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**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**



**Library Open House to Celebrate 50th Birthday Party**

*-- Elder and Sister Erickson*

Bring your family and friends and share some birthday cake with us as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Ogden FamilySearch Library. The celebration begins July 11 and runs through July 16, 2016.

The planned activities will be a great opportunity to introduce anyone to the fun side of family history. Here are a few of the things you can do--

Free coloring book. Children, or the young at heart, will receive a family history coloring book. It introduces ideas such as scanning photos and posting them to Family Tree. Budding artists get a chance to draw people in their family tree, and learn how to

ask grandparents to tell them stories and share their pictures.

Scanning and photo help. Speaking of scanning photos, dig out a stack of old photos from your attic. We'll have someone standing by to show you how to scan a group of photos in just minutes. The digital images can then be loaded on your flash drive and you can put them on your home computer to share.

What does your name mean? Want to know what your surname means? Come to the Library and we'll show you how to find how many people in the world share your same name and in what country they live.

Where do you come from? Do want to see what countries your ancestors came from? We will introduce visitors to a computer program that allows you to easily visualize the migration patterns of your ancestors. Another program can show you, in living color, what percentage of your ancestors lived in which countries. Another program will show you how you are related to prophets, well-known authors, historical figures and more.

Test your skill at games your grandparents played. Also for the young at heart, we'll have hands-on games that your grandparents played. If you haven't thrown a wooden top, here's your chance. Other games for kids to experience are gunny sacks, jacks, hoops and marbles.

Hands on help getting started. There will be plenty of volunteers on hand to assist you in starting your family history. They can get you signed on to FamilySearch so you can start building your Family Tree. Once you are in there, you can see lots of family stories and photos. And we can show you how to add your own if you like.

Find a grave? Want to know where your relative or a famous person is buried? We can show you two computer applications that make finding a gravesite simple.

The charge for all this? It's free. And there is ample parking behind the building, which is located at 539 24th Street in Ogden. The Library will be open 9 am to 5 pm on Monday, Friday, and Saturday, and from 9 am to 9 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Bring your children, grandparents, friends and neighbors. All are welcome, and all can get excited learning something new about family history.

## **On "The Wonders of the World"**

*-- Emil O. Hanson*

When I was young and I first heard or read about the seven wonders of the world, including the Grand Canyon, I knew I had to see it one day. When we were a young family, it wasn't very far from where we lived at the time. So one summer we decided that we were going to take the children for a summer vacation. Whether seeing it the

first time, or many times, it still leaves me awestruck and wondering 'how it could be'?

The only other wonder my wife and I have experienced is the Empire State building in New York city and knowing that it is now dwarfed by many taller buildings around the world, it may have been taken off the list of the seven wonders. However, when one contemplates the time, engineering, tools and equipment available at the time the Empire State Building was built, you have to credit the builders with a 'wonder'.

I recently read a story about a teacher who asked her students to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World." Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes: 1. Egypt's Great Pyramids, 2. Taj Mahal, 3. Grand Canyon, 4. Panama Canal, 5. Empire State Building, 6. St. Peter's Basilica, 7. China's Great Wall.

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished writing her list. So she asked her if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the 'Seven Wonders of the World' are: 1. to see, 2. to hear, 3. to touch, 4. to taste, 5. to feel, 6. to laugh, 7. and to love."

The room was so quiet they could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we often take for granted are truly wondrous and even 'Wonders of the World'. After reading the story and thinking about the young student's response I felt a tear on my cheek as I was so touched by her sensitivity to God's wondrous blessings to us, His children.

Then I began to think about why the 'Wonders of the World' have been limited to only seven? Are there not hundreds and even thousands of things in the world that make us wonder and are indeed wondrous? Many of the wonders that we might come up with are usually classified as gifts rather than wonders but because these gifts are wonderful maybe we should give them that connotation. A person could elaborate on each of the wonders she mentioned but that would make a book. I will expand on just a few for this thought.

The young student mentioned 'to hear' but more importantly is the gift of listening. Yes! To hear is wonderful and most everyone can hear. But not everyone really knows how to listen. To really listen is a gift, even an art and we are not all artistic listeners.

Another wonder she mentioned is the gift of 'affection'. How important to a family unit is the affection shown between a husband and wife, parents to their children. Families are held together by the affection shown to one another. Oh, how that is missed when members are separated for periods of time. The hugs, kisses and pats on the back, these small actions demonstrate the love we have for one another.

Another wonderful wonder of the world is the gift of laughter, laughter is contagious and it has a tendency to bring people together, to ease tension and most importantly it is commonly known as 'the best medicine'.

The wondrous results of a 'compliment'. Such as a simple "You did a great job!" or "That was a wonderful meal!" It is a wonder what a simple compliment can do for a person's day.

Another of the many wonders is our uniqueness. Not one of us is exactly the same. Almost every day we can discover how we are different from another, even if we are cut from the same cloth (born in the same family), we are still different. It is exciting and even healthy to innumerate the wonders and we should all do it. In doing so we should include the most wondrous of all the wonders, the Creator Himself, the Almighty, the God of Heaven and earth and everything that in them is.

## GIFTS

*-- Emil Hanson*

THE GIFT OF A WRITTEN NOTE ... It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

THE GIFT OF A COMPLIMENT... A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

THE GIFT OF A FAVOR ... Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

THE GIFT OF SOLITUDE ... There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

THE GIFT OF A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION ... The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, really it's not that hard to say, Hello or Thank You.

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

**A gentle reminder -- that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.**

## RootsMagic Welcomes Findmypast

*--Shelley Felt*

RootsMagic is the first software to search multiple providers for matching records. And with the current update (7.2), they are excited to welcome Findmypast to their WebHints!

Findmypast is a British-owned world leader in online genealogy. They have over four billion historical records from around the world with more being added every week.

With more than a thousand exclusive collections, Findmypast has records which you just won't find anywhere else.

## "Green Temple" Hunting

--Venita

[venitar@mac.com on FHCNET@yahoo.com]

The stake president of a fellow consultant compared green temple hunting to "baseball baptisms"--we've probably all heard of well-meaning missionaries who made baptism a prerequisite for non-member youth participating in sports. Their baptism numbers went up temporarily, but the youth weren't really converted and few if any remained active. In my opinion, this stake president was right on the mark. I've seen the same thing happen with members taught to "do family history" by green temple hunting (whether with Hope Chest or some similar program). They stack up a pile of names they know nothing about and then lose interest. Their hearts haven't turned.

The truth is that Family Tree was *\*not\** meant to be a primary source for temple names. When we teach people that it is, we are setting them up for short-term "success" but long-term failure. Ron Tanner (Family Tree product manager) mentioned that eventually the green temples are going to run out. Then what will members do who only understand how to hunt green temples? Why not teach them to have long-term success from the start?

This is the approach I'm using in my stake (and with friends who have asked for help). I teach them the facts about the data in Family Tree (where it came from and why it needs to be verified.) I help them understand the problems with tools like Hope Chest, and we avoid using them. Don't get me wrong--Hope Chest *\*can\** be used by advanced genealogists to find valid names, but (ironically) it slows down new users too much to have to determine which names are valid among all the invalid ones. By the time they've done that, they lose momentum and interest.

Instead, I teach them a very simple way to gather information on families to *\*add\** to Family Tree. And you know what? Their hearts have turned. They are regularly finding valid names to add to Family Tree instead of green temple hunting. And they love it!

Yes, we want participation in family history to increase, but it's *\*not\** just about numbers, and numbers alone are not a good measure of success. In the end, it's about turning hearts, and green temple hunting rarely if ever accomplishes that. In fact, I've seen many indications that it has the opposite effect (for example, the sister in my friend's ward who stopped doing family history after discovering that virtually all the green temple names she'd done work for were duplicates; or the young woman who took green temple names for baptisms and was honest enough to admit that she felt nothing special when doing the baptisms--fortunately, she had a friend who helped her

understand it was probably because none of the names really needed temple work. And fortunately, the friend offered to help her find valid names.)

If we had no other options but green temple hunting--if it was the best we could do--I would say to go ahead and do it. But it's *\*not\** the only option, and it's *\*not\** the best we can do. With the amazing resources we have today, it's just not hard to teach people to find valid names to add to Family Tree without green temple hunting, whether manual or automated.

Teaching people how to listen to the Spirit and find *\*valid\** names turns hearts. In fact, I am hearing more and more from people new to family history that when they start doing *\*valid\** names (instead of green temple hunting) there is a qualitative difference in their temple experience.

Tom said that it's a great day for family history, and I wholeheartedly agree! We can make it great by teaching correct principles, turning hearts, and giving people the best chance of long-term success in their family history efforts.

## **Ogden City Cemetery Walking History Tour**

*- Joanne Hanson*

The annual cemetery tour will take place on Saturday, June 11 and Monday, June 13 with the first tour beginning at 5pm. Tours will continue every fifteen minutes with the last tour at 6:30pm.

This year's tour will again take place on 1st Ave. and we will be telling the stories of pioneer women as well as Pomona Goodyear who made her home here in this area before the others. Other stories include a story teller from Mississippi, a mid-wife from Ohio, a devoted church member from Virginia, and an English woman involved with worms(silk). Come and enjoy.

Questions? Contact: Joanne Hanson - 801-644-3234.

## **All of Your Family Stories-In One Place**

*-- Glen N. Greener, FS Blog*

Caution: Do not open the "All the Stories" app if you have anything else to do. I opened it just to get an idea of what it is so I could write a review of it later. After two hours of sitting in a chair I didn't like, my back hurt so much I finally stopped.

All the Stories is an amazing app. You sign in, allow access to your family, and a list of all the stories anyone has posted on your family tree comes up. It's as user friendly as

anything I've seen: easy to access, no setup, instant results, and the results are important.

I couldn't possibly spend the time necessary to find all the stories from my family history that were instantly listed by using this app. Genealogy and family history have always been available to me. Every side of my family has pioneer history, so it's easy to take for granted. If curiosity strikes, I just log on to [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) and check something out. But that's a fairly focused view.

My grandson and I recently traced a couple of my grandmother's lines back over 2,000 years. It was fun for both of us. We saw some names we thought were amusing, such as Odin Wodin. It's been fun to talk about how we had relatives in Troy, but there wasn't much to personally identify with.

When I started reading to my family from *All the Stories*, I found relatives, names, times, and places I had never heard of. I'm a direct descendant of a man who made Joseph Smith's boots. I'm descended from another man who gave Joseph Smith water when the Prophet was on his way to jail.

I found ancestors who fought the Indians and the French before the revolutionary war. Some accounts documented travel aboard ships from England to America. Others gave first-hand memories of life in Nauvoo and of the persecution those folks suffered. Others chronicled the trials of the pioneer treks to the Salt Lake valley.

I found confirmation of my dad's grandfather working for Brigham Young as a baker and then being assigned to guard against Indian attacks at Guard Knoll in Ephraim. And I thought all my Ephraim roots were from my mother's side.

A concise description explains how the person in the story is related to you. For example, "Jane Doe is your mother's 5th great grandmother." This detail makes the family history more personal than would otherwise be another piece of research I'd have to wade through. Also, links to [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) connect that person and that particular story.

My only suggestion for the app is to put the relationship at the beginning of the story instead of the end. I know that's a small detail, but it would help those of us who are spoiled and lazy family researchers.

I've enjoyed a number of the [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) apps. *All the Stories* deeply touched me. It provides an intimate connection through the words of relatives from the past. It also opened up information I'd never been able to confirm. I'd always heard there was a French connection in my family history. Thanks to *All the Stories*, I now know it was Norman.

Try this app out. There's no learning curve, no technical challenges, and no forks in the

trail. Just make sure you're in a comfortable chair and you have a few hours.

## **Ogden Family History Conference, September 10, 2016**

*-- Joyce and Frank Decaria*

The 2016 Ogden Family History Conference committee members are all unanimous in their excitement about this year's co-keynote speakers. Leading off this year's Family History Conference, Shantal and Gene Sessions will address participants with talks about how pursuing family history can enrich lives.

Born in Wiesbaden, Germany, and growing up in Southern California, Shantal Hiatt Sessions received a Bachelor of Arts in History from Weber State University and a Master of Arts in British and American Literature from the University of Utah. Shantal then pursued a twelve-year career in modeling and acting in Salt Lake City before teaching English at Weber State University for several years.

She then assumed the full-time duties of a homemaker (they have four children and seven grandsons), as she began volunteering in the public schools and vigorously supporting the Theater Arts Program at Bonneville High School. As a published author, she is currently completing the second novel of a medieval romance/adventure trilogy.

Born and raised in Ogden, Utah, Gene Allred Sessions received a Ph.D. degree from Florida State University and is a past president of the Mountain Meadows Association. A writer, editor and consultant, he is a Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor of History at Weber State University and has received the Mormon History Association's annual award for best edited work for the Mormon Democrat: The Religious and Political Memoirs of James Henry Moyle (1975, 1998).

Dr. Sessions is also the author and editor of numerous other works, including Mormon Thunder: A Documentary History of Jedediah Morgan Grant (1982, 2008), Latter-day Patriots: Nine Mormon Families and Their Revolutionary War Heritage (1975), Prophesying upon the Bones: J. Reuben Clark and the Foreign Debt Crisis, 1933-39 (1992), Camp Floyd and the Mormons: The Utah War (with Donald R. Moorman, 1992, 2005), The Search for Harmony: Essays on Science and Mormonism (with Craig J. Oberg, 1993), and Utah International: A Biography of a Business (with Sterling D. Sessions, 2002, 2005). He has also been a consultant on documentaries and committees exploring the Utah War and the Mountain Meadows Massacre.

To enjoy Gene and Shantal's keynote addresses and benefit from remarkable Family History presentations be sure and mark your calendars for September 10, 2016.

**Findmypast Release of US Marriage Collection**

-- Violet MacDonald

Today at the 2016 conference of the National Genealogical Society we announced the publication of the next installment of our US marriage collection. The latest release contains over 10 million records and 30 million names, including nearly one million never before published names that can only be found on [Findmypast](#).

This installment of new marriage records is part of our effort to digitize and publish the single largest online collection of U.S. marriages in history. When complete, the collection will contain at least 100 million records and more than 450 million names from 2,800 counties across America.

The release occurred at the start of the 2016 conference of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. As part of an exclusive agreement, all members of NGS enjoy access to Findmypast as one of the benefits included in their society membership.

While the US marriage collection at Findmypast includes marriages from nearly every state, this installment includes significant additions from Indiana, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Maine.

Findmypast will release millions of marriage records every quarter and we aim to complete the entire digitization project by the end of 2017.

[https://blog.findmypast.com/community/violet\\_macdonald/](https://blog.findmypast.com/community/violet_macdonald/)

## **New York City Birth and Death Indexes Removed**

-- Dick Eastman

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has required the New York Public Library to return the birth indices post 1909 and death indices post 1948 stating having them available to the public was a violation of the NYC Health Code.

The reason? According to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, "The Department will no longer make such indexes available, since such access can be abused and result in identity theft and attendant security risks. In addition, genealogists and others interested in genealogical research can access appropriate information from the Municipal Archives."

This is a major loss for genealogists.