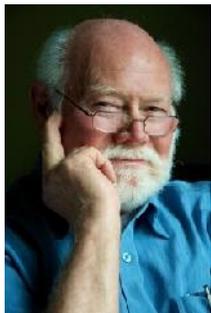


# FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER



From the Director's Desk

APRIL 2015



## On "Straight Paths"

Straight lines are easier to draw, than straight paths are to walk. When we are trying to walk straight there are always obstacles in the path that from time to time, will cause us to slow down, stop and sometimes go around or have to jump over. A similar term frequently used in relation to the church is for us to hold on to the 'Iron Rod' or, as stated above, to be on a straight path.

The scriptures state that once we have entered the gate (referring to baptism); 'the path is straight and narrow is the gate...' Yet, it is nearly impossible to live a straight and perfect life or to walk a straight path while we live in the world. It is a constant challenge for there are so many temptations, and even distractions that cause us to, using a railroad term, "jump the track" or stray from the straight and narrow. There is opposition in all things, especially in respect to walking a straight line. Yet, many of those distractions provide interesting and even valuable experiences for us. Some might call it the scenic route or even the rugged mountain bike route.

Years ago, when I was around twelve or thirteen, a friend and I would sometimes walk to the outskirts of our little town, in Washington state, to the city dump. There were a lot of rats that populated the dump. We would take our slingshots and try to 'reduce their population' by

slinging rocks at them. The road out to the dump was a very curvy road, it actually followed a winding river to it's destination. Instead of walking that long and curving road we would walk along the railroad tracks because they were straight and by doing so it only took half as long to get to the dump.

After we tired of trying to hit but always missing our targets, we headed for home and on the way it started raining and pretty soon we were drenched. Then it began getting cold and we started shivering. There was an old man that had a shack along side the tracks. It was at the end of some railroad sheds where they kept two or three of those little hand pump maintenance cars. The shack was put together with sheets of corrugated metal over boards and was only about 8X10 feet. We knew him to be a kindly old man and so we knocked on his door and ask if we could come in to get warm. He agreed to let us warm up by his little cast iron potbellied heating stove.

The stove was right next to his narrow cot that he slept on and the cot served as his couch (furniture), as well. He was sitting there in his long handled and quite dirty underwear. There wasn't a place for us to sit so we just stood by the stove. He had a white beard and the soot from train smoke as well as the black soot from his stove had sprinkled his beard with black as well as filling in the wrinkles in his face. He had an open pot on the stove top that he was heating water in to make tea. When the water started boiling he put a handful of tea leaves into the pot. After a minute

or two he strained the tea into a cup to drink. He had a loaf of white bread, as I recall it was 'Wonder Bread' and he would take a slice, break a piece off and dip it in his tea before putting it in his mouth. He offered us some of his tea but we declined.

The rain stopped after a while and we thanked him for letting us come in to warm up and we left. The railroad tracks were a straight route home but our deviating from it, to warm up in an old man's shack, was an interesting experience. There are many deviations from the straight that provide valuable learning moments for us. You might say this was a scenic route.

I remember using the term 'straight arrow' referring to someone that I admired and believed to be honest and good. I overheard someone refer to me as a straight arrow one time, I was flattered. Even straight arrows have flaws, whether homemade or manufactured very few are perfectly straight.

I appreciate what Apostle Dallin Oaks stated several years ago when he said, (paraphrasing) That we are all on a continuum, hopefully an upward track through life, trying each day to become better, more mature spiritually. As we travel on this continuum there are times that we lose ground. Meaning that there will be times when we falter and slip backwards and then we will try to regain our upward direction. We would be rare individuals if we never slipped backward from time to time.

Maybe we could better describe our journey on earth as a variable, wavy line but mostly (hopefully) on an upward grade. We are not always dedicated to the lofty and noble highway, not always walking the line, not always on the straight, not always walking along the railroad tracks, not always on the narrow path, and not always holding onto the iron rod. But if we are people who are striving for the good in the world and trying to avoid the evil, our path will be mostly straight and in an upward direction.

We may be able to draw a straight line but life is not a straight line. God bless us to travel the road we choose as carefully and as kindly as we can. When we finally reach the end, hopefully, the Master will say to us; 'Well done thou good and faithful servant.'

*Emil O. Hansen, Director  
Ogden FamilySearch Library*

## **Probate Records for Research**

*– Family History Expo - March 2015*

Probate records are court records created after an individual's death that relate to a court's decisions regarding the distribution of the estate to the heirs or creditors and the care of dependents. This process took place whether there was a will (testate) or not (intestate).

Various types of records are created throughout the probate process. These may include wills, bonds, petitions, accounts, inventories, administrations, orders, decrees, and distributions. These documents are extremely valuable to genealogists and should not be neglected. In many instances, they are the only known source of relevant information such as the decedent's date of death, names of his or her spouse, children, parents, siblings, in-laws, neighbors, associates, relatives, and their places of residence. You may also learn about the adoption or guardianship of minor children and dependents. Additional clues often found in probate records are an ancestor's previous residence, occupation, land ownership, household items, former spouse(s), religion, and military service.

Probate records are essential for research because they often pre-date the birth and death records kept by civil authorities.

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"You can't wake a person who is pretending to be asleep."  
*– Navajo proverb*

## **Invisible Women Ancestors - How to Research the Women in Your Family Tree**

– Kimberly Powell

The individual identities of women who lived prior to the twentieth century are often very tangled in those of their husbands, both by law and by custom. In many places, women were not allowed to own real estate in their name, to sign legal documents, or to participate in government. Men wrote the histories, paid the taxes, participated in the military and left wills. Men were also the ones whose surname was carried into the next generation by the children. As a result, female ancestors are often neglected in family histories and genealogies-listed with only a first name and approximate dates for birth and death. They are our "invisible ancestors."

This neglect, while understandable, is still inexcusable. Half of all of our ancestors were women. Each female in our family tree provides us with a new surname to research and an entire branch of new ancestors to discover. Women were the ones who bore the children, carried on family traditions, and ran the household. They were teachers, nurses, mothers, wives, neighbors and friends. They deserve to have their stories told - to be more than just a name on a family tree. "Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors." -- Abigail Adams, March 1776.

So how can you, as a genealogist, locate someone who is "invisible?" Tracing the female side of your family tree can be a bit difficult and frustrating, but is also one of the most rewarding challenges of genealogy research. By following a few basic research methods, with an added measure of patience and creativity, you'll soon be learning about all of the women who passed their genes down to you. Just remember, don't give up! If your female ancestors had given up, you might not be here today.

## **Of Roots and Branches – Ogden Family History Conference News and Updates**

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! One and all! Great news: The 2015 free Ogden Family History Conference is again scheduled for September. Sponsored by the WSU College of Social & Behavioral Sciences Department of History, and developed by the Ogden FamilySearch Library, the conference provides wonderful opportunities to hear the inside scoop from expert speakers and get hands-on experience in technology-driven family history search techniques.

This year's conference, titled "Of Roots and Branches", is going to be fantastic. At this super warehouse of genealogical information, there will be something for everyone. This is not your grandparent's genealogy activity. It is no longer pencil and paper driven. Today, via the internet and its modern search programs, the farthest corners of the world are at your fingertips as you search for ancestors.

With computers and online tools available, and volunteers to help you, plus expert speakers and on-site vendors, please plan to join us on Saturday, 12 September 2015, at the Weber State College Shepherd Union Building. Activities begin at 7:30 a.m. when information packets are made available. At 8:30 a keynote speaker kicks off the conference. Vendor access begins at 9:00. And the first round of learning sessions starts at 10:00. Finding your ancestors has never been more exciting!

Visit the following site for up-to-date information:

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ogden\\_FamilySearch\\_Library\\_2015\\_Conference](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ogden_FamilySearch_Library_2015_Conference)

## **New Collaboration between FamilySearch and the New England Historic Genealogical Society**

– *GenealogyInTime Magazine, Feb 2015*

This week, FamilySearch and the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) announced a new collaboration. It will see some one billion records from FamilySearch added to the NEHGS website AmericanAncestors.org. The records will consist primarily of US federal census transcripts (1790 to 1930), civil registrations for Italy, Germany, Scotland and the Netherlands and English parish records. In addition, one billion family tree records from FamilySearch will also be available on the NEHGS website. In turn, members of the Mormon Church will have free accounts on AmericanAncestors.org to access the society's large collection of New England genealogy records.

- See more at:

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/genealogy-news.html?>

[awt\\_l=Dtpel&awt\\_m=ImUHh5AXCAk.Vy#sth.ash.X4segO3g.dpuf](http://www.genealogyintime.com/genealogy-news.html?awt_l=Dtpel&awt_m=ImUHh5AXCAk.Vy#sth.ash.X4segO3g.dpuf)

## **Family History Discovery Day 2015**

Many organizations are hosting a Family (History) Discovery Day. In the past these activities were called "Family History Fairs". They feature learning activities for individuals and families. Some organizations offer an introductory meeting and presentation followed by classes presented by local family history enthusiasts, displays, and one-on-one family history assistance.

The Ogden FamilySearch Library is pleased to setup a display at such functions. Organizers are welcome to call the Library (801-626-1132) to make these arrangements.

There are online helps to assist groups in organizing and conducting a Family Discover Day. Merely go to <https://www.lds.org> and type "Discovery Day" in the upper right hand search window. Beneath the title "Host a Family Discover Day" are the following tabs: Sign Up, Event Manage Tool, Organizer's Admin Tool, Family History Events, and Host a Youth Family History Event. Many organizations have found these tools to be a valuable resource.

## **MyHeritage Places Exclusive Scandinavian Records-Online**

– *Eastman Newsletter, February 17, 2015*

MyHeritage has just brought online millions of Scandinavian records, the majority of which have never been digitized or indexed online before. Anyone with Scandinavian roots can search these records on MyHeritage's SuperSearch and will receive matches to those records relevant to their family tree. As of today, the entire 1930 Danish census (3.5 million records) is available online. The new records were digitized by a partnership with the National Archives of Denmark. MyHeritage has now indexed and digitized more than 120 million records including all available Danish census records from 1787-1930 and Parish records from 1646 to 1915, all of which will be released during 2015 and 2016. In addition,

MyHeritage has also added the Swedish Household Examination Rolls from 1880-1920, which include 54 million records with 5 million color images, of which 22 million records are already available online. The remaining records are scheduled to go online before the end of June 2015. For more information, please see the MyHeritage Blog post at:

<http://blog.myheritage.com/2015/02/>

[myheritage-puts-exclusive-Scandinavian-records-online.](http://blog.myheritage.com/2015/02/myheritage-puts-exclusive-Scandinavian-records-online)

You will note that the Blog entry also says, "We are working on more content that will go live soon, from additional Nordic countries!"

## Don't forget to research U.S. state census records

– Barry J. Ewell, February 20, 2015

State censuses were conducted by states in off years in between the Federal census.

Every state was in charge of whether and when they would conduct a census. This article includes a chart that will provide an overview of the census records that are available by state. These records usually contain the same type of information as in the Federal census as well as additional questions that are unique to that state such as naturalization, military service, occupation, state and county of origin, mortality, education and voting status.

Like the Federal census, the state census is a snapshot of the home and its inhabitants at a given time. The information on the state census can be used to construct, confirm, add, and/or delete information from the family profile you have begun building from the Federal census.

For example, I have used the state census to find children that were born and died in between the Federal census, confirmed deaths of wife's, husbands and grandparents, marriages of children, new marriages for head of households, other locations to search and much more.

I have found the state census records to be just as valuable as the U.S. Federal census records in helping me build and develop the family profile for each ancestral generation.

For example,

**Age** – The age can be used to gain an approximate birth year, suggest related government and church records.

**Birthplace** – Helps to establish location, former residences and migration patterns for the individual and family. The locations become target areas for researching records that the many have been created by the family. Always be asking, "What records could have been created by my ancestor at the time they lived in this place?"

**Race** – Race can be valuable to finding ethnicity related records.

**Naturalization** – Use this information to find records related to the naturalization process. They can usually be found in county court records. Naturalization also suggests immigration, such as records that are found at Ellis Island, passenger lists, etc. that are found at the port of entry.

**Military Service** – If the individual served in the military, you will be able to find service records, pension records, enlistment records, and so forth.

**Occupation** – Knowledge of an occupation can lead to find employment records.

Make it practice to always learn about the neighbors. At a minimum copy information for six families before and six families after your family. It is rare that these families are not connected to your ancestor as direct or extended family. When I have lost my family because of moving, I have been able to search on the neighbors and reconnect with my family. Also make a list of those in the county and state that have the same surname of your family. Again it is rare that there is not some connection between at least 1 of the families. This becomes even more important if the surname is really unique. Be exhaustive in your search. Often I have found needed information about my direct line through the records found in the circle of influence such as family, neighbors, and church group. These censuses are located at the state archives and/or libraries (note: many are online), through microfilm at LDS Family History Centers, online transcripts of counties within a state from historical societies, and online databases such as Ancestry.com.

## **More Than 40,000 Digital Genealogy Books Now Fully Searchable and Downloadable for Free at GenGophers.com**

– Dallan Quass, founder of GenGophers.com  
– In Dick Eastmans Newsletter

A new website enables genealogists for the first time to have free, easy, and precise searching of family history books SALT LAKE CITY - Researching family histories online is an activity that has begun to come of age. Thousands of family history books and magazines are available to be searched directly from multiple websites. But searching through these websites and combing through the jumble of information they return can be a frustrating, costly, and fruitless process.

The newly launched family history website, GenGophers.com, solves these problems by providing precise and free access to the industry's most effective online search tools and a growing library of more than 40,000 downloadable family and personal histories, local histories, and genealogy newsletters.

## **How to Print to PDF File**

– Dick Eastman, March 9, 2015

A newsletter reader asked today, "How can I save an image on a web site, such as a census page image, as a PDF file?" I decided to answer here in the newsletter in case someone else has the same question.

The short answer is, "there are several methods of saving images to PDF files." However, I will expand on that with longer answers below. First, you need to save the image to your computer's hard drive in almost any format. With most web pages, that means saving it in the same format that is used on the web site. Then you need to convert it to PDF. In many programs, that is called "print as PDF".

The following is for converting specific images, not for saving entire web pages as PDF

files. I will later tell how to save entire web pages as PDF files.

### **Saving the image**

In most web browsers, go to the web page of interest, move the mouse icon over the image you wish to save, right click with the mouse, and select "Save image as..." You will then need to select where to save it and also give the newly-saved file a name. On my Mac computer I keep a folder called Downloads where I place all newly-downloaded files. This is also the default folder for downloads on most Windows computers. Then I can later convert any file in that folder to whatever format I wish and save it to an appropriate folder for long-term storage. Every few weeks or so I delete all the older files in the Downloads folder as I no longer need them. You might want to do something similar just to keep things organized.

Macintosh Apple includes all the needed PDF software with every Mac. Use Finder to go to the Downloads directory (or wherever you saved the image), double-click on the image and wait for it to display on your screen. Unless you have changed your system settings, the image will be displayed in Preview. Within Preview, select FILE in the upper left corner, then select PRINT. A new pop-up window will appear. Click on PDF, and then select "Save as PDF" from the selection list that appears. Follow the menus, and your new PDF file will be saved wherever you specified.

The Macintosh also has a second program that can be very useful. Preview is sort of a Swiss Army Knife for images of all sorts. If nothing else is available, display the image you wish to save on your screen and then launch Preview. Select FILE and then select TAKE SCREEN SHOT. Select the area of the screen you wish to save. Once the captured image is shown within Preview, select FILE and then select EXPORT AS PDF...

## Family History Summer Activity 2015

The Ogden FamilySearch Library is again hosting Family History Summer Activities: an adventure your PRIMARY children and YOUTH groups will not forget. This year's activities will focus on the participants own family history.

LAST YEAR: 53 Primary and 36 Youth groups registered to participate in 2014. That represents a total of 1081 individuals who were scheduled to attend.

SCHEDULE: The Family History Summer Activities will be offered June 1 through August 15, 2015. No groups will be scheduled the weeks of July 4th and July 24th. The Activities are two hours each and are offered as follows: Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 9:30-11:30 or 1:30-3:30; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30, 1:30-3:30, and 6:00-8:00. Each session will accommodate about fifteen participants. If you have a group larger than fifteen, please schedule more than one session. Leaders must ensure the participants come with names, dates, and places of deceased ancestors.

ACTIVITIES: Primary groups (ages 8-11) begin with a general meeting to learn age-appropriate basic Family History concepts and see a short video about how to begin family history. Each group will be divided into two teams and, with a guide, visit learning stations around the Ogden Family Search Library. They will learn the basics of family history by putting together a tomb puzzle and visiting a cemetery. At vital records they fill out a birth certificate.

Each group will do an internet search with each participant at a computer. Finally, the group as a whole will go to the "kitchen table" to begin writing their own history in the new Climbing My Family Tree booklet. Each booklet costs one dollar. Youth and adult groups (ages 12 and up) will begin with a general meeting; however, their experience will be enhanced by doing on-line activities with each participant at

a computer. For example, they will research their own family using internet sites like FamilySearch.Org, Ancestry.com, and other research sites. Some participants will build a bridge from them to deceased ancestors.

RESERVATIONS: Call 801-626-1132 to schedule your group for a Family History Summer Activity or Special Request at the Ogden FamilySearch Library, 529 24th Street, Ogden, Utah.

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"Surround yourself with people who make you a better person."  
– *Author Unknown*

### 2015 South Davis Family History Fair

**Saturday, April 11, 2015**

**Woods Cross High School  
600 West 2200 South  
Woods Cross, UT 84087**

**Only a few weeks left to register!  
[fair.ugagenealogy.org](http://fair.ugagenealogy.org)**

**Already registered? Don't forget to invite  
your friends and neighbors!**