



***This is the final issue of the Ogden FamilySearch Library newsletter. For the past several years it has been published and emailed to many interested folks and hardcopies have been made available at the Library for staff and walk in patrons. However as time marches on many things have to change and the newsletter is not a necessary item for the Library to continue as it transitions to its new mission.***

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**On “Baptism for the Dead – Historically”**

*-- Emil O Hanson*

Baptism is a required ordinance of the gospel of Jesus Christ and is necessary for everyone desiring to receive eternal salvation. All must follow the Savior’s admonition, in respect to baptism as He, himself, set the example. Eamonn McCann (not a Mormon) wrote an article in August of 2008 entitled, “Baptizing the Dead - What if Latter-Day-Saints (Mormons) are right and...(other Christian denominations) are wrong?” In his first statement he says: “Given Christian teaching, does it make more sense to baptize dead adults rather than live babies? A tiny infant will have as much understanding as a dead person of the complex philosophical belief-system it’s being inducted into when baptized.” Mormons do not baptize babies, while most Christian churches practice infant baptism - (*Wikipedia - Infant Baptism*) Baptism is recognized in the scriptures as an ordinance to cleanse the person of their sins, that they might come forth a new person, being reborn, so to speak. (Infants are already pure before God).

Most Christian Churches today still believe in what is referred to as the ‘Original Sin’, meaning that Adam’s transgression has been laid upon every living soul that is born to earth and thus the purpose of infant baptism for those who believe that. Members of the LDS church believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam’s transgression. Therefore only those who are capable of having sinned are baptized. Mormon, the great Nephite general and prophet, in writing to his son Moroni stated, “Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord, and your God. Behold, I came into the world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance; the whole need no physician, but they that are sick; wherefore, little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them;” (*Moroni 8:8*) McCann added: “...given that all Christian churches believe that the soul lives on after death and retains understanding and consciousness of self, doesn’t it make more sense to baptize dead adults than live babies?” The early Christians were energetic in their baptizing of the dead. In the ancient Church, there was a belief that when Christ released from hell, the spirits of those who had been waiting for him with faith, that relief [salvation] of the deceased was possible.” (*1 Peter 3:18-20; 4:6; Ephesians 4:8-10*).

In Sergei Antonenko's 2005 article, he quotes from an apocryphal biblical text, (*Jes. Syr. 7:36:*) "Let the grace be given to every living, but those who died shall not be robbed of the grace also." McCann quoted another article where Catholic bishops complained when the National Library of Dublin made their records available to the LDS

Church so that they might baptize those souls enumerated in them. The Vatican warned that the Mormons were misusing diocesan records." McCann wisely stated that "...if the Catholic bishops hold that the beliefs of the Mormons are pure baloney, and their rituals therefore, are perfectly meaningless, how can it matter to them what mumbo-jumbo Mormons might mutter over Catholic cadavers (names)?"

The LDS Church clearly teaches that those who have died may choose (agency) to accept or reject the baptism done on their behalf. Are modern day, Christians generally not concerned about the fate of the billions of people (ancestors) who have lived on the earth without having heard of Christ, let alone being given the instructions leading them to their salvation?

When the official church was just becoming the State religion of the Roman Empire, the Synods (conventions) of Hippo (393 A.D.) and Carthage (397 A.D.) after bitter debate, declared that, "The Eucharist shall not be given to dead bodies, nor baptism conferred upon them." There were bitter debates in those meetings, it is therefore obvious that not all of the early Christian leaders in attendance agreed with the decision to cease baptizing for the dead." The early Christians had been energetic in their baptizing of the dead. Prayer for the dead, in many cases, replaced baptism for the dead. When the instruction is clear, that baptism is the way and the path one must follow, why would anyone assume that a prayer will suffice? (Words without works). In Antonenko's article, he briefly outlined the LDS beliefs on genealogy and proxy work. Saying, "...it is a bold, radical solution to the theological problem of what happens to those who weren't exposed to the teachings of Christ." Maybe one day all Christians will come to praise what the Mormons have done and will be doing, for all of our kindred dead.

Just how important is this work for our dead? "The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us, is to seek after our dead. Because we cannot be saved without them, it is necessary that those who have gone before and those who come after us should have salvation in common with us, and thus hath God made it obligatory to man," (Joseph Smith. --*Times and Seasons* 5:616.)

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## An Unforgettable Saturday

-- Kathy Davis

A few weeks ago I drove over to the Ogden Family Search Library. It was Tuesday morning and after our prayer meeting we all went to our computers to start our shift as missionaries and volunteers. I know we all had a prayer in our hearts that if possible, we would be able to help those patrons who might come that morning.

But then something interesting happened. As I was sitting at the computer I opened my red notebook to look at the list of names I was working on, when all of a sudden I overheard a conversation from 2 ladies working on the computers next to me. One asked the other,

"Are you planning to go to the [Ogden Family History Conference on Saturday, September the 8th?](#)"

"What is it exactly?"

"Oh, my goodness, I went to the one last year and I must tell you it was absolutely terrific. I don't think I have ever learned so much about research, about finding ancestors, how to write my Personal History, and many other topics. I think they were offering over 60 different classes, there were many vendors and even door prizes. And you know, it really was one of the best spent Saturdays I have ever had."

"Well, you just inspired me. I think I will attend that Conference!"

The other lady sat back in her chair and with a smile on her face said, "I am so glad you feel that way because you will love it and I think it will be for you, as last year it was for me . . . an unforgettable Saturday!"

I had to shake my head a little in amazement at this conversation because it had quite an effect on me too. A few months ago I was asked to be on the committee planning this large Conference. I didn't attend the one last year, but now after listening in on this conversation my excitement was heightened.

I'm especially looking forward to 7 events that are planned for this Conference:

### 1) Keynote Speakers - Eric and Meghan Richards

Eric Richards grew up in San Diego, California. He and his family now live in Utah and Eric teaches at Utah State University. He and his wife Megan are very popular EFY Youth Speakers and give Firesides all over the country. Eric is also an author and a photographer. His upbeat CD's are a best seller.

### 2) Youth 12 and up are invited

Games: Family History Bingo, Family History Geneapardy, new Apps and prizes, prizes and more prizes!

### 3) 50 Fabulous Classes

Every topic related to Family History. A class for every interest. And the best teachers are at the helm.

#### 4) 25 Vendors

With the newest and most exciting ideas. Plus the newest technology and Apps.

#### 5) Discovery Center

There will be several 55 inch touch screen monitors. Discover what your name means. What happened in the world the day you were born? Where your family came from. See Photos of your family. See famous people you are related to. Were your Ancestors related to any US Presidents? Did your Ancestors come over on the Mayflower? And much more.

#### 6) Tour of "Special Collections" (Stewart Library)

Huge Amount of World War I and World War II information. Also Newspapers, Yearbooks, Oral Histories, Amazing Photographs, Diaries and much, much more!

#### 7) Many Computers where you can receive individual help.

All in All this Ogden Family History Conference will be historic, highly instructive, and of course fun to a phenomenal degree!

Yes, it will be an unforgettable Saturday!

## Ogden Family History Conference

When .....September 8, 2018

Where.....WSU Shepherd Student Union

Time.....8:30 am – 4:30 pm

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### Rejoice, and be exceeding glad

— James Tanner

Because of where I live, I know many people who are very old, even by anyone's standard of old age. Because of their age and physical and/or mental limitations, they cannot easily work on a computer and because of these limitations, finding names to take to the Temples is simply impossible. These are good people who have served The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in many capacities throughout their lives, but eyesight limitations, lack of short-term memory and other disabilities keep them from learning and using the FamilySearch.org Family Tree.

Many of these people are still able to go to the Temple and participate in doing the ordinances. They also have a desire to do this work for their own families but do not have family members who are actively doing their family history. My heart goes out to these faithful brethren and sisters who long for the opportunity to provide saving ordinances for their families without the ability to do so. As I am able to help them with finding names from their own families through the FamilySearch.org Consultant Planner, I have "adopted" several of these people and find names for them from their ancestors and relatives to take to the Temples.

Now, here is what I see. -- I see many more of these people throughout the Church who are only prevented from taking their own names to the Temples by age and disability. I also see a lot of younger people, even the youth of the Church who are ignoring this opportunity to serve in a meaningful way. Imagine the impact on the lives of both the youth and the older members, if the youth took the time and made the effort to learn what was necessary to help and then spent some of their time sitting patiently with the older members helping them find their own names to take to the Temples. This mentoring program could change both lives for the better.

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### Using Multiple Screens in the FamilySearch Family Tree App

— Melissa Gee

If you're a family history enthusiast who has hesitated to use the FamilySearch Family Tree mobile app because it doesn't have the same features as the website, think again! App usage has increased 150% over the past year as the app has grown in capability.

One of the newest features on the [FamilySearch Family Tree mobile app](#) will allow you to have multiple screens open while you're doing your research, much like using multiple tabs in an internet browser. This can allow you to be more effective as you navigate your family tree and compare information from searches with your ancestors' profiles. This new feature is still being tested and should be fully functional in a week. Please go to the FamilySearch Blog to find more information and instructions.

The following article is included in our final newsletter as a reminder of what FamilySearch has planned for the current year.

## FamilySearch plans for 2018 : you're not ready!

-- FamilySearch

**Salt Lake City, Utah (22 January 2018), FamilySearch** is a global leader in fun, online family history services with over 9 million users in 2017. In 2018 [FamilySearch](#) will be expanding its free site and services by adding new family discoveries, more online connections, expanded global reach, and millions of new sources to search. (Find and share this announcement online from the [FamilySearch Newsroom](#)).

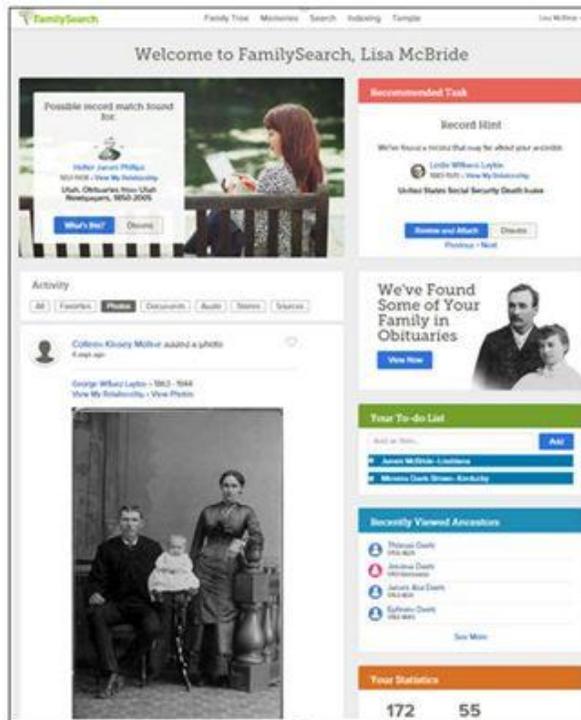
### 1. Personalized Home Page

Refinements to the **FamilySearch personalized home page** will enable signed-in patrons to make many more new discoveries and easily engage with their family trees.

As new photos, stories, or documents are added by other members of the family, they will be shown on your personalized home page and prioritized based on relevance. You will also be able to see new additions as relatives add them.

Enjoy more adaptive, relevant **FamilySearch Record Hints**. As millions of new records are added to FamilySearch weekly, the search engine maps them with your family tree. FamilySearch will specifically begin looking for new ancestor record sources you don't already have in your tree. It will be easier than ever to add them.

Relevant ancestor event notifications, if you want, will be able to prompt you throughout the year regarding relevant dates in the lives of your ancestors. These can be great nudges to learn more about your forbears.



### 2. Historical Records

FamilySearch will digitally preserve over 400 million images in 2018 and publish the majority of them online. It will also add hundreds of millions of indexed, searchable names in historical records, thus making it easier and faster to find your ancestors.

New additions will include prominent international collections from Europe, Central and South America, and the United States. New images will first be accessible in the **FamilySearch Catalog Viewer**. Once they are indexed or have additional metadata, they'll be published in the **FamilySearch Historical Record Collections**.

### 3. Online Discovery Experiences

FamilySearch will introduce fun, new personal "discovery" experiences online and in additional physical locations in 2018. The online experiences will be similar to the popular attractions currently found in select **FamilySearch Family Discovery Centers**.

### 4. Family Tree

Refinements to the FamilySearch Family Tree in 2018 will extend its reach globally to more devices through improved language support and making the service faster and easier to navigate in lower bandwidth regions of the world.

An underlying goal of the FamilySearch Family Tree is to ensure new developments regarding data are always converging towards more accuracy and completeness.

An upcoming feature will help improve collaboration while encouraging more sound edits and discouraging poor

edits to good data.

## 5. Family Tree Mobile App

FamilySearch will continue to update its **FamilySearch Family Tree app** and mobile experiences, which extend the website's functionality. Currently, the robust app has 90 percent of the functionality of the web feature.

The app will provide fun, location-based experiences for making family discoveries wherever you happen to be. The popular 2017 "Relatives Around Me" feature allowed crowds or groups to discover who in the crowd was related to them and how.

New experiences in 2018 will build upon this, allowing interaction based on your proximity to people or locations with which you have a personal ancestral relationship.

The app will also continue to enhance the research capabilities of the mobile experience, including a new Research Mode that will allow multiple windows to be opened simultaneously to facilitate multitasking and research from within the app.

## 6. Memories

Individuals are now uploading millions of family photos and documents for free permanent storage at FamilySearch. In 2018, patrons will be able to add multiple photos to a family story, rather than just one.

The **FamilySearch Tree Fan Chart** will help patrons, at a glance, easily discover areas in their tree where memories and sources are attached to ancestors, and help them identify opportunities where they need to be added.

## 7. FamilySearch Web-Based Indexing

FamilySearch will end its desktop indexing software in 2018 as it continues to roll out more updates to its new web indexing platform. The new web tool is easy to use and works with any digital device (besides cell phones) with a web browser. It enables hundreds of thousands of volunteers worldwide to make millions of historical images easily and freely searchable by name so online family history researchers can quickly discover ancestors.

## 8. RootsTech

[RootsTech](#), hosted by FamilySearch International, will continue to expand its support of community growth, personal development, and exciting industry innovation. This popular global family history conference will attract over 100,000 attendees (in-person and live online viewers).

Keynotes this year will include: Scott Hamilton, Olympic figure skating champion, Brandon Stanton, Humans of New York photographer and writer, Dr. Henry Louis Gates, *Finding Your Roots*, and Natalia Fourcade, internationally renowned Mexican pop-rock singer.

The **RootsTech Innovation Showcase** will highlight exciting innovations related to family history. It will replace the Innovator Summit and Innovator Showdown.

## 9. Oral Histories

Family history in oral (no written documentation) cultures are kept in the minds of village elders—walking, human libraries. When they pass away, the library is lost forever. FamilySearch will increase the number of oral histories it captures from these tribal historians significantly throughout Africa.

[FamilySearch](#) appreciates its growing customer base (over 134 million visits in 2017!). When you visit FamilySearch in 2018, be sure to sign in to your free account to enjoy the most of what FamilySearch has to offer!

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