

FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER



From the Director's Desk

OCTOBER 2014



On 'A Yes Face'

We all have a face, a unique face, 'like' as well as 'unlike' everybody else's face, that may sound a great deal like double talk. But it's true; our faces are unique and different from everyone else's face? That is a scientific fact. Every face has pretty much the same general features; eyes, nose, mouth etc. most are somewhat symmetrical because they are on the front of our somewhat round heads. People are recognized, socially primarily by their facial features, secondarily by their body structure, height, weight and form. If I were to ask you; "What's the first thing you notice when you look at a person? It's unlikely that you would say their shoes?" If you are honest you will say it is their face.

A new survey asked both men and women to name the first thing they notice when they meet someone of the opposite sex. ...The top answer for both men and women was 'eyes'. The second-most common answer for both was 'smile'. Both very politically correct choices. In another study where people were asked; "What do they see in another person that may provide the best first impression?" The most frequent answer was the word, 'smile'. Ask, just any man on the street, what they notice first about another person, the answer would most likely be; 'There face of course.' Our faces are in the front and uncovered, they are often shiny and they usually greet most everyone, even a stranger, with a

smile - I have always liked people with a ready smile. The eyes would come in second because they reveal a lot. It is very true; our faces are noticed first by the majority of other people. Our first impression of another person's honesty is by our face. If we were to ask a criminologist what are the various ways that you can identify people? He would say by their fingerprints, and their DNA, which are both unique. He may also say by facial recognition software. Surprisingly, like fingerprints and DNA our faces are also unique, even a little like 'snowflakes'.

There are many other things that we may notice about faces. There are very few things more beautiful to see than a small child's face, it is innocent, it is curious, it is without blemish and it is soft and bright and often smiling. It is truly too bad that we lose that freshness and beauty so soon. Our adult faces tell different stories, they may reveal many things about a person's life and of course, it is not all bad. Have you ever heard the expressions used, "What a kind face." or "What a mean look on his face" etc. Our faces do indeed tell a lot about us. I read a story the other day that told an even different story: "During Thomas Jefferson's presidency he and a group of travelers were crossing a river that had overflowed its banks. Each man crossed on horseback fighting for his life. A lone traveler watched the group traverse the treacherous river and then he asked President Jefferson to take him across. The president agreed without hesitation, the man climbed on, and the two made it safely to the other side of the river

where somebody asked him: "Why did you select the President to ask this favor?" The man was shocked, admitting he had no idea it was the President of the United States who had carried him safely across. "All I know," he said, "is that on some of your faces was written the answer 'No' and on some of them was the answer 'Yes.' His was a 'Yes' face." by Charles Swindoll.

I have heard many expressions describing a person's face but I don't believe that I have ever heard the expression, 'He has a 'Yes' face'. Now that I am aware of such a face, I want one, I want a 'Yes' face. In trying to contemplate what I must do to have a 'Yes face', I decided that I must be confident in what I know. Since I can't know all things, then it means that I must be confident in knowing about a subject where I know people will see me and see my 'Yes face'. Because I am currently a worker in family history and I help others learn how to find their families, I realize that I will have a 'Yes face' only if I know a very lot about family history. If I become confident in my knowledge of this work those around me will say, I can seek help from him - because he appears to have a 'Yes face'. I pray that all who work in family history will develop their skills such that among their other unique facial features, such as their smile, that they will be confident in their work and be recognized as one who wears a 'Yes Face'. May God bless us to that end!

– Emil O. Hanson, Director
Ogden FamilySearch Library

She Has a Point

Jay Verkler, former FamilySearch president once told a story about meeting an elderly lady who reached up, grabbed his lapels, pulled him closer and said, "You've got to go faster. At the rate you're going, I'm going to meet my ancestors before I find them."

The 2014 Ogden FamilySearch Library Annual Summer Activity for Youth

The Ogden FamilySearch Library once again hosted Family History Camps for young people. Both the primary and youth camps were well attended and, according to participants, outstanding in meeting the goal of exciting people about family history and teaching the basics of how to do the work.

PRIMARY CAMPS: Fifty-six different organizations scheduled Primary Camps for five hundred ninety-four children age's eight to eleven. The children and their chaperons were excited to learn the basic of family history by exploring six stations designed for their age groups.

YOUTH CAMPS: Thirty-six organizations registered four hundred eighty-seven youth for Youth Camps. Participants enjoyed Family Sleuthing for their ancestors by searching five internet sites.

WOW! That's a total of 1,081 young people registered to attend a two and a half hour Family History Camp. It was a successful summer activity by any measure.

For 2015 the name is being changed to Family History Adventures to avoid any confusion with outdoor camping activities. Preliminary plans are being made to make it an even more meaningful and enjoyable activity for our youth. Again the schedule will run from the first of June to the middle of August 2015. Primary and Youth leaders plan now to register your group when sign-up starts in the spring. You will be sent more information early in 2015.

Thought

"A year from now you may wish you had started today." – Karen Lamb

Can you teach what you do not know?

— James Tanner

Frequently made comments on the way genealogy or family history is promoted in Wards and Stakes of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints involve the fact that those encouraging involvement in various aspects of family history have had little or no experience actually researching their ancestors or submitting names for Temple ordinances.

This comes back to the old adage; you can't teach what you do not know. It also reminds me of the injunction to lead by example. How can a leader challenge members to "take a name to the Temple" if they themselves have not done so? In bringing up this subject, I am certainly not criticizing any particular leader or individual. But I do have to acknowledge that this is a very common topic of conversation, especially when I am talking to someone who has come to a Family History Center to try and comply with the challenge given to them by a leader. The issue of the "challenge to take a name to the Temple" is one that is particularly difficult for some who have either spent years looking for people in their family without success or for those who have no idea whatsoever about what is involved in researching family history for that purpose.

In my own personal experience with patrons at the Mesa FamilySearch Library, I have seen duplication simply for the purpose of fulfilling such a challenge. I have also seen that many times the names for such a challenge activity end up being provided to the members from someone who "has done the research." So the goal of increasing family history activity is short circuited. There seems to be a common misimpression that FamilySearch.org /Family Tree is a place where you can go and after a

short search, find a name to take to the Temple. Part of this impression originated with the now discontinued New.FamilySearch.org program that allowed duplicative work without too much difficulty. Fundamentally, the misimpression comes from a lack of understanding of the nature of FamilySearch.org/Family Tree.

The most simple explanation about why Family Tree is not a "source" for finding people who need Temple ordinances involves learning about the origin of the content of Family Tree. Essentially, Family Tree is primarily a repository for the names of people whose Temple work has already been done. Especially for those members whose ancestors have been members of the Church for several generations, it is extremely likely that any names found in Family Tree have already had their work completed. There are more appropriate challenges. Perhaps, the members could be involved in Indexing or in making access to the FamilySearch.org website and adding photos, stories or documents. It is apparent that the purpose of such challenges, in many cases, is to increase Temple activity and not particularly to increase genealogical research. It is certainly true that involvement in family history is one way members become motivated to increase or maintain their Temple attendance, but it seems to me that it is inappropriate to challenge people to "find a name to take to the Temple" without providing a detailed way that the challenge can be a success.

If you want to increase involvement in both family history and Temple attendance, may I suggest that a more appropriate way to do this is through following the guidelines in the Family History manuals on LDS.org. It would be a better practice to elicit the help of the seasoned genealogists in teaching and helping those who have the opportunity to find prospective individual ancestors and families that need

2014 Ogden FamilySearch Library Family History Conference

Jointly hosted by the Ogden FamilySearch Library and Weber State University.

Temple work, than merely challenging everyone to "take a name to the Temple."

Why not invite a group of Ward Family History Consultants to go into the homes in the Ward and find those whose families were not traditionally members and help them, one-on-one, to prepare names for a Temple excursion, perhaps, for new members to do baptisms for their ancestors and have other family members or Ward members assist with the other ordinances if appropriate and desired by the new members. As an alternative, they could reserve the names and then work towards going to the Temple for the first time and then doing the work for the ancestors found. There are also presently fabulously helpful tools for finding "cousins" who may need to have their Temple work performed. The program Puzzilla.org and the new Decendency View in Family Tree both help identify family members who may need further research and therefore are candidates for additional valid Temple work. If any of my suggestions refer to programs or procedures that do not seem familiar to you, perhaps you need to spend some time learning a little more about family history. There are likely Family History Consultants in your Ward or Stake or other experienced family historians at a local Family History Center who would love to help you learn.

Ed Note: Another suggestion is for ward family history leaders to invite members to join them at the Ogden FamilySearch library for an evening of learning and researching their family names with the hope that they will get experienced help to assist them in finding a name that qualifies for Temple work.

Over nine hundred people attended the annual Ogden Family History Conference Saturday, September 13th. The keynote speaker, Merrill White provided vivid insights to the new Family Discovery Center Initiative. Discovery Centers feature a high-tech adventure for each family member to discover and relate to their ancestors. President Froerer reminded participants of the important instruction received in the Temple regarding families.

Presenters for over sixty classes provided a host of information about research tools and techniques. One professional genealogist stated that she attended one of the best research classes she had ever attended. A presenter syllabus will be available on-line at ogdenfsl.org. Click on the Conference title and scroll to the class listing.

About thirty family history and genealogy product vendors displayed their wares for participants to peruse. The vendors provided many prizes for the free drawing.

The One on One Help center was a highlight for many individuals. A young lady told an usher that she knew nothing about family history but that she wanted to learn and learn she did with personal assistance. Her wide eyes and tears were a testimony that she could embrace her whole family using the computer tools she was shown.

It takes a lot of work to host such a conference. Special thanks to the twenty member committee who organized this annual affair. Moreover, the Ogden Family Search Library greatly appreciates the partnership of the Weber State University's Social and Behavioral Science Department in hosting this conference. Thanks Woodie for managing all of the facility set-up for us.

Best Way to Locate Females After Marriage?

– *Kimberly Powell, Genealogy Expert*

Question: What is the best way to locate females after marriage? I am running into a problem with locating information on daughters who appear on an early census, but who have (presumably) married as they fail to use their maiden name on anything?

Answer: One of my favorite sources for finding daughters' married names are the obituaries of other family members. The father's probate records will often give daughters' married names. Another good source is the county history. Search for any and all records for other family members which just might list the information you are seeking for the daughter, sister, niece, etc.

Research Strategies

What are some important research strategies that can help us learn more about the women in our family?

Study the men in their lives - research all the men in a woman's life: father, sons, brothers, not just her husband.

Look for letters and diaries - if you can't find letters and diaries written by your women; look for those written by women in a similar time and place.

Study social history - what was life like for a woman in her time period and location.

Study collateral lines - she did not live in a vacuum; find out about her extended family, friends and neighbors.

Fix the woman in a specific time and place; begin your research from that point.

If you are still having trouble identifying your ancestor's family, make a list of all reasonable possibilities. Begin researching each possible family and try eliminating them one by one. When you have only one or two possibilities

left continue searching for sources that can help strengthen your case that this is the woman's family.

RESOURCES

What are some good resources that can help us learn more about those elusive grandmothers?

Home sources such as letters, diaries, journals, and pictures. Home sources can not only help identify a woman's family, but can also give us insight into what her life was like.

Interviews, message boards and mailing lists - perhaps someone else has the answer to our questions. Besides interviewing known family members, use the Internet to help you find distant cousins who may be able to help in your search. Vital records - for her, her children, her siblings, etc.

Pension applications - widows had to prove not only her husband's service, but also her relationship to him and their children. Marriage information and statements from witnesses who may be family members are often found in pension applications.

Cemetery records - tombstones may give clues to a woman's maiden name; also check everyone who is buried around her.

Newspapers and obituaries may give clues to a woman's maiden name.

Census records - sometimes an elderly or widowed parent was living with their daughter, try to find her as a child in the census, also do additional research on families living in the same area as they may be related.

Don't limit your search to these records. Women can appear in any record and your research can take some very interesting turns.

Book Digitizing Report

Dennis Meldrum and Tim De Graw gave a session titled "What is Happening with FamilySearch Books" at the BYU Conference on Family History and Genealogy back on 29 July 2014. Meldrum announced that FamilySearch had exceeded 150,000 books in their electronic book collection! (I see the total is now over 166,000.) That is amazing. In addition to family, local, and county histories, the collection contains directories, how-to books, medieval genealogies, Bible records, cemetery records, vital records, biographies, periodicals, yearbooks, and gazetteers. Only books are included in the collection. Generally, that means it's going to have a title page and an author.

FamilySearch is digitizing these books to make them readily and freely available, and to preserve them for future generations. And it is not just digitizing FamilySearch's own collection. There are several partners in this effort. Those planning to access these books on-line should be aware that copyrighted that have been digitized may only be available at a family history center/library.

Access to Family Search Partner Sites

There was some confusion about how to access Family Search's commercial partner web sites. This has now been clarified; all members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints can now set up a free account for Ancestry.com, Find My Past and My Heritage by using the following URL:

<http://familysearch.org/partneraccess>.

These sites will prove to be valuable assets during your research of ancestral records.

Tools of the Trade: Newspaper research – MyHeritage's US Genealogy Advisor, Schelly Talalay Dardashti, describes how historic newspapers add life to our family trees. (Excerpt)

Old newspapers are treasure troves of family information. If your family lived for a long time in one location, then local papers likely hold information about your relatives.

Such details include birth, marriage and death announcements. If your ancestors owned businesses, there may be legal records or advertisements. Social announcements, real estate records, school graduations, athletic events and even the costs of consumer goods at the time can provide a glimpse into your family and also provide a backdrop as to what life was like for them at a certain point in history.

In the Spanish American (published in Roy, Mora County, New Mexico) page 12 of the February 6, 1906 edition offers local notes such as these. We learn who went where and why, business announcements and who was sick. If your family is one of those mentioned, here's a very personal look into what happened around that time.

No matter where you live around the world, local historic newspapers provide fascinating information available nowhere else.

The richest for genealogical data are typically obituaries that mention place and date of birth, parents, and marriages; identify siblings and children; give the time and place of death and the burial site. They often say much about religion and may identify occupation.

Mark September 12, 2015 on your calendar for the next Ogden Family History Conference at Weber State University.

Ogden FamilySearch Library Staffing

– *Sam Jorgensen, Associate Director.*

The Ogden FamilySearch Library is involved in two very important activities supporting our family history research and genealogy programs. One activity is assisting patrons with their family history research and locating valid individual names to take to the temple also providing training to patrons and staff to better understand the various systems and shortcuts available to aid in their research. The other activity is cataloging and scanning books to provide digital images to Family Search for posting online for worldwide access to the many publications available from the church libraries. The Library is staffed entirely by volunteers and Church Service Missionaries. The Library is always in need of additional staff members as our workload increases, if you have a desire to help in the work of redeeming your dead please come by and look around, pick up a volunteer application and leave it at the desk. No experience necessary, just a desire to serve in a very rewarding work. Call 801-626-1132 for additional information.

Book Review

Book: FamilySearch.org Research by George G. Morgan. Published by Genealogical Publishing Co. 2014. 4 pages.

– *written by Bobbi King: & shared by Dick Eastman, September, 2014*

This is one of the latest "Genealogy At-A-Glance" condensed guides published as short, 4-page laminated 8×11 reference brochures. These are meant to be quick reference resources on major topics of research, and the authors are top-notch authorities in their respective fields.

George G. Morgan elaborates here on FamilySearch, which traces its own roots back to the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU), the

microfilming arm of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, whose films we still read today. Digitization has overtaken the world of microfilm, and FamilySearch evolved out of GSU to oversee the monumental task of transferring from microform to digital media the collected filmed images, and to continue preserving records in digital form as the LDS locates new resources and repositories.

Mr. Morgan provides a short but enlightening review of the FamilySearch.org website and its offerings. He begins with an historical overview of GSU and FamilySearch, and proceeds to describe the Home page main segments: Family Tree, Memories, and Search. He guides us through the search process for records that have been indexed, providing very specific instructions for using the various search templates associated with the different types of records. There are instructions for browsing the record collections that are digitized and are online, and the collections of digitized images that have not been indexed. FamilySearch has excellent learning materials, and Mr. Morgan summarizes these help facilities.

Mr. Morgan wrote a step-by-step guide which will speed us through FamilySearch.org and afford the researcher results upon which to begin the work. FamilySearch.org Research is available from the publisher, Genealogical Publishing Co., at <http://goo.gl/QN1QQP> as well as from Amazon.

RootsTech 2015

Registration for RootsTech 2015-to be held in Salt Lake City, February 12 - 15, 2015, opened on Friday August 29. The early bird registration fee is \$139. The 2015 conference is being held in conjunction with the Federation of Genealogical Societies meeting. The general sessions and exhibit hall will be shared.