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Help with Your New Year's Resolutions

-- Elder and Sister Erickson

You'll like this. There are many wonderful, free classes for you to take this coming year at the Ogden FamilySearch Library. Some of them are brand new. We think you will enjoy them and they may satisfy some of your New Year's resolutions.

The Five Generation Exercise Class

One of the new classes is the Five Generations Exercise class, which is a lot of fun. You begin by printing off a pedigree chart for your father and your mother. The class then focuses on methodically working along their pedigree charts and standardizing, correcting, and adding to the information on each of your ancestors.

In a very short time you can develop a habit for fixing each person's page. If you follow the instructions, you'll become proficient at cleaning up date and place problems, resolving research hints and duplicates, organizing sources, and checking needed ordinance work.

Make the Five Generation Exercise class one of your more successful New Year's resolutions.

Especially for Family History Consultants and Advisors

This New Year the Library will add two classes beyond its successful Family History Consultant class. If you haven't taken the class taught by Sister Hepler yet, it's taught on the second Saturday of every month at 9:30 am. The class goal is to help you understand the resources available to you.

Adding to that excellent foundation are two classes that teach the basics of the FamilySearch Family Tree and the new Find-Take-Teach program. You can sign up for one class or both. Taught in two sessions, **The Basic Family Tree Class** is designed to assist family history consultants and leaders who do not yet feel comfortable working in the FamilySearch Family Tree program. The third class in the Family History Consultant series will give you the instruction and practice needed for working in the new **Find-Take-Teach Program** recommended by Church leaders. This third class is for those who already feel comfortable working in Family Tree.

For more information or to sign up, visit our website at www.ogdenfsl.org and click on the word "Classes" at the top. We look forward to seeing you at the Library this New Year!

On "The Price of Glitter"

- Emil Hanson

Oscar Wilde said; "There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it." Children and adults alike become more excited and alive when they see glitter or anything that appears shiny and valuable. But most of us learn early on in life that everything that glitters is not gold.

I thought this story about Sally's experience was very appropriate as we consider glitter; "Sally is flying out to meet her boyfriend. She falls asleep on the plane and dreams about this gorgeous diamond ring he'll give her. When she opens her eyes, she spots an even bigger diamond on the finger of Mrs. Goldstein, a matron sitting next to her. This is the mother of all diamonds, it is enormous, flawless, glittering... "My, that's some diamond you've got there," Sally says. "I've never seen anything like it." Mrs. Goldstein sighs. "I know my child. This is no ordinary diamond. It's the famous Goldstein diamond. But it comes with a terrible curse." "It does?" Sally moves to the edge of the seat. "So what's the curse?" Mrs. Goldstein sighs again. "Mister Goldstein."

There is, ordinarily, a price we all have to pay for whatever we get, whether it is merely glitter or, the real thing, gold. I remember reading about the Alaskan gold rush, men were flocking from all over to get to Alaska and be a part of all the wealth being taken from the ground. Many sold their homes or other family valuables to sponsor a family member to get there. At the same time there were those who felt that there was more money to be made by taking advantage of those who were called greenhorns coming to dig for gold. Many of those who were there to take advantage of them were gamblers. They enticed many who came to enter into a card game where they cheated them out of their grubstake. Con games of all kinds sprang up, one such con-man was a

man named Soapy Smith from the South, who at one time sold soap that didn't clean, one of his schemes in Alaska was operating a telegraph office. His office offered to send a telegram home to families telling them that their father, etc. had arrived and that all was well. However, the telegraph wire went from the office and dead ended in the snow behind the office. As far as the men knew their families had been notified that all was well with them. A town engineer shot and killed Soapy. The funeral services for Soapy Smith were held in a Skagway church he had donated funds to help build. The minister chose as the text for his sermon, a line from Proverbs XIII: "The way of transgressors is hard." Very few came back from Alaska with as much as they had brought to Alaska with them. All that glitters is not gold.

During the 1849 California gold rush the disaster was the loss of innocent Native American lives. The gold was found on land belonging to a Native American tribe and a large number of them were sacrificed in the name of gold. They were literally hunted and killed for living where they lived, and the killing was sanctioned by the state at one time. All that glitters is not gold.

The sacrifices men make in order to make a quick dollar, often costs them their fortune, whatever that may have been, or their very life. Many have been caught up in the desire for fame and fortune and have found their way to Hollywood, California. They were sure they had talents that would make them famous. Many, too many, end up in infamy. Tinsel town is mostly glitter. Someone once said, "You can take all the sincerity in Hollywood, place it in the navel of a firefly and still have room enough for three caraway seeds and producers heart."

Try not to be taken in, for earthly glitter is seldom gold and if it so happens to be gold there is a price to pay to get it, as Mrs. Goldstein said, the price might be a "Mister Goldstein."

OFSL Quarterly Speaker Series

-- Wayne Decker

We would like to welcome Armel O. Beardall as our January speaker. Bro. Beardell will speak on the Doctrinal Basis of Family History and Genealogy.

Armel O. Beardall was born to Owen Harris and Bernice Warner Beardall and was the one and only son in a family of five children. Raised in Springville, Utah, he attended schools there. At the age of nineteen Armel received a call to serve for two and one half years in the Northern Far East (Japan) mission.

Armel and Sharon Tonya Marziale (Sheri) were married in the Salt Lake LDS Temple on March 3, 1966. They are the parents of two daughters and four sons and at the present time have twenty-seven grandchildren. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a BS degree in Sociology and History, in 1969, and a MEd degree in Educational Curriculum and Instruction, in 1978.

After graduation from Brigham Young University Armel received a contract from the Church Educational system and thus all career moves and experiences have been centered in religious education for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He began as a released time seminary teacher at Ben Lomond seminary in Ogden Utah.

His concluding assignment for six years, was that of World-wide Director of Human Resource Services for 87 countries. At the end of 37 years of employment with the Church Educational System, he retired on August 1, 2006. After retirement, Sheri and Armel served for 18 months in the Family and Church History Mission where he served as 1st counselor to President Dennis E. Simmons. Armel has held many church callings, including president of the Ogden Utah Weber Stake. He now serves as a sealer in the Ogden Utah Temple.

Please join us at the Ogden FamilySearch Library, 539 24th Street Ogden, UT on January 21st 2017 at 10 am in Room 12 for his presentation. For additional information please call the Library at 801-626-1132.

Duplicates in FamilySearch's Family Tree: Why They're There, How to Find Them, and How to Resolve Them

--Karen Hanna

Kathryn Grant, a presenter at the 2014 BYU Family History Conference, said there are two important concepts to remember for researchers and contributors to FamilySearch's Family Tree.



The first point to remember is that a goal of Family Tree is to provide "one complete, accurate record for each person who has lived on the earth, linked to other records by correct relationships (parents, spouses, children) [emphasis added]." The second important concept to remember is that the records that have been submitted to Family Tree have been contributed to FamilySearch and its predecessor organizations over at least 100 years by many people and by many different means, bringing errors into the system and confusion for some researchers.

The goal for perfection or "one complete, accurate record for each person" is attainable, little by little, but we need to keep in mind that those who organized their records using older forms, the records from grandma or Uncle Joe, FamilySearch, New FamilySearch, and finally into FamilySearch's Family Tree, are fallible, and mistakes were made (And mistakes are continually made today by beginners and "experts" alike). The engineers who have brilliantly built the FamilySearch system are working to make everything as easy as possible. They respond quickly to the concerns of the users and fix problems as they arise.

Grant says, "A duplicate in Family Tree is any record that represents the same person as another record in Family Tree." These duplicates cause confusion, erroneous research, duplicate ordinances, and lost time that could be used in other research. Grant explained that the records in Family Tree come from three main sources: (1) New FamilySearch, the first foray of TempleReady online, which included the IGI, extracted vital records, and LDS member submissions, such as the three 3- and 4-generation sheets, and GEDCOMS; (2) LDS Church Membership Records, and (3) other user submissions.

Grant emphasized, "Family Tree was never meant to be an ongoing source of family names so we don't have to do our own research; rather, it's a collection of data gathered over many generations which needs to be validated and corrected so that we can find and add additional names."

She goes on to explain how to find and correct the duplicates in your common ancestors in the FamilySearch Family Tree. Her free training video explains how to take care of duplicates and gives examples and forms that can be used by researchers. The website is usabledesignmatters.com/fh/index.html .

Grant's concluding advice is to know our families, be accurate and reasonably complete as possible in our research and contributions to the online Family Tree. "With care, attention, and the help, we can resolve duplicates. Then we can do work for those who really need it, and we can be confident we are creating a record 'worthy of all acceptance."

Merging People in FamilySearch's Family Tree

-- Leslie Albrecht Huber

It might be exciting to find your great-grandmother in FamilySearch Family Tree. But what about finding her four times-each record with a little different information? This duplication can feel bewildering and frustrating. And yet finding an ancestor more than once in Family Tree is a fairly common occurrence. The reason for these duplicates (the term used when there are multiple records for the same individual) is because information in the tree comes from a variety of sources and because users can enter their own information directly into the tree. Although FamilySearch has put safeguards in place to prevent creating more duplicates, with the various points of information entry, it's still possible for an ancestor to end up in Family Tree more than once. Duplicate records make your tree messy, cause confusion, and can lead to wasted time. They often divide the known information about an ancestor into the separate records. One record might have accurate and thorough information about a person's birth while another record has information and sources about his death. Duplicate records also complicate relationships since in one version of the record, your great-grandmother

might be married to your great-grandfather but not have any parents while in another version, she might be listed her with her parents but not with a spouse. While looking at multiple versions of your great-grandma can be confusing, there is a solution to the duplication problem-merging the duplicated records. Because most people will encounter duplicates in their tree at one time or another, merging is an important skill for anyone to master.

The Merging Process

Merging, although not difficult, can feel intimidating-particularly if you are new to it! The most common error people make is attempting to complete the process too quickly. Take your time as you merge to make sure you are coming to the right conclusions, retaining the most accurate information, and documenting your conclusions. Also, the more you know about your ancestor when you start the merging process, the easier the process will be and the more confident you will feel that you are making the right judgment calls. Here are a few simple steps to help you in the process.

Find Possible Duplicates

The most straightforward way to locate duplicates on your tree is from a person's details page. In the Tools box at the bottom of the right column, click Possible Duplicates. A new page will open showing the person you are searching on the left and any possible duplicate on the right side of the page. If the system doesn't find a possible duplicate a message is shown indicating no duplicates found. Because of its stringent criteria, the Possible Duplicates search doesn't catch everything. If you suspect an ancestor has duplicates, try searching from the Find option located in the Family Tree menu at the top of the screen. Another place you might encounter possible duplicates is when adding a new person to your tree. FamilySearch will automatically search existing records to see if the person might already be in the tree. Similarly, when you add a historical record, FamilySearch will automatically find people who might be a match, which could include more than one version of the same person.

Review the Merge

On the Possible Duplicates screen, click Review Merge. A Merge Persons screen opens. On the top of the screen, you will see the overview of the two records being compared. You will merge the record on the right into the record on the left. If you would like to use the record on the right as the primary record, simply click Switch Positions. Scroll down the screen, comparing each piece of information as you consider the following questions.

Is the person a match? If, after reviewing the information, you are confident both records describe the same person, then you should continue with the merge. If you conclude the person is not a match, scroll down to the bottom of the screen, and click Not a Match. Once you determine the two people are not a match, FamilySearch will no longer offer merging the two records as a possibility. If you are unsure, don't merge the two records! Simply cancel the process, and go back to the person's details screen. Spend some time digging deeper and researching this person. You can always come

back and merge the records later.

For each field, do you want to add, replace, or reject the information? Arrows offer you choices for each field. If you choose "Replace," the information on the right will replace the information in that category on the left. If you choose "Reject," the information on the right will be deleted when the records are merged. If there is no information in the corresponding field on the left, you can choose "Add" to add the information. These fields include information about dates and places as well as relationships. Some pieces of information are automatically merged into the preserved person, and both sets of information are kept. This information includes sources that are shown at the bottom of the comparison. If you don't want that information saved, click Undo in the Sources box. Also, although anything stored in Memories (including photos, audio files, and stories) is not displayed on the "Review Merge" screen, this information is automatically stored with the preserved record.

Explain Your Reasons

When you have finished choosing which information to keep, click Continue Merge from the bottom of the screen. Before you can complete the process, you will be required to fill in a box labeled "Reason This Merge Is Correct." Although it may be tempting to simply type, "Same person" or something similar, take a moment to give a more thorough explanation. Including the ID numbers of both records, for example, can be helpful.

When Not to Merge

While the steps above will work in most circumstances, there are some special circumstances to consider. Most importantly, not all records can or should be merged! It's important to check each possible match carefully. Be sure not to merge:

- * Children of the same parents who have different birth dates. Sometimes the family wanted to ensure a family name survived. With infant and child mortality rates sometimes so high, families in many cultures sometimes gave more than one child the same name to increase the chances of the name continuing.
- * Records you aren't sure about. Do some more investigation before moving forward.

When You Can't Merge

FamilySearch does not allow you to merge:

- * Records of two living people.
- * Records of one living person and one deceased person. If needed, change the information on the living person's record to indicate that he or she is deceased and then merge the two records.
- * Records of two people whose information came from Latter-day Saint membership records.
- * Records of people of different sexes.

For help on these and other situations where you are unable to merge, contact support.

How to Unmerge

If you merge two records and then later learn you shouldn't have merged them, all is not lost! If no changes or only a few changes have occurred to the record since the merge, open the person's details screen, and scroll down to the Latest Changes box in the right column. Click Merge Completed. From this screen, click Unmerge to restore the old information.

4 Ways to Boost Your Research with FamilySearch's Research Wiki

-- Leslie Albrecht Huber

Once you've dug through the photos in your family's basement, called Great-aunt Mary to find out everything she knows about the family, and sifted through the file folders of old letters and other miscellaneous family papers, it's time to turn to research to uncover more about your ancestors. But how? Wouldn't it be nice if there was a one-stop shop where you could find out what records were available for each place your ancestors lived? Wouldn't it be convenient if there were one website that had information about how to make sense of any records you find? Here's the good news: there is such a website-FamilySearch's Family History Research Wiki! Although no single website could ever have absolutely everything you ever need to know about family history, with more than 84,000 articles covering 244 countries, the Family History Research Wiki comes pretty close! You can visit the wiki by going to FamilySearch.org/wiki/en, or, at the top of the FamilySearch.org home page, hover your mouse over Search, and then click Wiki. Much of the wiki is locality based. You can browse by locality by clicking the map or typing a place-name in the search field. You can also search the wiki by topic. Just type a keyword of a research topic or record you're interested in learning more about. Don't type in names of ancestors though. The wiki's purpose is to help you learn more about records, search strategies, and the "how to" part of family history. It's not designed to search for information about specific people. Use the FamilySearch wiki to find more info about your ancestors. Now that you know what the wiki is, you might be wondering what it can do for you. Simply put, the Family History Research Wiki can get your family history research on the fast track to success. Use the FamilySearch wiki to find more info about your ancestors. Here are four things it can help you do.

1. Gain a Bird's Eye View.

To find information about your family, you have to look in records created in the places in which family members lived. But what records should you use and how should you access them? The Family History Research Wiki is the perfect place to figure that out. The locality pages give you the overview you need to get started and figure out how to research about a place you may never have researched before. The pages often provide a general historical background and a discussion of major records and then direct you to the sources most likely to help. Should you focus on civil registration records or church records? Did census records exist in that place? What about probate records? The wiki can answer these questions. It will also include

information about what indexes have been created along with links to direct you to them. All this can streamline your efforts and help you avoid wasting time.

2. Dive Deeper in a Place.

A lot of the information on the wiki is organized around place jurisdictions (such as the state and the county). At the broadest level, you can find information about a country. But in most cases you can drill down much further. For example, each state in the United States has its own wiki page as do many counties. Looking at the wiki for different jurisdictions can be useful since the various pages contain different information about records that were created in those particular jurisdictions. On the locality page, you should find a list of topics. These topics include record types such as court records, church records, and newspapers with information specific to that place. You'll also find links to family history societies, archives, and libraries.

3. Find Resources That Solve Your Research Problems.

Use the FamilySearch wiki to find more info about your ancestors. If you're stuck on a research problem, there's a good chance the wiki can help you solve it. Are you researching in a country with an unfamiliar language? The wiki has word lists in several languages that have the most common words found in genealogical records along with their English translations. If you're stumped by the handwriting, a handwriting guide could be the perfect solution. If you need help navigating an important gazetteer or even making sense of the columns in census records, the wiki can help with that too. Other useful resources you can find in the wiki include letter writing guides, maps, and guides to using certain records, such as the Hamburg passenger lists.

4. Link to Other Great Resources.

The wiki contains a wealth of information on its own. But it doesn't operate in isolation. One of the best things it can do is link you to other valuable resources relevant to your research. When a wiki page talks about cemetery records, chances are that if there are any records online for a certain place, there will be a link directly to that collection. Links will lead you to record collections held by FamilySearch as well as collections on other websites. Generally, you'll also find a description of the collection so you can clearly understand its scope, such as years covered and how complete the collection is. In addition to links to records, you can sometimes find links to additional information on a topic. If you haven't spent time with FamilySearch's Family History Research Wiki before, give it a try, and see what it can do to boost your research. Even if you've used it before, it might be time to make another visit. One of the greatest things about the wiki is that it's constantly expanding. If you discover something you need that you can't find in the wiki, maybe you should consider doing some research yourself and adding it! After all, like other wikis, the Family History Research Wiki is open to contributions and is built by the community. This means it's only as good and complete as contributors make it.

Reminder

The Library is now closed for the Holidays. It will reopen with regular hours Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

Ogden FamilySearch Library, 539 24th Street, Ogden, UT 84401

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