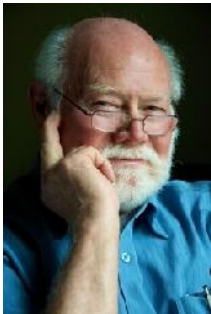


FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER



From the Director's Desk



On Pioneers and Pilgrims

"Of logs we built our houses, of shakes we made the doors, of sod we made the chimneys, dirt we had for floors." Joel William White wrote that little rhyme in his journal. He was my wife's 2nd great grandfather and one of the early pioneers. Another one stated that; "We swept our dirt floors with a sage broom and when we were done we threw it in the fireplace to heat our home."

On the 24th of July, we will again be celebrating 'Pioneer Days' with a parade, rodeo and fireworks; it is primarily a Utah holiday and rightly so. That is the day, in 1847, that our first Utah pioneer forefathers drove their covered wagons down into the Salt Lake Valley after a thousand mile trek across the dusty plains. They had been driven out of their homes in Illinois because of religious persecution. They came here looking for peace and safety from the intolerance of the, so-called, civilized areas of our then young nation. A nation that had recently instituted a constitution that guaranteed 'religious freedom'.

Each year on this celebration day, do our minds ever leave the parade, the rodeo and the fireworks long enough to contemplate what those early pioneers went through to get here? Do we try to understand, on that day, the 24th, the many things they had to do in August,

September and October in order to survive their first year.

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They had to build shelters to protect their families from the elements. They had to plant crops late in the summer so they would have food to eat through the coming winter or they would actually starve to death? For them, it wasn't a matter of; 'Well, if the corn doesn't mature we'll have to run down to Albertsons and buy some.' Theirs was a matter of; if the corn doesn't mature we won't have any.

It was a very difficult life for them; unlike us, they had very few choices in terms of what they could do. And when you don't have choices, what you have to do must be done with energy, hope and a prayer in your heart that it will be a successful effort. One interesting way of trying to put ourselves back then was stated by an unknown author; "If we were put back in that time we would not be ourselves." We would be put into an entirely different dimension, a dimension not unlike the popular TV series of several years ago, called the 'Twilight zone'.

Some of the first settlers in this country made a pilgrimage from Europe where they, too, were persecuted for their religious beliefs. They also struggled to prepare for their first winter and many did not make it. They were referred to as Pilgrims. The early Latter Day Saints also made a pilgrimage, a pilgrimage to the Salt Lake Valley and for the same reason, religious persecution.

They, too, arrived at an awkward time of year and they, too, could be referred to as pilgrims.

When I was a young person, I read a book entitled, "Pilgrim's Progress", a story about Christian, a young man who supposedly was representing all Christians as they venture through life. Christian ran into one moral obstacle after another, each having to be overcome, before he could move on toward his goal of eternal life. From that perspective we are all pilgrims with the same challenges.

Those of us, who have embarked on a search for our ancestral families, are also pilgrims. Our quest is not for the Holy Grail, but rather our quest is for old records for a holy purpose. We are often required to seek information from distant lands and languages that we may have had no previous experience with. We must search here and there for clues that will lead us to a name, a place, a time, with the hopes that to find one ancestor we will be lead to another. Isn't our quest much like, Christians, wandering through time and in new places, overcoming obstacles even new obstacles, such as cyberspace. Truly we are pilgrims. We, too, are on a sacred quest with a prayer in our hearts that we might weather the storms of failure until we find success.

– *Emil O. Hanson, Dir. OFSL*

Thoughts –

Most all of our ancestors lived in poverty and often faced starvation, incurable diseases, infant mortality, and short life expectancies, even of adults. Today, even the poorest American families enjoy a roof over their heads, a solid floor under their feet, running water, a flush toilet, and electricity. Those were all unimaginable luxuries, far beyond the dreams of our ancestors, only a few generations ago.

– *Don Boudreaux*

"I firmly believe that no man who honestly bows down every day of his life and supplicates God sincerely for the light of his Holy Spirit to guide him will ever become proud or haughty. On the contrary, his heart will become filled with meekness, humility, and childlike simplicity."

– *Heber J. Grant*

Ogden FamilySearch Library Needs Help!

– *Sam Jorgensen*

OFSL has accepted the assignment to be involved with the Church wide effort to make all books currently on shelves at the various FamilySearch Libraries and Centers available worldwide via the FamilySearch website. This effort involves scanning the books to create digital images of the pages and maintaining a record of the books in the Family History Library Catalog.

The OFSL needs additional workers to enable this work to accelerate. The staff at OFSL is made up entirely of volunteers and church service missionaries, so if any of our newsletter readers are inclined toward Hastening the Work of Salvation by contributing some time to this worthy effort please let us know.

Our immediate need is for volunteers and Church Service Missionaries to staff the cataloging function, anyone with experience working in a library would be especially helpful. Anyone with a little experience using computer programs would surely be appreciated, training for specific tasks will be provided. Church Service Missionary Opportunity #12541 published on LDS.org details the job. For further information call OFSL at 801-626-1132 or stop by 539 24th Street, Ogden and look the place over.

If You Don't Make a Deposit, You Can't Make a Withdrawal

– Bro. Terry Allen

FamilySearch.org Family Tree is very much like a real-world bank. As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints find their ancestors through research in historical records, they "make deposits" of those ancestors into the virtual bank account of Family Tree. In turn, withdrawals in the form of Family Ordinance Request forms can be generated and name cards printed to do the ordinances for the depositors' ancestors. But what happens when someone goes to the bank and wants to make a withdrawal without having made a deposit? They end up "borrowing" names from other family members who have been diligent in depositing those names in the Family Tree bank. But there is a real problem if the bank runs out of money i.e. Family Tree runs out of eligible names ready for Temple ordinances.

If you know anything at all about the bank of names called Family Tree, you would realize that it is not a savings bank. It is more like a checking account. Your ancestors did not make deposits of family names just so you could come along years later and take those names to the Temple. Virtually every name put in the Family Tree bank was already targeted for Temple ordinances. The accumulation of names in the Family Tree bank is evidence of Temple ordinances already done in the past, not savings for a future investment.

Unfortunately, too many patrons think Family Tree is some kind of endless loan account. In fact, there are many members who think all they have to do to get a name to "take to the Temple" is open the account and check out a name. Nothing could be further from the truth. In the most recent past, many members overdrew the account by doing the ordinance work for the same people over and over again.

They chose to ignore the invalidity of those ordinance withdrawals and went deep into debt. Other more frugal members were appalled at the overdrafts. Many of those people who had been listed in the Family Tree bank for years had their ordinances done over and over again.

Slowly, the Family Tree bank managers began putting safeguards in place to prevent this overdraft. The duplicate withdrawals dwindled to a trickle but there was always some leakage as members went back time and time again, even making up false accounts, to obtain withdrawals. But now, the vast majority of the members who go into the Family Tree bank to look for easy withdrawals are frustrated. They find out, most for the first time, that you can't make a withdrawal without making a deposit. Unfortunately, this overdraft situation seems to be lost on the members' leaders. Too many of them challenge the members to find some money in the Family Tree bank. They do this by giving them a deadline to find names to "take to the Temple." Neither the leaders, nor the members realize that honest work and real sweat must go into creating a valid Family Tree account with names to withdraw.

Will the Family Tree bank go bankrupt? There is a real danger that it will. Will the members be able to continue to borrow names to take to Temples? Where will those names come from? From duplication of previously completed ordinance work? From pools of "free" names? How long can the overdraft continue? Will the workers who are busy making deposits be able to keep up with the demand? Can we recruit more workers to help fill the bank's coffers? Will some of those people who find that the bank had dried up be motivated to begin their own bank accounts? Will adding prizes and rewards entice more depositors? All of these are questions that cannot be presently answered. Only time will tell. [*Posted by James Tanner*]

Revolutionary War Records

If you have ancestors who served in the Revolutionary War, Fold3's Revolutionary War Pension Files can be a valuable resource for finding detailed information about them and their families. With roughly 80,000 files, this collection (via the National Archives) contains applications for veterans' pensions, widows' pensions, and bounty land warrants, organized by state and then by veteran surname.

In addition to details of a veteran's military service, these types of applications are a rich source of genealogical information, such as a veteran's age or date of birth, residence, birthplace, and even information about his wife (or widow) and children. Because veterans and their widows or heirs often submitted certain documents along with their pension or bounty land applications, within the Revolutionary War Pensions you may also find commissions, discharges, military orders, muster rolls, deeds, wills, receipts, diaries, journals, letters, marriage certificates, and newspaper clippings.

Thought –

"Missionary work should begin and end with our minds focused on the blessings of the holy temple," Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said in an address he titled "Begin with the End in Mind. Missionary work is all about gathering people out of the world, ennobling them... to eventually dwell with God forever," "Simply summarized, God wants His children to return home to Him. What else would you expect from a loving Father?"

FamilySearch Shaky Leaf Hints

– *Ancestry Insider*, 25 Jun 2014

FamilySearch recently released its version of Ancestry.com's shaky leaf hinting. I've been asked to encourage experienced users to use this new feature to help new users get excited about genealogy. Don't scarf up all the hints yourself.

FamilySearch has compared all the records in its historical records collections to every person in the Tree. In those cases where it found a possible match, it displays a record hint on the person page in the right hand column.

We say possible matches because the records aren't guaranteed. That is why they're called hints. FamilySearch has tried to be correct 95% of the time. I think I could probably chug through 100 records in a sitting. I would expect to find five bad hints during that time. Unlike the Possible Duplicates feature, I didn't see a way to indicate that a particular hint was not a match.

If there are too many hints, Family Tree may not display all of them in the margin. Click Show all to move to a page that shows them all. Click the hint in the right column of the person page or click the Review button on the hint page. Family Tree displays the enhanced attach records page. Use it to attach the record to everyone mentioned therein.

Family Tree displays on the left hand side the information from the record. On the right, it shows the information from the tree. If the fact is new, click Add to copy it into the tree. Don't forget to specify the reason you think the record matches the tree. After specifying a reason, click the Attach button. Repeat for each person in the record to prevent errors that computers make when they automatically make matching decisions. (Remember: use this feature to engage new genealogists when possible.)

Office Online versus Google Apps

– Dick Eastman, June 26, 2014

The computer world seems to be moving "to the cloud." In other words, computer users today are less apt to install programs in their own computers. Instead, they often use programs that are stored on massive file servers in the Internet and require no installation. Many of these new cloud-based programs are available free of charge although some do cost money.

Word processing and spreadsheets have long been two of the the most popular uses for computers. The programs traditionally have been expensive to purchase and even more expensive to update as new versions with additional features have been released every two or three years. Today, many people, including myself, are using online word processing, spreadsheets, and other applications.

Two of the biggest competitors for cloud-based office productivity programs are Microsoft Office Online and Google Apps. Both are free for personal use and both can read and write word processing and spreadsheet documents in a wide variety of formats. Neither one can match the many capabilities of the regular versions of Microsoft Word or Excel or of Apple's Pages or Numbers applications. However, they are capable competitors for all the more commonly used functions and the price tag of free certainly is appealing for many of us.

Monthly Guest Speaker Series

Saturday, August 16 the guest speaker at Ogden FamilySearch Library will be Gene Sessions, who will present a talk on "The Rise of the Moyle Family in Utah, from Stonecutters to the Cabinet and the First Presidency."

Dr. Gene A. Sessions is Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor of History at Weber

State University. A native of Ogden he received his PhD from Florida State University in 1974. He is the author and editor of numerous works, including *Mormon Thunder: A Documentary History of Jedediah Morgan Grant*; *Latter-day Patriots: Nine Mormon Families and Their Revolutionary War Heritage*; *Prophesying upon the Bones: J. Reuben Clark and the Foreign Debt Crisis 1933-39*; *Camp Floyd and the Mormons: The Utah War*; *The Search for Harmony: Essays on Science and Mormonism*; *Utah International: A Biography of a Business*; and *Mormon Democrat: The Religious and Political Memoirs of James Henry Moyle* for which he received the Mormon History Association's annual award for best edited work. He has also been a consultant on documentaries and committees exploring the Utah War and the Mountain Meadows Massacre and is past president of the Mountain Meadows Association. He and his wife Shantal have four children and seven grandsons.

US National Archives Will Upload all its Holdings to Wikipedia

– Dick Eastman · June 30, 2014

The US National Archives and Record Administration (NARA) has announced that it will be uploading all of its holdings to the Wikimedia Commons. Dominic McDevitt-Parks, the Wikipedian in residence at the National Archives and Record Administration, stated, "The records we have uploaded so far contain some of the most high-value holdings ... However, we are not limiting ourselves ... Our approach has always been simply to upload as much as possible ... to make them as widely accessible to the public as possible."

The plan seems to be a bit fuzzy at the moment with a long-term objective defined but with few details announced.

FamilySearch Reaches One Billion Images

– *FamilySearch.org*

FamilySearch.org announced an important milestone this week. They have now put online one billion digital images of historic ancestral records. This is big news for anyone who appreciates free genealogy records. In this article, we discuss several fascinating facts behind the headline that will be an interest to genealogists.

- Each digital image can potentially contain several ancestral records. Thus, one billion images represent a few billion records (3.2 billion records have already been indexed).
- FamilySearch first started preserving and providing access to ancestral records in 1938 (through FamilySearch centers and affiliated public libraries).
- It took FamilySearch a total of 58 years (until 1996) to record 2 billion images onto microfilm.
- In 2007, FamilySearch first started to digitize their extensive collections. It has taken just 7 years to create the first 1 billion digital images.
- Of the current digital images going online (as mentioned frequently in newest genealogy records), approximately 70% come from digital conversion of existing microfilm records, 25% come from new sources and 5% come from partner organizations (historically, the biggest provider has been Ancestry.com).
- Granite Mountain in Utah is the main record repository for FamilySearch. A video from FamilySearch provides a fascinating glimpse inside the facility.
- There are 275 camera teams digitally recording historic images in 45 countries. The run rate is currently 500,000 new digital images a day.

- It takes just 2 to 4 weeks from the time a digital image is first captured to when it goes online.
- The most popular images are for census, immigration, military, birth, marriage, death, church and court records. The records are sourced primarily from national, state, municipal and religious archives.
- FamilySearch has worked with more than 10,000 archives in over 100 countries.
- As identified in the article Top 100 Genealogy Websites of 2014, FamilySearch is the 3rd largest genealogy website overall and the 2nd largest free genealogy website (after Find A Grave). It gets an estimated average of 10,000 visitors a day.
- FamilySearch has 2.4 million rolls of microfilm, 742,000 microfiche, 310,000 books and 4,500 periodicals, so there is no shortage of digital imaging to be done.
- FamilySearch estimates the next 1 billion digital images should take just 3 to 5 years to complete and put online. In other words, genealogists can expect FamilySearch's collection to double in the next 3 to 5 years.

FamilySearch has at least 3.5 billion images in its possession. This means the current milestone of one billion digital images online represents only about 1/4 of what could eventually go online.

Mark your calendar - The Family History Conference is coming September 13, 2014

An Exciting New Tool! Find and Honor Mormon Ancestors

– *The Cache Valley Newsletter*

A new tool has just been launched that lets FamilySearch users discover if they have Mormon Pioneer ancestors, learn who they are, see any photos, and read stories about their journey.

To use the Pioneer Ancestor tool click [here](#). Developed jointly by the Church History Department and the Family History Department, this landing page scans a logged in user of FamilySearch.org's Family Tree and compares it to the Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel database. It then lists any ancestors who traveled to Utah between 1847 and 1868. You can then view data about Companies or click to see Your Pioneer Ancestors. "What would take user hours and hours of research to validate now takes one click," says Tim Cross, the FamilySearch Product Manager for the project. "People who use it love this tool," he concluded.

Adding a Source in Research Ties

As genealogists locate sources of information which are relevant to their research goals, they need to record a full bibliographic citation, as well as any comments about that source which could prove helpful in the future. They also need to record which repository houses that document. Some sources are used over and over again. For example, how many ancestors do you need to locate in the 1900 U.S. census? How many times do you want to type and re-type that citation? Research Ties provides a source template to record each source one time, and then whenever it is used again, only a click in a dropdown box is needed to link the entire citation to a new entry.

Sources can be added to the source list or they can be added while recording a Search by clicking on the green add circle.

Either approach will bring up the template to add a new source to the database. The first information to be recorded is the repository where the record is located. Select the correct repository from the dropdown list, or add a new facility with the green add button. Then, indicate the type of record you are using. This field allows researchers to locate database entries by record type.

Generations Research Class

The fourteen week Generations Research classes are scheduled to begin the first week of September 2014. The two hour per session classes are scheduled each day Monday thru Thursday and Saturday. Research in several areas including vital records, census, church, military and immigration will be taught. This class includes a CD with all lessons and refer-ence material for each student. Call in or come in to the library to sign up. These classes fill rapidly so don't hesitate. Research is still needed as we try to locate our families and the bet-ter educated we are the more successful we will be. These classes will be offered again after the first of the year just in case you don't get into one of these sessions.

It's getting late - Do you know where your great-grandparents are?

"Of Roots and Branches"

"Of Roots and Branches"-what a wonderful name for our annual Ogden Family History Conference, coming 13 Sept 2014 at Weber State's Shepherd Union Building.

Here is what Elder Bradley D. Foster had to say about roots and branches in his talk "Can you Hear Them?" delivered at Rootstech 2014. The well-known author Alex Haley, who wrote the book *Roots* reminded us, "Roots nourish the branches." In other words, a knowledge of past generations blesses future generations. That's why even though family history is always about the past; it has to be about the present and the future. The past is your roots, your ancestors. The present is the tree. And you're the tree. The future is the branches, your children and grandchildren. So how do the roots nourish the branches? The answer is through the tree. You're the one that helps connect, provide nourishment to your branches. You connect the past generations to the future generations.

Our time is now, and we have the opportunity to learn from a wonderful group of professional genealogists, family history product vendors, and Ogden FamilySearch staff this year. Come to the conference and you will be able to enjoy classes about research, methodology, LDS topics, and story saving. Note that we will present morning classes especially for youth and a Spanish speaking track throughout the day. There will be experts to answer your questions and connect you with the help you need to succeed in your research in our "One-on-one Circle of Service."

Just to whet your appetite, here is a sampling of topics and speakers:

- Finding the Living Among the Dead -Using the Internet to Find Your Living Cousins;
- A Beginner's Guide to Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestor Back to Ireland;
- How to Really See What Records are Telling About Your Ancestors;
- How Do I Start my Family History;
- Turning Family Memories into Video Productions;
- Expanding Your Family Trees;
- British Descendent Research [There will also be classes about Scandinavian and Netherlands research]

Representatives from Billion Graves, My Heritage, Ancestral Quest, Legacy, and Roots Magic will present classes highlighting their products and we will present classes for those just beginning to work with FamilySearch or who need support to fulfill their family history church callings.

Popular speakers from past years include Emil and Joanne Hanson, Lisa McBride, Marilyn Markham, Jay Burrup from the Church History Library, Bradley Marchant, Annie Strawn, Scott Allen, Juan Balderas Nápoles, and more.

New presenters from the Salt Lake Family History Library will also be speaking this year. They include Fritz Juengling, Heidi Sugden, and Naomi Newbold. We will also have Sarah Langsdon and Susan Matt from Weber State University.

We thank all of our generous presenters for donating their time and talents so that we can offer this amazing conference FREE of charge. Take advantage of this opportunity this year. You must learn how to be the tree trunk that connects your roots with your branches.