



FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE.....NOVEMBER 2015

On Census Records - Emil O. Hanson

Family History Find!!! - Lisa McBride

The '5000 Days Project' is now at the Library - Elder David Erickson

How Will Your Descendants Know Their Ancestors? - Glen N. Greener

A Mission That Fits Your Lifestyle - Sam Jorgensen

220 Million British Voter Records Available Online - Dick Eastman

Ogden FSL Facebook Page

'Chronicling America' Posts 10 Millionth Newspaper Page - Dick Eastman

On Census Records

- Emil O. Hanson

In verifying a person's identity in our family line, legitimate sources are absolutely necessary. If a relative were working on our line made a notation in the source area that said; "I believe this is the correct person?" With no other evidence, an experienced researcher in that family may suspect that the entry is in error.

Without any more information than that it may very well be an incorrect entry in the file. There are so many indexed records now and so many great research tools to assist us, that to guess is unacceptable. With the tools and information now available to us it may cause us to feel as Cindy Carman who wrote; your eyes grow wide, your pulse quickens and you exclaim, "I have finally found it!" There it is the break in that 25 year old brick wall. You have finally found the parents of an ancestor which will extend at least that part of your pedigree one more generation and perhaps open it up to further discoveries. But wait are there sources listed that prove the relationship and are they reliable? The rule of thumb for testing the reliability of a genealogical source is to ask the question, "How close to the event in question is the source, who created the source, and for what purpose was the source created?"

Birth, Christening, Marriage, Death, Probate Records, and Land Records etc. are all wonderful if they are available for the ancestor we are researching. However, quite often we can only count on the good old and often reliable Census Record. Can't you just see a census taker trudging through the snow, out on the prairie, where family farms were sometimes miles apart? Chances are he, the taker, had no more than a grade school education and the hope and expectation that he would record a family's data accurately, and that may be expecting too much. In a town his job was much easier but, as often as not, there were no educated people in the household who could give accurate, correctly spelled names, birthplaces and ages (at least before and during the 1800's). Compulsory Education in the United States was not a law in this country until 1910.

The following Poem entitled Census Taker describes it beautifully (Author Unknown);

It was the first day of census, and all through the land
The pollster was ready...a black book in hand.
He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride,
His book and some quill were tucked close by his side.
A long winding ride down a road barely there;
Toward the smell of fresh bread wafting, up through the air.
The woman was tired, with lines on her face,
And wisps of brown hair she tucked back into place.
She gave him some water... as they sat at the table
And she answered his questions... the best she was able.
He asked of her children. Yes, she had quite a few,
The oldest was twenty, the youngest was two.
She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red,
His sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.
She noted each person who lived there with pride,
And she felt the faint stirring of the wee one inside.
He noted the sex, the color, the age...
The marks from the quill soon filled up the page.
At the number of children, she nodded her head,
And saw her lips quiver for the three that were dead.
The places of birth she "never forgot".
Was it Kansas? Or Utah? Or Oregon.....or not?
They came from Scotland, of that she was clear,
But she wasn't quite sure- just how long they'd been here.
They spoke of employment, of schooling and such,

They could read some...and write some...though really not much.

When the questions were answered, his job there was done,

So he mounted his horse and he rode toward the sun.

We can almost imagine his voice loud and clear,

"May God bless you all for another ten years".

Now picture a time warp...it's now you and me,

As we search for the people on our family tree.

We squint at the census and scroll down so slow,

As we search for that entry from long, long ago.

Could they only imagine on that long ago day,

That the entries they made would affect us this way?

If they knew, would they wonder at the yearning we feel?

And the searching that makes them so increasingly real,

We can hear if we listen the words they impart,

Through their blood in our veins and their voice in our heart

In spite of the problems with census records we have to be grateful for what information we are able to glean from them because they very often lead us to more records. We should also express our gratitude to the LDS Church and the other large family history data companies for the accurate records and huge databases they have and are still accumulating, indexing and putting together for our family research purposes.

Family History Find!!!

- Lisa McBride

Thom Reed, a FamilySearch employee, was recently featured in Time Magazine, where he shared some of his own story about the challenges of finding records about ancestors who were slaves. He, along with many others who are in the African American community, are also turning their efforts to the Freedman Bureau community indexing project, which is opening a valuable new set of indexed records that will help people who are looking for their African American ancestors.

Recently, Thom just happened to be using a FamilySearch test feature called the logged-in user page, when he located what he called #FamilyHistoryFind!!! He recalled, "I was selected to participate in a test of how my home page looks when someone logs in." After logging in, Thom found some new information

about Tom Baines. Thom said, "I followed the steps (for the first time it was ever available to users), and it led me to the 1930 census, with my grandmother Theora was listed as the oldest child!!!! I had never found this record before! It's because it was indexed as "Barnes" not Baines. But it's MY family! I was nearly in tears! FamilySearch found my grandma for me. I wish I could use emoticons here because I would share some tears. Indexing and new FamilySearch search algorithms that suggested a possible match made all this possible!"

Finding African American families can be difficult even in recent census records. Families often moved between census years and lived with extended family units. Name changes sometimes occurred more than once in the years following emancipation. The Freedman Bureau project will help families connect in these difficult research years leading up to and after the emancipation of the slaves in the United States. As Thom experienced, records are coming to light as indexes and new FamilySearch.org features make the task of finding people easier to do. Similar stories are heard from users worldwide as they use FamilySearch and partner tools to find their ancestors.

Remember the motto "Find, Take, Teach." As each family history center director and staff member follows this motto and shares it with branch, ward, and stake members, your personal lives will be blessed. The lives of those you serve will be blessed as well. They may be like Thom and have a #FamilyHistoryFind!!!

The "5000 Days Project" is now at the Library

- Elder David Erickson

We now have a new discovery experience for patrons called the 5000 Days Project. It's a computer that will ask you questions. It is located in the Scanning Room in the East Building.

What is it? In 2001 the 5000 Days Project, which has produced movies for BYU TV, set out to interview kids over a 5000 day period, roughly kindergarten through the 12th grade, and record what it is like to grow up in America today. They found that the practice of answering key life questions on a regular basis has proven to be a life-changing tool for participants.

To offer this experience to others, the 5000 Days Project has teamed up with FamilySearch to offer a Story Booth to our Library. To use the computer, just push the start button. You can sign in as a guest or using your FamilySearch

name and password. It will ask 13 questions. It takes about 10 minutes to answer the questions. The links to your answers are sent to you by email a day or two later.

Stop by the Library and try it.

How Will Your Descendants Know Their Ancestors?

- *Glen N. Greener*

Stephen F. Anderson is a 30-year veteran of the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His specialty is words. He writes, edits, and manages the FamilySearch blog.

Steve is also an oral history journalist. He has been interviewing and writing about people since he was 18 years-old. His advice: get your family's oral stories written and saved. He says, "More than 95% of all the documents and artifacts of the life of an average person is lost with each successive generation."

Anderson adds, "If you don't preserve the stories of your life and the lives of other family members, the only things left to document their lives will be a few documents and photographs and the questionable memories of others. By recording your history, you get to decide what you will be remembered for and what stories will be preserved that best tell the story of your life. Your descendants cannot appreciate the life you lived if they don't know you.

Steve Anderson's advice for getting started:

You will need some basic tools, such as a good digital recorder, a digital camera for pictures of the person you're interviewing, some artifacts of their lives to help stimulate conversation, and some note taking supplies. That's it!

First decide on the scope of your oral history project. Will you focus on immediate family members, extended family members, your family's oldest members, or the youth? Will you focus on well-known family members or the average Joes and Jills? Create a prioritized list of the people you want to interview. If someone is going to help you, they should be involved in the planning stages.

Consider interviewing the oldest family members first because that's where fading memories are most likely found. Do some simple research on the person you are interviewing. Talk with them to get ideas on topics to cover and what to

avoid.

Conduct interviews in a comfortable, quiet setting. Practice with your equipment. Take notes as you listen to remind yourself of subjects to come back to. If the interview wanders into unexpected tangents, be patient and gently bring it back on subject. Keep each interview to about an hour and come back if there is more to talk about.

You can preserve sensitive history without creating family feuds if you have provisions for keeping sensitive issues confidential. Decide how long the information that you've recorded should be kept confidential.

Be sure to use open-ended questions that require explanation and detail and avoid closed ended questions that invite one word answers. Don't be afraid to include your voice to encourage discussion. You can always edit some or all of your comments out if they do not add real value to the interview.

Once your interviews are complete, you need to make some short and long term decisions: Who will you make the history available to? How will you deal with difficult or sensitive issues? Will you have the person you interviewed edit the transcript of the interview? How will you make the histories available to others? Will you use a family website, the cloud, or post it in the Memories tab of FamilySearch.org? You should also plan to let key family members know when new histories are added.

There are many resources available for the oral history journalist:

- **EdtechTeacher,**
- <http://besthistorysites.net/oral-history/>, provides an excellent list of oral history websites that give lots of great information.
- **Step-by-Step Guide to Oral History,**
- http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html, has some good timeless advice and useful information.
- **The Official Site of the Oral History Association,** <http://www.oralhistory.org/>, has lots of great information that is available to the general public and more for members of the association.
- **Regional Oral History Office**
- <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/resources/rohotips.html>, provides a list of 19 tips and hints to follow when doing an oral history. It also has a list of 83 questions you can use when doing an oral history.
- **About Writing Good Questions,**
- <http://home.earthlink.net/~ahickling/interviewsuggestions.html> provides ideas and examples for your own good interview questions.

Discover the joy of serving
A mission that fits
your lifestyle

Learn about serving in family history:
Call: 1-855-346-4774
Email: missions@familysearch.org
Online: familysearch.org/mission

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

FamilySearch

A Mission That Fits Your Lifestyle

- Sam Jorgensen

Serve part-time at Ogden FamilySearch Library, live at home and spend eight or more hours per week at the Library serving the public by assisting individuals with their family tree, family histories and memories. The work is personally satisfying especially when someone is able to find some lost person or record that makes them more familiar with their family. A second opportunity at our Library is in our book cataloging and digitizing center

where you can assist in the Church effort to provide all available records online worldwide for all to use in their family search efforts.

We currently have a critical need for a missionary couple in our book digitizing operation to replace a couple who will be released soon. The requirements for this specific opportunity include the ability to work at least two days each week 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, familiarity with general computer use and capability to learn scanning and auditing computer programs. The work is detail oriented and attention to detail is very important. The applicants will be working with Young Church Service Missionaries, senior Church Service Missionaries and volunteers. Some mechanical aptitude will be advantageous as scanners and cutting machines sometimes need minor repairs.

The Ogden FamilySearch Library provides a valuable service to the community, our facilities and staff are one-of-a-kind in Northern Utah. Our instructors are experts in a broad spectrum of subjects and provide many classes to assist all in their endeavors to learn more about their family history. We provide access to over 100 computers with internet connection to assist the public with their research or to index records if that is their interest.

Come and check us out, pick up an application and join our staff, for more information check our website at ogdenfsl.org or contact us at 801-626-1132.

220 Million Records of British Voters Available to Search Online for the First Time

- Dick Eastman

The following announcement was written by the folks at Findmypast:

Electoral Registers document the evolution of modern British democracy from the passage of the Great Reform act of 1832 to votes for women in 1918, and voting equality in 1928.

Records include details of property ownership, allowing you to uncover the history of your home. Now available online for the first time at findmypast.com

Leading family history website Findmypast and The British Library have announced today the online publication of an estimated 220 million records of English and Welsh voters.

The period covered by The England and Wales Electoral Registers 1832-1932 includes some of the most important events in the history of British democracy and demonstrates how the British electorate changed during the 19th and early 20th centuries: from the vote being extended to working class men and the reform of representation up until women's suffrage.

This is the first time these registers have been made available online. They can be searched by name and constituency, as well as by keywords which will allow you to discover the history of your family home in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They are available online to Findmypast subscribers or can be accessed for free in the British Library's reading rooms in London and Yorkshire.

The registers form the largest single collection released by Findmypast to date, and are the result of a mammoth digitization project to scan 100 years of microfilmed copies of the British Library's unique collection of printed registers, housed on 2.25 miles (3.62 linear km) of shelving.

Electoral Registers are listings of all those registered to vote in a particular area. The lists were created annually to record the names of eligible voters and their reason for eligibility, such as their residence or ownership of a property. Registration for voters in England has been required since 1832, and registers were typically published annually.

Previously only accessible as printed volumes or on microfilm at the British

Library's Reading Rooms at St. Pancras and Boston Spa, the England and Wales Electoral Registers 1832-1932 can now be explored online at findmypast.com anywhere at any time. Although there are gaps in the digitized collection for some constituencies, the registers that are now available open up a treasure trove of material that was never before accessible to automated searching: no expert knowledge is needed, allowing anyone to trace their family across 100 years of British history.

OFSL Facebook Page

Our Library has entered the realm of social media. We now have our own Facebook page, search for Ogden FamilySearch Library on Facebook and take a look at it. There is a hotlink to the class schedule and the new online registration that is currently being tested. There are many items of interest shown with more being added all the time. It gives us the opportunity to see what is going on at our Library and commenting using our mobile devices.

Chronicling America Posts its 10 Millionth Historic Newspaper Page

-by Dick Eastman

Chronicling America, an online searchable database of historic U.S. newspapers, has posted its 10 millionth page today. Way back in 2013, Chronicling America boasted 6 million pages available for access online. Obviously, the site is growing rapidly.

The site makes digitized newspapers (of those published between 1836 and 1922) available through the National Digital Newspaper Program. It also includes a separate searchable directory of US newspaper records, describing more than 150,000 titles published between 1690 to the present and listing libraries that have physical copies in microfilm or original print. The site now features more than 74 terabytes of total data - from more than 1,900 newspapers in 38 states and territories and the District of Columbia.

The Chronicling America newspaper collection may be found at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>.

STAY CONNECTED:

