

# Family History Happenings

## Mark Your Calendars

May 10-13, 2017	National Genealogical Society—Family History Lives Here Raleigh, NC <a href="http://nsgenealogy.org">http://nsgenealogy.org</a>
May 11, 2017 7:00 p.m. Thurs	High Priest Group Leader Training Las Vegas FamilySearch Library
May 15-19, 2017 Germany, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Belgium.	Western European Family History Conference Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT In Person Registration: <a href="http://bit.ly/2n6pdws">http://bit.ly/2n6pdws</a> Webinar Registration (500 spots): <a href="http://bit.ly/2m9m7Ye">http://bit.ly/2m9m7Ye</a>
May 25, 2017 6:30 p.m. Thurs	Family History Consultant Training Las Vegas FamilySearch Library
May 26, 2017 10:00 a.m. Fri	Family History Consultant Training Las Vegas FamilySearch Library
Feb 28-Mar3, 2018	RootsTech 2018 Salt Palace Convention Cntr, Salt Lake City, UT <a href="http://10times.com/rootstech">http://10times.com/rootstech</a>

## Directors' Message by Castle and Lee Nishimoto

This month we honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in preserving our nation's freedom. We join you in remembering, not only during this month but throughout the year, the cost of maintaining our way of life. May we at some point during this month set aside a special time with our families or a private moment by ourselves to remember those sacrifices. One way to remember is to record experiences of family members and/or relatives who fought and died. No matter how insignificant a story may appear, it will be a blessing and perhaps a matter of pride for future generations just to know that a family relative had sacrificed so much to defend those principles upon which this nation was founded.

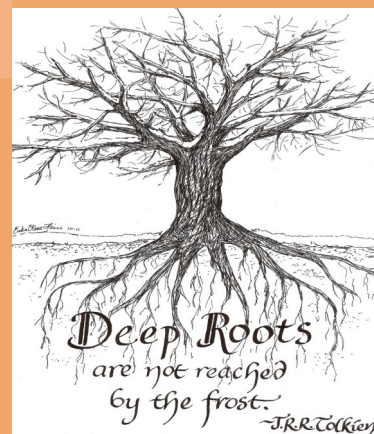
We are happy to announce that the Library's Family Heritage Room is now available for use. The Room was originally created for any who would like to video family members telling their stories. The recent purchase of a lighting system was the last acquisition needed to ready the room for use. The Library has a digital video camera for use if needed. Please call the Library at 702-382-9695 to reserve the room. Due to the design of the building, the room is not fully handicapped accessible.

The Library continues to experience personnel changes. We bade farewell to the following workers during the month of April: Mar Jean Olafson and Sally Stewart. Both are out of state Family History Church Service Missionaries who snowbird here. Thank you very much for the dedication and great work performed at the Library! We wish you well and look forward to your return in the fall.

Edith Landry, Gordon Ursenbach, Glenda Edmunds, Mark and Janet Kurihara, and Floyd and Donna Lile are new workers. They are most welcomed given the seven workers we lost last month. Our scanning section continues to exceed the monthly quota of 50,000 images scanning 81,406 images in April. However, we continue to be in need of workers in our scanning section as our second scanner has been repaired thus potentially doubling our output. To do so requires more workers. Please call 702-382-9695 if you interested in serving at our Library.

A reminder that the Library does experience closures from time to time due to unforeseen emergencies. We will immediately post a message on our telephone (702-382-9695) voicemail greeting and can be accessed at our website at [lvfamilysearchlibrary.org](http://lvfamilysearchlibrary.org). Please

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take a moment to either call or check the website prior to your visit.

## Library Historical Moments by Wayne Stoker, Historian

### The Magic of Microfilm

The Las Vegas FamilySearch Library came into existence as the result of the Magic of Microfilm.

In effusive prose, if not hyperbole, *The Improvement Era Magazine*, under the title "The Magic of Microfilm", announced the beginning of the microfilming project that turned the Genealogical Department of the Church into the largest genealogical organization in the world. The article noted; "A new era has arrived in record searching. Ready to do our bidding stands a tiny giant, as powerful as the genie of Aladdin's lamp. ... With such an assistant at his command, ... there is no limit to the records [the genealogist] may ask for and get, for this little giant of the microfilm can bring any record to his very desk."

The Church began microfilming records in 1938. By the late 1950's, the project resulted in a collection so large and so delicate the huge Granite Mountain Vaults were created to house and preserve it. A person could now, in one location, the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake, view and research records from all around the world.

This also created a concern, the collection was only available to researchers that could make the journey to Salt Lake City. The need for a way to share this resource with members in outlying areas of the Church, was a major impetus to creating the branch library system, including the Library in Las Vegas.

This is also the reason the criteria for opening the Las Vegas Library included a commitment to purchase microfilm reading machines so Las Vegas patrons could read the easily shippable films.

The microfilm readers were the vehicles that propelled the Library from the day the library opened until it moved into its current location. Before the computers started to proliferate, microfilm readers filled the main reading room, where the rows of computers now take up residence.

Even today, when the few remaining microfilm readers are used less often, the microfilm remains the main source of records available for searching under the FamilySearch program we now use. The massive indexing program is bringing the microfilmed records into an easily searchable FamilySearch data base.

You may be surprised to know that the microfilm played such an important role in the history of the Las Vegas FamilySearch Library.

## LVFSL Training May Classes

The LVFSL class schedule will accompany emailed newsletters, can be obtained at the LVFS Library or be downloaded from our website: <http://www.lvfamilysearchlibrary.org>

## Helpful Websites *by Sandy Jackson*

### Activities to Introduce Family History to Youth

Try these great sites with lots of activities and suggestions for getting Youth involved in Family History.

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Activities\\_for\\_Youth](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Family_History_Activities_for_Youth)

OR [bit.ly/fhactivitiesyouth](http://bit.ly/fhactivitiesyouth)

Scroll down the page to find out about Timelines, Family History Activities for Children 3-11 and 12+

## Research Helps *by Lee Nishimoto*

### LESS IS OFTEN BETTER

When searching in FamilySearch.org "Historical Records", remember often **"less" is better than "more"**. This may sound wrong to you. We often think that more information in the search boxes should produce more records, but the computer doesn't always work that way. The computer search considers all the data entered. If the records don't include **all the data**, the computer may not include the record(s) in the results list. For example, if the death date is entered, only records with death date in them will be in the results list. Many records that may be of value to you will not include a death date. Middle names may also need to be eliminated in the search. A middle name was not often used in many records. The middle name may limit the results. Also, including the marriage information in the search boxes, will give you results that contain marriage data. Searches by known locality of the person is often helpful, therefore a range of records may result. For example, Samuel Dillon born 1856-1863, Franklin County, Virginia made return many types of records such as census, marriage, probate, etc. Results may vary according to the number of indexed records for the locality searched. Experiment with search combinations and variant spellings to get more results, but remember the search will be limited to the indexed records. More records are being indexed each day. Redo your search in 6 months or so. There may be more records to search. Good Hunting.

### Search Historical Records

Search for a deceased ancestor in historical records to uncover vital information from their life.

**Deceased Ancestor's Name**  
First Names  Last Names

**Search with a life event:**  
[Birth](#) | [Marriage](#) | [Residence](#) | [Death](#) | [Any](#)  
Birthplace  Birth Year (Range)  From  To

**Search with a relationship:**  
[Spouse](#) | [Parents](#) | [Other Person](#)

**Restrict records by:**  
[Location](#) | [Type](#) | [Batch Number](#) | [Film Number](#)  
Country  State or Province

☐ Match all terms exactly

## Finding Family *by Linda Cable*

When I discovered our family's connection with Mark Twain, I was thrilled. As a child I read and reread Tom Sawyer. My home state is Missouri and when I was about ten my father had his first brand new car, so we took a trip to Ohio to visit relatives, stopping on the way to visit the Becky Thatcher home in Hannibal.

During my life, I've lived in Kansas City by the Missouri River, then in Memphis by the Mississippi where I rode the paddle-wheeler, The Memphis Queen. After retirement, I came to Las Vegas to be near my son and his family. As an OLLI student, I found out about a special UNLV event, Hal Holbrook in Mark Twain Tonight. I called my son. "We have to go! Our family knew Mark Twain." By this time Hal Holbrook was in his eighties so the white hair looked natural on him. <https://www.unlv.edu/event/hal-holbrook-mark-twain-tonight>

We're not related to Samuel Clemens, AKA Mark Twain, but he was a friend of the family for over 30 years. I found out about the friendship because of a "mistake." It was in my early days of genealogy research, which I began in earnest after retiring. I contacted an Ancestry member because I could see a family connection. He said he had a photo of my great grandmother Sarah Home and did I want a copy? Soon I had the photo but the note said he was sorry but it wasn't my great grandmother Sarah. When he turned the photo over it was his great grandmother Dorlesca Home Abshire with her sister, Isabelle Sawyer. I was thrilled because I had found the younger sister Isabelle ("Belle") Home in the 1860 and 1870 censuses, but then she disappeared. Now I had her married name. I figured there couldn't be that many Isabelle Home Sawyers on Google search. Up



Mark Twain's 176th Birthday

came an article from the Iowa Genealogy site about Isabelle Home Sawyer and the family stories about Mark Twain. A descendant had decided to research the old stories and came up

with a lot of information, such as the oldest brother, Wilson Home, had worked on a steamboat with Samuel Clemens. <http://iagenweb.org/lee/history/mtwain.htm>

As I explored the Home family history, I began adding family members to the tree. I had started volunteering at the Las Vegas FamilySearch Library in 2013 when I made another discovery. One of the family cousins had married a Hinkley, and they were from Utah. You guessed it! I am distantly connected by marriage to Gordon B Hinkley. My second cousin once removed, Wilma Frances Home (KWZC-WFD) married Harold Burdette Buhler in 1934. Their son Gerald Home Buhler (KWZC-WFZ) married Raquel Hinkley in 1954 in Utah. Her line goes back to Erastus Hinkley. (L8QW-MVQ).

May your next genealogy discovery be this much fun!