

Family History Happenings

June 2016

Connie Price, Editor

Mark Your Calendars

June 22, 2016	Wed	High Priest Group Leader Training	
		Las Vegas FamilySearch Library	7:00 p.m.
June 23, 2016	Thurs	Family History Consultant Training	
		Las Vegas FamilySearch Library	6:30 p.m.
June 24, 2016	Fri	Family History Consultant Training	
		Las Vegas FamilySearch Library	10:00 a.m.
Jul 26-29, 2016		Family History Conference	Provo, UT
		http://familyhistory.ce.byu.edu/	
Oct 28-29, 2016		familyroots Expo 2016	St. George, UT
		Dixie College Convention Center	Hosted by FamilySearch

Director's Message *by Floyd Stevens*

What I learned at the Library

When Sister Stevens and I started working at the Library, we were overwhelmed by the gap between what we knew (very little) and what we felt we needed to know. We joked about telling the workers here that our motto would be—"If I can learn it, You can learn it!" After being here two months we drove up to RootsTech and headed for the beginner classes, and felt like we needed "Pre-beginner" classes. Gradually, we began to learn some things. Fortunately, I learned things she didn't know and she learned things I didn't know, so together we knew twice as much as what either of us knew. By the time we went to Roots Tech this past year, we were anxious to go to "big Boy" classes and actually learn something. We could see we had progressed much from the prior year. It was like we could finally take the training wheels off our bicycles. I say this as encouragement for the several workers who have started the past few months. Stay with it. You will be surprised at how much you are learning.

Let me summarize what I have learned here so far:

- I've learned that Ancestry has some wonderful hints. I saw some photos of my dad on Ancestry that I had never seen before.
- I learned that a green temple does not always indicate work can be done.
- I learned that Google is a great tool. I found a book on Google that had the name I needed to extend the Bemis line 3 more generations.
- I learned that my great great grandfather who I knew had died in the Civil War was in the 36th Wisconsin volunteer regiment, Company C, and that he was captured at the battle of Reams Station. I also found a book written by a man in the same company and I bought it, and glanced through it looking for my papa's name. I look forward to reading it some day. I found information about



my Mom's brother who was killed in North Africa as a tail gunner on a B52 bomber, lost at sea on the way from Tunisia to Italy. This information makes people more real. Family are people.

- I learned how great it is to watch somebody create a tree and add a name that triggers an explosion of names as they tap into the tree. This always is an emotional experience.
- I learned that the best way to find a name to take to the temple, is to do descendancy and look for record hints that show census or marriage data that can add people to the tree. I have helped people do this on their trees and I have done it on mine, and it is a thrill to know I have added to the tree, and helped reunite a family.
- I have learned that stories are important, and I have written several about my growing up years, which I hope will be enjoyable to my kids. I know better than they do how different the world was that I grew up in, and I want to capture that for my posterity.
- I learned that if I gird up my loins and really face it, I can sometimes merge duplicates. I've also learned that I have a lot of possible duplicates in my tree. If I knew then what I know now, I might have wanted to name one of my kids "Possible Duplicate Stevens." I think I know which one, too.
- I relearned that Sister Stevens has more brains than I do. She has started going through her tree from the roots to the branches and fixing it in some mysterious way (order is mysterious to me) and finding more names on her pioneer laden tree than I find as I randomly do nothing but search for names to add to the tree.
- I learned that this Library is the best place in the world to serve a mission. This is a marvelous work. The best people in the city work here. It is a great place to hang with people your age so you don't notice that you are aging. We love the prayer meetings. We love to share your successes and joys. We love to be around you. We are sad to say goodbye to wonderful people as they finish their missions, and we are happy to meet new people that will soon become dear to us.

We will be stepping down soon because of our new call. You will be in good hands with the new directors. We will miss each of you. We wish you continued success. We will not be strangers here. We have more to learn.

Floyd and Connie Stevens

Indexing Info *from Tom Jackson*

Well it is time again! Time to share my thoughts and feelings with you all. This month I'd like to focus on what is really important—our day to day efforts.

I recently received yet another notification from the indexing department informing me we would be testing the new indexing program and they wanted my help. I was to index some records using the new screens and program and report my findings on the program. It was very interesting and I had several thoughts I shared with them. They have informed me the new program will be rolling out sometime in 2017. It will take them some time to make it more online friendly and to get all the bugs worked out.

There is going to be a church wide indexing event in July that we will all be asked to participate in. I hope everyone will consider being a part of it. As I understand, it will last for 72 hours and will require a minimum of 72,000 indexers. More news will follow and I will do my best to keep you all posted.

We mourn the passing of Larry Call's wife but rejoice in the sure knowledge she is at peace and in the arms of family. We pray for Larry and his family and want to let him know we love him dearly.

Finding Family *by Linda Coble*

Little Surprises.

It's those little surprises that can make our search so interesting. Last month a family tree my mother had drawn forty years ago was discovered in the closet of a recently sold home and the new owner sent it to me. I expected to find very little but there were a few names and dates I didn't have. The little surprise came at the bottom of the tree where the name of my first cousin Kathleen appeared. She had *three* husbands, not two! I contacted her oldest son and he said, "That marriage lasted less than a year and is best forgotten. It was the 70's."

On most Tuesdays at the library, the DAR ladies come in to assist those who need help with lineage society applications. It seems pretty straightforward. We need proof of birth, marriage, and death, wills, probate and land records, as well as census to show relationships. Ho-hum. But there are little surprises along the way, like my ancestor who had ten slaves, but at the same time ran a station on the Underground Railroad. Years later the land passed out of the family and the big house was torn down, revealing quite a few hidden trap doors and a covered well in the cellar. One of his sons was killed by a Klan member.

Helpful Websites *from Sandy Jackson*

<http://registers.nli.ie/> The National Library of Ireland has digitized their entire collection of **Irish Catholic parish registers** dating from 1671-1880, and made the digitized images available online for free (non indexed). Search is by Parish. The collection includes 3500 registers converted to approximately 373,000 digital images. It is not possible to search by name in this collection, although a free searchable index is available online at FindMyPast.

Genealogy Insights *by Gail Gibbs*

What did you do for Spring Break this year?

I was very excited when I heard about a family who used their Spring Break to visit 15 of the 17 Utah LDS temples. Only the 2 eldest girls of their 7 children were old enough to do baptisms for the dead but with help from their dad they were able to complete 165 ordinances that week by visiting 2 temples each day. Ordinances were completed for both sides of their family. I thought about the wonderful example that was being set by this father and mother, the long term implications of these acts of service and the memories that were made that week on both sides of the veil. It is good to hear about stories like this. It reminds us to always have our tent door facing the temple.

