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Directors Corner

The Ogden Family History Conference was wonderful!

--Elder and Sister Erickson

It was great seeing many of you at the Ogden Family History Conference on Saturday, September 10, 2016.

The parking lot was full, smiles were abundant, and everyone we talked to said they were having a great time. The nearly 60 different classes were well attended, and it was fun visiting the vendors and seeing their clever family history ideas.



As you may know, the Conference was co-sponsored by Weber State University's History Department and the Ogden FamilySearch Library. The Conference began with Elder Marlin K. Jensen, the chair of this year's Family History Conference, recognizing Weber State University president Chuck Wight, who was in attendance with his wife, Victoria. President Wight welcomed everyone to the campus and shared an interesting coincidence in meeting an unknown cousin on a plane. It turns out he and another gentleman on the flight were assigned the same seat. They had the same

last name. As the stewardess left to sort out the problem, they learned that they spelled their last name the same way. Because of a hand-written family history given to President Wight by his grandmother, he was able to learn that he and the gentleman were descended from the same Thomas Wight in New England. Probably, oddest of all, they were both chemistry professors! Sometimes "coincidences" lead to wonderful family connections.

Elder Jensen then introduced the keynote speakers, one of WSU's esteemed professors, Gene Sessions, and his very personable wife Shantal, both of whom delighted the large audience with their unique family history stories. One of their key messages was the importance of societal connections. When people are aware of their ancestors and learn their history, they become connected to something greater than themselves. Those people who know a lot about their families tend to do better when they face challenges. Family stories help shape the person you become.

We came away with a renewed sense of the importance of family stories and the need to share our family's history with our children and grandchildren. We look forward to seeing you at next year's family history conference on Saturday, September 9, 2017.

On "The Best and the Worst"

- Emil Hanson

Victor Hugo, in writing his book, "A Tale of Two Cities", began his story by saying, "It was the best of times and it was the worst of times." That statement could apply to every era, every generation, and to every household in every country that has ever shared this beautiful earth. Too! It represents every period of our lives. Has there ever been a time when every aspect of your life was perfect? I believe the answer to that question is, and will always be, No!, There are always and always will be, some family issue that is painful or worrisome for us whether it be in the immediate family or in one of our many extended families. These worst of times include: a debilitating disease, serious accident, near death experience, etc. Whatever the problem, it represents a certain amount of misery for the person going through the experience. A misery that we too, experience in an empathetic way.

This world was created in such a way, by the Creator, to pose challenges for us. It was designed to test us. The Creator knew that the only way for us, His spirit offspring, to grow and to learn, was to be challenged. Many of these painful challenges have attached to them, uncomfortable short or long term reminders: Fortunately the wording is, "And it came to pass" it did not say "And it came to stay." That should always give us some consolation. Can you imagine living a normal life on this earth and never experiencing pain or suffering of one kind or another? Such a person would leave this life with little or no compassion for others, for they would have no knowledge of pain, no experience with it and no understanding of other's personal misery. Those

experiences are how we learn compassion for each other.

Few may truly understand why Jesus had to suffer as he did. He, too, "the firstborn", came to learn and to grow, just as we. When we come to know the truth and the reality of His life and experiences we will understand that, He came in the flesh, to become like us, living the perfect life and yet, a very difficult life, He has satisfied the demands of 'Universal Justice' by His willingness to endure the most extreme suffering and ultimately sacrifice His very life in our behalf. His suffering and that sacrifice made it possible for Him to be understanding and merciful in His judgement of all men. We are the recipients and benefactors of His unparalleled and painful sacrifice that he only endured because of His love for us.

"It is the best of times and the worst of times." We will experience great joy and some suffering but life will go on, generation after generation. We must always remember that our suffering will never be such as His. Too! It is important to know that the things that we suffer make us stronger, make us more sympathetic and understanding of our fellow sojourners. Who of us will not be more appreciative of the times that are 'best', when suffering has been temporarily suspended; times when we feel good and all of our family and friends are doing well. We have to know that sooner or later a painful event will occur, 'the worst of times', as they are often the times in which we grow wiser, stronger and more compassionate of our fellow travelers.

Guild of One-Name Studies Is Now Available at FamilySearch.org

- FamilySearch

The online resource helps people trace the possible origins and variations of their last name. The Guild of One-Name Studies, a charitable organization that promotes facts about given surnames, and FamilySearch International, a nonprofit and the largest genealogy organization in the world, announced today that the guild's collections will now be searchable at FamilySearch.org. The partnership gives guild members another source for preserving their great work while also allowing more researchers across the globe to benefit from exploring the variant spellings of their personal surnames and possibly connect with others throughout the world who have the same last name.

The study of one's last name (or surname) involves researching all known occurrences of that particular surname in all identifiable resources worldwide, as opposed to researching only the ancestors or descendants of a person. These rich compiled studies can assist a family history researcher to see the geographical distribution of surnames in their tree over centuries, which can help in reconstructing family lines bearing variants of those names. A common hope of customers who use surname studies is to identify the actual geographic locale of origin of a family surname. This outcome could very well happen for unique surnames, but common surnames that reflect an

occupation (such as "Farmer" or "Fisher") or patronymic-type surnames (such as "Johnson" or "Williamson") may not have a single place of origin.

Cliff Kemball, guild publicity manager, said, "The partnership with FamilySearch gives guild members another method of preserving their one-name study data. Their data is fully preserved for the long term, while still remaining within the control of guild members, who may update, replace, or delete it as their work develops."

The guild was founded in 1979 and has over 2,980 members studying over 8,935 individual surnames. The Guild of One-Name Studies website launched on April 1, 2016, and is continually expanding its list of surnames. The guild expects the volume of data submitted by guild members to increase significantly now that they can make their research contributions online. And teaming up with FamilySearch.org ensures that more people are making interesting discoveries about their surnames.

David Rencher, the chief genealogy officer for FamilySearch, said, "The rigorous standards and guidelines required by the Guild of One-Name Studies for members of the guild make this the highest quality data available for these surnames. Those who administer and oversee the collection of this data have spent decades collecting all instances of the surnames from a wide variety of records. Since many of these sources are yet to be made available on the Internet, this new set of records on FamilySearch.org is a rich new source of information."

To see if your surname has been researched by the guild community, go to FamilySearch.org. In the top menu, hover your mouse pointer over Search, and in the drop-down menu, click Genealogies. In the Last Names field, enter the surname you are interested in researching. Click the down arrow on the blue All button, and click Guild of One-name Studies. Then click the blue Search button.

More information about the guild can be found at one-name.org, where researchers can also register their own surnames.

Beware the Flash Drive Scam

-- Dick Eastman ·

Did you see an advertisement for a flash drive with 1 terabyte of memory or some other large amount of storage selling for about \$10? If so, don't fall for the scam. It isn't what it claims, it is Hackers in China listing flash drives for sale on eBay and elsewhere claiming the drives contain huge amounts of storage, 500 gigabytes, one terabyte, or even more. Prices are unbelievably low, typically \$10 or so. There is but one problem: it is fake Hackers have discovered a method of altering the settings in the flash drive's controller chip settings to report something that isn't true. The controller chip settings normally report the capacity of the drive: 8 gigabyte or 16 gigabytes, or

whatever true capacity the flash drive contains. These altered flash drives will actually work normally under low usage, which is why they fool many buyers at first. But once their true (low) capacity is exceeded, they will start quietly corrupting your data. The files may look okay in their folders, but you'll eventually discover most or all of your valuable data irretrievably gone. To be sure, some manufacturers are now producing flash drives that really do store 1 terabyte of data but they are expensive. See Amazon at <http://goo.gl/M1b5DF> for one example of a real 1 terabyte flash drive that sells for \$673.64. If the flash drive you see advertised has a price that seems too good to be true, it probably is. For more information, go to Google and search on "eBay fake flash" (with the quote marks) to learn more about this scam.

5 Tips for Finding Your British Ancestors

--by Tyler S. Stahle

So your ancestors are from Britain? What do you do now?

While having British ancestors is fairly common, finding them and adding them to your family tree can be a bit more difficult. Myko Clelland, outreach manager for Findmypast offered some valuable insight in his 2016 RootsTech address. Clelland offered tips on completing British research and outlined how Findmypast records collection can aid in your search.

Understand Where Your Ancestors Came From:

The biggest and most important question in British research is "Where did my ancestors come from?" Often we can know where they landed after leaving their home country. We know they're from Britain, but that's a large place. Start your search by narrowing down possible locations.

"Look for a record in the United States that might tell you where you're looking in Britain," suggested Clelland. "We need to look for records like a passenger list, declarations of intent, citizenship records, naturalizations, passport applications, and death records. If we can find a region-any location that someone's from-our job gets much easier."

Use a Map:

Few other tools are as important as a map when it comes to searching for your British ancestors.

"Keep a map with you at all times," advised Clelland. "There were 15,600 parishes in 1851, but there were only 623 civil registration districts, and there are 86 historic counties. These overlap. The borders have changed often. Sometimes you'll find your ancestors are in different places without ever having moved houses."

Passenger Lists:

If you're trying to get back to the old country, the best place to start is with passenger lists. However, British passenger lists before the 1800s are pretty much nonexistent. The majority of passenger lists you'll find begin in 1890, when the British government was determined to make sure that everything was recorded. Because of this, Clelland recommends using U.S. census and naturalization records to find a year of entry to narrow things down.

"Finding a year of entry will really help us," he said. "Liverpool and Southampton were the two most common points of departure, but that doesn't mean that your ancestors came from Liverpool or Southampton. Similarly, not all immigrants arrived in New York."

If you find a passenger list in the United States, Clelland says to write down the name of the ship, the date of arrival, and try to find that departure from British records.

Parish Records:

Parish records are church records and were recorded in every state in Britain. Typically, these records detail baptism, marriage, and burial dates across the nation. However, parish records can offer much more information, especially the records that came after 1812, when parish records were standardized by law.

"You can find occupations, place of residence, and age from parish records," said Clelland. "There are also some key dates to remember when we look at parish records. In 1752, our calendar changed. The first of the year used to begin on the 25 March, and we changed to 1 January. That means that when we look before that, the year starts a little earlier, and we need to work out when that moves over. We also lost 11 days, so remember that when you look at earlier records, you're 11 days out."

Clelland also identified other key dates to remember when perusing parish records:

- 1754: Hardwicke's marriage act made banns mandatory and marriages were recorded in a separate register.
- 1763: The minimum age of marriage was set at 16, unless a couple had special permission from a bishop.
- 1812: Rose's act required separate printed registers for baptisms, marriages, and deaths.
- 1853: The cemetery act allowed for civic cemeteries.

Census Records:

Luckily, quite a few British census records are available online, and the majority of them contain plenty of helpful information.

"The first census was taken in 1801 and every 10 years after that," said Clelland. "It's like a snapshot of daily life—a photograph of what the household was like at that particular time."

The 1841 census was the first to record names of each individual who was living in the household. Young adults over the age of 15 were typically rounded down to the nearest five, which is important to remember when you're searching for an ancestor.

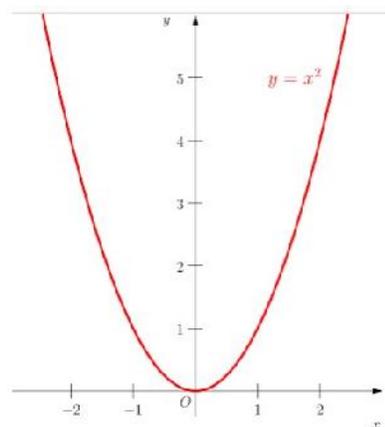
"You have to use a large amount of leeway just to make sure you're certain of finding them."

In 1851, the British census became much more informational.

"1851 was the first census to record full birth locations," said Clelland. "It gets more useful. Marital status, exact age, and relationship to the head of household is all included in 1851, and not necessarily in the earlier ones."

OFSL Quarterly Speaker Series

The Ogden FamilySearch Library is happy to welcome David and Anne Wirthlin to speak to us on 15 October 2016. They plan to talk on the subject: Nauvoo Temple, Past and Present. Elder and Sister Wirthlin presided over Nauvoo Temple for three and one-half years. They have also served in the Salt Lake Temple presidency, they presided over the Germany, Frankfurt Mission, and presided over the Provo MTC for three years. Sister Wirthlin has also served on the Young Women's General Board and in the Primary General Presidency. For a very enjoyable and insightful time, please plan to join us and the Library, 539 24th Street on Saturday October 15 at 10:00 AM. For additional information call the Library at 801-626-1132.



$y = x^2$. The graph of a quadratic function has a parabolic shape. The squares of numbers make a power law.

Two to the Tenth Power and Genealogy: Thoughts on Reality

-- James Tanner

If we were to use the formula "Y=X squared" to take 2 to the 10th power, the results would be $2*2=4*2=8*2=16*2=32*2=64*2=128*2=256*2=512*2=1024$. Since the number of your biological parents doubles in each succeeding ancestral generation, if you claim to have your genealogy complete back ten generations you are dealing with a possible 1024 Tenth Great-grandparents. I say "possible" because of pedigree

collapse. This is where two of your ancestors who married were related. For example, my parents may have been second cousins. Also my Great-grandfather had two wives who were cousins, so his children in each marriage were half-siblings and also cousins.

Now let's suppose we want to talk about reality. It might be interesting. Of course, if we go back one more generation, to the 11th generation, the number doubles to 2048. This whole process assumes we are only considering strictly biological parents and grandparents. From a genealogical standpoint, we should also add in step-parents, adopted parents, guardians and other legal and social relationships that are the equivalent of parents in a larger sense. When I did my original family survey about 30+ years ago, I found that some of the direct ancestral lines supposedly went back 19 generations. At that level, I had a potential 524,288 direct line ancestors. At that time, if I had a family group record for each of those ancestors, the stack of paper would have been over 40 feet high.

How about the real reality? How many people can really prove (source) every one of their family lines back ten generations? I have had family members researching all of my family lines for over 100 years. I am certainly not an average case. I am more likely a very exceptional case. Now, presently, we have a way to see what the sum total of all of those years of genealogical research has produced. For me, that method is the FamilySearch.org Family Tree. I can literally go back on every one of my lines and see if anyone can document with sources back even ten generations. In counting generations, the question is whether you or your parents are the "first" generation. The formula above and the most common way of numbering generations says that you are generation number one and your parents are generation number two and so forth. Here is what is presently in the Family Tree for the Tanner family in generation number ten. There are seven wives with obvious duplicates and 29 children listed. There are also 136 sources attached to the entry with only one saying he was born in Surrey, England, and, by the way, there are no additional sources connecting this Surrey, England William Tanner to the one in Rhode Island. Of course, this doesn't "prove" anything. Just because I have one line that peters out at the 10th generation is what? Nothing. But interestingly, as I work back on each of my family lines over the years, I am finding that documentation stretching back to the 10th generation is extremely rare. Most of my family lines are only documented to six generations.

By the way, if I started with the assumption that I really had over a half a million 19th generation ancestors and I picked some arbitrary number of children, say five, for each of those couples, I could quite literally be related to millions upon millions of people. Let me give one documented example. I am a descendant of three of the Mayflower passengers who arrived in America in 1620. Some estimates run as high as 35 million descendants of the 29 adult Mayflower passengers currently known to have descendants. See Wikipedia: The Mayflower Society. Let's assume some more reality. How many ancestors do I end up with going back just 10 generations? Remember, 1024 is the total in the tenth generation. So the real total adds all of the generational

numbers together or $1+2+4+8+16+32+64+128+256+512+1024$ or 2047 cumulative ancestors. If I just go back one more generation, I find the number jumps to 4095. One more generation brings me back to the Mayflower and a potential of 8191 direct line ancestors.

Of course my addition may be off since addition is not my best subject, but the number of potential relatives I have can easily be in the millions upon millions.

One of the conclusions that can be drawn from this type of reasoning is that no one can possibly say that their genealogical investigations are complete. Every time to you manage to go back one generation the potential number of ancestors and descendants at least doubles. From my own standpoint, estimates of the number of descendants of some of my Great-grandparents number in hundreds of thousands since they had multiple wives and as many as 23 children.

Granted there are a lot of people whose apparent potential ancestral lines seem limited or even non-existent. But what if they get a DNA test and start comparing the results on one of the online family tree programs? Isn't there the potential of identifying some relatives? Yes, once again it is a numbers game. DNA testing for genealogy is in its infancy. As more people publish their results, there is a greater and greater possibility of discovery and progress in identifying relatives.

But here is the real issue. As I research back in my ancestral lines, there is a mathematical certainty that other people are researching the same ancestors. How do I know that? What I mean is how can I find out who is researching the lines and keep from doing the same research over and over again? The answer today is online in the form of unified family trees. From my perspective, the best possibility is the FamilySearch.org Family Tree. Granted, it lacks documentation in many instances and there are controversies like the one I pointed out with William Tanner, but it does give the best solution presently available for sorting out these millions of possibilities. Right now, it lacks DNA evidence, but that evidence can certainly be used from one of the other online family tree programs to supplement the relationships discovered in the Family Tree.

The other conclusion is that no one can claim to have completed their genealogy. No one.

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