

Lesson 5-Providing the Ordinances for Our Ancestors

President Ezra Taft Benson- Conference April 1987- with increased attendance in the temples of our God, you shall receive increased personal revelation to bless your life as you bless those who have died.

April Conference 1998 - President Hinckley - "All of our vast family history endeavor is directed to temple work. There is no other purpose for it."

GUIDELINES ON HOW TO SUBMIT NAMES FOR TEMPLE WORK

Seek the guidance of the Spirit.

Minimum Information Needed to Submit Names

For Baptism and Endowment-

- Given Name or Surname
- Gender (If unknown use Male as sex so that they may receive the Priesthood)
- Event date (for example, a birth date)
- Event place (for example, a birth place)

Sealing to Parents-

- Information under "Baptism and Endowment"
- First or last name of the father

Sealing to Spouse-

- Name of the husband
- Marriage Date
- Marriage place

Names can be submitted with very little factual information, sometimes this is necessary because of the scarcity of records and information in center countries or areas. However, it is much, much better to have as much information as possible. **"A Members Guide to Temple and Family History Work"**

TEMPLE READY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Unmarried couples-

A deceased couple may be sealed to each other if they lived together as husband and wife or had children, even if no marriage can be documented. If either one is still living, special approval is required. For approvals, send the details to Special Services, Temple Department, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150.

Women married more than once-

A deceased woman may be sealed to all her husbands if the family desires. If she was sealed in life, all the husbands must also be deceased before any additional sealings may be performed. No special approvals are required.

Deceased children-

A deceased child is usually sealed to his or her natural parents. However, where there is justification, a deceased child may also be sealed to adoptive parents, stepparents, foster parents, or grandparents. No special approvals are required. (To have living children sealed, see the Bishop)

Persons with mental disabilities-

If a deceased person had a mental disability, do not consider his or her mental age when you prepare the name for temple ordinances. Consider only the person's physical age at the time of death.

Persons presumed dead-

You may provide ordinances for someone presumed dead after ten years have passed since the time of the disappearance. This policy applies to those missing in action, lost at sea, or legally dead, or those who disappeared under circumstances where death is apparent but no body have been recovered. In all other cases of missing persons, you must wait 110 years from their birth before providing ordinances.

Questions of worthiness-

Temple ordinances may be performed for deceased persons one year or more after the date of death without regard to worthiness or cause of death. This includes those who may have taken their own lives or the lives of others.

Excommunication-

Ordinance work for deceased persons who have been excommunicated and their descendants requires special handling. For more information, contact Special Services, Temple Department, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150.

Hint: If you find that the Ordinance Index misspells your ancestor's name or lists incorrect ordinance dates or places, do not resubmit your ancestor's name of temple work. The ordinances are still valid.

Check the Internet IGI-

Once you have verified the actual event information, you are ready to check if the temple work has already been done. With your membership number, confirmation date and an e-mail address sign on to www.familysearch.org and search the IGI for completed ordinance records. This is the database connected to the temples. They download any proxy ordinance work done in anywhere from 3-30 days.

HOW TO SEARCH THE IGI ON THE INTERNET

Details about Each Part of the Screen-

***This information can be found on www.familysearch.org in the help section**

First Name field:

Type the first name of the person you are looking for. Examples: Sarah, Ann, Edward.

Do not type identifiers or titles, such as Jr., Dr., Miss, Captain, Sir, and so on.

Do not type middle names or initials. (They do not always appear in the IGI records, and the search may disregard them.)

Return to Help Topics.

Last Name field:

Type the last name of the person you are looking for. Examples: Smith, McDonald.

For a woman, try typing her maiden name first. Then try a second search using her married name.

Father and Mother fields:

Type the first and last names of the father and mother of the person you are looking for.

To search for a person, you do not need the father's and the mother's names. You may have only one or any combination of the names. For example, you may have the father's first name and the mother's first name.

If you want to find information about a father or mother, type their names into the First Name and Last Name fields.

Spouse fields:

Type the first and last name of the person's husband or wife.

Use a wife's maiden name.

Event field:

Click on the Event field, and select an event (birth, marriage, all records, and so forth) in the person's life for which you think a record was made.

If you chose Other from the event lists, FamilySearch Internet will search for information found in census records, wills, adult christening records, and any other miscellaneous records.

Try to focus your search by entering additional information about the event in the Event Range, Year, and Country boxes.

Year Range and Year fields:

Use the Year Range and Year fields to indicate when the event you selected in the Event field occurred. Example: If you select a date range of "+ or -10 Years," and type 1880 in the Year box, FamilySearch Internet will find only records created between 1870 and 1890.

Region and Place fields:

Records in the IGI are organized by geographical regions (Britain, Finland, and so forth). To reduce your search time:

Click Regions, and select a region to search. Click on the region where you think the person was living at the time of the event you selected.

Depending on the region you choose, other boxes may appear, such as Country or Province. Select the appropriate items from the lists.

IGI Source Numbers:

You can find a record in the IGI by entering its batch number, serial/sheet number, and film number.

To find source numbers:

First, search for a person's record by using other information, such as his or her last name and birthplace.

When you find the record, write down its source numbers. The next time you want to find the record, enter the source numbers.

You may also want to use the numbers to find other relatives. Go to Use the Film or Batch Number and Search for Other Family Members.

Use Exact Spelling Check Box:

To find records with the person's name spelled exactly as you have entered it, click the Use exact spelling box.

If you use the exact spelling feature, type only the name of the person you want to find. Do not enter names of parents or spouses, and do not select an event. Include an event date only if needed to limit your search results.

If you use the exact spelling feature, be sure to enter the individual's complete name as it would appear in the record, including middle names and initials.

When you don't click the Use exact spelling box, FamilySearch Internet searches for the name you typed and any close matches. For example, the search results for the surname "Nelson" would include Nelson, Nelsen, Nielson, Nielsen, and so forth.

Search Button:

Enter information into the search fields; then click Search to begin a search.

Clear Button:

To remove all the information from the search fields, click Clear.

Which date do I use?

The earliest date is the valid ordinance. The rest are all duplicates. You could however list these dates in your notes as duplicate ordinances.

Adding the Ordinance Dates to your PAF

- Add the ordinance dates to your records. You can do this by entering the information, copying and pasting the information from screen to screen, or downloading and importing a GEDCOM file and match/merging the information.

TempleReady for Windows- (Preview for next week)

This is a program that helps you prepare names to be sent to the temple for ordinance work. It has an ordinance index that checks for names that already have their temple work completed.

- Before putting your PAF file through any of these programs try to make it as clean and accurate as possible. Remember-duplicating ordinances for an individual wastes 17-man -hours.

Be prayerful- maybe Heavenly Father will say **Yes** about your work, that this person can be submitted for temple work with the information you have. Maybe he will say **No**, do more research. We are supposed to make an acceptable record for the Lord. Ask yourself- am I making an acceptable record or a mess?

REMEMBER that whatever information you submit will become part of the OFFICIAL TEMPLE RECORD and later part of the Ordinance Index. Be as accurate and as detailed as possible.

“Behold, the great day of the Lord is at hand; and who can abide the day of his coming.....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 acceptance.” D&C 128:24

“You may think this order of things to be very particular; but let me tell you that it is only to answer the will of God, by conforming to the ordinance and preparation that the Lord ordained and prepared before the foundation of the world, for the salvation of the dead who should die without a knowledge of the gospel.”

D&C 128:5

Assignment-

Identify those ancestors who you don't have complete ordinance dates for and search in the Ordinance Index for them.