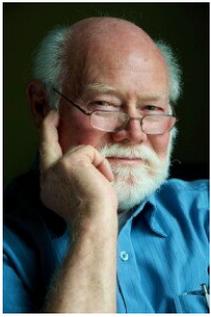




FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

From the Director's Desk

NOVEMBER 2014



On His Fruits

I grew up in a north central region of this country where we enjoyed the four seasons of the year. It was a long time ago, before fresh produce was shipped all over the country. Fresh fruit in our town was only available during the harvest time. After our fall fruit harvest was over, the only fruit available was out of a jar. In those days every household canned most everything. As I recall, the first fruit available was the green and usually very sour crab apples.

Looking back, it seemed like crab apple trees were all over especially along every country lane and those paths that we took coming and going to school. When we would first try them, it was usually way too early; their sourness would cause our mouths to pucker till we spit it out. When they were ripe enough to eat we would enjoy their tartness. About the time the popular eating apples (winesap, delicious, etc.) and other trees started bearing fruit the crab apples were falling off the trees and starting to rot. That's when we used them to bombard each other; we often got home with rotten apple splatted all over our shirts and pants.

Fruit is one of those blessings from our Father in Heaven that makes your mouth water just to think about them. In our modern day we can buy fresh fruit year around that is transported from all parts of the country, and

even from other countries. Fresh and tasty fruit of nearly every kind and color are found in the produce departments of our markets and grocery stores.

Fruit is a commonly used term in the scriptures, many things are referred to as fruit, and even we are referred to as fruit: the fruit of our father's loins or the fruit of our mother's womb. Converts to the church are referred to as the fruit of missionary labors. The good things we accomplish are referred to as the fruits of our labors, whether it be an education, a good job to provide for our families, church callings and assignments that are done well. The Lord loves to use that term. Why? Because we all love fruit and can relate to it as being good; good to our taste and good for our bodies.

All things in nature are a type or shadow of things heavenly. The Tree of Life that is referred to by Father Lehi is a fruit tree representing heaven and the joy that we shall have in the Father's presence someday. The fruit of the Tree of Life was described as white and delightful and most desirable of all other fruit.

Fruit is colorful, healthy, sweet, delicious and desirable. Sweet fruit, in season and from a healthy tree, represents the most sought after life sustaining food on earth and in Heaven, as the scriptures define it.

In Adam's time, Adam and Eve could partake of all the different fruit trees in the Garden of Eden except the fruit of the tree of 'good and evil' of which they were commanded not to partake. The

fruit of that tree was used by Satan to tempt Eve because he said: "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." (*Genesis 1*)

Fruit and fruit trees are depicted throughout the scriptures and they are representative of both the good and evil produced in the earth. For example, Christ caused the olive tree that had not produced its fruit in season to wither and die. It was deceptive because it had failed to live up to its expectation and therefore was perceived as evil. Deception is one of Satan's most valuable tools in his work to foil God's plan.

In the Book of Moses (*Pearl of Great Price*) the Father's very purpose is manifest, "For this is my work and my glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." That same purpose is found in the New Testament in John, only in different terms, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." (*John 15:8*) The more souls (fruit) we bring into the fold, the greater the Father's glory. The longest parable in the scriptures is the parable of the Olive Vineyard, depicting the history of God's work in His vineyard, the earth. (*Jacob 5*) Wherein He nurtures, prunes and even grafts young shoots from one olive tree to another trying to encourage them to bear as much good fruit as possible that he might lay it up in store. The more fruit laid up, the greater His glory. Each tree represents a branch of the House of Israel and/or the gentile nations. The very most fruitful Olive Tree in the Lord's Vineyard right now is the one that resides in the Spirit world.

Of those residing there very few will not accept the gospel when they are taught (*from President Snow*). As they accept the missionary teachings they will be waiting for their work to be done on earth. We have an obligation to find their records and to do their temple work. I am not referring to strangers but our very own kindred. Because they lived, we are living and

not only did they live but by their sweat and tears they better prepared the earth for our time here. We owe them, and as a matter of record we will not be saved without them. Let us find the time, just as we do for our favorite sports, TV and etc. May God bless us to be fruitful saints, for by our fruits we are known, and by our fruits we shall be judged.

– Emil O. Hanson,
Dir. Ogden FamilySearch Library

Genealogy

– James Tanner

Genealogy (family history) is not a pastime. Genealogy is not a hobby. Genealogy is not even a discipline. It is not technology. It is not a software program or backing up files. It is the hopes, fears and lives of your ancestors. It is life. It is also who you are when everything else is lost and gone. At the end of your life, you have only your memories and your family. Truly said, what is it worth to gain the whole world if you lose your soul? Your family is your soul.

What is the work of salvation for the dead? It is the process of researching and finding ancestors who have not yet had the opportunity of receiving the saving ordinances of the Temple. Once your heart is turned to your fathers, you must still do the work of finding those who need the work to be done.

For Center Directors: Making Space for Discovery Experiences

– Lisa McBride
August 14, 2014

Family History Centers are found in all kinds of shapes and sizes, from the very large to the very small. Don't let perceived space restrictions make decisions for you about what you can do in your center. In other words, don't limit your plans because you feel your space is too small. Do look at your space with new eyes and an open mind.

Here are some ideas to help you see your space through new lenses.

First, remember that you can stretch beyond the physical walls of your center. Under the direction of and coordination with your priesthood leaders determine how to use other rooms in your building when they are not in use for other ward and stake functions. One director uses the Primary room evenings and Saturdays for training classes. Another director uses an adjoining classroom which becomes a computer lab when members bring their laptops and tablets to the center. A group of classrooms can open up for a children's play area.

Moms with little ones can have a Mom and Tot's experience with a play area and a computer on a cart or with their own tablet or laptop. Carts and totes keep items contained and portable. For big events use the cultural hall. When you think beyond the four walls of your family history center you can temporarily expand for special use of space in your building. Just remember to coordinate and to share well with other ward and stake programs and to always get clearance from your priesthood leaders.

How do you search for specific words, names, etc., in the digital books on FamilySearch?

From the Cache Valley Newsletter

You can locate where words or names appear in a specific book by using the Find feature of your web browser. The Ctrl + F command will bring up a search box where you can enter the word or words you are looking for and the browser will find all occurrences of what you entered. You have to have the book 'open' in your browser for this to work, but it is a big time saver as you can move through the book and find each occurrence of the terms you are looking for. The Ctrl+F applies only to the open page you are looking at.

FamilySearch Adds Audio File Upload

The Ancestry Insider: 07 Oct 2014

FamilySearch announced that it now supports upload of audio files to the Memories section of the FamilySearch website. The section already supports photos, stories, and documents. FamilySearch spokesperson, Brad Young, said, "FamilySearch is pleased to announce the new audio files upload feature as part of the Memories tab options in Family Tree. Patrons can now add audio files to FamilySearch, and attach them to their ancestors for others to discover and enjoy."

Audio recordings are handled much the same way as photos. Recordings can be uploaded, tagged to memory persons, attached to Tree persons, titled, described, and stored in albums.

Hot Link =

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/audio-file-upload-feature-family-tree/>

FGS Conference: Riders on the Orphan Train

Over a quarter million orphans and unwanted children from the streets of New York were loaded up on trains and sent out all over the country to be given away. That's right; you heard what I said. Stop after stop, perspective adopters inspected their teeth and squeezed their muscles to see how well they could work the fields.

This chapter in American history is largely untold and largely unknown. The "Riders on the Orphan Train" FGS Conference keynote was created and presented by Phil Lancaster and Alison Moore to tell their stories. Lancaster is a singer-songwriter and Moore is an author and humanities scholar. To tell the stories, the two sang and played guitars while we viewed historical photographs and interviews of two survivors. Alison painted a word picture allowing us to see into the minds of the fearful children.

Elephind: A Digital Newspaper Collections Search Engine

– Dick Eastman September 21, 2014

Elephind is a great service that searches online digital newspaper collections. Best of all, it is available free of charge. Elephind.com is a search engine that operates much like Google, Bing, and other search engines. The one thing that is different with Elephind is that it searches only historical, digitized newspapers. It enables you to search for free across many newspaper sites simultaneously rather than having to visit each collection's web site separately.

At this time Elephind has indexed 2,677 newspaper titles containing more than two and a half million editions, ranging from March 1803 up to August 2013. The Elephind search engine has indexed 141,628,238 items from 2,677 newspaper titles. These include such well known sites as Chronicling America (the U.S.'s Library of Congress) and Trove (National Library of Australia), as well as smaller collections like Door County Library in Wisconsin. Many of the smaller newspaper sites are not well known and may be difficult to find with the usual search engines, but they are searchable from Elephind.com. A list of available newspaper collections that have been indexed so far is available at <http://goo.gl/VRQN5l>.

Additional newspaper collections are added to Elephind's indexes frequently.

I found that Elephind operates in much the same manner as many other search engines. If you already know how to search for things in Google, Bing, Yahoo, or elsewhere, you already know how to use Elephind. In fact, there are two search methods available on Elephind:

1. When you first visit the site at <http://www.elephind.com/>, you are greeted with a very simple search screen containing one data entry box. You can search for words or phrases in much the same way as you do on Google although not all of Google's sophisticated

Boolean search terms are available on Elephind. You can find tips for using the search box at <http://goo.gl/3T6JuH>.

2. When visiting this same site at <http://www.elephind.com/>, you will also see a highlighted link for "Advanced Search." When you click on that, a more sophisticated search form appears, allowing you to narrow the search to any combination of specific newspaper titles, country, or a range of dates. I did a search for my own last name between the years 1811 and 1890 in the United States. It returned far too many "hits" for me to search through; so, I started narrowing the search by specifying first names and cities or towns of interest. I was soon looking at information of interest. I was impressed with the clarity of the newspaper pages I was able to view; but, of course, that is under the control of the individual newspaper collection. Elephind does not host the images on its own web site. Instead, it merely links to newspapers found on a wide variety of servers in a number of different countries from around the world. Elephind.com is a great tool for family historians, genealogists, and researchers to search historic, digitized newspaper archives from around the globe.

Will Elephind locate newspaper articles about your ancestors? There is no way to tell in advance. You need to try it for a while to see. It is a free resource, so why not try it to see for yourself? Elephind may be found at <http://www.elephind.com>. Elephind is continuing to add more newspapers, so if at first you can't find what you're looking for, check back later. You also might want to add your name to the Elephind mailing list at <http://eepurl.com/ndGhb> to receive an email message whenever a new collection is added.

Reading Old Documents

– Family History Expos Genealogy Blog
September 30th, 2014

Question:

How do you read old documents accurately?
Can I learn to do this myself?

Answer:

The study of old handwriting is called paleography. There are many guides and helps available to us today. Classes taught at family history events and online.

Whether you are reading a will, a census page, colonial records, even a stranger's handwriting it takes practice. Each time I read the census I study the handwriting by looking at easy to decipher names and then comparing the letters to those that are more difficult.

Tips to assist you in deciphering a hard to read name or word:

? Get a copy of the alphabet for the time period and have it on hand. Do an online search for "script alphabet 1820?" or for any time period you are seeking. You could also add a country name if you need it in a foreign language.

? Try substitution for capital letters. Sometimes the capital letters look quite similar for the following groups (L-T-S) (I-J) (W-M-N) (F-T) (U-V).

? An older style double 's' ss looks like an 'f' or a 'p' and is often transcribed incorrectly. Watch for this.

? Watch the stroke of the letter, where it starts and where it ends. These are clues to what the letter is.

? Often clerks or others wrote what they heard and did not always hear it correctly. Try substituting letters that sound similar to see if it makes more sense (D-T) (B-P-V) (W-R) (G-K).

Here are a few links with additional assistance, tutorials, and study guides:

Genealogy's Star Blog by James L. Tanner

<http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2014/09/the-handwriting-challenge.html>

American Colonial Handwriting Study Guide

http://cdm.reed.edu/cdm4/indianconverts/studyguides/colonial_american_handwriting/cultural_significance.php

Script Tutorials created by the Department of History and the Center for Family History and Genealogy at Brigham Young University
<https://script.byu.edu/Pages/choices.aspx>

RootsTech Expects to Fill Up Quickly

– Posted: 01 Oct 2014 08:00am PDT

RootsTech last week. "expect this years' event to fill up quickly, so please make sure to register early." Pricing is currently \$159 for a 3-day pass, a savings of \$80 off the regular price of \$239. A discount is available to registered family history consultants of FamilySearch sponsor, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In your regular training email, "My Family History Calling," is the discount code for a pricing of \$99

Monthly Guest Speaker Series

Please come and join us for a fun and enjoyable hour. It will be held Saturday, November 8 at the FamilySearch Library, at 10:00 a.m. in room 12.

RaNae Roberts is a dynamic Grandma of 10 1/2, mother to 7 and wife to her high school sweetheart for 33 years. She is passionate about family history and creating and leaving a lasting legacy of love. RaNae believes in the power of knowing who you are and the people who sacrificed to allow you to enjoy the life you are living today.

The Law of the Harvest

– FS FamilyTreeUserGroup.com

During a recent stake conference, our Stake President challenged each stake member to add a memory of an ancestor to the FamilySearch website and prepare a name to take to the temple by our next stake conference. This is a wonderful challenge and has significantly increased the spirit of Elijah in our stake. Each of us can easily add a personal memory of a parent or grandparent. We can also, easier than ever, prepare a name of a relative needing ordinances to take to the temple.

However, for many, preparing a valid name for the temple is not something that can be accomplished in one short computer session. In his August 2014 First Presidency message, President Uchtdorf told a story about a person who bought some seeds and became upset because they didn't grow. However, he failed to plant the seeds because he didn't want to get his hands dirty. If we bought some seeds and threw them on the ground without first tilling and planting, and failed to water, nourish, and weed; what kind of harvest would we expect to reap? For those without close relatives needing temple ordinances, harvesting temple names also requires effort.

In his June 2014 First Presidency Message, President Monson stated, "Family history work is not easy. ... The Lord expects us to perform our family history work well. ... We are going to make mistakes, but ... we must plunge into this work, and ... prepare for some uphill climbing. This is not an easy task." Some feel all that is needed to prepare a name for the temple is to go to the FamilySearch website, find a green temple icon for one who shows as a distant relative, and reserve ordinances. Some refer to this as "green arrow hunting". There are even software applications that will search your pedigree for green arrows. A Salt Lake Family History Library missionary reported that when over 700

names prepared in this manner were reviewed, only 3 persons actually needed ordinances. While these results may be somewhat atypical, several experienced consultants have reported that over 90% of temple names prepared this way either represent duplicate (invalid) ordinances; or, due to errors in Family Tree, are not really related to the submitter.

Some ordinance duplication and errors are unavoidable, but if everyone submits names by green arrow hunting, many hours in the temple will be spent doing invalid ordinances. President Hinckley compared temple work to rescuing the handcart pioneers. Although we can benefit from re-enacting carrying pioneers across a river, and any time in the temple is well spent, should our time in the temple be spent just re-enacting instead of truly rescuing the "pioneers" in spirit prison? If we want to do valid temple ordinances for distant relatives that we are really related to, we must, as President Monson said, "prepare for some uphill climbing."

Mark Your 2015 Calendar

If you are in a position to influence your organization's 2015 calendar, please schedule the OGDEN FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE for Saturday, 12 September 2015. Once again the Conference will be held at Weber State University. There is no charge for parking or classes. It's FREE! Well, you have to provide for your own lunch.

Thought

It is as though our ancestors want to be found. Uncanny coincidences. Olympian luck. Phenomenal fate. Tremendous intuition. Remarkable miracles. We call It, "Serendipity in Genealogy."