



FAMILY TIES



SANDY GRANITE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWSLETTER

Director's Message

Glen Steenblik



From time to time, individuals who frequent our Family History Center share with me personal experiences of how they are able to find a breakthrough, a missing link, a date or person whom they have been seeking for some time. These "tender mercies" often have come after sincere prayer and many hours of searching. Patrons now are able to take names of ancestors to the temple to have their sacred work performed.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks stated in the October 1998 General Conference, "All church members who worthily partake of the sacrament enjoy the companionship of the Spirit of the Lord and the ministering of angels. Angelic messages can be delivered by a voice or merely by thoughts or feelings communicated to the mind." What a blessing this is for the faithful. "Ask whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be given you."

(3 Nephi 18:20)

President Joseph F. Smith taught in 1939, "Our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters and friends who have passed away from this earth, having been faithful and worthy to enjoy these rights and privileges,

may have a mission given to them to visit their relatives and friends upon the earth again, bringing from the divine presence messages of love, of warning, or reproof and instruction to those whom they had learned to love in the flesh." (President Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. 1939, 436)

This divine truth has also been taught by Elder Jeffrey R. Holland who expressed, "I testify that angels are still sent to help us, even as they were sent to help Adam and Eve, to help the prophets and indeed to help the Savior of the world Himself. Such ministrations will be to the righteous until the end of time." ("The Ministry of Angels," *Ensign* November 2008)

May we each go forward in this New Year, with a renewed sense of dedication and commitment, to move our own family history work forward, taking advantage of all help available to us on both sides of the veil.

Old Letters

Preserving old letters is an art. Here are a few tips for keeping them happy and healthy.

- ❶ Don't put them in the attic.
- ❷ Plastic bins are not good for storing old letters.
- ❸ Take notes while organizing. Sticky notes are fine on folders, but not on letters.
- ❹ Keep everything from one envelope together.
- ❺ Putting all of the letters in chronological order might not be the best solution.

(Source: Amy Johnson Crow, 17 March 2016)

You May Have Missed...



With the bustle of the holidays, you may have missed an important anniversary this past November. It wasn't a marriage or birthday anniversary of the usual kind, but to family history buffs, it was a major milestone.

In 2006, the call went out for volunteers to help in a global effort to digitize family history records. In the past 10 years, over 1.2 million volunteers have donated time and talent to help index the world's historic genealogical records.

Over 1.5 billion images of historic records from all over the world have been looked at, indexed, and made available online. This has made over a billion ancestral names searchable by all of us from any web enabled device.

If you have used any images on FamilySearch.org, you have been the beneficiary of those efforts. To thank those who have indexed in the past 10 years, FamilySearch has made available some downloads to commemorate this event.

To access the downloads, go to <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/celebrating-10-years-indexing/>.

You can see a variety of things to download including computer wallpaper, printable downloads, Facebook profile images, and cellphone wallpaper.



If you have skills in reading any languages besides English, we can use your assistance as a reference person.

There are many patrons who are searching their ancestors among records written in foreign languages. While they may use a word list in that language, they are sometimes in need of help reading and understanding full texts.

If you have foreign language skills and would be willing to act as a reference person, please contact the following people:

Gail Martinez: gomartz@msn.com (Granite Stake)

Paula Hansen: pauladhansen@yahoo.com (Alta View Stake)

Debbie Sharp: dbsharp316@comcast.net (Granite View Stake)

Remember:

* When using the electronic check in at the Center, if you have **previously requested the newsletter**, don't request it again.

* If you see any building issues, contact Bob Ives, 801-580-1225.

#52Stories Project

Several months ago, I shared a doable project with you for writing your own personal life story using 52 questions which broke down the project into small increments. This year, FamilySearch is championing their 2013 idea into a challenge: Take each highlighted weekly question and respond to it in any format that you want: written, recorded, computer, etc. All you need to do is focus on the topic and write a response.

How much you write is entirely up to you. A few paragraphs, a single page, or several pages. “This 2017 personal history challenge, called #52Stories project, is an expanded version of a similar, very successful challenge offered by FamilySearch four years ago,” said Wendy Smedley, FamilySearch project manager for social media. “This year, however, instead of having a list of only 52 questions, the writer can choose his or her 52 questions from a list of 144 questions.”

But wait, it gets better. You don’t have to find the questions yourself. The #52Stories Project has divided the year into 12 themes. Each month focuses on a specific theme such as “Goals & Achievements” or “Education & School.” Each theme has 12 different questions, for a total of 144 questions. The questions are available for download by theme on 12 colorful pages, and you can see a highlighted weekly question on either Instagram (@FamilySearch) and the FamilySearch Facebook page. You can also download the series at <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/52stories-printables/>.

Each month from here on out the questions will be included in our newsletter.

Remember that you can download all question sheets for your personal reference.

January questions: “Goals and Achievements”



- 1 What is your earliest memory of feeling proud of yourself – at school, in sports, in art or music, in a club or scouting?
- 2 What is something you taught yourself how to do, without much help from anyone else?
- 3 What has been your greatest physical or athletic accomplishment – an endurance race, a difficult hike, a personal health goal? How did you stay motivated to reach the finish line?
- 4 What do you consider your greatest academic accomplishment – earning a degree, passing a challenging class, getting high marks on a test or project, reading *War and Peace*?
- 5 What trophies, medals, awards, and certificates have you earned throughout your life? How many have you kept?
- 6 What is a bad habit you are proud you have overcome? How did you do it?
- 7 What goals are you actively working toward right now? How do you hold yourself accountable and track your progress?
- 8 What goals are you frequently setting but never quite achieving? What’s getting in the way?
- 9 What role has failure played in your efforts to achieve your goals? Have you learned as much from your failures as you have from your successes?

- 10 What would you want your children or grandchildren to learn from your example about making and achieving goals?
- 11 What are some of your hidden achievements – things that were challenging for you, even though they might seem simple to someone else?
- 12 What will be the greatest achievement of your life? Is it behind you or still ahead of you?

February questions: “Love and Friendship”

- 1 Do you know the story of how your parents met and fell in love? What about your grandparents?
- 2 What valuable lessons about love and devotion have you learned from the most successful marriages in your family – whether they’re siblings, parents, grandparents, or even ancestors?
- 3 When you were young, what qualities did you think were most important in a future spouse? Did your list change as you grew and matured?
- 4 Tell the story of how you met your own true love, what first attracted you to him or her, and how long it took for you to know he or she was “the one.”
- 5 How does your significant other let you know that you are loved? How do you show your love in return?
- 6 Is there a couple in your life who has been an enduring example of what true love should be? How will you try to emulate that example in your life?
- 7 Describe your relationship with your spouse, a close sibling, or best friend in timeline form, capturing highlights and



- shared experiences. How has your connection grown and evolved?
- 8 Who was your first best friend? Are you still in contact with each other? What do you remember about the friendship?
- 9 What have been the most important and valued friendships of your life?
- 10 Do you mingle with a large circle of friends, or do you forge deep relationships with just a couple of close friends at a time?
- 11 What do you look for in a good friend? How many of those qualities do you possess yourself?
- 12 If you could pick a best friend and your soul mate from the world of fiction and make them real, who would you choose and why?

What’s New on FamilySearch

The January edition of “What’s New on FamilySearch” included several new additions to the site. Perhaps the most exciting “new” feature will be the long awaited web indexing.

This feature allows all indexing to occur online at the website rather than on your own individual computer.



February marks the beginning roll out to indexing directors and priesthood leaders.

Another new feature on Family Tree is the relationship calculator which shows you how a person is related to you. It does it by following your line and calculating the relationship using the preferred spouse and parents that you have selected in your tree. Be sure to check those preferred individuals,

especially if there is more than one spouse or parents available, such as step, divorce, etc.

When doing an historical records search, FamilySearch identifies which records in the search results are already attached to a person in the tree. **You MUST be signed into your FamilySearch account** for this feature to work properly. Ancestors located in the record and in your family tree are marked by an icon, which allows you to:

- * See vital details about the person as they are recorded in the Family Tree.
- * Navigate quickly to that ancestor in your Family Tree to see his or her recorded details.
- * More easily make sure the record is attached to the right person in your Family Tree.

If there is an icon, the record is attached. If there is no icon, the record is not attached.

What Do I Do with This? Liz Kennington

Many years ago when my siblings and I were cleaning out my parents' home, I was entrusted with all things genealogy. At the time I was thrilled about having those items in my possession. Almost 17 years later, I am still storing those items on a makeshift pyramid at the back of my garage. Before you panic and think that I have pictures or old documents out there in the elements, I was smart enough to move those inside. But what remains outside is a vast amount of "things" that neither I nor my siblings could bear to take to DI or simply trash. It was only a few short years later that similar items

belonging to my in-laws found their way on to the pyramid. What to do with all this?

I am not wanting to simply continue storing them so that 20 years from now my own children will have the burden of going through these items as well as whatever things we have accumulated. Since not one of my children currently has an interest in family history, I need to make some decisions about the fate of all these "things." Fortunately, I have found a book that gives me some directions about what to keep and what to throw.

Denise May Levenick has authored the book *How to Archive Family Keepsakes* where she gives some good basic direction to sorting through all the keepsakes. She says, "One key isn't much to save, but it doesn't take long for family keepsakes to become a mountain of memorabilia that threatens to come down on our present life like an avalanche." Sounds like that pyramid in my garage.



How then do we choose what to keep? She suggests that we examine the reasons why we are keeping an item. If the item has a story to it, is it the story that we want to preserve? If so, then we already have the story. Do we really need to keep the item? Levenick suggests that we perform a triage of sorts to determine what really needs to stay after the stories have been told.

🔗 **Why did my ancestor save this?** Perhaps your mother or grandmother pressed the corsage they received at a dance. While the

dried flowers are sentimental, they can be discarded. If the item is a baby picture or some other kind of life event picture complete with dates and names of people, then these kinds of items should be kept.

⌘ **Is it unique, one-of-a-kind?** Family letters, photos, or documents would fall under this question.

⌘ **Is it old?** If you are uncertain whether or not an item is worth saving, it is always better to continue saving it especially if it



contains names, dates, and places. I think that it goes without saying that if you have an old document that contains any of these items that you would want to keep them. I have a set of crocheted nut cups that I assume my grandmother Larson made. Since I have never seen anything like this and also know that they are old and certainly also one-of-a-kind, I will probably continue to store these items.

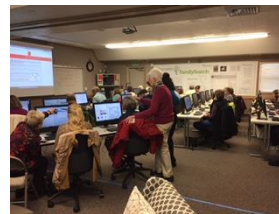
⌘ **Is it valuable?** Here is where things could get tricky. Value is relative. The monetary value is only valuable if someone is willing to pay a particular amount for the item. What is also of value to you today will probably not be of value to your children or grandchildren. If you have things such as books, you can make a PDF copy of them and then throw that book out. Digital storage is less expensive than physical storage space and takes less room. As always, any original documents should be kept. You could take a photo of those as well and then store the originals.

⌘ **Think about your answers.** If you have answered yes to all four of the questions, you have a clue as to whether you should keep that item. But perhaps here is another idea to further trim down those piles. Carefully go through everything you have, opening programs, menus, etc., looking for what might be tucked inside. Once you have the items like pictures or union cards, then you can throw out the cracked covers and programs.

If you are still worried about throwing out something, take a digital photo of it that will help you remember the artifact. If you are still in doubt about whether to keep something, ask yourself this question: Have I ever saved a similar memento from my own life's experience, and what would I expect my children to do with it? Sometimes we just need permission to hold on to the memory and let go of the clutter.

Weekly Classes Begin at the Center

Weekly classes began this past month on 17 January. This is the first time that hour long, one time classes had been offered. What was the response? Overwhelming!



The first class session had the entire building full of students wanting to learn. All the computers and laptops were used as well as several laptops brought by the students. The same classes taught during the week at different hours by different instructors also had a great response.

Every week since the 17th has had the same result. Patrons are coming to learn how to navigate FamilySearch and build their family trees.

The current class schedule continues through the first week in March, with no classes being taught the week of RootsTech.

RootsTech 2017



There is still time to register for RootsTech 2017 if you have not already done so. Family Discovery Day often sells out so check online for that information.

If you really want to attend sessions of the conference but can't for one reason or another, you can catch many of the sessions online for FREE! All keynote addresses are included in the streaming, as well as many other sessions. Here is the list of all live streamed sessions of RootsTech 2017 available on the home page at <https://www.rootstech.org/>.

Wednesday

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. | Innovator Summit General Session

Speakers: Steve Rockwood, Liz Wiseman

10:15 a.m.–11:15 a.m. | Industry Trends and Outlook

Speakers: Craig Bott and Guest Panel

11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Innovation—Best Practices and Applications

Speaker: Cydni Tetro

Thursday

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m. | RootsTech General Session

Speakers: Steve Rockwood, Jonathan and Drew Scott

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Getting Started in Genealogy

Speaker: Kelli Bergheimer

12:15 p.m.–1:15 p.m. | DNA: The Glue That Holds Families Together

Speaker: Diahann Southard

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. | DNA Matching on MyHeritage

Speaker: Dana Drutman

3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. | Jewish Genealogy: Where to Look and What's Available

Speaker: Lara Diamond

4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. | Family History Is Anything but Boring

Speakers: Crystal Farish and Rhonna Farrer

Friday

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m. | RootsTech General Session

Speakers: Levar Burton, Special Guest Panel

10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. | RootsTech Innovator Showdown Finals

12:15 p.m.–1:15 p.m. | Mothers, Daughters, Wives: tracing Female Lines

Speaker: Judy Russell

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. | Censational Census Strategies

Speaker: Mary Kircher Roddy

3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. | Big 4: Comparing Ancestry, findmypast, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage

Speaker: Sunny Morton

4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. | Cross the Atlantic with Religious Records
Speaker: Jen Baldwin

Saturday

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m. | RootsTech General Session
Speakers: Cece Moore, Buddy Valastro

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Journaling Principles That Work
Speaker: Steve Reed

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. | Don't Just Be a Searcher, Be a Researcher
Speaker: Crista Cowan

3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. | Creating Google Alerts for Your Genealogy
Speaker: Katherine R. Wilson

Streaming Help

The stream will automatically refresh at the beginning of each session. If it does not, you will need to refresh the page manually by clicking the **Refresh** button on your browser.

All **Family Discovery Day** sessions can be viewed online as well. Go to lds.org and click on the picture of President and Sister Nelson.



To subscribe to *Family Ties*, send email requests to:
sandygranitefhc@gmail.com

Visit our website for updates, class schedule, and information:
<http://www.granitefhc.com>

2720 East Newcastle Drive
Sandy, Utah
801-943-3005

