



FAMILY TIES



SANDY GRANITE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWSLETTER

Director's Message

Glen Steenblik



As we here in Utah celebrated the 24th of July holiday, marking the day when the main company of pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley, I paused to reflect on my own pioneer ancestors. They were not among that first, second or third groups which arrived in the valley, nor were they in the ill-fated handcart companies. My earliest relative to come to Utah came in 1860.

Jens Pedersen Aagaard, 69 years old, was the oldest member of his wagon train. Yes, he experienced hardships, not unlike most, yet nothing out of the ordinary at the time. Jens left Copenhagen on May 2nd 1860, first crossing the Atlantic in a steamship to New York, up the Hudson River, then by rail from Albany to Niagra, Detroit, Chicago, Quincy, and paddle-wheeler to Florence, Nebraska. There he joined the William Budge Wagon Company of 350 people, mostly Scandinavian saints. Their trek across the plains lasted from July 20th to October 5th, a 77-day trip, yet all in all, a five month journey for him. I personally have a hard time even imagining such an ordeal. (I remember driving from

Chicago to Salt Lake in less than two days).

Most of my great grandparents were converted a bit later in the late 1880s & 90s, coming then by steamships which crossed the ocean in only 11 days, followed by locomotive to Salt Lake. To me they are all "blessed honored pioneers."

Whenever they came, however they traveled, I will forever be grateful for these pioneers in my family, who received a witness, spawning the desire to join with the body of saints in Zion. I owe much to them and all those connected in any way with them. This gratitude only increases my personal desire and commitment to seek out and identify others on my tree, so that their temple work might be done.

I am reminded of a quote on our FHC website by Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin, "Let us never forget the faith of our fathers and the selfless sacrifice of our mothers, those pioneering saints who set such an inspiring example of obedience. Let us remember them as we strive to be valiant servants in our work to 'invite all to come unto Christ' and be perfected in Him."

I also express my gratitude for the many Temple and Family History Consultants, our volunteers from numerous

stakes/wards who faithfully serve in our Granite Family History Center. Each one of them is making a difference, contributing greatly in a variety of ways to the furthering of “the work.” I appreciate the one-on-one help given patrons at the center and in the homes of families in our area. Thank You!

In recent years I’ve been able to experience and witness the dedication of volunteers in small family history centers in Rennes and Orléans, France, and in Brussels, Belgium, faithfully there assisting patrons, those of our faith, and many who were not, in searching out their ancestors. The Spirit of Elijah continues to grow and is felt by all who join in this great work of finding and preparing names of individuals, real people, to take to the temple.

My Genealogy Story

Norm Weiss

Hegessy Ward, Granite Stake

When I came home from my mission back in the mid 70’s, I was excited to do some genealogy work thanks to some of the members in Illinois, where I served. My mom told me that we could only go back 4 generations because my parents were from Nuremberg, Germany, where everything was bombed out by the end of World War II. My uncle, who was a professional genealogist, told me the same story. Only 4 generations on my dad’s side and 5 generations on my mom’s side. He said, “You may have to wait until the millennium to get the work



done.” You see, I’m an only child, and I come from a family of only one son for those 4 generations.

Then back in the late 80’s, software was introduced that helped you do your genealogy. So, I tried again to see if things had changed. I found nothing.

One year back in the mid 80’s, I left my family behind, and joined my parents in Germany. My dad’s plan was to drive across the border into East Germany and look for records there. When we got to the East German border, they had closed the gate about an hour earlier because someone tried to escape. When that happened, the borders would close for ten days. So, we never made it into East Germany. I gave up! My uncle was right; I would just have to wait until the millennium.

Then last year my sister-in-law living down in Payson, Utah, asked if I would come down and install some baseboards in her newly remodeled home. I said sure. While I was down there, she asked me how my family history was coming. I told her about my frustrations. She asked if she could “take a look since great strides have been made in finding family names.” As I was working installing baseboards, she said to me, “That fourth generation back of an only boy, actually had 8 children.”

“What?!” I exclaimed. I stopped working and looked at her computer. I was having a hard time believing what I was seeing. I finished my work and went home. I stewed over it for months. I was having a

hard time believing that back in those days someone would have that many children in Germany. I took a few classes at the family history center. A few of the consultants said it was quite common to have that many children because they would die early, and the parents would keep trying to have children or they needed that many children to work on the farm.

So back in May of this year, I decided to do some family history exploring using the church's website. I then went to ancestry.com and that is when the magic happened. I found a distant cousin living back East that opened my family history book, and took me from 4 generations to 8 generations in one fell swoop. For about a month, I did research, about 8 hours a day, day after day. I just couldn't put it down. I was so driven that I was afraid my wife was going to say, "You're on that computer again." But she never complained. The one ancestor that got to me the most was a girl, whose name I just happened to find that had been lost as part of a family. I felt that she was standing next to me as I found her record. I became very emotional and started to cry. I have only been working on my dad's side. Now the work really begins. We need to go do the temple work for all those names.



Watch for the new Fall class schedule coming in September!

Will You Be the Welding Link? Liz Kennington

President Joseph Fielding Smith wrote in *Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:121-22: "If Elijah had not come, we are led to believe that all the work of past ages would be of little avail, for the Lord said the whole earth, under such conditions, would be utterly wasted at his coming (D&C 2:1-3). Therefore, his mission was of vast importance to the world. It is not the question of baptism for the dead alone, but also the sealing of parents and children to parents, so that there should be a 'whole and complete and perfect union, and welding together of dispensations, and keys, and powers, and glories,' from the beginning down to the end of time (D&C 128:18)."



Will you be the welding link for your family? This past month I was privileged to meet and learn the story of the newest welding link in my extended family. Peter Endler is the step son-in-law of my brother Craig. Peter is married to my sister-in-law Gail's daughter, Heather. Gail is my brother's second wife. So, while there is no blood relation to her children, they are still part of my extended family.

Twenty years ago, Heather and Peter met in Sweden where Heather was living at the time. Over the next couple of years, the two corresponded and visited with each other, both in Sweden and the US. They fell in love and eventually married.

Heather was a member of the LDS Church but not active at the time. Peter was a confessed atheist, which Heather had a hard time understanding. As time passed, they met with missionaries (One was the nephew of President Monson who still maintains contact with this family) and had discussions about the gospel. Heather returned to activity, and Peter began going to church with Heather and their daughter.

Over a year ago, Peter emailed my brother and asked him if he would come to Sweden and baptize him. He was baptized, had his patriarchal blessing, and received his endowment in the Stockholm, Sweden temple. Fast forward to this past July and the family, now including 4 children, came to Salt Lake City to be sealed in the Draper temple. This is when the story of this welding link becomes truly amazing, as Peter shared with me and my husband his father's story. The following are Peter's words:

"My mother is from Poland with German ancestry and is Catholic. She married my father, who is Jewish, also from Poland with Austrian ancestry. My paternal grandfather died from appendicitis two weeks before World War II broke out.



My father and grandmother were taken to the ghetto in Warsaw where a curfew was enforced.

My father had an errand and didn't make it home in time for the curfew. He was caught by the German military who

threw him in the back of a truck with other Jewish prisoners.

"They drove them off to a part of Warsaw where they were forced off the truck and lined up against the wall. German soldiers then shot at them. My father woke up covered in blood. He didn't know if they accidentally missed him, if he fainted, or if they were just playing a game with him because all the others were dead. He later found out that his mother had been taken to a train, thinking she was going to a better place (since the ghetto was so poor), and was gassed to death. He then realized that he had to escape.

"He managed to get out of Poland to Odessa, Russia. He hid on top of a brothel. He saw the German troops invading Russia and spotted his best friend from Poland who had blond hair and blue eyes and did not look



Jewish. They couldn't acknowledge each other because that would have gotten both of them killed."

Peter's father was forced to join the Russian army where he became an officer. At the end of the war, he was looked on as a traitor by Poland but was eventually accepted. Circumstances over the next couple of years found Peter's father and mother wanting to leave Poland, and they made their way to Sweden where they became the first political refugees in Sweden.

Most of us do not have this dramatic a story to share but we do have the

opportunity like Peter to become the welding link that brings families into the kingdom. Peter has caught the vision of family history. I worked with him for a short time this past month, preparing names to take to the temple, particularly his father's, while his family was in Salt Lake, and others to do further research on before taking those names to the temple in Sweden. I had the privilege to witness the sealing of this family.



It is important to remember that our Father in Heaven has a plan in place for his children and for each of us individually. It was no coincidence that Heather and Peter met and that the gospel was taught to Peter. We know that Heavenly Father is always in the details of our lives, directing us in the right paths if we but listen and do. "... if there is not a welding link between the fathers and the children—which is the work for the dead—then we will all stand rejected; the whole work of God will fail and be utterly wasted. Such a condition, of course, shall not be." (President Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:122) Will you be the welding link for your family?

Geneanet LDS Account

It's been a few short years since LDS members were given free access to Ancestry.com,

FindMyPast.com, MyHeritage.com, and AmericAncestors.com. But were you also aware that you can have free access



to Geneanet.com. Access for church members was announced 12 September 2016. But you may have missed this. To get your free access to Geneanet.com, go to the Geneanet page on FamilySearch and sign up for your free membership.

What are the benefits of using Geneanet? Based in France, Geneanet has an extensive collection of French genealogical records. But don't think that is all you can find there. Records on the site also extend throughout Europe and beyond. They are also available in nine languages.

Geneanet's digitized records, more than 700,00 of them, span the globe. Many of these are unique to Geneanet, not duplicated on other genealogy sites. Since the site supports nine languages, searching the index can be a bit a challenge since entry names may not be translated and may not include a description. This is where knowing someone who might be able to translate for you would be beneficial.

Geneanet has a significant amount of information contributed by individuals and genealogical societies. You can search the genealogical society indexes as a collection or select a society from the list and focus your search there.

As with other FamilySearch partners, keep in mind that free membership gives you access to the great majority of resources available on Geneanet but that you may still have to pay for excluded records. This is because the library or archive which houses that record requires payment for use of their records.

Just like other genealogy sites, you can upload your family tree to Geneanet. Once uploaded, you can select your privacy settings and choose a theme color for your tree. Under the **Community** tab you can select **Forums** or **Collaborative Assistance**. You can ask or answer questions in **Forum**. In **Collaborative Assistance**, you can ask other members to look for a record in an archive or take a photo in a particular cemetery.

Under the **More** tab, you can access the Geneanet blog which features articles highlighting news and tips specific to Geneanet, as well as general genealogy news. Another feature that might be helpful is **Email Alerts by Last Name**, which sends weekly notices of new information added to the Geneanet database about a last name of interest to you.

[FamilySearch Blog, 19 July 2017]

Utah Pioneer Jubilee

Liz Kennington



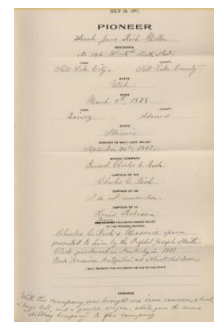
Have you ever seen this medal among the artifacts passed down in your family? You might if your ancestor was part of the 1847 pioneer migration to the Salt Lake Valley. In 1897 a commission was established to organize the 50-year celebration of the arrival of pioneers in 1847. The medal itself was created by Tiffany and Co. of

New York, made of solid gold, and cost \$10. Each person's name was engraved on the back.

Although Brigham Young's company arrived first in the valley, it was determined that any of the arrivals in 1847 should be considered one of the original pioneers. In total, 1949 pioneers arrived in Utah in 1847. Fifty years later, 727 of those original pioneers were still living. In 1897, 28 of the 148 pioneers in Brigham Young's original party were still living. Twenty-six of those survivors attended the celebration.

The commission worked to identify all individuals who were part of the "pioneer colony" in order to include their names in the **Book of Pioneers**.

After identifying the surviving pioneers, those who were able to attend were issued an invitation and asked to complete a pre-printed questionnaire. These questionnaires asked for basic information, such as the individual's date and location of birth, current address, the company with which the individual had travelled in 1847, and whether they retained any artifacts from the trip. They were also asked if they would be willing to donate those items to the State for preservation.



The celebration was an event to remember. There were concerts, dances, games, parades, and even a museum built, "The Hall of Relics." The Pioneer Monument, "In Honor of Brigham Young and the Pioneers," was unveiled and presented to the state on the first

morning of the festivities. It's interesting to note that this statue was first displayed at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. It stood briefly on Temple Square and then was erected in the intersection of Main and South Temple in 1897. In 1993, it was moved a few yards north to its current location.

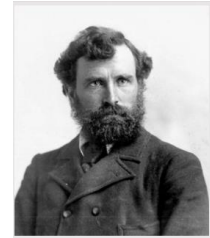


“Salt Lake City has perhaps never before been so packed with enthusiastic sightseers. The streets cease to be streets about the time when parade begins – they are rivers of humanity in which the people surge to and fro, here moving rapidly for a stretch in ripples of anticipation toward some happening a block or two away, there forming a whirlpool which moves round and round some striking object of interest ... “it is not a time to call up the sagebrush waste, the slinking coyote, the ox team, the dug out and log cabin filled with weather-beaten, sun-burned immigrants dressed in nameless costumes. The eye and the ear are full of the present. It is a pageant that people have come to witness, a pageant that bridges the past and the present and is a prophecy of the future.” - Deseret Evening News (July 21, 1897)

Over \$60,000 was raised in private and public funds in preparations for the Jubilee. Over ten other states contributed funds. While Utah had received statehood in 1896, this celebration was focused more heavily on Brigham Young's arrival into the valley in 1847. Choosing to highlight the 1847 over

statehood created significant tensions between the federal government and the LDS Church.

The official photographer for the event was George Edward Anderson (1860-1928). Anderson is best known for his traveling tent studio which he set up in small towns throughout Utah, 1884-1907. His main purpose was to document the lives of the residents in those small towns. The photo he took of those who were honored has 250 of the 727 attending surviving pioneers.



To read more about how the celebration was organized and to learn about the creation of the Utah Historical Society, go to this link and explore all the options. <https://archives.utah.gov/research/exhibits/jubilee/7-historical-society.html>

This link will take you to the “Book of Pioneers” where you can search for your ancestors' names. The asterisk before names indicates that they responded by signature. <https://archives.utah.gov/research/indexes/14107.htm>

#52Stories

Travels and Vacations

As always, you can answer all the questions for August or select one a week and elaborate.



- ① What were your most common childhood vacations like—road trips, visits to grandma’s house, camping trips, weekends at the lake or the beach?
- ② What was the biggest, most exotic vacation you took with your family when you were a child? What memories stand out?
- ③ How many different states and countries have you visited throughout your life? Which were your favorites?
- ④ Do you have one special vacation spot that you return to again and again? How did you find it? What draws you back? What do you love about it?
- ⑤ What was the longest continuous vacation of your life? How long were you gone? Do you remember how much it cost?
- ⑥ What have been your most memorable travel disasters? What lessons did you learn? Were you able to laugh in the moment or only after the fact?
- ⑦ What are all the different modes of transport you’ve tried: motorcycle, car, van, bus, train, raft, canoe, sailboat, gondola, cruise ship, airplane, hot-air balloon, rickshaw, horse, wagon, camel?
- ⑧ Have you ever travelled to a place that could imagine yourself moving to permanently? What did you love about it? What does it offer that can’t be found at home?

- ⑨ What are the most memorable meals or exotic foods that you’ve tried on any of your travels?
- ⑩ Are there any notable tourist destination within easy driving distance of your home that you’ve never visited—even though people travel there from all over the world?
- ⑪ Who have been your favorite traveling companions over the years? Who was the most adventurous and spontaneous? Who was the most dependable and prepared?
- ⑫ What future destinations are on your vacation wish list? Which of them do you truly believe you will see in your lifetime?

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class schedule, and
information:

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