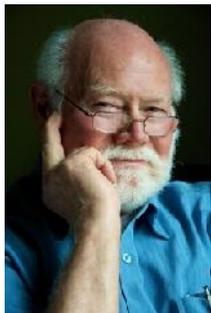




# FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

*From the Director's Desk*

**JUNE 2014**



## **On Death and Dying**

We had two special members of our staff pass away in April they were our most senior couple. I am referring to Brother Farrell Shepherd and his wife, Lois. He was born in 1917, and would have been 97 in May. Both were serving at the Ogden FamilySearch Library until a few weeks before they passed. Lois, his wife of 66 years, passed away just a few days after he did. He served as the Friday afternoon supervisor. Farrell had retired from Weber State University as the Director of the Student Union Building. He was so loved and appreciated there that they named the building after him. At our last Family History conference held in that very building, we publically recognized Brother Shepherd for his service to the University as well as to Family History work in general. They will both be sorely missed. Because the Shepherd's passing has been on my mind, I have chosen to write about death, even though I wrote somewhat about it several years ago.

Death is actually a process that begins when we are born; it is not something we look forward to or even anticipate as something in our future. Our brains are not programed to anticipate death as we do a birthday or other celebrations. Rather, our brains are designed to think of death as 'something that happens to others, to old people', and when we are old, it is something that happens to 'other' old people.

When we come to the point in our lives that we can see that our bodies and our minds are slowing down, we may finally resign ourselves to believing that, at last, it is 'my turn'. The key to accepting that time, 'my turn', is not to see death as a punctuation period, the end, but that it is rather more like a comma, meaning that there is more to come. Job, of Old Testament fame, asked the question, "If a man die will he live again?" There is no other question to which the human soul yearns more for an answer than that one. It seemed to Job, that the grave could not be the end. In his book, 'If A Man Die', the author, Gordon T. Allred wrote, "If life were just a tangled web of injustices, such as he (Job) had suffered, why would God have given us a moral code if our only reward for following it were death?" Job, wanted to be assured; he wanted to believe that there was 'a beyond'. All men want to be assured of that. Otherwise, why not, 'Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die!' What is it that stands in the way of a man's belief in immortality? It is the cold and universal fact of death. All men die and every day we read in the obituaries a brief description of their lives. As far as we can see there is no more than a casket and a grave. Stig Kernell's very brief obituary, published in the Swedish daily newspaper, Dagens Nyheter stated "I Am Dead."

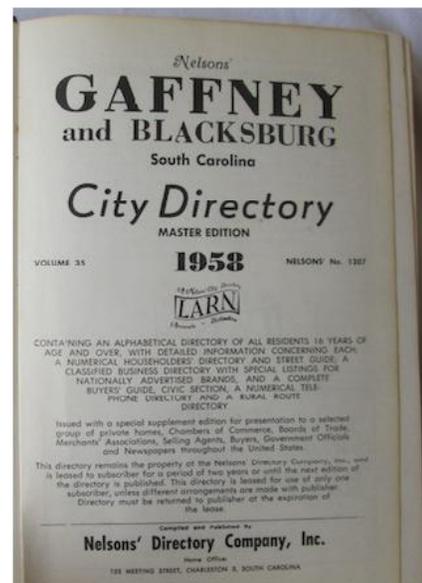
Well, that really did sum it up, alright. Job would have added in all faith, "But I will live again." So where is the evidence of the beyond? Science will say there is no evidence of the 'beyond' because the body lies there for all to see.

Science, however, knows nothing, or very little, about spiritual evidence. But, Job's great faith allowed him an audience with God. And from that audience his assurance was such that he cried with joy saying, "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God". (*Job 19:26*) Luke tells us that; "For He is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto Him." (*Luke 20:38*) Men's lives, apparently, have many forms, not unlike the transitional life of a butterfly. A caterpillar emerges from its egg-like larva; much like a small child emerges from its mother's womb. After a short life, such as ours, the caterpillar prepares itself for its next stage by wrapping itself in a cocoon or pupa much like a man is laid away in a coffin. Eventually a beautiful butterfly emerges, possibly comparable to the spirit of man leaving the cold body and ascending into the spirit world. The spirit world being his next phase of existence on his progressive path to eternal life. It has always been interesting to me to know that when Heavenly father wants us to know something he sends a messenger to reveal His message. The messenger comes delivers the message and leaves. He leaves and reports back to the Father that he has completed his assignment. (Talk about being purpose driven or goal oriented, none can compete with heavenly messengers.) They have never stopped to linger and to discuss the weather or how things are going on earth. They have never told anyone, to our knowledge, about where it is that they live and what it is like there. They don't fill us in on what they do all day or who they do it with, or if they even have days. Obviously Heavenly Father does not want us to know very much about what lies on the other side of the veil, for if we knew (for certain) maybe this life would no longer be a challenge for us. This much we do know. Latter day revelation has vaguely described the place that we will all be going to; a place that is

referred to as the spirit world, or paradise. We also know that the faithful will have more important things to do there than play harps. Missionary work will be one of them. We also know that the Spirit World is a family oriented world. We have to remember that the worth of souls and families are great in the sight of God; (*D&C 18:10*). For the living, we should be satisfied knowing that, while we are yet here, we have an important work to do for many on the other side of the veil and that we need to be about it.

– Emil O. Hanson,  
Director, Ogden FamilySearch Library

## City Directories



City Directories give the names and addresses of everyone who lived in a family in the city for which the directory was published. Those cities that have published a city directory usually do so on an annual basis. They provide important information for persons unsure if their families lived in a given city and if they were found there, the city directory can tell for how long they lived there. Not all libraries maintain city directories but if your local library does they can be a very valuable research tool.

## The More Children Knew about Their Family's History

– From a *New York Times* article has results from a study done at Emory University by Marshall Duke.

The more children knew about their family's history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their self-esteem and the more successfully they believed their families functioned. The "Do You Know?" scale turned out to be the best single predictor of children's emotional health and happiness.

Dr. Duke said that children who have the most self-confidence have what he calls a strong "intergenerational self." They know they belong to something bigger than themselves.

(Bruce Feiler, "The Stories that Bind Us," *The New York Times* published 15 March 2013

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/fashion/the-family-stories-that-bind-us-this-life.html> : ])

## Free Access to Ancestry.com, findmypast, and MyHeritage

In April, FamilySearch announced that Latter-day Saint users of FamilySearch.org will be able to receive free access to Ancestry.com, findmypast, and MyHeritage. Invitations for this opportunity will be sent out to members over the next few months. In preparation to receive an invitation, make sure your FamilySearch logon setting indicates your name and email address is set at public. You can check this as follows:

1. Sign on to FamilySearch.org.
2. Click on your name. A drop down menu will appear.
3. Click on Settings.
4. Scroll down to the Contact section.
5. To the right of your name, be sure the box "Public" is checked.

6. To the right of your Email, be sure the box "Public" is checked.

7. If you made any changes, scroll to the bottom of the screen to the notifications section and click on "Save Changes."

When your invitation is received, it will include instructions for registering for your personal account. The invitation e-mail is intended only for the member who receives it. Included is the following statement: "This invitation is meant specifically for you. Please do not forward this notice. Forwarded invitations will not allow others to get free access. You received this message because you registered for a FamilySearch account. For any additional information concerning these partner websites and access for members, contact FamilySearch Support at [support@familysearch.org](mailto:support@familysearch.org)."

There have been instances where members have followed the instructions but received a message that access in this area hasn't been given yet. The following information should help in this situation.

"Brother Hansen,

A consultant at our center received the email but when she tried to follow through it popped up an Access Denied and then something like "Access in this area hasn't been given yet". There is more to it than that but that tells them they can't continue. She called support and was told for some reason she was not put on their other list that allows her to continue and that if we hadn't called she wouldn't still be able to sign up for the three, Ancestry, My Heritage and Find My Past.

He did say it might be a week or so before but that she should try every few days and that if others have the same problem they need to call in or support wouldn't know they had missed them.

Nan"

## From RootsTech: Elder Allan F. Packer's Spiritual Passport

– Lisa McBride-FamilySearch Blog  
April 22, 2014

Elder Allan F. Packer spoke at RootsTech to priesthood leaders and family history workers about their role to help Church members and to make a difference in members' lives.

He said, "Right now, not many members have their passport stamp for family history work. Past approaches of teaching and motivating have only resulted in less than 3% of the membership submitting names. To reach the other 97% we need to change how we think, how we teach, and what we teach. The 97% are a priority for the [Family History] department."

He continued, "What inspired leaders have done, you can do. You can get inspiration to know what to do. We need to focus to help the 97% find and authorize ordinances for their ancestors. It is a call to help the members of your wards and stakes."

Elder Packer had several suggestions to ignite members to submit their family names for temple ordinances:

" Help members one-on-one or in small groups, especially as family groups.

" Touch member's hearts with stories and pictures of their ancestors to help them have a spiritual experience where they feel the Spirit of Elijah.

" Encourage family reunions where stories are told and memories are preserved.

" Change the order we teach family history. For many years we have first taught about technology and the rules of genealogy. Now, start with stories and pictures. Help people discover themselves. Family history is about hearts, not charts.

" Over the years, family history and temple work has become a solo experience. It has become something a person does by him or herself. Our family history libraries can become more family friendly.

..."The Family History Department has researched what wards with high family history activity rates are doing. Where wards were doing 5 of the 7 of the Keys to Success in the Spiritual Passport, the rate of temple activity was about double the average ward." Here are the 7 keys:

" The "To Turn the Heart" guidebook is a core in the ward plan. The ward council develops and works their plan.

" Youth are called as family history consultants.

" There are three or more active family history consultants.

" Youth took family names on temple trips. The First Presidency has encouraged youth to always take family names or the names of other ward or stake members to the temple.

" Consultants helped members at least monthly.

" Consultants met with priesthood leaders at least monthly.

" Consultants helped new converts at least monthly.

Elder Packer concluded, "You, as family history workers and priesthood leaders are in the position to help the 97% get their passports stamped. You can make a difference. You must make a difference. Their hope is in your hands."

## Thought

"Very simply, the Spirit of Elijah is the Holy Ghost. The Spirit of Elijah will influence anyone who is involved in this work. That, for a young person in the wickedness in the world in which we live today, is one of the greatest safeguards against the temptations of the adversary. The Spirit of Elijah will not only bless you, it will protect you."

– David A. Bednar

## English Research and the FamilySearch Wiki

– Nathan Murphy of FamilySearch  
(edited for space considerations)

...In the past, the Family History Library published a series of research guides. With the Internet, websites were being added more quickly than the guides could be updated. Consequently, FamilySearch established a wiki that could be updated by both FamilySearch staff and researchers at large. That's where the information from the guides migrated. Over 75,000 articles are now present in the Wiki. The wiki and its use is growing. In the next month or two we expect to get a million plus visitors each month.

The wiki contains resource information that can be used in conjunction with the FamilySearch catalog. For example, the catalog entries for Somerset County list no online resources. However, if you go to the Wiki article, the article contains many links to online records. The links include both free and paid resources. You need to be aware of all the resources available and articles in the wiki include parishes that aren't available in the records from the International Genealogical Index (IGI).

In the Wiki you may search for articles by location or by topic. For example, from the article about England, you can link into related topical articles, or you can link to counties within England. From county pages you can link to topical articles, but you can also link to parishes within the county.

If you are doing or plan to do research in England the Wiki is an excellent source. A quick way to get to the wiki: Type in "ogdenfsl.org" then click on the Research tab and then click on the Research Wiki and you are in.

## Focusing On Specific Objectives - ResearchTies

– Emil O. Hanson

Why are some genealogists more effective than others? One reason may be that these researchers are focused on a specific objective and apply known methodologies to their work. Experience teaches that certain records provide specific types of data, which then can be used to locate additional information. Wandering through shelves and websites hoping to find something that might mention an ancestor is inefficient and ineffective. It is important to have goals to guide our work.

The first step in any research project is to set a goal. Large, overarching goals are good for long-term direction, but very specific objectives are best for directing day-to-day and month-to-month work sessions. ResearchTies facilitates the recording of objectives and displays the current objective at the top of the form. Remembering the objective helps researchers to stay on track and reduce time spent wandering.

One of the strengths of ResearchTies is its capacity to assist with research planning. As mentioned in the above article, it is important that research be driven by a goal. When you know what you are looking for, it's easier to know where to look! At the beginning of any research session, know what your objective is, whether returning to an unfinished goal or beginning a new one. Focus your efforts. ResearchTies.com Check it out!

Whether you use a commercially developed program such as ResearchTies or if you just develop your own tracking and planning system you will be well served to journal or log your progress while you research.

## What Family History Can Do for You and Your Family

-Source: "Family History Heals", by Jennifer H. Johnson, *Celebrating Family History* - March 2014 Digital Magazine (TAKEN FROM CACHE VALLEY NEWSLETTER - 16 April)

Here are ten ideas about what family history can do for you and your family.

1. Increases faith and gratitude.
2. Helps you learn from others' mistakes and accomplishments.
3. Helps youth want to have families.
4. Instills courage.
5. Helps you feel connected.
6. Teaches about love and commitment.
7. Reconciles generations.
8. Mends broken families.
9. Lets you experience empathy.
10. Gives eternal perspective.

And you thought family history was just about seeking after your ancestors! Think about sharing the story of your life with your family, or about creating a history of your family, that can be passed on. We have an obligation to those who came before us and also to the unborn to instill the importance of family connections in their hearts. The benefits are just waiting to be discovered.

## Ogden Familysearch Library Family History Camp 2014

### Family History Camps for 2014 coming soon!

The staff at the Ogden FamilySearch Library is in the middle of their training in preparation for leading these camps of Primary children and youth. Sixty-five camp groups have already scheduled and will begin on June 2nd and will

continue on until August 16th, with time off for the July 4th and 24th holidays. Camp is an interactive group activity that lasts 2.5 hours. It is designed for people ages 8 to 110. The basics of family history are learned as participants search for clues about the featured Rapoport (Russian Jewish) family. There is a general meeting, a visit with grandma or grandpa, small groups are organized and each visits a cemetery, county clerk's office, and a public library. Each participant is guided through an internet search, and will begin filling information about their family in the "My Family" booklet. There is charge for each participant of \$1.00 to cover the cost of the booklet.

## Are You "Normon?"

– *Deseretnews.com*

MR says: This sounds like a great website for missionary work-to dispel myths and share testimonies. Rebbie Groesbeck doesn't claim to know everything about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but as a Mormon living in Los Angeles, she has had plenty of opportunities to explain what she does know. As a result of conversations with strangers about her beliefs, Groesbeck has been surprised to find that the most common reaction she receives is that she is far more normal than they thought she would be. "I just felt like I heard over and over that people were shocked and so confused, like, 'You're Mormon? But you're normal!' That was always the sentence I heard over and over," Groesbeck said. "So then that became the joke, and I told people to call me the 'Normon'.

## Class Schedules Now Online !

go to <http://ogdenfsl.org/class-schedule/>

## Women in China's Miao Minority Wear Helmets Made of Hair from Their Ancestors

– Dick Eastman April 23 2014



Many of us are fortunate enough to inherit heirlooms or other items from our ancestors. However, women in the Miao minority of China often have mementoes from many generations of their maternal ancestors: hair. Instead of throwing away their hair when they comb it, women of the Long-horn Miao minority save the strands and add them to their collection of hair that allows them to create spectacular headdresses. The hairpieces are passed down to daughters as more and more hair from each generation is added. The tradition allows the women to create spectacular headdresses.

Every wig is passed down from mother to daughter and includes not just yarn and twine but also the hair from a line of female ancestors which the owners of the headdresses claim go back hundreds of years. Every time a woman combs her hair, she collects it, and she hands it to her daughter when her daughter marries.

## WARNING: Backup your files Now

– Eastman Newsletter



It seems that every two or three months I publish sad news about important records and artifacts being lost forever. Sometimes fires damage or destroy library or archive buildings and all the contents: including records, books, family histories, cemetery records, plat maps, military uniforms, and more. In other articles, I have written about similar losses caused by floods, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, burst water pipes, leaky roofs...

## Thought by Elder John A. Widtsoe

"In our preexistent state, in the day of the Great Council, we made a certain agreement with the Almighty. The Lord proposed a plan, conceived by him. We accepted it. Since the plan is intended for all men, we become parties to the salvation of every person under the plan. We agreed, right then and there, to be not only saviors for ourselves but measurably, saviors for the whole human family. We went into a partnership with the lord. The working out of the plan became then not merely the Father's work and the Savior's work, but also our work. The least of us, the humblest, is in partnership with the almighty in achieving the purpose of the eternal plan of salvation.

## For Center Directors: Using the My Family Booklet in Your Family History Center

– Lisa McBride, April 22, 2014

The booklet *My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together* is an engaging way to capture and preserve your family story. Remembering and sharing family stories invites the Spirit and helps to turn our hearts to our ancestors. The booklet provides simple steps for recording family information, including adding photos, names, dates, and precious family stories. This booklet is an easy and effective way to introduce family history to members, including youth and families.

Family History Centers/Libraries are a great place for members to receive help with the My Family booklet. You and the consultants who serve in the center can help members in the following ways:

" Encourage members to get started with family history by reaching out and talking to their parents and grandparents to gather family photos and stories and record them in the booklet.

" Help members to complete the booklet by providing personal assistance, family or group activities, or classes.

" As you help members with the booklet, encourage them to share their stories with you and with each other. Sharing family stories invites the Spirit and helps turn members' hearts to their ancestors.

" Help those who have completed the booklet to add their family information and stories to Family Tree online at FamilySearch.

" Help members to order copies of the MyFamily booklet online. You may also want to keep copies of My Family at the family history center to be ready to help members.

" Help members to select and print requests for temple ordinance work for family members found in their "My Family" booklet.

## Of Roots and Branches

### Ogden Family History Conference Update by David Kenneth Shurtz, 2014 Conference Vendor Chairman

The Ogden Family History Conference is coming. It will be held September 13, 2014 at the Weber State University Union Building. This is a Saturday to look forward to. Most of you have no idea how much time and effort are put into making sure this is a prime event. Hundreds of people are contacted to speak, present and to vend right here in Ogden. We hope to be bursting at the seams this year.

One of the most exciting and new parts of the conference for 2014 is the youth portion. The morning of the conference will feature many opportunities for our children, youth and young single adults to be taught by persons their own age. We have a wonderful lineup of youth classes and hands-on opportunities rich with technology and spiced with stories and photos. All who attend, and we are planning for hundreds of young people, will go away enriched and blessed with knowledge and a strong feeling of the Spirit of Elijah. As the LDS church leaders have been pushing for our youth to take a commanding lead in this work, we believe all the effort to bring these amazing classes and people are worth it.

We encourage every lover of Family History and Genealogy to push their ward and stake leaders to make this conference a priority event. Make sure it is on their and our agendas and calendars please.

As the vendor chairman, I can reveal that we have a wonderful assortment of vendors planning to be on hand at the conference. We hope these good people will be able to impart great opportunity and knowledge to all conference

attendees as well as be able to make some money for their companies.

There are few things in life that fit the good, better, best rule given us by our spiritual leaders. I believe this one easily fits into the best category. Please look forward with great anticipation to the conference this year and invite everyone you know to attend, especially your young people. God bless you as you serve one-another in his great work.

## **The Annual Ogden City Cemetery Walking History Tour**

This event will be conducted on Friday, June 7th and again on Monday June 9th. The first tour starts at 5:00 P.M. and others will follow every ten minutes until the last tour which will begin at 6:30 P.M.

This is a great family event - Actors will be representing the names which appear on a selection of Ogden City Cemetery gravestones, they will give a brief history of each person's life and times.

## **Monthly Guest Speaker Series**

Please plan now to attend our Saturday Presentation on June 21 at 10:00 a.m. We will have Larry Blanch a long time educator in Weber county, active member of the Ogden Chapter, Utah Sons of the Pioneers and a member of our staff at the Ogden FamilySearch Library to speak to us. He is currently engaged in conducting the Pioneer Heritage Essay Program in all the schools of Weber County and is also actively supporting the Military Veterans of West Weber. He has some remarkable experiences to share and will talk on "The Big Bend of the River-History of West Weber"

## **Class Schedule Change**

As most of you are aware, the Ogden FamilySearch Library offers an extensive selection of classes on nearly every aspect of family history. In the past we have published class schedules in the monthly newsletter. We are changing this practice beginning this month. Class schedules are now available online at the Ogden FamilySearch Library web site.

Class times, and topics change nearly every week. Putting the schedule online provides patrons with an up to date picture of what is available at the library. You can reach the schedule by going to the Ogden Library web page ([ogdenfsl.org](http://ogdenfsl.org)) and clicking on the CLASSES heading and then the CLASS SCHEDULE hyperlink. Alternately you can go directly to the class schedule by entering [ogdenfsl.org/class-schedule/](http://ogdenfsl.org/class-schedule/)

## **Source Tracker**

**It's Now Easier Than Ever to Track Your Ancestors in the U.S. Census Records - March 4, 2014 By Tim Cross**

TreeSeek, a FamilySearch Affiliate, introduces a new tracking feature that is now available for FamilySearch Family Tree. This feature is called the Source Tracker. It allows you to see which ancestors from the Family Tree have U.S. census records attached. It also shows you which census records are missing for an ancestor and helps you locate them within the census data sets. To get to the Source Tracker:

1. Go to CreateFan.com
2. Click the Login now to create your chart button
3. Log in using your FamilySearch account information.
4. Click on the Source Tracker option
5. Click the Create Charts Button