



## In This Issue ...

Getting to Know the Rexburg, Idaho Family History Library, with Angie Kivett ..... 1

Inside the Guide: Warming Up to Research ..... 3

Progress Report: The New Beta Site ..... 5

On the Horizon..... 5

## Rexburg, Idaho Family History Library: Angie Kivett

*Editor's Note: Angie Kivett is a seasoned genealogist, instructor, and co-director of the Rexburg, Idaho Family History Center (near BYU-Idaho). She gave us an inside look at what makes that Center one of the most popular in the Western states.*

*TFHG: What's your current family history assignment?*

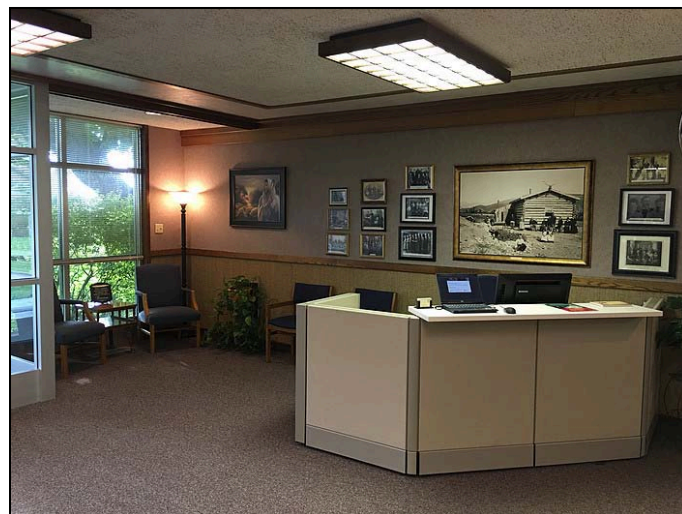
*Angie: Just two and a half years ago, my husband and I began serving as the Directors of the Rexburg Idaho Family History Center. Stan is a Professor*



in the Religion Department at Brigham Young University-Idaho and I am a family history enthusiast who stays busy with 12 children and 22 grandchildren: eight of our children are married, and four still live at home.

*TFHG: Tell us about the Rexburg Family History Center.*

*Angie: With this unique opportunity, we serve, teach, inspire and encourage all things "family history" for the entire Rexburg area, including the surrounding towns. Almost 1000 patrons come to the Rexburg FHC Center every month to discover how to best enjoy their own personal family history adventures, We have the privilege of assisting people of all ages as they seek to find and learn about their ancestors. BYU-Idaho brings 18,000 students to Rexburg all year long, and while the University has its own small Family History facility, we serve in our own spheres to help students who come here from all over the world.*



*Reception area, Rexburg Family History Center*



The Rexburg Family History Center is staffed by 60+ volunteers who are committed to encouraging and kindly assisting all who come to our Center. We have two computer rooms and a total of 50 computers all situated beautifully in what used to be an LDS Seminary building. With impressive instructors teaching dozens of classes each month, we cater to all skill levels. One-on-one instruction is available after each class with the instructor, if attendees desire this service.

Our Media Room draws people in from all over Southeast Idaho to digitize old media, using easy to follow instruction binders - all at no cost. We assist with moving photographs, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, documents, letters, old journals, etc., to the computer and then to the patron's USB device. Next, we assist with moving the digitized keepsakes to the Memories section in FamilySearch, or to any cloud service desired.



Media Room

We often hear from parents and grandparents that their children are just too busy to add family history efforts to their lives. Because we know that blessings that can come to all who participate in family history efforts, we assertively reach out to all age groups – but we especially focus on the youth, young adults and busy young families. We invite them to lend their quick minds and computer skills to this great genealogical effort. Young people are easily drawn to and grasp how and why searching out our ancestors

can be exciting, rewarding - and addictive - on so many wonderful levels.

*TFHG: How do you get youth involved in family history activities?*

*Angie:* This past summer we invited all youth 12 to 19 years of age to our Center, every Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to hang out with peers and enjoy all kinds of family history experiences. We used a menu of choices such as



- Indexing
- Using family history apps
- Add sources to a family tree
- Doing research
- Build effective timelines
- Getting to know one's heritage

We worked alongside youth staff members who were trained to assist them. There were over 100 youth that showed up every Monday. We watched in amazement as these youth had fun together while becoming comfortable and confident with family history. I should admit that we provided free pizza at noon each Monday, which may have been a perk that added to the successful turnout.

*TFHG: How do you let others know what's going on at the Center?*

*Angie:* We use social media as well as our own website, FamilyHistoryNow.org, to promote our Center's offerings. We encourage online learning opportunities for those who want to grow, improve, and learn with the latest and greatest techniques - from home or anywhere they have access to a computer and the Internet. We showcase our very favorite links and websites so all can succeed, with or without a trip to the Family History Center.

*TFHG: What kind of support do you lend to the community?*



*Angie:* We work closely with church leaders in this area to offer training to their leaders, consultants and congregations. We train Family History Consultants by ensuring they have the skills needed to successfully use the Find-Take-Teach emphasis of FamilySearch.

We have learned that great success comes when consultants know how to use the "Help Other" feature found in FamilySearch. We encourage them to find one person every week who will let the consultant find them a fun success path, before they meet with them in person or over the phone. When the "Help Other" feature is used to prepare ahead of time, we can almost guaranteed a great outcome for both the consultant and the person they are helping. All of this information is available on our website's home page, where anyone can click on the "Find-Take-Teach" graphic to access short videos and a pamphlet that have proven to be very useful.

*TFHG:* Any parting thoughts for us on family history?

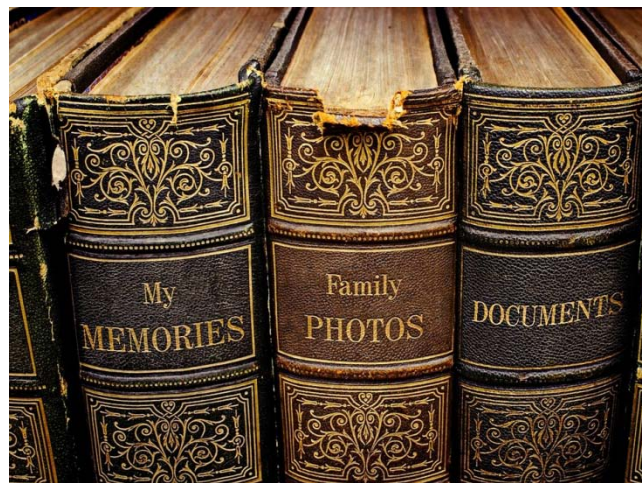
*Angie:* Yes - what a privilege and great responsibility it is to live in a time on this earth when hearts are turning - like never before - to family members who have gone before us. We often hear people say they have no idea why they have walked in to the Family History Center that day. We just smile, knowing that discovery, joy and even miracles are about to connect the living and the dead in ways that are hard to explain.



To follow the latest happenings at the Rexburg Family History Center, visit <http://www.familyhistorynow.org>

## Inside the Guide: Warming Up to Research

One of the most common worries for beginning genealogists is, "I don't know where to start with my family history research." Fortunately, The Family History Guide has an entire project dedicated to getting started with research - Project 4: Discover. What's more, there are individual Projects for over 50 countries, all 50 U.S. states, and five ethnic groups.



But what you may not realize is that The Family History Guide also has some great "warm-up" tools for research. These are found in Project 1: Family Tree and Project 2: Memories.

### Warming Up

You may be asking, "What if I'm already doing my research? Why would I need a warm-up?" Fair question, and here are two reasons you might want to consider: a) using a warm-up approach can help you find overlooked or unconsidered clues, and b) "warming up" helps you avoid skipping steps or moving too quickly to conclusions. The warm-up phase helps you gather and organize the information you already have, or can easily get, and then work to refine and improve it.



Below are the Projects and Goals that can help you *warm up* to the research ahead of you. (We're assuming you are familiar with FamilySearch Family Tree navigation - if not, please review Project 1: Family Tree first.)

- Project 1: Goal 1 (Navigation) or Goal 5 (Alternate Views)
- Project 2: Memories - Goal 2, Browse Memories
- Project 2: Memories - Goal 3, Organize Photos
- Project 1: Goal 9, Find-a-Record

**Project 1, Goal 1 (FamilySearch Navigation) or Goal 5 (Alternate Views)**

The reason for warming up with these Goals in Project 1 is simply to get a lay of the land - to see at a glance which areas of your family tree are thinner or less documented than others. You can use the traditional Landscape view in Family Tree (Goal 1) to see a few generations at a time, or a fan chart view (Goal 5) to see a wider picture at once. You can get an even bigger view by using Puzzilla (Project 3, Goal 3), or a more flexible view by using Virtual Pedigree (Goal 5).



If your tree is small or empty, use the suggestions in Project 1: Goal 1, Choice F to begin to fill it out.

*Notice the "bare areas" in your family tree and write down research goals for those areas going forward.*

**Project 2, Goal 2 (Browsing Memories on FamilySearch)**

This is an underused strategy. There may be many photos and documents waiting for your discovery in FamilySearch memories. (I remember the first time I saw



the photo gallery in Memories; I was amazed at how many photos of my ancestors had been posted, but that I had never seen.)

Follow the instructions in Project 2, Goal 2 to locate photos and documents of your ancestors in FamilySearch Memories. You can also browse public member trees in Ancestry or MyHeritage to look for documents and photos, and you can even Google for additional items.

*Write down links to photos and documents of your ancestors that you find online, or download the items.*

**Project 2, Goal 3 (Organize photos and documents of ancestors)**

This task is pretty straightforward. You can go through boxes or folders of photos that you have access to, or organize your digital memories on your computer. You can also correspond with relatives and friends to collect more items, or get in touch with those who have posted items online.

This helps you build a stronger base of documentation for existing family lines, and you may find new people to add to your tree as well. For tips on organizing photos and documents, see the Steps in Choices A-D of Goal 3.

*Organize your photos and documents, collect more of them, and begin to fill in the information gaps for your ancestors' families.*

**Project 1, Goal 9 (Find-a-Record updates)**

Now that you've surveyed your tree and gathered photos and documents of



ancestors, it's time to add or improve data for them in FamilySearch. While you can add and change information directly in Family Tree, it can sometimes be difficult to quickly find the ancestors who need updating. Another approach is to use the free Find-a-Record website - [www.findarecord.com](http://www.findarecord.com) - which automatically looks for your ancestors who have incomplete or incorrect data and displays



them for you in a list. Then you can change the info in Find-a-Record, and your changes will be added to Family Tree.

Once you are in Find-a-Record, select the Problems and Cleanup categories to correct information, and the Person, Sources, and Relationships categories to add information.

In future articles, we'll focus on the next phases of research: Getting Started, Choosing a Strategy, and Time and Place.

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## Progress Report: The New Beta Site

The new-look beta site is coming along well - in fact, things are going slightly ahead of schedule for the Nov. 15 release, when the finished Beta is released as Version 2 of The Family History Guide website.

Here are the most recent items we've finished (you can also see these on the Beta site at <http://www.thefhguide.com/beta/about-beta.html>):

- Country pages in all continents except South America and Africa. Still to come are QUIKLinks, flags, extra pictures, etc., for each page.
- Pages for all 50 U.S states. Still to come are pages for Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.



### To Do

Here are some of the items on the to-do list, besides the ones mentioned above:

- Search bar on all pages

- Google Translate bar on all pages
- Course Catalog update
- Tracker sheet links and Tracker page update (Training)
- Up-arrow added to Introduction page
- Additional screen shots for several Projects, to enhance steps
- Enhancements to the LDS Project
- Proofing all links and content

## On the Horizon

We will be at all Family History Fairs listed below. For details, see the Events link on the website for details ([www.thefhguide.com/events.html](http://www.thefhguide.com/events.html)).

**Pavahnt Valley Family History Conference** - is on Oct. 15 in Delta UT.

**Pikes Peak Family History Conference** - is on Nov. 5 in Colorado Springs, CO.

**BYU Webinar: Version 2 of The Family History Guide** - is on Dec. 7, 2016. To register, go to <https://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/classes-and-webinars/online-webinars/>

**RootsTech Conference** - is on Feb. 8-11 in Salt Lake City, UT.



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