



# FAMILY TIES



## SANDY GRANITE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWSLETTER

### Director's Message

#### Glen Steenblik



Throughout the first half of 2018, on the fourth Sunday of each month, quorums, groups, and Relief Societies have been instructed to discuss the topic of the

Sabbath Day. Numerous approaches and learning activities have been suggested in the *Ensign* to address this fundamental doctrine. Some of these include:

- The Sabbath is a day to remember what God has done for us.
- The Sabbath is a day to worship.
- Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath
- Partaking of the Sacrament allows us to have the spirit with us always.
- Jesus Christ is our example of honoring the Sabbath.
- The Sabbath is a day to serve others.

As members consider how to better serve on the Sabbath, we may come to recognize that doing family history work is an excellent suggestion, whether it be journaling, indexing, researching/seeking out names, teaching others, sharing family history stories/experiences with family members, etc.

President Russell M. Nelson, while speaking about the Sabbath in 2015,

stated, "Searching for and finding family members who have preceded you on earth - those who did not have the opportunity to accept the gospel while here - can bring immense joy." The joy is completed only as temple ordinances are done. We know President Nelson is not only a *believer* in family history work, but is also a *doer*. He and Sister Nelson shared some of their personal family history experiences



last year at Rootstech 2017, in a session which also inspired me to do a little better.

What great joy has come to our family through sacred covenants and ordinances performed in holy temples. These are the kind of experiences we hope to replicate time and time again in the future: blessing after blessing, feast after feast, until the work is done.

#### They May Be in the Newspaper

Have you ever spent time looking through old newspapers online? One of the fun things about doing this is finding the "visiting relatives" to your family. They may never have actually lived in the area where they are visiting, but this helps to verify those family connections you're trying to make.

## RootsTech 2018



Hopefully, you have made the decision to attend Rootstech 2018. 28 February-3 March. It promises to be an event that will both teach and entertain you.

Gold-medal figure skater, Scott Hamilton will kick off the conference on Thursday as the keynote speaker. Hamilton is known as the eternal optimist, having battled cancer and other challenges in his life.



Friday's keynote speaker, Brandon Stanton, has used the power of storytelling to raise money for several lifechanging purposes.

Henry Lewis Gates, Jr., is one of America's top scholars in African-American literature and the use of DNA in family history. Catch a preview of his approach to family history by watching his PBS series, "Finding Your Roots."



Recently added to the keynote speaker line-up is Natalia Lafourcade, renown Mexiacan pop-rock performer, who is scheduled to speak Saturday morning.

Continue forward into Saturday afternoon with President and Sister Dallin H. Oaks who are the keynote speakers for Family Discovery Day.



If circumstances don't allow you to attend the conference in person, join the live streaming of all the keynote addresses and some class sessions at rootstech.org. The livestreaming class sessions have not been announced yet, but will be sometime this month. Family Discovery Day will be streamed lived on the LDS.org homepage.

## Have You Wondered?

### Liz Kennington

If you are an indexer, you have probably wondered just how effective your work really is. Do people actually search the records you index? I had the answer to that question recently when I received an email informing me that someone I had indexed from the 1940 U.S. Census records, John Kostelac, had been added to Family Tree. In fact, of the 906 names I indexed from that 1940 census, 168 people had been added to family trees and 936 ordinances have been reserved.

Thousands of volunteers helped to index the 1940 U.S census in 2012 with over 132 million records indexed. I was able to sign in to FamilySearch and actually see some of the individuals whose records I indexed.

But my efforts were just a small part compared to all of the work accomplished in FamilySearch this past year.

FamilySearch just released their numbers for 2017 and it's amazing to see



what has been achieved. A total of 22.7 million photos and stories were added this past year to FamilySearch. 1.2 billion people are now in the Tree. This was accomplished with 4.42 million contributors, with 1.8 million of those as new contributors this year. 844 million sources were added, with 149 million new. What about hints? There were 2.5 billion hints with 450 million new ones.

There are now 5.9 billion total searchable records online. Indexing has seen 4.2 billion records indexed, with 283 million new records in 2017. All these records translate into 320,807 indexing volunteers and 8,286,403 total volunteer indexing hours!!

## Where Did They Marry?



February is the month of love, and it is only normal for us to wonder about the marriages of our ancestors. Have you been successful in finding all the marriage records you need? If not, then perhaps a little help in knowing where to find those records is in order. In a recent blogpost on [theancestorhunt.com](http://theancestorhunt.com), the author outlines 22 different places where you can look to find marriage records. Here are just a few of those places to search.

**Marriage Indexes:** Wherever these are found, whether online or in a library or

archive, they provide date and locations of marriages. But a word of caution here: these are probably compiled from marriage certificates, so remember that transcriptions may not always be correct.

**Marriage certificates:** This is always the best document for marriage information. They usually are completed and signed by the officiant.

**Marriage licenses:** This is a tricky source since marriage may not have been performed even when a license has been issued. You still need to do further research. One of the pluses of a marriage license is that the number of previous marriages will often be listed. Didn't know your ancestor had been married before? Now you know!

**Cemetery records:** While a marriage date is not usually found in cemetery records, many times husband and wife are buried next to each other. This is especially helpful if you didn't know the person was married. If that information isn't included in the records, look to see the last name of the person buried next to your ancestor. If it is the same, that is at least a clue about possible relatives and even a spouse. Be sure to check the interment cards and plot deeds as well.

**Draft cards:** The applicant for the draft card will usually offer a contact person on the application, and if it is a wife may include that word in parentheses. There are no marriage dates but at least this is a clue about the marriage.

**Military records:** The next of kin information will usually include a

spouse's name and contact information, but not always the marriage date and place.

**Death certificates:** The marital status is usually included along with a name. Be careful to note if the married name of the wife is included or her maiden name. If it is her married name, further research is in order, but at least you have a first name to work with.

**Personal bibles:** If you're lucky enough to have a family bible, much of the vital dates are included in one. Be sure to read all the information to see if there is more than one spouse listed.

This is just a short listing of all the available records where you can find marriage information. To see the complete list go to <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/2-ways-to-find-ancestors-marriage-information#.WnNU4ainHcu>.

Another place to search is FamilySearch under marriage records. You might be surprised to know that there are 270 million records available there.

## Marriage Records in the U.S.

You are looking for the marriage records of your ancestors. What can you hope to find in those records? Some of the most common details you can expect to find are:

- Names of the bride and groom
- Where and when the marriage took place
- Ages of the bride and groom

- Residences of the bride and groom
- Birth dates and places of the bride and groom
- Marital status of the bride and groom, if widowed or divorced, and possibly information about a previous marriage
- Information about the bride's and groom's parents, such as names, residences, or even occupations
- Names of witnesses, which may be other family members
- Name and title of the person performing the marriage

This is the information you can find in a marriage record. But this record is part of a marriage trail that can lead you to that final source of information. The trail may include such things as:



◦ **Intentions:** These were most common before 1850. They were posted in a public place prior to a couple's marriage to show intention to marry. This allowed others to object to the marriage.

◦ **Marriage bonds:** These can be found in southern and mid-Atlantic states until around 1850. These were usually posted by a member of the bride's family. The bond was the amount of money the groom would pay if the marriage did not go through.

◦ **Marriage applications and licenses:** A bride or groom applied to the civil authority for a license which showed that the couple had legal permission to marry.

◦ **Consent papers:** These can be found if either the bride or groom was underage. These papers show the parents' permission to marry.

- **Marriage certificates:** The marriage certificate was given to the couple at the time of the marriage. The clerk or the officiant may have also kept a copy.
- **Returns and registers:** The person performing the marriage sent these to the county clerk to show that the marriage took place.

For more information you can find an article in the FamilySearch Wiki entitled, "How to Find United States Marriage Records." Once there, you can click a state to see a chart which breaks down the marriage records by time periods.

[Source: Leslie Albrecht Huber, 29 January 2018, FamilySearch Blog]

## Live Relative Research

Sometimes we are so caught up in researching online that we forget one of the most valuable resources is often just a phone call away: our oldest living relative! If you are lucky enough to still have someone alive in your family who could give you valuable information about your ancestors, now is the time to interview them. What can you hope to learn from them? Plenty! Here are a few questions to get you started.

**① What is your name?/ Where were you born?/ When were you born?** These may seem like obvious questions but you may be surprised at the answers. If you've only known someone by their nickname, their full name may come as a shock.

**② What were the names of your parents/grandparents/other relatives?** Be sure to write down any or all first, middle, and last names. Records

can be lost and this is one way to find hidden relatives.

**③ Where did your ancestors come from?** If they don't know, try being more specific such as "Where did your father come from?"

**④ What kinds of stories did your grandparents or parents tell you?** While some of these may not be true stories, they often contain some elements of truth in them. Take notes!

**⑤ What kind of holiday traditions did your family enjoy when you were growing up?** Sometimes holiday traditions can give you clues about your family's origins.

**⑥ What historical events have had the greatest impact on you?** It's one thing to read about historical events in a textbook but it's quite another to hear how those events actually affected real people. Just be aware that some events can be emotional for people. Put on your sensitivity hat.

**⑦ What do you know about your family name?** Be sure to ask about both their maternal and paternal surnames.

**⑧ Did anyone in the family speak a foreign language?** This is another question that can establish family origins.

**⑨ Can you describe the community and house where you grew up?**

**⑩ Where are our relatives buried?** Most people used to have family cemeteries. Tombstones often contain dates, etc., that can further our research.

**If you happen to be the oldest living relative, now is the time to start writing down this information!**

[Source: findmyancestry.net, 26 July 2016]

## February Class Schedule

All classes will be held in Room 102 (subject to change)

**Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018**

**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Super Family History Day!**

Great handouts, great help just for you! Extra consultants on hand to give you individual help with whatever you need. Super Idea to help serve super YOU!

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**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Consultant Training: Gail Martinez (Invitation Only)**



**Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Consultant Training: Laurie Beardall (Invitation Only)**

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**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Beginning Genealogy: Larry Whitaker**

This class is an introduction to why we do genealogy, and provides an organized process for being most effective. Class members will also be told about the free to LDS partner programs, and the three commercial programs for a backup database which synchronize with FamilySearch.

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**Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018**

**10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Fantastic Family Tree App for Mobile Devices: Debbie Burnett**

Bring your smart phones, iPhones, iPads to learn how to easily add photos, docs, stories and

audio to your Family Tree. Bring a photo (digital or print) of a relative and if possible a document (death certificate, obituary, etc.) of a relative. This is incredibly easy to use and do.

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**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Fantastic Family Tree App for Mobile Devices: Debbie Burnett**

The same description as the morning class.

**Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018**

**10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Leaving Breadcrumbs: Debbie Burnett**

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
- c) Communicate with other FamilySearch users about common issues.

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**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Consultant Training: Gail Martinez (Invitation Only)**

**Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Consultant Training: Laurie Beardall (Invitation Only)**



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**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.****FamilySearch Family Tree: Larry Whitaker**

The class is an overview of the functions in this wonderful but sometimes intimidating program. Class members will be shown how to add and edit information about an ancestor, how to add source documents from the Record Hints, and Memories such as photos and stories.

**Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018****Happy Valentine's Day NO CLASSES!****Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018****No Thursday Morning Class**

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**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Consultant Training: Gail Martinez (Invitation Only)****Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018****No Tuesday Morning Class**

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**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Genealogy Record Searches: Larry Whitaker**

Class members will be shown effective search strategies in FamilySearch, to find the records necessary to improve the accuracy of their tree, and find ancestors who are not already in their tree. This will include a bit about the FamilySearch Research Wiki, which can provide excellent instruction, and also find records from several programs in one search.

**Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018**

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**No Wednesday Classes****Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018****No Thursday Morning Class**

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**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Google Class Secrets for Genealogy: Jeff Morgan (Room 101)**

Everyone knows that Google's search engine is the most powerful way to find information on the internet but most people are still not using it to its full potential. In this class you will learn how to use Google's "secret" tools (and a few other free software gems) to find the genealogical sources, evidence, and stories faster than you ever thought possible.

**Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018****10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Find/Add Sources Outside of FS: Shelly Adam**

Find sources using personally kept family records, other family history websites and Google search. Add those outside sources using the tool Recordseek.

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7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Find/Add Sources Outside of FS: Shelly Adam  
The same description as the morning classes

**NOTE: The Center will be closed February 28 – 3 March for RootsTech.**

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

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