



TimberTown Log/Newsletter

Encompassing all of Saginaw County, Including the surrounding Townships

Volume 46, Issue 4

TTL/Newsletter Date: December 2018

Published Four Times Per Year

Meeting Roster

Mark Your Calendars!

Monthly meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month from September through June (excluding July, August, and December) beginning at 6:30 PM at the Family History Center at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1415 N. Center Road, near Brockway. After a brief business meeting, presentations will begin at 7:00 PM. Below are the known meeting dates and the topics for the 2018-2019 program year.

January: Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
with Phil Ellison

February: Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019
LAND PATENTS
by Berta Schumacher

March: Tuesday, March 12, 2019
DIARIES AND JOURNALS
"Continuing the Family Story"
by Stacy Wells

April: Tuesday, April 9, 2019
DNA TRIANGULATION
by Berta Schumacher

May: Tuesday, May 14, 2019
YOUR DNA: PART 2
by Dan Earl

June: Tuesday, June 11, 2019
ELECTIONS and POTLUCK DINNER
Location to be determined

*There are no meetings held in July, August, or December. If any member has **meeting program ideas**, please see a board member or send an email to: saggensoc@gmail.com. Thank you!*

Saginaw Family History Center

The Saginaw Family History Center, located at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is open for research on these days:

Tuesdays 1:00 – 4:00 PM
Wednesdays 6:00 – 9:00 PM
Saturdays 12:00 – 3:00 PM



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Wednesdays 6:00 – 9:00 PM
Saturdays 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Inclement Weather Policy: If Saginaw Township Schools are closed due to a snow day, the Family History Center will be closed. SGS meetings on Tuesdays will also be canceled if the Township schools are closed. Please call 989-793-1696 for more information. It will also be on the WNEM TV5 closings and cancellations page.

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER and NOVEMBER MEETINGS:

The Saginaw Genealogical Society met on Tuesday, October 9, 2018. **Paul Machesky** and **Don Pearson** discussed estate planning. Paul is the managing partner of Estate Planning Legal Services PCA. Questions brought up were: Who will receive your assets after your death? Who will pay your final expenses? Who will make health care decisions for you if you are incapacitated? Does your family know your feelings and wishes? Would you like any of your assets donated to a charity/church? Are there specific parties to whom you would like to receive your assets?

On November 13th, our speaker was **Art Vasold** who presented a PowerPoint about **Aleda Lutz** and her Saginaw heritage for our Veteran's Day presentation. Art's mother was the sister of Aleda. If you are interested in reading more about Aleda, refer to our TTL/Newsletter of March 2018, Volume 46, Issue 1.

How Did That Town Get That Name ?

Heisterman Island – Huron County: **Carl H. Heisterman** bought its 400 acres from the federal government in 1851; he and his wife lived here alone, except for a few friendly Indians, for more than 30 years; now a duck hunting and small game refuge; the Indian name for it was "Chinquaka", or "Stony Island", and on some current maps it is called Stony Island.

Hell – Livingston County: (*You KNOW you've always wanted to know how THIS town got its name!!*) The community dates from 1841 when New Yorkers, migrating westward via the Erie Canal, took over a small sawmill, adding a flour mill and a distillery owned by **George Reeves**. When asked what the town that he had helped form should be called, he supposedly replied, "I don't care, you can name it Hell for all I care," and they took him literally. Another theory is that he paid his workers in whiskey produced in his distillery, and when they chose to drink it rather than go home, their wives would exclaim they had "gone to hell again." A more sensible but less fun possible explanation comes from the hellish conditions early settlers found in the area, from swampy marshlands to swarms of mosquitoes. The final theory concerns a pair of German travelers, who upon arriving in the town in the 1830s, proclaimed it was "so schön hell!"—meaning "so beautifully bright." Hell has been a May 1-Sept. 30 rural

station of Pinckney since July, 1961. The name became official on October 13, 1841.

Hemans - Sanilac County: a station on the Detroit, Bay City & Western Railroad, in Lamotte Township; first called "Poverty Nook", it was renamed for **Lawton T. Hemans**, Michigan historian, in 1914; storekeeper **Austin G. Wentworth** became its first postmaster on March 6, 1916, the office opening until June 30, 1933.

Hemlock – Saginaw County: **Philo Thomas** became the first settler here in 1865, followed by **John Codd** in 1866; **W. S. Gillespie** built a sawmill here in 1868, and soon after, the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis Railroad came through from Saginaw, bringing an influx of settlers; given a post office as Hemlock City on May 24, 1869, with **Jacob King** as its first postmaster, the name being shortened to Hemlock on March 27, 1895; named from the vast number of hemlock trees which covered the area.

Henderson-- Shiawassee County: **Gideon Lee**, of New York City, entered the first land here in Rush Township in 1836; he sold it to **Josiah Isham** who in turn sold it to **Andrew Henderson**, of Ohio, in 1858, his son, **John Henderson**, for whom the village was first named, as Hendersonville, built the first store in 1868 and the first hotel in 1875; given a post office as Hazel Green (changed later to Henderson) on May 14, 1868, with **William Cook** as its first postmaster, the office was renamed Henderson on October 16, 1876; the village was platted by **Ezra Mason** for **Andrew Henderson** in 1879; its station on a branch of the Michigan Central Railroad was first named Henderson's.

**Question #1: What building in
downtown Saginaw was built in 1887
by Van Brunt & Howe of Boston?**

Help Out at the Hoyt Library

Hoyt Library of Saginaw needs help with a scanning project. This project includes scanning real estate photographs and documents. You can see some of the work that has been done at <http://www.saginawimages.org>.

If you are available to volunteer, please contact **Chris Applin** at capplin@saginawlibrary.org. Chris is at the library Monday through Thursday 12:00pm to 6:00pm and half days every other Friday and Saturday.

Please consider helping us help our library.

Haenlein Family Sticks With Hemmeter School

from Saginaw's *The Township Times*
September 19, 1979, Section A, Pg 13



When the new school year started in 1875, Indians still roamed the Saginaw Township area, but **William F. Haenlein**, an area forefather, didn't get much chance to roam. He had to attend Swarthout School on the present Hemmeter School location.

As it turned out, he was the first of five generations to attend the school from the **Haenlein** clan.

Established in 1837, the school was first called "Black School" due to the exterior color of the building. Constructed at a cost of \$175, the school house was used to educate students in the basics, "readin', writin', and 'rithmetic".

By 1893 the school had acquired the name "Hemmeter School", and in 1896, **William's** son, **Louis W. Haenlein**, began attending the school.

Louis Haenlein still lives in the house where he was born on Mackinaw Road (or Mackinaw Trail, as it was first named). According to his daughter-in-law, **Mrs. Fred Haenlein**, the 89-year-old gentleman is in good health, and very alert and an extremely interesting conversationalist. [*editor's note: This article was in the Saginaw Township Times in September of 1979*]

In 1901, Louis Haenlein went from Hemmeter School to a Lutheran school in Saginaw City, but in 1932 through 1940 his son, **Fred E. Haenlein**, was attending

Hemmeter School.

Keeping tradition alive, Fred's daughter, **Sandy Haenlein Hales**, attended Hemmeter in 1955 to 1960. Her daughter, **Wendy**, roamed the educational halls in the 1978-79 school year. Wendy now attends Mackinaw Middle School. [*editor's note: Mackinaw Middle no longer exists, however, the building/school is now Sherwood Elementary*]

Hemmeter School is currently an elementary school in Saginaw Township. It is now a the Gifted and Talented program for elementary students. [*editor's note: I attended Hemmeter from 1959-63 and I didn't even have to be SMART!*]

WORD OF THE MONTH: Amsel

Noun meaning:

Try to find it in this newsletter!

German: from **Amsel** (European) blackbird (a bird related to the American robin), hence either a nickname for someone fond of singing or an occupational name for a bird catcher.



Find it in this newsletter!

Famicity: A Private Family Social Network

November 20, 2018 By Amie Tennant

A little like Facebook, Famicity, offers an easy-to-use social sharing platform—but in a more personal and secure way. When one family member opens a free account on Famicity and invites other family members to join, you create a private family network where you all can have fun sharing pictures and stories. One unique feature of Famicity is that, once you sign up for the free service, you can download your family tree, photos, and memories from FamilySearch.org and then lock them down on Famicity for "by invitation only" access. Because Famicity is free of unwanted ads and posts, you can also feel safe allowing your whole family to participate, including the younger children.

Many people use the FamilySearch Memories app to preserve family photos and share photos of their deceased ancestors. Once you connect a photo to a deceased ancestor on the FamilySearch Family Tree, the photo can be seen by other FamilySearch users. Famicity allows you

to upload and share family photos in a private, secure network.

Many users have said they are using the Famicity platform as a sort of hub for their family to stay connected by sharing current photos and stories. Famicity allows families to have completely private interactions without the risk of having personal photos exposed as they may be on traditional social media outlets.

Sign Up for a Free Account at Famicity.com [Visit Famicity](#), and click **Register** in the top right corner. You can sign up using your FamilySearch account, an email and password, or a Facebook account. Remember, if you want to be able to import your family tree and photos from FamilySearch.org, you need to register for Famicity using your FamilySearch account information.

Traveling to Germany

by
Dr. Debra Burkholder Closurdo
a member of SGS

Dear Friends of the **Saginaw Genealogical Society**,

If you would allow me the privilege, I would love to share with you my wonderful experience in the German state of Bavaria this past summer (2018) exploring my family's roots. Perhaps in some way it will be helpful to you, too, as you consider "taking the plunge" into the unknown by visiting the country of your origins.

Best Regards,
Dr. Debra Burkholder Closurdo
(veterinarian)

The planning process started approximately five months ago (*editor's note: now 9 months ago*) when my parents and I enlisted the help of an experienced genealogist/tour guide from German-American Connection based in Bremen, Texas I must admit that I had some trepidation in hiring a complete stranger in Germany, whom I was not able to meet face-to-face until the day we arrived. Prior to this, strange and absurd thoughts went through my head, like: "Would they take our money and "run"? Would they do all of the research that they had promised? Would it be successful? Would we be safe in the country and in the hotels they put us up in?" So much trust was involved in people we had never met, but fortunately for us there were to be no worries. Unknowingly we had picked an outstanding genealogy service in our guide, Ute Melhorn—these small tours are her livelihood. We soon discovered that she puts her heart and soul into the research—and her expertise into the entire planning process—so that all we needed to do was to sit back, relax, soak up the ancestral information (with ample time for sight-seeing) and in short—just enjoy the trip!

I must admit that this *amazing adventure* would not have been possible had it not been for the help of our own SGS. Because of the invaluable information I gleaned from the group's posting a few years ago (on the "State Archive Nuremberg: 19th Century Emigrants from Central Franconia to North America") a major hole was punched in my genealogical "brick wall". To my delight, I was now able to pinpoint the exact German towns and occupations of my ancestors (and as a result, I enthusiastically became a member of SGS!)

So, this summer my dreams of traveling to my "ancestral homesteads" in the State of Bavaria, Germany (Rothenburg ob der Tauber and its neighboring towns, Gebtsattel and Geslau) became an almost unbelievable reality. Please note that you can only get so far on Ancestry.com before you find yourself going in circles and sometimes going off on a wild goose chase and at times blindly pasting wrong information into your family tree (yes, I had foolishly done just that as a "newbie"!) But from my trip I learned that many church records in these small towns are simply not accessible in any current database online—also tracking down the specific houses is challenging (whose numbering system of the past differs from those house numbers of today.) You need a genealogy expert who knows how to travel around the find these records and make the needed contacts; it also helps to be able to speak the language fluently (I was amazed at how very few people spoke English for in-depth communication when I was in Germany). Then, once all of the research is done by the professionals, you can just enjoy the travel experience.

Question #2: What were the names of the two hospitals in Saginaw before taking on the name of "Covenant"?

When we arrived in Bavaria, we were soon excited to find ourselves in the towns and homes of our ancestors and in the key churches where they were married and baptized. Our questions were answered about what life was like "back then" like seeing the actual farmhouse (#46 on Schloss Str. 6, Gebtsattel, over 500 years old!) and wondering how the family could live on the second floor of the house with their animals living downstairs below them and putting up with all of the sounds and smells. We learned that this arrangement was for warmth in the winter and for the convenience of caring for the livestock, facilitating general husbandry and especially helped when it came time for the animals to give birth. We pondered the many reasons why they may have emigrated: crop failures, disease, poverty, restrictive inheritance laws, land wars (drafting young men), and also including the incorporation of Rothenburg ob der Tauber into the newly created State of Bavaria in 1803, when it had formerly been an independent "Imperial City". This event apparently caused hardships in these nearby regions as well as in the city itself. We traveled through the now peaceful countryside and also visited an historical museum that put us in touch

with the past, featuring artifacts, local lore, metal-craft, and even enlightened us on the ladies' fashions back then.

We were astounded to find that the ancestral homes (at least in the particular towns in which we traveled) have been remarkably well preserved due to strict historic preservation laws in force throughout Germany. How fortunate we were that the ancient walled city of Rothenburg o.d.T. is considered one of the most historically preserved cities in Germany, and that we were able to spend so much time there exploring it!



It was also amazing to think that in the small farming village ("Dorf") of Gebssattel, located approximately 1 mile southeast from Rothenburg o.d.T., I found myself standing in the very same farmhouse courtyard as my ancestors did, looking at the same pear tree that my great-grandfather, (x4) **Georg Adam Schassberger**, may have planted and then some years later may have rested in its shade and eaten of its fruit. The tree is ancient today—over 200 years old! The same bird species would have been singing its chortling song to the early morning sunrise as the family stirred awake for their chores—the perky black Amsel bird which is similar to our Robin in habit—and the wide sunny fields of wheat and rye behind the houses are what my farmer kin would have labored in. I was also amazed that all the houses in the town are still historically numbered and their previous owners can be traced back with accuracy in the town records, dating back hundreds of years.

Note: a fascinating connection with the pear tree can be found in Monroe, Michigan where they later settled and became members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Emmanuel which was also known as the "Pear Tree Church". An article in the **Monroe Commercial** 21 of July 1864 spoke of the pear tree located "in the church yard, that was thought to be the largest pear tree in this vicinity, if not in the state". It was estimated to be at least 75 years old and there were four others near it "nearly as large". What a marvelous thread linking the new world with the old—perhaps the trees were a comforting reminder for those immigrants homesick for their native Germany. I wonder if those pear trees in Monroe, Michigan are of the same Bavarian stock.

The other major homestead, House #146, now 14, was within the walled city of Rothenburg ob der Tauber, located along a main thoroughfare called Spitalgasse, so called because it contained the "Spital", an archaic term for what we know as a hospital, although it was wider in scope, being a refuge for pilgrims, the poor, handicapped, the ill, but run like a business for the people who could pay

money. It was located next to the Heilig Geist Kirche (Church of the Holy Spirit) which was located a short walk down the street east of House #146. To my delight I found that this large house was now an antique store and we could walk right in.

In 1923, my great-grandfather (x4) **Gottfried Münzinger** owned the house which contained his livelihood—a "master cartwright's" workshop on the first floor with the family of four, including his wife, Anna Barbara Lohr and 2 children, living upstairs. We were able to stroll from room to room, marvel at the high ceilings and heavy double metal doors to the front. I could almost imagine the city's bustle and clip-clop of hooves on the street, the rattle of the harnesses and bridles, and the hammering of metal as the father and his only son, **Johann Nikolaus** (born in this house in 1824) worked their skilled craft on those weapons. And those big old antique metal doors—were they hand-made by my ancestors too so long ago...?



Rothenburg ob der Tauber Spitalhauf

Other questions could only be answered by my imagination such as: how did the farmer's daughter from Gebssattel (**Maria Apollonia Schassberger**) meet the young city craftsman, **Johann Nikolaus Münzinger**—a presumably strong, dashing, personable and energetic young man that she would eventually marry in 1848, when they were both 24 years old?

We learned that she may have passed through this city quarter many times selling her family's produce at the Rothenburg o.d.T. city center market square. Her town, Gebssattel, was only a mile outside the heavily fortified city walls to the southeast, with the Spital District gate serving as the most direct entrance for the residents of that small town. In addition, this quarter historically served as a "refuge" area for the citizens of Gebssattel if they were ever threatened by enemies or needed care for an illness. (The inscription over the Spital gate says: Peace to those who enter, farewell to those who leave.) And certainly there were many perils in those days without modern conveniences or modern medicine.

At the time of my ancestors' emigration to Monroe, Michigan in 1852, the city itself had been falling into disrepair and ruin starting with the bitter 30 year war between the Protestants and the Catholics, which ended in

**Answer to Question #1:
The Hoyt Library**

1648. Then the occupation by enemy soldiers who pillaged the city for 3 months, and when the soldiers finally left, the Black Plague grimly moved in. When it was all over, less than half of the previous population was still alive. It is said that the city of Rothenburg o.d.T. “fell asleep” for 200 years; it was not to see economic or cultural revival until 20 years later in the 1870s. A series of crop failures, under conditions known as a “mini ice age” may have been the “last straw”. For centuries the city had claimed the lands outside of its walls—obviously because it depended on the farmers to supply it with the needed grain, produce, eggs, meat, wool, etc. that it could not produce on its own. It prided itself on a massive storehouse of grain that it stockpiled in case of siege. Crop failures would have caused great hardship for everyone in the region, especially the city folks.

The young farm-maid, **Maria Apollonia**, certainly would have had to pass right by the master cartwright’s shop on Spitalgasse Street on her way to the heart of the city, perhaps accompanied by her younger brothers or sister, carrying their wares. Or maybe she was even encouraged to meet the young man by the matchmaking efforts common at the time (by way of friends, parents or brothers). Maybe her father, **Georg Adam**, would have become friends with the craftsman, **Gottfried** and his son, **Johann**, as they repaired the farmer’s wagon or plow. Eventually, the young people would have interacted socially at the annual Maypole Dance or during a celebration of the German Thanksgiving—common ways for socialization in the day. Either way, their courtship culminated with the wedding of **Johann and Maria** on 04 Aug 1850 at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Rothenburg o.d.T. Either way, it was apparent that the Shassberger family grew to be very close to their new son-in-law, and the young man, **Johann**, seemed eager to start a new life in America with them. Soon he and the entire **Schassberger** family, along with **Maria’s** young daughter, **Eva Barbara** (aged 5 years, born earlier out of wedlock) emigrated in 1852 to the German community of Monroe, Michigan.



Church of the Holy Spirit—Heilig Geist Kirche

As an aside note, we were stunned to discover (thanks to our genealogist, Ute) that the man, **Johann Nikolaus Münzinger**—whom we had always thought of as our revered blood relative, (my great grandfather x3, or whom I can remember my grandma speaking about him in glowing terms), may in fact, not BE related to us at all!! On the baptismal records for little **Eva Barbara Schassberger** (my direct descendant) from St Leonhard Church, no father is listed—just the mother, **Maria Apollonia**, her

parents and her sister (as godmother). Perhaps the stigma of this event was the reason for the couple getting married in the groom’s church (stigmatization was evident in St Leonhard—they even had a place for the “disgraced women to sit during services”) or perhaps it was just because the groom’s family was “richer”. Even so, we wonder: Was little Eva the product of rape or illicit love? We will never know. Interestingly, the label of “illegitimate child” was to follow Eva to Monroe, Michigan, where she was listed in the roster as such (now called “illegal”) at Emmanuel Lutheran, Monroe. Sadly, though she had parents that were married (even if the true father eventually married the mother), it did not erase what the child was labeled.

At any rate, we are still proud of **Johann** being in our family, even if he may only be **Eva’s** father by adoption, not only for his courage to emigrate from Germany to Michigan, but also for his passion to later become a Lutheran pastor and missionary to Canada in 1860. Once there, he tirelessly traveled around from town to town to perform the many duties of his higher calling—encouraging and helping many people. He was also influential in founding many Lutheran churches in and around Ontario. All the while, his wife, **Maria**, was at his side, suffering several miscarriages, until she passed away in 1893 from cancer. But how I digress! This is a whole other story!

Answer to Question #2: St. Luke's Hospital and Saginaw General Hospital.

Now back to the trip...

During our genealogy tour we were delighted to visit the various churches where our ancestors were married, baptized and likely educated—specifically in the school adjoining St Leonhard Church in Gebstattel (for both boys and girls). We proceeded to meet the modern-day pastors of the various churches who patiently discussed their remarkable histories. At the St Leonhard Church (historically known for its hospitality to lepers who were able to attend church in a separate room listening through a window in the brick wall facing the church’s interior) we were thrilled that the mayor of Gebstattel was there to meet us—and there he graciously provided us with a 5 lb book, “Gebstattel: The Chronicle of a Franconian Village”, which he signed. It contained the entire history of the town, listing all of the important people in its history, along with the original homes and their previous owners, dating back hundreds of years! I am sure there is more in the book, but being as it’s all in German, it will take years for me to translate! My ancestors or course, were listed there as we were quick and elated to discover. What a wonderful and friendly gesture!

In summary, our trip exploring our German genealogy in Bavaria was indeed a trip of a lifetime. We got a taste of just how deep our roots went into this country—were especially amazed with the real-life connection of the pear trees, both in the old country and the new—and were able

to appreciate and imagine what life was like back then. We were able to gaze upon artifacts of history and take in scenes that our ancestors would have also appreciated in their day. The experience truly was nothing like we could ever have lived by “Googling” or going “online”, sitting in front of a computer monitor. I would highly recommend our hard-working genealogist and guide, **Ute Melhorn**, from the German-American Connection. It also helped that she was fun, outgoing, spoke excellent English, and was constantly keeping us out of trouble (regarding tipping, restaurant ordering and getting around, in general). Furthermore, the hotels she provided for us were “top-notch” and the information we learned about our heritage greatly exceeded our expectations. Not to mention, dropping the big surprise about our “hero”, **Johann**, maybe not even being our blood kin! Perhaps our experience will encourage those with German roots to break out of their “comfort zone” and seek a similar experience. It could even change your whole perspective!

Answer to Question #3:

1. Harry W. Browne in adjacent Buena Vista Township
2. James Clements Municipal Airport in Bay City.
3. Jack Barstow Municipal Airport in Midland



RootsTech London 2019 Conference Announced

RootsTech has announced that the highly popular family history conference is expanding its international borders, beginning with the United Kingdom in 2019. RootsTech will host RootsTech London 2019 from 24–26 October, 2019 at the ExCeL London Convention Centre.

RootsTech London 2019 convention will follow a similar model to the one that has proved successful in Salt Lake City, Utah for over 9 years. RootsTech London will offer more than 150 informative lectures taught by industry experts, an exciting exhibit hall where vendors from around the world will display family history technology and services, entertainment, and inspirational keynote sessions.

The RootsTech London 2019 convention **will not** replace the annual conference in Salt Lake City, but will serve as an additional RootsTech event. All sessions of the RootsTech London conference will be conducted in English. Registration for RootsTech London will open in February 2019. To learn more, visit RootsTech.org/london.

FamilySearch Update for Tagging Photos and Editing Portraits

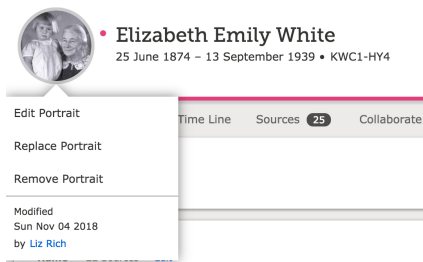
November 17, 2018 By Leslie Albrecht Huber

There's something special about family photos. Recently, I came across a picture on FamilySearch of a Thanksgiving dinner at my great-grandparents' home with family members seated around a long table. As I studied that photo taken sixty years ago, the past felt very close. Photos bring out our ancestors' personalities, paint a vivid picture of their lives and help us connect with them in deeper ways. Now with Family Search's updates to choosing and tagging family photos, making photos part of your family tree in meaningful ways just got easier.

Choosing Your Ancestor's Portrait Photo

In the upper left-hand corner of each ancestor's FamilySearch person page is a place for a photo—known as a “portrait.” Until recently, each person saw a different portrait, possibly one she chose by selecting from hundreds of photos that had been tagged with that ancestor's name. FamilySearch has now streamlined this process, connecting only one portrait to each ancestor.

To see how it works, click on your ancestor's portrait on his person page. A new menu will appear with options to Edit, Replace or Remove the portrait. If you choose Replace Portrait, a box will pop up with the question: “How would this person like to be remembered?” and a group of photos to choose from. This important question encourages researchers to choose a flattering photo that is representative of an ancestor's life. The edit option enables you to drag the frame to the correct person or the correct spot in a photo. The menu that appears when you click on a portrait will note when the portrait was last modified and by whom so that if you have a concern or question, you are able to click on that person's name to contact her directly.



Tagging Photos

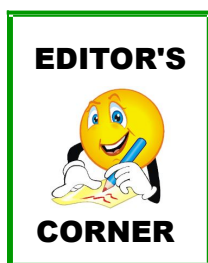
Anyone who has done family history knows that adding labels to family photos adds a great deal of value. Tagging

photos on your family tree ensures that other users and future generations will know who each of the people in the photos are. FamilySearch's tagging updates make this process easy.

To tag a person in a photo, access the photo from the Memories" tab on their person page and click on the photo of interest. As you hover over the photo, other tags might appear. Click on an untagged person and begin typing to create a new tag. You will probably notice that instead of a circular tagging tool, a square box now appears, making tagging people near the edge of photos easier. Square tags also make it easier to tag things besides faces like documents or photos of tombstones.

As you create new tags, FamilySearch will encourage you to attach the tags to people on your Family Tree. Tagging a person in a photo won't create a portrait for them, but if you think the photo you just tagged would make a good portrait, check their person page to view and edit their portrait from there. (You'll only be able to view their portrait if they are connected to your family tree.)

You can see all these changes right now on your computer. In a few months, you will be able to see them on your phone in the Family Tree app as well.



The year 2018 is now going down into the archives of history. What have you accomplished with your genealogy? Have you preserved photos and documents online or in acid free photo albums with labels? Have you gathered your family around you during a family reunion and shared vital information with younger family members for the preservation of cherished memories? Did you source and document people on your family trees as you research your family roots? Did you find new cousins and family members through DNA matches to connect with and collaborate on your family tree? Have you started on your own journal or family story so that your memories can be kept "alive"?

I, personally, have found new relatives using my DNA matches. One I wasn't sure who it was because their name was initials. DNA said we were closely related and for sure

first cousins or closer. I wrote an email to this person:

Dear Mj,

My DNA match on Ancestry says that we are very closely related like first cousins. My name is (gave my name and ancestral line name) and I live in (gave my address location). Do you have any idea how we might be related?

Sincerely,
Karen Reynolds

A reply came back within that very week:

Dear Karen,

I don't know, I've always felt more like an adorably goofy nephew than a first cousin. Hi, Aunt Karen! :) -M.



Enjoy the holidays. Share memories with your family when you are together. And start your own personal history.

Karen Reynolds ~ Editor



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