October 10, 2013 Comments and Notes

I. **FamilySearch.org points.** www.familysearch.org

     A. We know that millions of records are being added all the time. Keep coming back to see if your needed records have been digitized.

     B. Click the "Search" tab.

          1. If you know the "Batch Number or film number" that is the best way to find a record. Where would you find them? Many LDS records have them at the bottom. Census records. Etc.

          2. You can enter names and refine the search by selecting one or more of the blue buttons. Remember to remove them after the search because they remain in the background for the next search unless you remove them.

          3. What many people overlook is the "Browse by Location at the bottom of the page. This tells you what records are available for that country/continent.

          4. The top menu bar has important categories. Take time to explore.

          5. Click the green "Family Search" at the top of the page to return to the main page.

     C. The "Family Tree" tab is new and a great area of emphasis. The basic tenant is that one tree is entered for each family. Any member of the family can add, change or delete data. Reasons for the change are needed. This way if an error is found, only one tree is needed to be changed. (Tell my story.) Photos and stories can be added to the basic raw data you would expect. At the core of this new element is the requirement for accurate sources. This is a must here.

          1. Log in. "Find" Don Garrett". Select first one. This is not our speaker (note this one is dead). (Please do not make changes just to see how it works.)

          2. You can see his parents to the left, brother and sister. By clicking on the father and then "Person", you can see all the info on this person. Where information is missing ("Christening" and "Burial") anyone can add that if they have a source.

          3. You can see the latest changes on the right.

          4. You can see family member data down below.

          5. Obviously I am not going to change any data just for our demonstration.

          6. You can click the "Watch List" tab to be notified when any changes are made.

          7. Click the green "Family Search" at the top of the page to return to the main page.

D. Click the "Getting Started" tab. Especially beginners, spend some time here. This is a great way to introduce you to how to get started.

E. Click the "Learning Center" tab while you are at this "Getting Started" tab. Great videos here. Even the advanced genealogists who thinks "I know how to do this" can benefit from these videos. These are short videos. Pick and choose to fit your needs.

1. Down under "Beginning Genealogy Courses" select #10 Using Name variations to show.

2. Under "Most popular Courses select ""If I'd Known! Beginner Genealogy Mistakes" to show.

F. Go back to the "Getting Started" tab. Select "Research Wiki". As you can see, there are many topics to select to use the Wiki tool. Start by selecting "About Wiki" under "Beginning Research at the bottom or at the top. The drop down menu at the bottom changes and allows you to select several topics.

G. Click the green "Family Search" at the top of the page to return to the main page.

II. **Family History/Learning Centers.** The LDS Family History/Learning Centers can provide invaluable assistance in your genealogical research. These centers are staffed with volunteers who can help you find records, order LDS films, etc. Their locations in our area are shown below:

A. 745 West Main, Silverton, OR. 503-873-3458. Please contact Lisa Lowell at 503-873-6719 for times and assistance. This is a center has limited resources and operates at limited times but it is close and can provide great services.

B. 862 45th Avenue NE, Salem, OR 503-409-2679. Open Tuesdays 9am-4pm, Wednesdays 2pm-9pm, and Fridays 9am-2pm. This center is staffed with volunteers. Resources include computers, books, and microfiche and film. They are organized to do research primarily with books, atlases, and film with backup support from computers. They have very pleasant volunteers.

C. 4550 Lone Oak Road SE, Salem, OR 503-990-8329. Open Sundays 4pm-7pm, Tuesdays 9am-9pm, Wednesdays 6pm-9pm, Thursdays 3pm-9pm, 1st Friday 6pm-9pm, and Saturdays 9am-12pm. Closed first weekend in April, Father's day, July 4-6, and first weekend in October. They emphasize research using computers with some information on film. I did not see any books or atlases when I visited.

III. **Legacy webinars.** http://www.familytreewebinars.com/

A. At the top you can select "Upcoming Webinars" or "Archived Webinars". If you sign up for an upcoming webinar, you will get email notices to remind you of the date and time. Webinars are free if you watch them as they are broadcast or within 7 days of the broadcast. Archived webinars are not free after the seven days. Yearly subscriptions are $49.95 and monthly subscriptions are $9.95.

B. Of interest might be an upcoming webinar on Wednesday, Oct 23 at 11am on "Using Church Records to Identify Ancestors". We are considering a visit to a site for archived church records. This would give a great start on that visit. Just click on the "More Details and Registration" tab. Gifts and prizes are awarded to random viewers at the end of the live broadcast.

IV. **Backups and safety of your documents.**

A. We continue to recommend frequent backups of your data. Consider multiple methods – flash drives, CDs, a second computer, external hard drives, or "Cloud" type backup programs (Carbonite, Ironmountain, Barracuda, Dropbox, Mozy, etc.) (No endorsement of these programs is intended. They are listed only as examples.).

B. Store copies of your backups in multiple places. (e.g. safe deposit box, fire safe at home, relative's house, etc.) Some companies like Ancestry allow you to post your data online. Is this a good backup method? Probably, but use with caution and maybe as a last resort.

C. What about your research documents? I know you have organized them in some fashion for easy access. But are they safe from fire or theft? They are just as important as your computer files and maybe more so. Could you replace them if they were lost? Scan or take a digital camera image of each document. Store and protect them as would your genealogy data. This is a major concern. Please do not disregard.