

CONNECTING NEW FAMILY SEARCH ANCESTORS
WITH ORIGINAL RECORDS

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President Hinckley: That which goes on in the House of the Lord, and which must be preceded by research, comes nearer to the spirit of the sacrifice of the Lord than any other activity of which I know. (*Ensign*, Mar 1995, 52.)

President Eyring: After you find the first few generations, the road will become more difficult. The price will become greater. As you go back in time, the records become less complete . . . Then you will have a difficult and important choice to make. You will be tempted to stop and leave the hard work of finding to other who are more expert or to another time you life . . . As you decide, remember that the names which will be so difficult to find are of real people to whom you owe your existence in this world and whom you will meet again in the spirit world . . . Their hearts are bound to you. Their hope is in your hands. You will have more than your own strength as you choose to labor on to find them. (*Ensign*, May 2005, 70-80.)

President Packer: When we research our own lines we become interested in more than just names or the number of names going to the temple. Our interest turns our hearts to our fathers—we seek to find them and to know them and to serve them. (*Ensign*, August 2003.)

I. OUR GOALS:

- 1) Clean up the existing Temple Work records on NFS.
- 2) “Free spirits from prison.”
- 3) Come to know our ancestors.

II. WHEN TO START CONNECTING ANCESTORS WITH ORIGINAL RECORDS:

- 1) To find people who need temple work.
- 2) To determine what NFS information is correct, and decide when to combine.
- 3) To learn about the lives of our ancestors.

III. HOW TO APPROACH FINDING PEOPLE WHO NEED TEMPLE WORK:

- 1) Fill in families on NFS [“cleaning up?”].
- 2) Go to an end of a family line and extend back from there.
 - a. Assess what time and skill you have to do this based on language, time period, etc.

- 3) Select an ancestor living about 1840 or after, and find his/her non-LDS siblings and trace them and their descendants.

IV. HOW TO LEARN ABOUT THE LIVES OF ANCESTORS:

A. Start with online records:

- Newspapers
- Death records
- Census records
- Journals
- Family histories (familyarchives.byu.edu)
- Websites such as Mormon Trails
- Look up information about ancestor home towns
- Google searches
- Go to library.byu.edu and search databases.

B. Go to other records not online, like those discussed in Section VI below.

V. FINDING DESCENDANTS OF NON-LDS SIBLINGS:

A. Start with census records and vital records (births, marriages, deaths).

B. Next look at records above on section IV.

C. Then go to original records discussed below in section VI.

VI. WHERE TO FIND ORIGINAL RECORDS

A. Online:

- Familysearch.org
- Commercial sites
 - a. Ancestry.com
 - b. Footnote.com
 - c. World Vital Records.com

d. Others

- Roots Web
- Archival Sites
- Cyndislist.com
- Others

B. Microfilmed:

- FHLC
- Others

C. Onsite:

VII. THREE FINAL THOUGHTS:

- A) Take the work one step at a time.
- B) Work as slowly as the patron needs to go. Let the patron move the mouse.
- C) Make it fun!

VIII. A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

At the time the Nauvoo Temple was to be built the Prophet Joseph wrote:

Let us, therefore, as a church and a people, and as Latter-day Saints, offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness; and let us present in his holy temple, when it is finished, a book containing the records of our dead, which shall be worthy of all acceptation.

“Worthy of all acceptation” is a gold standard. We strive to teach our members how to achieve that standard in their research and temple submissions.

President Packer has written:

There somehow seems to be the feeling that genealogical work is an all-or-nothing responsibility. . . .
Those who have become experts in it sometimes are not wise in the way they introduce this work to the beginners. . . .
Genealogical work has, I fear, sometimes been made to appear too difficult, too involved, and too time consuming to really be inviting to the average Church member. . . .
You can do the work. You can do it without becoming a so-called “expert” in it.
(*Ensign*, Jan. 1977, 8)

Where do we send our members for the information and training that they need—not to be experts, but to do the work? The answer: www.familysearch.org. On this site the Church has brought together a community of those working on their family histories who can exchange ideas and learn from others. Among the learning opportunities found there that we can share with our members are:

Research Helps

Under the tab “Research Helps” are other tabs that lead to a wide variety of self-help materials for learning about how to do family history and answer specific questions:

- Articles
- FamilySearch Wiki
- Research Guidance
- Ask a Question
- Online Lessons

Education and Training:

There are many different opportunities for education and training in family history research. Some are sponsored by the Family History Library, and others are available from outside sources. Those sponsored by the library include:

- [Family History Library Research Series *Online*](#)
- [Family History Library Research Series](#)
- [Family History Library Monthly Class Schedules](#)
- [Family History Library Publications](#)
- [Research Guidance](#)

Those sponsored by outside organizations include:

- [Genealogical Conferences](#)
- [Genealogical Institutes](#)
- [University Home-Study Courses](#)
- [Genealogical Presentations *Online*](#)