicated that children who knew more about their families' histories, had a stronger sense of control over their lives, had a higher self-esteem, and they believed their families functioned more successfully. That seems to me to be reason enough to start sharing our family histories. The best time to do that may be Monday evening during Family Home Evening. Maybe the name of that time should be changed to Family Story Night.

– Emil O. Hanson, Dir. OgdenFSL

## Find Military Records Online with this New Index

### Internet Genealogy and Family Chronicle

– Lisa Alzo,

If you're searching for military records for an ancestor, be sure to visit the Online Military Indexes & Records

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/records.html>

This free website by Joe Beine, creator of other sites such as Online Searchable Death Indexes & Records <http://www.deathindexes.com> and Online Birth & Marriage Records Indexes for the USA <http://www.germanroots.com/vitalrecords.html> is a directory of links to online military indexes and records for USA genealogy research for Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Included are rosters, databases of soldiers, and listings of military and war casualties. Also included are some links to sources for military records in other countries for the First and Second World Wars.

## Don't Forget to Include Why You Didn't Include It

– *RootDig.com,*

*Michael John Neill's Genealogy website.*

Should you include "wrong" conclusions in your proof argument? I think there's a time and a place to do that. Let's say I'm writing up my proof argument as to why I think the wife of Edward Bubbinski was named Margaret McCormick. Let's assume that I have reliable evidence and sound analysis on my side. The problem is that other people and other sources have different things to say about Edward's wife, things that have been repeated over and over for decades. I have information from a variety of sources (some more reliable than others) that says Edward's wife's maiden name was: Taylor, Taliaferro, and McCormick.

I decide that the information stating her maiden name was Taylor or Taliaferro is unreliable and does not help me "make my case" as to Margaret's maiden name. Just because the Taylor/Taliaferro information is suspect does not automatically mean that McCormick information is correct. Even if I have sound evidence that the Taylor/Taliaferro information is incorrect, that doesn't mean the McCormick name has to be right. I need evidence that McCormick is what is actually correct. What do I do with the Taylor and Taliaferro information when I know it is incorrect?

I don't think incorrect information should be ignored. In fact, I think this incorrect information, along with why I believe it to be unreliable and incorrect, should be included in my written proof of why Margaret was a McCormick. Why should unreliable information be included in my proof showing something else? There are two reasons.

1) To show that I didn't overlook (or ignore) the wrong stuff. Incorrect information

(especially when it's been spread numerous times) should be referenced so that readers of my proof know that I was aware of the information and had not overlooked it or left it out because "it didn't fit my theory." If I (for valid reasons) believe that something commonly repeated and reported to be true is actually false, I need to at least acknowledge it in my proof that a contrary statement is true. Acknowledging it does not mean that I think it is true, but rather, in my opinion, it strengthens my argument that something else is true because it cannot be said that I ignored what I did not want to believe.

2) It strengthens my case. If I have evidence that the incorrect information is untrue, then that evidence (and my clearly written argument summarizing that evidence) helps me to make my case that something else is true. It does not automatically mean that my alternate theory is true--I still need solid evidence. If I have evidence that Margaret's maiden name was McCormick and I also have separate evidence that her maiden name was not Taylor or Taliaferro, my case is for the McCormick name is stronger.

Don't just ignore what you know is wrong.

## Newberry's Atlas of Historical

### Boundaries - *From the Logan FamilySearch*

*Library Newsletter*

The Atlas of Historical Boundaries is a powerful historical research and reference tool in electronic form. It includes maps and text covering the historical boundaries, names, organization, and attachments of every U.S. county, extinct county and unsuccessful county proposal from the creation of the first county through 31 December 2000.

## **What's Puzzilla** – *From the Logan*

*FamilySearch library, Dec 2013*

This site, [Puzzilla.org](http://Puzzilla.org) is one of the most exciting new websites I've visited recently! If you're interested in descendant research, you really need this tool. There are 2 videos available to help you get started. The first, "Finding Herman..." describes, in very simple terms, the descendant research process. The second, "Puzzilla How To..." describes how to use the site to help you decide where to start, what needs to be done and where you can be most effective. Try it out, just for fun.

## **A Little-Known Government**

**Genealogy Service** – *November 24, 2013*

*from the Eastman Newsletter*

A little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provides genealogy information that may be difficult or impossible to obtain elsewhere. The records include naturalization files, visa applications, and citizenship tests, and may reveal family secrets and mysteries. In addition to relatives, historians or researchers can also request files. Under the USCIS Genealogy Program, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days.

The government will run a search of the name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges additional fees for the files. The fee for a record copy from microfilm identified as (M) is \$20 per request. The fee for a copy of a hard copy file identified as (HC) is \$35 per request. More information about the fees associated with each file series may be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/historical-records-series-available-genealogy-program>.

The documents typically include immigration information, often (but not always) including exact hometowns in their ancestors' native countries. The files often have information on brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Many times it is useful to obtain the records of your uncles, aunts, and cousins who also immigrated from "the old country."

If the immigrant applied for American citizenship, the details are also included in these files. For anyone of Japanese, German, or Italian origin who lived in the United States during World War II, the documents often include FBI reports about the person's activities, including friends, family, and political activities.

For more information about the program, check out <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>.

## **Monthly Guest Speaker Series**

Please plan now to attend our 2014 Saturday Presentation Kickoff program on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 10am. Tom Hester, from Billiongraves will be here to enlighten and inspire us for the coming year. The Billiongraves program originated in Ogden and Tom has been with Billiongraves since it was born! He manages all the technical support for Billiongraves and should be wonderful in answering all of our questions. The presentation will be held in room 12 of the Ogden FamilySearch Library. Refreshments will be served.

## **Mormons score highest on 'Religious Health-O-Meter'**

– Sarah Petersen

*Deseret News, Friday, Dec. 13 2013*

Many members of the LDS church have recently shared a graphic created by Curtis Newbold, featuring 11 of the largest religions in America and how they ranked regarding their spiritual health depending on happiness and devotion.

After gathering information from the Pew Research Religious Landscape Survey conducted in 2008, Newbold found the LDS Church ranked the highest for its religious health. Newbold divided the data into two categories to define religious health: happiness and religious devotion.

Happiness was determined by whether members were married, had some college experience and earned more than \$50,000 per year. Religious devotion was determined by whether members attend church at least weekly, if religion is important in their lives and if they reported having prayers answered multiple times a month.

On the graphic, Newbold notes that "the scores don't reflect an actual indication of a religious people's happiness and devotion, but simply make a comparison of each religion's potential well-being to the others'."

But most surprising to Newbold was the distinction between religions that consistently scored high in only the happiness category and others that scored high in only the religiously devoted category.

"What I found was fascinating: That religions, churches, whose members have the highest education, make the most money and are married - factors that are repeatedly shown to relate to personal happiness - tend to be least religiously devoted, at least in terms of attending church, praying and considering religion important," Newbold told the Deseret News.

"And the opposite also appeared to be the case: Those who were highly religiously devoted tended to not make much money, not be comparatively highly educated and married less."

While most religions have fallen under one or the other, the LDS Church seemed to be an outlier.

"I'm not sure what I really expected when I reviewed the data - and I'm not the person who conducted the original study, by any means," Newbold said. "But I know that I was surprised to find such a disparity between education, wealth and religious devotion. And it was a bit surprising to me to find only one religion, the Mormons, who scored in the top half in all six categories."

**Wills and Probate Records** – *from the Mesa AZ FamilySearch Library, December 2013 Newsletter.*

– *Sherril A Harmon, Director*

While we may search for an ancestor's obituary or tombstone, we often overlook probate records. A big mistake! These records are usually well-documented, accurate, and packed with details. Probate records often provide answers to many stubborn genealogy questions. "Probate records are the very best records for proving ancestry" (Thomas W. Jones, from the National Genealogical Society Conference in 2008).

Records' may not be quite accurate, for technically this term refers only to persons leaving wills (Testate) and not those who died without one (Intestate). The word probate, however, has come to mean the general class of records associated with an estate."

Probate records can provide a glimpse into the lifestyle of an ancestor and specific facts about the family. From wills you can discover how often the people on your pedigree entrusted their assets to a spouse, whether all sons inherited equally, how daughters fared in comparison, whether a man distributed his property to his children before his death, or who was instructed to care for the widow and younger children or handicapped family members. Servants were sometimes released and slaves freed by a will. When courthouse fires destroyed probate files, other court documents may have survived if filed in other buildings or kept among the personal papers of justices or court officials. Some of these records,

such as deeds, can be legally used in lieu of the probate processes.

Before 1850, when census records began to list the names of household persons, deeds, wills and probate records may be the only way to find your ancestors. They are interesting documents, full of useful information and another great tool to use in our ancestor search.

**How Popular is Genealogy?** *An excerpt from, GenealogyInTime Magazine Newsletter, of 13 November 2013 (The article has been summarized by Emil Hanson)*

If you were to ask 100 people (this is not a survey of members of the church) if they have any interest in learning more about their ancestors, the vast majority of people would say 'yes'. After all, everyone has ancestors. If it were not for our ancestors, we would not be here today. To put it another way, by design, everyone is inherently interested in their ancestors.

Genealogy surveys that ask such broad questions will naturally result in broad interest. These types of surveys give the appearance of genealogy being very popular. Over the last several years, there have been several published genealogy surveys that have taken this approach. But is this truly representative of the truth?

Now go back to those same 100 people and ask a slightly different question: would you be prepared to commit significant time and resources to learning more about your ancestors? You don't need any deep insight to realize most people would say 'no'.

The difference between these two questions (Are you interested in your ancestors? versus Do you want to devote time and resources to finding your ancestors?) is what fundamentally lies behind the confusion as to the popularity of genealogy. Ask the first question and genealogy

looks to be very popular. Ask the second question and all of a sudden genealogy looks to be a much smaller pastime.

- See more at:

[http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/how-popular-is-genealogy-page01.html?awt\\_l=DtpeI&awt\\_m=JO\\_YeZwg\\_Ak.Vy#sthash.GKtlZ8lq.dpuf](http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/how-popular-is-genealogy-page01.html?awt_l=DtpeI&awt_m=JO_YeZwg_Ak.Vy#sthash.GKtlZ8lq.dpuf)

A survey of members of the LDS Church would probably return a similar result: If we ask members of the LDS church if Family History is important to them, everyone with a testimony of the restored Gospel will say, "Definitely yes"! If you ask them if they are engaged personally in family research, that question will only result in between 2 and 3 percent saying that they are actually engaged in research. But if they are asked if they go to the temple to do work for the dead, a much larger number will say that they do. The number engaged in actual research for their ancestors is slowly rising. With an emphasis being placed on 'getting to know them' by writing their stories the hope is that a much greater interest will be stimulated.

## Class Spotlight

THE SOURCE: A Guidebook of American Genealogy – S.D. Szucs and S.H. Luebking [editors] Winner of the American Library Association's Best Reference Award is a book considered by some as "Essential to novice and experienced researchers alike" and "a one-volume library of genealogical research knowledge"

Sister Joanne Hanson will be teaching a 38 week class on the book and it's contents beginning Monday, January 13, 2014, 10am-11:30am The class cost of \$60 includes the book (a \$50 value)

**Best Wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year !**

## Family History Classes

### Opportunities to increase your Family History Skills

### Register with the cashier in the West Building

Class Name	Day	Date	Time	Room	Weeks	Cost	Instructor
Ancestral Quest Complete	Mon	6-Jan	1:00 PM	11	4	\$0.00	Dale McIntyre
Ancestral Quest Complete	Tue	7-Jan	1:00 PM	11	4	\$0.00	Dale McIntyre
Ancestral Quest Complete	Wed	8-Jan	1:00 PM	11	4	\$0.00	Dale McIntyre
Computers - Beginning (Part 1)	Sat	4-Jan	2:30 PM	26	4	\$5.00	Scott M. Berry
Computers - Favorite Websites	Sat	11-Jan	1:00 PM	26	1	\$0.00	Scott M. Berry
Computers - New Meta Search Engines	Sat	18-Jan	1:00 PM	26	1	\$0.00	Scott M. Berry
Family History - Consultant Training	Thu	2-Jan	6:00 PM	11	1.	\$0.00	Nicole Hepler
Family History - Consultant Training	Thu	6-Feb	6:00 PM	11	1.	\$0.00	Nicole Hepler
Family History - Consultant Training	Thu	6-Mar	6:00 PM	11	1.	\$0.00	Nicole Hepler
Family History - Generations Beginning	Sat	4-Jan	10:00 AM	25	4	\$5.00	Joanne Hanson
Family History - Generations Beginning	Tue	7-Jan	9:00 AM	25	4	\$5.00	Joanne Hanson
Family History - Generations Beginning	Wed	8-Jan	9:30 AM	25	4	\$5.00	Marlene Jorgensen
Family History - Organize Your Papers	Tue	7-Jan	2:00 PM	25	5	\$5.00	Joanne Hanson
Family History - Writing Your Personal History	Tue	14-Jan	1:00 PM	12	1	\$0.00	Emil Hanson
Family Tree - Adding Stories	Sat	4-Jan	3:00 PM	11	1	\$0.00	Dan Stanger
Family Tree - Photos and Scanning	Wed	8-Jan	5:45 PM	11	1	\$0.00	Larry Johnson
Family Tree - Photos and Scanning	Wed	15-Jan	5:45 PM	11	1	\$0.00	Ed Williams
Family Tree - Spanish	Sat	4-Jan	11:00 AM	26	5	\$0.00	Juan Balderas
Family Tree Advanced	Wed	8-Jan	11:00 AM	11	4	\$0.00	Edith Reeves
Family Tree Basic	Sat	4-Jan	1:30 PM	11	5	\$0.00	Dan Stanger
Family Tree Basic	Wed	8-Jan	5:30 PM	13	5	\$0.00	Stephen Felt
Family Tree Basic	Wed	8-Jan	9:00 AM	11	5	\$0.00	Robert Draper
Family Tree Basic	Thu	9-Jan	1:00 PM	11	5	\$0.00	Blaine Borrowman
Family Tree Basic	Thu	9-Jan	9:30 AM	11	5	\$0.00	Eugene Draper
FamilySearch Indexing	Thu	16-Jan	11:00 AM	26	1	\$0.00	D. Al Harris
Legacy Basic	Mon	6-Jan	11:00 AM	13	6	\$4.00	Sam Lower
Research - British Isles	Tue	7-Jan	4:00 PM	26	8	\$10.00	Fred Moore
Research - Descendant Relatives	Mon	6-Jan	9:00 AM	13	7	\$4.00	Sam Lower
Research - Evidences and Sources	Wed	8-Jan	9:30 AM	13	1	\$0.00	Karen White
Research - Generations Research	Thu	9-Jan	9:30 AM	28	14	\$2.00	Karen White
Research - Generations Research	Tue	14-Jan	11:00 AM	26	14	\$2.00	Joanne Hanson
Research - Generations Research	Wed	5-Feb	9:30 AM	26	14	\$2.00	Marlene Jorgensen
Research - German Research in Family History	Thu	23-Jan	1:00 PM	25	8	\$10.00	Juergen Sass
Research - New Genealogy Directories Search	Sat	4-Jan	1:00 PM	26	1	\$0.00	Scott M. Berry
Research - The Source	Mon	13-Jan	10:00 AM	27A	38	\$60.00	Joanne Hanson
Roots Magic	Thu	2-Jan	5:30 PM	13	3	\$0.00	Allen Hardison
Roots Magic	Thu	2-Jan	1:00 PM	13	3	\$0.00	Allen Hardison
Roots Magic	Fri	3-Jan	11:00 AM	13	3	\$0.00	Allen Hardison
Roots Magic	Sat	4-Jan	9:00 AM	13	3	\$0.00	Allen Hardison
Roots Magic	Tue	7-Jan	1:00 PM	13	4	\$0.00	William Lakey
Roots Magic	Wed	8-Jan	11:00 AM	13	4	\$0.00	Terry Allen

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