

Class 7 Theme: The LDS Church's Commitment to Family History and Temple Work

“If temple ordinances are an essential part of the restored gospel, and I testify that they are, then we must provide the means by which they can be accomplished. All of our vast family history endeavor is directed to temple work. There is no other purpose for it.”

– President Gordon B. Hinckley, General Conference, April 1998

Why should the earth be wasted? Simply because if there is not a welding link between the fathers and the children, which is the work for the dead, we will all stand rejected...”

– Joseph Fielding Smith

“Our message is so imperative, when you stop to think that the salvation, the eternal salvation of the world, rests upon the shoulders of this Church. When all is said and done, if the world is going to be saved, we have to do it. There is no escaping from that. No other people in the history of the world have received the kind of mandate that we have received. We are responsible for all who have lived upon the earth. That involves our family history and temple work. We are responsible for all who now live upon the earth, and the involves our missionary work. And we are going to be responsible for all who will yet live upon the earth. No one ever received a greater or more compelling mandate than we of this Church have received, and we'd better be getting at it.” – President Gordon B. Hinckley, Mission Presidents Seminar, July 1999

President Hinckley (4/98) In announcing small temples: “If temple ordinances are an essential part of the restored Gospel, and I testify that they are, then we must provide the means by which they can be accomplished. All of our vast Family History endeavor is directed to temple work. There is no other purpose for it. The temple ordinances become the crowning blessings the Church has to offer.” – President Gordon B. Hinckley, Ensign May 1998, 88

On the Sunday following the dedication, the Saints gathered together in the temple for a Sabbath meeting. Orson Hyde discussed why they had gone to all the trouble in completing the temple.

“If we moved forward and finished this house we should be received and accepted as a church with our dead, but if not we should be rejected with our dead... In doing this we have only been saved as it were by the skin of our teeth.” – Wilford Woodruff's Journal, 3:43

“No work is more of a protection to the Church than temple work and the genealogical research which supports it. No work is more spiritually refining. No work we do gives us more power. No work requires a higher standard of righteousness...” – President Boyd K. Packer, Ensign, Feb 1995, 32

Assignments

1. Use the FHL catalog at home on the internet.
2. Go to the library and check a record you found in the catalog
3. Bring PAF backup to next class

Discussion/Theory

Record jurisdiction

It is vital that you identify complete and accurate place names. Use the place finder programs on the center computers. In order to submit complete and accurate information for temple ordinances complete places are a must. Research in any records if they be on Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org or any other repository the complete place name is the only way to identify the record you need. The major collection of records at the Family History Library are catalogued by locality.

Understand jurisdiction Why and by whom a record is created. The same type of jurisdictions are found in every country, although they may be called by another name such as shires (County) in England.

Local or town: Church records, cemetery, local history, some birth and death records in major cities, land records in some New England towns. Immigration records can be found in towns that have a port such as New York, Boston, New Orleans.

County: Land and Property, Civil Court, Probate Court, marriage records, naturalization.

State: Birth and Death records, Appeals court, Supreme court, prison, institutions, state lands.

National: Census, military, Federal lands, Congress, military cemetery, Immigration.

3. Using the FHL Catalog to find primary sources

Library Catalog

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City is world-renowned as one of the best genealogical resources available. Most genealogists know WHAT the Library is and are familiar with its catalog as a research source. But not all researchers know HOW to use the Library catalog to their best advantage. Let's explore the Library and its catalog in more depth to get a better understanding of how to use it to find what we need as genealogists.

The Family History Library Catalog™ lists and describes the records, books, maps, compact discs, microfilms, microfiche, and other materials in the Family History Library. It does not contain the actual records, only descriptions of them. The records described in the catalog come from throughout the world, and include census records, birth records, family histories, church registers, and many other record types. The library catalog is available on a compact disc, on microfiche, and on the Church Web Site. (FamilySearch.org) The Church Web Site is the most up to date. New items are cataloged daily and added to the web site weekly.

Select an Ancestor and Decide What You Want to Learn about the Family.

All records are filed by time period and locality. Learn where they lived and the years they were there. You can determine this information by looking at your family group sheet and see where each of the children were born. Once you establish what you want to know and where they were living, search the catalog for records that may give you the information.

Each item is cataloged by either locality, or surname. Each item is cross referenced by Author, Title, and additional localities. All family histories have cross reference to the major surnames mentioned in the compilation.

A typical catalog entry shows the library book and or microfilm or microfiche number, author's name, title, publication information, copyright date (if known), format (number of pages), contents of the record, format available (such as book, microfilm or microfiche), and catalog headings where the record may also be found.

Knowing the subject heading will assist you in finding records in the catalog. For example, civil births, marriages, and deaths are cataloged by locality under the heading VITAL RECORDS. Gravestone inscriptions and cemetery records are cataloged under CEMETERIES. Passenger lists are cataloged under EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION. The following subject headings or consistent.

Topics found in the catalog

Almanacs	Guardianship	Periodicals
Archives and Libraries	Historical geography	Politics and government
Bible Record	History	Poorhouse
Bibliography	Land and property	Postal and shipping guide
Business records and commerce	Law and legislation	Probate
Cemeteries	Maps	Public
Census	Medical records	Schools
Church	Migration	Social life and customs
Correctional instructions	Military	Societies
Court	Minorities	Statistics
Description and travel	Names	Taxation
Directories	Native races	Vital records
Divorce records	Naturalization	Yearbooks
Emigration /Immigration	Newspapers	
Encyclopedias/Dictionaries	Obituaries	
Gazetteer	Occupations	
Genealogy	Officials and employees	
	Pensions	

Using primary sources to answer questions and conflicts.