



FAMILY TIES



SANDY GRANITE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWSLETTER

Director's Message

Glen Steenblik



I have a memory from elementary school where my teacher would ask all of the students in the class to stand up, and then proceed to ask a series of questions, wherein those who could answer correctly were invited to sit down. This process continued until all were seated. Oh, how I feared being the last one standing, to be singled out, or embarrassed.

So, this year the question is: "All of you who have attended Rootstech please be seated." In the past, it felt like I was the only one remaining standing while everyone else took a seat. Finally, I can sit down since this year I had my first Rootstech experience (maybe surprising to some), and a fine experience it was. Assisting in The Family History Guide booth for part of each of the three days in the formidable exhibition hall at the Salt Palace was inspiring and motivational. Additionally, I saw everything from "The Cake Boss" (Buddy Valastro) to President Russell M. Nelson; from DNA explanations to incredible Discovery Day experiences. What a truly amazing exhibition of family history helps, suggestions, and resources were presented. How terrific it was for me to meet people from all over the country. There

were temple and family history consultants from coast-to-coast. At the cake decoration booth I met and chatted with a Gygi cousin of mine whom I'd never before met.

In attending Rootstech for the first time, my personal goal was to "not get too overwhelmed." While I accomplished this feat, I recognize and acknowledge that I experienced only the tip of the iceberg, only sampled or barely tasted of the sumptuous available feast. Now I am going online to view presentations most pertinent and interesting to me, so that I may continue to gain insight, knowledge, and understanding to add to my initial experience, assist me in my calling, and to help me in my personal quest.

Whether you attended or not, whether you have often gone to Rootstech, or like me until this year have never attended, I invite all to go online at Rootstech.org, select and watch a session or topics of interest to you

I share a quote from the presentation of President Russell M. Nelson and Sister Wendy W. Nelson who



extended a special challenge to church members at the Family Discovery Day. President Nelson said, "I invite you to prayerfully consider what kind of sacrifice – and preferably a sacrifice of time – you can make to do more family history and temple

work this year.” Sister Nelson added, “And then watch what happens.”

Regarding families, they said, “What we do is less important than that we do something.... Activities that make family life happy and memorable are an important part of righteous, intentional parenting. The family can be a place of safety and refuge as well as fun and happiness.”

The stand-up/sit-down activity is over for now, a distant memory. I’m feeling more comfortable, less anxious than before, and now ready to continue learning how I, personally, can do more with temple and family history. I invite you to do the same.

52 Stories for March Occupations & Hobbies

Here are the writing prompt questions for March. Remember that you can download a question pdf for each month of the year in 2017.



- ❶ What were your favorite hobbies and pastimes from childhood? Are you still pursuing any of them?
- ❷ Do you remember what future career you dreamed of as a child? Ballerina, fireman, marine biologist? Are you still following that dream? If not, at what age did you find a new dream?
- ❸ If you could make a good living doing the one thing you love most in the world, what would it be?
- ❹ How did you earn your very first official paycheck as a teenager or young adult? How

did that first job influence the career choices you’ve made since?

- ❺ What was your first professional adult job that led you to a more long-term career—or several different careers? How did you get the job? What did you like and dislike about it?
- ❻ Did you stumble into your career or deliberately work and plan to get where you are? Are you happy in your current role, or would you like to make a change?
- ❼ What are some of your greatest career achievements so far? What else do you hope to achieve before you retire?
- ❽ Who have been some of your mentors in your chosen career field? How have they influenced you?
- ❾ Describe what you hope your work and leisure time will look like in 5 years from now. How about 10 years from now?
- ❿ Do you like to dabble in lots of different hobbies? If so, what are they? Or do you have one primary pastime that takes up most of your free hours and energy?
- ⓫ What hobbies, interests, and talents do you have in common with your parents, grandparents, and other ancestors?
- ⓬ Describe your work ethic. Who taught you how to work? What would you want your children and grandchildren to learn from your example?

“Don’t underestimate the influence of the deceased in assisting your efforts and the joy of ultimately meeting those you serve. The eternally significant blessing of uniting our own families is almost beyond comprehension.”

Quentin L. Cook



Spring 2017 Class Schedule

Sandy Granite Family History Center

Classes will be taught at the Sandy Granite Family History Center beginning March 14, 2017. They are repeated on different days and times by different instructors to accommodate various schedules. Come when you can, but please come and expand your knowledge that will help you in your family history journey. We have knowledgeable instructors and a well-equipped center. All classes are 1 hour!

Introduction to the Family History Guide

Tue, Mar 14 11:00 am

Sat, Mar 18 10:00 am

The Family History Guide is a free website that represents a best-in-class learning environment for family history. Its scope is broad, but its focus is narrow enough to help you achieve your goals, step by step. Come and learn how to use this incredible tool for immediate success.

Finding Missing Children and Using Find-a-Grave

Wed, Mar 15 11:00 am

Thur, Mar 16 8:00 pm

Uncover resources and techniques to find ancestors needing temple work.

Family Tree Navigation

Tue, Mar 21 11:00 am

Sat, Mar 25 10:00 am

This is a beginning class that will help you get comfortable with navigating your family tree in FamilySearch, including viewing details for your ancestors and finding ancestors quickly in your tree.

Leaving Breadcrumbs: Find Your Way Back

Wed, Mar 22 11:00 am

Thur, Mar 23 8:00 pm

Do you have memory loss? I do when it comes to keeping track of what I am doing with hundreds of ancestors. Come and learn how to create a digital research tracking method that will be valuable to you and others.

Using Family Tree

Tue, Mar, 28 11:00 am

This is a beginning class exploring alternate views in your tree, fan chart, portrait, descendency, as well as updating information and adding new ancestors to your tree.

A Goldmine: Ancestry.com

Wed, Mar 29 11:00 am

Thur, Mar 30 8:00 pm

If you are not using Ancestry, you are missing a gold mining experience. Come and learn how to easily use this rich resource.

Standardizing Records and Sourcing Records

Tue, Apr 11 11:00 am

Sat, Apr 15 10:00 am

This is a beginning class learning how to standardize dates and places, helping to clarify information you enter, and helping the system locate people with the Find feature. We will learn how to add sources to an ancestor's entry, helping others see the evidence for the dates or other information that exist there.

Puzzilla Search Hints Tool: Find New Relatives Fast!

Wed, Apr 12 11:00 am

Thu, April 13 8:00 pm

Come and learn how to quickly find new names to add to FamilyTree by using the new Puzzilla "Search 10 Hints."

Merging Records

Tue, Apr 18 11:00 am

Sat, Apr 2 10:00 am

Learn how to solve duplicate entries by merging records for ancestors who have been added over time to Family Tree.

Family Stories in the Newspaper

Wed, Apr 19 11:00 am

Thur, Apr 20 8:00 pm

There are free and paid websites that have images of old newspapers about our ancestors. Come and discover how fun it can be to find your family's story in print!

Find and Prepare Temple Names

Tue, Apr 25 11:00 am

Sat, Apr 29 10:00 am

This is a beginning class exploring how to find and prepare temple names.

Creating Memories Made Easy

Wed, Apr, 26 11:00 am

Thur, Apr 27 8:00 pm

We will use smartphones, iPhones, and iPads in this class to demonstrate how EASY taking photos, writing stories and recording stories can be. The app is called "Memories" created by FamilySearch. Come with a photo of a deceased relative and, of course, your smartphone, iPhone, or iPad.

Making Memories

Tue, May 2 11:00 am

Sat, May 6 10:00 am

This class will explore how to gather your memories, organize your photos and documents that you will upload to FamilySearch. Learn skills for interviewing living relatives to add their memories to yours.

DNA Class

Wed, May 3 11:00 am

Thur, May 4 8:00 pm

Get an introduction to the science of genetics and how it forms the basis for DNA research for family history. Learn how DNA tests are conducted and how you can find and take one yourself.

Uploading Memories

Tue, May 9 11:00 am

Sat, May 13 10:00 am

This class will provide instruction of how to tag and upload digital photos to FamilySearch so they can be shared with others. We will also learn how to upload digital documents and stories about ancestors.

Beginning Research in the US

Wed, May 10 11:00 am

Thur, May 11 8:00 pm

Learn about the basic types of U.S. records and how to use location, geography, and timelines as cornerstones of your research efforts. Learn the basics of conducting state-by-state U.S. research.

Beginning Digital Preservation

Tue, May 16 11:00 am

Sat, May 20 10:00 am

Learn about basic digital formats - how, where, and why they are used to preserve your family history. If you don't know what a jpg, MP3, or megabyte is, this class is for you!

US Vital Records

Wed, May 17 11:00 am

Thur, May 18 8:00 pm

Learn about the various types of vital records (birth, marriage, and death), where to find them, and how to use them for research.

Decendancy Research

Tue, May 23 11:00 am

Thur, May 25 8:00 pm

Learn how to trace descendants of your ancestors from several generations back. Get familiar with useful tools that help you visualize your descendant family lines, as well as finding your relationships to famous figures in history. Learn how to use Puzzilla and Find-a-Record.



RootsTech 2017 Recap

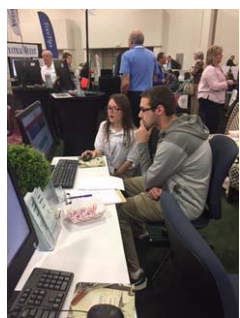
Bob Ives

With nearly 30,000 attendees and VIPs from the Property Brothers to Levar Burton, RootsTech 2017 was a memorable occasion—especially so in our little spread of real estate. Our booth (#1133) for The Family History Guide saw a steady stream of visitors from around the world, from young to old. We were delighted, although not really surprised, at the great number of positive comments we received on the website. Reactions ranged from quiet interest to outright tears of joy at what The Family History Guide brings to those who are engaged in

genealogy pursuits. One of the highlights of the conference was when we officially placed the FamilySearch logo on our Home page, as an official training resource for FamilySearch.



We offered over 40 mini-classes of 15 minutes each at the booth, which were a lot of fun for the trainers and the attendees alike. We also gave hands-on demos at four workstations in the booth, where guests could see the details of the website features and get their questions answered.



[Aubrey Lake gives a brief demo of The Family History Guide to a guest at the booth.]

And the soft seats proved popular as well, with one guest even nodding off for a well-deserved catnap. We met quite a few family history consultants at the booth. Some were

already using The Family History Guide but had not seen the latest changes to the site, and others were new to it. Quite a few of them saw some great potential for their family history centers and went away excited to use The Family History Guide in their ongoing training efforts. Several General Authorities even stopped by. RootsTech 2017 was a great experience! We thoroughly enjoyed meeting users and trainers of The Family History Guide, and we came away with a number of intriguing partnership opportunities for the future. See you next year at RootsTech 2018!

I Did It My Way:

RootsTech 2017

Liz Kennington

This past February, because of circumstances in my home, I was unable to physically attend any sessions of RootsTech 2017. Instead, I took advantage of the live streaming feature of the conference which I had never done before. I was somewhat worried that I wouldn't be able to feel the Spirit that usually accompanies the conference.

It was a challenge to get my husband/patient cared for and head to the computer each morning by 8:30 am for the keynote address. But once I made it my desk, I logged on easily. Thursday morning, Steve Rockwood, FamilySearch's president and CEO, was greeting attendees and sharing some news about FamilySearch since last year's conference.

One area that Rockwood talked about was the frustration that many have with changes

that can be made to FamilyTree by others. He suggested that perhaps we all might want to use a feature of the Tree which has been there for a while and not as widely used: Genealogies. This is a read only area where you can add your family tree file, and others cannot touch it or change it. This feature is found under "Search" on the homepage. At the bottom of the "Search Genealogies" page is a section where you can submit your own genealogy for others to view, but not change. The more complete your genealogy is, including sources, the more likely others will find your information helpful.

Each day's keynote speakers were entertaining and offered a variety of ways in which we could learn about our heritage. While most of the guest speakers were not LDS, they each brought the Spirit to their presentations in varying measures. Jonathan and Drew Scott told about their Scottish heritage that was taught to them by their parents. Their father had been born and raised in Scotland, and so the family often spent vacations visiting sites of importance to their heritage in Scotland.

One great story they shared was about how their father came to live in Canada. He dreamed of becoming a cowboy and so he immigrated to Canada but not to the wild west as he had hoped. But a stranger who heard his story paid his train fare to a western area of Canada so that he could become a cowboy. This is where he met his wife, the mother of the Property Brothers.

Friday morning's keynote speaker was LeVar Burton of Star Trek fame who shared the story of his growing up, a son of a single mother. His mother, Erma Gene, taught him the importance of reading and getting

an education. While raising three children, Erma Gene continued her education and was able to finish a Master's degree in social work. This taught Burton that anything is possible. One of the most spiritual parts of this presentation was when FamilySearch researcher Tom Turner presented to an emotional Burton many records from his family's history, while also extending the family tree back several more generations.

Saturday's keynote speakers were CeCe Moore, DNA genealogist, and Buddy Velastro, the Cake Boss. Moore works with adoptees, helping them find their birth families through DNA. Her most touching story was about her brother-in-law who wanted to know about his birth family. A picture of him showed him to be Caucasian. When Moore took his DNA, she found his match connected to Sally Hemming, the slave who was Thomas Jefferson's mistress and with whom he had several children. After learning this, Moore found the paper trail that supported the DNA findings. Her brother-in-law was a descendant of Sally Hemming.

Buddy Velastro talked about his ancestry, which is Italian. He began working in his father's bakery when he was 11. Velastro shared some of the things he had learned from his father while working with him. Although he was the son of the bakery's owner, he began learning the business by cleaning toilets. His father said, "Whatever you do in life, do it 100%." Other lessons learned from his father guided him when he had to take over the leadership at the bakery at 17 after his father's death.

I was also able to attend several class sessions online. I always enjoy listening to

Judy Russell, the legal genealogist. Russell often speaks on finding ancestors using legal records, especially when looking for the women in our lines. Her class focused on the laws which have shaped women's rights over the centuries and the ways in which those laws have kept women hidden. She shared many kinds of records where we could find those hidden women of our families.

Hoping to catch some of Family Discovery Day on Saturday afternoon, I watched 2 of those sessions as well. One of the best parts of that involved President and Sister Russell M. Nelson. They talked about learning to do family history and the many blessings found in doing that. Sister Nelson talked about missionaries using family history as a transition for successful conversion when missionaries involve the Temple and family history consultants in their areas. But what she taught about the lessons between missionaries and investigators really hit home with me.

She said that when missionaries teach they are possibly teaching 100 people: the investigators, their ancestors waiting for their temple work to be done, and the ancestors of those missionaries who may have taught the investigator's ancestors the gospel. Generations are waiting for those investigators to accept the gospel and then move the temple work forward in their families. The was meaningful to me since I have a granddaughter serving a mission. I shared that thought with her in hopes that she will find greater purpose in her service.

So, did I find the same Spirit online as I did in person? Absolutely! I learned that the Spirit works anywhere that gospel principles,

especially family history, are taught, even online. Want to find that same great Spirit even weeks after RootsTech 2017 has concluded? Follow this link to <https://www.rootstech.org/> and watch the many sessions available online. Didn't get to Family Discovery Day? Go to <https://www.lds.org/broadcasts/archive/family-discovery-day-roots-tech/2017/02?lang=eng>.

If you are interested in going to next year's RootsTech, mark February 28-March 3, 2018, on your calendar. It's well worth the time and effort.

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