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An Easy Way to Write Your Life Story in 2017

-- Elder and Sister Erickson

Have you wanted to write your life history? Have you wanted to leave some of your favorite experiences to your children and grandchildren? Perhaps you've even set a goal to write a personal history, but it's still unfinished. It can seem overwhelming. Now there is a fun way to start.

Check out FamilySearch's 52 Stories project. You'll find it at: familysearch.org/blog/en/52stories

Each week in 2017 FamilySearch will publish topic questions designed to trigger your memories. You just need to pick a topic out of a dozen choices each month and write about it in your journal, on your computer, or make a recording. But when you are done, you will have 52 stories toward your life history.

There is still time to answer January's questions. Try answering this one--What goals are you actively working toward right now?

Wondering where to store them? Try this--save them in your FamilySearch Memories. Or if the story is about an ancestor, save it in your ancestor's Memories.

What is the benefit? President Spencer W. Kimball of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints emphasized that recording and sharing glimpses of your life and your ancestors' lives is an invaluable part of building strong families. It will help you, and it will help your family.

Take the challenge to write one story a week this year. It can be a great gift that can help your children and your grandchildren. You may even want to end the year with a story about how you felt when you finally achieved your goal to write your life history!

On "YESTERDAY"

-- Emil Hanson

The song, "Yesterday", was one of the most popular songs for many years but we seldom hear it anymore. There were parts of it that were very meaningful and which made one contemplate life and lost youth. I have always had a difficult time hearing the lyrics while a song is being sung. Even though I have enjoyed the sound of it, I would just catch a word here and there. When I thought the words were worth looking up I have done so only to soon forget them. However, as an old man "yesterdays" are on my mind more than ever before. Why? Because yesterday all my troubles seemed so far away. Now it looks as though they're here to stay.' And 'yes, I believe in yesterday'. I believe it is important to describe ones 'yesterday' for future generations. They have a right to know what my youth and life was like. They have a right to know what your life and youth was like, too. There may even be lessons they can learn and life experiences that they may avoid; lessons that may save them heartache as well as headache. 'Suddenly, I realize, I'm not half the man I used to be' though I am not looking for 'a place to hide.' The song went on, see the lyrics below;

"Yesterday"

Yesterday all my troubles seemed so far away.

Now it looks as though they're here to stay.

Oh, I believe in yesterday.

Suddenly I'm not half the man I used to be.

There's a shadow hanging over me.

Oh, yesterday came suddenly.

Oh, I believe in yesterday. ...

(by John Lennon, Paul McCartney)

Will Rogers said, "Don't let yesterday take up too much of today." We can't, nor should we spend too much time on 'yesterday' but we need to spend enough time with our yesterday to make sure it is not lost to our children. I have a monthly date with my loving daughter and as we were on our date the other night, she expressed her concern for her mom and dad because there are many evidences of our getting older and more feeble. Tears came to her eyes as she said, "I'll miss both of you so much" I reminded her that our histories have been written and that she can read and be reminded of our rich and wonderful family life together. That any time she feels she misses us she can review our lives and then happy memories will flood her mind and smiles will replace the tears.

Elder Bednar reminded us that "When you cannot do what you use to do - you only do what matters most." What matters most to us now, is finding and recording as many of our ancestral family names as we can before we go to the other side." Write of your yesterdays, while you can still do it, include those you leave behind, so that they will know that you cared about their future

as you reviewed your past...the family's 'yesterdays'.

Ogden FamilySearch Library Class Schedule and Online Registration

-- Stephen Felt

The Ogden FamilySearch Library offers a host of classes each month. You may view a current schedule and register for classes on-line. Simply go to ogdenfsl.org, click on CLASSES. A list of classes by date and time is immediately visible.

For an alphabetical listing of classes: Under "Options" click on "Course" and select the course topic that interests you.

Information about a class is available by clicking on. The information includes the level (beginning, intermediate or advanced), number of sessions and course description.

To register or book a class click on. A booking confirmation will be e-mailed to you. You will also receive an e-mail reminder a few days before the class starts.

CLASSES

Classes are available at the Ogden FamilySearch Library.

If you need help, you may call 801-626-1132.



Options

Adults: [] Youth: [] Group Activities: []

Category: [any] [v]

Course: [any] [v]

Teacher: [any] [v]

Room: [any] [v]

Date and time

All times shown are in US Mountain timezone

Date	Classes	Teacher	Room	Available	Total	
January 2017						
Tuesday, 17 January 2017 11:00 AM	Intensive Image Capturing	Allen Hardison	13	13		[Info] [BOOK]
Tuesday, 17 January 2017 6:00 PM	Intensive Image Capturing	Allen Hardison	13	14		[Info] [BOOK]
Thursday, 19 January 2017 9:30 AM	American Research	Karen White	15	9	\$2	[Info] [BOOK]
Thursday, 19						

Confronting the Changes in the FamilySearch Family Tree

-- James Tanner

Rumblings and mumblings continue about changes being made to the FamilySearch.org Family Tree. Changes in the Family Tree are inevitable. That is exactly what it is designed to do. Changes are a sign that the Family Tree is healthy and growing as it should. In working with the patrons and missionaries at the Brigham Young University Family History Library this past week or so, I have once again been required to address complaints about the changes being made to the Family Tree.

I continue to write about the Family Tree because that is what I work with and support now nearly every day of my life. Ever since its introduction, the FamilySearch.org Family Tree has been the source of continued misunderstanding and, in some cases, antagonism over the issue of other users of the program making changes. If you spend any time at all working on the Family Tree, you will begin to see entries change. I will, once again, discuss both the reasons for these changes and how the effects of the ability to make changes can be minimalized.

First and foremost, the Family Tree is a wiki and has been designed to allow registered users to make changes. Except for very few entries that have been rendered "Read Only," all of the entries in the Family Tree can potentially be changed, edited or deleted. In some cases, the

ability to delete individuals and entries have been limited to allowing only the person who entered the entry or information to delete that entry or information. But other than these limit restrictions, everything in the Family Tree is subject to change.

The ability of the Family Tree to change is essential to its purpose and survival. Objections to the changes usually originate because of a lack of understanding of the Family Tree's purpose. The Family Tree is unique. It is the first time that an attempt has been made to create a universal family tree that accommodates entries for the entire human family and that has been seeded with over 100 years of previously accumulated data.

Some of the members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are also motivated to contribute to the Family Tree because it is the primary method for submitting family names for temple ordinances. See Gospel Topics: Temples. Although the percentage of members actually using the Family Tree for this purpose is very small compared to the total number of members of the Church.

I have focused my genealogical efforts on the Family Tree for the following reasons:

The Family Tree has the greatest potential of preserving my data for the future
The Family Tree is quickly becoming a unified source, like a clearing house, where I can determine how much genealogical research has already been done on any individual. Because of the unified nature of the Family Tree, I am much less likely to be duplicating the research of others

The Family Tree is supported by a vast database of original genealogical source records. Through the FamilySearch Partner Programs, I can significantly expand my research efforts into other vast collections of genealogically significant sources

There are many more reasons including the undeniable fact of my mortality and the undeniable implication that I will probably never finish doing all the research and organization that I need to do.

Now, what do I do about the changes? There is an unwarranted assumption that all changes are bad. That is an extremely egocentric position for anyone to take. My experience with the Family Tree is that most of the changes are beneficial. Those who complain about changes are usually focusing on a particular person or segment of their own portion of the Family Tree.

Over the years I have been working on the Family Tree, I have seen the number of changes in certain family lines almost disappear. I attribute this to the following actions that I and my family members have taken.

We have added all the available documentation, stories, photos and sources. This fact alone has nearly stopped any changes being made in my first six or seven generations as shown on the Family Tree. I consistently find that the people who are complaining about changes have not yet taken the time to add sources, documentation, stories, and photos (if available).

We watch all of the individuals in our area of focus and concern so that we get weekly

notifications from FamilySearch of any changes. We quickly modify or remove any inappropriate changes, especially those made without any supporting sources or documentation.

In some cases, we communicate with the people making the changes to ascertain the reason for the changes. We request documentation where none has been provided. We make comments about the existence of source information that can be used to decide the accuracy of the information already in the Family Tree. Where we have little or no data, we simply wait to make any corrections until we can do adequate research.

We welcome and thank others for well documented and appropriate changes. We avoid getting into change wars over remote ancestors with little or no documentation.

Of all these actions, the most important are watching the Family Tree and regularly reviewing the changes sent each week by FamilySearch.

Some changes are being made in an irrational manner. For example, we have an entirely undocumented person named Pardon Tanner who is repeatedly added to my third great-grandfather, John Tanner, as a child. There is no documentation of this person's existence and yet, he keeps appearing as an entry. In cases like this, there is really no way to prevent these bogus changes from occurring. We simply continue to watch the tree and remove him as a child when someone new puts that information into the Family Tree.

If you are one of those Family Tree users who goes for long periods of time without viewing or working on the Family Tree, I suggest that you realize that changes are inevitable and that, like weeds in an unattended garden, they will proliferate in the absence of constant care and consistent work.

The Periodical Source Index

- Holly T. Hansen

Commonly referred to as PERSI, the PERiodical Source Index is a comprehensive subject index to articles appearing in historical, genealogical, and ethnic publications. A periodical is a magazine, journal, or newsletter that is published weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or annually. Simply, it is a published work that appears in a new edition on a regular schedule.

You will be amazed at the amount of information gathered by small, local genealogical and historical societies located around the globe. Expert genealogists worldwide recognize PERSI as an essential tool for family history researchers.

The Allen County Public Library Foundation and the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center (ACPL) are the creators of this most valuable index. PERSI indexes articles appearing in more than 8,000 different periodical titles, and includes titles that are no longer published or considered defunct publications. They continue to add additional society periodicals to their holdings and the index. The ACPL holds over 11,000 periodical titles in their facility, so you can

expect to see PERSI continue to grow for quite some time. Side note: It would also be worth your time to take a trip to Indiana to research in this amazing genealogy center.

Findmypast, Internet Archive, and the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) have joined forces to expedite placing online the digital images of the periodical articles which have been indexed into PERSI. ACPL joins thousands of genealogical and historical society's publications and then houses their periodicals, along with their significant genealogy collection. Internet Archive has scanning equipment located in the basement of the ACPL that is used to scan the hard-copy periodicals. Findmypast takes care of the licensing, image uploading, and hosting of the digital collection. For full details on how this all works, you may want to read the blog article "Inside the Digital Revolution: The Power Behind PERSI" located on FindMyPast.com. FindMyPast updates the online index every quarter.

The bulk of articles indexed in PERSI are from periodicals that cover the United States and Canada. You can also find thousands of entries from the UK, Ireland, and Australia. This is a work in progress; not all articles have been digitized yet. If it's not online, you can order a hard copy of the article by mail or find a copy at a local library.

Understand the Index

PERSI is a subject-based index. It is not an every-name or every-word index. You will be searching terms assigned to each article by the indexer. The indexer reads the article and decides which subject to assign and what keywords to assign to the article. Subjects can be quite broad, such as "census," "military," or "War of 1812." Keywords will be more specific about the article.

Keep this in mind as you use the Index and create your search criteria. You're are unlikely to locate much if you only search for a specific ancestor's name, although that can happen if there is an article dedicated to that specific person.

Why Use Periodicals?

Periodicals are created on a local level and cover information that is usually location sensitive. They provide an endless supply of source materials. Periodicals contain transcripts of all kinds of records, they are filled with indexes, and they have pictures! You may find lists of genealogical resources that are not online and may not be online anytime soon. Remember, there is an overload of information out there. You must sift through it to find those resources designed to help you with your research. Periodicals are a good tool for sifting in the locale where your ancestors lived.

If you are doing location-based research-and you should be-you want to find periodicals that cover the area in which your family lived. The local periodical will tell you if there are places you have not yet looked.

Read genealogical periodicals for the education you will gain. Almost every issue will contain some type of how-to article for beginners and in-depth methodology for advanced researchers. Read the case studies. Don't be tempted to skip over the case studies because the article is not focused on your ancestor. The methodology the researcher used just may be the trick you need to break through to new ancestors. Read the case studies!!

Other researchers have been researching their family history for generations. They often publish their work in the local periodical. What if your ancestor is also their ancestor? You could find all kinds of data. It happens!

Be sure to read the entire series of a periodical. Many publications publish compiled genealogies, then place corrections and additions in later issues. Publications can help you break through those dead-end ancestor brick walls.

Genealogical periodicals allow members to publish queries, which are a great way to connect with others. Be sure to give help to others, as well as receiving it.

Book reviews are often part of the periodical literature. Peruse the book reviews carefully; they may list just the item you need. In addition, you may be able to find that book online or order it through Inter-library Loan from your local library.

New Records Available To Search

-- Dick Eastman

The following announcement was written by Findmypast:

Over 1.5 million new records and newspaper articles are available to search including;

Yorkshire & Derbyshire Methodist Baptisms

Yorkshire & Derbyshire Methodist Baptisms contains over 42,000 records that will allow you to see if your ancestor was baptized in a Methodist Church between 1795 and 1997. The collection covers the densely populated Sheffield district. Sheffield is located in South Yorkshire, traditionally part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and many of its suburbs stretch into Derbyshire.

Each record will provide you with a transcript created from original church records by the Sheffield & District Family History Society. The details in each record will vary, but most will include your ancestor's name, birth year, baptism date, denomination, chapel, place, parent's name and county.

Yorkshire & Derbyshire Methodist Marriages

Yorkshire & Derbyshire Methodist Marriages contains over 22,000 records. These records also cover the Sheffield district from the early years of the church until the 21st century. Within the collection, you will find records from eight branches of the Methodist Church: Free Methodist, Methodist, Methodist New Connection, Primitive Methodist, United Free Methodist, United Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist, and Wesleyan Reform Methodist.

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British Newspapers

Over 1.5 million new articles have been added to our collection of historic British Newspapers. Three brand new titles have also been added; the Cricket and Football Field, Lloyd's List and the Homeward Mail from India, China and the East.

Lloyd's List is one of the world's oldest continuously running journals, having provided weekly shipping news in London as early as 1734. Known simply as The List, it was begun by the proprietor of Lloyd's Coffee House in the City of London, England as a reliable and concise source of information for the merchants' agents and insurance underwriters who met regularly in his establishment in Lombard Street to negotiate insurance coverage for trading vessels. The Homeward Mail from India China and the East will be a huge boon for those researching the history of empire, or for those with British or Irish ancestors who lived in India.

Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions 1485-2014

Over 12,000 records of monumental inscriptions from St Nicholas Church, Chiswick, have been added to our collection of Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions. The records cover the years 1485 to 2014 and includes transcripts for each entry. While the amount of available information will vary from transcript to transcript, most will include a combination of your ancestors name, birth year, death year, dedication, place, monument type and inscription.

Inscriptions may include the names of others buried in that plot as well as more specific details regarding age and birth and death dates. This can be incredibly helpful as it can provide you with the names and dates of your ancestor's next of kin. Links you to a PDF document that includes histories, images, and burial ground plans for the churches represented in this collection are also included.

FamilySearch Reviews 2016 Accomplishments

-- The Ancestry Insider

FamilySearch 2016 accomplishments relative to: Family Tree FamilySearch recently published a review of their 2016 accomplishments, just as they did last year for 2015. As I did last year, I thought I'd present the information here, along with commentary, and a comparison with their 2015 accomplishments. I found a few surprises.

FamilySearch organized the accomplishments around the five discovery experiences presented in Steve Rockwood's 2016 RootsTech presentation.

Family Tree

In 2016, FamilySearch made Family Tree more stable, made it possible to merge duplicates, added more record hints, made record hints more accurate, added user-to-user messaging, and broadened the ability to identify your relationships to persons in Family Tree.

Facts and figures:

1.1 billion persons in FamilySearch Family Tree. FamilySearch has previously reported that 28

billion people have lived since 1500 AD. Few records exist that uniquely identify people who lived prior to that date. Had FamilySearch met their objective that there be no duplication in Family Tree, then the Tree would contain 4% of all the recorded people in the world's history. However, there is a lot of duplication in the Tree. 1.1 billion is the same size reported last year, so the number of new persons must be less than 100 million.

561,759 new contributors in 2016. This is up from 120,000 in 2015. I think this includes those who contribute in any way, not just the addition of persons.

3.45 million total contributors. That sounds high, but you have to remember that participation is considered a mandate for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Current Church membership stands at 15,634,199. It would take participation by just 2.2% of living Church members to reach 3.45 million contributors. Total contributors was up from 2.47 million in 2015.

FamilySearch 2016 accomplishments relative to: Searchable Records

"Millions more searchable records were added this year as employees and volunteers digitally converted FamilySearch's vaults of microfilm for online viewing and added millions of new record images from archives across the globe," wrote FamilySearch's Diane Sagers.

"Partnerships formed with other genealogy search companies, such as Ancestry.com, FindMyPast.com, and MyHeritage.com, broaden its searchable databases."

Around the world, 320 camera teams digitally preserved over 60 million records in 45 countries. FamilySearch reworked the U.S. census collections in 2016.

FamilySearch, along with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, other organizations, and 25,000 volunteers, indexed and published records from the Freedmen's Bureau. "These records are pivotal for African American research because they document freed slaves and others who struggled to redefine themselves after the Civil War."

Facts and figures:

5.57 billion total searchable records online. This is 260 million more than the 5.31 billion reported last year.

275 million total records indexed [during 2016]. This is up from 110 million in 2015. According to the math, volunteers indexed 15 million more names than FamilySearch published. Makes you wonder if they have a growing backlog.

37 million non-English records indexed. FamilySearch must be having trouble recruiting non-English language indexers, since that is just 13% of the total. On the positive side, 37 is up quite a bit from 19 million in 2015.

125 new 2016 historic records collections. This is down from 158 the previous year. 2,174 total collections. It was 2,049 at the end of 2015.

60 million record images published. FamilySearch cut in half the number of images, 122 million,

published in 2015. That is disappointing. One possible explanation is that FamilySearch now publishes some record images exclusively through their catalog-much the same way that NARA does with their catalog. If you are not using the catalog as your primary search mechanism, you are missing out on what looks to be millions of records.

FamilySearch 2016 accomplishments relative to: Help

"In 2016, FamilySearch added a Help Others feature to guide consultants and more experienced genealogists in assisting others. People seeking help provide their username and a helper number that allow helpers to look online at their records, find opportunities for research, and help guide that research," wrote FamilySearch's Diane Sagers.

Facts and figures:

15 million volunteer service hours. This is up from 12 million in 2015.

11 million of those hours contributed by indexers. Up from 9 million.

315,000 volunteer indexers. Up from 304,000.

3.7 million hours contributed by service missionaries. Up from 3.

4,807 service missionaries. Up quite a bit from 3,850.

4,960 FamilySearch Centers. Formerly called family history centers. Up from 4,891.

103 new centers this year. My math says the difference between 4,891 and 4,960 is 69, but there were centers that closed as well. The Layton FamilySearch Center alone replaced 48 family history centers (according to a 27 November 2016 article in The Davis Clipper).

3,108 centers outside the U.S. This is up 244 from 2,864 the previous year. This is wonderful news. Some countries of the world don't allow FamilySearch to loan microfilm. Researchers in those countries can now access records in their centers that aren't available otherwise.

1,852 centers in the U.S. This is down 175 from 2,027. This is discouraging since many records on FamilySearch.org are only available to the general public in FamilySearch centers.

FamilySearch 2016 accomplishments relative to: Discovery Experiences

In 2016, FamilySearch opened a new FamilySearch Center in Layton, Utah; broke ground for a large FamilySearch library in St. George, Utah, that will include discovery experience stations when it opens in 2017; and began remodeling the first floor of the Salt Lake family history library to include discovery experiences.

Facts and figures:

375,000 RootsTech Attendees. [Fine print: Includes in-person, online, and local Family Discovery Day events.] This is up 75,000 from RootsTech 2015.

133 million FamilySearch.org visits. In 2015 they reported 291,000 visits per day, which yields 106 million visits. (Techie comment: If I am not mistaken, FamilySearch uses the Adobe Omniture definition of a visit: If a person views a sequence of pages, that counts as a visit. If they take a break of more than 30 minutes, it counts as a new visit. If they visit for more than 12 hours, it counts as a new visit.)

7.4 million registered users.

FamilySearch 2016 accomplishments relative to: Memories

"Family history is about stories; it is more than dates and facts," said Steve Rockwood, CEO of FamilySearch. FamilySearch added the memories gallery view, added user-to-user messaging, and has the ability to make audio recordings.

Facts and figures:

5.6 million memories [stories, photographs, documents, and audio recordings] added in 2016. Last year FamilySearch reported a total of 10.3 million memories, so the total must be about 16 million.

4.7 million photos added. Added to the 9 million total last year, FamilySearch.org now has 14.5 million.

521,000 documents added. These are documents that users have scanned and uploaded to FamilySearch.org. They now have 1.6 million total. I hope everyone is scanning and uploading your home sources (birth, marriage, death, and military discharge certificates; funeral programs; newspaper announcements; Bible pages; etc.). Don't have a scanner? Use your cell phone camera.

362,000 stories added. With 747,000 last year, FamilySearch now reports having 1.1 million.

50,000 audio recordings added. FamilySearch reports the total is now 92,000 recordings. That is disappointing. Tom Jones has said, "What should be our first priority is to do what future generations cannot do." (Jessica Murray, "Answering the Big Genealogy Puzzle With Tom Jones," Ancestry [Blog] [<http://blogs.ancestry.com> : 25 August 2014].) Recording elderly relatives is one of those things.

For more information see "FamilySearch 2016 Year in Review" on the FamilySearch Blog and "FamilySearch 2016: Connecting families across generations" on the Deseret News website.