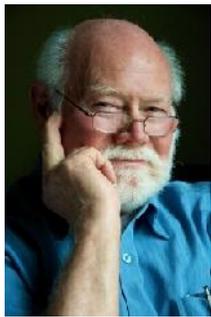




FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

From the Director's Desk

JANUARY 2015



On The Importance of the "Abrahamic Covenant"

"For behold, this is my work and my glory-to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." (*Moses 1:39*) These are the words spoken to Moses by 'Jehovah', the God of the Old Testament.

Immortality and Eternal life for man are based on two conditional attributes: our faith in Jesus Christ, the son of God, and our willingness to follow Him and keep His commandments. He established His Church in the meridian of time and his disciples (followers) were commanded to go into all the world and preach His Gospel, and all who believed and were baptized became members of His church and eligible for immortality and eternal life.

His church failed during the third generation having been corrupted by designing men who knew not God. During the course of history, as described by the prophet Isaiah, man would have many periods of apostasy and the earth was devoid of light from above. Isaiah saw the final or last dispensation when the gospel would be restored for the last time. In the 49th chapter and 3rd verse of Isaiah's writings he described how the Father's work and His glory would be achieved. "Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified." Israel would be the means by which the Father's work and His glorify would finally be achieved.

Who was Israel and how was he going to be able to achieve such a great accomplishment on behalf of the Father? Israel (formerly Jacob) was the son of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham. Of all the great men of Old Testament times, Abraham was the greatest and though he lived nearly 4,000 years before Christ yet he had many Christ-like attributes. Abraham was, without a doubt, a faithful servant and loved by our Father.

The scriptures describe that relationship this way; "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." Abraham, like Christ, had compassion for all mankind. An example of that was when angels appeared to Abraham and told him that they were instructed to destroy Sodom and he tried to dissuade them. Abraham asked the angel, "Peradventure fifty righteous shall be found there. The angel replied, "I will not destroy it for fifties sake." Abraham kept pressing until he was finally down to ten and the angel said, "I will not destroy it if ten righteous shall be found there."

Abraham and Sarah were miraculously blessed in their old age with a son whom they named Isaac. They loved and cherished their son who was born long after their childbearing years. As a challenge of Abraham's faithfulness he was asked to sacrifice his son on a sacrificial altar. This was Abraham's 'only begotten son' and his faithfulness was tested right down to the final second before the blade would have pierced Isaac's body. Has any other human ever been tested in such a way as was Abraham? That is to say other than God the Father

who was willing to sacrifice His 'only begotten son', even Jesus Christ.

The Father had such a great love for righteous Abraham that He blessed him and his seed above all others. That blessing is as follows, He said to Abraham: "My name is Jehovah, and I know the end from the beginning; therefore my hand shall be over thee. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee above measure, and make thy name great among all nations, and thou shalt be a blessing unto thy seed after thee, that in their hands they shall bear this ministry and Priesthood unto all nations; And I will bless them through thy name; for as many as receive this Gospel (the Gospel of Jesus Christ) shall be called after thy name, and shall be accounted thy seed, and shall rise up and bless thee, as their father; ... I give unto thee a promise that this right shall continue in thee, and in thy seed ... shall all the families of the earth be blessed, even with the blessings of the Gospel, which are the blessings of salvation, even of life eternal." (*Abraham 2: 8 - 11*)

This blessing was passed on to Abraham's son Isaac and then to Jacob whose name was changed to 'Israel' and so on. If you have accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ - you are of the seed of Abraham and that should be viewed as a great honor. People express great pride in being a member of various social organizations. But I have never yet heard anyone express joy in being of the seed of Abraham. Yet, that may be the greatest honor one can ever possess. I feel blessed to say that not only am I a Christian, a disciple of Jesus Christ but I am also of the Seed of Father Abraham.

Israel had 12 sons and before passing he blessed his sons. The birthright blessing from Israel's hand was given to Joseph's son, Ephraim. If you will review your Patriarchal Blessing you will see that you are most likely from the seed of Abraham through Joseph's son, Ephraim.

Therefore, as the seed of Abraham, this work we are doing is to fulfill the prophesy; "Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified." Therefore, through us 'shall all the families of the earth be blessed, even with the blessings of the Gospel, which are the blessings of salvation', even those who have passed on to the other side without having had an opportunity to even hear of Jesus Christ. Thus Paul to the Hebrews said: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (*Heb 15:19*)

The early church, as established by the Savior, practiced baptism for the dead. Paul also declared to the Hebrews; "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?" (*Heb 15:29*). God bless us to be steadfast and loyal to our great heritage as Abraham's seed.

– Emil Hanson, Director OFSL

Happy New Year--2015

As we begin the New Year it is a good time to take a moment and reflect on how much we have accomplished in our family search efforts during the past year and make plans to accomplish more in the coming year. There many, many of our ancestors patiently waiting for us to make available to them the blessings of the gospel.

Consider:

- A. An estimated 28 Billion people have lived on this earth since A.D. 1500.
- B. About 1 Billion people's information is now preserved in FamilySearch.org's online Family Tree.
- C. About 27 Billion still need to be identified and their information linked online to complete the family tree of mankind since A.D. 1500.

The rapid advances being made in technology continue to make doing our family history work easier and easier. It only takes a little effort on our parts to "Hasten the Work".

FamilySearch Announces Retirement of New.FamilySearch.org

– *The Ancestry Insider* - 18 Nov 2014

Last week FamilySearch announced that starting 1 February 2015 FamilySearch would cut access to New.FamilySearch.org (NFS). Instead, users will have to access the information through FamilySearch Family Tree. This is a step toward the eventual retirement of New.FamilySearch.org.

FamilySearch thinks that may occur in early 2016. (My experience is that software always takes longer than anticipated.) At that time, FamilySearch will break the link between NFS and Family Tree. Users are looking forward to that day because Family Tree suffers from some limitations imposed on it by the link to NFS:

IOUS individuals cannot be merged. For an example, see King Hroar Half Frodasson. [Note: *If you don't know what an IOUS is, see "Understanding Records of Unusual Size" in the FamilySearch Help Center*]. Also, Gender sometimes cannot be changed.

Reaction to the announcement has been mixed. One commenter, Christy Satfield, said "Goodbye nFS. You served us well! Many thanks to your creators!"

Thought –

"Spiritual connections . . . are formed when a young woman helps her grandmother enter family information into a computer or when a young man sees the name of his great-grandfather on a census record. When our hearts turn to our ancestors, something changes inside us. We feel part of something greater than ourselves." – *Russell M. Nelson*

Access to FamilySearch Partner Websites

All members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as well as LDS youth ages 13-17, can now create their own personal accounts with Ancestry.com, findmypast, and MyHeritage. To sign-up click the hotlink below, these resources are helping Church members find more ancestors needing temple ordinances.

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

RootsTech Family Discovery Day

– *Rachel L. Matheus*

If you are looking for a new and fun way to help members of your stake find family names for their tree, prepare those names for the temple, and be enabled to teach others how to do the same, consider hosting a RootsTech Family Discovery Day (formerly called Family History Fair) in your stake in 2015.

The family history department will supply you with great content from the RootsTech 2015 conference, access to customizable posters and flyers, as well as other great resources you can use to make planning your event easy. As the event organizer you will have many tools at your fingertips to excite the members of your stake and community about finding their family connections and strengthening those bonds. Learn more about hosting a Family Discovery Day at <https://www.lds.org/topics/family-history/host-a-family-history-fair> and sign your stake up today!

Family Tree Quick Start Guide

If you are starting out in Family Tree or assisting a patron who is just starting and would like to use the Family Tree Quick Start Guide: Go to "Ogdenfsl.org" website and click on the Learn label and then "Quick Start to Family Tree" and you will be right there.

Genealogy by Barry Newsletter

– 1 December 2014

As I have interviewed family about their lives, pondered and written about my own experiences and researched the footsteps of my ancestor's, I have been humbled by the reality that we are all bound by a love that transcends generations. Every experience and choice through time has built the foundation upon which I stand and contribute. Through that experience I have found that writing a personal and/or family history can be overwhelming, satisfying, and endearing all in the same breath.

If you need help getting started a class is taught at least once every month at the Ogden FamilySearch Library titled, 'How to Write Your Personal History'. (See the schedule at Ogdenfsl.org or in hard copy at the Library)

Top Ten Safe Computing Tips

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology recommends the following: "Top Ten Safe Computing Tips": With the majority of our family history work done on computers, it becomes imperative that we keep our information safe and secure. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology recommends the following: "Top Ten Safe Computing Tips":

1. Patch, Patch, PATCH! Set up your computer for automatic software and operating system updates. An unpatched machine is more likely to have software vulnerabilities that can be compromised.

2. Install protective software. Install software set to scan your files and update your virus definitions on a regular basis.

3. Choose strong passwords with letters, numbers, and special characters to create a mental image or an acronym that is easy for you to remember. Create a different password for

each important account, and change passwords regularly.

4. Backup, Backup, BACKUP! Backing up your machine regularly can protect you from the unexpected. Keep a few months' worth of backups and make sure the files can be retrieved if needed.

5. Control access to your machine. Don't leave your computer in an unsecured area, or unattended and logged on, especially in public places. The physical security of your machine is just as important as its technical security.

6. Use email and the Internet safely. Ignore unsolicited emails, and be wary of attachments, links and forms in emails that come from people you don't know, or which seem "phishy." Avoid untrustworthy (often free) downloads from freeware or shareware sites. Learn more about spam filtering.

7. Use secure connections. When connected to the Internet, your data can be vulnerable while in transit. Use remote connectivity and secure file transfer options.

8. Protect sensitive data. Reduce the risk of identity theft. Securely remove sensitive data files from your hard drive, which is also recommended when recycling or repurposing your computer. Use the encryption tools built into your operating system to protect sensitive files you need to retain.

9. Use desktop firewalls. Mac and Windows computers have basic desktop firewalls as part of their operating systems. When set up properly, these firewalls protect your computer files from being scanned.

10. Most importantly, stay informed. Stay current with the latest developments for Windows, Mac, Linux, and Unix - 5 -systems

World War II Enlistment Records Online

– Dick Eastman

One great resource available from the U.S. National Archives is the World War II Enlistment Records. These records have been transcribed and made available on the National Archives web site. These records are especially valuable as many of the personal papers of these soldiers and sailors were later destroyed in a fire.

The National Archives scanned War Department microfilmed punch cards on enlistments to support the reconstruction of the military personnel records at its National Personnel Records Center. That strikes me as a sad commentary about technology: the data was originally stored on punch cards which, once upon a time, could be read by machines. I haven't seen a punch card reader in operation for many years, however. The cards were eventually microfilmed for long-term preservation. Nine million records were later transcribed manually by humans who sat and read the microfilms and transcribed the information onto keyboards.

Due to the condition of the microfilms, approximately 1.5 million records could not be scanned. Scanning problems when the microfilms were created also contributed to the errors. Despite these challenges, information about a majority of sixteen million World War II servicemen and women is available via the web site.

I went to the web site and performed a search for an uncle of mine. Thanks to his unusual last name, he was easy to find: he was the only person of that name in the database. Finding him took less than a minute. Looking for someone with a more common surname will take longer, but you can use the site's "Advanced Search" to use Boolean terms. For instance, all the men named Jones who enlisted in Maine or something similar.

The final record that I was able to see was a transcribed entry, not an image of an original form. That's okay in this case because the online transcriptions were made from another transcription: the original punch cards that were made from original records. In other words, I was looking at a transcription of a transcription.

The U.S. National Archives says spot checks show that approximately 35% of these records have an error. However, only 4.7% of the sample had an error in the name column, and only 1.3% had errors in the serial number column. Therefore, the National Archives made the determination that a lot of valuable information is available in this database, even with the errors. The database was released and placed online.

I didn't notice any errors in the data I saw about my uncle and about a few others that I found. Each record provides the enlistee's serial number and name, state, and county of residence, place of enlistment, date of enlistment, grade, branch, term of enlistment, place of birth, year of birth, citizenship, race, education, civilian occupation, marital status, and component. I did see a few items left blank or listed as N/A (not available). However, most of the records I saw were filled in completely.

Because the records are for Army enlistments during World War II, the file does not include records for those who enlisted as Army officers. It does, however, have records for those who joined as enlisted personnel and then later were promoted to commissioned officers, as in the case of my uncle. Just because your relative served as an officer, do not assume that he or she is not in this database. The question is, what was the grade upon enlistment, not on discharge?

This online database also contains information on more than 130,000 women who enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. The Electronic

Army Serial Number Merged File can provide much information of interest to genealogists. It is especially useful for date and place of birth, even though it does not show parents' names. At least you will find out where to look for a birth record. The Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File is available free of charge as one of the databases within the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration's "Access to Archival Databases" (AAD) at <http://www.archives.gov/aad>.

The Ancestry Insider

– Monday, December 1, 2014

Dear Ancestry Insider,

This is something FamilySearch needs to CHANGE: REQUIRE an active email address for the privilege of having a FamilySearch account! How can I , "collaborate on ancestors" with someone I can't contact through an active email address who makes inaccurate changes to our shared family tree? I have 30 + years of research with documents, records and sources to conclusions. Yet, in a matter of minutes the family tree can be mutilated by an unknown unaccountable person with bad data or no data. How can any well sourced tree be preserved for generations? Why doesn't FamilySearch require all who use Family Tree have an active email address?

Thank you, Jay Wood (That is a good question???????)

Are your ancestors mentioned in the Joseph Smith Papers?

Did Joseph Smith write about your ancestors? Give the following address a try to find out:

<https://familysearch.org/joseph-smith-papers#/>

This is a page similar to the Pioneer page we did last July. Are these campaigns helpful? If they are, feel free to share them.

p.s. We have been working on the Pioneer page. It should be up and running again next week. Several youth groups have been asking about it as they plan for Trek.