



FAMILY TIES



SANDY GRANITE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWSLETTER

Director's Message

David Castleton



In President Russell M. Nelson's opening remarks in the October General Conference he stated: *"The long-standing objective of the Church is to assist all members to increase their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and in His Atonement, to assist them in making and keeping their covenants with God, and to strengthen and seal their families. In this world today this is not easy. The adversary is increasing his attacks on faith and upon us and our families at an exponential rate. To survive spiritually, we need counterstrategies and proactive plans."*

President Nelson then went on to introduce the change in the Sunday worship schedule in an effort to fortify members and families. Since we have been admonished many times over the past decade by our leaders of the protection and blessings that will be ours through temple and family history, we too are making changes and developing counterstrategies and proactive plans at the Granite Family History Center. Let me share a few of the changes and developments that have occurred and will be coming to pass in the near future.

With the change in the Sunday schedule families will have more time on Sundays to

engage in family history work. In order to assist families in this great work we will be expanding the Sunday hours at the FHC to assist families who want help with their family history experience or simply want to use our large touch-screen computers, scanners, copiers, and other resources. We already have families that come on Sunday and work together in discovering, gathering, and connecting their ancestors. Words cannot express the joy I feel as I see families and individuals being strengthened in this way.

In order to help more of our members discover the joy and protection that comes from engaging in temple and family history work, we are working to provide more opportunities for Relief Society groups, Elders Quorums, Young Men and Young Women classes, Primary, and other groups with tailor made instruction and activities. We realize the hours the FHC is open are not always convenient for groups and families. We want to make it accessible and will work to open the FHC on other days and hours for specific groups that schedule in advance.

Last month I mentioned the increase in the youth participation in family history work at the FHC on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the hours of 3-5 pm. We look forward to continuing this program and even expanding it so that more youth will find joy after school as they come and enjoy the training, activities, and FOOD!

For years the FHC has produced *Family Ties*, a monthly newsletter. Beginning in January we will be moving to a blog format. Please note the information in this newsletter about this change. By moving to a blog format, we hope to provide you with timely information on a regular basis and keep you up to date on what is happening at the FHC and with family history. We are grateful to Liz Kennington for her work over the years in producing the newsletter and will look forward to her continuing to share her knowledge and talents in our new blog, supported by our talented communications committee chair, Debbie Brady and our dedicated technical assistant, Aimee McDaniel.

I can't end this message without expressing the deep appreciation we all have at the FHC for Laurie Beardall who has been instrumental in the development and growth of the center since its beginning. Sister Beardall is being released so she can begin service with her husband, President Larry Beardall, as mission president. We are so grateful for the many hours Sister Beardall has spent over many years at the FHC and for her expertise in family history. We hope to continue her love and passion for family history and for sharing it with the world. We all wish her well in her new assignment. We know that she will take the same faith and devotion to the missionaries and people in the mission field.

Now as we move into 2019, I am excited for the FHC and the great work that will occur here. As stated in the dedicatory prayer for the FHC, it is a "*place of learning, a place of love, a place of light, a place of caring, a*

place of missionary work, a place of testimony, a center that will bless our lives and help us further Thy work." I look forward to sharing this great experience with you in the coming year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

RootsTech 2019

While RootsTech 2019 is still a few months away (27 February-2 March), it isn't too early to plan



on attending. And as the event draws closer, speakers and activities will be announced. After the success of RootsTech 2018, the organizers have decided to keep the same theme for RootsTech 2019: "Connect. Belong." Once again you will have the opportunity to find your family, connect with them, and relish the belonging.

"There's so much that goes into connecting and belonging that we couldn't let this theme go after just one year," said Jen Allen, RootsTech event director. "Connecting and belonging is an important part of each of our personal journeys. And our goals at RootsTech are to help you move further along your own journey, and help you connect and belong, both past and present."

To make this coming event run more smoothly, and in an effort to reduce lines at RootsTech, there will be no badge scanning this year. Attendees will be free to attend whichever sessions you have an interest in. In the past, the size of some classrooms has caused problems for participants not being able to attend. The RootsTech team is doing everything possible to adjust the daily schedule and increase the sizes of various

classrooms. Speakers of interest have already been announced. Saroo Brierley will speak on the main stage at 11:00 am, Friday, 1 March. Saroo lost contact with his family as a 5-year-old boy.



He was later adopted by an Australian family. But he was unable and unwilling to forget the land of his childhood. Determined to rediscover his part, Saroo pored over Google Earth and eventually found his home town and track down his birth mother. Reunited in 2012, their story made headlines across the world, and his full story was recounted in his bestseller, *A Long Way Home*. His book was later made into the film *Lion*, released in 2016.



Another announced speaker is Jake Shimabukuro, ukulele master. From the time he was small, the

ukulele has been a symbol of his connection to his family, his home, and to the Hawaiian culture he was raised in.

Jake's records have repeatedly topped the Billboard World Music Charts. He has played for people from all walks of life, including Queen Elizabeth II.

Jake will be the featured keynote speaker at RootsTech on Saturday, 2 March at 11 am. You'll have the opportunity to hear his story and also listen to him play the instrument like you've never heard it before.

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

others sessions on rootstech.org. Because the Family History department hosts Family Discovery Day, these sessions on Saturday, 2 March, can be viewed live on the LDS.org home page.

Classes at the FHC

We mentioned before in the newsletter that you could access the classes that have been taught at the Center on our website. Because we are not offering classes during December, you may want to find time to watch some of the classes that have been taped. Just go to <https://www.granitefhc.com>, and click on the "Resources" link. Under that link click on videos and tutorials, and you can choose from several of our classes held this fall.



Introduction to The Family History Guide



Web Indexing, Part 1



Standardizing Records and Adding Sources to Family Tree

Where are the Daughters?

One of the difficult things about doing family history work is finding all the women in the family. Even if you don't know a wife's maiden name, you at least have a clue when there is a "Mrs" mentioned. Women have often been discounted in records, especially the farther back you go. This is especially true of the daughters. How do you research the daughters in a family if you don't know the names they were using?

If we want to create a more complete view of a family, we have to research the entire family, including the women. This can be a bit of a challenge since women are not always

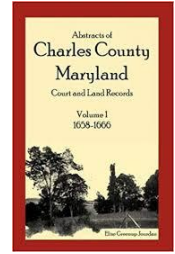
included in the records. Why? Because records were created for and by men. In western culture women also change their names each time they marry. This often leads to problems keeping track of them because you may not even know the name you're looking for! Amy Johnson Crow suggests several places you can look to find these illusive women.



The first is the **father's probate**. We can use this record to our advantage because it has been created for the father in the family. Look at the father's will or probate to see how he lists the daughters. At the least you may discover how many daughters were in the family, and you might also learn their names. But be prepared to see some of those daughters listed as Mrs. John Jones! Some daughters might be listed by first name only even if they were married.

If the father didn't create a will, look at the **final distribution**. The important thing with a final distribution is that the daughters will be listed with the name they were going by at that time. If daughters are getting anything from the estate, they will be listed by the current name which could be a married name. Statements of final distribution can be found in a probate packet or probate case file at the county level.

Another place to look for information about the father, which often includes daughters' names, are **land and court records**. If the father died without a will and he owned land, then that land



and the rest of the estate will be divided up according to the laws of inheritance in that place at the time. This would necessitate a **partition suit** where all the heirs of the state would have to sign off on selling the land.

Another way to approach the problem of finding the daughters is to **research the other children in the family**. We know that the sons are likely to show up in records so use that to find the sisters. Obituaries are a great source of names, especially the sisters of the deceased. Even if the sisters are listed by married names, at least you have a clue. Also look for siblings in county histories.

If you don't know the name you looking for, try searching databases by the parents' names and leaving the person blank. This **nameless search strategy** can be used when searching death certificates online. Put in the father's last name and the maiden name of the mother, leaving the name of the deceased blank. With any luck you will find several people in the family. A word of caution: The information on a death certificate is only as accurate and complete as the informant's knowledge. One way around this is to do a second search using just the father's last name and the first name of the mother. This way if the informant didn't know the mother's maiden name, you are more likely to find children.

Looking beyond your direct ancestor will help you create a more complete picture of the family and hopefully yield those women in your tree.

[Source: Amy Johnson Crow, "Finding All the Daughters in the Family Tree," 20 September 2018]



Looking to the New Year

Liz Kennington

Elder Quentin L. Cook, in the October General Conference, outlined the new format for both Sunday church attendance and also the purposes and blessings which this new change can have in our lives. One of those he listed is the following: "Helping all of Heavenly Father's children on both sides of the veil through missionary work and receiving ordinances and covenants and blessings of the temple."

This purpose gives families an opportunity of make family history a part of their Sunday, as well as other days, activities. As outlined by our director [see Director's Message, pg 1], the Sunday hours at the Center will be 12-5 pm beginning in January 2019. Bear with us as we find what works best for our patrons. There will be consultants available to help families in any way they can.

Family Ties is Put to Rest

You may already have seen the email which told you that this is the last issue of *Family Ties*. In an effort to bring you information in a more, timely fashion, we will be going to a blog format starting in January. There is no need to sign up for the blogs. We will be using our existing email database. The blog will be also be available on our website.

It has been a pleasure to be part of this newsletter effort over the past three years. I will still be writing blogposts. Thanks for all of the positive feedback you have sent me. It has been great to know that others have read and enjoyed the newsletter.

Remembering Your Eternal Family at Christmas

Janet Helland, of the Granite Stake, recently shared this idea with the consultants at the Granite Family History Center. We would like to encourage you to take this challenge as well this Christmas season. These ideas came from her daughter's ward in North Carolina. The hope is that you will find one of these gifts you can give to your eternal family this Christmas.

GIFT 1: CREATE A TEMPLE OPPORTUNITY.

Find, reserve, and print a saving Temple Ordinance for your ancestors or



their descendants, and perform a temple ordinance. Ordinance Ready in the Family Tree app is a great resource for this gift. You can also come to the Center, and a consultant will help you find that ancestor.

GIFT 2: COMPLETE YOUR 4-GENERATION FAMILY TREE. Seek missing relatives, and then add them to your family tree.

GIFT 3: ADD A MEMORY. Preserve memories such as photographs, family stories, and old letters using FamilySearch.org so they can be shared for generations to come.

GIFT 4: INDEX RECORDS—MAKE THEM SEARCHABLE ONLINE. Help start the



process that allows other families to connect and receive the gifts of the temple.

The FHC will be closed from 23 December 2018 – 1 January 2019. We will reopen 2 January 2019. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your family.

Organize an Indexing Event

Liz Kennington

If you are looking for a way to get either your family or ward members involved in family history, but they seem a bit hesitant, you might want to consider becoming part of the indexing force which moves research along for others and yourself. How can you do this? The most productive and also fun way might be to host an indexing event. Planning a successful event isn't hard, and it might encourage your family and others to dip their toes into family history. Here are several tips for planning such an event.

① **Seek support from priesthood leaders.** Once your leaders can see the benefits of an indexing event, you can encourage them to invite others to join in the event. Elders quorum, relief society, and even YM/YW can join in the event.

② **Set challenging, attainable goals.** If you can set a specific goal, this will inspire and motivate participants.

③ **Give the event a clear start and end date.** You don't have to complete the event in one day or evening, spread it out over perhaps a week. Deadlines tend to be great motivators. If you establish a reasonable length of time, then you are more likely to get participants.

④ **Focus on participation.** Productivity goals are good, but the focus here should be on the participants. If they are young or unfamiliar with computers, then just getting them involved is a step in the right direction. The experience is what you are going for.

⑤ **Celebrate success.** To keep participants motivated, acknowledge and celebrate successes during the event. This is also a great way to motivate some competition.

⑥ **Encourage temple attendance.** Ultimately, your efforts will lead to the temple. If you can make the connection between the indexing and finding individuals to take to the temple, then you have had a successful event.

[Source: "Six Steps to Hosting a Successful Indexing Event," FamilySearch, 20 September 2018]

Check It Out!



If you haven't been to the Center in a few weeks, you may have missed this amazing wall which the youth have created. Come view the pictures, stories, and recipes that they have collected. You just might be inspired!

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

<http://www.granitefhc.com>

2720 East Newcastle Drive
Sandy, Utah
801-943-3005

Discover. Gather. Connect.