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Directors Corner:

Looking to the past with DNA shows Family History's Future

Elder and Sister Erickson

On Saturday, April 21, 2018, the Ogden FamilySearch Library was blessed to have world renowned DNA expert Scott R. Woodward as its quarterly speaker. His presentation was so interesting that the audience kept him answering questions for an extra hour.

Dr. Woodward has devoted his personal and professional life to the use of DNA in genealogical identification. That passion began in the deserts of Egypt. By the 1990's huge cemeteries had been excavated, containing possibly hundreds of thousands of bodies, with no documentation as to their identities. Brother Woodward, a microbiologist and molecular biologist teaching at BYU, was asked if DNA could be used to find out more information on who these people were. Dr. Woodward and his team conducted research on DNA recovered from those buried there. While there were no records or names for these individuals, he and his group were able to find certain genetic material that helped identify family relationships.

The question of whether DNA research could be used for genealogical identification led to the formation of the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation in 1999. Dr. Woodward served as Director of the Foundation, which

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genealogical information.

Dr. Woodward worked on that project for many years. He said the data collected was also important in illustrating the commonalities that exist in all of us. He explained that everyone has common ancestors. If you look at any two people in the world, and go back about 17 generations, you will see common ancestors. If you do the math and go back 30 generations, a person will have approximately a billion direct line ancestors. But there were not that many people living on the earth at that time. That tells us there is a point where we all share common ancestors, and permits us to make the family tree smaller.

The Sorenson database was later acquired by Ancestry.com. Dr. Woodward continued to work in this area for Ancestry. Ancestry currently has 8 million people in its databank. Its goal is to combine DNA and genealogy. Other DNA/genealogy companies are also working on DNA in family history, but their databanks are currently smaller.

Dr. Woodward explained that there are 3.2 billion pieces of information in each person's DNA. The science of DNA has improved greatly over the years. When he looks back on the research he was doing in Egypt years ago, the DNA samples only showed them about 1/500,000th of the information that is available to be looked at in DNA samples today. Dr. Woodward was asked if these DNA collection companies are updating their testing of samples previously submitted. He said he was aware of Ancestry's practice and that they update test results without requiring submission of a new sample.

Dr. Woodward was asked why DNA results can be so different in non-identical siblings. He said that DNA from shared ancestors is not passed on in equal portions to each sibling. While we each receive 50% of our DNA from each parent, it is not the same DNA. With each generation, the DNA from prior generations becomes more mixed. Siblings will manifest traits that vary from each other and their DNA results can also differ significantly, again depending on the particular DNA patterns passed down. On average, siblings only have about 50% of each other's DNA.

Dr. Woodward concluded by stating that on the day a person is born, that person's DNA is located in his or her city of birth. Prior to that, however, that person's genetic makeup was located wherever their parents, grandparents, and great grandparents were living at any given time, and back through each of their ancestors. Accordingly, Dr. Woodward believes it would be more accurate to have DNA results refer to the places where a person's DNA clusters were located at a certain time, rather than refer to a person's "ethnicity."

We are grateful to have had DNA pioneer Scott Woodward generously share his time with us.

On Malachi, "The messenger"

-- Emil O. Hanson

A modern dictionary describes Malachi as "One Minor Prophet of the 5th century BC" Malachi was the last of the twelve prophets whose writings were included in the Old Testament. In Hebrew the name Mal'akhi means literally "my messenger," others have translated it to mean "My Angel". Malachi was hardly a minor prophet, from my point

heathen, saith the Lord of hosts, But you have profaned it...ye have snuffed at it... (Speaking of the former people of Israel's, as well as some of us today). Referring to sacrifices and offerings the Lord said: "...ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: (Speaking of the time when Israel was making animal sacrifices, supposedly w/o blemish.) But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificed unto the Lord, a corrupt thing:" "...should I accept this of your hand? saith the Lord." (*Mal 1:14*).

Malachi is warning us to offer an acceptable offering (for example, a full ten percent tithing) unto the Lord. Too, we should serve with joy when we make the sacrifices of our time and service. Each of us might ask ourselves if our sacrifices are such that they are going to be accepted of the Lord. How do we know, when we are ready to go to the other side, whether we will be accepted of the Lord? Malachi answers that question by saying; "But who may abide the day of his coming and who shall stand when he appeareth, for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness."(*Mal.3:2*).

Some may feel that he is referring to only the priests who made sacrifices in times past. I would rather believe that he is referring to us all. A simple Silversmith (purifier of silver) described what Malachi was saying; 'The silversmith sits in front of the furnace as the silver ore is fired in a stone container. When he sees his image in the silver as it melts away from the ore that is when he must take it from the furnace. The Lord revealed to Alma, a book of Mormon prophet, what he meant by that when he asked. "Have Ye Received His Image in Your Countenances?" (*Alma 5.43-48*) Malachi's description from the Lord, referred also to the furnace - or the world we now live in. The world that we all must experience. There is definitely a purging we go through on earth and to qualify, to go on, we must accept the Master, the God of Earth and Heaven. One who truly believes, will have His image in his countenance; an image of love, kindness and sacrifice. The Lord, Himself having made the greatest sacrifice of all.

New Calling Information Available for Temple and Family History Consultants

-- *Rachel L. Matheus (FamilySearch Blog,)*

During the **Family History Leadership Session at RootsTech 2018**, Elder Bradley D. Foster, General Authority Seventy and Executive Director of the Family History Department, **invited each temple and family history consultant** to "go to the many resources on [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)" to get help as each strives to minister one by one to those they are called to serve.

One of those many resources is a new "[Learn about My Calling](#)" page now available on FamilySearch.

This page highlights the three most important things to learn and do in your calling as a temple and family history consultant:

1. Learn from the prophets and apostles.
2. Have a personalized family history experience.
3. Learn how to help others using key principles.

In conjunction with this page, newly called temple and family history consultants will receive emails inviting them

Area and stake temple and family history consultants will also receive an email informing them when a new consultant has been called and how to contact him or her to provide the training the new consultant will need to help others.

Throughout this page and these emails, you will find inspirational videos and specific instructions that will help you to minister to others, one by one, as the Savior did. These resources, when used with prayer and guidance from the Holy Ghost, will assist you in helping others discover, gather, and connect with their families. Visit the [Learn about My Calling](#) page today to learn more.

The Art of Storytelling

NEW CLASS at OFSL

- *Stephen Felt*

This new class will give you insights in becoming a story teller.

The Art of Storytelling is a free, one session, beginning level class. It will be taught the evening of Tuesday, May 8th, 7:00 - 8:30. The instructors, Rachel Trotter and Rhonda Lauritzen, have given an excellent presentations at the Ogden FamilySearch Library and at the Ogden Family History Conference at Weber State University.

Family historians preserve stories to convey values and inspire future generations. We also know this...truth is better than fiction. This is a dynamic workshop, peppered with real-life examples, will bring family writing alive. Bonus: learn a technique to discover any story's arc (thanks, Hollywood).

There is no registration required for this class as it will be taught in a room capable of seating over 50 people. Come early so you can get a soft chair.

OFSL Cemetery Tour

Mark your calendars and don't forget the annual OFSL cemetery tour!

It will take place Saturday June 9 & Monday June 11.

For more information contact Joanne Hanson 801-644-3234

FamilySearch Adds 2 Billionth Image of Genealogy Records

— *Dick Eastman*

2 Billion Records at a Glance	
Region	Images
Africa and Pacific	48,421,321

time to take another look at FamilySearch's online offerings. The genealogy giant's free online databases of digitized historical documents have now surpassed 2 billion images of genealogy records with millions more being added weekly from countries around the world. Nonprofit FamilySearch, a global leader in historical genealogy records preservation and access, announced the milestone today.

Latin America	267,305,837
North America	711,674,106
Other	229,411,161



Last September FamilySearch transitioned from its microfilm circulation services to a new digital model that makes its massive genealogical records collections more broadly and readily accessible online (See [UPDATE: FamilySearch Digital Records Access Replacing Microfilm](#)). Today's announcement reinforces its continuing commitment to grow online genealogy resources. FamilySearch currently adds over 300 million new images a year online from its microfilm to digital and field operations efforts.

The free genealogy records include censuses, birth, marriage, death, court, immigration and other document types that are invaluable for individuals to make personal family history discoveries and connections. A host of online volunteers (See [FamilySearch Indexing](#)), partners, and emerging technologies help to eventually create searchable name indexes to the images, but in the meantime, images (digital photos) can be browsed and saved.

The digital image only collections can be viewed at FamilySearch in three points of access:

- The **catalog** includes a description of all microfilms and digital images in FamilySearch images. New images from field operations or digitized microfilms are added daily.
- Historical **records** include collections that have searchable name databases or some waypoints to help in browsing unindexed images.
- **Books** include digital copies of local histories and published genealogies from the FamilySearch Family History Library in Salt Lake City and other affiliate libraries. This includes many books that were previously preserved on microfilm.

FamilySearch traces its preservation work to 1938 when its forerunner, the Genealogical Society of Utah, began microfilming historical genealogy documents. Eighty years later, the preservation science has changed from microfilming to digital preservation which creates convenient access to anyone with an internet connection. Today, FamilySearch has over 300 mobile digitization teams with specialized cameras, filming genealogy documents on location from archives worldwide. It also partners with libraries and societies to digitize their historical books and other relevant publications.

FamilySearch has billions more indexed records that are searchable by name online, and robust, free collaborative Family Tree and Memories features and mobile apps. To explore its records and images and these services, simply create a free account and start searching.

Oaden Family History

(For adults and youth 12 and up)

DateSeptember 8, 2018
WhereWeber State University Union Building
Time8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Unbelievable *how much fun* **the youth**

Will have at this Family History Conference!

Family History Bingo
Family History Jeopardy
New APPS
And Much, Much More!
and

Prizes, Prizes and more Prizes!!

(Stay tuned... more to come)

Kathy Davis

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

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