

South Davis Family History Newsletter

South Davis Family History Center
3350 South 100 East
Bountiful, Utah 84010
(801) 299-4239

Hours of Operation

**Weekdays: Monday thru Friday
9 AM to 4 PM**

**Evenings: Tuesday thru Thursday
7 PM to 9 PM**

Saturdays: 10 AM to 1 PM

May 1, 2004

Message from the Director

President Joseph F. Smith had a vision in 1918 which he shares with us in section 138 of the Doctrine and Covenants. President Smith taught that the Savior was sent not only to preach the gospel to those dwelling in mortality, but he was foreordained and anointed of God to open the doors of the prison house to those in bondage and to proclaim his gospel to them. We read in verses 11-12:

As I pondered over these things which are written; the eyes of my understanding were opened, and the spirit of the Lord rested upon me, and I saw the hosts of the dead, both small and great. And there were gathered together in one place an innumerable company of the spirits of the just, who had been faithful in the testimony of Jesus while they lived in mortality.

In verse 30 we learn that the Savior “organized his forces and appointed messengers, clothed with power and authority, and commissioned them to go forth, and carry the light of the gospel to them that were in darkness, even to all the spirits of men; and thus was the gospel preached to the dead.” President Smith explained that “we have to open the door for them, by performing ordinances which they cannot perform for themselves and which are essential to their release from the ‘prison-house,’ to come forth and live according to men in the flesh.”

Similarly, the Prophet Joseph Smith taught that “as soon as the law of the Gospel is obeyed here by their friends, who act as proxy for them, the Lord has administrators there to set them free—a man may act as proxy for his own relatives.” (1844, History of the Church.) He emphasized, “**The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead.**” (H.C. 6:313.)

We read in D&C 128:18, “It is sufficient to know, in this case, that the earth will be smitten with a curse unless there is welding link of some kind or other between the fathers and the children... For we without them cannot be made perfect; neither can they without us be made perfect.”

The Prophet added, “**Those Saints who neglect it** [their duty to provide ordinances] **in behalf of their deceased relatives, do it at the peril of their own salvation.**” (H.C. 4:426.) “I would advise all the saints to go to with their might and gather all their living relatives to this place, that they may be sealed and saved, that they may be prepared against the day that the destroying angel goes forth; and if the whole Church should go to with all their might to save their dead, seal their posterity, and gather their living friends, and spend none of their time in behalf of the world, they would hardly get through before night would come, when no man can work.” (H.C. 6:184.)

Our work in Family History is so vital. How grateful I am to have the opportunity to work with patrons and staff at the South Davis Family History Center who have great testimonies of this work and serve so faithfully in the Savior’s behalf. Let us continue to be “anxiously engaged,” and may the Lord bless you as you do so.

--Donna Smith, Director

Our Staff: Comings and Goings

We want to express our deep appreciation to recently-released staff members for their dedicated service. The following individuals have given their time and shared their talents and love of family history with hundreds of patrons. We will miss them tremendously!

Terry Carlson	North Salt Lake Stake
Wally & Muriel Christensen	Orchard Stake
Ramona Shuldberg	North Canyon Stake
Dianne Holbrook	North Salt Lake Parkway Stake
Georgette Terrill	Woods Cross North Stake

Welcome to our newest staff members at the South Davis Family History Center:

Kent & Sharlee Steed	North Canyon Stake
Harry & Thea Gerlach	North Canyon Stake
Martha Lassetter	North Canyon Stake
Glenn Carroll	Mueller Park Stake
Joyce Jones	Bountiful East Stake
Richard & Vicki Frederiksen	North Canyon Stake
Elsie Kelly	North Canyon Stake
Marjorie & Bill Gardner	North Canyon Stake
Donna Moss	Bountiful East Stake

“Searching for lost relatives? Win the lottery!”

Generous Donors Provide New Furniture and Computer Equipment to the Center

Thanks to very generous donors, the South Davis Family History Center has some new furniture and equipment.

- ✓ An anonymous donor gave us ten work stations with adjustable keyboard holders.
- ✓ Another anonymous donor gave us 15 computers, 15 keyboards, and 15 “mice.”

We are so grateful for these donations! They make our Center a more attractive, comfortable, and efficient place to work. If you have furniture or equipment to donate, please contact our Computer Specialist, Leonard Plaizier, at 264-1488 to learn about our current needs.

12 Tips for Genealogical Research Success

By George G. Morgan in “Along Those Lines”

1. Research the entire family unit, not just your direct ancestors.
2. Put your ancestors into context by learning about the history, geography, and social conditions of the places and times in which they lived.
3. Understand what records might have been created for and about your ancestors (and which types were not) and trace the current location of those records.
4. Take advantage of libraries and archives by mastering the use of their online catalogs.
5. Continually expand and hone your Internet skills.
6. Use all the resources available to you.
7. Develop and employ your critical thinking skills to evaluate every piece of evidence you find.
8. Learn to locate and use alternative or substitute records when the ones you want can't be located.
9. Document every piece of information you find using complete and accurate written source citations.
10. Use the facts you have compiled to develop a timeline of data and life events.
11. Prepare in advance for every genealogical research trip.
12. Periodically re-read all of the materials you have compiled for an individual in chronological sequence.

If you focus on these essential tips for your research guidance, your success rate will improve, and you'll be amazed to see those “brick walls” begin to crumble away.

No Need to Dress Up to Have Ordinance Cards Printed

Temple ordinance cards can now be printed at the donations desk in the lobby of the Family History Library. Just bring the disc you normally submit to the temple.

Tips for Internet Research

The State of Arizona is leading the way in making vital records easier and cheaper for genealogists to obtain! Visit the Arizona Department of Health Services website at <http://genealogy.az.gov> to use their searchable database of birth certificates from 1887 to 1928 and death certificates from 1878 to 1953. When you find a relative's certificate, just click on the name to view the original in PDF format, which you can easily print. And it's free!

The Church has a wonderful new database for researching Utah Pioneers. Go to <http://www.lds.org>, click on "Church History," then on "Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel." Enter the first letters of a pioneer's first or last names. With any luck, you'll see the name of the company in which the pioneer traveled, details about the company such as date and place of departure and date of arrival in the Salt Lake Valley, a biography and picture of the captain, a list of other pioneers in that company, and a list of sources for first-hand accounts of their journey. For some sources, the full text is available online. For other sources, a list of repositories is given. (If your relative isn't in the database, you may want to submit information and documentation for review and possible inclusion.)

To find the location of any geographical feature in the United States, visit the U.S. Geologic Survey's website at <http://geonames.usgs.gov>. Click on "Query GNIS" and enter the feature's name. The database includes not only towns and cities but cemeteries, churches, lakes, ponds, bridges, etc.! It will give you many details, including the feature's latitude and longitude and the county in which it is located. If you click "yes" after "query variant name," it will also search for a feature that used to have that name and will tell you its current name. At the bottom of the screen showing details about the feature, you can also click on such options as "TopoZone.com" to see a variety of maps.

Software, Technology, and Sources

Progeny Software, creators of **World Place Advisor**, has compiled an extensive gazetteer or dictionary of over 3.3 million geographical names from around the world, including some churches and cemeteries.

With the gazetteer, a person can pinpoint every location in their genealogy database and identify any place name inaccuracies, find missing counties, and spell-check all places.

Each place name in the gazetteer is assigned its longitude and latitude reference. The software is linked to MapQuest.com, so you can instantly see the place on a map. If there is more than one location for a name, World Place Advisor will display all possibilities for you.

This software also allows you to customize your data and program preferences. A person can add to the gazetteer other place names that no longer, or record unofficial and little-known names—like "Grandpa's Homestead"—and relate them by latitude and longitude to existing places.

This unique geographic perspective can help the genealogist be more accurate and discover new leads and connections in their research.

Did You Know?

FamilySearch.org was launched 24 May 1999. It has 957 million names in its searchable databases, and 14.7 billion hits since it began.

Bishops, Want a Motivational Sacrament Meeting Speaker?

Call Donna Smith, Director of the South Davis Family History Center, at 298-1182 and let her know when you would like to have one of our staff come to your ward. We welcome an opportunity to give ward members a pep talk on any phase of family history work that your members need, such as writing family histories, preparing a family record, or finding names to prepare for temple work. You might also consider using one of our staff to discuss a phase of family history in one of your 5th Sunday joint meetings.

Message from the Editor

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to carry through the temple a name that belongs to your family or one of your ward members? I find it a special treat. We have several families in our ward searching for their progenitors. Very few are able to accomplish all of the work for which they are responsible and are delighted to allow ward members the opportunity to take some of their family names to the temple. Our ward, the past few years, has been very active in this effort. It is also our goal to fulfill temple assignments with names we, as a ward, have researched.

I would not suggest I know the answer to building this activity within a ward, but I can give you a few brief observations:

1. Ward members should know about the existence of the program;
2. They should know the goals that have been set, and how the ward is to accomplish them;
3. We should have people responsible to teach others how to get started with their family search, and know who is already doing theirs;
4. It takes a temple committee working together, a High Priest Group leadership that promotes the program, and a Bishopric that really cares.

It can be done, and is being done in other wards of the Church. Above all, it is a magnificent experience to be a temple-going ward! I found this quote thought-provoking if not startling:

Apostle Melvin J. Ballard and his wife were great sweethearts throughout their lives. Before the death of this great modern apostle, he bore testimony of having been in the presence of Jesus Christ. Sister Ballard had difficulty reconciling herself to the loss of her husband. She grieved for him night and day and could not sleep, eat or do her work properly. One night, her husband appeared to her in a dream or vision and told her she must stop grieving for him and spend her time doing research and temple work for their ancestors. He then made this revealing statement: **“This work is so important to our perfection that I have all but lost my salvation because I neglected to do all I should have done in this great work.”**

(As told by their daughter-in-law).

--Jan Bruckman, Editor

Remember ten important two-letter words:

If It Is To Be, It Is Up To Me.

Schedule of Classes
at the South Davis Family History Center

1 May 2004	PAF 5.2: Search! Advanced Focus/filters, Global Changes	9 AM
2 & 4 May	PAF 5.2: TempleReady—from your home computer to the Family History Center	6 PM
6 May	I nternet Connections—email, books, calendars, and web sites	6 PM
8 May	[Repeat]	9 AM
9 & 11 May	O verview of FamilySearch.org	6 PM
13 May	I nternet Ordnance Index (IGI). You will need to bring your membership number and baptism date from your ward clerk.	6 PM
15 May	[Repeat]	9 AM
16 & 18 May	D avis County Library, Ancestry.Com & RootsWeb. (Please bring your library card)	6 PM
20 May	I nternet Research—Ellisisland.org, Geonames, PERSI, & surfing the net	6 PM
22 May	[Repeat]	9 AM

Schedule of Classes and Seminars
at the Family History Library

Date	Description	Room	Time
3 May 2004	J ewish research in Eastern European Counties	134/136	10 AM
	U sing the Internet IGI	JSMB W	10:30 AM
4 May	P ersonal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 1- Introduction/ Getting Started	134/136	10 AM
	U sing the Family History Library Catalog	JSMB W	1 PM
	F innish Research Before 1863	134/136	3 PM
5 May	R eading Scandinavian Handwriting	134/136	10 AM
	T empleReady for Windows: Submitting Names	JSMB W	1:30 PM

6 May	P ersonal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 2 - Making Changes	134/136	10 AM
	P ersonal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 3 - Notes & Sources	134/136	3 PM
	B ritish Research Guidance on FamilySearch.org	134/136	4:30 PM
7 May	F innish Research from 1863 to 1900	134/136	10 AM
8 May	P ersonal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 3 - Notes & Sources	134/136	10 AM
	* C hina Research Series: Introduction to the FHL's Chinese Collection (in Chinese)	134/136	2 PM
10 May	S weden Research Series: Getting Started in Swedish Records	134/136	10 AM
	P ersonal Ancestral File 5.2: Hands on Basics	JSMB W	10 AM
11 May	S weden Research Series: Using Swedish Church Records	134/136	10 AM
	T empleReady for Windows: Submitting Names	JSMB W	1:30 PM
	P ersonal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 4 - Printing Reports	134/136	3 PM
	P ersonal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 3 - Notes & Sources	134/136	7 PM
12 May	S weden Research Series: Understanding Swedish Clerical Surveys	134/136	10 AM
	U sing the Family History Library Catalog	JSMB W	1:30 PM
13 May	S weden Research Series: Swedish Probate Records, Key to Records	134/136	10 AM
	P ersonal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 5 - Import/Export GEDCOM,	134/136	3 PM
	O rganizing the Evidence Using Research Logs and Personal Ancestral File	134/136	4:30 PM
14 May	S weden Research Series: Finding Swedish Emigrant Ancestors	134/136	10 AM
15 May	P ersonal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 4 - Printing Reports	134/136	10 AM
17 May	U sing the Family History Library Catalog	JSMB W	1:30 PM
18 May	P ersonal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 6 - Advanced		

	Focus/Filter	134/136	10 AM
	TempleReady for Windows: Submitting Names	JSMB W	10:30 AM
19 May	Using Timelines to Bring Out Facts and Clues	134/136	10 AM
	Using the FamilySearch.org Website	JSMB W	1:30 PM
20 May	Personal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 7 - Match/Merge & File Cleanup	134/136	10 AM
	Understanding Culture & History in Dutch Research	134/136	4:30 PM
22 May	* Midwest Research Series: Gone Fishing - Exploring Midwest Records on the Internet	134/136	9 AM
	* Midwest Research Series: State Census Records	134/136	10 AM
	* Midwest Research Series: Land Ho! Value of Mid- Western Records	134/136	11 AM
	* Midwest Research Series: Military Records -Marching Through the Midwest	134/136	1 PM
	* Midwest Research Series: Death Records Do Tell Tales	134/136	2 PM
	* Midwest Research Series: Migration, Maps, and More History	134/136	3 PM
	* Midwest Research Series: Big City Research in the Midwest	134/136	4 PM
24 May	Personal Ancestral File 5.2: Hands-on Basics	JSMB W	10:30 AM
25 May	Personal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 8 - Multimedia	134/136	10 AM
	Using the Family History Library Catalog	JSMB W	10 AM
	Personal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 4 - Printing Reports	134/136	7 PM
26 May	Danish Research Pre 1834 - A Case Study	134/136	10 AM
	TempleReady for Windows: Submitting Names	JSMB W	10:30 AM
27 May	Personal Ancestral File 5.2: Lesson 9 -Additional Features	134/136	10 AM
	British Research Strategies	134/136	4:30 PM
28 May	Printing from Ancestry.com, EllisIsland.org, and the Family History Library Catalog	134/136	10 AM
29 May	* Germany Research Series: Determining the Place of Origin of German Immigrant Ancestors	134/136	9 AM

*Germany Research Series: Basic German Research, Principles and Practices	134/136	10:15AM
* Germany Research Series: Identifying German Records and Resources	134/136	11:30 AM
* Germany Research Series: Use of Maps in German Genealogical Research	134/136	1:15 PM
* Germany Research Series: Intermediate to Advanced German Research	134/136	2:30 PM

***Research Series—Seating for these classes is limited. Please call (801) 240-4950 to pre-register.
JSMB W = Joseph Smith Memorial Building, Main Floor West Wing**

For Your Information

The Family History Library is undergoing extensive remodeling. Meanwhile, some materials are being moved around or stored. Family Histories and Biographies have been moved from the Joseph Smith Building to the Library. The Family Group Records Archive is now a film-only collection. Computer work stations and a computer training area have been added. The Photo Duplication Department is moving to a temporary location, causing some delay in the return of copy requests.

For a schedule of dates when certain floors or departments will be affected, go to www.FamilySearch.org and click on “Family History Library Remodeling” at the left side of the home screen. Or call Library Public Affairs at (801) 240-3499 or (800) 346-6044, ext. 3499.

So this is an especially good time to enjoy the services of our local Family History Center. Order microfilms or microfiche through the Center, view them here, and copy them here. Films cost only \$3.25 to borrow, and they can stay at the Center for about 7 weeks. You’ll save that much on parking!

Late last year the Family History Library Catalog was updated. Changes include: 1. Data is now updated daily. 2. A new Keyword Search is available. With this search, you can combine surnames, place names, topics, and record types in a single search. 3. Pop-up instructions appear on the first catalog screen when the cursor hovers over a search selection button. 4. The catalog includes records in Chinese, Japanese, Cyrillic, and other non-Roman scripts. 5. The Help panel is closed to provide more viewing room on the catalog screen. To open the Help panel, click on Help at the bottom of the screen.

If you could see your ancestors all standing in a row
There might be some of them, perhaps, you wouldn’t care to know.
But here’s another question which requires a different view;
If you could meet your ancestors, would they be proud of you?

-Author unknown