



FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE August 2015

Meet the New Directors of Ogden FamilySearch Library

On "What Would The World Be Like, If ..." – Emil O. Hanson

FamilySearch Announces New President – The Ancestry Insider

FEFHHS Conference offers Full German Research Track – Dick Eastman

Of Roots and Branches Conference Update – Joyce and Frank Decaria

Saskatchewan Cemeteries Project – Valerie Beaudrault

FamilySearch Combines Indexes and Record Images in a Single View – Jim Ericson.

What Your Town Looked Like on Penny Postcards – Dick Eastman

Why Was the Information Removed from Online? – Dick Eastman

Problems We as Users and Helpers Face – James Tanner

The Family History Guide – James Tanner

Obituary Search Suggestions – Charles Schmalz

Meet the New Directors of Ogden FamilySearch Library

As you may know from the last Newsletter, we are David and Cindy Erickson. We have been called as full time missionaries to serve as the new directors of the Ogden FamilySearch Library. We appreciate the years of service and hard work that Emil Hanson, the previous director, and his wife JoAnn gave to the Library.

Some have asked about our background. We grew up in the Ogden area, Cindy having graduated from Bonneville High School, and David from Weber High. We each have college degrees from both BYU and Utah State. David also has a degree from Gonzaga University.

For over 30 years we practiced medical and healthcare law and retired in June to accept this assignment. We live on a small farm in Pleasant View, where our nine children were raised. We have 26 grandchildren.

We are so grateful for this assignment, because it has allowed us to work alongside the

wonderful, dedicated staff and Library patrons. You can tell they have a love for each other and family history.

You're probably looking forward to the September 12, 2015 Family History Conference at Weber State University. We hope to meet many of you at the Conference, and we'll watch for you when you visit the Library!

– David and Cindy Erickson

On "What Would The World Be Like, If ..."

– Emil O. Hanson

In a very interesting and provocative article Bradlee Dean asked the question, "What would it be like, if...?" I have never thought too much about a question like that because it is pure speculation. There is really no way of knowing now how things would be different if history could be changed. We can't change the outcome of a game played a week ago. The score has already been recorded. We can't make that critical

substitution, even if we thought another player could have made the winning point.

There can be no more betting on games, horses or greyhounds after the game is over or the race has been run. It is like trying to bring back the arrow after it has fled the bow. They who are involved in such speculation are placing a bet today on the team that lost yesterday or even like a hamster trying to escape a spinning exercise wheel by running faster. Even saying all that, Mr. Dean posed an interesting question, about what would our lives be like now if it hadn't been for some great leader at a crucial time in our history.

Dean wrote: "Imagine with me for a moment if George Washington, John Adams (and etc.) never existed. Imagine history without Abraham, Moses ...Jesus Christ. Where would we be if these men did not exhibit leadership with courage and sacrifice on the behalf of the people? Where would we be if they had not loved both the seen and unseen (the people then and we today), resulting in our now having both actual and spiritual freedoms throughout the world? I can tell you, we would all be slaves to tyranny in every form (Hebrews 11)! etc."

I am using his thought to remind us of a somewhat similar circumstance, only in a different era, a different place and different heroes. People who had similar courage and determination to succeed with their mission and calling in life. People who also accomplished a great work. I am referring to a time when the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Saints was organized. An event that could not have been nor come about without the freedoms that the Constitution of Independence and the Bill of Rights made possible in 1776. I am referring to the time when God, the Father of us all, and His Son Jesus Christ, opened up the last dispensation of time An event prophesied in both the Old and the New Testaments, a time when both the Father and the Son appeared to a young Joseph

Smith. The one identified as the Son gave him an answer to his question.

After that initial visitation many great and marvelous things were revealed to this young prophet. The rest is history. In a small log cabin in a remote wilderness, (approximately 50 years after the revolution) in the year 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was organized. The same organization and priesthood that was established by Jesus Christ, himself, in the meridian of time was restored to the earth. The heavens were opened once again and revelation from God directed the infant organization as it grew.

Now, today, the church that had a humble beginning, in a small rural cabin, is beginning to cover the whole earth as it was then prophesied that it would do.

There was a direct relationship to what the first group of men accomplished and the fulfilling of the second group's mission. The church could not have prospered without the declaration of freedoms provided by the founding fathers, primarily the Freedom of Religion. Even with religious freedom the young church struggled and its members were persecuted by whole communities communities who were supported by the local law enforcement. In order to survive, they had to flee to the wilderness until they were too, were protected by those freedoms. It took a few decades before the constitution meant more than just words too many communities in this young country.

Our continent, on this choice earth, has been declared many times, by the God of the universe, to be the "Promised Land", a promised land for all those who are and have been directed to come here. Speculation, as to what it would be like now, if those great individuals had not been born and brought together at the same time in history, may keep some occupied. But their speculations will not change history nor bring the 'arrow back that has already fled the bow'.

FamilySearch Announces New President

– *The Ancestry Insider* 07 Jul 2015

FamilySearch announced last week that Steve Rockwood will replace current president, Dennis C. Brimhall. Rockwood is currently director of the FamilySearch international division. He will assume the presidency on 1 October 2015.

"As president and CEO, Steve will bring a rich combination of management skills, customer focus, business acumen, and a can-do spirit that will build on the vision and work of Dennis Brimhall," said Elder Allan F. Packer, Chairman of the Board.

Rockwood has built two companies from the ground up, culminating in acquisition by larger companies. His companies have worked with brands such as MasterCard International, AT&T, Disney, Office Depot, and Citibank among others.

As the director of the International Division, Rockwood introduced the My Family booklet to FamilySearch employees back in 2013. (See "FamilySearch Annual Business Meeting.") The booklet helps members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints start doing family history. It is utilized in areas throughout the world, particularly where computers are not readily available. (See "Announcing the My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together Booklet.") The booklet is available in 32 languages for purchase or free download from the Church store. The booklet can also be filled out online.

Brimhall has served since January 2012. According to his biography on the RootsTech website, Brimhall will turn 67 in the days leading up to his retirement.

FEEFHS Conference offers Full German Research Track

– *Dick Eastman* · July 3, 2015

[From an FEEFHS Release] For the first year the Foundation for Eastern European Family History Studies (FEEFHS) is offering a full track focused on German genealogical research throughout the conference program. Starting with the basics of German family history research — language and handwriting, records, maps, and tools — and progressing to more advanced topics and specialty records such as guilds and family record books, individuals will be able to attend classes specific to German family history research throughout the 3-day conference. These classes will be taught by locally and nationally recognized instructors, Milan Pohontsch, Baerbel Johnson, and two instructors new to FEEFHS, FHL consultants Fritz Juengling and Kelsee Jackson.

The conference will be held August 12-15, 2015 at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah, with pre-conference workshops beginning on August 11th. The program also offers instruction related to Hungarian Empire, Polish, German, Russian, Germans from Russia, and Jewish genealogical research, with expanded offerings in several areas for more advanced researchers. The research essentials track offers general topics for those just getting started with East European family history research. Interested parties may obtain complete information at feefhsworkshop.org.

The Foundation for Eastern European Family History Studies (FEEFHS) was founded in 1992 to provide access to genealogical resources and educational programs relating to Eastern European family history research. Additional information may be found at feefhs.org.

'Of Roots and Branches' Conference Update

—Joyce and Frank Decaria

Yikes! September 12 and the free Ogden Family History Conference at Weber State University are racing toward us like Indianapolis 500 race cars, like attacking jet planes, like blazing meteors.

Well, maybe not like blazing meteors! But time does seem to be flying by like a galloping horse, like a running cheetah, like a charging rogue elephant.

Well, maybe not like a charging rogue elephant, but you get the point. The free Family History Conference at Weber State University is on the horizon, so plan now to get the most you can out of this free experience. And remember, it's a—wait for it, wait for it—free conference with free parking!

And here's a brief synopsis of the Saturday, September 12, 2015 Ogden Family History Conference:

- Ø Great Keynote speakers: Marlin and Kathleen Jensen.
- Ø Great workshops by great presenters (many to choose from).
- Ø Great hands-on family-search training.
- Ø Great world-class genealogy and family history programs to learn about and explore.
- Ø Not to mention, great vendors showing off their great wares. Whoops! Wasn't going to mention that! Oh, well. More on this next month.
- Ø Also, there will be the great One-on-One Circle of Service.

What exactly is this One-on-One Circle of Service? According to Nan Peacock, the Circle of Service Chairperson, this group consists of knowledgeable family-search consultants and volunteers who will be available to help anyone with genealogical and family history questions during the five sessions of conference workshops.

Sister Peacock asks that before attending the conference you verify access to your familysearch.org account, bringing your username and password with you. If you still need to register for an account, please click or go to this link familysearch.org. Anyone with an email account can register. If you are LDS, you will also need your membership number. If necessary, the One-On-One Circle of Service volunteers will help you register for a FamilySearch account the day of the conference, but you are encouraged to register beforehand.

The One-On-One Circle of Service will be located at the Atrium area in WSU's Union Building. Computers will be available, but feel free to bring your own device to work on.

Some topics that the volunteers can help you with are adding photos, adding stories, and adding audio to your FamilySearch account, as well as answering general questions you might have. Specialists on foreign-country research, including experts on Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, British Isles, and Spanish-speaking countries, will be available.

These help sessions will run about 20 minutes, but time can be extended if there aren't others waiting in line for help. Follow-up times may be scheduled, or you may drop by the Ogden FamilySearch Library (539 24th Street in Ogden) during operating hours. For more information about the Ogden FamilySearch Library and the Ogden Family History Conference, please go to ogdenfsl.org.

Hope to see you there. It will be a great learning experience for everyone.

Mark Your Calendar - September 12

Saskatchewan Cemeteries Project

– Valerie Beaudrault

Saskatchewan is a Canadian prairie province located between Manitoba and Alberta. Regina is the provincial capital. The Saskatchewan Cemeteries Project website offers a number of resources to family history researchers.

---Cemeteries

Of the 3,300 cemeteries in Saskatchewan, 1,434 have been transcribed or photographed and indexed as of June 17, 2015. The cemeteries are sorted alphabetically by community or district name. Click the Community/District-Cemetery Name link to view the burial list. If a photograph is available, you can view it by clicking the name link in the burial list.

---Obituaries

Click the Obituaries link to open the Saskatchewan Obituaries webpage. There are about 150 obituary databases sorted alphabetically by locale. Click the database name link to open a new page containing transcriptions of obituaries of residents and former residents of the town(s).

---Research

Click the Research link to open a new page of links to Saskatchewan research aids on Saskatchewan ghost towns, pioneers and prominent people, provincial churches, the International Jewish Cemetery Project, the Scandinavian Canadian Land Company, war memorials, Regina in Photographs, and much more. There are also census indexes, a news index, and a homestead index.

Website volunteers are available to assist researchers with cemetery lookups and gravestone photography. Contact them through the Lookups link.

FamilySearch Combines Indexes and Record Images in a Single View

– FamilySearch Blog post by Jim Ericson

Volunteers have indexed billions of names from historical records that have been digitized and made available at FamilySearch.org. The indexing process makes key pieces of information from the original record searchable using modern technology, so researchers can find a record based on name, date, location, relationships, and other key pieces of information. While these indexes are invaluable, those reviewing records must still compare the index with the digitized image to ensure the index is accurate and to discover additional information that was not indexed.

Prior to this new improvement, the indexed information and the actual digital image were only found on separate web pages. This meant that comparing the two versions of information required navigating back and forth between the index and the image or opening up multiple tabs or browser sessions to compare the pages side by side.

Now, the new hybrid record view makes the information that was indexed from an historical record visible when reviewing the digitized image of the record. This is achieved by creating a split pane, where the index appears below the image.

Commentary: I helped a lady who wanted to attach the census page she was viewing to a family who lived next door to the family she had originally searched. We accidentally clicked on the little page icon next to the head of the neighbor household, and it immediately volunteered to attach this census record to him! No more going back to search for the next-door neighbor and not finding him—frustration!

What Your Town Looked Like on Penny Postcards

– Dick Eastman June 23, 2015

Years ago, postcards cost 1¢ to mail within the U.S. Postage was temporarily raised to 2¢ from 1917 to 1919 to cover the cost of World War I and the increase was rescinded after the War. In 1952, the required postage was raised to two cents and has slowly escalated ever since. Today, mailing a postcard cost 34¢.

Over the years, many postcards were printed with view of a town or other area, then sold in stores within that town or area. Many of these postcards have been preserved and often provide an interesting glimpse of what life was like in "the good old days." Possibly your ancestors saw these same views in person.

USGenWeb has a rather good collection of penny postcards available online. The scenes vary from pictures of the downtown business area to residences to schools to people at work. Railroads seem to be featured often in these old pictures.

You can view the USGenWeb collection of postcards at <http://www.usgwarchives.net/special/ppcs/ppcs.html>.

Click on the state and then on the county name to see old penny picture postcards from that area.

Why Was the Information Removed from Online?

– Dick Eastman · July 2, 2015

"A newsletter reader sent an email to me today expressing dissatisfaction that a set of images of vital records has been removed from a popular genealogy site. Indeed, removal of any online records of genealogical value is sad, but not unusual. Changes such as these are quite common on FamilySearch, MyHeritage, Ancestry.com, Fold3, FindMyPast, and many

other genealogy sites that provide old records online.

Removal of datasets has occurred dozens of times in the past, and I suspect such things will continue to happen in the future. I thought I would write a brief explanation."

In most cases, information of genealogical value obtained from government agencies, religious groups, and other organizations is provided under contractual agreements. The contracts specify what information is to be provided, how it is to be made available, and what price the web site has to pay to the provider for the records. All contracts also have a defined expiration date, typically 2 years or 3 years or perhaps 5 years after the contract is signed.

When a contract nears expiration, the two parties usually attempt to renegotiate the contract. Sometimes renewal is automatic, but more often it is not. Maybe the information provider (typically an archive) decides they want more money, or maybe they decide they no longer want to supply the data to the online genealogy service. For instance, in the time the information has been available online, the information provider may have learned just how valuable the information really is. The information provider may decide to ask for more money or may even refuse to provide the information any more since the provider may have a NEW plan to create their own web site and offer the same information online on their new site for a fee.

Sure, that stinks for those of us who would like to have free information everywhere; but, it makes sense to most everyone else. I am sure the budget officer at most any state or local government archive thinks it makes sense.

Every contract renegotiation is different, but it is not unusual to agree to disagree. The contract ends, and the web site provider legally MUST remove the information from their web

site. The same thing frequently happens to all the other online sites that provide old records online.

Moral of this story: If you find a record online that is valuable to you, SAVE IT NOW! Save it to your hard drive and make a backup copy someplace else as well. If there is no option to save, make a screen shot. Just because you can see the record online today does not mean that it will be available tomorrow.

Problems We as Users and Helpers Face

James Tanner in his blog "Rejoice, and be Exceeding Glad" notes some problems we as users and helpers of others face as they come to learn about how to use FamilySearch and its partners (Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com, Findmypast.com and AmericanAncestors.org) and do family history work.

1. The potential user of the programs has a basic problem with his or her own email account.

When the user registers for FamilySearch.org, they fail to add an email account or after registering for FamilySearch.org, they change their primary email account and do not change it on their FamilySearch.org Settings. The Settings are found in a pull-down menu that appears by clicking in the user's name. The selection tab in the Settings Menu is called "Contact." The new user needs to check to see if the email listed in this Contact section is the one they are currently using. The issues I encounter most frequently, include the fact that the person trying to sign up for the Partner programs has changed their email and not updated FamilySearch.org or has forgotten how to access their email program. All of the Partner programs use the email account registered in FamilySearch.org, either to verify access to the free programs or as the main login. The email used to register for the accounts must be the

same as the one used to register for FamilySearch.org.

This leads to the next issue.

2. The potential user has forgotten one or more of their passwords and does not have them written down.

FamilySearch.org has made it as easy as possible to restore a lost password, but if the person is trying to restore a lost password from one of the Partner programs, they then need to access their email account and many people have forgotten the password they used to access their email account. There are many ways to record and recall passwords, but the need to have passwords available is somehow lost on a huge percentage of the people. I suggest either having them in a password protection program or recording them in a code fashion on a piece of paper you carry with you in your wallet or purse. I have had whole classes of people come to the Family History Library and almost none of them could access FamilySearch.org or any other program because they had registered and could not remember their passwords.

The Family History Guide

— James Tanner, 12 July 2015.

"This website is not an ad hoc attempt to remake the wheel. It is a finely tuned and valuable tool that leads both beginners and more advanced users to resources they otherwise would not have considered using. The links are valuable and well organized. This is definitely a website to watch. Let's hope that it lives up to its potential."

The guide, <http://www.thefhguide.com> a website that represents a best-in-class learning environment for family history. Its scope is broad, but its focus is narrow enough to help you achieve your goals, step by step. Whether you're brand new to family history or a seasoned researcher - or somewhere in between - The Family History Guide can be your difference

maker. Here are some of the unique features you'll find on the site:

- * Over 350 Goals for learning, supported by over 600 flexible Choices
- * Step-by-step instructions to make learning easier
- * Links to over 1,000 videos and articles from FamilySearch, Ancestry, and more
- * Quick-links to search records from multiple sources
- * Project Tracker sheets and Classroom materials for self-study or group instruction

Like any worthwhile pursuit, family history has two essential elements: Learning and Doing. Let's see how The Family History Guide helps you do both, to help you gain that important sense of connection with your family tree.

Obituary Search Suggestions

– Charles Schmalz

Obituaries can be fantastic sources of family history information. They also provide insights into individual's lives and make them much more than a name and series of numbers. Unfortunately, obituaries can also be difficult to locate. Fortunately there are a number of newspaper archive databases online today that make the job easier than it once was.

One of the best is *Access Newspaper Archive*, available through the Portal at most FamilySearch Libraries. Many public libraries have newspaper archive services also. Then there are subscription newspaper archive services such as *Newspapers.com* and *Genealogybank.com*.

Once you have found a newspaper for the locale and time frame in question the fun really starts. The newspapers were probably OCR indexed, a process yielding something less than 100% accurate results. Also most of their search engines are very literal, meaning you will only get hits on an exact match for your search term.

So, how do you locate an particular obituary? Let's walk through the search for a hypothetical ancestor, Samuel Elliott Carleton who died in Salt Lake City July 25, 1927. He was an active LDS so his obit was probably in the *Deseret News*. We'll use *Access Newspaper Archive* at our local FamilySearch Library.

Our first search for 'Samuel Elliott Carlton' fails to bring up anything. So let's try again using 'Samuel E. Carlton', still no luck. We try 'Sam Carlton' with no success either. Finally we search for 'Carlton' in Utah in 1927. This time we get 20 hits, a mix of articles including tax and wedding notices as well as a couple of Carltons who were arrested for traffic offenses. But we also get an obituary for 'S. Elliott Carlton' (in the Salt Lake Telegram). It's our Samuel. Success at last!

If we hadn't been able to find anything with the search strategy above there are a couple of alternate techniques we could try. Most newspaper sites allow you to browse specific newspaper editions. An obituary typically is published within a few days of the individual's death so start with the date of death and then move forward.

Finally there's the 'Hail Mary', last resort search – Enter the individual's name within quotes as a search term in Google. Surprisingly this often works, particularly in the case of recent deaths. Many funeral homes as well as newspapers have their obituaries indexed on the internet.

Ogden FamilySearch Conference

September 12, 2015

Shepherd Union Building

Weber State University

3848 Harrison Blvd

Go to ogdenfsl.org for details