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Enjoying the Spirit of Family History During the Holidays

Family history work seems to run in cycles during the year. When the holidays are over and fresh New Years resolutions have begun, family history centers are busy as people feel the need to fulfill their obligation to their ancestors.

Then springtime comes. The snow melts and family history gets placed back a little so that gardens may be planted. This is followed by Summer with its family vacations and kids all around. Fall comes. The garden is harvested, children return to school, and family history centers are open full time as we start to have more time for family history.

With the Holidays starting, we turn our thoughts to family gatherings, gift giving, and the birth of Jesus Christ.

So how can we maintain that spirit of family history while enjoying the holidays and spending more time with our family?

- Give an ancestor a gift by taking their name to the temple.
- If you visit with extended family members, ask them about their families. Record any additions and marriages that may have taken place since you last updated your records on their branch.
- If there are older family members present ask them questions and give them the opportunity to tell you or your children about their life and memories of others that may now be gone. You can record these to refer to later. I learned many things about my father's childhood when he was talking to my children that I never knew about him before. They asked questions that I had not thought to ask and my father was more than willing to talk to them about his life and family.
- If you travel and are close to areas where there is a heritage for you family. Learn what you can about your heritage. Share this with your children and other family members. Take picture of your family home or areas that you or your ancestors lived and grew up in.
- Create a family heritage gift.
    - This could be a book with recipes from the family and ancestors. We did this one

year and put family pictures in with the recipes. It was a hit with the children in the family as well as the adults. It sparked interest in great grand parents because of the unique recipes that were part of their heritage.
    - A calendar with photos and ancestors birth dates and other events.
    - A family history CD to share with family members. You can include photos, stories, a family history database and more. Passage Express and Heritage Collector Suite can help in the creation of these projects.
    - Write your personal history or a history of one of your ancestors to share with children and other relatives. Personal Historian has a wonderful set of questions to jar your memory and tools to help you organize and create a history. There are also questions to spark your memory on our FHC page .
- Share your joy of Family History by giving your time to help someone else get started. (a wonderful yet low cost gift idea)

With new FamilySearch becoming available to more areas, FamilySearch Record Search and the new tools that are now available to help. it will be easier to do a bit of family history here and there without taking hours at a time. You can continue the work while enjoying the holidays too.

Whatever you do, please enjoy this time and season as one that truly brings families closer together.

~Paula Vilburn~

Introducing FHCWiki

John Vilburn of Ohana Software has created a new wiki. This is not part of Ohana Software but a place for sharing information. He says that he created it so that he would have a place to easily find the resources he uses in helping consultants in our area without having to do the research every time. Just to make it easier.

If you are a Family History Consultant, work in a Family History Center, teach a family history class or are involved in helping others with family history, take time to look and contribute to the new FHCWiki at www.fhcwiki.org

A wiki is a place to share ideas and collaborate with others to add information. It is a website where anyone can share their ideas and where everyone is the webmaster. Most everyone has heard of Wikipedia the online wiki format encyclopedia. I go there often if I have a question about any number of things including places in my research. I am grateful to those that have added to that site so that I could benefit from their knowledge.

This wiki is just getting started and needs the entries of those of you who have information that can benefit others on their work in family history centers or as consultants or others working to help people share in the joy of family history.

So far there are links to FHC letters and policies, various presentations including a couple on new FamilySearch., lessons on Family History, leadership guides and more. This is a website for everyday people as well as techies.

The more people that get involved the more we can all benefit. I know there are a lot of you that receive this newsletter that have a lot to offer. That is the wonderful thing about family history

work; we can all learn from each other. I personally have gained most of my knowledge of family history as I worked with others to help them find some piece of information.

If you think that you can't do this because you have never done a wiki before, or anything like it, there is a link on the main page with instructions on just how to proceed. You never know until you try. You can preview what you want to add before it is actually added so you will know how it will look. I made my first wiki entries this week and it was easy. 10 years ago I would never have thought I could be do this.

Register on the wiki and learn something new as you share your knowledge with others.

Hope to see you at www.fhcwiki.org

Insights into FamilyInsight: Why all the changes?

Periodically, people call or write wondering why FamilyInsight does not always work the same way PAF Insight worked. Since most of us are creatures of habit, change can be uncomfortable. As much as possible, we kept FamilyInsight the same as PAF Insight but some features changed to accommodate working with new FamilySearch. Since this website's features are light-years ahead of the IGI at www.familysearch.org website, our program had to keep pace.

Many of the questions have to do with places and perhaps you have had similar questions. I hope these explanations help you.

~ Why does FamilyInsight scan my records to check places? ~

FamilySearch family tree uses standardized place names. In many cases, this means modern place names are used. Place names have often changed because county boundaries changed or the place formally changed it's name. There may have been several towns in a state that had the same name so names were modified or changed to avoid confusion. As a family historian, historically correct place names are important but FamilySearch generally uses the current place. To FamilySearch, Boston is Boston whether is was 1630 and a colony of Great Britain or 2009 a city in the United States.

So you have the best chance of finding your person, FamilyInsight scans your places and compares your places to the FamilySearch place list. It tags any places that are not recognized by FamilySearch. If you try to search for someone with a non-standard place name, a window will appear asking you to indicate the standardize place. You will only see one place suggestion on the window UNTIL you click on the place name in the suggestion field. Other suggestion may then appear. Select the best option. If your town isn't listed, try and select the county, state, country. If the county isn't available, try to select the state and country. It is better for you to select a larger area for the system to search than to skip the search for that place.

~ Why doesn't FamilyInsight recognize my places? ~

As mentioned in the previous answer, FamilySearch uses standardized places. In some cases, the modern place names are used without regard to historical place names. Other places are listed with a county with the city is actually an independent city and is not part of a county. This has frustrated some people. Never-the-less, that is what the programmers of FamilySearch use. Therefore, when

you are in the Edit Places mode, keep your place name as it is by choosing the Mark Valid button, and selecting the standardized place from the list of options in the window that opens. Again, click on the one option you see to reveal additional options. Choose the place name that fits closest. Your file will retain the correct place name but FamilyInsight can use a place to search that is recognized by FamilySearch. That way you get the best of both worlds.

~ How can I learn how to use the Edit Places mode? ~

We have video training on our website at http://www.ohanasoftware.com/?sec=lessons&page=FamilyInsightTutorial We also have lessons in the program and on our website. To find the lessons in FamilyInsight, click Help and choose the option, Help. If the list of lessons does not appear in the right panel, click on FamilyInsight Help in the left panel and select Lessons. You want Lesson 8: Using Edit Places in FamilyInsight. From our website, click the Support heading and choose Lessons. The Edit Places lesson is the sixth one on the list.

Final Thoughts

Since most of us are not consistent in the way we enter place names, it is a good idea to use the Edit Places mode BEFORE you start trying to synchronize records. You can correct your places if your file has inappropriate data entered into the place field. I had places called, "Bricklayer" and "Drover" and was able to fix those entries. These entries can be added to notes or an appropriate other event such as occupation. Others have found 20 different ways of entering a single place. They used abbreviations for SLC, or S L C or Salt Lake and Salt Lake City, not to mention Ut, UT, and Utah, etc. Taking the time to clean up you places will make your file better. It will also SAVE YOU TIME when you start synchronizing records.

If the task seem arduous, think of how hard it would be to do it in your genealogy program without the help of Insight!

~Cina Johnson~

New Contest: Celebrate

To celebrate the opening of all areas except Asia to new FamilySearch, Ohana Software is holding a new contest through January 1st 2010. The prize will be 2 tickets to the Family History Expo in Mesa, Arizona that will be held on Jan 22-23, 2010. (Value $150).

There are several ways that you can enter this contest.

- Submit a success story on using FamilyInsight or Ordinance Tracker to success@ohanasoftware.com.
- If you have a blog, blog about FamilyInsight and Ordinance Tracker and send us a link to your blog so that we can follow you too. Send the link to support@ohanasoftware.com
- Add a comment to the contest article on the Ohana Insights blog about FamilyInsight or Ordinance Tracker.
- Join FamilyInsight on Facebook and add a comment to the FamilyInsight wall.
- Visit the Ohana Software website and go to the purchase page and choose "Enter to win tickets to Mesa Family History Expo." Continue as if you were purchasing something so it is attached to your registration in our records. (only one entry per person can be done this

way).

Odds and Ends

Great Holiday Specials

- Heritage Collector Suite Christmas Bonus
- ***New*** Holiday Special Bundle for use with New FamilySearch
- Create your own Christmas Software Bundle for someone special

Visit Ohana Software for details

OneGreatFamily Cyber Monday Deal

One Day Only! on Monday, November 30th get an annual subscription for $59.95 plus 2 months free! Click Here for Details

The **current version** of FamilyInsight is 2009.9.29.0 This version has the Helper function, Ordinance Reservations and Ordinance Tracker. You can update through the Auto Update in PAF Insight or FamilyInsight, or choose Check for Updates in the Help menu, or go directly to the FamilyInsight download page on our website and download the latest version.

Webinars for the Holidays

During the holiday season we will not be holding our usual full schedule of Webinars. If you would like to watch a video of a past webinar, please visit our Webinar Archive.

1. Synchronizing Your File with FamilySearch and More

Learn to use FamilyInsight to synchronize files with the new.familysearch.org website. We'll walk you through an actual synchronization so you can quickly start updating your records and helping others. We will also include a run through of the ordinance reservation capabilities. Throughout the presentation, there will be short question and answer sessions. This webinar is being held in conjunction with the Utah South Family History Training Center.

- Tuesday, December 8th 2009
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM MST

To sign up for this webinar, click here.

2. Basic Research Practices in the Age of New FamilySearch
Guest Presenter: **Janet Hovorka**- Popular Genealogical Speaker

Grounding yourself in the foundations of good research can help you be a more effective genealogist whether in the library or on the internet. We'll discuss primary and secondary sources, original and compiled records and how to track your research effectively. Now source centricity is more important than ever and so are your methods for citing sources. And now that you can work on New FamilySearch, do you need your own copy and how do you keep your own copy without a lot of work?

- Saturday, January. 16th
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM MST

To sign up for this webinar, click here.

When you register for a Webinar there is a link just above the Last Name field that says **"Show time in my time zone"**

Watch our Webinar page for future additions to the schedule for January

Calendar

January 22-23, 2010
Mesa Arizona Family History Expo 2010
Mesa Convention Center
263 N. Center Street
Mesa, Arizona
FamilyInsight and other genealogy classes.
Ohana Software Representatives will be present
Click here for more information.

February 26-27, 2010
St. George, Utah Family History Expo 2010
The Dixie Center
1835 Convention Center Drive
St. George, Utah
FamilyInsight and other genealogy classes.
Ohana Software Representatives will be present
Click here for more information.

March 6, 2010
8:00am until 4:30 pm
South Davis Family History Fair
Bountiful High School
625 South Orchard Drive (400 East)
Bountiful, Utah
FamilyInsight and other genealogy classes.
Ohana Software Representatives will be present

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