

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
OGDEN FAMILYSEARCH LIBRARY www.ogdenfsl.org
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FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

The Ogden FamilySearch Library will be closed 21 December 2015 thru 2 January 2016 to allow the staff time to celebrate the holidays with their families ---

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

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DECEMBER 2015

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On Being Confident To Do

-- Emil O. Hanson

Most adults have done things in their lives that at first they were hesitant because they were not sure they could do it. Not sure that they were smart enough, strong enough, talented enough. But with fear and trembling, many have done what they were, at first, afraid to try and they succeeded. Too, many people have never followed their long term dream whether it was a dream to build a home, a desire to go to college or to become skilled or a professional at something that was a hope as well as a dream. They never did it because they were just not sure they could do it. (The fear to start, to take that first step and the fear of ultimate failure, they are the same) That same fear keeps many from moving

forward: asking for that job, filling out the application, from signing that contract. They never took the first step toward reaching their dream.

I was reading in the Book of Mormon where Christ was teaching the Nephites the things He had previously taught the Jews in Jerusalem. But this time and for some reason His words struck me with more clarity than ever before. He gave the following advice; "Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened." (*3Nephi 14:7 & 8*) This was after He had already told them to be perfect even as He and the Father are perfect. It is an often misunderstood challenge that we can only understand when we understand His previous parable, the 'Parable of the Talents'. In that parable we, are challenged to use and develop the talents that we have been given, or we will even lose them. (The amount of talent and the kind we are given may be different for each of us). Using and developing our talents should be our life's goal and it is our only way to personal perfection.

Personal perfection is an eternal goal and challenge. The way to perfection is lit up and made bright when we understand His challenge to: ask, seek and to knock. Courage to ask, seek and to knock is the courage to do and accomplish the things in life that we desire and that will eventually make us perfect by and by. This is done by increasing and even doubling our talents that will provide for us the most fulfilling life. Believing in Christ is to have faith in what He said, and to do what He said is the only way we have of demonstrating our faith in Him. "...every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened." May we be blessed with faith to believe in the Savior and in His words.

One of our goals and purposes should be to find our ancestors and to see that their temple work is completed. Many fear to start because it appears to be too complicated. Elder Quentin L Cook stated; "To assist members, the Church has gathered records and provided tools so that much of the work can be done in our own homes ... Most obstacles have been removed. Whatever you're past perception, it is now different! However, there is one obstacle the Church cannot remove. It is an individual's hesitation to do the work. That will always require a decision and a determined effort."

This is the season that the world celebrates the birth of Christ let us believe in Him and the truths He espoused, and demonstrate our faith in him by; Asking, knowing that it will be given unto you, by seeking and knowing we shall receive and by knocking knowing that it is going to be opened unto us.

Auto-indexed Record Feedback

--Steve Anderson

FamilySearch.org has begun publishing collections that contain searchable indexed information that was extracted from images by computer algorithms. This monumental advancement promises to dramatically increase the indexed information available for the many image-only collections currently published on FamilySearch.org.

While we are developing these automated indexing tools, your feedback on the accuracy of these records will greatly accelerate the improvement of the tools. On auto-indexed records only, you will see a new tab at the bottom labeled "Errors?" When you click Errors?, you will be able to provide direct feedback to the engineer on the type and specific nature of any errors you encounter.

Rediscovered Leather Trunk

-- Dick Eastman

"Rediscovered Leather Trunk Contains Thousands of Letters From the 17th Century"



Talk about the Dead Letter Office! A 300-year-old linen-lined trunk filled with over 2,600 letters that were mailed out-but never received-between the years 1680 and 1706 has recently been discovered in The Hague, Netherlands. The extraordinary collection contains letters from all manner of society, including aristocrats, merchants, lovers, actors, musicians, and even spies. At least 600 of the 2,600 letters have never even been opened. Historians are now taking a closer look.

An international team from Leiden, Oxford, MIT, and Yale are taking part in this project. You can read more about the historians' study of the letters in a web site called Signed, Sealed, & Undelivered at <http://brienne.org>

Do you have old letters in your basement that would bring your ancestors alive for your children or grandchildren? Let's all discover forgotten treasures in our own homes.

Is Family History on Your New Year's Resolution List?

The Ogden FamilySearch Library (OFSL) can help YOU keep that commitment.

There are over thirty classes offered each month at the OFSL. Most are free. Generally, each session is an hour and a half long. They vary from one session to several. The majority put participants at a computer for hands on learning.

Following is a listing of upcoming classes and the number of sessions in each, categorized by interest.

BEGINNERS

- Family Tree - Basic (5)
- Computers (3-5)
- Writing Your Personal History (1)
- Indexing (1)
- Generations Beginning (5)

FAMILY TREE

- Basic (5)
- Correcting Errors (4)
- Descendancy (1)
- Adding Photos and Stories

DESKTOP GENEALOGY PROGRAMS

- Ancestral Quest (4)
- Legacy (one on one basis)
- Roots Magic (1-6)

RESEARCH

- American (14)
- British Isles (8)
- German (8)
- Doing Organized Research (7)

Remember, this is just a sample list. View the whole class schedule by going to ogdenfsl.org, click on "classes", then "Course" (beneath 1. Options) and select the category of class of interest to you.

We are also adding new classes which will begin as indicated:

COMPUTERS FOR SENIORS (3), 3 December 2015

RESEARCH - Virtual Pedigree and Chrome Extensions (1), 11 January 2016

ROOTS MAGIC for Dummies (6), 5 January 2016

RESEARCH - Danish (4), TBA

Call 801-626-1132 for more information and to register for classes so you can

keep your family history New Year's Resolution. Come on! It's Free! It's fun! And there are over 300 volunteers to assist YOU!

Research Class Recommendation

-- Stephen Felt

The OFSL class "Research for Dummies" has been re-titled and is now "Doing Organized Research."

Back when you started family history research you probably used the old pencil and yellow notepad to record your research. This class will show you how to use your computer to electronically capture your research results and file the information where it can be easily retrieved and shared with others. You will also learn how to capture images and include them in your research results.

This class provides you with electronic copies of various research forms that you can have with you and print out any time that you need them. These forms can be used to help you organize your research efforts and keep track of where you have researched, what the results have been, and document where you need to research next.

"This is an excellent class for both beginning and intermediate researchers. I would definitely recommend this class." -- Gene Draper, student

NOTE: "Doing Organized Research" is a seven-session class taught Monday afternoons. The next class begins on January 11, 2016, 2:00 ~ 3:30 p.m. Call 801-626-1132 to register.

New Probate Series on the BYU Family History Library YouTube Channel

Interested in Probate Law? BYU Family History Library YouTube Channel can help you with this topic; learn from lawyer James Tanner. This is Part One of a nine part series on Probate Law being produced for the Brigham Young University Family History Library's YouTube Channel. This ongoing series will take some time to complete but the first three sessions are already online. We now have 101 videos online in the BYU Family History Library Channel. We will also be starting a new series of webinars where you will be able to watch classes live and ask questions as the class is presented.

220 Million Searchable Mexican Historical Records

-- Dick Eastman

The following announcement was written by Ancestry.com/Ancestry.com.mx:

PROVO, UT and **DUBLIN, IRELAND** , Oct 28, 2015 - Ancestry, the world's leading family history brand, today announced the launch of new online services that will help Mexicans and the estimated 34 million Mexican Americans* research their family history. More than 220 million searchable historical records from Mexico, including new birth, marriage, and death records dating back to the 1500s are now available on the Ancestry site, many of them important historical records never before available online. In another first, the new Ancestry Mexico site (ancestry.com.mx) will provide a Spanish language experience tailored specifically to Mexicans and Mexican Americans.

With such a culturally diverse population, nearly every citizen in the United States has ancestral connections to regions outside of America. Ancestry has been working hard over the past few years to help people of Hispanic and Latino origins discover, preserve and share their family history by making important collections from Mexico searchable online to get them started. These new records launching today were made available in part through Ancestry's collaboration with the Mexican Academy of Genealogy and Heraldry based in Mexico City, Mexico, who originally created microfilm of these records with the assistance of FamilySearch International. These records will help Mexican Americans build and explore their family tree and unveil key events, places, and relationships in the lives of their ancestors, including the names of family and friends involved as witnesses or godparents.

"The new service really unlocks for the first time online, family history research for Mexicans and Mexican Americans, whether you prefer to speak English or Spanish," said Todd Godfrey, Vice President of Global Content at Ancestry. "It is fulfilling a huge need for a large and growing population group in the United States by helping them find their own unique stories and place in American and Mexican history."

The people of Mexico have a diverse culture that comes from a variety of regions, including the indigenous peoples of Central and South America, and early immigration from Europe. With a deep sense of pride in this rich heritage, they are passionate about family and have been celebrating their ancestors for hundreds of years.

The Ancestry Mexico site is designed to meet the unique needs of people in Mexico, as well as Mexican-Americans with plans to enhance the service early next year.

...Ancestry Mexico will be available through two subscription packages: the Mexico + US Package (\$10-\$12 USD per month), which will include access to all Mexican records plus US records relevant to Mexican Americans including census, immigration, border crossings, BMDs, and relevant regional records, or as part of Ancestry's World Explorer package. All records from Mexico are also being made available as part of the World Subscription on the Ancestry.com website.

** Census Bureau data by Pew Research Center*

Straight Talk about the State of Indexing

-- Michael Judson



We need to talk. Don't worry. You're not in trouble or anything. We just need to discuss some things about indexing that are changing-things that may be hard to swallow. Some of this you have probably guessed, but some of it may be new. Either way, get comfortable, and let's chat. I'll start with the

easy stuff.

Easy English Projects Are Getting Harder to Find

-- This is no surprise to you if you've tried to find one of those favorite census or obituary projects lately. We are victims of our own success. The big, easy English collections that were once plentiful are now mostly indexed and published for researchers on FamilySearch.org. Congratulations are in order! But, there's a downside to these amazing accomplishments as well.

The remaining easy English record collections still out there are few in number and aren't always the kind people like to index. Passenger ship lists, marriage records, military records, and such contain a wealth of valuable genealogical information but are rarely volunteers' first choice. I liken the situation to putting broccoli and macaroni and cheese in front of a child. Nine times out of ten the child is going to choose the macaroni and cheese.

If you can't find what you really want to work on, will you give one of the less

popular projects a try to see if you can acquire a taste for the other records as well? I promise, it's good for you-and it makes a huge difference for researchers. It will also help to preserve the few beginner projects for the actual beginner indexers.

Now for an important challenge.

The Greatest Need: Non-English Indexing -- If you want to accomplish the most good with your indexing efforts, it's simple: learn how to index records in a non-English language.

I know that sounds daunting (and maybe a little foolhardy), but do you realize there are 20 times more searchable records in English on FamilySearch.org than in all other languages combined? Imagine trying search after search and coming up empty-handed every time. That's basically what you get if you live in Mexico, or France, or Japan, or Russia, or any other country where English is not the predominant language.

FamilySearch indexing is launching a concerted effort aimed at narrowing the gap between the number of searchable records in English and those available in all other languages. Every volunteer and potential volunteer out there that is already fluent in a second language is needed to help index records in that language. Especially needed are volunteers who are comfortable working in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish.

To make it easier, FamilySearch is setting up large beginner projects in several languages. Our focus for the time being is on French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish records (with German being a likely addition in the near future). As we set up these projects, we are also preparing illustrated guides and videos to teach English-speaking indexers, and new indexers who already speak the project language, how to index that specific project. For example, we show what the important words are in that language, such as "father," "mother," "child," "birth month," and so on, and where on the record all this information can be found

So far we've had great success with this approach in Italian, and we expect the same result in the other languages. To get more information and to see some of these guides, [click here](#).

Of course we still recommend that arbitrators work only in their native language. And as we ramp up the indexing work in these languages, the need for arbitration will increase accordingly. If you are an experienced indexer in a non-

English language, or a stake indexing director or group administrator working with non-English indexers, consider training yourself or your indexers to arbitrate in those languages.

INDEXING AT THE OGDEN FAMILY SEARCH LIBRARY

The Ogden FamilySearch Library can help you with this "Straight Talk about the State of Indexing." Here are three possibilities for you.

First, there is a basic indexing class taught 11:00 - 12:30 once a month on the third Thursday. If you need it, call 801-626-1132 and sign-up.

Second, Linda Poulter offers the very type of training mentioned above for English speakers. She has great success training English speakers to index Italian documents. It is true. You do not have to speak Italian, Spanish, French, or Portuguese in order to index documents written in those languages. Linda can teach you how and you will be helping to fulfill "The Greatest Need: Non-English Indexing." Register for this training by calling 801-626-1132.

Third, many people use the Library's computers to index. You may, too. It is free, the Indexing program has been placed on all patron computers, and there are volunteers who can assist you.

So, come on. Let's get indexing. Family Search will love you and your spouse might love you more; after all, Italian, Spanish, French, and Portuguese are the romantic languages.

Harvard's Digital Portrait of Colonial Life

-- Dick Eastman

Harvard University has launched a new website called the Colonial North American Project. It includes 150,000 images of diaries, journals, notebooks, and other rare documents from the 17th and 18th centuries. Many more documents are planned to be added in the coming months.

Part of the University's endeavor to digitize all its collections and make them available free of charge, the Colonial North American Project contains material scattered throughout 12 repositories - from Houghton Library to the Harvard University Archives to Loeb Music Library. When complete, the project will make available to the world digitized images of all known archival and manuscript materials in the Harvard Library that relate to 17th and 18th century North America. These documents reveal a great deal about topics such as social life, education, trade, finance, politics, revolution, war, women, Native American life, slavery, science, medicine, and religion.

For example, Harvard mathematics Professor John Winthrop kept account of all the deaths, in a "bill of mortality," in Cambridge between 1759 and 1768. He wrote there were "235 deaths in 10 years." Among the most common causes, he noted, were accidents, fever, consumption, and dysentery.

In addition to reflecting the origins of the United States, the digitized materials also document aspects of life and work in Great Britain, France, Canada, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

With 150,000 images, the Colonial North American Project, supported by the Arcadia Fund and the Sidney Verba Fund, is one-third complete, said Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, University archivist. Work is ongoing at several libraries to digitize the remaining 300,000 images of Colonial North American manuscripts in 1,654 collections. You can access Colonial North American Project at colonialnorthamerican.library.harvard.edu

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