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**SEPTEMBER 2017**

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**Directors Corner:**

**It's been a Wonderful Summer!**

*-- Elder and Sister Erickson*

If you were able to make it to the Library this summer, thank you for attending. We've enjoyed meeting you. We've had an especially wonderful experience helping visitors discover their family history at two fun events-the recent Open House, and our Summertime program for the youth. Here are some things we showcased--

If you attended our Open House, you may have seen our newly introduced slide scanner. It's up and running and can digitize about 20-30 slides a minute at very high resolution. It's in the same room where our high-speed print photo scanner is located. If you have pictures or slides to scan, just ask, and we'll get a staff member to help you.

We hope you got to experience the new web-based indexing program. If you like iPads and tablets, this is the way to go. If you are interested, anyone can volunteer to help index the world's family history documents. We can show you how.

Our Discovery Screen in the east building also got some updated software-you can now see historical photos of cities where your ancestors lived. It will also show you what percentage of each ancestral country you're made up of.

We showed how to access the All the Stories application again this year, and it was a special experience. It gathers all the stories about any of your ancestors in the FamilySearch Family Tree into one place, and conveniently shows you your relationship to them. It's a humbling experience to see all the stories about your family in one place.

It was fun to see families visit the Library during the Open House. Over 100 family history coloring books were given to children. If your children missed getting theirs, bring them in and ask for their coloring book.

Also featured in the west building were two great opportunities, one fun and one serious. On the fun side, we demonstrated five family history games that can be played anywhere you can access the internet. You'll learn about your ancestors while having fun. We still have handouts, so pick one up for a friend.

On the serious side, we highlighted seven different ways to find ancestors who may need LDS ordinances. You can still get a handout with the web addresses of the seven different ways to search. If you are interested in taking a class on the subject, we teach how to find temple names with FamilySearch applications. Look for it in our classes at [ogdenfsl.org](http://ogdenfsl.org).

### **Summertime doesn't have to end!**

There is still plenty of time to bring in children 8 to 11 years of age for the fun summertime activity. In about an hour and a half the activity teaches how to be a family history detective. Children learn to discover clues about their ancestors from physical objects like photos, clothing, keepsakes, and even learn to find their ancestors' grave sites with the computer. They learn how these clues tell them about the personality, hobbies and interests of their ancestors. They enjoy trying some of the games their grandparents may have played. Gunny sack racing is a particular hit.

Thanks for your support of the Library and for coming in to see what is new. Everyone we met at the Open House seemed to enjoy the new FamilySearch related programs that are available now. If you missed the Open House you can still come in for handouts, and we'll help you access the new applications for a wonderful experience discovering your family across the generations.

## **On Being Special**

*-- Emil O. Hanson*

Family History is a very challenging endeavor. Why? Because each family and each individual in the family requires special and detailed research to assure that each of their records are correct and true. Accuracy is important or eventually someone else will have to do it all over. The total population of the earth, historically, has been estimated as just over 70 billion. That is a lot of individual persons to find and record. The scriptures tell us that each of us will be judged based on the Books of Remembrances that are kept. Our job, in family history, is only to record 'our family members' basic information and that can represent a lot of research. There are generations of our ancestors and each and every person that walked the earth during each generation is just as important as the next. That means that each person that is found and recorded has a special identity. Each of us may not be special to everyone else but we are special to those of our ancestors we love and who love us. Based on my understanding of the scriptures,

Heavenly Father loves each of us as we are loved in our families. We are special, and unique, and we are known by Him, the creator. It doesn't matter whether one is a Christian or of any other religion; we are all God's creations and His children. As family researchers, our responsibility is to seek out every person who has ever been born to this earth in our ancestral lines and accurately record their personal data. One might say we are each treated individually and 'special'. There are a lot of ways to

describe special even though we all have more things in common than we do things that are unique and different. For example, we all, most likely, find joy in the simple things of life... the smell of bacon n' eggs and pancakes in the morning. Fireflies flickering on a clear night... The fresh morning as the sun comes up and warms the day... The colors of a grand and peaceful sunset...A bee buzzing in a patch of spring flowers... The kindness in the smile of a stranger... The warm feeling of a hug from someone who loves us... The quiet sound of the ocean washing up along the shore. The twinkling of the stars in the sky... A special thought from someone who calls us, friend. "Thank you for being you!" Our name is the primary piece of information that is looked for in the records of the earth. Shakespeare once asked, (I believe it was in the play, 'Romeo and Juliet') "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

As a young boy my friends and I modified that famous line a little by saying, "What's in a name, manure by any other would smell the same." (not as sweet). I tend not to agree with Shakespeare for I know how important, to each of us, our name is. Regardless of how we may smell we would not want to be called by any other name than that which we were given by our parents when just a babe. I happen to believe that our names were selected by loving parents who thought very carefully about how their children would be addressed throughout their lives. My wife and I named six children and there is no question in my mind that we thought hard about each of those names. I know how demeaning it might be to some when their name is bypassed for a, "Hey you!", or how it might feel by some to be called, "Boy". When names are researched for their meaning, you will find that most names have meanings such as royal, grand, great, beautiful, strong, loyal, sweet, kind, etc. If there is not a significant meaning such as the above then they may have been named after an important ancestor or a great historical or famous person. When that special name of ours is spoken by family, friends or even strangers we immediately pay attention. Just as it should be, because that is our name and that makes us "special".

## Free Ogden Family History Conference

*-- Joyce and Frank Decaria*

With the free Ogden Family History Conference in the Weber State University's Shepherd Union Building only a few weeks away (Saturday, September 9th), all plans are moving along to guarantee the best conference yet!

This year's keynote speaker is Stephen M. Petersen, an Area Seventy. He is married to Pauline Grange Petersen, and together they have seven children. Elder Petersen is owner and president/CEO of Petersen Inc. He has been actively involved in various leadership positions in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He comes highly recommended and we look forward to hearing his keynote address.



Immediately following Elder Petersen's remarks, a presentation a tour will be offered in the Weber State University Library in the Special Collections Department, showing historical items and information that certainly will be of interest to many doing family histories and genealogical research. Some of the preserved items and information deal

with Ogden and Northern Utah. To see their online Special Collections webpage go to [https://library.weber.edu/collections/special collections](https://library.weber.edu/collections/special%20collections).

To see what workshops are being presented during the day and to sign up for the One-on-One assistance, visit the following site: [Ogden Family History Conference](#) .

Remember, as always, all day parking for the conference is free, food vendors will be selling lunch items, family history/genealogy vendors will be showing the latest and greatest items to help in research, and there will be a multiple prize drawing at 4:15 pm.

With all the new technological advances, there has never been a better time to learn about and do genealogy. You won't regret the time you spend on Saturday, September 9th. It will be a blessing to you and your ancestors. Hope to see you there!

## Rules of Genealogy

*-- James Tanner*

Back on July 1, 2014, I published the first six Rules of Genealogy. See "Six of Basic Rules of Genealogy." This short list included the most famous and basic rule of genealogy: "When the baby was born, the mother was there." Here is a list of those original six rules:

- Rule One: When the baby was born, the mother was there.
- Rule Two: Absence of an obituary or death record does not mean the person is still alive.
- Rule Three: Every person who ever lived has a unique birth order and a unique set of biological parents.
- Rule Four: There are always more records.
- Rule Five: You cannot get blood out of a turnip.
- Rule Six: Records move.

If these rules are new to you or you need a refresher, you can click on the link to the post back in 2014 above and read through them again. Given the reception of the original six rules, I should have added another one about genealogists, but I refrain from genealogical profiling. Considering my recent experience with contributions to the FamilySearch.org Family Tree, apparently, genealogists are not inclined to listen to or follow rules.

I finally think it is time to reveal the next four rules, rounding out the number to an easily remembered ten.

### **Rule Seven: Water and genealogical information flow downhill**

This is one of the most obvious of this small collection of rules but also the most difficult to understand. However, this rule was not codified until it was introduced by Claude E. Shannon in his paper written in 1948 called, "A Mathematical Theory of Communication." The concept is that of "Information Entropy."

Generally, entropy refers to disorder or uncertainty. Shannon entropy was introduced by Claude E. Shannon in his 1948 paper "A Mathematical Theory of Communication". Shannon entropy provides an absolute limit on the best possible average length of lossless encoding or compression of an information source.

Entropy is a lack of order or predictability and includes a gradual decline into disorder. How does this apply to genealogy? The answer is relatively simple. As all of the events in our lives occur, only certain events are recorded and become "history." Genealogical research is basically the process of discovering, evaluating and re-recording those recorded historical events. However, over time, historical records tend to be lost, i.e. the historical record gradually declines into a state of disorder. At some point, all of the information about a person or event disappears from discoverable historical records. Occasionally, re-recording of the historical information preserves portions well beyond the average, but for most individuals records of their lives cease to exist after a certain period of time. Hence, like water, genealogical information disappears into disorder over time. This means that proving that you are related to a certain king or other prominent figure is highly suspect.

#### **Rule Eight: Everything in Genealogy is connected (butterfly)**

The Butterfly Effect is well publicized. It is generally stated as the phenomenon whereby a minute localized change in a complex system can have large effects elsewhere. Most genealogists have the unfortunate propensity of viewing their ancestors as isolated individuals rather than in a cultural, social, religious and political complex. In my years of helping people with their research, I find that most genealogists stop searching at the "Big Three" records sets: censuses, vital records, and cemetery records. They fail to see the advantage gained by extending their research to all of their family members, their friends, and associates. Sometimes it is necessary to research an entire community to find one person.

#### **Rule Nine: There are patterns everywhere**

A family unit forms a pattern. It so happens that computer search programs are very good at detecting these patterns. If we use the programs to find patterns rather than focusing on the mundane names, dates, and places, we will begin to use the full power of the huge online genealogical database programs.

#### **Rule Ten: Read the fine print**

The idea of reading the fine print is to study and use all the information in the records and documents you discover. All too often, I find entries in family trees with a list of sources and upon examining the sources, I discover that the information in the sources has not been used to correct or modify the conclusions shown in the main entries. Read the fine print. Look at what you have and use the information you have already discovered.

There you go. All ten Rules. There might be more rules but these will work for a while.

## **Family.me Creates an Interactive Family Tree with Living Relatives**

*- Jan Mayer*

I have a love/hate relationship with social media. I'm grateful to see what's going on with family and friends, but I could do without public posts, personal rants, and self-serving selfies. This is why I am excited that Family.me, a new app that has partnered with FamilySearch, has created a private social network specifically for families. While it is not a messaging center, you can connect with your family's photos and get to know living relatives and your ancestors at the same time.

Family.me is available on both desktop and mobile devices and allows me to automatically load my existing FamilySearch family tree onto the site. Next, I add

information about living relatives. Once I invite family members to join my tree, they can add their own up-to-date photos. I can also tag photos with labels for different events or categories and add comments.

As soon as I registered, I was directed to download my family tree from FamilySearch. (See this tutorial for help connecting Family.me with your FamilySearch tree). It didn't take long before my tree was in place and I could start building the tree by adding living relatives.

Once I figured out how to add new names-and make sure they were the right gender-it was easy. (Note: The site automatically adds the person as a female unless you select the male option.) I started adding a few memories to my immediate family by dropping in photos from my computer and then tried adding one from Facebook. It was a simple process. The site also has options to import photos from other sources, including Google Drive, Dropbox, or Instagram.

The tags feature allows me to tag other family members in their memory, or I can tag specific descriptions, making it easy to search for the memory later. For example, I can use "wedding" to tag memories of family wedding traditions over the years. The more names and photos I added, the more excited I became. It was surprisingly touching to see all the people I love on the chart. My heart was full as I reflected about each person and the memories we shared. Watching the past merge into the present seemed to bring our family story to life.

## **MYHERITAGE ACQUIRES LEGACY FAMILY TREE**

*-- Legacy Family Tree*

We are proud to share with you the biggest step forward we have ever made with our Legacy Family Tree software and our FamilyTreeWebinars.com webinar series. We have entered into an acquisition agreement with MyHeritage, a leading global destination for family history and DNA with 91 million users in 196 countries. The acquisition will provide the resources and cutting edge technologies to advance and expand both our #1 rated software and our #1 rated webinar series. Think Legacy is good now? Watch out future - here we come!

How will all this affect you? Entirely positively. Here's a flavor of what you can expect in the future:

- \* A host of new features in Legacy software - we will be developing future versions of Legacy together. We have already started working on the new Tree Sync feature (to optionally have your Legacy file in a private or collaborative tree at MyHeritage)
- \* Improved webinar platform to surpass the 1,000-virtual seat limitation we currently have
- \* Significant discounts on MyHeritage services and DNA kits for Legacy users and webinar viewers not available anywhere else
- \* Most importantly, you can expect the same high-quality support and service that you have come to expect from us. The entire Legacy and webinar teams will continue on at MyHeritage in our existing roles.

"The more I've learned about and experimented with MyHeritage, the more I have felt we need to partner together," said Geoff Rasmussen, founder of the FamilyTreeWebinars.com webinar series and "the face" of Legacy Family Tree software. "The technology behind their online trees and historical records is incredible - second to none. MyHeritage has positioned itself to become the leader of the future of the genealogy industry and we can be a part of it. It's the perfect match - our software

and webinars combined with their resources, technologies, and international reach will help both of us accomplish our mission - to help the world find their ancestors."

We have published a separate article on our blog that addresses more of the details and has answers to questions you might have. Just as we are excited to contribute to the success of our new owners at MyHeritage, they, too, are anxious to elevate our Legacy software and webinar series to levels that have been beyond our reach.

## **WOW!**

### **What a Summer At the Ogden FamilySearch Library**

*-- Stephen Felt*

The Ogden FamilySearch Library hosted summer activities for groups of children, youth, adults and families. One evaluation by a children's group advisor stated "Make this activity required! All Wards should come and experience the Family Search Center." Another reads "You make learning family history fun." And another, "This was awesome. Your people were aware of all the girls' needs...beautifully done." (No we did not offer a bribe for such comments!)

Here are the numbers.

- 33 Children groups registered 307 children to become Family History Detectives.
- 14 youth groups registered 184 youth for a variety of family history activities including indexing, genealogy merit badge, temple names and family tree experiences.
- 5 adult groups registered 71 to participate in a variety of activities.
- 10 families registered children, youth and adults to have a fun interactive family history experience.

Are these adventures only held in the summer? No, they are available all year. So come on, make a reservation for your group or family by calling the Ogden FamilySearch Library at 801-626-1132.

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

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