



# GENEALOGY NEWS

Compiled by Jack and Sylvia Sonneborn

2011

## ELDER BEDNAR EXPLAINS THE PURPOSE OF THE RETURN OF ELIJAH, THE PROPHET

**As a genealogist, is it any wonder that one of my favorite talks from the October General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the one give by Elder Bednar on family history.**

"As we study, learn, and live the gospel of Jesus Christ, sequence often is instructive. Consider, for example, the lessons we learn about spiritual priorities from the order of the major events that occurred as the fulness of the Savior's gospel was restored in these latter days.

In the Sacred Grove, Joseph Smith saw and talked with the Eternal Father and Jesus Christ... Approximately three years later, in response to earnest prayer on the evening of September 21, 1823, Joseph's bedroom filled with light until it "was lighter than at noonday" ([Joseph Smith—History 1:30](#)). A personage appeared at his bedside, called the young boy by name, and declared "he was a messenger sent from the presence of God ... and that his name was Moroni" ([verse 33](#)). He instructed Joseph about the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. And then Moroni quoted from the book of Malachi in the Old Testament, with a little variation in the language used in the King James Version:

"Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

"... And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of

the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming" ([verses 38, 39](#)).

Moroni's instructions to the young prophet ultimately included two primary themes: (1) the Book of Mormon and (2) the words of Malachi foretelling the role of Elijah in the Restoration "of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" ([Acts 3:21](#)). Thus, the introductory events of the Restoration revealed a correct understanding of the Godhead, emphasized the importance of the Book of Mormon, and anticipated the work of salvation and exaltation for both the living and the dead. This inspiring sequence is instructive about the spiritual matters of highest priority to Deity....

## The Ministry of Elijah

Elijah was an Old Testament prophet through whom mighty miracles were performed..."We learn from latter-day revelation that Elijah held the sealing power of the Melchizedek Priesthood and was the last prophet to do so before the time of Jesus Christ" (Bible Dictionary, "Elijah"). The Prophet Joseph Smith explained, "The spirit, power, and calling of Elijah is, that ye have power to hold the key of the ... *fulness of the Melchizedek Priesthood* ... ; and to ... obtain ... all the ordinances belonging to the kingdom of God" (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 311; emphasis added). This sacred sealing authority is essential for priesthood ordinances to be valid and binding both on earth and in heaven.

Elijah appeared with Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration (see [Matthew 17:3](#)) and conferred this authority upon Peter, James, and John. Elijah appeared again with Moses and others on April 3, 1836, in the Kirtland Temple and conferred the same keys upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.

Scripture records that Elijah the prophet stood before Joseph and Oliver and said: "Behold, the time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi—testifying that he [Elijah] should be sent, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord come— "To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse—

"Therefore, the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands; and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors" ([D&C 110:14–16](#)).

The restoration of the sealing authority by Elijah in 1836 was necessary to prepare the world for the Savior's Second Coming and initiated a greatly increased and worldwide interest in family history research.

## The Spirit and Work of Elijah

The Prophet Joseph Smith declared: "The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead. ... For it is necessary that the sealing power should be in our hands to seal our children and our dead for the fulness of the dispensation of times—a dispensation to meet the promises made by Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world for the salvation of man. ... Hence, God said, 'I will send you Elijah the prophet'" (*Teachings: Joseph Smith*, 475).

Joseph further explained: "But what is the object of [the coming of Elijah]? or how is it to be fulfilled? The keys are to be delivered, the spirit of Elijah is to come, the Gospel to be established, the Saints of God gathered, Zion built up, and the Saints to come up as saviors on Mount Zion [see [Obadiah 1:21](#)].

"But how are they to become saviors on Mount Zion? By building their temples ... and going forth and receiving all the ordinances ... in behalf of all their progenitors who are dead ... ; and herein is the chain that binds the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, which fulfills the

mission of Elijah" (*Teachings: Joseph Smith*, 472–73).

Elder Russell M. Nelson has taught that the Spirit of Elijah is "a manifestation of the Holy Ghost bearing witness of the divine nature of the family" ("A New Harvest Time," *Ensign*, May 1998, 34). This distinctive influence of the Holy Ghost draws people to identify, document, and cherish their ancestors and family members—both past and present.

The Spirit of Elijah affects people inside and outside of the Church. However, as members of Christ's restored Church, we have the covenant responsibility to search out our ancestors and provide for them the saving ordinances of the gospel. "They without us should not be made perfect" ([Hebrews 11:40](#); see also *Teachings: Joseph Smith*, 475). And "neither can we without our dead be made perfect" ([D&C 128:15](#)).

For these reasons we do family history research, build temples, and perform vicarious ordinances. For these reasons Elijah was sent to restore the sealing authority that binds on earth and in heaven. We are the Lord's agents in the work of salvation and exaltation that will prevent "the whole earth [from being] smitten with a curse" ([D&C 110:15](#)) when He returns again. This is our duty and great blessing...."

Elder Bednar's talk continues as he informs the youth that their mission is to carry forth this great work. If you did not hear this talk in its entirety, you can find it on [lds.org](#) under conference talks, Saturday afternoon. It will also be in the November [Ensign](#). As I listened to this talk on that Saturday afternoon, the Spirit testified to me that I am indeed involved in one of the most important works of the Church, and I felt a debt of gratitude to my Heavenly Father for inspiring me to work as a Savior on Mt. Zion to my kindred dead. On Sunday, I bore testimony to my brothers and sisters in the York 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward that I have been give the Spirit of Elijah, and I am grateful for this opportunity to do work for my deceased ancestors. I also look forward to a grand reunion in the heavens one day.

## SYLVIA'S GENEALOGY CORNER

This month I decided to add a little information to my son's Landis line in hopes of going back a few more generations for him and my grandson. I went to Ancestry to see if anything had been added on this line since I last worked on it, and I did not find anything new. Then I moved to the free Rootsweb World Connect division of Ancestry and found a Miller (the female part of the Landis line) with information posted by a woman named Rosalie Sommer. I made a contact, only to learn that she is related other Millers, and she collects information on any Millers that she finds in the newspapers in my locality.

In addition, she knew and had researched in the Family History Center a number of years ago when Jack was working there without me. He knew her name immediately. I often stress the importance of collaboration. Rosalie and I wrote back and forth passionately for over a week. In that amount of time, she sent me a note saying that I probably know that Miller is York County's most common name. No, I did not know that, but I soon found out.

She is a busy beaver. Within a few days she sent me information for my first mother-in-law's entire family (Mae Landis), including her siblings' obituaries, social security death records, the 1920 and 1930 census, a photo of my mother-in-law's tombstone, Mae's niece's obituary and will, obits for Mae's brother's in law, some news articles about personal accomplishments, wills, marriage licenses. She said that she had worked on Heritage Quest and Pro Quest, in particular. Then she sent me a bible record of one of Mae's brothers-in-law with excellent family information.

All of this helped to increase the information in my records, but it still did not find the next generation after Mae's father William Albert Miller. I still was not able to continue that line. But Rosalie did send me an important clue, and that was from a draft registration naming William Albert Miller (b. 1891) as being born in Rekord, Maryland. Rosalie tells me that that town no longer exists but that it was in Harford County, Maryland. Well, that puts me closer to my quest. We cannot find this particular William Albert Miller (although there are other Williams) in a 1910 census.

The help Rosalie gave me did not stop there. Once she exhausted all the record searching she could do, she sent me this information about Maryland:

"Here's the Baltimore birth record availability. I remembered it was quite far back.....in Baltimore city - to 1875. But in the county, it's 1898 ---not helpful.

We went to the Maryland Hall of Records and copied 30+ death certificates for my husband's family. They pulled the microfilm and I copied them on their microfilm printers. This is not going to work for you on the Miller family.....close but too far away in time.

Vital records for Maryland are found at two different repositories. Statewide births, 1898-1950, including those for Baltimore, 1875-1941; statewide death records, 1898-1982 (indexes 1898-1968), with Baltimore deaths for 1875-1982 (indexes 1875-1971); and county civil marriage records from 1914-1950 (indexes 1914-1930) are located at the Maryland Hall of Records (State Archives):  
Maryland State Archives  
Hall of Records Building  
350 Rowe Blvd.  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Tel: 800-235-4045 (MD toll free) or 410-974-3914 Fax: 410-974-3895

Maryland births from April 1898, with City of Baltimore births from January 1875; Maryland deaths occurring less than twenty years ago; and Maryland marriages from June 1951 are also available from the Division of Vital Records. Earlier marriages, usually from the 1770s to 1919, are either with the clerk of the circuit court where the license was issued or at the Maryland State Archives. Some records are at both locations.

State of Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene  
Division of Vital Records  
Metro Executive Building  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215-0020  
Tel: 410-225-5988 800-832-3277

I was totally in awe at her generosity in searching for my ancestor and fascinated that she had already collected a lot of information on the Millers I am seeking (she descends from the Millers of Lancaster). All I did was take the e-mail address from World Connect and make an inquiry, and this very generous lady appeared. Was it a coincidence that the person on this international site lived in the same area that I do? I don't think so.

I often laud the collaboration links on some of the family history websites, and I am thankful for all the people who offer to do lookups free on some of the message boards. I hope that some time Rosalie drops by the Family History Center and introduces herself again because she says that we once met. I cannot tell you how pleased I was to find such a helpful lady on the other return e-mail a few weeks ago. The site that I went to – the free Ancestry site – is at this address:

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

## **BALTIMORE FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP – OCTOBER 15 ESSEX, MARYLAND**

Jack and I enjoyed a wonderful day at the Baltimore Family History Workshop on October 15. If you are quick, the handouts are still online at this address:

<http://www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org/classdescriptions2011.htm>

There is a lot of wonderful information there for you to print if you are interested. I was able to go to only one other class on "Jumping the Pond" by Dr. MacInnes, and it was extremely informational. She gave us such good information and lists of places that a person can visit to do German research. You can copy her handout, but I am going to list some of the websites that she presented in her class.

### **WEBSITES FOR GERMAN RESEARCH**

Overview of German research:

<https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Germany>

Genealogical Handbook of German Research (everything from emigration to determining place of origin to feast days and calendars):

[http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/guide/Ger\\_BMD\\_RefDoc\\_HandbookGermanResearch.ASP?Aid=&Gid=&Lid=&Sid=&Sigid=undefined&Did=&Juris1=&Event=&Year=&Gloss=&Sub=&Tab=&Entry=&Loc=undefined](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/guide/Ger_BMD_RefDoc_HandbookGermanResearch.ASP?Aid=&Gid=&Lid=&Sid=&Sigid=undefined&Did=&Juris1=&Event=&Year=&Gloss=&Sub=&Tab=&Entry=&Loc=undefined)

German Research Outline (an excellent 59-page document):

[www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/images/34061\\_Germany05.pdf](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/images/34061_Germany05.pdf)

To "drill down" into many topics of German research, go to

[http://www.genealoger.com/german/ger\\_how\\_to.htm](http://www.genealoger.com/german/ger_how_to.htm)  
and click on any of the topics on the left side

"Internet Resources for Locating Your 19<sup>th</sup> Century German Emigrant"

[https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Internet\\_Resources\\_for\\_Locating\\_your\\_19th\\_Century\\_German\\_Emigrant](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Internet_Resources_for_Locating_your_19th_Century_German_Emigrant)

“German Research on the Internet” handout (handout on digitized online records):  
[https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/German\\_Research\\_on\\_the\\_Internet\\_-\\_an\\_Overview\\_-\\_complete\\_handout](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/German_Research_on_the_Internet_-_an_Overview_-_complete_handout)

For an amateur but practical explanation of how to research online and offline, read everything on Don Watson’s  
<http://members.cox.net/hessen/hsstory.htm#always>.

Scroll down to link to things like the German telephone directory, boundary changes, how to search Google, etc. His information about hiring a researcher and sending money to Germany is on  
<http://members.cox.net/hessen/payforit.htm#paying>.

DAR online catalog:

<http://www.dar.org/library/onlinlib.cfm>

Library of Congress online catalog:

<http://catalog.loc.gov/>

Internet Archives (free):

<http://www.archive.org/details/texts>

GoogleBooks (free):

[http://books.google.com/advanced\\_book\\_search](http://books.google.com/advanced_book_search).

Family History Archives (free):

<http://lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php>

<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/p/pitttextall/>

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/CardCatalog.aspx> (fee)

[http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=List\\_of\\_Genealogical\\_Societies](http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=List_of_Genealogical_Societies) (free) list of statewide societies

US Genealogy & Historical Society Directory:

<http://www.censusfinder.com/genealogy-societydirectory>.

Htm

Genealogy Libraries on the WWW:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~holdiman/LSG/uslibraries.html>

Directory of Genealogy Libraries in the U.S.:

[http://www.gwest.org/gen\\_libs.htm](http://www.gwest.org/gen_libs.htm)

Federation of East European Family History Societies: <http://www.feefhs.org/> (also see their Resource Directory at <http://www.feefhs.org/links.html> and click on the country of interest)

<http://www.cyndislist.com/societies> for fairly comprehensive local listing and

<http://www.cyndislist.com/societies/lineage/first-families/>)

[http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frame\\_set\\_fhlc.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frame_set_fhlc.asp)

<http://www.fold3.com/> (formerly Footnote – for military records)

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/surnames/>

[http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/frame\\_set\\_search.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/frame_set_search.asp).

<http://rsl.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

<http://usgenweb.org/>

<http://www.germanroots.com/start.php?lan=en>

<http://www.genealogienetz.de/faqs/sqg.html#starters>  
[www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/images/34066\\_LWGGerman.pdf](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/images/34066_LWGGerman.pdf)

<http://www.verwandt.de/karten>

<http://www.genealogy.net/genealogy.html>

<http://translate.google>

<http://meta.genealogy.net>

<http://www.genealogienetz.de/>

[http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/Main\\_Page](http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/Main_Page)

<http://famlit.genealogy.net/fkld/maske.pl?db=fkld>

<http://catalog.loc.gov/>

<http://www.worldcat.org/>

<http://www.genealogienetz.de/reg/regio.htm>

<http://wiki->

[de.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Ortsfamilienbuch](http://de.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Ortsfamilienbuch)

<http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Auswanderung/Linkliste>

<http://ahnenforschung.net/fernabfrage/>

[http://www.genealoger.com/german/ger\\_local\\_histories.htm](http://www.genealoger.com/german/ger_local_histories.htm)

[https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/German\\_Town\\_Genealogies\\_and\\_Parish\\_Register\\_Inventories\\_on\\_the\\_Internet#Bibliographies\\_of\\_Town\\_Genealogies](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/German_Town_Genealogies_and_Parish_Register_Inventories_on_the_Internet#Bibliographies_of_Town_Genealogies)

“Palatine Project” by ProGenealogists has excellent information:

<http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/articles/ger1700sfw.htm>

<http://www.pictonpress.com/store/show/494>)

<http://germanimmigrants.org/>

<http://stevemorse.org>

<http://www.castlegarden.org/>

[http://www.ellisland.org/genealogy/ellis\\_island.asp](http://www.ellisland.org/genealogy/ellis_island.asp)

<http://www.germanroots.com/gtoa>.

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1174>

“German and American Sources for German Emigration to America”

(<http://www.genealogienetz.de/misc/emig/emigrati.html#anf>)

“Internet Resources for Finding 19th Century German Emigrants”:

[https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Internet\\_Resources\\_for\\_Finding\\_19th\\_Century\\_German\\_Emigrants](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Internet_Resources_for_Finding_19th_Century_German_Emigrants)

Württemberg Emigration Index (late 1700s to 1900):  
8 volumes on Ancestry at  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3141> by Trudy Schenk

Hamburg Passenger Lists:  
[https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Hamburg\\_Emigration/Immigration](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Hamburg_Emigration/Immigration)

How to use the Hamburg Lists and Indexes:  
[https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Hamburg\\_Passenger\\_Lists](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Hamburg_Passenger_Lists)

Institute of Palatine History and Folklore in Kaiserslautern (<http://www.bv-pfalz.de/kultur/institut-fuer-pfaelzische-geschichte-und-volkskunde/>) has a card file with about 600,000 emigrants (not just to America). Email them to see if your emigrant is there at [info@bv-pfalz.de](mailto:info@bv-pfalz.de) or [info@institut.bv-pfalz.de](mailto:info@institut.bv-pfalz.de).  
WorldCat (<http://www.worldcat.org/advancedsearch>), then order through Interlibrary Loan at your local library if it's in circulation

Library of Congress Online Catalog  
(<http://www.loc.gov>)

Ancestry  
(<http://search.ancestry.com/search/CardCatalog.aspx?ccat=hc%3D25%26dbSort%3D1%26>)

<http://www.online-ofb.de/> - over 130 town genealogies posted online

[http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Deutsche\\_Ortssippenb%C3%BCcher/\\_Reihe\\_A](http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Deutsche_Ortssippenb%C3%BCcher/_Reihe_A)

<http://www.v-weiss.de/ofbmeur-e.html>  
Try to find the village on the German wikipedia (<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki>) and get the "Koordinaten" or Shtetl Finder (<http://www.jewishgen.org/communities/loctown.asp>)

Locate the same coordinates on a historical map.  
Most maps drawn in the last 200 years  
It is online at for free at  
<http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHSS&CISOPTR=38136>  
<http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/u?/FHSS,39572> (Vol. 1, A-K) and  
<http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHSS&CISOPTR=39572> (Vol. 2, L-Z)

"Step-by-Step Guide: Using Meyers Gazetteer Online" (how to read and use it):  
[http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/guide/GER\\_T4\\_-\\_HowtoUsetheMeyersGazetteer1.asp?Locality=undefined&Id=undefined&StrategyItemid=undefined&GuidedPathArchived=undefined&ArchiveId=undefined&Guide=undefined&GuideTab=#tip\\_5](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/guide/GER_T4_-_HowtoUsetheMeyersGazetteer1.asp?Locality=undefined&Id=undefined&StrategyItemid=undefined&GuidedPathArchived=undefined&ArchiveId=undefined&Guide=undefined&GuideTab=#tip_5)

Kartenmeister for finding today's place names in the former German empire (east of the Oder and Neisse Rivers (it includes most towns, mills, some bridges, etc.):  
<http://www.kartenmeister.com/preview/databaseuwe.asp>

I have not included the explanations that Dr. MacInnes gives with each website, but if you print out the syllabus, you will have all of the information.

## SYLLABUS FOR NEW FAMILYSEARCH TRAINING

One of the classes that I taught was "Getting the Most out of nFS and Family Tree." I prepared a four-page handout of instructions, which could be shared with those who you are teaching. If you can improve upon it, feel free to make changes. I am going to give you the link, and if you copy it right away, you will find it on the Baltimore Workshop registration pages:  
<http://www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org/classdescriptions2011.htm> Just go down the list until you find the name of the course. Do not delay. I do not know how long Baltimore will keep these posted. By the way, Congratulations Karen Perry, director, and all those who helped her organize and execute this family history workshop. There were over 300 people in attendance and 50 classes offered. It was indeed a very impressive conference.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER TELLS HOW SHE LEARNS TO LOVE FAMILY



In 2008 Dr. Joan Gaither of the Baltimore area did a display of fabric art in the cultural hall at the Baltimore workshop, specifically as a documentary story quilter. She has described herself in this way: "I am a native Baltimorean with a history of helping to integrate local schools and businesses during the Civil Rights Movement, receiving a B.S. degree from Morgan University (an historic Black College) in 1965 and my Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1998. Finishing the dissertation was certainly a career highlight, but even a greater feeling of accomplishment came when the dissertation was voted "Outstanding Dissertation for 1998 in Educational Research at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee." I continue to strive for that "Perpetual Energy Source Award" that honored my ability to model and facilitate intergenerational participation in art education, public schools, and community arts partnerships."

This year she was the animated keynote speaker at the Baltimore workshop where she told how her quilting honors her ancestors. She reiterates that these are not just names on paper, but they are real people who once lived and who made contributions that have had lasting effects on the human condition. She has also helped a local church save its history in the form of a quilt. Below are some of the quilts that she has made.



**I Am: Family History Quilt**





**Steppin' Self Portrait**



**A tribute to a relative – Gordon**



**Tribute to Eddie and Sylvia Brown**

**2 Brown Tribute Patches**



**My Spiritual Family  
Entire quilt below**



## TO USE THE FAMILY HISTORY FREE PORTALS

The FHC Portal has been created to be the starting point to access FamilySearch websites. Family history centers are asked to make the Family History Center Portal their home page. See document 38e3e021.

Access the Family History Center Portal at <http://www.fhc.familysearch.org/>.

Below are descriptions of each link in the Family History Center Portals:

**Premium Family History Websites.** This link is ONLY accessible from a family history center. It requires LANDesk to be on the family history center computer in order to work properly. It is NOT available for home use. See document 106761 for the software that is included in the premium subscriptions. These websites normally charge a patron to use their services; however, they are available without cost at a family history center.

**FamilySearch**

- \* This is the main site for FamilySearch.
- \* Search Records for names and dates from various documents.
- \* Search Trees for information people have shared about their families.
- \* Search Catalog to see what microfilms or microfiche may be ordered and sent to a local family history center. This also lists items such as books that are only available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.
- \* A Parent Search may be done by clicking Advanced Search. Click the drop-down box, and choose Parents. Fill in the surname and given name of the father and at least the first name of the mother. Click Search to find the children.
- \* Individual databases may be accessed through the links to the left of the world map. These databases are updated regularly from the information being created through FamilySearch indexing. Check back often as information is continually being added as it becomes available.

\* The FamilySearch Centers link allows patrons to search for a family history center near them.

**FamilySearch Indexing**

The website where the family history community looks at digital images and types the information shown, which is then added to the information that is searchable at FamilySearch.org.

**FamilySearch Microfilm Ordering**

The website where microfilm or microfiche can be ordered directly from a computer using a credit card. Currently this is only available in certain parts of the world. Check the Family History Center Portal for updates about what areas are participating in this program. Family history centers in other parts of North America are using Inventory Manager for this step.

### **Online Courses**

Free online video classes cover step by step how to do family history research. Courses are included from very beginning processes through very advanced processes, including how to become a professional genealogist. Many of the courses are divided by countries. These courses are also available at FamilySearch.org under Learn.

### **Family Tech**

This information is about the latest technologies available and how individuals are applying them to family history research.

### **FamilySearch Wiki**

A location-based community website where individuals may contribute information that they know about. It is searchable by location. Contribute something you know about in your local area.

### **FamilySearch Forums**

A way to communicate with other people who are interested in family history research. It is divided into different sections of interest. Questions may be posted and answers may be given in order to help one another. Help each other by participating in the many forums available.

There is a separate section for Family History Center Support, which is divided into four subsections: Family History Center Operations, Technical Support, Policies and Procedures, and New Family History Center Staff.

### FamilySearch Help Center

Ask a question to access information in the knowledge base. By clicking Sign In in the upper right corner, more information will become available, depending on the calling selected at

<https://www.familysearch.org/serve/>. The fewer words used, the better the search works. Try just using a name or adding an action word for best results.

The bottom of the Family History Center Portal website in the blue box section has these options:

Premium Subscriptions Access Help  
Follow the steps listed in this section if there are problems accessing the premium subscriptions. Usually clicking the file PortalCfg will fix most **problems. Try that first.**

#### Online Guide

This information is for family history center directors, staff, and technology specialists. The sections include Core Training, Additional Training--Family History Center Directors, and Additional Resources--Family History Center Directors. These sections contain links to Policies, Guidelines, Training Materials, Links, Resources, and Forms. Some sections have an additional link, See the whole list..., at the bottom. Click that link to open a pop-up box containing more links. This option requires an LDS Account user name and password.  
Paul

#### FAMILY HISTORY CONSULTANTS

The [Fold3Training Center](#) has 3 great video tutorials available to help you get started using [Fold3](#) (used to be Footnote): Introduction to Fold3, Search Basics, Using Browse. Each is 4-5 minutes long and very informative. More are being planned, so check the [Fold3 Training Center](#) often.

## FEB ROOTSTECH CONFERENCE

[RootsTech 2012](#) is February 2 - 4, 2012

- Innovating genealogy by bringing together [users](#) and [developers](#) of technology
- [Exciting new speakers and keynote addresses](#)
- [Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah](#) – Walking distance from the Family History Library
- [Register now!](#) Special \$129 early bird registration ends November 30, 2011

### 1940 CENSUS SOON TO BE RELEASED

The 1940 U.S. Federal Census was conducted based on a census date of April 1, 1940. Because of the seventy-two year privacy restriction, family historians will need to wait until **April 2, 2012** before they can use schedules from the sixteenth census of the United States. The census counted a total of nearly 132.2 million people living in 48 states.

### HARTMANS' DATABASE UPDATED

Yesterday, we updated our family database with about 11,000 new names, most of which are from York and Adams Counties. Many of the new names are from Manchester and York Townships. This now brings our online database to over 705,000 linked names. You can see what we have at: <http://familyhart.info> Thank you for your help and support. It is greatly appreciated.

Don & Jeanine Hartman  
FamilyHart  
<http://familyhart.info>  
twitter-@familyhart  
10/1/2011

### CONTACT HARRY SENFT FOR CEMETERIES NOT POSTED

A friend in York has been helping Harry Senft index some of the cemeteries in York County (Audrey LaRew, but they have not yet been posted online. If you are having difficulty finding one of Audrey's cemeteries, please contact Sylvia, or contact HARRY E SENFT, 3048 SOLAR DR, DOVER, PA 17135 (717) 792-9253 for help.

## VIDEO DEMONSTRATIONS ON nFS

Go to website

<https://help.familysearch.org/kb/videos/en/index.html>. This will take you to Video Demonstrations.

I viewed some of these, and they are very helpful. Towards the bottom of listing is "Combining Duplicate Records." I printed out the 13 page handout dated February 2011, "How Combining Records Affects Your Family Line."

I was not aware of some of the ways to view information, using the two records side-by-side.

I hope this helps, especially with a handout to follow. Margaret

### BEST LDS WEBSITES

If you are unable to click this and go directly to the site, then copy and paste the address into your browser box. This website is particularly helpful for those with Utah research but could be helpful to all.

<http://www.easyfamilyhistory.com/lds-center/best-lds-websites>

## Sort Your Story

[Sort Your Story](#) is software that helps you organize your data and digitized documents. You enter your data in the software's profiler and use the software to organize documents. The profiler also helps you see what information you're missing for each person in your tree.

### VISIT A SITE CALLED "SORTED BY NAME"

**Here's a nifty little website that I stumbled upon the other day. Maybe it will help you find some ancestors:**

<http://sortedbyname.com/index.html>

This will take you to the Home Page, but just click on the alphabet to look for names that you are interested in. If you put in just a last name, you will get more hits. Sylvia

## CHURCH RELEASES NEW APP

Late this week the Church released a new app called 'LDS Music' that has better functionality for the hymns and children's songs. This includes text only, text and music (like in the hymn book), and piano accompaniment, they have more on the radar for the next release.

Gospel Lbry, the name for the Church's Gospel Library app, should also work normally as well.

Mormon Channel, for audio content, and audio scriptures, plus text scriptures, is also available, under the name LDS Radio. Lots of extra on-demand content not heard on the radio station, as well as about 75 percent of what airs there on a regular basis anyway.

I've heard that powering down and restarting can reset things as well at times. James Anderson

"Your opportunities and the obligations they create are remarkable in the whole history of the world. There are more temples across the earth than there ever have been. More people in all the world have felt the Spirit of Elijah move them to record the identities and facts of their ancestors' lives. There are more resources to search out your ancestors than there have ever been in the history of the world. The Lord has poured out knowledge about how to make that information available worldwide through technology that a few years ago would have seemed a miracle."

**Source:** President Henry B. Eyring, "Hearts Bound together" Ensign May 2005

## CEASE THE PERSISTENT MYTH THAT FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS ARE GOING TO GO AWAY

I get disappointed by those individuals who are making statements that family history centers are on the decline and will be going away. Obviously, the persons making these statements do not frequent the centers, do not diligently work on their own family history, and are not reading church literature. If they did, they would know that there is a huge increase in the family history movement. They would know that there is a tremendous need for family history centers in the church buildings, and that our leaders need to make family history a priority and encourage members to use the centers.

1. First of all, the increase in building and maintaining **135+ operating temples** is the first clue that genealogy is very much on the First Presidency's mind and that it is one of the Lord's priorities. The FHC is the starting place to learn how to prepare one's own work for the temple and then one's ancestors' work.

- A.** This subject of the demise of Family History Centers was addressed at the RootsTech <<http://rootstech.familysearch.org/>> conference earlier this year in the consultants' training meetings. The demise of the FHC is a rumor. Key administrators assured us that the **future of the FHCs is bright.**
- B.** The Family History Department just initiated

**ordering films and fiche online** using credit cards. BUT the patrons must come into the Family History Center to view the materials. Myth: All records are now available online! Reality: Less than 10% of the Church's family history records are available online! With the high-speed equipment used, digitization will take 5-10 years. Indexing these images may take 100 years. Most are on microfilm for the patron to borrow from SLC, or the patron can pay to make the microfilm permanent in the FHC.

- C.** Besides having the ability to offer microfiche and microfilm research, each Center has its own **resources**, including books, journals, handouts, subscriptions, research aids and internet access.
- D.** One cannot assume that all members can **afford** to maintain a home computer and the Internet or even can use a computer. **All members now need direct or indirect access to computers to prepare temple work.** Computers are available in the FHC with trained consultants who have lists of the most helpful family history websites and the ability to train individuals to use a computer even if the patron does not have good computer skills.
- E.** New FamilySearch is a **challenging website** to

learn. A certified consultant (one who has taken the courses online) can easily teach patrons how to use the program.

- F. When patrons cannot learn internet skills or do not want to learn them, we need consultants who are able to **assist** them as online Helpers to do the following:
  - A. Enter the data into new.familysearch.org,
  - B. Reserve ordinances,
  - C. Print Family Ordinance Requests for the members to take to the temple.
  - D. Or if the members are not able to attend the temple, to assign the ordinances to the temple, for the members.
8. FamilySearch provides access to 10 **commercial partner sites for free**. The Church subscribes to these portals, offering them for use to patrons in the FHC. These include Ancestry, Fold 3 (Footnote), World Vital Records, Godfrey, and others. The patron cannot access them in his home free of charge. These services also include access to the censuses of Canada, USA, England, Wales, and Scotland, plus other valuable records.
9. The Church has been **updating equipment** and supplying the centers with new computers and new printers. Our FHC is awaiting

the arrival of 3 new printers before the end of the year. The Church does not provide equipment for failing programs. They have future plans for centers!

10. All buildings are going wireless so that **computer access** is available for the clerk's business but also for doing family history. Should you wish more information, go to mhtech.lds.org. Meetinghouse Internet Policy Guidelines

[https://tech.lds.org/wiki/Meetinghouse Internet policies and guidelines](https://tech.lds.org/wiki/Meetinghouse_Internet_policies_and_guidelines)

11. FamilySearch provides **affiliate software** for free in the centers, such as Ancestral Quest, RootsMagic, PAF Insight, and Legacy for the convenience of the patron so that a patron can bring his family history repository to the center on a flash drive and restore it to the affiliate program to work on it or ask the consultant for help with problems.
12. FamilySearch can (and does) **access the computers remotely**. It oversees the workings of the FH Center and requires end-of-month reports. It maintains a large staff of missionaries in The Joseph Smith Building and the Family History Library, SLC, UT, to direct the family history work and to assist with questions at home or in the FHC. Patrons often have to be

taught how to access and use the Help Center by the consultants. The church is spending a large amount of money to advance family history and training many missionaries to serve in support for this program. The Church also has 3 server farms – VA, ID, and UT. It is adding an electronic safe house in Kansas City for records.

13. The Church is undergoing a massive project of volunteer **digitization and indexing** of records on familysearch.org.
14. Myth: All records are now available online! Reality: Less than 10% of the Church's family history records are available online! With the high-speed equipment used, digitization will take 5-10 years. Indexing these images may take 100 years. Patrons still need to borrow records through the FHC.
15. We are getting Mixed Messages: Fact: It is harder to get approval for a new FHC. But the number of FHCs is increasing. Fact: The largest regional FHC (Los Angeles) was closed. But it was renovated and is open again, better than ever. Fact: Over 20 FHCs in Utah were closed by the Church. But these were replaced by the , new Riverton FamilySearch Library, which is a researcher's paradise! Family History **Centers are**

**getting larger and more sophisticated**, but they are not going away.

#### 16. THE COPYRIGHT PROBLEM

Licensing agreements for microfilming do not automatically extend to other media such as digital images placed online. Some microfilmed material may never be available online ... at least from FamilySearch for free. (For example we have seen some formerly-free records become available exclusively on commercial sites.) However our existing agreements for microfilming continue to be in effect.

These films are **only available at a Family History Center.**

17. Family Search continues to add **training** for doing family history online; thus most ward family history consultants have excellent internet skills to effectively help members. Patrons trying to work at home alone can get very frustrated when trying to work alone.

18. We cannot overlook the fact that the FHC is a **missionary tool**. The majority our patrons are not members of the church, but they are always impressed with our benevolence in offering these free services. Recently one of our community volunteers was working with a couple new to the Center. The couple was so impressed with his help that at

the end of their session, they donated \$100 to the Center. A FH consultant intervened and explained that our services are free and finally agreed to accept a \$5.00 donation.

19. The Sunday School's seven-lesson class is only an introduction to family history. Most members need **additional time** with a consultant to learn nFS.

20. Family History Centers are a **safe place** that Consultants can help patrons prepare names for temple ordinances if consultants are uneasy about meeting in the patron's home (consultant has allergies, the patron is a single person of the opposite sex, the patron's computer is outdated, etc.

If you are a member of the Stake Presidency, the Bishopric, or High Council, and you have ever said that your building does not need a family history center, please pray about this topic. Doing work for the dead is so important that the Angel Moroni told Joseph Smith about it the first time he appeared to him. Family History Centers are not relics of the past. What is a Family History Center worth to your Stake, in dollars and cents?

It is hard to say, but ...

If you have 100 members who need the commercial genealogy resources, and those resources cost \$1000/person/year,  $\$1000 \times 100 = \$100,000$  per year.

This is probably a conservative estimate.

It has a value beyond money to the dead awaiting redemption.

Sadly, many members are not using the centers, but part of that reason is that some of our leaders are not making family history a priority. Whatever a Stake President or Bishop stresses, that is what the congregation will follow. Family History is

one of the three-fold missions of the church. It brings great joy to the doer. Missionary work and doing work for the dead are both increasing the membership in the church. They both will be the work of the Millennium. NFS is the book that we are preparing to give to Jesus Christ. Those of us who steadily do this work are labeled "Saviors on Mount Zion." It humbles me to know that I am doing the work of the Savior. It hurts me that many ignore this great work for their deceased ancestors waiting in Spirit Prison.

Ideas combined from

Terry Mason

Bill Buchanan

website:

<http://billbuchanan.byethost17.com>

blog: <http://billbuchanan.blogspot.com>

Sylvia Sonneborn

"The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead. Those saints who neglect it in behalf of their deceased relatives, do it at the peril of their own salvation." Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet, p. 193.

#### USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FH TRAINING

<http://granitegenealogytraining.blogspot.com/>

**Go to the Homepage for the blog**



## Smithsonian Video Seminar on "Indian Blood"

Anyone researching Native American ancestry will probably be interested in a new online video from the Smithsonian. The video examines the question of "Who is an Indian?"

Unlike other ethnic minorities in the United States, American Indians are defined not solely by self-designation but by federal, state, and tribal laws. Blood quantum—originating from archaic notions of biological race and still codified in contemporary policy—remains one of the most important factors in determining tribal citizenship, access to services, and community recognition. This concept, however, is not without debate and contestation.

You can watch the video at [APR 10 GENEALOGICAL Newsletter stuff.docx](#)

## Preserve Your Work

Consider ways to preserve your genealogy information before you die. Don't include it in your will and think that you're "done." Libraries don't always have time to organize unorganized material and some don't have the funds to preserve it, catalog it, or store it. And your will may tell your executor what to do, but are a few boxes of papers going to be high on their priority list? Will the probate judge care what's done that box of papers? Will the estate's heirs and beneficiaries really care? Remember that unless you're a well-known author, your manuscripts aren't financially valuable documents.

Consider publishing bits and pieces of what you've located now, even if it is not finished. Local or state society publications

may be interested. Self-publishing may be an option. Publishing to a website might not be enough for long term preservation--will the website be around in fifty or a hundred years? Ask around for ideas on how others have preserved their information. But don't simply put it "in your will and forget about it." **Source:** Michael John Neill, Genealogy Tip of the Day, "If You Really Want to Preserve Your Work", Posted: 25 Jul 2011 07:10 AM PDT

## Relative Finder on Facebook

BYU's computer science students' Digital Roots project named "Relative Finder" (that worked with Ancestral File) has seen a major update and become a Facebook App that works with new FamilySearch's Family Trees. You can find out if you and your Facebook friends are related, and how you are related. The program also has some built-in groups to see if you are related to LDS prophets and presidents or famous people. You will need an LDS Account or NFS login to use Relative Finder.

## Online Historical Newspapers

Try these sites.

[APR 10 GENEALOGICAL Newsletter stuff.docx](#)

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorystite/>

## OLIVE TREE WEBSITE

<http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.com/>

One reader has told me how interesting and useful this site is. Take a look.

## New Generations of Genealogy

"Genealogy will change because the tools are changing with it. iPads are used for taking notes and photographing documents. In the future, keyboards will be projected images on your desk. Paper will be able to talk. Imagine if your pedigree chart was interactive and talked to you! Drag a document image onto your tree, and it will fill in the information where it goes, complete with source citations.

"Genealogy will no longer be an activity for old people. It will be undefined by age, gender, or nationality. Younger people want Interactive results represented in digital format. The experience will become more important."

Comments by Joshua Taylor, New England Historic Genealogical Society, at the 2011 BYU Family History Conference. Reported by The Ancestry Insider, 27 Jul 2011.

## MORE RECORDS ADDED TO FamilySearch.org

SALT LAKE CITY — More than 7 million records were added to FamilySearch.org this week. The largest collection includes more than 5 million images added to the Philippines, Civil Registration, 1945-1980. Thousands of images were also added to collections from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Spain and the U.S. states of California, Florida, Idaho, North Carolina, Oregon and Utah. New records were added for collections from Arkansas, Indiana and North Carolina. To search these collections or to volunteer to index, please see [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org).

## FAMILY SEARCH RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS AT FGS



The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) held its annual conference earlier this month in Springfield, Illinois, and FamilySearch was in on the action. As part of its participation, FamilySearch hosted an event to celebrate the contributions of more than 150,000 active volunteers who participate in FamilySearch efforts, such as the wiki, forums, indexing, and staffing family history centers around the world. The celebration included an announcement related to progress on the [American Civil War project](#) as well as recognition of the winners of the Great Illinois Genealogy Scavenger Hunt, which was a joint effort of the [Illinois State Genealogical Society](#) and FamilySearch.

Hundreds of people attended the celebration event, including several community members who have made significant contributions to FamilySearch. [Thomas MacEntee](#) of the [Illinois State Genealogical Society](#) presented the results of the scavenger hunt contest that he had helped coordinate. He highlighted the efforts of two wiki contributors in particular: Darcie Hind Posz was recognized for providing the most valuable wiki contribution, which was an article about [Chicago city and social directories](#). Angie Kelly was recognized for making the most interesting contribution to the Illinois wiki articles, which was a collection of [links to "Tillie's Tales," journal entries of Angie's grandmother from the 1930s](#).

FamilySearch appreciates the vibrant community of volunteers that participate in activities to support family history and provide free and accessible information to those who are searching for their ancestors. You can become a [FamilySearch Research Wiki](#) contributor too! Visit our [wiki contributor help page](#) today to learn how.

## Using FamilySearch More Effectively

On the home page of <https://www.familysearch.org/> click on "What's New". One article is: "Make Sure You've Searched All the Records" -- "Most people using FamilySearch don't get the full benefit of their search. FamilySearch has 2.34 billion indexed names that can be searched using the search fields on the home page. If they don't find their ancestor using the search fields, they assume they are not in FamilySearch. However, users need to remember that in addition there are 312.4 million names that have not been indexed and cannot be searched using the usual search fields. These collections are referred to as browse only image collections. . . FamilySearch uses a technique called Waypointing to make these collections available for searching. . . "

Another article is "Understanding Unexpected Search Results" -- "Have you ever wondered why particular records show up on your search results when the places don't match? There are a number of reasons for this. . . "

Source: Dorothy Walker, SLC Area Family History Advisers Newsletter, 10/2/11

## Does Your Heirloom Have a Story?

If you have a family heirloom or keepsake, try to determine who in the family first owned the item, how he obtained it, who made it, and how it has been passed down to the present day owner. Recording the history now is an excellent idea, and searching for information about the heirloom may provide you with more genealogical information on your family. The item can be as commonplace as grandpa's horse collar (I have one) or as unique as a fancy piece of jewelry.

**Source:** Michael John Neil, *Genealogy Tip of the Day*, Posted: 05 Jul 2011 02:00 AM PDT

## Tears of Joy after a Century-long Search

Russel Bangerter: For the Mormon Times

"That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:"( Eph 1:10 ) Coming off an elevator in the LDS Family History Library one day, I heard a woman crying. During the many years I have visited the library, I can honestly say I'd never seen someone expressing such emotion there before.

As I approached the microfilm readers, I saw a reference consultant and other people surrounding the woman who was seated at her microfilm reader. I asked why she was crying and soon learned she had found something of great worth. She had just found a microfilm record showing her great-grandparents and her grandfather as their child. Her grandfather was adopted when he was very young. She told us that she, her father and grandfather had been searching for them for about a century in combined time....Today was different as she had found her great-grandparents! I learned these were tears of joy.

With great excitement, we saw the entry's full details, the names, dates and places. Every piece of information "locked in" properly to the great-grandparents. This was her dream come true. It felt like her great-grand parents, grandfather and father were standing beside her. We were all sharing in the joy and excitement of her find.

These experiences happen frequently at centers as well, tears of joy flow freely with such finds. **Source:** Ogden Regional FHC Newsletter, August 2011

## Civil War Prisoners Website

Over four million men, North and South, served in the Civil War, and as many as 650,000 died. This number is greater than in all of our other wars combined. Exact numbers will never be known, but it is estimated that as many as 674,000 men were taken prisoner during the years 1861-1865. In the early days of the war, captives were paroled or exchanged, but exchanges essentially ceased in early 1864.

General Grant and Union officials felt that released Confederate prisoners would return to the battlefield, thus prolonging the war. Over 400,000 men were held in prisons in the north and south until the end of the war in April 1865. An estimated 56,000 died in prison - 30,000 in Confederate prisons and 26,000 in Union prisons.

This website contains searchable databases of Union prisoners interned at Andersonville Prison and Cahaba Prison, as well as the Union prisoners on the Sultana.

The databases contain the following information:

Name  
Regiment and company  
Rank  
Date and location of capture  
Fate  
Age and cause of death  
Andersonville grave number  
Remarks

If you are researching a Civil War ancestor who may have been a prisoner of war, you will want to search for him at: [Civil War Prisoners](#).

Source: Paula's Genealogical Eclectica, September 28, 2011

## Project Identifies Civil War Graves

The first Civil War casualty to be buried in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn was a 12-year-old drummer for a New York regiment. Clarence McKenzie, a local boy fatally wounded in an accidental shooting in Maryland, was buried June 14, 1861, two months after the Union garrison at Fort Sumter surrendered to Confederate forces. He was followed to the grave 12 days later by Adolph Vincens, a 23-year-old London-born jeweler who was the first Civil War battle casualty buried at Green-Wood.

By the time the war ended four years later, about 200 other soldiers and sailors who died in the Civil War were buried at Green-Wood, established in 1838 in what was then a rural section of Brooklyn. In the decades after the war, thousands of others would join their comrades, and even some of their one-time enemies, at the historic cemetery.

When the project began in September 2002, cemetery officials figured they had, at most, 500 veterans of the nation's bloodiest war buried here. A team of volunteers and Green-Wood staff has spent nearly a decade trying to identify all those graves. Today, the 478-acre expanse of greenery and statuary covering the cemetery's rolling hills is believed to be the final resting place of about 8,000 Civil War veterans. Source: Dick Eastman Blog, May 27, 2011

### Question:

What is the purpose of the FamilySearch Wiki? I can't seem to find any of my ancestors.

### Answer:

The FamilySearch Wiki is not the place to search for your ancestors. The purpose of the Wiki is to help users learn what records, that may contain information about your ancestors, are available and where to find them. The actual records will be on other sites and in other repositories. For example, if you are looking for the birth of your ancestor in Trenton, New Jersey in 1810, the Wiki will tell you what types of record sources would be best to search, what was available at that time period in that locality. It may give you links to websites and/or repositories where you might find those records.

## Genealogy "Tips of the Day"

by Michael John Neill

**Private Business Records.** Records of a private business, such as a funeral home, are private records which do not have to be made available to the public. Yes, they may have provided funeral services for your great-grandparents, but they are under no obligation to tell you who paid the bill, what biographical information was provided, or anything else. So be courteous and polite when requesting these records, or any records that are not public records. This includes church records as well.

**Geographic Perspective.** Do you have modern maps of where your ancestor lived? Do you have maps contemporary to when your ancestor lived in the location? Geographic perspective is always good--keeping in mind that places in 1750 might not be named the same or of the same size as they are in 2011.

**Husband's Probate.** May Give Clues to Wife's Later Marriage. If the wife survived when the husband died, be certain to look through all the estate and probate records for clues about subsequent marriages by the widow. In some cases, she may be listed as "Barbara, late wife of Henry Smith, deceased." In other cases, her new marital status may not be stated so clearly. The widow could be listed on virtually any document in the estate papers simply with a new last name, with no mention of the husband.

**Have the Right Address for the Right Time.** In some cities, streets have been renamed and renumbered. If your family lived in the same house from 1880 through 1930, make certain the address didn't change during that time period. Chicago had major changes to addresses in 1909, and other cities did as well. Before you type that 1890 address into Google Maps or another modern map site, make certain the address hasn't changed.

**Hiding Next Door?** If you have lost a female relative, have you considered whether or not she is really lost at all? She may simply be "hiding" under a new last name due to a marriage. If the time frame is after the 1850 US census, or any census that names all household members, look at the wives in nearby households. Is there one that has a female with the name of the "missing" person who has the age to be the missing person. It may be that what you are missing is simply the marriage record.

**Look Before and After.** When you find a deed for an ancestor in a record book, be certain that you look a few pages before and after the located record. People could not easily get to town to have legal documents recorded and materials might have been recorded in batches. There could be several of your ancestor's documents filed and recorded together.

Source: Genealogy Tip of the Day

## FamilySearch Skype Research Communities

FamilySearch is excited to announce the creation of several online research communities and invites anyone to join. These communities are being created to help those who are researching in the same area to:

Collaborate on research. Ask questions of each other. Share knowledge gained as you've done research in that area. There are Skype communities for Canada, Mexico, Southeast U.S. Native American, several U.S. states, Thailand and several countries in Europe including England and Ireland.

For further information, go to [Skype](#).

Note: We used Skype as our phone system when Jack and I were missionaries. If you have family members in other states, this is a free site to make phone calls and write to them. Google: Skype

## Free Online Converter

The site: [APR 10 GENEALOGICAL Newsletter stuff.docx](#) converts files from hundreds of formats to any of hundreds of other formats. Want to convert a DOC file to a PDF file? Online-Convert will do that. Want to convert an audioMP3 file to WAVformat? Online-Convert will do that. The site has many, many other formats available as well. If you can't find the conversion you need, you can contact the site owners and they will try to help you. Best of all, the service is available free of charge.

## Pass It On

– Charlie Schmalz

A few more thoughts on the preservation of you family history efforts: Spread things around – Send copies of family histories and other documents to your siblings and children. While clearing up some computer files recently, I ran across the life sketches I'd prepared for my parents' funerals. On an impulse, I printed them to pdf files and emailed them to each of my daughters. The reply from my youngest says it better than I can, "Thanks Dad! I didn't know all those details (or remember them), especially intrigued by Granddad's musical background and his weather forecaster career. I only remember him as a farmer [in later life]. Great memories there, thanks for sharing."

Identify individuals in photos – And don't forget dates and places. My wife inherited a suitcase full of old snapshot:, unfortunately very few had anything written on the back. She is the proud owner of a collection of images which have little meaning and less usefulness (from a family history standpoint at least) because we don't recognize the faces and places.

Consider donating family treasures – That old missionary journal or crossing-the-plains diary in your closet is a real treasure, not only to you

and your family but to history in general. It deserves to be preserved.

Unfortunately very few of us have the tools or skills at our disposal to do so. It is probably best to offer it to a local college library or to the Church Historical Library. They will welcome the addition and take the steps necessary to ensure its survival. Frequently they may be able to provide transcriptions or copies in return. You may also place restrictions on access to the material if you don't want embarrassing things, like the details of Uncle Silas' career as a horse thief, made public.

## Web Sites of Interest to Family History Consultants

<http://lds.org/pa/display/0,17884,7778-1,00.html> - Prsthd Ldrshp of Fam Hist

<http://lds.org/pa/display/0,17884,8856-1,00.html> - Fam Hist Consultants

<http://lds.org/pa/display/0,17884,7314-1,00.html> - Fam Hist Centers.

[http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Local\\_Support/Priesthood/T3H/En/To\\_Turn\\_the\\_Hearts.pdf](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Local_Support/Priesthood/T3H/En/To_Turn_the_Hearts.pdf) - Turn the Hearts

<http://lds.org/pa/display/0,17884,7313-1,00.html> - Indexing

<https://www.familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/5-minute-genealogy-episode-1-find-a-record-in-five-minutes/234-5>

### Minute Genealogy Videos

<https://new.familysearch.org/en/action/unsec/welcome> - Family Search.- click on 'Learn'

Family History Blogs - subscribe at bottom of email message :

dorothywalker@juno.com - Email address -

Consultant Blog, genealogy.guide@about.com –

Thanks to Kimberly Powell for these Items.

## Family Short Stories

by Alison Dolan

So you're not ready to take on writing the entirety of your clan's history, but you still want to preserve family lore or put your research discoveries into historical context. Here are six quick ways to share your story:

**\* Family history journal:**

Keep a diary of your genealogical discoveries and how you felt or what you thought about them.

**\* Photo narratives:**

Pick favorite photographs and write down everything you know about them - names of the people pictured, the event shown, the location.

**\* Family atlas:**

Put maps and photos of your ancestral towns into a book or album, and add details about the locales, ancestors who lived there and historic events that took place in the area.

**\* Legacy book:**

Fill in a pre-printed book with information about your life and your family tree, or use the prompts as a springboard for your writing.

**\* Heritage cookbook:**

Create a scrapbook or use a photo-gift website to record favorite family recipes. Include photos of the cooks, stories about them, and other relatives' stories about the occasions when the dishes were served.

**\* Web site:**

Use your genealogy software or a blog to plant your family tree online. Include photos, scanned records, family stories and GEDCOMs.

Source: Family Tree Magazine, October 12, 2011

## JOIN THE FAMILYSEARCH RESEARCH COMMUNITY PAGES ON FACEBOOK

Hi every one,

This is an open invitation for consultants and patrons to come join us at the FamilySearch research community pages on Facebook. Please find links to all currently available areas at

[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Join\\_a\\_Facebook\\_Research\\_Community](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Join_a_Facebook_Research_Community)

The link to the community page for the Netherlands is

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Netherlands-Genealogy-Research-Community/211295978937144>

Please come and ask your questions our help others.

Hope to see you there,

Peter van Schaik

Administrator for the Facebook Netherlands Genealogy Research Community page

## ONLINE FILM ORDERING IN FH CENTER

Jack made history in the Family History Center. He said, "I just became the FIRST person to do the following...as of the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 2011, the patrons of the York PA Family History Center can order microfilms and microfiche ON LINE." He was the first one to use the new process with a patron, so he feels he has made an historical landmark in little old York, PA.

You pay for the film rental by using a credit card or with a PAYPAL account. After placing the order, you can cancel it within 24 hours.

## PATRONS WILL NOW ORDER FILMS ONLINE

Patrons will now order films or fiche online at [familysearch.org/films](https://www.familysearch.org/films), with payment made by credit card or Paypal. The film/fiche will be sent to the Family History Center of your choosing.

A few important notes:

- Upon your first visit to the website, you will be prompted to set up a FamilySearch account if you do not already have one.
- Any order can be cancelled within 24 hours of ordering. You will receive email confirmation of the cancellation and subsequent notification of your refund.
- The online film ordering process will not allow you to place an order with a value of more than \$100.
- Short-term microfilm loan period is now 90 days from the day it was shipped (rather than the current 30 day loan period). Cost remains at \$5.50 per film.
- Microfiche loans are permanent, with a cost of \$4.75 regardless of the number of fiche in the series.
- Extended loan renewals (i.e., the film becomes part of the permanent collection at a FHC) can be done at anytime at a cost of \$13.75.

Further details are found here in the [User's Guide](#).

### TechTips: Google Alerts and Google Books for Genealogists

"The Google Genealogist" shares some tips on using the latest tools from Google to find your family history. Products covered in this video include Google Alerts and Google Books. Check out the [FamilySearch TechTips page](#) for more information and to watch the instructional video.

## IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT ONLINE FILM ORDERING, CHECK THIS WRITE-UP

For those of you who are not directors, but would like to learn how Online Film Ordering works, visit <https://www.familysearch.org/films>. You will see a link that says \*Ordering Help\*. Click that and then click the \*User Guide\* link for a .pdf document that walks you through ordering films.

On 19 October, the last area of North America will have been moved to this way of ordering films, and Inventory Manager will be "turned off" for all of North America, and Church Distribution will no longer accept film orders by telephone. So, if you have not yet learned about this new method of ordering, please visit our website and get acquainted with it.

We have a team of support agents who will be more than happy to answer any questions you have. From the Online Film Ordering website (see above), click

\*Feedback\* which you'll see along the upper right side of the screen. Then click \*Contact FamilySearch\* in the list on the right. You will be able to speak to us by telephone, by email, or by live chat.

Nancy Tychonievich

FamilySearch

Patron Services - Online Film Ordering Team

For copies of Genealogy News, go to

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~payork/York2Ward/>

Thanks to Don and Jeanine Hartman of Utah for posting the newsletter online for us. <http://familyhart.info>

## WORDS FROM AN APOSTLE

**In the October 2011 general conference, Elder David A. Bednar told us that our youth were prepared to be on earth at this time. He said, “Your fingers have been trained to text and tweet to accelerate and advance the work of the Lord—not just to communicate quickly with your friends. The skills and aptitude evident among many young people today are a preparation to contribute to the work of salvation.” He invited children and youth of the Church “to learn about and experience the Spirit of Elijah”; “to study, to search out your ancestors, and to prepare yourselves to perform proxy baptisms in the house of the Lord for your kindred dead”; and “to help other people identify their family histories.” Elder Bednar promised that through participation in family history efforts, young people would “be safeguarded in your youth and throughout your lives.” See the full text of Elder Bednar’s talk at**

**<http://lds.org/general-conference/print/2011/10/the-hearts-of-the-children-shall-turn/?lang=eng>**

Our ward has scheduled a Bishop’s Youth Discussion for next Sunday, and we consultants are going to help the youth to get registered in new FamilySearch and get started with family history. (York 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward)

## Helping Youth Fulfill Their Role

Ward councils can strengthen children and youth by encouraging them to discover their ancestors, serve others by taking part in family history and temple work, and experience the blessings that result from participation in this great endeavor.

Ward leaders can encourage youth to act on Elder Bednar’s invitation by using the resources found at [lds.org/fhy](http://lds.org/fhy) (or [www.lds.org/familyhistoryyouth](http://www.lds.org/familyhistoryyouth)).

### Special features on the family history youth site

On the site, leaders can:

Watch Elder Bednar talk to youth about the Spirit of Elijah, and listen to their experiences (3:19 minutes). Guide youth to work through each of the five steps to prepare an ancestor’s name for the temple. Encourage youth to share their experience and look to see what others are saying. You can find additional ideas on how the youth can serve others by visiting <https://lds.org/youth/family-history/serve?lang=eng>

## What are youth saying about the site?

Emily S. says: "I think it is so cool that the Church has a site for us to do our family history! I got on the website the day Elder Bednar told the youth to work on family history. I had always thought that it was more of an adult job, but now I know that it's mostly up to the youth. I'm so excited to start working on it, and I'm looking forward to the day that I will be able to take my ancestors' names to the temple."

Autumn Arlyse D. says: "It's so cool that they've made a site for the youth to learn how to do family history! I can't wait to get started. I've been doing indexing for about six months, and it's pretty fun to do."

## Suggestion for leaders

Encourage youth to share stories about their ancestors in ward meetings.

Assign a family history consultant to act as a resource for the youth to ask questions about FamilySearch.

Copied from FamilySearch Newsletter

*"Every discovery in science and art, that is really true and useful to mankind, has been given by direct revelation from God. ... We should take advantage of all these great discoveries ... and give to our children the benefit of every branch of useful knowledge, to prepare them to step forward and efficiently do their part in the great work" - Brigham Young, Deseret News, 22 Oct. 1862, 129*

## INFORMATION FOR FHC DIRECTORS

I am excited to see that FamilySearch now has a Manager for FamilySearch Centers, and to learn of his vision for the future of Family History Centers.

If you have not already viewed this webinar, I highly recommend you do so soon. Go the [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) website. Make sure to sign in with your LDS account. Click on Menu, click on Service, Serving in the Church, click Other Callings (on left side), click on Temple & Family History, click of Serving in Family History.

As director, you will see Core Training, Additional Training-FHC Directors, and Additional Resources-FHC Directors. Under Additional Training at the bottom are the latest webinars from the October 2011 Open House.

Under Core Training, please look at the latest leaders guide "To Turn the Hearts." This manual is not yet available via the online store. But it is available in PDF format. It explains the new emphasis on family history and the role of leaders & the FHC. Shanna Jones

## SHARINGTIME AND ANCESTOR SPLIT TOOLS FOR NEW FAMILYSEARCH

You might want to mention the availability of the SharingTime add-on for NFS. SharingTime is available via LANDesk for all FHCs. To see some of what SharingTime adds to NFS, go to the video at

<http://www.ohanasoftware.com/?sec=lessons&page=SharingTimeVideo>

There is also a recording of a webinar for SharingTime titled "Increasing Productivity on the FamilySearch Website" at

<http://www.ohanasoftware.com/?sec=webinars&page=WebinarArchive>

If anyone has ever had a problem with incorrectly combined records on NFS, he will appreciate AncestorSplit which comes with SharingTime. The video for AncestorSplit is at

<http://sharingtime.com/ancestorsplit/>

Aloha,  
John Vilburn

## Ellis Island Museum Unveils New Galleries

The following announcement was written by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation:



First Phase of The Peopling of America® Center Explores Pre-Ellis Era

Today, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the National Park Service opened the first phase of the Peopling of America® Center, a major expansion of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, which will explore arrivals before the Ellis Island Era. This 10,000 square foot experience focuses on the history of immigration from the Colonial Era to the opening of Ellis Island in 1892. Interpretative graphics and poignant audio stories tell first-hand accounts of the immigrant's journey—from making the trip and arriving in the United States to their struggle and survival after they arrived and efforts to build communities and ultimately a nation.

Eastman 11/1/11

### **CLAIM LEGACY IN NEW FAMILYSEARCH**

Every time we made a submission through TempleReady or to Ancestral File or Pedigree Resource File, our submission was given a contribution ID. If we made several submissions, we have several IDs. They are usually easy to recognize because they tend to use our forename initials and our surnames followed by seven digits. There is one ID, "Unknown 4470317," which we cannot claim. It is a generic ID given to contributions made during a period when the name of the submitter was not recorded.

There are three reasons why we should all look for and claim our legacy contributions: 1.) Once we have claimed each of those IDs, we can edit the details in those contributions; 2.) Once those contributions are claimed and linked to our current ID, our contact details will be available to anyone interested in the same individuals; and 3.) Any ordinances we processed through TempleReady that are still not completed (those that are showing as "In Progress") will show up on our reserved list in "Temple Ordinances" on nFS. They will appear as ordinances for which cards have been printed, but that's okay, because we can print a Family Ordinance Request that includes those names, take it to the temple and have new cards printed to replace the lost ones so that the as yet incomplete ordinances can be completed. All we have to do is destroy the old cards if they turn up, so as to alleviate the potential for the ordinances to be done repeatedly.

The Help Center in NFS provides good explanations for all this. One document there is 1012483. More can be found in "A User's Guide to the New Family Search Website," updated this month and also available in the Help Center. I suggest we make this better known to the members under our jurisdiction.

Rebecca Reed

### **SOME SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER**

The advantage of reading this newsletter online is that you should be able to click on the hyperlinks (underlined blue addresses) and go directly to the sites. If you cannot access the site in this manner, then copy and paste the address into your browser box on the Internet. That should open it. Report hyperlinks that will not work.

## PA STATE BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

Good news in reference to getting better access to older Pennsylvania state birth and death certificates. On September 27th, 2011 Vital Records Bill SB-361 was unanimously passed by the Pennsylvania State Senate and is now in the House Health Committee. We cannot assume it will automatically be passed by the House. It won't be the first time a bill was passed by one body unanimously only to have it die in committee in the other. In other words we still have to keep up the pressure. We need to urge the committee members, particularly the chair **Matthew Baker** (who decides if and when a bill is voted on) and the House leaders to bring the bill up for a committee vote and pass it. In addition to any of these state representatives you are willing to contact please contact **your own state representative** about supporting SB-361.

The bill is simple in that it just makes death certificates over 50 years old and birth certificates over 105 years old in Pennsylvania open records. It also requires the records be handed over to the Pennsylvania State Archives. This will cost the Commonwealth nothing to implement. Once the bill becomes law it would be then possible to have the records online. Without this change in the law the records will remain very restricted forever. The whole situation is discussed in detail in the **September 28th, 2011** article under **The Latest News** section of our website: <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm> (includes a sample letter for this bill to this committee).

Visits, phone calls, letters are the most effective, but even a one paragraph email sent to at least one state representative is better than nothing. Hearing from organizations within their districts, constituents and others (including out of state residents) could prove decisive in getting the bill brought up for a vote and passed by the Pennsylvania House Health Committee.

Thank you for your help,  
Tim Gruber

## THE CHURCH'S DIGITIZING PROJECTS

Like many of you, I have a general idea of what is going on with regards to digitizing microfilms and know that most new extraction work is digitized from the beginning. But I gained a little more insight yesterday while at the Birmingham Temple. I met a sister, who, with her husband, is serving a Family History Records Preservation mission in Alabama. They are going into the small communities and courthouses and filming all those old records that most people can't get their eyes on and that those holding the records don't have the time or man power to deal with. They are using equipment that copies the image and feeds it into the computer. Images are sent to SLC to make sure they are good enough to replicate before final approval. Most importantly, the info is being indexed as they go. The various localities receive copies of the digitized records but the electronic files are so large they would likely need one dedicated computer to handle them so they may not become available at a local level.

I found this exciting news. Who knows what long sought after info will turn up on FamilySearch in the near future. I searched for info on a 2nd GGMother for 35 years before the right German church records were digitized and I found her on FS last year.

Lois Kalandar Casson

WASHINGTON, D.C./PROVO, Utah, November 2, 2011 - The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Ancestry.com announced that material from four Museum collections containing information on more than 30,000 victims of Nazi persecution is now available online at [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) and can be searched at no cost.

## Searching ALL the Records at FamilySearch.org

Most people using FamilySearch don't get the full benefit of their search. FamilySearch has 2.34 billion **indexed** names that can be searched using the search fields on the home page. If they don't find their ancestor using the search fields, they assume they are not in FamilySearch.

However, users need to remember that ***in addition to the 2.34 billion indexed names in FamilySearch, there are an additional 312.4 million names that have not been indexed and cannot be searched using the usual search fields.*** These collections are referred to as browse only image collections.

Browse Images collections are records that have been filmed but have not yet been indexed through [www.indexing.familysearch.org](http://www.indexing.familysearch.org). Rather than keeping these records out of circulation until they are indexed, FamilySearch uses a technique called Waypointing to make them available for searching. Waypointing is a process used to group images together according to locality, record type, and year range in preparation for online publication. The Waypointing process allows users to focus their search to a single place and time. Waypointing is, in essence, a digital microfilm reader, allowing patrons of FamilySearch access to many images that they would otherwise have to access at a Family History Library on microfilm.

Click here to learn more about [Waypointing](#) and how it can help you access records that are not yet indexed.

## Upcoming Free Genealogy Webinars

Wednesday, November 30, 2:00 pm EST  
**A Closer Look at Google+**

Wednesday, December 7, 2:00 pm EST  
**Tracing Immigrant Ancestors.**

There are many more sponsored by Legacy. For detailed descriptions and registration: [legacyfamilytree.com/webinars](http://legacyfamilytree.com/webinars)  
Generations, Washington, DC  
Two articles above are from the Generations newsletter, Washington, DC

### **ANCESTRY.COM RELEASES THE 1930 MEXICO NATIONAL CENSUS TO OPEN GATEWAY FOR HISPANIC FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH** ***Access is Free to Public for Most Comprehensive Mexican Census Published Online***

PROVO, UTAH – (September 16, 2011) – Ancestry.com, the world's largest online family history resource, today announced a significant addition to its growing collection of online Mexican and Hispanic historical records. With nearly 13 million records, the newly available 1930 Mexico National Census (El Quinto Censo General de Población y Vivienda 1930, México) is the most comprehensive historical Mexican census available online<sup>[1]</sup>. It is estimated that this census counted approximately 90 percent of the population, therefore for nearly 30 million Americans who can trace their families to Mexico, it provides a valuable gateway to begin researching Mexican family history, especially if family, vital or religious records are lost.

## NFS PROBLEMS WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SO MANY RECORDS THAT THEY ARE UNMANAGEABLE

***Individuals of Unusual Size (IOUS) are records that have been combined far beyond the current allowed size. They often have problems. ~***

If you have early LDS or colonial American ancestors, or families that link into nobility lines, you will undoubtedly run into problems synchronizing some records. This is generally due to the records being large and convoluted...messy may be a better word. Some of these records contain thousands of combined names; dozens of sets of parents and/or spouses; and countless children. Sometimes they have been combined incorrectly with a child or parent and you end up with loops in your pedigree because the child is the parent and the parent is the child, ad infinitum.

You cannot do much with these records. You cannot combine them with other records because they are already too big. Separating the records, even with AncestorSplit, may not be feasible because of some of the rules that are set forth by FamilySearch. Even synchronizing them can be troublesome, so I recommend that you use Simple Update instead of Full Synchronization to search for these records. Updating your file with the data from new FamilySearch™ is often easier in the Simple update mode than in the Full Synchronization mode. Maybe you can remember it this way, "When its messy, keep it Simple!" and use Simple Update.  
Ohana Software

This newsletter is compiled by Jack and Sylvia Sonneborn, family history consultants of the York 2nd Ward, for use within the ward. It is also e-mailed to parties interested in family history, but it is not an official publication of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.  
[jsonneborn@verizon.net](mailto:jsonneborn@verizon.net)  
[slvsyl@verizon.net](mailto:slvsyl@verizon.net)

## Share "5 Minute Genealogy" with Beginners

Did you know that FamilySearch.org has a new [Learning Center](#) with over 300 online courses? From right in your own home, you can learn from the world's best genealogical experts about a variety of family history topics targeted to beginning, intermediate, and advanced genealogists. The "5 Minute Genealogy" videos are informative and entertaining and are a great way to get a friend who is new to genealogy involved with family history. Share the "[5 Minute Genealogy](#)" video series with a friend today to get him or her started with family history research.

**Search New Free U.S. Records from California, Iowa, and Texas at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org).**

### MAC QUESTION:

I recently purchased a MacBook Pro. It looks like I can't download a free version of PAF. I have been thinking about purchasing another program for this, Family Tree, Roots Magic etc. Any help/ideas/suggestions would be appreciated.

### ANSWER:

As others have said, you have two basic choices: (1) find software written for Macintosh (most recent reviews I could find are at Family Tree Magazine, <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/researchtoolkit/softwareguide#1> (limited review -- they do more in depth reviews of Reunion and Family Tree Maker), Mac Genealogy Software review top 10 (more in depth): [29](http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com/mac-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

[genealogy-software/ppc-index.html?cmpid=422099](http://www.consumersearch.com/genealogy-software/genealogy-software-for-mac) and Consumer Search (only talks about a couple of products): <http://www.consumersearch.com/genealogy-software/genealogy-software-for-mac>; or (2) If you have an Intel chip, run one of the Windows-simulating programs that will allow you to use a PC version of genealogy software.

I know one person who uses Reunion and thinks it is great, but don't know anyone else who is running dedicated Mac genealogy software on an iMac (I use the Mac for everything but family history and use laptop PC for that). Good luck! Carolyn White

## ***New Collections Added for Guam, Japan, and Wales***

26 October 2011

New records were added to [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) this week from Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, England, Guam, Hungary, Japan, Norway, the U.S., and Wales. Begin searching for your ancestors now at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org).

## **New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Announces Its New Website**



The following announcement was written by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society:

Members enjoy access to important new digital resources for research on New York families and families with New York connections

NEW YORK, NY, November 1, 2011 -- The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society is pleased to announce that it has replaced its website with a brand new one that is easier to use and enriched with expanded content. The address [www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org) has not... Eastman 11/3/11

## **Important Changes Made to the Public Death Master File (DMF) and the Social Security Death Index (SSDI)**

Effective yesterday, 01 November 2011, the Social Security Administration (SSA) changed its policy on what records it will use as source material for adding new entries in the Public Death Master File (DMF) which, in turn, is used to create the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). The Agency decided that it can no longer use state death records to add new entries to the DMF. Furthermore, the SSA will remove approximately 4.2 million records currently on the SSDI because those entries were made based on information from state death records.

You can read a lot more about the new changes in Steve Danko's blog at <http://stephendanko.com/blog/15164> as well as from a Fact Sheet from the Social Security Administration's website at <http://ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov/ci/fattach/get/601/>

Eastman 11/4/11

*That's All Folks!  
Jack and Sylvia*