



# FAMILY TIES



## SANDY GRANITE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWSLETTER

### Director's Message

#### Glen Steenblik



November is a month of the year associated with the theme of Thanksgiving and Gratitude. It is a time of family gatherings, when we reflect on and express gratitude for the multitude of blessings we have received from a loving Heavenly Father.

President Thomas S. Monson taught: "Regardless of our circumstances, each of us has much for which to be grateful, if we but pause and contemplate our blessings. Sincerely giving thanks not only helps us recognize our blessings but it also unlocks the doors of heaven and helps us feel God's love."

As we gather together as families in the coming weeks, consider incorporating an idea suggested by Elder Quinton L. Cook at RootsTech 2016. He recommended we hold a "Family Tree Gathering" where everyone could bring to these gatherings existing family histories, stories, and photos including cherished possessions of grandparents and parents.

A similar "Family Tree Gathering" was held this past week with my siblings.



We were able to open and view the contents of a large trunk used by my great grandfather upon returning from his mission to the Netherlands. The trunk recently became the property of my brother and was packed with family mementos, photos, and other keepsakes. It had not been opened in over 40 years because of loss of the key. What a joy it was to spend an evening viewing and distributing cherished family heirlooms.

At upcoming Family Tree Gatherings, the *My Family* booklet might be utilized and distributed to youth to help get some started on or continue on the path to record their history and then get this information uploaded to Family Search.org.

It was Elder Boyd K. Packer who expressed: "No work is of more of a protection to this Church than temple work and the family history research that supports it. No work we do gives us more power. No work requires a higher standard of righteousness. Our labors in the temple cover us with a shield and a protection, both individually and as a people."

Throughout this approaching holiday season, let us gather together, sharing gratitude for those who have gone before us, sharing precious family history, and receiving the much needed protection from Heavenly Father.

## #52Stories Causes and Convictions



November marks the next to last month of answering questions about your life. But this doesn't mean that you need to stop working on your life history. Make good use of the holiday season to glean additional stories about yourself and your family.

❶ Is there a motto or creed that you live by? An inspirational quote that you have hanging in your house to guide you? If not, take this opportunity to write one of your own.

❷ What are all the causes and charities that you support financially or have made donations to in the past? Which of them are closest to your heart?

❸ In what ways do you sacrifice your time to volunteer in your community? Do you serve at church, at a local school, at charitable or civic organizations, one-on-one in your neighborhood?

❹ What are some of the diseases that have been cured, crisis that have been effectively addressed, and other humanitarian or environmental advances you've seen in your lifetime?

❺ Is there a political or civic leader that you particularly admire—either now or in the past? What have you learned from this person's example?

❻ If you were to start your own charitable organization, what would be its mission and focus?

❼ If you were to ever run for public office, what position would you seek? What would be your platform and mission?

❽ What humanitarian causes would you pledge time and money to solve? Homelessness, world hunger, human trafficking, war refugees, disaster relief, literacy, global women's rights?

❾ What environmental issues are most important to you? Air and water pollution, climate change, recycling, deforestation, endangered/threatened species, renewable energy?

❿ What animal welfare causes capture your heart and inspire you to take action? Habitat loss, pet abuse and neglect, wildlife preservation, animal testing, factory farming?

⓫ Is there someone in your life who has inspired you to care more about community and global issues? How has your outlook changed because of this person?

⓬ How has your commitment to make the world a better place evolved throughout your life? Are you more active now than in the past? Have your favorite causes changed over the years?

## RootsTech 2018



What will be you be doing in February and March of 2018? If you are at all interested in furthering your knowledge of family history, you will be attending RootsTech 2018. Whether you are new to family history or a veteran, you have something to learn at RootsTech. Why? Because the genealogical community has no bounds. There is a place at RootsTech

for all levels of learning, especially if you are interested in discovering your roots.

Maybe you are wondering how DNA can further your research or help you break through a brick wall. RootsTech offers classes to help in any way possible with your research. Maybe you have been apprehensive about diving into a foreign land to do research. There are always experts in almost every country teaching classes.



It was only a few short years ago that The Family History Guide was one of the new tools introduced to help genealogists at RootsTech. Visit the Expo Hall and learn what new innovations are coming to the world of family history.

“Often, genealogy is looked at as [if it’s] dead, ...and people think that people who go to genealogy conferences are almost dead,” said Nicka Smith at the 2017 conference. “No! ...This is a hobby. What RootsTech does is it makes it vibrant, it makes it alive, it makes it young, it makes it hip, it makes it appealing to people of all ages.”

RootsTech is all about preserving and sharing family stories through technology and innovation. “It’s so important to know who you are and to know your story. And when you know your story, then you can understand your own particular trials, the trials of your ancestors, and it helps you appreciate who you are,” said Sherri Camp at the 2017 event.

Knowing our family stories isn’t just a nice thing to know. It is vital to who we are. When you know your stories and how they have shaped your life, then you can see your ancestors’ influence in your life in often unexpected ways.

Keynote speakers have been announced for Thursday and Friday. Scott Hamilton, Olympic gold medalist in figure skating, is



scheduled to speak on Friday, March 2, 2018. Hamilton is known as the eternal optimist, who is convinced that “the only disability in life is a bad attitude.” His story will be interesting, especially for adoptees who are searching for their heritage. Hamilton himself is an adoptee and has two adopted children.



Brandon Stanton, creator of “Humans in New York,” will be a keynote speaker on Thursday, March 1, 2018. After being laid off as a bond trader in Chicago in 2010, Stanton bought a camera with the goal of creating a photographic census of 10,000 people on the streets of New York. Since then, his work has attracted over 20 million fans and his “Humans of New York: The Series” is a popular weekly Facebook series.

Find time to attend RootsTech 2018 and learn how you can become a better family historian.

Source: Tyler Stahle, Rootstech.org., 25 August 2017.

## Research Collection at the FHC

**Bob Ives**

Several months ago, we acquired 14 top quality office chairs from the FHC on Buttercup. What you may not know is we also acquired their unique library of genealogy research books. Since that time one of our techs, Debbie Weaver, has had the assignment to create an electronic catalog of those books so FHC patrons could easily see what was included in the collection. That cataloging process is nearly complete and the online catalog is now available to all patrons both on the FHC computers, home computers, and soon from the FHC website.

We invite you to explore the collection at <https://granitefhc.libib.com/i/sandy-granite-fhc-reference-books>.

## Youth at the FHC

The youth continue to be an integral part of the Granite Family History Center. The Granite



Stake has created a youth council of 14 family history consultants who are learning how to do family history. If you haven't been to the Center and seen the growing tree, you might be surprised to see the work that they are accomplishing.

These FHC council members are responsible for finding 10 names and also two sources for each name. The goal is to

take those names to the temple for work. They are also encouraged to bring a friend to the Center.

One 13-year-old girl from another stake was able to find names for temple work and encouraged her family to go to the temple together. Her father commented that this one activity has united their family: "I thought all our work was done." Sound familiar? Just a reminder that youth hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 3-5 pm.

## Research Help

Michael Joh Neill, in his "Genealogy Tip of the Day," 26 October 2017, offered some good



things to remember when we are faced with a brick wall. He reminds us that many tips are location or time period specific, but there are some ideas that are similar over time and geography:

- ① Families migrate together.
- ② People tend to marry and interact with their social group.
- ③ Names get spelled all kinds of ways.
- ④ You have to understand the local laws and practices.
- ⑤ Poor people leave fewer records.
- ⑥ There are exceptions to everything.

While these are broad generalizations, they are usually true. Keep in mind that different places/time periods have different records and different research challenges. But what we learn in one place can be used in another.

## November Classes

Sandy Granite Family History Center

Tues., Wed., Th.: 10:00 am-9:00 pm

Sundays: 3:00 pm-6:00 pm



[Just a reminder that many classes being taught this month and early December are repeats of earlier classes.

All are welcome to attend, but consider arriving early to ensure a computer.]

### Gathering Memories by Lani

Abercrombie

**Nov. 1: Wednesday morning, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

Have you ever wondered how to gather memories about a loved one? You can look around your home, and find a buried treasure of journals, letters, medals, timepieces, yearbooks, valuables and cherished artifacts. This class will explore how to gather, organize and preserve these precious memories to share with family members and future generations with the help of The Family History Guide, [www.thefhguide](http://www.thefhguide).

### Memories Part 1 - Photos and Documents Using Mobile Devices by

Debbie Burnett

**Nov. 5: Sunday evening, 6:00-7:00 p.m. (Repeat class from Sept. 10 and Oct. 8)**

Bring your smart phones, iPhones, iPads and family to learn how to easily add voice recordings to Family Tree. Bring a photo (digital or print) of a favorite vacation and learn how to write a story about that photo and save it in Family Tree. Create some memories, yours and theirs! All ages are welcome.

### Web Indexing Part 1 by Judy Jackson

**Nov. 7: Tuesday night, 7:30-8:30 p.m. (Repeat class from Sept. 7)**

Learn about indexing and why it is essential to family history research. Find out about the future of indexing and the new web indexing.

### Uploading Memories in FamilySearch

by Lani Abercrombie

**Nov. 8: Wednesday morning, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

Come and learn how to share your precious memories on FamilySearch using the computer. Learn how to upload, title and tag photos, documents, add stories and audio to share with other family members and future generations. With the help of The Family History Guide, [www.thefhguide](http://www.thefhguide), you will be able to breathe more life into your family tree and “turn your heart” to your ancestors. If possible, bring a picture on a USB drive or come early to receive help with the center’s scanner.

### Memories Part 2 – Audio and Written Using Mobile Devices by Debbie

Burnett

**Nov. 12: Sunday evening, 6:00-7:00 p.m. (Repeat class from Sept. 17 and Oct. 15)**

Bring your smart phones, iPhones, iPads and family to learn how to easily add voice recordings to Family Tree. Bring a photo (digital or print) of a favorite vacation and learn how to write a story about that photo and save it in Family Tree. Create some memories, yours and theirs! All ages are welcome.

**Find A Grave** by Shelley Adam

**Nov. 14: Tuesday morning, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

Learn what you can get out of [Findagrave.com](http://Findagrave.com) and how you use it. Learn how to search, add information, correct information, add photos and link people. It's an excellent site!

**Researching Your Collateral Lines** by Christy Pugh

**Nov. 15: Wednesday morning, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

Are you having a hard time finding new ancestors on your direct line? Learn how to research the collateral lines of your family tree using the FamilySearch partner website, [Puzzilla.org](http://Puzzilla.org).

**Web Indexing Part 2 – Let's Get Started** by Judy Jackson

**Nov. 16: Thursday night, 7:30-8:30 p.m. (Repeat class from Sept. 14)**

Come learn how to select and manage batches, data entry methods, project instructions, field helps and submitting batches.

**Family Tree Game Night** by Debbie Burnett

**Nov. 19: Sunday evening, 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

Bring your family and learn about your family tree using some great interactive, online games like [AncestorGuru](http://AncestorGuru.com). Print your family tree and match names with pictures. Create some memories, yours and theirs! All ages are welcome.

**RootsMagic Part 1** by Sue Maxwell

**Nov. 21: Tuesday morning, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

This is a two-week course that teaches

you how to learn to effectively use RootsMagic, the award-winning genealogy software. This program makes researching, organizing, and sharing your family history fun and easy. RootsMagic is an approved FamilySearch affiliate software.

**RootsMagic Part 2**

**Nov. 28: Tuesday morning, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

This class is a continuation of Part 1 on how to effectively use RootsMagic in your research, organizing, and sharing your family history. Come prepared to have your questions answered.

**Hunting Down Family Info Using Newspapers Research** by Shelly Adam

**Nov. 29: Wednesday morning, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

Learn about and how to use different newspaper sites, free and paid, where you can find more information on ancestors and learn more about who they were.

**Web Indexing Part 3 – Getting Help** by Judy Jackson

**Nov. 30: Thursday night, 7:30-8:30 p.m. (Repeat class from Sept. 21)**

Learn to identify and use indexing helps. Also learn how to collaborate with others to get help.

**Web Indexing Part 4 – Goal, Groups and Review** by Judy Jackson

**Dec. 7: Thursday evening, 7:30-8:30 p.m. (Repeat class from Sept. 28)**

Learn how to set goals and create groups. The review process and how you can get involved will be explained.

## Reflections

### Liz Kennington



I love Thanksgiving! If I were to choose a holiday that I look forward to each year it would have to be Thanksgiving. It could very well be turkeys but not the eating kind. I have collected turkeys for years now and have even made many of my own, like the Butterballs, Jennie O and Norbest! I love the statuesque nature of pilgrims, stalwart and brave. Again, my love for collecting them has spilled over into making pilgrim dolls. Needless to say, my storage for turkeys and pilgrims has reached its limit.

The colors of Thanksgiving speak volumes to my soul. Warm browns, rich yellows, and sparkling oranges and reds all call out to me: "Drink us in. We are only here for a short while." Don't forget pumpkin pie. I wait each year for Costco to begin baking their pumpkins pies. I am simply hooked on Thanksgiving. While symbols are always a reminder of the holiday, the feelings that I get during this time of year are really why I think I love Thanksgiving.

I look around me and see how very blessed I am to live where I do and the circumstances that I find myself in. I have a great family and wonderful friends. I am blessed in every way possible. I have much to be grateful for. I am especially grateful for the God-given talents of great men and women around me. Just a few short years ago, at this time of year, my

young granddaughter Lilly received an amazing gift: a new right ear fashioned from parts of her body.

Born 12 years ago with many birth defects including only a left ear, Lilly has grown in her ability to move through the problems and look at her strengths. She has confidence in all she does. When asked by her doctor if other children had made fun of her because she only had one ear, she was strong in her comments that no one had. She was ready to have the surgeries which would help her look and function more like other children. Because of the talents of a dedicated doctor who followed in his father's footsteps, our granddaughter has a very real, living right ear.

Sitting with my daughter Amanda and son-in-law Spencer as we waited during Lilly's 12-hour surgery, I had time to reflect on my own stay at Primary Children's Hospital during the early 1960s. My daughter knew none of the circumstances which made it necessary for me to spend 10 days in the old hospital in the avenues of Salt Lake City. She was amazed at the stories I told of being in an oxygen tent because of breathing problems, having antibiotic shots every 4 hours because I couldn't swallow pills, and how nasty crushed penicillin and ginger ale taste. I went home to several months of bed rest and home schooling.

Why do I share these stories of myself and my family? If we are only looking for dates and numbers, we will miss the essence of who our ancestors were, and what makes us who we are today. We need to look beyond the census records

and put flesh to what makes our ancestors real people. What amazing stories Lilly will have to tell about her life. If her descendants only look at the records of her life, they will miss the bravery and strengths which have served her well to this point. They will never know what she has endured in her young years and why she is the way that she is.

I think so often about my great-grandmother Anna Larson who left Sweden after joining the Church. She came to this country with two of her brothers, one who never joined the Church. She learned a new language and married a man many years older than herself, becoming his third wife. She only had two children, one of whom died before becoming an adult. She was determined to make a difference, which she did. I never knew this woman but I often think that Lilly must be very much like her: determined, strong, and ever willing to try something new.

What will you talk about around the Thanksgiving table? Don't just discuss what each family member is grateful for. Share stories that each family member has inside of them. Who were their favorite teachers in school and why? What funny things can you share about meeting their father/mother? What do they know about your grandparents? What can they share about your parents, their grandparents, that might be of interest to you as well? The sky is the limit as to what to talk about, just get started. Consider recording the discussion and then uploading to FamilySearch.

This year during November I hope that each of us will look around and see how we have been blessed. What can we pass on to our families that will continue the gratitude we feel today? How can we make a difference in the lives of both our ancestors and our descendants? How can we make this Thanksgiving the great day that it was intended to be? We can start with sharing what we know and feel about our families, present and gone, but not forgotten.

**Visit our website for updates,  
class schedule, and  
information:**

<http://www.granitefhc.com>

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