

For further information about the Ogden FamilySearch Library go to our webpage, [ogdenfsl.org](http://ogdenfsl.org).

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
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## FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER



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## Ogden Family History Conference

Wow, what a success! This year's annual family history conference was hailed by most participants as the best so far. It all began with Reverend James talk with God and her invoking a blessing upon presenters and participants. This lead into the inspiring insights, humor, and family stories given to all by the keynote speakers, Kathy and Marlin Jensen. All appreciated how the three of you set the tone for the Conference.

The presenters' classes were so inviting and skillfully delivered that often there was standing room only. Every person we sought input from reported that the sessions they attended gave them fresh insights into how they might look for their ancestors, plus helpful hints about using specific programs, as well as great new strategies for genealogical and family-history research.

We were thrilled that all our youth classes were filled. It's nice to see that young people are excited about family history and genealogy.

We would like to thank all the vendors for displaying cutting-edge technologies, and being very generous at the end of the day with prizes for the drawings.

Above all, we thank Weber State University and the History Department for their hospitality. We received professional assistance with scheduling, custodial help, and technical assistance from the University staff. Indeed, we bleed purple.

Did we mention the Conference was free? That is significant when you realize that no one was paid in dollar or a dime; not the planning committee, presenters, vendors, or all the Ogden Family Search Library volunteers. Oh, that's right you did have to pay for your own lunch.

The 2015 Ogden Family History Conference is now a very pleasant memory and it was a treasure trove of great presentations and wonderful learning experiences.

Thanks to all,  
The Conference Committee

## The Conference Culprits --

Wait a minute. Who put all of the pieces of this event together? Who orchestrated this community event? They need to be congratulated and thanked for their dedicated service. These are the culprits:

James Richardson ..... Committee Chair Person  
Shelley Felt, Delos and Patti Adams, and Jensen ..... Class Curriculum and Presenters  
Vicki Nef and Brent H. Nay ..... Vendors  
Nan Peacock and Becki Syme ..... One-On-One Assistance  
Frank and Joyce Decaria ..... Publicity  
Holly Proudfit and Sue Burton ..... Class Monitors  
Wayne Summers ..... Website Technician

Thanks, each of you share the guilt for a wonderful creation.

## On Contagious

- Emil Hanson

When we think of the word contagious we ordinarily think of the word in a negative way because many diseases are contagious causing sickness and even death. For the purpose of this thought I am going to direct our attention to a positive way of thinking of contagious. My wife and I seldom eat breakfast at a restaurant but the other day was a holiday, so we decided to have breakfast out. The restaurant was fairly full and we were seated at a table where I was facing my wife and a wall directly behind her. There happened to be a picture hanging on that wall of a group of boy scouts apparently watching a cartoon or some other very funny movie. In the picture they were all facing out toward the room and they were laughing and having a joyful time. A few of the boys were really into it as they appeared to be having what we might call, bellyache laughs.

As I studied the picture and saw their joy I could not control myself, and for no apparent reason I, too, got a smile on my face and then I began to laugh. You may ask, what was I laughing at? I was laughing because smiling, and especially laughter, is contagious. Just to demonstrate how contagious, all I had to do was see these young boys laughing and I felt like laughing, as well. I didn't see what they were laughing at, nor could I hear them laughing? I just saw them laughing.

Have you ever yawned and then saw one or two others around you yawn, or vice versa? Yes, yawning is 'contagious,' too, as are many other things that we humans do. Smiling, laughing, yawning and are all contagious human behaviors. These are behaviors that are not taught to us, nor practiced by us to become better at. Maybe there are other things that are natural for humans and contagious as well. I haven't made it a study nor have I read of any such research that would prove that, so it may not be altogether true. The next closest thing to these natural behaviors are behaviors that are learned by mimicking. We have all watched our parents, peers, etc. do things, or have expressions or body movements that we thought were attractive. We consciously or unconsciously try to mimic, by practicing those attractive behaviors. Why we start mimicking a particular behavior is probably because we thought it was cool or because we admired the person doing it and we wanted to be admired too. Mimicking behaviors are those movements that often and eventually become a part of our normal behavioral patterns. Somewhere down the line someone, possibly a younger person, may mimic us as well. They say to mimic another is the highest form of flattery. It is also said that mimicking is the most common and effective way to learn a thing.

Our behaviors that are natural (possibly contagious, as laughing and yawning, etc.) and those that are learned via mimicking, are not formally taught, they are only observed. It occurred to me how wonderful it would be if the most important things we must do in life was also things that were either natural/contagious or easily mimicked. I am referring, for the purpose of this thought, to things that the Lord has commanded us to do, such as searching for and doing the work for our ancestors who preceded us in life but who had not been blessed with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Why do I wish such a thing to be? Because I realize how very difficult it appears to be for many to begin and to learn how to do it. For example, I assisted a ward member with his family history the other day and regardless of how often we reviewed a process it did not seem to sink in and it was very frustrating for him. Because family history is not natural/contagious and not something we can easily mimic, therefore, as family history workers and volunteers we must exercise a great deal of patience. Patience, too, is not natural nor easily mimicked, but rather a characteristic that we must learn and work very hard at to be successful. We should be as patient and long suffering when working with patrons, as the Father of us all is with each one of His children as we struggle through this sometimes difficult and challenging life.

## **Probate - Ancestry.com Announces Landmark Collection**

*--Posted: 08 Sep 2015*

Last week Ancestry.com announced a new, significant, collection of databases: U.S.

Wills and Probates. The collection contains more than 170 million images covering all 50 states, and spanning years from 1668 to 2005. The documents mention more than 100 million people, including the deceased and others mentioned in the records. This is the first time there has been a will and probate collection of this scale for the United States online.

Ancestry has invested several years and \$10 million to license and digitize these records! The effort will continue for several years to come. While Ancestry has been accused of pandering their new website design for beginners, in my opinion the choice to publish probate records demonstrates a dedication to experienced users as well. If you learn the handwriting, wills aren't too bad for less experienced genealogists.

"Wills can offer an incredible view into the lives of your ancestors, going beyond names and dates, and providing insight into their personality, character, achievements, relationships, and more," said Todd Godfrey, vice president of global content.

According to Ancestry's Matt Deighton, this is the collection that Ancestry announced at RootsTech. In 2013 Ancestry's Tim Sullivan said, "It's exciting for me to stand on this stage at this conference and announce our largest and most ambitious collaboration with FamilySearch ever. Over the next three years FamilySearch and Ancestry are going to work together to digitize and index over 140 million pages of U.S. probate records spanning from 1800 to 1930." Interestingly, Ancestry's press release contains no mention that the collection was a collaborative effort. FamilySearch made no corresponding announcement so there is no information as to when or even if FamilySearch will publish the same collection.

Ancestry.com's probate collection utilizes new probate packet website features. This collection utilizes new features of the New Ancestry website, which I believe to be support for packets of records. It includes a table of contents for the packet. This great new feature identifies the document types in the packet and gives the ability to jump directly to a particular document. Because it requires these new features, these databases cannot be viewed with the old website.

## Google Voice Dictation Software

-- *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, September 2, 2015*

Google Docs has had limited voice dictation capabilities for some time but today's announcement at <http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2015/09/google-docs-classroom-school.html> indicates it has now been expanded.

I was surprised to learn the new voice dictation software from Google even works on the very inexpensive Chromebooks. In fact, by using Google's free voice dictation software instead of paying \$15 a month or \$150 a year for Dragon Anywhere, you could save enough money within 18 months to pay for the Chromebook.

Like the previously-announced Dragon Anywhere voice dictation service, the new Google voice dictation is cloud-based. That is, users can speak into their handheld or desktop or laptop devices and the audio is sent to high-powered servers in the cloud for

conversion into text that can later be viewed and saved on a handheld device or on a Windows or Macintosh or Chromebook computer. The result should be much more accurate dictations than anything previously available. By using Google's powerful servers in the cloud, the user doesn't need to purchase a high-powered and expensive computer.

## Ogden FamilySearch Library Monthly Speaker Series

The Ogden FamilySearch Library will have the pleasure of hosting on October 17, 2015 Marlin Jensen, former director of the Church History Department as our monthly speaker. He will address record keeping in the church and the value of records of all kinds.

Brother Jensen spent many years serving in church callings including Church Historian and Recorder, serving in the First Quorum of the Seventy and Presidency of the Seventy. He holds a bachelor's degree in German from Brigham Young University and a juris doctorate from the University of Utah. He worked as an attorney specializing in business and estate planning. He and his wife Kathleen are the parents of eight children and live in beautiful Ogden Valley.

Please contact the Library at 801-626-1132 with any questions.

## The End of Reality Detecting the Genealogical Twilight Zone

*-- Posted: 23 Aug 2015*

I have looked at thousands of family trees over the years. The vast majority of them share a common malady. At some point in the pedigree, the information makes a sharp departure from reality and enters the genealogical Twilight Zone. Many genealogists who inhabit this shadow world are so caught up in it that they believe every link in their pedigree to be the absolutely one, true family tree. They cannot conceive of the fact that they ever departed from reality.

This departure from reality usually occurs at a point where there are no supporting sources for the information listed for a specific family in any given line. This is easily demonstrated from the unified FamilySearch.org Family Tree. This is not a fault with the function of the Family Tree, but a reflection of the combined nature of the data. In essence, the Family Tree is a conglomeration of over 100 years of user compiled data. However, the good news is that sources are being added to the Family Tree in huge numbers. Where the sources end, fantasy begins.

Why am I writing about this subject again? The main reason is the fact that many of the newer family history programs (aka apps) rely on the data from the Family Tree. Because of this fact, many people are using programs that produce unreliable data

because the ancestry given by the Family Tree is not verifiable and is very likely inaccurate. As I have mentioned in a previous post, I have only verified my own lines back six generations. I am still verifying and sourcing the descendants of those six generations and that work is far from over. I do not have to go very far before finding long lists of relatives with no supporting source information.

In the following screenshot from the Family Tree of part of my family, the purple icons indicate individuals with no sources. The red exclamation point icons indicate serious problems with the data.

You can also see, if you look closely, that there are unresolved duplicates. I might add that presently these duplicates cannot be resolved and will not be resolved until the new.FamilySearch.org program is completely separated from the Family Tree. The disjointed data is more insidious than obvious. If I go back another generation with this same family, we see the following:

At this level, there appears to be some documentation, at least the icons showing no sources are missing except for the wife of the ancestor, John Morgan. But an examination of the tree shows that this particular John Morgan has no specific source listings connecting him to Garrard Morgan or supporting a birth or death date. Where did he come from? As a matter of note, this particular line goes back into the 900s. From my standpoint, it ends right here and may end one or two generations more recent. This is what I mean by the end of reality; pedigree lines that have no sources to substantiate the names included. Pedigrees going back to Adam are only most egregious examples. Any given pedigree might end at the parents of the first person listed without sources. I am presently in a long discussion with a relative who claims to extend the Tanner line back to England. That would be nice except in all our conversations she has yet to provide even one source citation of information tying my ancestor in Rhode Island to anyone in England.

What is interesting is that the participants in the Family Tree are inexorably documenting all of their ancestral connections. That documentation is slowly but surely extending back to each of these points where reality disappears. As the documentation continues to accrue, these junctures will become more and more obvious. Many of them will likely be resolved; others will finally be put to bed and retired from the Family Tree. Over time, the Family Tree will inevitably become more and more accurate.

But the caution presently is that the Family Tree has these departures from reality and the users need to be careful about placing too much reliance on the data until the sources are found and entered.

## **Scottish Ancestral Research Company Releases New Records**

- Dick Eastman · August 21, 2015

*The following announcement was written by the folks at Scottish Indexes:*

**Annan, Scotland** - To celebrate the "Lanarkshire Family History Society Local and Family History Show" (the largest family history show in Scotland) [www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com) is releasing thousands of historical Scottish paternity records. The total number of paternity records now indexed is 11,723!

These records give a unique insight into the lives of our ancestors and allow people with illegitimate ancestors to trace their male line more easily; often helping you overcome a 'brick wall' in your family tree!

As these are a new source to many researchers Scottish Indexes provides a free Learning Zone section to guide you: [www.scottishindexes.com/learningcourt.aspx](http://www.scottishindexes.com/learningcourt.aspx).

Graham Maxwell, genealogist at Scottish Indexes will be giving a talk at the Lanarkshire show entitled 'Tracing your Illegitimate Ancestors in the Sheriff Court Records'. Graham says, "For years people have struggled to trace the father of their illegitimate ancestors, our hope is that this index will lead people to the key sources they need to trace their family tree. Without the aid of our volunteer this index would not be possible."

Scottish Indexes is also using the 'Sponsor an Index' initiative to fund some indexing and major new releases of indexes mental health records and prison records are planned in the coming year.

## Ancestral Quest for Macs?

Great news! Macintosh users now have still ANOTHER high-quality genealogy program available. The following announcement was written by the folks at Incline Software: Salt Lake City, Utah (August 19, 2015) - Incline Software, LC announced today that Ancestral Quest™, its family tree software, is now available for Mac.

For over 20 years, Ancestral Quest has been a Windows program, providing excellent, easy-to-use yet comprehensive tools to millions of users worldwide, both professional and beginner. During that time, it has been sold directly by Incline Software, and licensed by others, often under different titles, including Ancestry Family Tree (AFT) by Ancestry.com and with more extensive adjustments as Personal Ancestral File (PAF) by FamilySearch. This powerful family tree record keeping program is now available to users of Mac. Ancestral Quest for Mac will run on OS X 10.7 and later.

Ancestral Quest for Mac simply downloads and installs directly to the Mac, without the need for additional software. Those who have used Ancestral Quest on Windows computers will find that AQ for Mac is the same program as AQ for Windows.

For more information go to [ancquest.com/index.htm](http://ancquest.com/index.htm)

## A Free Day of Skill Building Genealogy Lectures

The Board for Certification of Genealogists offers a free day of skill building genealogy lectures on 9 October 2015 in Salt Lake City.

Top genealogists Michael Hait, Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, Judy G. Russell, Michael Ramage, Elizabeth Shown Mills, and Thomas W. Jones will present six one-hour skillbuilding lectures at the Family History Library's Main Floor Classroom in Salt Lake City Friday, October 9, 2015, between 9 AM and 5 PM. The annual lectures are free and open to the public, cosponsored by the Board for Certification of Genealogists and the Family History Library. The board is an independent certifying body and author of the updated 2014 Genealogy Standards.

Times, topics, and speakers:

9:00 - "What Is 'Reasonably Exhaustive Research'?" Michael Hait, CG

10:15 - "The Art of Negative Space Research: Women," Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG

11:30 - "After the Courthouse Burns: Rekindling Family History Through DNA," Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL

1:30 - "Forensic Genealogy Meets the Genealogical Proof Standard," Michael Ramage, JD, CG

2:45 - "Margaret's Baby's Father and the Lessons He Taught Me (about Illegitimacy, Footloose Males, Burned Counties & More)" Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA

4:00 - "When Does Newfound Evidence Overturn a Proved Conclusion?" Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA

"Whether you attend one skill building lecture or all six, you will learn more about how to apply sound methodology to your genealogical research," said President Jeanne Larzalere Bloom. "The Board for Certification of Genealogists strives to foster public confidence in genealogy by promoting an attainable, uniform standard of competence and ethics. Education is part of this mission."

For questions or more information contact [office@BCGcertification.org](mailto:office@BCGcertification.org).