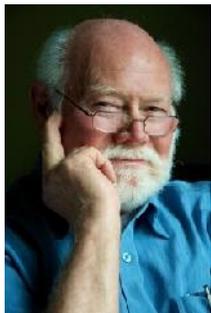




FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

From the Director's Desk

JUNE 2015



On "Fathers Are Important, Too"

As Father's Day approaches may we take the time to actually contemplate our fathers their lives and the contribution they made to our lives and the lives of our children. I have often wished

that my father would have written his history and since he did not, I attempted to do it for him. In the process I found many things that I did not know about him. Things I wished that he had shared with me while he was yet alive. I am sure that his life had many more stories than I was able to find but they are all lost now because he never shared them. The saying is so true that "When a man dies they bury a book."

My father descended from pure blooded Norwegians. Not that that is a bad thing but there wasn't much family warmth, neither taught nor practiced in his home. He was a good man and a good father in terms of providing and setting an example of honesty and hard work. But when it came to expressing love verbally and/or physically that was just not him. I had never been hugged by my father nor had I given him a hug until I was older and had a family of my own. One summer my young family and I visited my dad who was living in another state. We only had a short time with him and when we were leaving to return home he put his hand out offering a handshake. That was not enough for me, I grabbed my father and gave him a big hug and told him that I loved him. He hesitantly

returned the hug. I'm sure it was a surprise and maybe even embarrassing for him. It was just not his nature.

Fortunately, I did not inherit that trait, whether it be Norwegian or not. I have six children and they know that they will never leave their dad without a hug and an, "I love you!" even if I were to see them every day. I was a 29 year old man when my father died. When I received the news I went into our bedroom and cried uncontrollably because even though he was never affectionate to me, I loved him - he was my dad! One of my older sons, who was just a four or five year old at the time recently confided in me that he remembered that time. He said he felt bad for his dad (me) because I was so broken up about my dad's passing. He had never before seen me cry.

To a child, mothers seem to be the most important person, that is a given, but dads are important, too. There was an interesting article in the paper recently that portrayed a father's importance in a way that I had never even thought of. World War II has been over for seventy years and those who succumbed during that terrible event in history are long buried and mostly forgotten. There are, however, many still living who are scarred and wounded wounded, emotionally, because of certain events that happened near the end of the war.

The article was entitled, "War kids look for soldier dads". Even after these many years since the war, there are 250 thousand Germans seeking

answers about their heritage. The author, Kirsten Grieshaber, was herself one of these thousands depicted in the article. She tells of an elderly man living in Germany by the name of Paul Schmitz. When he was a little boy, he never understood why kids in his tiny German village taunted him as a "Yank" and beat him up. Schmitz was a teenager before he found out that his father was an American soldier who had a romance with his mother in the final days of the war. The mothers of these children were shamed and the U.S. military, still stationed in Germany, did not want anything to do with them.

Schmitz was born about five months after the war was declared over. His life started as an outsider, a child of shame, a child of the enemy, even though it was the Americans who liberated them. Schmitz said, "All my life I had a yearning for my father." His eyes welled up recalling the hardships of his youth while living in a small German village. Just recently, as an elderly man, he had an opportunity to solve the mystery of his unknown father. He, like many others who are seeking to find their fathers, are using the latest computer research tools to seek them out.

Fortunately, Schmitz, with the help of a veterans group and archives in the United States, found out that his father was a John Kitzmiller, a physician from Pennsylvania. His father was no longer alive but he was able to track down his two half-sisters and meet them during a trip to the United States. The sisters gave him a watch that had belonged to their father and told him that in America the son inherits the father's watch. Tearing up he said, "Today I have a feeling of happiness when it comes to family." We who are happily surrounded by loving family, with our mothers and fathers, can hardly relate to Schmitz's yearning. We are hardly able to contemplate what it might be like not knowing who our fathers are.

Yes! Our fathers are important to each of us and we may never really think about just how

important until they pass away. Think for a moment how important your father's written life story would be if you no longer had him in your life. Living fathers who have not written their life story are doing their children and all their descendants a disservice. Can you imagine how Paul Schmitz would have felt if his two half-sisters could have presented him a book entitled, 'The Life History of John Kitzmiller' rather than a watch? Fathers who read this thought are challenged to write a brief experience that they have had and share it with their children. After all the best life histories are merely a sequence of compiled experiences that influenced a person's life.

– Emil O. Hanson

[Note: After many years as the Director of the Ogden Library I have asked to be released effective the 27 of May 2015. My need is to spend more time on finding my own ancestors. It has been a wonderful and educational time serving as Director and most importantly knowing and working with the wonderful staff of volunteers and those serving missions at the Ogden FamilySearch library.]

Also

A reminder to those in the Ogden Area. Don't forget the reception honoring Emil on May 27, 2015 from 7pm to 9pm at the Library, 539 24th Street in Ogden. Also if you cannot attend but wish send a note to Emil his email address is: emilhanson@gmail.com

Indexing Italian Records

OFSL hosts an interesting and educational activity every other Thursday evening at 6:30PM. You do not need to speak, read or know the Italian language to participate in indexing Italian records. Please contact Linda Paulter 801-540-5585 for additional information.

Discover Your Ancestors in Obituaries

– Steve Anderson, March 23, 2015

Obituaries are a treasure trove of information. Almost anyone searching for information about their family will tell you that obituaries are one of the best record sources available for getting great information about a person. That's because many obituaries contain not just dates and places, but they often provide valuable information about the children, parents, spouse, and siblings of the deceased as well as their religious affiliation, life accomplishments, and much more. In a single obituary you could find dozens of valuable clues that could unlock secrets to your family in ways you never dreamed possible. In other cases, an obituary might simply mention an ancestor's name without any additional information.

FamilySearch.org now makes it easier than ever to find out if an obituary is available for your ancestors. To get an idea of what you might find in the FamilySearch.org obituary database, go to the Discover Your Ancestors in Obituaries page. The search engine will look through a small sampling of obituaries and show you what could be in them about some of your ancestors. This search will not be an exhaustive search, but it will give a small sampling of what you could find in the millions of obituaries now in the FamilySearch.org database.

You can do a more exhaustive search using FamilySearch's database of more than 1.1 billion unique names to see what additional obituaries might exist for your ancestors. As FamilySearch.org continues to grow, millions of new obituaries will be added to its database on a regular basis. If you don't find the obituary you are looking for, check again later it may be in one of the updates. So come to FamilySearch.org today, and see if you can find an obituary for one of your ancestors. Finding an obituary has never been easier.

Ordinance Reservations to be Released After Two Years

{A recent blog post from FamilySearch.org by Ron Tanner entitled, "Releasing Reservations After Two Years," makes the following statement:}

– Posted: 21 Apr 2015

Starting in the next few months the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints will begin releasing user temple reservations that have been inactive for more than two years. If you have reservations that you haven't been able to complete, now is a good time to share them with family members via email, or with the temple.

Releasing inactive temple reservations has become a priority due to the large number of ordinances that currently fit that two year window, and is in line with instruction from the First Presidency to ensure that temple work for ancestors is completed in a timely manner. There are nearly 12 million ordinance reservations held by FamilySearch patrons in Family Tree. Amazingly, 5% of FamilySearch patrons hold 60% of those reservations.

This issue has been one of the more constant background complaints about the FamilySearch Family Tree program since its inception. In fact, the complaints go back nearly ten years and began at the point, with new.FamilySearch.org when users could reserve names without arranging for the ordinances to be done in a timely fashion. It is not unusual to find reserved names dating back more than five years and some much longer than that.

One of the immediate concerns is that many of these individuals who are reserved, at least from my standpoint, are people with duplicate copies where the ordinances have already been done. This most frequently occurs when there is an obvious duplicate where the duplicate shows that the ordinances have already been done, but the duplicate cannot be merged. In these cases, the reservations were made to keep the ordinances

from being done yet another time. Without allowing these individuals to be merged with their obvious duplicates, releasing the reservation will simply result in someone immediately performing the duplicate ordinances.

For some considerable time now, there has been a background discussion concerning the issue of putting a time limit on reservations. One of the concerns, has been the inability of some individuals to travel to the Temples. The concern arises, in part, from the issue of people doing ordinances for individuals to whom they are not related. For example, if I were preparing to go to the Temple and had entered my immediate ancestors into the Family Tree, I would have a concern that someone else, unregulated, would complete the ordinances before I had a chance to attend Temple. The very recent change in policy concerning reserving names for those who were born within the last 110 years, may have an impact on this particular issue. In the alternative, members could be encouraged to only enter their immediate ancestors into the program when they are prepared to go to the Temples and perform the ordinances. After watching a rather large family in the Brigham Young University Family History Library last night sit for hours clicking on green arrows trying to find names to take to the Temple, I am not encouraged with the prospect of preserving near relatives' unique position.

The blog post goes on to discuss what individuals can do in the face of the time limit. It is also unclear as to the rather substantial backlog of Temple Ready cards floating around out there. I can always remember one individual that I saw who had a rather large briefcase on wheels that was completely packed with thousands of printed Temple Ready cards.

As far as the time limit involved, I feel that two years is more than fair. The post suggests the following actions:

Review your temple list

Share with family members via email

Share with the Temple

Unreserve names

Do nothing

You may wish to read this post carefully. You will note that a date for implementation of the rule has not been set or at least has not yet been released. However, it would be a good idea to communicate this.

Finding Time for Family History

– Ken Knight, April 23, 2015

"The Law of Selective Neglect"

Many people say they want to work on their family history, but they just don't have time. There are just not enough hours in the day. They have to work, fix meals, interact with their family, and go to Church and church meetings. There is just not enough time. The fact is, we all have the same amount of time. The only difference is what we decide to do with our time how we apply the law of selective neglect to our days and weeks. Have you ever thought that when you decide to do something you are deciding to not do anything else? If you decide to watch TV for 2 hours, you are also deciding not to do anything else during that time.

You may not realize it, but with every decision to do something, you are deciding to neglect everything else. If you are not engaging in family history, it is because you decided to neglect it in favor of something else. It may have been unconscious, but your decisions to do other things means you decided to neglect family history, and a bunch of other things. So, how do you apply this law to family history? You decide to neglect something in your weekly or monthly plan in favor of working on your family history.

Annual OFSL Cemetery Tour

This year the tour is being held one week earlier than in the past, Saturday 30 May and Monday 1 June. The Ogden Cemetery is located on 20th Street east of Washington Blvd. The tour begins at 1st Ave and South St. in the cemetery, enter on Jefferson St. The first tour begins at 5:00PM and will be followed every fifteen minutes by additional groups until 6:30PM when the final group will begin. The Cemetery Tour is an opportunity for families to learn stories and histories of some of the people buried there. Bring the kids and invite your friends to come out and enjoy an educational and entertaining evening.

Clean up Your Grimy Old Photos

– Glen N. Greener, April 22, 2015



Have you ever gone through your old stuff and found some old dirty damaged pictures you forgot you had? Now, there is help for that problem. Denise May Levenick offers detailed instructions on how to reclaim your family photos from the damages of poor storage, frames, or albums. Levenick teaches preservation techniques for your old, damaged photos. Levenick is a lecturer and blogger who can help you recover and preserve priceless family

photographs. According to Levenick, the starting point for this process is: do no harm. Know what you are doing before you start. Next, make sure what you have is preserved by making a digital image of the picture you are going to work on. That way, if all else fails, you still have a record of the original image. Levenick advises you to handle your old photos as little as possible. Use your digital camera or your smartphone to make the digital photo, using a tripod, a remote shutter or timer, and no flash. You can also use a flatbed scanner. If you don't have a scanner of your own you can use some excellent quality scanners for free at you a Family History Centers throughout the world. You can find a Family History Center closest to you by visiting the FamilySearch. There are many reasons pictures suffer damage, according to Levenick. So-called magnetic albums used materials that were not acid free and accelerate deterioration. Photos got rolled or curled. Improper framing can cause stained or damaged photos. Photos that may appear hopelessly damaged may be recovered using hints from Levenick's blog page, Dirty Family Photos: Save Your Pictures from Ruin. Levenick also provides suggestions for tools and materials for repairing a range of damages to your family photos. Rather than risking damage to your posthumous reputation when future generations look through your old damaged pictures, get some good advice on how to restore and protect them at www.theFamilyCurator.com. Those old photos may not be replaceable but they can be revived. *[Editorial: Sometimes old and aged photos tell a story that cleaned up ones do not. Carefully consider how each of your photos will help tell the story of your family. – Emil]*

“Of Roots and Branches” Conference Update

– Joyce and Frank Decaria

So, all you family search and genealogy buffs, time marches on...or rolls on...or rambles on...or skips on--but never stands still! Our point: we are getting closer and closer to the annual Ogden Family History Conference at Weber State University on Saturday, September 12, 2015.

If the conference is not yet marked on your calendar, find a Sharpie pen, preferably a red one (although purple is okay) and mark the date. Of course, we are talking about your paper calendar. Please don't mark your electronic devices with a red or purple Sharpie, but still add this important information to all your calendars.

Why all the excitement? Well, you are about to find out, so read on about some of the many exciting conference sessions that will be available.

To start with, there will be several fantastic sessions for beginners: How Do I Start My Family History by Doris Bateman and Getting Started on the Right Foot: Genealogy Standards for Beginners by Peg Ivanyo.

If you are one of those disorganized types (And who isn't these days?), there are several sessions for you. One is titled Overwhelmed...Paralyzed? Time to Get Organized by Amy Archibald, and the other is called Organizing in Color by Johnny Willis.

Speaking of awesome, there is a session called Storytellers Rule the World by Gene Sessions, Ph.D., and another entitled Facebook for Family History by Amy Archibald, and a third one on using Google Earth that is called Maps? What to do...Get Started with Google Earth by Sue Story.

There are some interesting sessions geared for all those super-smart, genealogical-minded youth out there. One session, taught by Kolten Nay and Brooke Bedke (youth instructors), titled LDS Family History Consultants, is for young people called as family history consultants by

their wards. Another session available for youth, playfully called Get to Know Your Geezers, will be taught by Mathew Hovorka. Plus a third, titled Grandpa's on My I-Pad: Sharing Your Family History With Your Family Using Social Networking, will be presented by Janet Hovorka.

So, if one or more of these sessions hasn't sent you looking for a red or purple marker, or started your brain salivating for family history/genealogy information, you might just be one of those individuals who need to add another dimension to your links of cute baby animal photos.

For more info and a complete list of Sept. 12th conference sessions, go to this link: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ogden_FamilySearch_Library_2015_Conference.

What's New?

– Cache Valley Newsletter, 13 May 2015

Several genealogy bloggers post information when FamilySearch updates or loads new databases. This is a nice service, but I tend to look at FamilySearch and Ancestry myself each evening to see what, if anything has been added. I periodically check other sites, as well. Now, you may not be as diligent (read, "insane") as I, but you, too, can check for updates any time you wish on your favorite genealogy database websites. One only needs to know where to look - and it's different for each website. Click here for a few (not all) of my favorites which seem to add content with some frequency.

[Editorial: Be sure and click on the hot link as it will take you to the places you need to learn about record updates that may enhance your research. In case the link (above) fails to work type in the following in your address line:

<http://extrayad.blogspot.com/2015/05/whats-new.html> -- Emil]

Help Prune the Family Tree

– Matt Wright, March 26, 2015

Family Tree is a collaborative effort to create the world's largest and most accurate family pedigree. Two obstacles that stand in the way of this goal and waste valuable time and resources are duplicate entries and data problems. A new feature of Family Tree aims to alert and prompt users to fix these issues before requesting temple ordinances. When a user selects "Request Ordinances" the system checks for duplicates and data problems and may pop one or two new alerts in the resulting window, depending on the situation.



Possible Duplicates Exist

Temple ordinances cannot be reserved when duplicate people are found.
[Learn how to resolve duplicates.](#)

This yellow box alerts the user that possible duplicates exist and provides a link to a support document with information and tips on how to resolve the duplicates (Curious? Here's a link to the support document). To be able to request the ordinances, the user will need to visit the ancestor's person page and select "Possible Duplicates" from the sidebar on the right. Duplicates can be resolved through the merging process.

A red box alerts the user that data problems exist and provides additional detail on what needs to be fixed. To fix the data problem, the user would visit the ancestor's person page and add or edit the details based on information gained from record sources. These new alerts will help improve the accuracy and efficacy of our temple requests, freeing up patron time and FamilySearch resources. More importantly, this more accurate, universal family tree will create added opportunities for more people to provide meaningful temple service for waiting ancestors.

Google Power Search: How to Search Just One Web site

– Dick Eastman, May 5, 2015

There's a lot more you can do with Google than just search the Internet. Instead of searching the entire Internet, you may be more interested in seeing search results from just one web site. To do this, go to <http://www.Google.com> and enter the word "site:" followed by a colon (:) followed immediately (with no space) by the web site's address. Next, add a space and then the word(s) you wish to search for. It should look something like this: - site:xxx.com search term Notice the web site's address is given without the letters "http", without the colon, without the slashes and without "www."

For instance, perhaps you only want to search the web site of the Indiana Genealogical Society [atindgensoc.org](http://www.indgensoc.org) to see what databases the society has for Pike County, the county where your ancestors lived. To do so, go to <http://www.Google.com> and enter: site:indgensoc.org "Pike County" Note in the above example I placed the words "Pike County" inside quote marks. That isn't absolutely necessary but does tell Google to narrow the search down and to display only web pages on the [indgensoc.org](http://www.indgensoc.org) web site that contain the word "Pike" followed by a space and then followed by the word "county." No other variations are allowed. (Upper and lower case is ignored, however).