

**Director's Message** *by Wayne Stoker***Don't Miss Out on the Blessings!**

During the past year I visited with one of our sister missionaries about extending her service at the FamilySearch Library. She was concerned that she did not yet feel adequately trained for the work and felt somewhat lost, but she agreed to extend her service because she did not want to "miss out on the blessings" by not giving herself enough time to learn. She now serves as one of the coordinators for a shift, enjoys the work, and contributes greatly to those she works with. She is a joy to have on the staff.

Family History work doesn't always come easy. It takes time to learn how to find information, time to pull out the information, time to learn the different tools and systems, and time before one feels comfortable helping others. But given the desire to learn, reward and satisfaction always follow.

It is very gratifying to have such a large staff (60 plus Missionaries and 30 plus volunteers) willing to give of their time to learn themselves, and then become engaged in helping others.

Having the Las Vegas FamilySearch Library available to the public locally is a tremendous blessing and asset for our city. There are only a handful of similar libraries sponsored by the LDS Church in this country, and one in Britain. Many of our resources are unique, and not found elsewhere. Last month a couple made a trip to our library, after visiting the main library in Salt Lake, and found information on their Mayflower ancestors in books that are only located here. Our new on-line cataloging process made this success possible.

Over the past year or so, literally hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested to upgrade the library and make it a pleasant and comfortable place to do family research, and there are always staff members on hand to assist. The FamilySearch - Family Tree web site has matured into a stable on-line program with many enhancements to make the family history work more enjoyable and interesting, with the ability to now add photographs, stories, documents and source notes to each individual patron's family tree. The library is focused on assisting patrons as they work with FamilySearch.

We look with some satisfaction at the increased utilization of the library this past year, but there is still

much work to be done. The library remains very underutilized. Although we had over 14,000 visitors in 2013, with 30% of them being community patrons not affiliated with the LDS church, the visits by members of the church is very low, particularly considering the doctrinal significance of Family History to them. Given the combined population of the twenty-one local LDS Stakes that support the library, less than one member in fourteen utilized the library last year.

Come down and see us, let us help you, learn, and **don't miss out on the blessings!**

**LVFSL Training****Las Vegas FamilySearch Library January Classes**

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Las\\_Vegas\\_Nevada\\_FHC/Class\\_Schedule](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Las_Vegas_Nevada_FHC/Class_Schedule)

**Mark Your Calendars**

- **2014 Family History Conferences**  
[http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Upcoming\\_Conferences](http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Upcoming_Conferences)
- Rootstech <https://rootstech.org/> **6-8 Feb 2014**
- BYU Family History Conference **29 Jul-1 Aug 2014**  
<https://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen/>

**Indexing Info** *from Tom Jackson*

A new year, a new year! After all the successes of the past year it will be difficult to improve or even to match our efforts. Still, as it says in the movie "The Ghost and the Darkness": "The glory is in the struggle". So it is with us although it is much more a labor of love. For several months Church headquarters has promised that they would be updating the indexing program; that many new changes would make indexing much easier and more beneficial to us all. I am in contact with leaders up there and will keep you abreast of the information as it is given to me.

I have decided my numbers for the past year were dismal compared to previous years and I have decided to re-dedicate myself. I have also been remiss in passing the little I do know onto other indexers and will change that in the year to come. Anyone who needs training or retraining can count on me to help them. If we all work together on this, it will be the greatest year ever and that will be a good way to complete another year.

Let me once again express my love and appreciation for all of you and the incredible work you do.

## Helpful Websites *from Sandy Jackson*

### Puzzilla

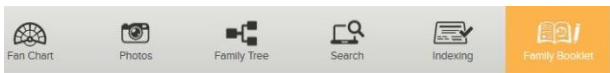
This site, [Puzzilla.org](http://Puzzilla.org) is one of the most exciting new websites! If you're interested in descendency research, this is a much needed tool. There are 2 videos available to help you get started. The first, "Finding Herman..." describes, in very simply terms, the descendency research process. The second, "Puzzilla How To..." describes how to use the site to visualize finding those ancestors that need more research and where you can be most effective.

## Changes in FamilySearch Family Tree

*by DeWayne McCormick*

### FamilySearch Homepage has New Link to My Family Booklet

In a continuing effort to help new users get started in family history, FamilySearch has launched a new icon on the [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) homepage called "Family Booklet."



This icon guides you through the process of adding important family names, dates, and places from your memory to the FamilySearch Family Tree. Using this information will help you tie in your own dates and places to information that others have added to the Family Tree and make valuable collaborative connections.

Below this new homepage icon are additional links to resources that can be used to learn more about using the *My Family Booklet: Stories That Bring Us Together*. These include the following:

- [Get Started](#) Using the My Family Booklet.
- [Learn more](#) about how to use the booklet.

[Help others](#) record their information and transfer it onto the FamilySearch Family Tree.

## Who's Who at the LVFSL *by Scherry Lesanto*

Fred and Ann Belhasen met while working at a bank in Utah. They are a couple who quietly go about doing their work and volunteering here at the center about 3 days a week. They are such a sweet couple who have 6 children, 14 grand and 2 great-grandchildren living all around the USA. They also have moved quite a bit around the USA from Ohio, Utah, Texas, New Mexico and Nevada, not necessarily in that order. Fred



was in the Army and did some nuclear weapons assembly in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He served in the Viet Nam War. He was a traveling union pipe-fitter, but some how Fred found time to go to Lakeland College in Ohio to study accounting. Fred has also worked on the Johnson Farm, which I believe is, where the dinosaur discovery site is located in St. George, Utah. Fred was not a member of the Church when he met his lovely wife to be, Ann. She would not marry a non-member. So soon after they met, he joined the Church and was baptized in the Kirkland Temple. They moved to Las Vegas where they were sealed together and served in the Las Vegas Nevada Temple for about 3 years. I asked, "What was his favorite thing to do on the Johnson Farm?" and he said, "Making goat milk fudge." I sure would love to try some of that. Of course, making fudge is not his claim to fame. Fred is one of the sterling and accomplished indexing contributors we have. Fred has indexed over 160,000 names. We have a very humble couple who share as much of themselves as they can. They are currently part of the book scanning team in the Las Vegas FamilyHistory Library.

## Genealogy Insights *by Gail Gibbs*

The summer our youngest daughter got married in the Portland Oregon Temple, after the festivities, my husband and I left and flew to Salt Lake City and rented a car and drove to his hometown of Marysville, Utah where we visited two of his cousins. We stayed overnight with one and caught up on their lives.

Next day we bought cemetery plots in the town cemetery, checked it out and took pictures of the graves of his relatives. We also stopped at the county seat and found a photo of his pioneer ancestor, William Gibbs and saw his Gibbs family Bible that a family member had donated. The town library had information also. A history of the county and the pioneer journal William's wife, Elizabeth Dana had written. Another county seat revealed divorce papers for their son Josiah Francis Gibbs, who was listed in the newspaper hall of fame as the first non-church newspaper editor in Utah. We found many of his articles. We also drove to Delta and found the pioneer couple buried in the cemetery there. It was a very productive trip and we went back home to Pennsylvania with lots of copies, 8. Now with FamilySearch Family Tree I need to get all this information entered so it is saved for posterity.

How about you? Do you have a pile of papers that need to be added to family tree too? Get them scanned so the documents can be attached to their "person page" in FamilySearch Family Tree as pdfs (or jpegs for photos).