



FAMILY TIES



SANDY GRANITE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWSLETTER

Director's Message

Glenn Steenblik



Recently, my dear wife and I attended a major-milestone high school reunion. Among those present were long-time friends, with whom I had shared amazing bonding experiences earlier in my life. How terrific it was to be reunited, to catch up on the comings and goings, ups and downs, life events, challenges, and successes of so many. I became excited as I reacquainted with a classmate I had not seen in some 50 years. I discovered that her married name just happened to be the same name as my Swiss maternal grandmother. Lo and behold, her husband's grandfather was the older brother of my grandmother, just one year older, in fact. He probably helped care for and entertain my grandmother as they emigrated from Switzerland after their conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Visiting with my friend and her husband, we shared memorable family history stories. At the end of the evening I had a hard time settling down as I reflected on the good time I had that evening and the many memories revisited.

Afterwards I couldn't help but think about some of the relatives we've not seen in many years: grandparents, great-grandparents, on and on. Some we've only heard of and about whom we know very little. How grateful I am for journals and histories. Grateful am I that someone took time to record events so

that we can know all that we do know of them.

Elder Richard G. Scott once stated: "I have tasted enough of the fruits of this sublime work to know that the keys Elijah restored to Joseph Smith permit our hearts to be bound and each of us linked to those of our ancestors who are waiting for our help. Through our efforts in holy temples here on earth using the authority delegated by the Savior, our progenitors receive the saving ordinances that allow them to enjoy eternal happiness.... I testify that the Spirit of Elijah is touching the hearts of many of Father's children throughout the world, causing the work for the dead to accelerate at an unprecedented pace."

May we each continue to do all we can in furthering this great work and share our knowledge, experiences and testimony with those close to us. As the Primary song states: "How will they know unless we teach them so?"

National Family History Month

Liz Kennington

October marks the observance of National Family History Month. What will you do to celebrate this month?

Will you be able to create for your family the



chance to learn about their heritage? What makes family history matter?

“Knowing, recording, and preserving your family history directly impacts you, your family, and even future generations of people you may never know,” shared Rachel Coleman in a recent FamilySearch blogpost. She said that family history is more than just census records, pedigree charts, and birthdates. It can be a powerful antidote for many of life’s experiences we face today.

Several areas are affected when we share family history with our families. One of these is **core identity**. Knowing about our cultural background and where we came from can help us develop a strong sense of who we really are. Having a strong core identity gives us direction and a sense of belonging.

As humans we desire to belong and connect to other human beings. Those relationships we form with others can be very durable, whether those people are in our present life or past family. When we record our history, we give an opportunity to our family to **connect** with us when we are gone. This past month I connected with my children and grandchildren.

My daughter Brooke and her family moved to St. George, Utah, two years ago. While it was hard to see them move that far away, it also gave us an opportunity to share with her family their heritage in that community. My 2nd great-grandfather, Robert Dockery Covington was part of the Cotton Mission and served as the bishop of Washington for



many years. My son-in-law Kelly is an avid genealogist, and so he went forward finding information about Grandpa Covington in that area.

We now know where Covington lived in Washington (the house still stands as the oldest building in Washington) and the location of the stream where he first camped upon arriving in Washington. This past summer my grandson Jarom located his gravesite in the Washington cemetery. The exciting thing is that when he went there



with his father, they had no idea where to find the grave. Jarom walked right to it! He was excited to show me what he had found.

Another benefit of family history is a greater understanding of the challenges our ancestors lived. Learning about their flaws and mistakes helps us develop **compassion** for others in our past which can translate to members of our family today. It can even help us to be better employees, spouses, parents, etc.

One of the great benefits of family history that has blessed my life is seeing the patterns of **resiliency** in my ancestors’ lives. This has helped me to remain faithful to the gospel principles, as well as meeting the challenges of life. I know that I can recover from failures and disappointments and find happiness despite hardships. Bruce Feller, in an article for the *New York Times*, summarized a study about the resiliency of children: “The more children knew about their family’s history, the stronger their sense of control over their own lives, the

higher their self-esteem, and the more successfully they believed their families functioned. It turned out to be the best single predictor of children's emotional health and happiness."

Being part of family history also creates in us a **selflessness** that what we can contribute will be of value to others. The act of searching, recording, and preserving our family history blesses not just our related family, but the entire human family.

One of the things I enjoy in doing family history work is learning about the spiritual things that have taken place in the lives of my ancestors. I can witness the hand of God in their lives and how He knows their needs and concerns. This translates into my own life as I look more carefully at the evidence of His love for me. My **self-worth** is important to God because my ancestors' worth was also important to Him.

This month don't just "do" family history. Find a way to make it relevant in the lives of your family members. You aren't just recording names. You are giving your family the gifts which can help them better endure life here on earth.

#52Stories October Values & Beliefs



Another month has passed, and new questions are available for October. Again, you can answer all 12 questions or any of them that you want.

① What are some of your earliest memories of learning right from wrong, whether

through mistakes you made, examples of friends and family, memorable conversations or lessons?

② What do you believe are the necessary ingredients and habits for a good, moral, purposeful life? How are you striving to live up to these ideals?

③ Do you feel your beliefs and values are shared by most of the people you are surrounded by each day? Or do your beliefs set you apart from those around you? What is that like?

④ Were you raised in a faith tradition? What role did faith play in your family and community life growing up? How does your life currently align with what you were taught as a child?

⑤ How have you seen the values and beliefs of the world around you shift throughout your lifetime? How have those changes impacted you personally?

⑥ What were the faith and religious traditions of your ancestors? How did those traditions influence the course of their lives and, by extension, your life today?

⑦ What are some of the things you once thought or believed in as a child that you no longer believe as an adult? What brought about these shifts in perspective?

⑧ Were you raised as part of a particular faith? What role did religious traditions play in your family and community life growing up? How does your faith continue to influence your life today?

⑨ How do you believe the human race came into existence on this planet at this time?

Do you believe in religious explanations, scientific theories, or other conclusions?

⑩ What are your personal beliefs regarding the age-old questions: Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where do we go after we die?

⑪ What has shaped your beliefs the most throughout your life?

⑫ Who or what is the compass that helps you navigate your life's journey? What examples, influences, and practices help you maintain your course of faith?

RootsTech 2018



RootsTech 2018 has announced that it is changing things up a bit for the Innovation Showcase. This year WE get to vote for our favorite family history difference-maker. The Family History Guide, developed by Bob Taylor and Bob Ives, is an example of a family history difference maker. You might want to consider taking a few moments and nominate your favorite family history innovation. You can learn about the process by going to <http://thefhguide.com/> for more information. Under **More** at the top of the homepage, click on **Blog**. You can also go directly to the Rootstech website, <https://www.rootstech.org/innovation-at-rootstech-2018> to nominate your favorite innovation.

But the Name is the Same

Ever find more than one person in a family with the same name? It can be easy to make the mistake of merging two different people with the same name into being the same person. Or you may confuse two different people with the same name and assign the wrong record or event to the wrong person. Or even worse, overlook yet another relative with the same name (there could always be more).

Granted, it may take some work when faced with the possibility of two different people with the same name. But taking the time may help you find more ancestors. How can you determine who is who? First, look at records that mention age. Then look to see if there are any middle initials. Who is the spouse? Are there occupational clues? What specific residences or residential clues can you find? Lastly, who are the relatives?

Every record you can find in the area where your same name people lived can be used to determine if you are looking at two different people.

[Source: Michael John Neill, Genealogy Tip of the Day, 26 September 2017]

Worldwide Indexing Event 2017

You want to get involved in doing family history work, but research isn't your strong point? How can you involve yourself? Be a part of **Fuel the Find!** What is **Fuel the Find**? "Be involved in helping others make discoveries by indexing records. Indexed records are like the fuel that gives FamilySearch.org the power to connect people to their missing family members. Every name you index adds another drop of precious fuel that can help someone else to find their ancestors."

You can help **Fuel the Find** by joining with other volunteers around the world in the annual **Worldwide Indexing Event** being held October 20-22, 2017. The purpose of this event is to unite the international indexing community in a common goal of making more historical records available and searchable online for free. Last year's event broke the previous records with more than 100,000 indexers helping to index over 10,000,000 records!

Local wards are being encouraged to set goals for their groups and then organize ways to accomplish those goals. This could also be a fun way to connect long-distance family members in a combined goal, strengthen relationships with neighbors, or unite a ward in a single effort.

Possible ideas you might want to try could include hosting an indexing party or inviting people to index from home. Or create any number of other ways to bring people together. To insure the event is successful,

FamilySearch is working hard to make more records available to be indexed. If you are proficient in languages other than English, you might want to consider indexing in that language. Whether you are a beginner or advanced in your indexing skills, there will be records to meet every skill level.

The only tool you will need to get started is your LDS account number to sign into FamilySearch Indexing. If you have taken a leave of absence from indexing, you might

want to brush up on your skills before the event begins in October.

If you have any questions about this event or want to explore group indexing parties, contact Karen Andrews (Granite Stake), 801.674.5225 or k6andrews@yahoo.com .

[Source: Alison Ensign, FamilySearch Blog, 24 September 2017]


WHEN:

October 20 to 22


WHERE:

Wherever you are!


HOW:

Index one batch, and help someone else do the same.


WHATS NEW:

Online indexing now available!

Learn more at: [FamilySearch.org/indexingevent2017](https://familysearch.org/indexingevent2017)



Moving Forward

I recently spoke with a couple in the Granite Stake about their family history mission. Ed and Sandy Montague had the opportunity to be part of the quality control work being done with microfilm images from all over the world. The LDS



Church has contracted with photographers, many not of our faith, to record images relevant to family history work. These images are loaded on portable hard drives and then sent to Salt Lake. From the hard drives the images are downloaded on to servers with the hardware needed to work with them.

The Montagues were then able to read the random images sent to them for quality control. They were searching for defects and problems in the images which were zoomed into 2-3 pixels. They were also able to scan other images on the microfilm. The language of most interest to them was Chinese. Looking at other images on the film revealed pedigree charts in Chinese, reading top to bottom instead of left to right.

Included with these images were maps of burial places. Many people were buried in the yards of their homes so the hand drawn maps would be especially helpful to those wanting to know where to find burial spots. Ed also shared that many of the pedigrees had hand drawn pictures of the individuals as well. The work is moving forward but not without the help of missionaries and the growing numbers of people joining the church from all over the world.

One of those who has joined the church and will help use the Chinese images for other Asians looking for their ancestors is Lena Stout. Ed Parker of the Granite View Stake tells the following story about meeting Lena and the fruits of that visit.

"A little over a dozen years ago, while working at my home office, I received a call from a gentleman that asked me if I could help him. He needed someone to pick up a person at the Salt Lake City airport.

"He continued by saying this person is Chinese, first time here in Utah, and would feel very lost if he wasn't there. I told him I would leave immediately to pick her up at the airport. Then I asked him, "After the pick-up what should I do?" He went on to ask me to bring her to my home and he should be there shortly after we arrived.

"After getting to the airport I discovered that Lena, the lady I was picking up, was from Beijing, the first female officer for the Bank of China, and was here for some business with Zion Bank.

"I introduced myself to her and told her that the gentleman who was supposed to meet her would meet us at my home in just a few minutes. She seemed a bit nervous but agreed to that arrangement.

"When we arrived at my home I invited her to sit in our living room and went for a glass of lemonade for her. When I came back I noticed that a picture of the Savior and a Christus statue had caught her attention. Then, within a few minutes, while staring intently at the Christus, she started to cry very softly. I handed her a small towel, put my arm around her, and asked her

if she knew who that was and why she felt "His Spirit." She looked at me and noticed my eyes had tears as well.

"The gentleman that was to pick her up was four hours late. No one knew why nor did he ever explain why but during that time I shared my testimony, went on to explain, the best I could, the emotions we both were feeling, and why I felt she was in my home at this very moment. As I talked to her about the Church and why I thought we were to meet at that time, I asked her if she wouldn't mind if I prayed to "our" Heavenly Father, the father of the person that we felt a love for and an interest in learning about. I was blessed with the opportunity of baptizing Lena ten days after that experience in my home.

"Sister Lena Stout has since met a wonderful gentleman at a Chinese ward just off the campus of the University of Utah. One year after their marriage, they were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple which is directly across the street from the Family History Center where she now works each day.



"We baptized Lena's daughter, a friend of Lena, and her friend's son, and several other family members.

Lena's daughter and friend's son have both gone on missions.

"Lena is a Temple and Family History Consultant for her ward, and works full time for the Church helping Asians locally and from around the world.

"She always says, "I'm fulfilling my purpose and am grateful for the missionaries, church, and family members you introduced to me and especially pleased that you didn't hesitate to share the gospel with me."

It's amazing how the Lord knows what needs to be done in His work and then goes about making it possible for us to do His work for Him. The Montagues are working on those Chinese records, and Lena Stout will eventually use them to help other Asians all over the world. The Lord is definitely in the details of our lives.

Fall 2017 Class Schedule Sandy Granite Family History Center Tues., Wed., Thu.: 10:00 am – 9:00 pm Sundays: 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm



October Classes

Notes: Leaving Breadcrumbs, Find Your Way Back by Debbie Burnett
Oct. 4: Wednesday morning, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

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 system within FamilySearch. Adding notes and documentation to ancestor entries helps you a) Solidify your ancestor's information, b) Track issues and questions, and c) Communicate with other FamilySearch users about common issues.

Memories Part 1 – Photos and Documents Using Mobile Devices by

Debbie Burnett

Oct. 8: Sunday evening, 6:00-7:00

p.m. (Repeated on Nov. 5)

Bring your smart phones, iPhones, iPads and family to learn how to easily add voice recordings to your 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 your Family Tree. Create some memories, yours and theirs! All ages are welcome.

Adding Sources from FamilySearch by

Janice Kanaley

Oct. 11: Wednesday morning, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

SORE SPOT – or – SPOT SOURCE? Is sourcing your information in Family Tree a Sore Spot? Come learn how to “SPOT SOURCES” in Family Tree using the Family Tree tools, shown under RESEARCH HELP and SEARCH RECORDS waiting for you to complete.

Memories Part 2 – Audio and Written Using Mobile Devices by

Debbie Burnett

Oct. 15: Sunday evening, 6:00-7:00

p.m. (Repeated on Nov. 12)

Bring your smart phones, iPhones, iPads and family to learn how to easily add voice recordings to your 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.

Add Sources Not from FamilySearch

by Shelley Adam

Oct. 18: Wednesday morning, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Learn how to add sources from other websites to Family Tree using RecordSeek.com. Have your own sources? Learn how to add those too!

Family Tree Game Night by

Debbie Burnett

Oct. 22: Sunday evening, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Bring your family and learn about your family tree using some great interactive, online games like Ancestor Guru. Print your family tree and match names with pictures. Create some memories, yours and theirs! All ages are welcome.

Find and Prepare Temple Names by

Janice Kanaley

Oct. 25: Wednesday morning, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Find Family Members hoping for their Temple Work to be completed. Come discover names through DEPTH SEARCH and DESCENDANCY RESEARCH.

Hopefully, we may even be able to print a "Temple Ready" card for your ancestor.

Are You Related? by

Debbie Burnett

Oct. 29: Sunday evening, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Come and discover with your family important people that might be related to you. Gordon B. Hinckley? Elvis Presley? Abraham Lincoln? Someone in your neighborhood? You won't know unless you come. Learn fun ideas on how to help the family make your relatives “real” people. Create some memories, yours and theirs! All ages welcome.

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

<http://www.granitefhc.com>

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