



FAMILY TIES



SANDY GRANITE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWSLETTER

Director's Message Glen Steenblik



Last fall, while on a trip to Meridian, Idaho to see five of our grandchildren, along with their parents, I took the opportunity to visit with my 14-year-old grandson about his Scouting progress. We talked of recent camps, merit badges, and activities. As I discovered he had not yet earned the Genealogy merit badge, I kindly invited him to find a time where we might spend an hour or so together to work on it. He was able to free up a little time from friends, hockey, and schoolwork so we were able to make great strides in accomplishing the selected goal over a weekend. This hopefully instilled an increased desire in him to pay attention to family history.



During the same period of time, he and many of his friends were involved in preparations for the cultural celebration connected to the Meridian, Idaho Temple Dedication. Although it was a huge time commitment, the outcome and overall experience was a very positive one indeed.



Our family members were able to be heavily involved

with the Open House, Celebration, and then attend the Dedication. This past weekend the Young Men and Young Women of his ward were invited to attend the temple to perform baptisms for family names recently researched. What a blessing and positive experience this was for them.

In a letter from the First Presidency on October 8, 2012, we are reminded:

“We especially encourage youth and young single adults to use for temple work their own family names or the names of ancestors of their ward and stake members. Priesthood leaders should assure that young people and their families learn the doctrine of turning their hearts to their fathers and the blessing of temple attendance.”

In future conversations with youth, whether it be with children, grandchildren, or youth in your own “ward family,” I hope we all will show an increased interest in them, in what they are doing, and in having open discussions with them about family history experiences. It may be about recent temple experiences, journaling, the origin of their name, researching family names, a favorite ancestor, or looking through photos together. So much good can come from demonstrating positive, genuine care and concern for our youth and their individual well-being.

The Right Tool for the Job

Liz Kennington



I frequently hear individuals talk about how much they like storing all their genealogy information on FamilySearch Family Tree. I cringe when I hear this because I know the value of storing all my information on a desktop program designed for family history. While Family Tree is a great program, it was not designed for us to store EVERYTHING we find as we research our ancestors. Here are a few arguments in favor of a desktop program that I find especially valid.

You need to use the right tool for the job. If your job is searching and finding ancestors, then you need to be organized to do that effectively. It was only a few short years ago that the only tool available to record research was paper! If you have reams of family group sheets, you'll understand that statement. While I often like a hard copy of some information to study and write on, I find it more helpful to record that information in a desktop program that I keep myself. No one can come in and change that information, like happens at times on Family Tree.

What if you have some sensitive information that you want to record but don't really want to share on Family Tree? If you are one of the few that has no skeletons in the closet or a family that has never done anything that they wouldn't want the world to know about, then Family Tree may be where you record your information. But most of us don't

have a perfect family, especially as we venture back in time. Keeping information in your own program allows you to do further research while trying to make sense of your findings. If and when you are ready to share that information, then put it in Family Tree.

One of the things I like about my genealogy program is entering information only once but having the ability to view that information in a variety of ways. I can view my person as a person only, in his family of birth or marriage, part of a tree, etc. I can also create reports that I use to find errors, locate duplicates, merge people, etc. Once you find a duplicate in your own program, then you can move into Family Tree and make corrections if there are any.

Genealogy programs make it easy to share information and files with others who are also researching an individual. You can create GEDCOM files to send to others, and they can send them back with their information. What if the person that is doing research isn't online? We often make the assumption that others are all online. Remember that older individuals doing research may not have access to the internet. So being able to print the information from your desktop program can be helpful to them. I know I said that we have moved beyond paper but not everyone else has.

Desktop programs allow you to organize your information in a variety of ways. You can group people using certain parameters. I find it helpful to identify those individuals who may have died in

Utah during the years that death certificates are available online. That way I can find those death certificates without going through every person in my database. This is a task that I perform occasionally as I add new people to my database.

One of the things that I especially like about my desktop program is that it isn't changing every time I visit it like some websites. With a desktop program you can stay with an older version that you feel comfortable with. You can control your program. Websites are always finding ways to "improve" their access, but not always in a user-friendly way.

I like having the option to maintain several databases at the same time, especially if I am doing research for others who are not in my personal family. I can also create a "fake" database to use for learning the desktop program or testing features without disturbing my own tree. I can separate my various family lines as I work on them or want to send that information to a branch of my family.

Maintaining your own database is the only way you can insure that information is not being changed. While Family Tree is designed to let everyone contribute, not every one who contributes to Family Tree does so responsibly. I personally want to find and verify my sources and the individuals in my database before I add them to the Tree. That way I can be certain that I have a unique individual who hasn't been put into the system a dozen times.

Family Tree is a great place for beginners. Why? A lot of people begin family history work but don't always continue. If you are one of those or are working with beginners, then putting info in Family Tree may be just the ticket for them. But as they continue and become more skilled at doing family history work, they will realize that they need more features to help in their research efforts.

It used to be that you would have to spend \$20-\$30 to buy a desktop program. Several popular programs offer a free version of their genealogy programs.    RootsMagic, Ancestral Quest, and Legacy Family Tree all have a freeware version of their programs. These are also available on the desktop at the Family History Center, so you can view the options and even explore what each of them offers. Just remember that the free versions will not have some of the features that the paid versions offer, but they are good, usable programs.

If you haven't invested in a desktop program, you might want to reconsider doing so. It is well worth the time and effort to find a program that will work best for you.

While the Family History Library gives genealogists access to a wealth of information, just remember that they do not have a copy of every record ever made. There is still a need to visit public and private archives, libraries, etc. Don't fall into the trap of assuming if it isn't at the FHL, it doesn't exist!

[Michael John Neill, 7 February 2018]

Rootstech Online



If you have opted not to attend Rootstech 2018 in person, then take advantage of the opportunity to view both keynote addresses and many classes online. Go to <https://www.rootstech.org/live-stream-schedule> and review the schedule of online classes. You will find several classes available each day. In order to view these classes, you must be on the rootstech.org webpage. All keynote addresses are also available online.

Wednesday: 8:30 a.m., Steve Rockwood
 Thursday: 8:30 a.m., Brandon Stanton
 Friday: 8:30 a.m., Scott Hamilton
 Saturday: 8:30 a.m., Henry Lewis Gates, Jr. and Natalia Lafourcade

If you are wanting to view the Family Discovery Day online, you can do that from lds.org on Saturday, 3 March 2018, starting at 1:00 pm. President and Sister Oaks are the keynote speakers.

Family History Activities Willowcreek Stake

The Willowcreek Stake has compiled a list of activities that you can do with your family centered around family history. These would all make great FHE activities with your children and grandchildren. Over the next few months, we will share those activities with you. Here are several for this month with game related activities.

① Have a family movie night where old family movies and pictures are shown.

Hoot and holler and cry over some of the great memories



captured. Serve popcorn and root beer floats.

② Have a game night where you do old fashioned indoor and outdoor games with your family. Make sure to do some run relays. Make old fashioned desserts like homemade ice cream.

③ Make an Ancestor Bingo game with the name FAMILY at the top. Put in each square an ancestor picture with their name included. Picture could be living family members. Make different cards for the number of people you may have playing.

④ Make an ancestor matching card game with two matching cards for each ancestor.

⑤ At the beginning of a new year, on a special holiday, or another occasion, have each family member bring 10 trivia questions with answers that pertain to their family for the previous year. Put the trivia question in a bowl and have family members pull them out and try to answer them. Questions correctly answered are retained by the person who answered them. Prizes for the most correct answers.



⑥ Make a puzzle from a digital family portrait or ancestor picture. Have a lab print them. (Nichols Photo Lab does them.) Talk about the family members as they put the puzzles together.

ready on time. The easiest way to start writing is to start writing! Don't worry about beginning and ending, just write. You can cut and paste paragraphs into the right spaces. As thoughts and impressions come to you, write them down and come back to them later. Just begin anywhere that you like, and then fill in the empty places. This is how professional writers write. You can do it too.

These are just a few of the suggestions Angie Lucas made in her article. Check back next month for more hints.

[Source: Angie Lucas, FamilySearch Blogpost, 3 January 2018]

March Class Schedule



*All classes will be taught in Room 102 except for the evening classes on March 13, 14, and 28. Those classes will be held in Room 101. (subject to change)

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Understanding the Source: Shelly Adam

Getting to know and understand all kinds of sources, the great info you can find on them and deciding if you should use them. Also learn why there might be duplicate sources.

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 LDS partner programs, and the three commercial programs for a backup database that will synchronize with FamilySearch.

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The FH Guide - Training Features: Bob Ives

The Family History Guide website makes it easy for trainers to quickly present family history courses, customize them and even interchange topics. New trainers come up to speed quicker; experienced trainers save valuable time in preparation and delivery. It's a favorite at the Family History Library (SLC), Riverton Family History Library, Brigham Young University and family history centers around the world.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The FH Guide - Training Features: Bob Ives

The same description as the morning class.

Thursday, March 8, 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!

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Understanding the Source: Shelly Adam

Getting to know and understands all kinds of sources, the great info you can find on them and deciding if you should use them. Also learn why there might be duplicate sources.

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Making Memories Part 1: Lani Abercrombie

This class will explore how to gather and share your memories, and organize your photos and documents so that they are ready to upload to FamilySearch. Also learn skills for interviewing living relatives to add their memories to yours.

**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. FamilySearch
Family Tree: Larry Whitaker (Room
101)**

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, March 14, 2018

**10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Descendancy
Research: Christy Pugh**

Having a hard time finding new ancestors on your direct line? Learn how to search the descendancy lines on your family tree using the FamilySearch partner website, Puzzilla.org.

**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Descendancy
Research: Christy Pugh (Room 101)**

Same description as the morning class.

Thursday, March 15, 2018

**10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. You've Taken (or
want to take) a DNA Test, Now What?
Debbie Weaver**

This class will cover the very beginning basics of DNA testing. You will learn basic terminology and how you can use your DNA results for genealogical research.

**7pm - 8pm You've Taken (or want to
take) a DNA Test, Now What? Debbie
Weaver**

Same description as the morning class.

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

**10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Uploading
Memories Part 2: Lani Abercrombie**

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

**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, March 21, 2018

**10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Hope Chest:
Janice Kanaley**

Come learn about a fantastic way of searching through your tree on FamilySearch for the temple ordinances that may have been missed. This tool will automatically save hours of time clicking through your tree looking for ancestors that need temple work to be done. Upon finding your ancestor's name through Hope Chest, it is crucial to do more research prior to printing your temple cards. Duplicates and any other problems need to be resolved prior to printing your cards. Hope Chest, has been approved and is now an official FamilySearch app that is available in the App Gallery on FamilySearch.org.

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.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.

Thursday, March 22, 2018

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Getting Started with Web Indexing: Jeanette Hewlett

This is a beginner class that provides an overview of the new web indexing program on FamilySearch. Learn to navigate this great new program. Practice time will be provided.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Getting Started with Web Indexing: Judy Jackson

Same description as the morning class.

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Find A Grave: Shelly Adam

Learn how to use Find A Grave and the Find A Grave mobile app when searching for your ancestor's information and burial places.

Sandy Granite Stake Youth (No class)

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Find A Record: Janice Kanaley

Find-A-Record can find your ancestors in Family Tree that have problems, like duplicates that need fixing; also it gives suggestions on how to find an event (like birth) information. This tool is very helpful in cleaning up and finding missing family members in your Family Tree. There is also an option that allows you to find Temple Ordinance work which needs to be performed.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Find A Record: Janice Kanaley

Same description as the morning class.

Thursday, March 29, 2018

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Mining online Danish National Genealogy Sites: Paul Emmer and Gail Madsen-Clayton

This class will help you learn how to research your Danish relatives by learning

various Danish National Genealogy Archives which are online.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Find A Grave: Shelly Adam

Learn how to use Find A Grave and the Find A Grave mobile app when searching for your ancestor's information and burial places.

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

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