

# FAMILY TIES

## SANDY GRANITE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWSLETTER

### Director's Message

#### David Castleton



On a Sunday afternoon in September, the FHC was filled with over 50 youth, mostly 12 to 14 years old, who came to be enlisted in the Youth Battalion of Zion's Army. You may remember President Russell M. Nelson's worldwide youth devotional on June 3, 2018, wherein he invited the youth of the church to experience the thrill of being a member of the Lord's youth battalion to gather Israel. The Granite Stake has taken that to heart and called 57 youth to serve as ward temple and family history consultants. To start off their service they participated in the Sunday afternoon activity where they met with their youth commanders and discussed the work they will be doing this year with family history and temple. What a treat it was to feel their enthusiasm and to hear them bear testimony of the blessings and protection that comes from family history and temple work.

Basic training has begun for this battalion of youth consultants as they come with their friends after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Under the leadership of Laurie Beardall and her youth committee, these youth are making a difference, and they are experiencing first hand some of the promised blessings, including:

- protection against the intensifying influences of the adversary,
- increased influence of the Holy Ghost and faith,
- increased ability and motivation to learn,
- increased love and appreciation for ancestors and living relatives,
- increased purpose, strength, and joy, and
- increased assistance to mend troubled, broken or anxious hearts.

President Nelson called the work to gather Israel **"the greatest challenge, the greatest cause, and the greatest work on the earth today."** He also explained that the gathering of Israel ultimately means offering the gospel of Jesus Christ to God's children on both sides of the veil who have neither made crucial covenants with God nor received their essential ordinances. That is why there is a need for Zion's Army.

I thought about the call to the youth to join the "Youth Battalion." Have you thought about who makes up the other battalions? I am confident that there is a need for all saints, young and old, to join this army and be part of the greatest challenge, cause, and work today. We have opportunities right now to enlist at the FHC, as consultants, instructors, patrons, and technology staff. If you want to participate in this exciting work, please let your bishop know or contact one of the directors or consultants at the FHC. You can also just show up at the FHC and let the consultants there help you no matter where

you are in your family history work. We are continually adding new opportunities at the FHC for you to discover, gather and connect with those on both sides of the veil. You too can be a part of Zions' Army to gather Israel.

As you contemplate your participation in temple and family history work, remember the promises given to those who participate in temple and family history work are not just promises to the youth. It is never too late to begin, and you are never too old not to benefit from the associated blessings. We hope to see you soon at the FHC where you can enlist, be trained, and then go forth to gather Israel. I am so grateful to be alive today to witness this great work and the associated blessings.

## RootsTech News



It seems like we were attending and talking about RootsTech 2018, and now we can begin planning our participation in RootsTech 2019! RootsTech 2019 is wanting to help us prepare for the upcoming conference. To do that they have produced a video series, *The Road to RootsTech*, that can help us know what to expect. The video series is hosted by members of the RootsTech planning team. Topics discussed include: the conference schedule, logistics, how to plan your experience, updates and changes to the conference, special events, and more.

To access the bi-monthly videos, go to *Road to RootsTech* YouTube playlist, the RootsTech Facebook and Twitter pages, and <https://www.rootstech.org/blog>. You can

also view many sessions of RootsTech 2018 on the YouTube channel as well.

Pricing for the conference has also been released. A full 4-day RootsTech pass is \$189 if you register before 12 October 2018. If you have a family history calling, you can use a promotional code, 19CALLING, to get the special price of \$149 for the full 4 days.

New this year is the **Ultimate Experience Pass** which includes such luxuries as reserved seating options for general and class sessions, special access to meet-and-greet opportunities, a chance to meet the RootsTech planning team and Steve Rockwood, and more. These passes are limited and will probably sell out. For \$499 you can purchase one of these passes!

If you are unable to attend RootsTech 2019 in person, you can still enjoy the spirit of the conference by viewing all keynote sessions with live streaming and a select number of other sessions on rootstech.org. Because the Family History Department hosts Family Discover Day, these sessions on Saturday, March 2, can be viewed live on the LDS.org home page.

If the February/March conference in Salt Lake City doesn't work for you, you might want to



plan a trip to London and attend the RootsTech London Conference in October. It was announced this last August RootsTech would be expanding to London, England. Jen Allen, events director, said, "We are excited to further position RootsTech as a global community for everyone to discover their family and deepen their sense of belonging that we all yearn for."

RootsTech London will take place October 24-26, 2019, at the ExCel London Convention Centre. Registration for RootsTech London will open in late February 2019. Just like the Salt Lake RootsTech, RootsTech will offer 3 exciting days of discovery, 150 hands-on lectures on various topics, and learning about the latest tech in the exhibition hall, and more.

The featured speaker for London is Nick Barratt, author, broadcaster, and historian best known for his work on BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* He is also currently the President of the Federation of Family History Societies.

With all the options available for RootsTech 2019, there is no reason that everyone can't join in the RootsTech excitement and learn new skills to aid in doing family history.

## What You Can Learn from Your Ancestor's Yearbook

Liz Kennington

The kids are back in school, and fall is in the air. The beginning of the school year always brings back memories of days spent in classrooms and adventures with friends. Fortunately for me and my husband we still have copies of our high school yearbooks to help us reminisce and remember the stories of those past years. But what about your ancestors? Did they have yearbooks that can help you discover who they were in their youth?

A good resource for high school yearbooks is [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com). Yearbooks won't necessarily contain the vital statistics that birth and death records contain, but they can help to place an individual in a certain place at a

particular time. What then can you learn from an ancestor's yearbook? There are at least 5 key things look for:

① **Which sports they played.** It's likely that this will only pertain to the males in your family tree, but it can help you see your male ancestors in a different light. Uncle Bill may have played basketball, and Grandpa Tom played football. Those things may be new pieces of information you didn't know before. Who were the players on those teams with your ancestors? Don't just stop at the facts that the yearbook gives. What are the expressions on the faces of those men? Can you learn about character traits that have been carried down the line? Doing a quick search on my deceased brother I was able to find several high school photos of him, playing football and also managing the basketball team.

② **Which clubs they joined.** While your ancestor may have grown up to be an attorney, it might surprise you to see him in the Future Farmers of America club. Being in the Latin club often made the members look smart. Were they part of the Scholarship Society? How they spent their leisure time in regards to school can help you see aspects of them that you haven't imagined before. Searching for my father in his yearbook, I discovered that he had been a charter member of the W6OHS club. This club met several times a month, and studied and experimented with the theory of radio and electricity. Five members were shown in the yearbook. It's no wonder that my father wired the entire basement of one of our houses several years later.





I discovered that my mother was president of the Beethoven club for two years, in charge of the calendar for the yearbook staff, and also Senior class secretary.

③ **Who their friends were.** If you have the opportunity to scan an entire yearbook, you may be able to find candid photos of your ancestors. If you are able to find them, see if you can also find additional photos of the persons in the photo with them. Putting a name to them helps to expand the story of your ancestor.

④ **What ambitions they had.** Some yearbooks contain the ambitions of the graduating seniors. What were the plans outlined by your ancestor? What profession did they hope to pursue? Will you be surprised by what your ancestor hoped to be?

⑤ **What their community was like.** Look at the pictures of the students. What is the variety of ethnicities? Are they all alike? Look also at the advertisements from local businesses. What are the cultural groups represented there? These are all clues to the community in which your ancestor lived.

The greatest treasure in finding your ancestor's yearbook is the pictures. I find it interesting to see the resemblance to nieces and nephews when I look at the pictures of my parents. There's my nephew Ryan when I look at my dad's high school picture. And the picture I found of my brother totally looks like one of his grandchildren.

[Source: "5 Things to Learn from Your Ancestor's Yearbook," FamilyTree advice blog, 7 August, 2018]

### Full Name Searches Don't Always Work

Name searches are the backbone of genealogical research. But if you only use a person's full name, you are missing opportunities for discovery.

Remember that uniform spelling rules were not even established until well into the late 1800s. Your ancestor may not have spelled his name the same way consistently. Records may have been kept using his nickname or misspelled. If the record keeper didn't speak English, then he could have misunderstood the name. Records at Ellis Island often found the place of origin used as the surname.

To find your ancestor, you may have to get creative. Don't underestimate the power of a poor speller in keeping your ancestor's records!

## Newspapers Genealogists Should Know

We all know that newspapers are gold mines for information about our ancestors. Old newspaper databases hold gems worth digging for. But were you aware of that just stopping with the regular newspapers, daily and weekly, often leaves facts yet to be found. There are at least three other kinds of newspapers that you should be using.

### ① Foreign language and other ethnic newspapers.

If your ancestor identified with a specific ethnicity, then you should check out newspapers published for that ethnicity. The great thing about these newspapers is that



they not only carried news about the local area but also people who used to live there. Because they have a smaller audience, you are more likely to find greater details in stories and obituaries that aren't included in hometown daily newspapers.

Also consider that English may not have been the first language spoken by a particular ethnic group. How common were foreign language newspapers? German newspapers reached more than 1,000 by 1890, but following WWI this number dwindled drastically. Don't overlook African-American newspapers. Just like the foreign language newspapers, they cover local as well as news of people who used to live in the area.

**2 Religious newspapers.** While various churches kept great records of baptisms and weddings, this wasn't the only things that churches recorded. Some actually published newspapers. For example, the Archdiocese of New Orleans published the *Morning Star and Catholic Messenger*, a weekly newspaper. Where can you find religious newspapers? Look for them in church archives, state libraries, and state historical societies.



**3 School newspapers.** While many school newspapers were used to help students improve their writing skills, school newspapers can have lots of biographical information, especially if the school is a residential school. This could take the form of essays or even society columns. But don't stop with the school newspaper where your ancestor attended. What schools did his or her siblings attend? You'll find school



newspapers in school archives, state historical societies, and local historical societies.

A great source for newspapers in general is The Newspaper Hunt website at <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/>. This site has links to 26, 300 free newspapers, including many foreign language newspapers published in the U.S.



[Source: "3 Kinds of Newspapers Every Genealogist Should Know," Amy Johnson Crow, 5 July 2018]

**Granite Family History Center  
will be closing early at 5:00 pm  
on Wednesday,  
31 October.**

**Learn Family History  
Anywhere!  
Bob Taylor**

By now you're probably aware of the terrific classes being offered at the Sandy Granite Family History Center. I just attended one this, "Changing Vital Information in Family Tree," taught by Debbie Weaver, and it was very well done. You can see the schedule of all the upcoming classes at <https://www.granitefhc.com/classes/>.

Here's something you may not know yet about the classes: most of them can be remotely attended! That's right, you can watch in the comfort of your own home, or wherever you have the Internet. Just log in

to <http://join.me/familyhistorycenter> about 15 minutes before the class starts, and you'll see what's on the instructor's computer, usually PowerPoint slides and websites, and hear both the instructor's voice and comments or questions from the class members. It's almost like being there!

Also, we are working on getting recordings of most of the classes posted on the YouTube channel for the family history center. More info will be available on that at a later date.

So, you can attend in person, log in from somewhere else, or even watch a video of the class after the fact, whatever works for your schedule. I think you'll agree that we have fantastic instructors who teach essential family history topics with skill and inspiration!

## Fall 2018 Class Schedule

### Sandy Granite Family History Center



801.943.3005, 2720  
Newcastle Dr., Sandy, Utah,  
Tues, Wed. and Thurs. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.,  
Sun. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Youth Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs  
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
All classes taught in Classroom 102 unless  
otherwise noted.

**No classes, General  
Conference week**

#### \*Tues. Oct 9, 11 a.m. "Web Indexing, Part 1": 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.

#### \*Tues. Oct 9, 7 p.m. "Adding Sources from FamilySearch": Janice Kanaley

*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 the tasks.

#### \*Wed. Oct 10, 11 a.m. "Adding Sources from FamilySearch": Janice Kanaley (Repeat class; see Oct 9 for details)

#### \*Thurs. Oct 11, 7 p.m. "Web Indexing, Part 1": Jeanette Hewlett (Repeat class; see Oct 9 for details)

#### \*Tues. Oct 16, 7 p.m. "Making Family History Activities": Scott & Angelle Anderson

The class is an interactive, "hands-on" experience with the goal of using the Activities section of The Family History Guide website to learn how to (1) Make something new that documents, creates, or contributes to your family history, and (2) Make something of yourself that enhances or contributes to your family legacy.

#### \*Wed. Oct 17, 11 a.m. "Family History Activities": Scott & Angelle Anderson (Repeat class, see Oct for details)

#### \*Thurs. Oct 18, 7 p.m. "Web Indexing, Part 2": Karen Andrews

Come learn how to select and manage batches, data entry methods, project instructions, field helps and submitting batches.

**\*Tues. Oct 23, 11 a.m. "Standardizing Records": Debbie Weaver**

This is a beginning class, where you will learn how to standardize dates and places. This helps to clarify information you enter and helps the system locate people with the Find feature. You'll learn how to add sources to an ancestor's entry, helping others see the evidence for the dates or other information that exist there.

**\*Tues. Oct 23, 7 p.m. "Introduction to The Family History Guide": Sue Maxwell**

The Family History Guide website ([www.thefhguide.com](http://www.thefhguide.com)) is a valuable tool for beginners and all researchers. The scope is broad, but its focus is narrow enough to help you step by step. Come and learn how to use this website, which has been approved as a training resource for FamilySearch.

**\*Wed. Oct 24, 11 a.m. "Introduction to The Family History Guide": Sue Maxwell**

(Repeat class; see Oct 23 for details)

**\*Thurs. Oct 25, 7 p.m. "Standardizing Records": Debbie Weaver**

(Repeat class; see Oct 23 for details)

**\*Tues. Oct 30, 11 a.m. "To Merge or Not to Merge": Debbie Burnett**

Duplicate entries for ancestors have been added over time to Family Tree. To eliminate the duplicates, you can merge two similar entries for an ancestor, keeping the information in just one entry. Come and learn how to merge safely.

**\*Tues. Oct 30, 7 p.m. "Family Tree Navigation": Laurie Beardall**

This is a beginning class that will help you get comfortable with navigating your family tree using The Family History Guide, [www.thefhguide.com](http://www.thefhguide.com). You will learn the following: 1. Navigate Family Tree; 2. View details of ancestors; 3. View the children, parents and spouses of ancestors; 4. Use the Find menu or Go To feature to locate ancestors in your family tree; 5. Learn about the alternate views

(Portrait, Fan, Descendancy, Virtual Pedigree, etc.) to see your ancestors. You will discover what amazing people they are!

**\*Thurs. Nov. 1, 7 p.m. "To Merge or Not to Merge": Debbie Burnett**

(Repeat class; see Oct 30 for details)

**\*Tues. Nov 6, 11 a.m. "Beginning United States Research": Bob Taylor**

Get started with U.S. research, using The Family History Guide as your companion. Learn how to use a variety of resources to uncover clues about your ancestors, including vital records, census records, immigration records, and more.

**\*Wed. Nov 7, 11 a.m. "Descendancy Research": Christy Pugh**

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.

**\*Thurs. Nov 8, 7 p.m. "Beginning United States Research": Bob Taylor**

(Repeat class; see Nov 6 for details)

**\*Tues. Nov 13, 11 a.m. "Social Media and Family History": Sue Maxwell**

**\*Wed. Nov. 14, 11 a.m. "Syncing FamilySearch and Ancestry Trees": Christy Pugh**

Learn how to transfer information, sources and people from your FamilySearch tree to your Ancestry tree and vice versa. No need to retype anything! Understand the value of having another tree to preserve information that could be changed on FamilySearch.

\*Thurs. Nov 15, 7 p.m. "Social Media and Family History": Sue Maxwell

**No classes, Thanksgiving week**

**\*Tues. Nov 27, 11 a.m. "Beginning British Isles Research": Bob Taylor**

Get started with research in the British Isles, including England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, using *The Family History Guide* as your companion. Learn how to use a variety of resources to uncover clues about your ancestors, including civil registration, census records, church and parish records, and more.

**\*Tues. Nov 28, 7 p.m. "Ancestry.com – Sifting for the Gold": Debbie Burnett**

Ancestry.com has more than 6 billion records in more than 30,000 collections. But what's the best way find what you're looking for in all that information? Come and learn how to discover their stories and so much more.

**\*Wed. Nov 28, 11 a.m. "Ancestry.com – Sifting for the Gold": Debbie Burnett**  
(Repeat class, see Nov 28 for details)

**\*Thurs. Nov 29, 7 p.m. "Beginning British Isles Research": Bob Taylor**  
(Repeat classes; see Nov 27 for details)

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

<http://www.granitefhc.com>

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To subscribe to *Family Ties*, send  
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