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When is Family History like Star Wars?

Now, I'm sure most of you someone who has gone to a Star Wars or Star Trek convention. I've never actually experienced one of these strange gatherings, but I think I can understand some of the reasons for such a gathering. A few years ago I decided to go to the first midnight showing of the third Star Wars movie. This was quite the spectacle and even though I'm not a HUGE fan of Star Wars I couldn't help but get wrapped up in the excitement. There were people in costumes with choreographed light saber duels. People cheered when the opening credits started and cheered even more when Yoda pulled out his light saber. It was a blast and the excitement was contagious. It's no wonder why people travel from all over the country to share in their excitement.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go to a family history conference? It is an experience every person interested in Family History should try to have at least once. Just like those "Star Wars Geeks", there is a common bond between participants and an atmosphere of new information at every turn. The excitement for Family History is just as contagious. Although no one is dressed up in weird costumes or carrying a family history light saber, we all walk around eager to learn and eager to share our latest breakthrough.

There are many large family history conferences in a variety of areas around the united states and a multitude of smaller ones which are presented by family history centers and genealogical societies around the world. Some are free and others are not so free, but the variety is plentiful. Even the ones that cost will usually let you roam the display area without charge. This is a great way to get your feet wet if you're not completely ready to plunge into an entire conference (they can run anywhere from a day to an entire week). Some of the table vendors, like us, will hand out free tickets to their classes if you stop by their booth. This is yet another way to grab free info. We will be handing out free tickets at our own booth at the upcoming Redding, CA Family History Expo on Oct. 16th-17th.

If you would like to find us at a future Family History Expo, you can view [our calendar here.](#) Although we aren't at every expo you can get the latest info on large expos at www.fhexpos.com.

If there are none listed near you, check at your local historical society or your local FHC to see if they know of any in the area. Maybe your family History center will decide to host the first family

history workshops in your area. With that said, don't be afraid to get the ball rolling.

~ Andrea Schnakenburg~

Insights into Insight: *Webinar FAQs*

As the webinar coordinator, I frequently get e-mails from people who are excited to attend one of our webinars, but are unable to make it. If you've ever found yourself in this situation, you're in luck. We record almost all of our webinars & keep them on a special webinar archive page just for this reason. If you can't make your webinar just wait a week and hop over to the archive. These videos usually become available 5-7 days after the live webinar.

Viewing from the archives is a great option for those of you who have a busy schedule. Although you won't have the advantage of being able to ask questions during the webinar, the archives are the next best thing to being there.

If you are signed up for a guest presentation, do your best to make the webinar because it is up to each guest presenter whether or not their class will be archived. In addition, Attending a live webinar gives you the chance to contribute during the webinar. For example, in our "Light a Fire Under Your Ward" webinar, we give all those attending the opportunity to share the things they have done in their own wards. The attendee comments often shed new light on the subjects being discussed.

Each month we cover some of the basics of FamilyInsight and then add other topics on top of that. We also invite guest presenters to share their knowledge on various subjects. You may recognize many of these presenters from various Family History Expo conferences. Also, if you know a presenter for a topic that you think others would enjoy, let us know. You can also contact us if there is a subject you would like to have covered in a future webinar. Just send us an e-mail to webinars@ohanasoftware.com.

The webinars are one way of helping people get together and learn from one another. We all have unique experiences that give us knowledge that may be needed by others. Family History is a wonderful work that benefits greatly from sharing ideas and insights.

Our webinar archive page is linked at the bottom of the webinars page or you can go to the archive page by [clicking here](#)

Success Stories New!

Since the release of FamilyInsight and the beginning of our webinars we have received numerous success stories from our customers. Following the spirit of sharing we are excited to start passing those stories on to you.

This month our success story comes from JaNice Taylor of Aiken, South Carolina who wrote us because of what she had learned at last month's webinar on Record Search:

"I come from families where my great grandparents did a lot of genealogy and temple work. It is easy to think like some of my aunts and uncles who told me, "It has all been done." For the past 44 years most of my family history work ...has been gathering and combining family records, talking to my grandparents' generation while they were living, sorting out misunderstandings in the records, and getting it all into an electronic data format, and trying to light a fire under my family by sharing it.

We have a Danish line that my great grandfather and subsequent family genealogists thought was at a dead end because my 3rd great grandfather Anders Jensen and his wife Kirstine Zacariasdtr moved to Denmark from Norway, and nothing was recorded about where they came from in Norway. We had birth and christening records for six children born to this couple in Denmark, with my 2nd GGfather Jens Andersen being the oldest. To make a long story shorter, I went to the Family History Library in Salt Lake in 2007 ...and with the help of a good sister there we found this family on the 1834 Danish census and the 1845 census which listed their birthplaces. Anders was born in Christiania, Norway and Kirstine was born in Tonsberg, Norway. There was a son Jonas, age 19 on the 1834 census that was a puzzle because according to the family records our Jens, who would have been about 14 then, but wasn't named on it, was the oldest child for this couple. For a couple of years I have had a question about this Jonas -- was he an older son or was the name transcribed wrong from Jens, 14 to Jonas 19. The writing on the original census record was not clear.

Finding anything definitive for Anders Jensen in Christiania, Oslo ...did not seem a likely place to begin, but a search around the locality of Tonsberg, Vestfold, Norway for Kirstine Zacariasdtr yielded a plausible marriage record for a couple with their names. It was an extraction record, and further search yielded an extracted christening record for a Kisti Sachariasdtr that matched the marriage record and had her parents' names on it. So, I had advanced that far, a possible marriage record for a couple with the same names as my ancestors and a possible christening record for the Kirstine in the marriage record. If the marriage record applied to our Anders and Kirstine they were married in 1812. Jens, the first child on our record was born in 1820 in Denmark. It was probable that there were other children born before him.

Just a few days before the webinar I sent a plea to my sisters, cousins, and nieces and nephews who are interested in genealogy to see if they would help me with the research on the question about Jonas. After viewing the webinar on Record Search I put Jonas in the search window and lo and behold I found Jonas! He was born to Anders Jensen and Kirstine Zacariasdtr in Stokke, Vestfold, Norway in Nov 1814. He would have been 19 when the census was taken early in 1834. More searching, using the technique demonstrated on the webinar (not putting in too much information, in fact I think I only put in the parents' names and possibly the location) yielded christening records for two more daughters born to this couple. The exciting thing is that one of them is Marta, born in Aug 1812. There is a Martha Andersdtr, age 23 on the 1834 Danish census, "a married woman living with them." Martha fits the profile for Marta, as their first child, born in Stokke; she would be 23 in 1834. I felt quite sure after I found Jonas that I had the right family that came from Norway to Denmark, but linking Marta to that married Martha who was not identified as their daughter on the census and finding [their] christening records in Norway was the clincher. I am so excited about that. Further search yielded extracted marriage records for Kirstine's parents and siblings, a sister named on the same christening record as Kirstine, (a twin?), and an extracted christening record for an older brother, also named Jonas.

From time to time I feel a push, like an itch, to work on a family and my experience has been that when I really start looking for someone, opportunities present themselves and doors miraculously open like this. I felt a prompting to update my Ohana software, I see FamilyInsight and that there are webinars, I feel a strong interest, and...this comes of it. Because of the extraction program these people's ordinance work is done, but until now they were not linked to their siblings on any records or our family; we did not know about them, nor did I recognize the clues I had nor have an idea where or how to make use of the clues I had. The webinar opened my eyes to available technology and the technique to use it and pull it all together. Now I believe we have all the children for this couple. We know where Kirstine's family lived and have identified and linked her parents and at least some of her siblings. What great progress in a few weeks! Thanks so much!"

JaNice Taylor

Aiken, South Carolina

Augusta Georgia Stake

Webinars

We want to thank all that have taken part in our webinars so far. We all learn from the experiences of others. We now offer the webinars to anyone that wants to sign up. Our upcoming classes are:

1. New Resources to Make It Easier - Guest Presenter: Paul Larsen

There's so much new stuff for family history, it's easy to feel somewhat overwhelmed. Here's a colorful tour of the new web sites and tools to guide beginners and empower experts using today's technology. Learn about unique LDS resources on the Internet, the top 10 U.S. web sites, and the best of the Internet to search for your ancestors. Learn how to make it easier, save time, and have fun connecting to your ancestors. Come join us and see what you're missing.

- Tuesday, October 6th
- 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM MDT

To sign up for this webinar, [click here](#).

2. How to Light a Fire Under Your Ward

Join us as we share some fun and fabulous tips for getting everyone excited about doing genealogy. Everyone has something they can do to contribute to their family history. Come learn how to motivate and inspire everyone, including the people who "just don't have the time".

- Wednesday, October 7th, 2009
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM MDT

To sign up for this webinar, [click here](#).

3. Syncing files with FamilySearch using FamilyInsight

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 BYU-Idaho Family History Conference.**

- Saturday, October 17th, 2009
- 3:40 PM - 4:40 PM MDT

To sign up for this webinar, [click here](#).

4. FamilyInsight for Beginners

Come learn the basics of FamilyInsight. We'll show you how to get rid of duplicate records, correct place names, and quickly update your file from new.familysearch.org. We will also give you all the tips and tricks you need to easily navigate and edit information using FamilyInsight.

- Wednesday, October 28th, 2009
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MDT

To sign up for this webinar, [click here](#).

Watch our [Webinar page](#) for future additions to the schedule.

If you would like to watch a video of past webinars, please visit our [Webinar Archive](#).

Odds and Ends

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 updates 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.

Now through Oct 11, 2009 you can get a [33% discount on your One Great Family Membership](#)

World Vital Records has added [Indexed Census records](#) to their database.

Calendar

October 16th-17th, 2009

California Family History Expo 2009

Redding Convention Center

747 Auditorium Drive

Redding, California 96001

FamilyInsight and other genealogy classes.

John Vilburn and other Ohana Software representatives will be present.

[Click here](#) for more information.

October 17, 2009

BYU-Idaho Family History Conference

Thomas E. Ricks building

BYU-Idaho

Rexburg, Idaho

FamilyInsight and other genealogy classes.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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.

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