



# FAMILY TIES



## SANDY GRANITE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWSLETTER

### Director's Message

**Glen Steenblik**



My, how time flies when I sit down at the computer to do family history. What is intended to be maybe half an hour, quickly becomes 2+ hours, as I'm drawn deeper and deeper into the lives and experiences of my ancestors.

President Boyd K. Packer stated, "When we research our own lines we become interested in more than just names or the number of names going through the temple. Our interest turns to our fathers (and mothers). We seek to find them and to know them and to serve them."

I become captivated looking through the photos, stories, and documents in the Memories section of the Family Search website. Recently, I enjoyed sharing this feature with others who were previously unaware of it, at our ward "date-with-an-ancestor" event at our Family History Center. I could feel the joy of one neighbor as we saw a picture of his grandfather at the side of the horse they both used to ride many years ago. Hearts were turned once more, and precious memories resurfaced.

In a world full of uncertainty, turmoil, and turbulence, who would not be interested in greater protection and security? And there is no one who can provide this security better than our Heavenly Father. One of the Lord's chosen apostles, Elder Dale G. Renlund has

promised this blessing when he stated, "I extend the promise of protection - for you and your family as you take the challenge to find as many names to take to the temple...and to teach others to do the same. You will not only find protection from temptation and ills of the world, but you will also find personal power - power to change, power to repent, power to learn, power to be sanctified, and power to turn the hearts of your family members to each other and heal that which needs healing."

Let us make the time, take the time, for this healing to take place as we become more anxiously engaged, ourselves and others, in this marvelous saving work.

### They're Free!

We have a surplus of equipment in the shed behind the FHC. If anyone is interested in either 3x6 foot tables or a paper holder, you can contact Bob Ives ASAP. He can be reached at either 801-580-1225 or [ivesandassociates@gmail.com](mailto:ivesandassociates@gmail.com).



## #52 Stories

## Mother &amp; Motherhood



How are you doing writing your own history? Have you had success and surprises as you write about your life? This month's questions logically are focused on mother and motherhood.

- 1 What are some of the ways you and your mother are alike—physical traits, temperament, personality, talents, interests?
- 2 What are some of the ways you and your mother are different in those same areas?
- 3 How would you describe your relationship with your mother—either now or in the past?
- 4 What parts of your mother's parenting style did you adopt (or would you like to adopt) in raising children of your own?
- 5 How old were you when you finally appreciated your mother as an individual with her own separate history—that pre-existed your birth—and desire and needs of her own?
- 6 What are some of the stories you loved hearing from your mother's youth? Or from your grandmothers' younger days?
- 7 What was the nature of your relationship with each of your grandmothers? Did they live nearby or far away? What are your memories of visits to them?
- 8 What lessons have you learned from your grandmothers' life experiences?
- 9 How have challenges and hardship shaped the women in your family? In what ways have trials formed character?
- 10 Who are some other important mother figures who have been influential in your life?
- 11 How has society's view of mother and motherhood shifted throughout your life? What do you think of these changes?



- 12 If you are a mother, how has it been different than you expected? Has it been more (or less) challenging, fulfilling, overwhelming, wonderful than you thought it would be?

## DNA Testing Available

If you have considered taking a DNA test, May be the month to seriously consider moving forward with that. Ancestry is offering their DNA testing kits for \$49 instead of the usual \$99.



What is involved in taking a DNA test? When you order the test, it will be sent to you with simple, easy to follow instructions. You will return a small saliva sample in a prepaid envelope. Over 70,000 markers will be used to analyze your DNA. Within 6-8 weeks you will receive your results.

What types of information can you expect from your testing? You will be sent your ethnic mix and the people, places, and migration paths in your family story.

Ancestry's DNA test covers 26 ethnic regions. DNA testing is especially helpful if you have hit a brick wall and can't find the country of your family's origin. Knowing your DNA breakdown can give you helpful hints about where to look. And having a DNA test will help to confirm or dispute those family traditions about your heritage. If you are interested, you can go to <https://www.ancestry.com/dna/> in May to order your kit.

You may be surprised to find that you are not who you think you are!

## What Are Your Stories?

Liz Kennington

One of the choice experiences of my life was knowing my grandfather Larson. James Abraham Larson was born 20 June 1897 to John and Anna Johnson



Larson, both immigrants from Sweden, in Taylor, Utah. He was the only child of this couple that lived to maturity. Grandpa was a colorful character, living life in many different arenas. He worked on the railroad, creating quite a stir when he refused to strike with other workers: he had a family of eight to support which included his mother. He worked as a deputy sheriff in Ogden, Utah, earning \$155 a month in 1939. At the end of his working career he was the director of Adult Probation and Parole in Weber County. But what I most remember about him was his greenhouse garage.

In the early 1950s the presidency of the Ben Lomond Stake announced that a new stake center would be built. The people in the south end of the stake felt that the building should be built in that end of the stake, while of course, the people in the north felt it should be built in their end. The decision was up in the air for several weeks until President Heiner invited President David O. McKay to come and look over the situation.

In Grandpa's words, "The story is told that the Stake Presidency was showing President McKay the area and as they got to Second Street and Harrison Blvd., President McKay asked them to stop. He got out of the car and looked around for several minutes, then for a minute or two, he gazed up into Heaven as if he were receiving a revelation from God. He then told them, 'Build two stake houses, one in North Ogden, and one just above where we are standing.' And he prophesied

that by the time that these two stake houses were finished, the population would be large enough to divide the Stake."

The Stake Presidency then went about trying to raise the money for construction of not just one building, but two. They decided that the stake would give each family \$35; then the family would go forward and through hidden talents multiply—double or triple—that money through their newly developed talents.

Again, Grandpa's words: "Mom and I, for a while, were at a loss to know what hidden talents we could pull from a 'bushel basket.' But one Christmas day we were visiting with our son [my father] in Salt Lake City and during the afternoon, on a very warm, sunshiny Christmas day, we went for a ride through the residential section of the east

bench of Salt Lake City. We observed a house with a large front window stretching all the way across the room.



It was filled with beautiful flowers. Immediately I said to them, 'Stop!' So, we went in the house. We admired the flowers and before we left, we made quite an extensive purchase of African violets."

I am lucky to have a book of remembrance that my grandfather wrote and shared with his family many years ago. I was raised knowing the story about how Grandpa came to turn his garage into a greenhouse and raise African violets. But not everyone has this kind of a treasure available to them. Most of what we learn and know about our ancestors comes from the few census records we may view to learn about their lives. While these records can give us many facts about those ancestors, it becomes painfully clear that we are unable to fully construct the "stories" of their lives. For those kinds of details we need

to find other sources that flesh out our ancestors.

In a recent blog post on the FamilySearch Blog (22 August 2016), Leslie Albrecht Huber outlined several places that we can find the pieces of our ancestors' lives to make the stories come alive. Besides looking at the statistics in those records, **discover the hidden gems**. One of those gems is occupation. If you know your ancestor's occupation, you begin to understand his daily routine and even his socioeconomic status. If you come across an occupation that you are unfamiliar with, try going to <http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/index.html> to find some of these old occupations.

Other common pieces of information in records are causes of death (death certificate), names and occupations of witnesses (wills, court cases, etc.) and an indication of whether a child was legitimate. If you are lucky you may even find notes written on records. Always look on the margins of census records, as well as the final page of that district. Never assume that all the information about those people is just in the boxes of the form.

**Branch out into untapped records you have never considered before.** While these records may not contain the dates you are searching for, they will have interesting details about your ancestors that help fill in their stories. Financial records, school records, employment records, newspapers, minutes of meetings they attended, and records of societies they belonged to can all provide clues to your ancestor's life.

One of my favorite places to search for information and fill in the blanks are **old newspapers or magazines**. Pam Pickett, of the Willow Hills Ward, Granite Stake, recently found a wonderful account written by her great-grandfather, John A. Wilkerson,

a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arkansas Infantry, and his account of the Battle of Gettysburg that almost cost him his life and his leg. The beauty of this account is that it surfaced in the **UDC (United Daughters of the Confederacy) Magazine** in May 1996. The account not only shares information about the battle but his experience in the hospital in Baltimore where he was likely to lose his leg. Through the efforts of a Northern nurse, his leg was saved.

Another member of the Granite Stake, Janet Helland (Meadowlark Ward) had been searching for the marriage date of

her ancestor for over a month. She went to the Family Stories in the Newspaper class this past month in hopes that maybe she could find what she was looking for. With the help of others, she was able to find the whole story including the dates she was looking for. It didn't take her long to then take those names to the temple to do their work.

Another rich source of information are the **personal accounts of others who knew your ancestor**. I remember talking with my own father about his father, James A. Larson. I learned that my dad saw his own father as quite fun to be around until he got religion. He said that his dad became very serious about life when religion became important to his parents. My memories of my grandfather were always very serious ones. It would be good to talk more fully with my older siblings who knew my grandfather in early times. Then I could form a more rounded version of his life.

Have you ever wondered why your ancestors moved often? Perhaps you should find a **history of their towns** and see what kinds of events may have caused them to move.



You can also go to the Family History Books page of FamilySearch.org. There are 200,000 digitized family history publications, including many town and country histories. Or try contacting **local family history or genealogical societies**. People in these societies know about the history of their areas. One of the things that I enjoy about my father's personal history is that he wrote about his life in context of world events. He included many stories of the world around him that influenced his life.

Back to my grandfather's African violets. After the need for the fund raising was past, my grandparents continued to sell the violets to supplement their income. I had no idea to what extent that business had grown over the years until I happened to be showing someone the newspaper resources available on the FamilySearch portal several years ago. I was demonstrating how to search using my father's name since he was often in the Utah



newspapers, and I knew that I would find articles about him. I happened to click on one article that appeared in the *Ogden Standard Examiner*

in 1965. The article came right up, and we were reading it when I happened to glance to the left of the article at a small advertisement. I was totally caught off guard as I read about African violets for sale.

## We Need Your Help

In the Granite Stake's recent Stake Conference, President Clint Ensign shared a great story about his grandfather during World War II. It was fascinating to hear and gave me an idea about what we could accomplish in the next issue(s) of *Family Ties*.

I am asking all of you who have stories about your ancestors during WWII, whether they served in the armed forces or not, to send those to me so that we can share them in our

June issue. Please send them to me at [sandygranitefhc@gmail.com](mailto:sandygranitefhc@gmail.com).

Don't worry about how your story is worded. I can edit it for you. Just consider sharing those stories that have come to you while you are doing your family history work. Please submit stories by May 24 to be considered in the June issue of *Family Ties*.

## A Prophet Speaks



If you listened to General Conference this past April, you may have heard President Henry B. Eyring talk about his experiences doing family history. If you did hear him, you realize that he has had some of the same challenges as we all do with the process.

He shared the struggle that he had when confronted with two names needing ordinances. AND he was working with a consultant by his side and another helper on the phone! He had to determine which of the two names was the "true" person he was seeking.

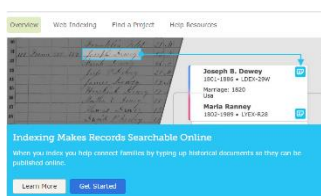
In his words, "I asked my consultants to tell me [which one to choose]. They said, 'No, you must choose.' And they were completely sure I would discover the truth...as I prayed, I knew with surety what to do—just as I have in other situations when I need to rely on heaven's help to solve a problem."

He also talked about the youth in their efforts to do family history work and the baptisms and confirmations which follow. And then this challenge: "The youth have caught the vision admirably; now their parents need to catch up. There are many people who have accepted baptism...because of the work done by the youth, and they are

waiting for other ordinances that only adults can perform....”

If you have wanted to join in the efforts of giving your ancestors the blessings of the temple ordinances, you now have the challenge to do so. If a prophet can find the time to research and take family names to the temple, so can we!

## Web Indexing



The time is fast approaching for the indexing program to become a web activity instead

of a desktop function. Are you curious to see what that might look like? You can give it a test drive by going to FamilySearch.org. Once there, click on indexing. A screen will come up with several options across the top to choose from.

You can do an overview of the program on this page or click on Web Indexing on the top bar. Either way you need to sign into FamilySearch. If you clicked on Web Indexing and signed in, you can see at the bottom of the page the indexing groups that you are part of, namely your stake and ward.

While this is not part of the guided tour, it does give you an idea of how many people are indexing in your ward and stake. You can also create groups here such as family or friends.

You can take a small guided tour and see how the new system will work. After completing a record sample, you can view other batches. You can also select your level of expertise, as well as identifying batches that you would consider



your favorites. Then when you go to index through the web program, you can select those batches you would like to work on.

## How are You Doing? The Family History Guide

If you are relatively new at doing family history research or a newly called consultant, you may want to refer to a new feature in The Family History Guide to evaluate your progress.

Go to <http://thefhguide.com/index.html>. Click on Training at the top of the page and select Tools. Scroll down that page and will see 100 Question...and Answers from The Family History Guide. Once you download the sheet, you can use to either check your own skills or how well you are working with those you serve.

100 Questions You Might Be Asked ... and Answers from The Family History Guide



You can sort the table by the second column to focus on Projects. You may edit this document and share it with others, so long as the copyright notice and logo are not modified or removed.

Category: Question	Project / Goal (Choice)
1. Adoption: How do I do genealogy for adopted ancestors?	9. U.S. / B3
2. Birth: How do I find birth records for my ancestors?	9. U.S. / B2
3. Cemetery: Where can I find cemetery records online?	9. U.S. / B6
4. Census: How do I get started researching (U.S.) census records?	9. U.S. / C1
5. Census: How do I work with the <decade> U.S. census?	9. U.S. / C2
6. Children: How do I get kids motivated about family history?	Children / Motivation
7. Children: What are some good genealogy activities for kids?	Children / Activities
8. Church: Where do I find church records for my ancestors?	9. U.S. / F1
9. City directories: How do I track an ancestor in a certain town or county?	9. U.S. / A2
10. Computer skills: How do I learn more about using a Mac?	Intro / CB (Mac Skills)
11. Computer skills: How do I learn Windows?	Intro / CB (Windows Skills)

## Who Am I?

Could this be one of your ancestors? Hannah Stilley Gorby was born in 1746. She is believed to be the earliest born woman to be photographed. The photo was taken in 1840.



## Spring 2017 Class Schedule

Sandy Granite Family History Center



Make good use of this month, and come to a class at the FHC. Remember that all classes are just one hour, and you may want to arrive early for a seat.

### 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  
Thu, 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 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  
Thu, 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  
Thu, 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.

### Decandancy Research

Tue, May 23 11:00 am  
Thu, 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.

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>

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