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**Directors Corner:**  
**New Ogden FamilySearch Center Groundbreaking**

*--Elder and Sister Erickson*

FamilySearch held a groundbreaking ceremony January 8, 2018 for its new FamilySearch Center in Ogden, Utah, on the corner of Grant Avenue and 22nd Street. Elder Steven Merrill Petersen, the Area Seventy over the current Ogden FamilySearch Library, conducted the meeting held under a tent at the site. It is estimated the 12,000 square foot, two story facility will be completed in the spring of 2019.



Pictured above from the left is Elder Petersen, Elder and Sister Erickson—current directors of the Ogden FamilySearch Library, Ogden City Mayor Caldwell along with a member of the city government, Diane Loosle, vice president of FamilySearch’s Help Division and the director of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, and Emil and Joanne Hansen—past directors of the Ogden FamilySearch Library.

When complete, the discovery area within the Center will have fun, innovative family history experiences for patrons of all ages. Admission will be free to the public.

### **Joining the past, present, and future**

Elder Petersen noted that Ogden was once known as Junction City for those passing through the area. Ironically, he said the new Ogden FamilySearch Center “will serve as a junction between the past, present, and future. The Center will serve everyone in the future to help them tie their past to the present. As we look back, we move forward.” He said that the Center will be set in the heart of Ogden as a junction for everyone to gather, free of charge, to find their ancestors and to discover themselves.

### **About the new facility**

The LDS Church News reported that our Ogden FamilySearch Library “has been one of the largest and busiest facilities in nonprofit FamilySearch’s network of over 5,000 family history centers worldwide. It will be one of only five locations offering interactive discovery experiences.” They added that, “When complete, the new facility will span 12,000 square feet of space and offer free, world-class research services and fun, engaging activities designed to create personalized family discoveries. It will offer a unique gathering place for families with interactive and immersive discovery experiences for visitors of all ages, free access to online genealogical websites, and personal assistance. Many of the interactive features will use a patron’s family history in the FamilySearch Family Tree to create custom learning experiences.”

Before the new Center opens, help your friends and family to create a free account at FamilySearch.org and begin building their family tree, and adding favorite family stories and photos. This will help them have a better interactive experience when the new FamilySearch Center opens in 2019.

## **On Finding Freedom**

— Emil Hanson

It has always been amazing to me how we human beings are so much alike and at the same time so different. We all fall somewhere along a continuum in terms of intelligence, looks, weight, height, spirituality and etc. In regards to spirituality, we are so very different; there are young children that are spiritually mature and some elderly people who are devoid of the spirit. Why is one aglow and another not? Even within the same family, some members are alive spiritually and other members have little or no interest in things of the spirit?

The scriptures tell us that Jesus said: "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 7-8: 32) I believe therein is the key. If ye continue in the 'word' (the 'word' being the Gospel) then you will know the truth. So, if you do not continue in the 'word', you will not be blessed to know the truth and you will not feel free of those things that bind us in this world.

Many years ago President Garfield said: "The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable." Moving away from some of our comfortable but inappropriate behaviors can make us a little miserable. There are withdrawal pains from practically

all behavioral habits, not just drugs and/or alcohol.

There are several ways to view freedom or the state of being free. For example, there is a story about an Air Force C-130 airplane that was on a mission when an F-16 pilot flew his plane up next to it. The cocky fighter pilot told the C-130 pilot, "Watch this!" and promptly went into a barrel roll followed by a steep climb. He then finished with a sonic boom as he sped across the horizon. He then asked the C-130 pilot, "What do you think of that?" The C-130 pilot said, "That was impressive, but watch this!" The C-130 droned along for about five minutes, and then the C-130 pilot came back and said, "What did you think of that?" Puzzled, the F-16 pilot asked, "What the heck did you do?" The C-130 pilot said, "I stood up, stretched my legs, went to the bathroom, then I went to the back of the plane got myself a drink and a sweet roll" That was an expression of freedom that the F-16 pilot did not have, as he was scrunched up in his very small compact cockpit.

However, the freedom that the Lord was referring to might best be described by the following story. Doctor Gertrud Specht, an elderly female Professor of Theology at the University of Munich was given the Book of Mormon by a couple of young missionaries. She spoke at her baptism several weeks later. She said, "Before I'm baptized I'd like to tell you my feelings. In Amos 8:11, it says there will be a famine of the word of God. I've been in that famine for 76 years. ...I've been hungering for truth and have been unable to find it. Then eight and one-half weeks ago, two boys walked into my home. I want you to know these boys are very nice and wonderful young men, but they didn't convert me. They couldn't; they don't know enough." And then she smiled and said, "But since the day they walked in my door I have read the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price, all of Talmage's great writings, Evidence and Reconciliations by John A. Widtsoe and 22 other volumes of church doctrine. She said, "I don't think you members know what you have." Then in her quiet, powerful way, she said, "After those years of studying philosophy, I picked up the D&C and read a few little verses that answered some of the greatest questions of Aristotle and Socrates! When I read those verses, I wept for four hours." Then she said again ... "Don't you understand the world is in a famine? Don't you know we are starving for what you have? ...over these eight and one-half weeks, I have been able to feast in a way I have never known possible." Her powerful message ended with her favorite scripture, paraphrasing (John 7:8) "For don't you see, the truth can make you free." She was one who found the 'word', continued in it, and it set her free. So many of us struggle with being in the world with the problems that we all must face and endure. Problems of life are like puzzles that frustrate us and we struggle against them, trying to solve them or escape and set ourselves free from them. Instead of fighting them we need to try to understand them in the context of the value they may hold for us. We can conclude that their purpose and value, is to help us grow and gain experiences as we progress through this life.

While continuing in the 'Word' we must learn to accept our challenges and realize that, in the long run, they are freeing experiences. For as we learn and grow we are setting ourselves free from the unknown, the mental and spiritual darkness that may have enslaved us. I listened to the Tabernacle Choir sing the 'Battle Hymn of the Republic', this morning and I love the verse:" Christ was born to make men holy, let us live to

make men free”. May God bless us to learn the truth, share the truth, the truth that will set us free. I, for one, will never forget her words. “Don't you understand the world is in a famine? Don't you know we are starving for what you have?” We have to ask ourselves, “Do ‘WE’ even know and understand what we have?”

*[The following account, which claims to be from the mission journal of Elder Scott Anderson, has been making the rounds by email for several years (<http://holyfetch.com/gertrude-specht-really-know/>). - Emil Hanson]*

### **Do We Really Know What We Have?**

*As written by Scott Anderson in his journal.*

We had an unexpected moment in the mission field. We knocked on a door and a lady said something to us we had never heard, “Come in”. Now remember, I was a German missionary. This never happened to us, not even the members would say that to us. At this point suddenly this dear lady invited us in. My companion said, “Do you know who we are?” “You want to talk religion, don't you?” she said. “Yes we do” explained my companion.

“Oh, come in. I've watching you walk around the neighbourhood. I'm so excited to have you here. Please come into my study.” We went in and seated ourselves and she sat down behind the desk.

She looked at us with a smile, then pointed to three PhD's hanging over her head. one in theology, the study of religion, one in Philosophy, the study of ideas, and one in European History specializing in Christianity. She then kind of rubbed her hands together and said, “Do you see this row of books here?” We looked at a well arranged row of books. She then said, “I wrote them all. I'm the Theology professor at the University of Munich. I've been doing this for 41 years. I love to talk about religion. What would you like to discuss?” My inspired companion said, “We'd like to talk about the Book of Mormon.” She said,

“I don't know anything about the Book of Mormon.” He said, “I know”. Twenty minutes later we walked out of the room. We had handed her a Book of Mormon and this trade off that we had been on was over. I didn't see this lady for another 8 1/2 weeks.

It was a small room filled with people, {when I saw her again}, as she was standing in the front dressed in white. This Theology professor at the University of Munich was well known throughout Southern Germany. She stood up in front of this small congregation of people and said, “Before I'm baptized I'd like to tell you of my feelings. In Amos 8:11 it says, there will be a famine in the work of God. I've been in that famine for 76 years. Why do you think I have three PhD's? I've been hungering for the truth and have been unable to find it. Then 8 1/2 weeks ago, two boys walked into my home. I want you to know these boys are very nice and wonderful young men, but they didn't convert me. They couldn't; they don't know enough.” And then she smiled and said, “But since the day they walked in my door I have read the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price, all of Talmage's great writings, Evidence and Reconciliations by John A. Widtsoe and 22 other volumes of Church Doctrine.” She then said something which I think is a challenge for every one of us here. She said, “I don't think you members know what you have.”

Then in her quiet, powerful way, she said, “After those years of studying philosophy, I picked up the D & C and read a few little verses that answered some of the greatest questions of Aristotle and Socrates! When I read those verses, I wept for 4 hours.” Then she said again, “I don’t think you members know what you have. Don’t you understand the world is in a famine? Don’t you know we are starving for what you have? I am like a starving person being led to a feast. And over these 8 1/2 weeks I have been able to feast in a way I have never known possible.”

Her powerful message and her challenging question was then ended with her favourite scripture, “For you don’t see the truth can make you free.”

She said, “These missionaries don’t just carry membership in the church in their hands, they carry within their hands the power to make the atonement of Jesus Christ full force in my life. Today I’m going into the water and I’m going to make a covenant with Christ for the first time with proper authority. I’ve wanted to do this all my life.” None of us will forget the day she was baptized. When she got finished being baptized, she got back out and before she received the Holy Ghost, she stood and said, “Now I would like to talk about the Holy Ghost for a while.” She then gave a wonderful talk about the gift of the Holy Ghost.

*{Later in Elder Anderson’s journal}*

Two young missionaries, both relatively new, {one had been out about 5 months, the other 3 weeks}, accidentally knocked of the door of the seminary in Regensburg. 125 wonderful men were studying to become priests inside. They didn’t realize this was the door they had knocked on because it looked like any other door. They were invited in. In somewhat of a panic, the man said, “I am sorry we just don’t have time right now.” The 2 missionaries were relieved, but then he said, “Would you come back next Tuesday and spend 2 hours addressing all 125 of us and answer questions about your church?” They agreed that they would, and ran down the road screaming. They made a phone call to their mission president and cried for help. The mission president called us and said, “Do you think that dear lady that you have just brought into the church would like to come help these 2 missionaries with this assignment?” I called her to explain what was to happen, and she said, “more than I would like to eat, more than I would like to sleep, more than...” I said, “Fine, you don’t have to explain.”

We drove her to the seminary, and as we went in, she grabbed the 2 missionaries that had originally been invited, put her arms around them and said, “You are wonderful young men. Would each of you spend about 2 minutes bearing your testimony and then sit down and be quiet please?”

They were grateful for their assignment. They bore their testimony and then seated themselves. Then she got up and said, “For the next 30 minutes I would like to talk to you about historical apostasy.” She knew every date and fact. She had a PhD in this. She talked about everything that had been taken away from the great teachings the Saviour had given, mostly organizational, in the first part of her talk. The next 45 minutes were doctrinal.

She gave every point of doctrinal changes, when it happened and what had changed. By the time she was done, she looked at them and said, "In 1820 a boy walked into a grove of trees. He had been in a famine just like I have been. He knelt to pray, because he was hungry just like I have been. He saw God the Father and His Son. I know this is hard for you to believe that they could be two separate beings, but I know they are." she shared scriptures that showed that they were and then said, "I would like to talk about historical restoration of truth." she then, point by point, date by date, from the Doctrine and Covenants, put back the organizational structure of Christ's church. The last 20 minutes of her talk were absolutely brilliant. For the first time we realized that she had been their Theology professor. She continued by saying, "Last year when I was teaching you, I told you that I was still in a famine.

I have been led to a feast. I invite you to come." she finished with her testimony and sat down. What happened next was hard for me to understand. These 125 sincere, wonderful men stood and for the next 7 minutes, gave her a standing ovation. By the time 4 minutes had gone by I was crying. I remember standing and looking into their eyes and seeing the tears in their eyes too. I wondered why they were applauding after the message she had given. I asked many of them later. They said, "To hear someone so unashamed of the truth, to hear someone teaching with such power, to hear someone who finally has conviction."

### **The truth is what can set us free...Do we really know what we have?**

The sister in this story is Gertrude Specht and she was a real person. She was baptized at the age of 75. She also spent a lot of time and effort doing missionary work. A 1973 Ensign article mentioned her efforts in creating a large conference to help introduce people to the LDS Church. The following is taken from this article:

As a young woman Gertrud Specht attended the University of Munich from which she obtained a doctorate degree in economics. Later, while doing historical research, she became interested in genealogical work and spent a great deal of time collecting information concerning her ancestors without knowing why it was so important. She has always had a burning desire to learn. She speaks six languages and is currently, at the age of 78, enrolled in philosophy classes at the university. Because a doctorate degree is so respected in German society, she has been able to open many doors to the Church since her baptism. She was set apart as a district missionary and has helped many people gain testimonies of the gospel. She always attends their baptisms.

Sister Specht remarked that three years ago her life seemed all but over, but then came her conversion to the true church. She has been a member less than three years, having been baptized shortly before her 75th birthday. Now, she says, her life has "expanded to tremendous proportions."

Working with the press relations, she spent countless hours preparing for the conference. When she is asked where she gets her energy and how she keeps going the way she does, she answers that she can only stay healthy when she has a pressing reason for living and that there is nothing more worthwhile than living to serve the Lord.

Because of her efforts many favorable articles concerning the Church have appeared in German newspapers. Typical of these was an article that appeared in the Munchner Merkur on Friday, August 24. The article was headed “What Joseph Smith Saw Through Prophetic Glasses,” and went into some detail about the Church, the conference, and the Tabernacle Choir, but it began with two paragraphs about Sister Specht:

“She is resolved, full of grandmotherly grace, and when she speaks of her religion, her enthusiasm is that of a young girl’s. Mrs. Doctor Gertrud Specht (‘In my youth I studied political science, then history, and now I am studying philosophical theory and logic at the university.’) is 77 years old and is public relations director of the Munich Branch of the Mormon Church.

‘I was a good Catholic,’ Mrs. Doctor Specht said, ‘but I found myself in a crisis. I just couldn’t accept certain doctrines. Then I heard about the Mormons. They showed me what I felt, to be right, so I was baptized.’

In the year 2000, Professor Daniel Peterson, the Director of FARMS (Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies at BYU) received this email and asked Marc A. Schindler (who once was Gertrude Specht’s home teacher) to verify the story. Although he was not there when Sister Specht was converted and could not authenticate the story, he said that the journal entry from Elder Anderson is close to the story he remembers Sister Specht telling him about her conversion. Some facts may have been embellished, but he felt the majority of the story was accurate. Gertrude Specht died in 1986.

## What’s New: FamilySearch Places

*-- Leslie Albrecht Huber*

Anyone who has tried to uncover his or her family history knows that place is an integral part of every family’s story. The places our ancestors lived shaped their lives and experiences. They also determined what records were created about them. It makes sense, then, that to find our ancestors and understand their lives, we need to learn about the places they came from.



[FamilySearch](#) has a new tool called [FamilySearch Places](#), which makes learning about places easier. Although the development of this tool is ongoing, some great features are already available, so you can start using it now.

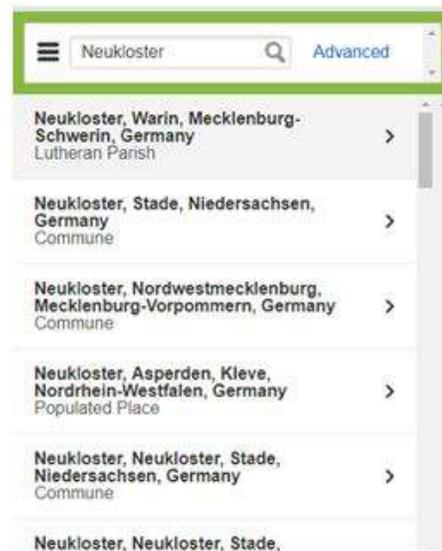
### Getting Started in Your Search

When you open the [FamilySearch Places](#) page, you’ll see a large map, with the FamilySearch main tabs across the top and a small search box near the upper left

corner. Getting started is as easy as typing a place-name in the box. The place can be a town, parish, county, state, or any other kind of place. If you aren't sure of the spelling, use wildcards in the place-name, such as "Neubrandenb\*rg," or use a tilde (~) to search for similar spellings (the tilde is usually found just left of the 1 key on a keyboard). With this flexibility, a search for "Providance~, Utah," would also find "Providence, Utah," and any similar place-names worldwide. The search results show possible place-name matches and identify the types of places they are. You may notice that the places in this database are the same ones used in FamilySearch when "standardizing" place information (such as birthplace or marriage place) about your ancestors.

If any historical constraints exist for a place, those will be included in the search results. For example, a search for "Wisconsin" will list the current state of Wisconsin as well as Wisconsin Territory, which lasted from 1836 to 1848. Such information may help you understand how your ancestor's home has changed through the years and how record-keeping may have changed for that location.

Consider how the following examples could help you research the place-names of your ancestors. Suppose that you searched for the place-name "Neukloster." From the results, you would see that this was the name of a town, a commune, and a Lutheran church. Next, suppose that you searched for a town named "Neustadt." You would see dozens of possible matches from many different countries. These broad search results can ensure that you have considered all possibilities in your research. Perhaps while researching your family, you come across a town name but do not have the full context of where that town was. Seeing a full list of places with this name would help you find all possible matches. (The corresponding map is interactive, allowing you to zoom in or out and move around.)



After you have searched for a place-name and narrowed the results to one that you are interested in, click it to view further details about the place. The details are organized into sections, starting with Basic Information and History. Some places will have a short and rather simple history. Other places, such as those that changed jurisdictions, will have a more complicated history. The History section will show which jurisdictions the place was under during different time periods and will direct you where to look for records in each period. Knowing where to find records is a key benefit of using the History section.

## Using Research Links

Below the History section of a selected place, you will find the Research Links section. Several of these connect to outside websites with place-focused information. For example, [TheClio.com](#) provides information about historical sites and museums near the place-name you searched, and [WhatWasThere.com](#) pins historical photos of the selected place to [Google Maps](#). The amount of information available on these outside resources will vary greatly. For some places, you'll find little, while for others, you'll find a rich collection of photos, histories, and facts.

Another research link you should use is the "Search for Records for This Place on FamilySearch." Clicking that link will search the [historical records of FamilySearch](#). Under the Records tab, you can see people in [Family Tree](#) who are associated with the place. Under the Collections tab, you can see records associated with the place. Keep in mind, though, that you are not searching the entire catalog, only the historical records. This means that the results will not include a list of possible records for that place. For example, if you searched for "Neukloster" and then clicked to search the historical records on FamilySearch, you would see the Mecklenburg-Schwerin censuses listed. However, you would not see the all-important (but unindexed) church records that were kept in Neukloster. You would need to search the catalog to find those. The other research links can provide a list of nearby places or other places found within that jurisdiction.

## Research Links

Local History on TheClio.com

Local History on HistoryPin.org

Local History on WhatWasThere.com

Search for Records for this Place on FamilySearch

Places Nearby (within 5 miles)

Places Within Neukloster, Warin, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany

Places Within the Same Jurisdiction

## Finding Alternate Names

Below the Research Links section, you will find the Alternate Names section. This lists other names the place was known by throughout history. Such information could be particularly important for places that have changed jurisdictions. For example, if you searched for the city of Gdansk, Poland, the results would show that Gdansk was also known as Danzig, with German listed as the language. This would give you a new lead to follow in the search for your ancestor's hometown, as well as an understanding of how the city records may have been kept and how they may now be categorized. You may find similar information about a place in the History section.

## Alternate Names

Name	Language
Gdańsk	Polish
danzig	Polish
Gdańsk	Polish
Powiat miejski Gdańsk	Polish
Danzig	German
Dantiscum	Latin
Dantis	Latin
Gedanum	Latin
Gdansk	Polish

## Exploring Additional Information

The final section of the basic search results is the Additional Information section. What you find here will vary. In this example for Wayne County, Utah, you can see a Wikipedia link and a [FamilySearch Wiki](#) link. The Wikipedia link explains a

## Additional Information

Name	Value	Year
NGA Population	2177	
Wikipedia link	<a href="#">Wikipedia link</a>	
FamilySearch Wiki Link	<a href="#">FamilySearch Wiki Link</a>	

little about the geography of the place and provides links to some of the towns. The FamilySearch Wiki provides a wealth of information about records and resources. Reading through these would be a great way to jump-start your research for a location since it will familiarize you with the important records for the area and tell you how to access them.

If you'd like to explore further with place-name searches, experiment with the advanced search. Because the [FamilySearch Places](#) tool is still under construction, you should expect changes and adjustments as improvements are made. But why wait? Go ahead and explore the latest features now. With this place-centered resource, [FamilySearch](#) has made it more convenient than ever to lay the foundation you need to understand where your ancestors came from and know how to find them!

## **TheGenealogist Releases More than 5 Million U.S. Records**

— Dick Eastman

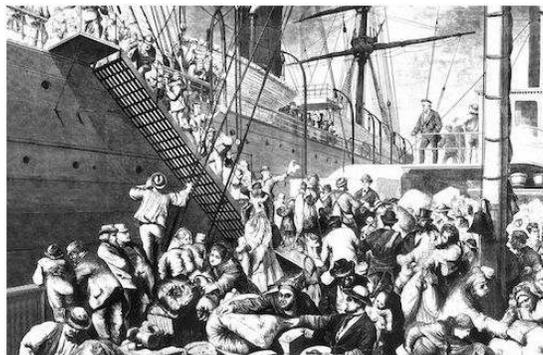
The following announcement was written by the folks at TheGenealogist:

TheGenealogist has added over 5 Million passenger records to their US records, featuring people that migrated to the USA between 1834 and 1900. The mass movement of people from one country to another isn't a new thing. The motivation can be economic, political upheaval or religious persecution.

The data covers:

- 3,956,780 German passengers who arrived in the United States between 1850 and 1897
- 836,122 Italians immigrating into the USA between 1855 – 1900
- 522,638 Russians who emigrated to America from 1834 to 1897

Most were drawn to the U.S.A by the attractions of land and religious freedom, after being forced to leave Europe by shortages of land and religious or political oppression.



*“From the Old to the New World” shows German emigrants boarding a steamer in Hamburg, Germany, to come to America. Image published in Harper’s Weekly, (New York) November 7, 1874 (Public Domain).*

This release joins the millions of US census, death records, trade directories, wills and poll books already available on TheGenealogist.

## The Ogden FamilySearch Library is in need

— OFSL

### Technology Specialists Needed

**Our Thanks to Ron Jepperson.** We are grateful for the many years of service Ron Jepperson has put into keeping the computers, network and other equipment running at the Library. We can't thank him enough for his long hours of service, problem solving and expertise. He had a gift for solving problems just by walking up to computers! They always seemed to work when he came by.

**We are now in need of help.** We would like to have a technology specialist on each shift to help with keeping the computers and printers running. The technology specialist can serve as either a Church Service Missionary or as a volunteer. Church Service Missionaries serve a minimum of 8 hours a week (two shifts). Volunteers serve at least one four hour shift.

**Job Description.** We envision the technology specialist helping staff and patrons with technology related problems. Examples of service include:

- teaching patrons how to scan photos, documents and slides;
- showing patrons how to print from a computer, including selecting letter size or legal size paper or changing to a different printer, if necessary
- transferring patron files from floppy disks to flash drives;
- helping instructors with projectors and slide show issues;
- rebooting computers, such as after a power outage;
- clearing printer jams;
- opening a patron's nonstandard formats, such as ".wpd" or converting .png to .jpg;
- helping patrons scan microfilm images to a flash drive.

**Training.** Learn how to service and troubleshoot the Library's current and new electronic equipment as needed. Also learn the basics of FamilySearch Family Tree and, when not helping with technology issues, learn how to assist patrons with their family history or Family Tree issues.

Contact Elder and Sister Erickson at 801-626-1132 if you are interested.

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