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## Meet the New Advisory Board for The Family History Guide

*Editor's Note: In September, an Advisory Board was created for The Family History Guide, L3C.*

It has been less than 15 months since The Family History Guide launched its website, but its growth and acceptance worldwide has been nothing short of phenomenal. That growth has led us to the next logical step: forming an Advisory Board.

Basically, the Advisory Board provides important guidance in the direction of the company, as well as providing perspectives on strategic planning, legal matters, design issues, and user experience. It helps us focus on and meet our main goal: to deliver the best free learning and resource site on the Internet.

Advisory Board members are not paid, and they are independent of The Family History Guide L3C. You can find out more about Advisory Boards in this [Wikipedia article](#).

Here are the new Advisory Board Members:

### James Tanner



James L. Tanner has spent over 34 years in genealogical research and is the avid blogger of "Genealogy's Star" and "Rejoice, and Be Exceeding Glad". He spent eight years as a missionary at the Mesa, Arizona FamilySearch Library and is presently serving at the BYU Family History Library. James is a frequent presenter at family history expos and conferences around the U.S. and Canada.

James previously owned a retail computer business and an Apple Macintosh software company, and he is a professional photographer. He holds a B.A. in Spanish and an M.A. in Linguistics from the University of Utah, as well as a J.D. in Law from Arizona State University. He spent two years as an Intelligence Analyst in the U.S. Army and 39 years as an Arizona trial attorney. James and his wife Ann have seven children and 33 grandchildren.



## Ann Tanner

Ann Wessman Tanner was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, graduated from the University of Utah and taught English. She married James Tanner many years ago and is the mother of five daughters and two sons, all of whom are married and living around the country. Ann and James lived in Arizona for the past 43 years, then moved to Provo, Utah two years ago.



Ann served two LDS Church Service missions at the Mesa FamilySearch Library and currently serves at the BYU Family History Library where she coordinates the Sunday classes, teaches, and prepares training for the missionaries at the Library. She owns a printing and computer design company in the Provo, Utah area.

## Sue Maxwell

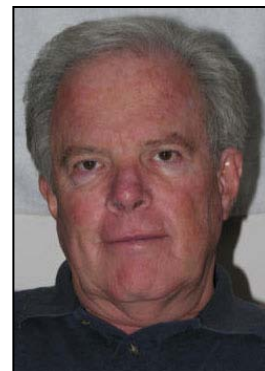
Sue Maxwell is an experienced genealogist, speaker, trainer and mentor, with an emphasis in technology and social media. She publishes the Granite Genealogy blog site and has been actively involved in the genealogy community since retiring from management career.



Sue has served as Vice President of the Utah Genealogical Association and currently serves as an Area Family History Advisor under FamilySearch direction.

## Paul D. Maxwell

Paul D. Maxwell retired after working 30 years in the IT industry. His areas of expertise included database administration, systems performance, and network management. Paul also serves as an Area Family History Advisor under FamilySearch direction.



## Laurie Beardall

Laurie Beardall is currently serving as the Assistant Director over Patron Services at the Sandy Granite Family History Center. She works with over 65 family history consultants and is responsible for their scheduling and training. She has also served as a Youth Advisor, instructing them on how to use The Family History Guide.



Laurie has taught seminars at the Riverton FamilySearch Library, as well as numerous family history fairs. She also enjoys being a Family History Consultant herself, teaching classes and mentoring others.

## David Coles

David Coles MBA, PMP, CSM graduated from BYU with a BS degree in Computer-Aided Engineering. He later graduated with an MBA from the University Of Santa Clara, CA, with focus on business management and new product conception. Over the last 40 years he has managed a host of projects ranging from new





startups to large corporate automation systems. He has served as a stake genealogy program coordinator and provided training in genealogical research to large and diverse congregations and classroom environments.

David has launched multiple products in the marketplace, ranging from document management systems to water skier safety devices to online sales of antiques and recreational products. His experience and knowledge bring a broad focus on strategic planning, successful trade show marketing, and new product development and delivery. Dave has run 21 marathons, following the legacy of his father and many siblings. Dave and his wife Diane have six children and 18 grandchildren.

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## Digging D.I.R.T.

Part of the excitement of family history work is "getting your hands dirty" with stories, census records, deeds, birth certificates, passport applications and more. Not coincidentally, there's a group based in the Charleston, South Carolina area that brings a whole new meaning to the phrase - it's D.I.R.T. - aka "Digging Into Roots Together".



Charleston, South Carolina

The Family History Guide held a brief interview with D.I.R.T. to learn more about what they are doing to promote genealogy research in the southeast United States.

*TFHG: How did DIRT get started?*

D.I.R.T. (Digging Into Roots Together) began with Linda Mecchi. An avid amateur genealogist who was working on her own family tree, she thought it would be fun to see who else in her community might share her interest and like to get together regularly to work on their family trees. Her idea quickly caught the interest of her neighbor, Denise Doyon, who helped Linda get the group off the ground and continues to work with her to manage the group and the meetings.



*TFHG: What are the key activities your group is involved in?*

The goal of D.I.R.T. has always been to provide guidance and resources to the group in the form of presentations, lectures, field trips, etc. Denise developed a blog which serves as the main source of communication with the group, passing along information about family history that might be of interest to the members. It is also the repository of links to many, many genealogical resources. During the second year of D.I.R.T., Lynn Baker joined the group, bringing his own expertise and experience and has been working to educate the members in



preserving their photos and documents as well as being our main expert on The Family History Guide.

*TFHG: What has made D.I.R.T. a successful venture?*

D.I.R.T. is a very small group of folks (about 70 on our list at this writing), made up of people at all levels of experience. We try to keep the format open and regularly solicit input from the group to find out what they would like to learn about and how we can help them meet their research goals. Members come to meetings and pay dues of \$15 per year.

*TFHG: What do you hope to accomplish in the next few years?*

Our only goal is to make sure we are meeting the needs of the members of the group - and so we will "go with the flow". We are planning a research project for the first three months of 2017 that we hope will engage the members in working with each other to break through brick walls and help fill in missing information in their family trees. Ultimately we hope to help our members find the joy of connecting with their ancestors in an organized way that they can then share with the generations of the future.

## D.I.R.T. Blog Site

The D.I.R.T. blog site is located at <http://diggingtogether.blogspot.com/>

Here are a few of the features on the blog site:

- Beginner's Corner - advice, tips, and resources for family history beginners
- Resources - links to tips, articles, and handy research templates
- Computer Classes by Lynn Baker - lots of great tips for photos and scanning

## Falling in Love?

Recently a good friend of mine confessed to me, "Over the past few months, I have been falling in love ..." I thought that was a bit odd, considering he is happily married. And then he finished his thought - "...with my grandparents and great-grandparents."

Now I've heard a lot of ancestor stories in my time, and lots of accounts of love, courtship, and marriage, but honestly, I had never heard it put quite that way - that you could fall in love with the people that your ancestors were and are.

Yes, there may be those "embarrassing" members in your family tree, or ancestors who seemed to lead plain and simple lives - or even lives that remain a mystery to this day. But my friend had connected in a very real way with documented stories and photos of his ancestors that he scarcely knew before - and he was simply blown away by their sacrifices, their love, and their life experiences. It literally brought him to the point of tears as he talked about what he had discovered about his own family, all the way back to pioneer ancestors.



And another thing he said struck a chord: "The stories you find don't have to be from the 1800's. They can be from the 1960's, 1970's, or even later, as long as they make a difference to you."



That started me thinking about the tremendous opportunities we have to gather, document, and share family histories of real people - whether their lives were ordinary or extraordinary. The Family History Guide, Project 2 plays a small part in all of this by helping people through the process of gathering and publishing memories for other to enjoy.

## On the Horizon

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

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

**Denver Multi-Stake Family History Center Training** - is on Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Easter Stake Center in Littleton, CO.

**BYU Webinar: Introduction to The Family History Guide, Version 2** - is on Nov. 11, 2016. To register, go to <https://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/classes-and-webinars/online-webinars/>

**BYU Webinar: Training with The Family History Guide, Version 2** - is on Nov. 16, 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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