The Role of FamilySearch in a Worldwide Community

David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS
Chief Genealogical Officer, FamilySearch
Role in a Worldwide Community
FamilySearch Provides…

Records

Leadership,
Expertise,
and Standards

Scanned Books
& Lineage-Linked
Databases

Research Assistance
What is FamilySearch?

Largest genealogical organization in the world

Non-profit – volunteer driven

Sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
What is FamilySearch?

- History
- Area Studies and Languages
- Nearly 1000 People
- Archival & Library Science
- Computer technology
- Micrographics & Digital imaging
G.S.U.

1894 - 1917

Indexing Initiative

1922

Microfilm

1938

Granite Mountain Record Vault

1963

Genealogical Library/FamilySearch Centers

1985
Over 8 Million Hits Per Day

3 Million+ Users

Over 1400 Record Collections

Over 3 Billion Searchable Names

1998

1999

2004

2007

2012

2014
The Path to Family Tree
FamilySearch Family Tree
Finding Allies, Building Alliances

Mike Leavitt

Rich McKeown

Finding Allies, Building Alliances
8 Elements That Bring—and Keep—People Together

Mike Leavitt
Rich McKeown

Jossey-Bass
“When People are motivated by their own problems, they often discover that they can find solutions to them by responding to the interests of others.

Value alliances…exist at the intersection of self-interest and common interests.

…individuals become collaborators when they discover that they cannot solve a problem on their own.”
Common Point of Pain

- “…collaborations fail when participants lack this pain (or manage to eliminate it without anyone else’s help)
- Collaborating with others is hard
- It can be expensive
- It always involves a surrender of independence
- Few people are willing to place themselves in a collaborative position if they have an alternative”
What were the Common Points of Pain?

For the **Church** it was:
- Duplication of temple ordinances
- Manpower to avoid duplication
- Development of complex manual and automated systems

For **individuals** it was the duplication of:
- Research – time and resources
- Expenses for certificates and documents
- Travel to ancestral areas
Common Points of Pain for the Church
# Personal Temple Books

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### L. D. S. Family Record

**Number 0**

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### Family Group Genealogy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Official Date</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Where Born</th>
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<tr>
<td>James Johnson</td>
<td>22 May 1859</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>22 May 1859</td>
<td>1959-01-01</td>
<td>1959-01-01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Smith</td>
<td>13 Feb 1861</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>13 Feb 1861</td>
<td>1861-02-13</td>
<td>1861-02-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Brown</td>
<td>2 June 1865</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>2 June 1865</td>
<td>1865-06-02</td>
<td>1865-06-02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Personal Temple Books – Stories

Ancestral Record of Andrew Hasty and Wife Hannah Waterworth Hasty

Andrew Hasty was born Feb 29, 1872, in Bradford, York, England, second son of George Hasty and Rebecca Richards Hasty. He attended the grade schools until the coming of age when he began to work in the Worston Mills in the spinning dept. to help and advance his own family, attending at night schools to improve his educational matters. After about 1 year spent in the spinning room, he began to work in the warping section of Worston Sons & Co., Bingleyfield. He also worked with employing about 1200 yards. Then, after a short time transferred to the "finishing dept." Some mill where I remained about 1 year, or until leaving England for Ulverstone, June 1893. After arriving here with my parents in Preston, was employed by the Worston Woolen Mills Co. in the spinning dept. and after two months employment was taken seriously ill with Malaria Fever, and pneumonia, at this time my brother and sister (Emily and Ernest), who also lived in the same house, were also seriously ill. Recovering, I was employed again at the Mill in the "finishing dept." in which department I remained most of the time for the next 10 years, at which time, the mills were closed, and after 6 months of remainder for a time, followed a boy at worsted mill, found myself on the 15 of June 1908 attached at the State Mental Hospital, Preston, which position I held until the 1st of July following. When I was appointed a "ward keeper" in the service of North San. Again in the "finishing dept." a year passed, which association I still feel being now the 1st of January 1914, and being now in the $1000 a year grade, which grade is as high as others of the 2nd Class attain it. Therefore, thusly on the industrial side of my life may suffice.
Duplication of Temple Ordinances

- Genealogy of the Abbott Family
- Ordinances performed in the Salt Lake and St. George temples
- Led to the creation of the Temple Index Bureau in 1922 and indexed 1842-1969

Harry Russell
Temple Index Bureau

Sorting TIB Cards

Data Entry Typists
Temple Index Bureau

- Cards were filed in alphabetical order
- Checkers consulted each entry for a match
Church Record Archives – Generation Programs 1922-1969

Howard W. Hunter
Theodore M. Burton
International Genealogical Index (IGI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>As of</th>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>County, Town, Parish</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<td>N 0759</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Sir</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>As of Apr 1984</td>
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<td>23JUN1980</td>
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<td>Davidson</td>
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<td>7525303</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Event type: M = Marriage, B = Birth, C = Christening
International Genealogical Index (IGI)
Church Headquarters Chokepoint

Names to be cleared

Staff of 125

Ordinances to be performed
TempleReady

- Made possible by compact disc technology
- Allowed the distribution of the International Genealogical Index to family history centers
- Names clearance function moved from Church headquarters to family history centers with the development of TempleReady
Stallman’s Concept

• In December 2000, Richard Stallman proposed a free-as-in-freedom online encyclopedia

• Specifically, it included the idea that *no central organization should control editing!*
Wikipedia Model

• Wikipedia was launched on 15 January 2001
• Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger were the developers
• Showed the world how to crowd-source information and that the quality could improve over time
Family Tree – Modeled after Wikipedia
Common Points of Pain for Researchers
CHAPTER VI

PREVENTING DUPLICATION OF RESEARCH THROUGH THE PEDIGREE REFERRAL SERVICE

One of the more recent services offered by The Genealogical Society is the Pedigree Referral Service.

Perhaps the most effective way to describe this new service is by the question and answer method and by giving examples of how to use it.

**What is the Pedigree Referral Service?**

It is a service of The Genealogical Society designed to assist participants with their genealogical work and to help prevent duplication in research.

It has two phases:

1. **REGISTRATION**: Individuals are encouraged to register NOW, on the form provided, the surnames from their pedigree chart(s) together with the localities and the periods of time involved.

2. **INQUIRIES**: Those who have registered may request that searches be made in the Pedigree Referral Service File for the names and addresses of persons who have registered information with the service, thereby permitting coordination of research effort.

**What are the Objectives of the Pedigree Referral Service?**

1. To bring together people who have common lines of ancestry; and
2. To help prevent the duplication of research effort.

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**PREVENT DUPLICATION THROUGH REGISTRATION**

1. Register the following:
   - **Name and Address** of the individual or organization submitting for registration.
   - **Surname(s)**.
   - **Localities and Periods of Time**.
   - **Purpose** of the request.

2. If a surname is found in two or more localities, it will be necessary to make a separate entry noting the appropriate period of time.

**Should A Member of A Family Organization Prepare An Individual Registration For The Pedigree Referral Service?**

1. When a family organization is given the duty of preparing an individual registration, it should be encouraged to provide information about the family organization responsible for pedigree referral service correspondence pertaining to different lines. Each person assigned should register the surname(s) for which he is responsible. It is this individual to whom a pedigree referral service number will be assigned.
Quality versus Quantity:

“It would be unwise to accept genealogical information without documentary evidence. It is the quality of the record which is of great importance. It is better to compile one family group record sheet that is complete and correct than a dozen that are not.”

Priesthood Genealogy Committee. Genealogy in Action. (Salt Lake City: The Corporation of the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1964), 7.
Purchase of Certificates
Travel to Archives and Courthouses
Automated Pedigrees

The Pedigree Resource File contains lineage-linked pedigrees that have been submitted to the Family and Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These pedigrees contain unedited notes and sources. The internet contains the entire index.
Basis of Family Tree Data

- International Genealogical Index
- Ancestral File Data
- Pedigree Resource File (part)
FamilySearch Family Tree Functions

- Open Edit (Add, Edit, Delete)
- Restore Changes
- Attach Sources
- Explain
- Discuss
FamilySearch Family Tree Functions

- Change Log
- Discontinue new.familysearch.org
- Create a Source
- Collaboration
- Matching Records
FamilySearch Family Tree Functions under Consideration or in Development

- Merge Duplicates
- Number of People Watching a Person/Family
- Number of People Agree with Content
- Contact with any other user
- Voting on Accuracy
Common Point of Pain


- “…collaborations fail when participants lack this pain (or manage to eliminate it without anyone else’s help)
- Collaborating with others is hard
- It can be expensive
- It always involves a surrender of independence
- Few people are willing to place themselves in a collaborative position if they have an alternative”
FamilySearch Direction and Vision

• Engage more people to participate in family history
• Add interest to the lives of individuals
• Manage the learning curve of the new participants
• Have the most accurate database of lineage-linked data
Ogden Utah Temple

- Beautiful building that will soon be dedicated to the Lord
- Craftsmanship is the best humans can do
- There was an element of scrap left at completion
- Time in the temple is never wasted
Thomas S. Monson

“We are going to make mistakes, but none of us can become an expert in family history work without first being a novice. Therefore, we must plunge into this work, and we must prepare for some uphill climbing”
Additional FamilySearch Roles in the Community
Online Access to the World’s Records

- Records Negotiation
- Image Capture
- Digital Conversion
- Preservation
- Online Indexing
- Online Access

[Diagram showing the process of online access to the world's records, including records negotiation, image capture, digital conversion, preservation, online indexing, and online access.]
Negotiate Access
185 camera teams filming in over 45 countries

Each year FamilySearch produces over 160 million digital images:

- 100 million through microfilm conversion
- 60 million new digital images from field capture
Digital Conversion

Scan → Convert to Digital → Check for Quality → “Cut” into Images → Post Online
Preservation

Granite Mountain Records Vault
Where the Images are Stored

Over 2.4 million rolls of microfilm

Over 1 million microfiche

Over 8.4 billion images of family history records

Increasing by over 40,000 “rolls” per year
Volunteers type information from digitized historical records

New record hit on 20/21 July with 68,717 indexers in one day – 5.7M records 12K new indexers

This information is Placed in FREE searchable online indexes
Online Access

Nearly 1800 Collections from 84 countries
Over 3.2 Billion Names in a Searchable Database

Finding Our Cousins
An amazing new way to see your ancestor’s descendants
Check it out

Have Pioneer Ancestors?
Find out in one easy step, and read stories from the trail
Show me
Help from Other Organizations

FamilySearch does not do this by themselves

Other organizations donate time and money to help support FamilySearch:
  • Societies
  • Technology companies
  • Genealogical related companies
  • Small archives
Partner Organizations

Technology Companies
Provide technology and equipment to FamilySearch at cost
- Cisco
- Dell
- Equinix
- hp
- Oracle
- Sun
- Tessella
- Vmware

Genealogy Related Companies
Provide each other with images and indexing services
- MyHeritage
- Archives
- ancestry.com
- findmypast.com
- BillionGraves
Recent FamilySearch Announcements

Data Exchanges with:
Ancestry.com
MyHeritage.com
Findmypast.com
You requested that we notify you that the following record is now available:

Sue E. Rencher
Surname: Rencher
Cemetery: Rosemount Cemetery
City: Faunsdale
County: Perry
State: Alabama
Country: United States
**Notifications Packages**

**10 Record Watches**
Get 10 additional record watches to notify you by email automatically when new records matching your search criteria are added to BillionGraves.

**Earn BillionGraves Features**
Get rewarded for uploading photos of headstones to the BillionGraves database using the iPhone/Android apps or transcribing uploaded photos. Earn record watches and other features to help you with your research!

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<thead>
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<th>Uploads</th>
<th>Additional Features Earned</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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</thead>
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<td>500</td>
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<td>Completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>1000</td>
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<td>Completed</td>
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<td>3000</td>
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<td>Upload 1304 more images</td>
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<tr>
<td>4000</td>
<td>+1 Record Watch</td>
<td>Upload 2304 more images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5000</td>
<td>+1 Record Watch</td>
<td>Upload 3304 more images</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transcriptions</th>
<th>Additional Features Earned</th>
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<td>Transcribe 2836 more records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5000</td>
<td>+1 Record Watch</td>
<td>Transcribe 3836 more records</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Earned features expire 1 year from the day they were earned.

**Obituary Records Online**

myheritage.com/Obituaries

Find Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituary Records in 1 Easy search
Collaboration with non-profits
**Preserve the Pensions Project**

**War of 1812 Pension Digitization Project**

The Pension Records from the War of 1812 are among the most requested documents at the National Archives. Unfortunately, these fragile documents are in urgent need of digitization. In support of this monumental task of digitizing 7.2 million pages, Ancestry.com has provided a dollar for dollar matching grant, so every dollar you contribute will make four more pages accessible and free for everyone.

**THE MISSION**

The National Archives reports that these War of 1812 pension files are among the heaviest requested materials. With that level of use, these valuable records, available in no other format, are in danger of grave deterioration.

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC**

As these valuable historical documents are digitized, they will be made available to all at no cost, and the original pension files can be retired to much less active use.

**DIGITIZED IMAGES AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY**

Completed images and associated indexing are posted incrementally. Genealogists, historians, teachers, patriotic

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**1,193,751** Image Preserved

**$250 + $250 = 1100** Your Donation Matching Grant Pages Saved!

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**7.2M** Images to be captured

**180K** Files will be saved

**1193K** Images now available
http://www.fold3.com/
This is to certify that Clement Rochwitt of Centre County in the State of Pennsylvania and Mary Cogan of Bellefonte in the State of Pennsylvania here by me joined together in HOLY MATRIMONY on the twenty-first day of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and fifty-six.

In Witness whereof, I, Lee Spottwood, Minister of the Gospel,
BY COMMAND OF
MAJOR GENERAL JACOB BROWN.

To all whom it may concern;

KNOW YE, that

James Cannon, a private in Captain James Crookes Company, Artillery, having served the United States with honesty and faithfulness, for the term of four months, the period of his enlistment, viz: From the fourth day of April, one thousand eighteen hundred and thirty to the fourth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, in consequence of his being incapacitated.

He is hereby honorably discharged.

The said James Cannon was born in the Town of New York in the County of New York is about forty-two years of age; is five feet six inches high, dark complexion, dark eyes, brown hair, and is by occupation a ship carpenter.

Given at the Inspector General's Office, Head Quarters, this twentieth day of June, eighteen hundred and thirty-four.

Registered, as above.

[Signature]

[Signature]
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OF AMERICA

Office of the Commissioner of Pensions.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED, that under the Act of March 3, 1862, entitled, "An act in addition to certain acts granting bounty lands to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in THE MILITARY SERVICE.

Entitled to locate One Hundred and Twenty Acres at any land office of the United States in one body, and in conformity to the legal subdivisions of the public lands, upon the terms and conditions subject to sale at any fixed price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre as provided by law, dated the Twenty-fourth day of October, 1863.

[Signature]

WILLIAM H. ALLEN, Commissioner.

Note: You can locate this Certificate at any of the United States land offices, as well as execute any necessary formalities, and transfer to your name, the land described in this Certificate, or to the name of any person of your choice, by application to the Commissioner of the Land Office, within the district in which you wish the location made.

In the Register of the Land Office, this Certificate is in the Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of Quarter of section, in Township of, in Range of, Section of 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Why we need to Preserve the Pension Records
Preserve the Pensions!

- 7.2 million documents will be digitized
- $3.7 million is needed for this project
- Each dollar will digitize 2 images
- Generous donation from Ancestry.com matches each dollar donated and preserves 4 images!
Preserve the Pensions!

- Images available for FREE on: go.fold3.com/warof1812/
- Images are posted as they are completed – not waiting for the completion of the entire project
Preserve the Pensions!

• To learn more, go to:

www.preservethepensions.org
FamilySearch’s Role

Connecting people to their ancestors
Thank you!