



Director's Message *by Wayne Stoker*

The Art of Writing

I was recently looking through one of the early Issues of the Evening and Morning Star, the newspaper published by the Saints when in Missouri in 1833. I found this gem:

“The art of writing is one of the greatest blessings we enjoy. To cultivate it is our duty, and to use it is our privilege. By these means the thoughts of the heart ... and the mind ... can speak thousands of miles and for ages. Have you ever reflected on this simple, this useful, this heavenly blessing? It is one of the best gifts of God to man, and it is the privilege of man to enjoy it”.

Whether by hand or by computer, writing, or more to the point, the writing you do, may be the only way to bring back to life for your children and their posterity, the ancestors you remember or



have researched. The stories of these fore bearers grow dimmer with each passing generation, and eventually slip away completely, unless captured in writing and preserved for the future generations.

FamilySearch Family Tree has made it possible for us to preserve these priceless stories and to bring to life our ancestors who until now have been nothing more than names and dates in the family bible, or in a computer file.

Writing about your own life and putting those stories in Family Tree is equally important. These can be short snippets of your life - when I graduated high school, my military career, how I felt the day our first child was born, etc., and these glimpses of your life can now be uploaded to FamilySearch Family Tree, where they will be preserved and archived by the FamilySearch system. Stories about you and your living family will be private on Family Tree, and while you are alive, cannot be viewed by others than you and your direct line descendants – not even the in-laws.

Come on down to the FamilySearch Library and learn the various techniques for working with these stories and loading them up into your tree. Any file created by a word processing program can be uploaded directly, and if you have printed manuscripts, we have the necessary programs to put them into an electronic form that can be loaded into Family Tree without you having to re-type them.

This is a wonderful way to organize, share and archive the material you have been accumulating over the years, and you will never have to worry about this precious material being lost.

Mark Your Calendars

- **High Priest Group Leader Training** **Wed 23 July 2014**
Las Vegas FamilySearch Library 7:00 p.m.
- **Family History Consultant Training** **Thurs 24 July 2014**
Las Vegas FamilySearch Library 6:30 p.m.
- **BYU Family History Conference** **29 Jul-1 Aug 2014**
<https://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen/>
- **Las Vegas Family History Jamboree** **6 Sep 2014**
- **2014 Family History Conferences**
http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Upcoming_Conferences

LVFSL Training

Las Vegas FamilySearch Library July Classes

<http://www.lvfamilysearchlibrary.org>

The July class schedule is also attached to this email.

Helpful Websites *from Sandy Jackson*

Catalog your [Home] Genealogy Library

Having trouble keeping track of all the genealogy books you own? Consider using an online service like **LibraryThing** <http://www.librarything.com>, or apps such as **iBookShelf** (free lite version; \$1.99 premium), or **Bookcrawler** (\$1.99) for iPhone/iPad/iPod Touch users, or **Bookshelf** (free) for Android users. Search books in your library, keep track of books you borrow or loan, and add books to your collection by scanning barcodes, typing in an ISBN, or manually. Note each app will vary on specific functions.

Getting to Know You *by Connie Price*

Geff and Carol Gibson grew up in St. David, a small Mormon settlement in Southern Arizona. They dated in high school and

"courted" until Geff served a mission to Guatemala/El Salvador, while Carol attended the University of Arizona. After returning from his mission in 1969, Geff received a

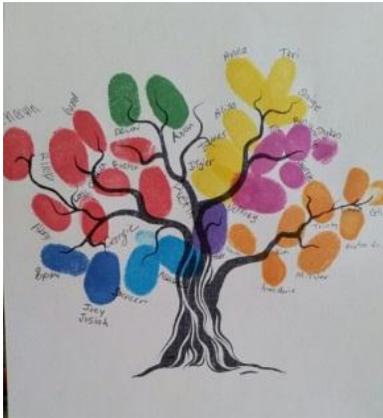


commission in the U. S. Army. Shortly thereafter, Geff and Carol were sealed in the Mesa Temple and started a new family tree which has branched out with the addition of 6 children and 21 grandchildren. An Army career included an early assignment to Zweibruecken, Germany, the ancestral home of Carol's German line, and she added hundreds of names in the early PAF era. The Gibsons moved to Las Vegas in 1996 because it was somewhat central to family outposts in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Idaho and New York City. Their first Senior Mission was Military Relations mission to Charleston, South Carolina to work with young sailors there. Now 3 years later, we have submitted papers for another mission. We hope to receive a Family History related call in July. We'll let you know...!

Genealogy Insights by Gail Gibbs

It's family reunion time again! We recently had a family reunion. It was wonderful to see all the children and grandchildren in one spot for a weekend. We had 39 attending, missing one grandson. We had eight children and as of June will have 24 grandchildren.

Our reunion started out with a baby blessing, then a testimony meeting, then box lunches, games for the kids, a thumbprint tree (see photo) a trip to the playground and back for a catered dinner, then back to the park for family photos. The next evening we had our family talent show and our family history portion. I was able to show our family what we had been doing with FamilySearch Family Tree by hooking up my computer to a flat-screen TV. I spotlighted my parents by reading the life sketches I had written about them and showing their photos and the picture of the castle home where I grew up. They all said that they learned things they didn't know.



This is the year to get your photos and stories added to FamilySearch Family Tree so you will be ready for your next family reunion.

Indexing Info from Tom Jackson

PIONEERS

Because of the time of the year I thought it might be a good idea to reflect on our past a bit. My thoughts this time of year always revolve around those who sacrificed so much that we might enjoy our present day standards. The pioneers who made the trek across the United States in search of freedom from oppression and who gave all they had to build a new life have always impressed me so much.

I think we are pioneers but in a different way. Sandy and I are going to present a short skit about genealogy at the 24th of July celebration in our stake.

Pioneers are defined by what they do as much as when they do it. At this point in the Lord's timetable genealogy is critical. Research depends on those who take the time to process images for digitization, i. e. indexers. What indexers do is missionary work pure and simple. They provide access to records for the entire human family. Records that will unlock ancestral chains and allow people the privilege of eternal blessings. Genealogy of which indexing is apart is an act of pure charity, of pure love.

Each and every one of us is in the position of being a pioneer just as much as those Saints who crossed the wide expanse of the continental United States in that we can cross the wide expanse of eternity and unite our families forever. So . . . **be the Pioneer for your family. Take the bold steps they took. Start indexing now!**

INDEXING CHALLENGE

Join volunteers from around the world on **July 20 and 21** for an international history-making event! The goal? For 50,000 indexers and arbitrators to submit at **least one batch in a 24-hour period!** Do more if you would like, but one batch is all that is required to be counted in the record!

It's Our Turn

Beginning July 1st, the members of the church in Nevada will begin receiving their invitations to sign up for their free accounts to Ancestry.com, FindMyPast.com, and MyHeritage.com, in connection with their FamilySearch account. To be eligible the member must have an active FamilySearch account and the invitation to join will be e-mailed to the e-mail address you provided when setting up your FamilySearch account. The instructions in the invitation are easy to follow, but occasional disruptions do occur. If you have trouble gaining access to your accounts please come into the FamilySearch library for assistance. Please note, the invitations will go out first to those with the more active FamilySearch accounts. **Everyone in Nevada should have access by the end of the month of July.**