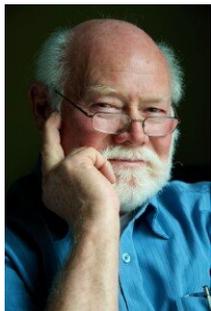




FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

From the Director's Desk

September 2014



On "The Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me"

I was listening to the radio on the way home from the Ogden FamilySearch Library the other evening and Gladys Knight happened to be singing, "Best Thing That Ever Happened To Me". I have always enjoyed that song, especially, the way she sang it. What a thought provoker: I have had so many best things happen to me that if I could share, where would I start, and how long would my list be? Can the best things include events, as well as things, and especially people? The thought occurred to me that making such a list would be a great way to start writing a personal history. Verse two of the song states that; "If anyone should ever write my life story. For whatever reason there might be." Gladys should change the verse to say; "If ever I should write my life story, For whatever reasons there might be" Now, that Gladys is a member of the LDS church, she probably knows what reasons 'there might be' for doing it.

If all of the personal histories that have ever been written were analyzed would the 'best things' described in those histories be primarily 'things' and 'events' or would the best things be described as the people that found their way in and out of our lives? My guess would be 'people' and the following study confirms that.

Mark Your Calendar!

September 13, 2014
Ogden FSL Annual Conference
Of Roots and Branches
Shepherd Union Building
Weber State University
3848 Harrison Blvd, Ogden

One of the most comprehensive long term research studies ever conducted began at Harvard in the late nineteen thirties. There were 268 men who entered college that year and this study followed those men for 72 years through wars, careers, sickness, health, marriage, parenthood, grandparenthood, and old age. The primary researcher was Dr. George Vaillant, a man who essentially devoted his life to keeping the project alive. The men in this study illuminate the one single factor that correlated most highly with a positive life assessment in old age. This factor came out while Dr. Vaillant was being interviewed in 2008 in respect to a question about what he had learned from the men in the study. He said that the most important thing that he had learned is that: "The only thing that really matters in life are your relationships to other people." It merely confirmed what the oldest and the wisest people

among us have always known. The most successful life is not based on what we get or have. The most significant moments were births, deaths, weddings, family celebrations and associations. Our most profound moments are when we touch others, or when they have touched us during times of suffering, loss, sickness, or death as well as times of happiness and joy. A satisfactory life is about human connections: parents, siblings, spouses, children, friends, neighbors and mentors. Without them, life loses its flavor; lasting satisfaction with one's life is rare outside of meaningful human relations.

Yes! When we write our life's story, we will probably identify someone, not something that was the best thing that ever happened to us. There have been many things and circumstances that have happened to me in the last eighty years of my life, things that were significant and directed me toward many successes. However, one of the very most important and significant was becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as a twenty year old soldier. That was a thing or an event: but in the middle of that event there was, without any doubt in my mind, a very important 'person,' the person responsible for it to have happened. I was being led, directed and touched by the Holy Ghost. I heard someone refer to Him as a friend one time and I thought 'what a powerful thought' because, I too, would like to think of Him as a friend.

In writing my life story, for whatever reason there might be, I, like most of you, would have to say, that the 'best thing that ever happened to me' would be my marriage to my dear wife of 59 years. Paraphrasing: 'Oh, she'll be there between each line of pain and glory.' Don't worry for every moment that I've spent hurting,' There were moments that I spent, just loving her,' 'Now there have been times, when times were hard,' 'But somehow we always made it, we made it through.' 'I guess you could say that

we've been lucky,' 'Or, you could say that it's all because of her.' Yes! she was there! She was there between each line of pain and glory.' And she's the best thing that ever happened to me.' Yes! and the other best things that have ever happened to you and to me, are the other significant people in our lives. Our children, our grand and great-grandchildren. Our extended family, our friends and all the others who have walked in and out of our lives. And please, let us not forget our ancestors whose genes flow through our veins always, and whose stories give us courage to stay on the trail of life. If their stories have not been written, 'For whatever reason there may be,' Let's find out about them and then write.

– *Emil O. Hanson, Director,
Ogden FamilySearch Library*

My wife, Jo, Responded to the above and because it expresses family history, besides being very talented I thought that it would be appropriate to include it in this newsletter.

To me: "You say you love me,
Well, I love you, too
I know that it is so
By the things that you do.
You say, "Write your story
Because there's a need."
So I've followed your example
I've followed your lead.
Our stories together
Will tell of our love
For those here on earth
And those up above.
The Hanson's today and
Generations to come-
Will not have to say,
"Their story? -- we have none."

– *Joanne 'Jo' Hanson*

Ogden FamilySearch Library Annual Conference

Of Roots and Branches

The volunteers at our Ogden Family Search Library have assembled the best Family History Conference in Northern Utah just for YOU and it's FREE.

- o **When:** Saturday, September 13, 2014 with registration (packet hand out) starting at 7:30am.
- o **Where:** Shepherd Union Building on the Weber State University Campus in Ogden (3848 Harrison Blvd).
- o The Keynote Speakers at 8:30 AM are Merrill White of Family Search and our Ogden Temple President Fredrick Froerer
- o 67 different classes in sessions from 10:00am to 4:00pm.
- o FREE parking and FREE classes
- o Special classes especially for Youth
- o Spanish language classes during all sessions
- o One-on-one individual help stations
- o Your favorite vendors will be available to answer your questions, along with a drawing for vendor furnished prizes at 4:15pm.
- o Food is available from food vendors in the Shepherd Union Building or off campus
- o Maps, Class schedule, class descriptions and presenter biographies for the 2014 conference are available at:
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ogden_FamilySearch_Library_2014_Conference
 (or just Google "ogden conference 2014")

Do not miss the most inspirational training event of the year!

A copy of the Conference poster is attached to this newsletter. Feel free to print and post it wherever you think it is needed.

'I am ready now'

– Ryan Morgenegg,

LDS Church News: Aug. 9 2014

T.C. Christensen's movie, "Ephraim's Rescue," centers around the theme "decisions determine destiny." Deseret News Archives, Provo, Utah

Writer, director and producer T.C. Christensen, known for his work on LDS films such as "Ephraim's Rescue," "17 Miracles," "The Work and the Glory" and "Joseph," was the keynote speaker July 31 at the Family History and Genealogy conference held at Brigham Young University. His remarks focused on lessons learned from the life of Ephraim K. Hanks and other Mormon pioneers.

"I love to come and speak about pioneers and family history," said Brother Christensen. "One of the things I realized early on with making films is that the research is everything." As an example, Brother Christensen mentioned in his research for the film "17 Miracles," he came across some information about a little man with disabilities they called "Albert" in the film. A historical reference describes Albert as "the most deformed of any traveler I had ever seen."

Emphasizing the importance of writing down history, Brother Christensen said, "The only reason we know anything about Albert is that one day he got separated from the group and got trapped under a log with two wolves snapping after him. Some of the men couldn't find Albert, so they searched for him, found him and saved him from the wolves." Because of this incident, a number of Saints wrote in their journals that night about what happened, and that's how historians know Albert existed.

One journal even went as far as to say that there was a group of Saints with disabilities who were put together to travel in the Martin company, said Brother Christensen. Even though the average lifespan for a man in 1856 was 52, Captain Martin put a 70-year-old man named George P. Wah in

charge of these Saints with disabilities and tasked him with making sure they made it to Zion.

"Now that's a movie," said Brother Christensen. "I would love to make a movie about those 25 or so souls trying to get to Zion, but I never will. And do you know why? Because we don't know anything else about them." Their experiences were never recorded.

[The stories of their lives and hardships were lost and yours will be too if they are not recorded.— Emil]

Roots and Branches

– Elder Quentin L. Cook,
"Roots and Branches"

"The doctrine of the family in relation to family history and temple work is clear. The Lord in initial revelatory instructions referred to "baptism for your dead." Our doctrinal obligation is to our own ancestors. This is because the celestial organization of heaven is based on families. The First Presidency has encouraged members, especially youth and young single adults, to emphasize family history work and ordinances for their own family names or the names of ancestors of their ward and stake members. We need to be connected to both our roots and branches. The thought of being associated in the eternal realm is indeed glorious.

Video Collections for Training Stake and Ward Family History Leaders

– James Tanner

I frequently refer to the need for Ward and Stake leader to follow the guidelines in the guidebook entitled, "To Turn The Hearts, Leader's Guide to Temple and Family History Work." To reinforce the teachings in the guidebook, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has produced a series of videos. Links to these videos are on the Leader Resources page of the Family History Callings section of LDS.org.

The video instructions fall into four categories:

- o Featured Videos
- o Training for My Calling Videos
- o Individual Stories and Topics Videos
- o Leaders' Secrets of Success Videos

One of the key factors to success in implementing family history activities in the Wards and Stakes is following the guidelines in the guidebook. From my own experience, there are two key components to implementing a successful program: first, that each individual act in accordance with the activities and duties outlined in the guidebook and second, that the Wards and Stakes call adequate numbers of qualified family history and Indexing consultants.

Mistaken Marriage Dates

– Charles Schmalz

Recently I was going over the FamilySearch entry for one of my Grandmother's cousins. One thing that stood out was a marriage date only two months prior to the birth of their oldest child.

Further research turned up a marriage license dated over a year earlier. This was confirmed by an entry in the Western States Marriage Record Index at BYU Idaho: <http://abish.byui.edu/specialcollections/>. A little more digging brought up the temple ordinance record for a sealing on the date listed in FamilySearch for their marriage. Apparently an earlier family history researcher had assumed the sealing date was also the couple's marriage date.

I've since corrected the information in Familysearch, but the experience points out a situation unique to Mormon families. It was not uncommon for couples to marry and then be sealed at a later date, particularly prior to modern transportation and the proliferation of temples today.

Are You Missing Most of the Available Genealogy Information?

– Dick Eastman · July 27, 2014

Dick Eastman writes: I recently received a message from a newsletter reader that disturbed me a bit. He wrote, "I have been doing genealogy research for 10-15 years but only through the Internet." He then went on to describe some of the frustrations he has encountered trying to find information. In short, he was disappointed at how little information he has found online. I read the entire message, but my eyes kept jumping back to the words in his first sentence: "... but only through the Internet." Doesn't he realize that 95% of the information of interest to genealogists is not yet available on the Internet? To be sure, many of the biggest and most valuable resources are now available online, including national census records, the Social Security Death Index, many military pension applications, draft cards, many passenger lists, land patent databases, and more.

The national databases were the "low hanging fruit" a few years ago as the providers of online information rushed to place large genealogy databases online. These huge collections benefitted a lot of genealogists; these databases were the first to become indexed, digitized, and placed online. We all should be thankful that these databases are available today and are in common use. As the national databases became available to all, the online providers moved on to digitize regional and statewide information. State censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records (which originally were recorded in many local and state courts), county histories, and much, much more are still being placed online. Of course, this is great news for genealogists who cannot easily travel to the locations where the original records are kept. For many of us, this is even better than having

information on microfilm. Most of us don't have microfilm readers at home, but we do have computers. Yet, I am guessing that 95% of the information of interest to genealogists has not yet been digitized.

Why would anyone want to look for genealogy information "... only through the Internet?" State censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records, county histories, and more are all "work in progress" projects. That is, they are not yet complete. In fact, I doubt if all of them will be available online for at least another decade or two! If you only look online, you are missing a lot. In many cases, church parish records, local tax lists, school records, land records (other than Federal land grants), and many more records are not yet available online and probably won't be available for years. If you are limiting yourself to "... only through the Internet," you are missing 95% of the available information. If you have the luxury of living near the places where your ancestors lived, I'd suggest you jump in an automobile and drive to the repositories where those records are kept. There is nothing that matches the feeling of holding original records in your hand. Make photocopies or scan them or take pictures of them or do whatever is possible to collect images of the original records. If you do not enjoy the luxury of short distances, use microfilm. ...The Family History Centers are free to use although you do have to pay a modest fee for postage when you rent a microfilm by mail. See https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Introduction_to_LDS_Family_History_Centers for details. You can also find your nearest Family History Center by starting at: <https://familysearch.org/locations>. If you do not know where to start, I would suggest reading "Begin your genealogy quest" at https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Begin_your_genealogy_quest for some great "getting started" information.

Loading Our Family Trees in FamilySearch

– *The Ancestry Insider* 28 July 2014

The rumor you've heard that you shouldn't upload your tree to FamilySearch.org is pretty much false. I'm hedging a little bit. Let me go through the steps and you'll see why.

Save a copy of your tree in GEDCOM format. You'll upload this copy to FamilySearch. Go to FamilySearch.org. You'll need to register (it's free) before uploading your tree. Click on "Join For Free" near the top-right corner of the page and complete the registration. Click or hover over Search on the menu bar, then select Genealogies. On this page you can upload your GEDCOM tree or search the GEDCOM trees of others. This collection of trees is called the Pedigree Resource File. Your GEDCOM tree is your tree and no one can change it but you (by uploading a new GEDCOM over the top of it). Scroll down to the bottom and click on the button "Submit Tree." Click on Add GEDCOM. Select your GEDCOM file, give it a title, and enter a description that might be helpful to others. After it has finished uploading it will show up in your tree list at <https://familysearch.org/upload/trees>.

From the list you can Compare your tree with information in FamilySearch Family Tree, you can download a copy of your GEDCOM file, or you can delete it. As opposed to your tree which you just uploaded, FamilySearch Family Tree is a master database. It is all of us building the family tree of all mankind. If you wish to be a part of this ambitious project, you can start by comparing your tree to Family Tree. Your tree remains unchanged in this process. To start, click Compare. FamilySearch.org tells you they will do the compare and send you an email.

Missionary Opportunities

Looking for a way to serve a mission without leaving home? A family history mission might be the answer for you. Follow the link to find out more!

The use of the phrase "hastening the work" is quite common in the Church. Proselyting missionaries' help in hastening the work, as reflected in the fact that new missions have been or will yet be created and young people are encouraged to be worthy and are serving missions at younger ages than was originally anticipated. But in addition to missionary work and ordinance work for the living on a worldwide scale and at a quickened pace, President Thomas S. Monson has taught that "hastening the work" includes doing the work for those who have passed beyond the veil and yearn for entrance into the fold (*Ensign Magazine* June 2014). For this, the Church calls and sets apart missionaries who work specifically with family history. With an increased emphasis on temple and family history initiatives, the Family History Department is looking to add more missionaries either as couples or singles.

Those who live in the Ogden area and desire to serve but do not want to leave their homes and families can apply to serve at the Ogden FamilySearch Library. Pray about that idea!

Educational Opportunities

An important but often overlooked role played by the Ogden FamilySearch Library is family history education. There are classes being held nearly every day of the week at the library. In a typical month 30 to 40 classes will be offered on 15 to 20 different family history topics. They range from hour long reviews of a subject to in-depth multi-session training.

Go to the Ogden library's web page (ogdenfsl.org) and explore the Classes page. Chances are you'll find something that will help you become a better family history researcher.

Ogden Family History Conference

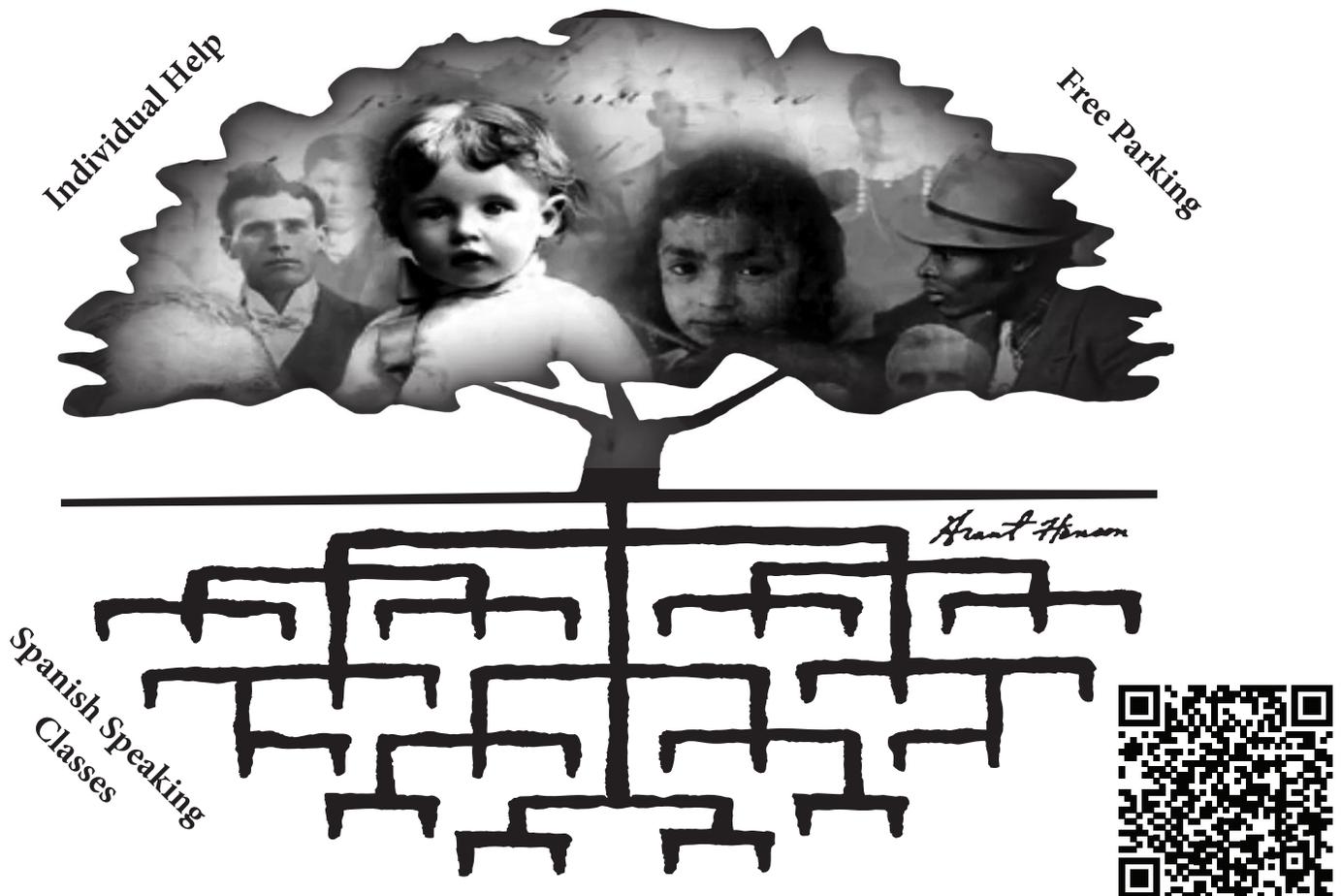
Sept 13, 2014

At The

Weber State University - Shepherd Union Building

OF ROOTS & BRANCHES

Over 65 Free Classes



Registration starting at 7:30am - Pick up Program Information

Keynote Speakers 8:30am - Ogden Temple President Froerer
and Merrill White of Family Search

Morning youth classes and booths.

Classes take place from 10:00 to 4:00.

Family History and Genealogy product vendors.

Food will be available at the food court vendors.

For More information look online at: <http://ogdenfsl.org> or

http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ogden_FamilySearch_Library_2014_Conference