

In the local Phoenix Paper last week, I noticed ~~again~~ another report of ~~an~~ activity in regard to genealogy and family histories, that are becoming more and more common in this day, in various publications.

We see headlines - "Genealogy, Latest British Fad", ~~inxxxxxxx~~ with a story that says that many do this work to find names to drop, others are chasing property, some hope to claim a lost inheritance, but most do it out of curiosity.

The article says that this pursuit of ancestry has mushroomed in the last 10 years, and that Americans top the list of foreigners hunting down their ~~xxx~~ forebearers. - Hundreds of americans are participating there.

It says that eager amateurs spend days, weeks and sometimes months poring over dusty copies of ancient parish registers, wills, and other items from registerys, and that occasionally a gleam of discovery comes to the ~~researcher's~~ researcher's eyes, but it is a time-consuming and frustrating activity, and hours of search often result in nothing.

That statement kind of reminded me of the time that I and my father-in-law went fishing at Big Lake. We sat there most of the day, and the only fish that was caught was one that I snagged when I pulled my line in. I was never a fisherman, and I didnt go back the next day but My Fatherinlaw went back the next day and the next and was never discouraged or frustrated. This same spirit is valuable in genealogical research, and if we dont have that spirit, it is important that we get it, because eternal lives are dependent upon it.

Another article in the National Observer, calls it "A Real Detective Game".

It asks the question, Who was your great Grandfather?

The writer, a Patrecia Clarke, from Rockville, Maryland, says, she was asked that question 15 years ago, and has been hooked on genealogy ever since.

She says the longer she digs for her roots, the deeper they get, and ~~xxx~~ she says, so do the satisfactions of knowing my forefathers.

She adds this too, "Since climbing a family tree can take a lifetime, I am convinced it cant be started any too early. And/^{think}significantly, she says, "Why should ancestor-hunting be left mainly to people who are almost ancestors themselves? - I assume she was referring to some of us older folks. I suppose it is because it takes until ~~that~~ this stage of our lives that we begin to think that we have the ~~time~~ time. If that is the case, we need shift our priorities around at an earlier time in our life.

I thought it significant too, that with the article was a picture of the writer, Patricia Clarke, her HusbandJim, and their children - making up the ~~xxxxx~~ family - which is really what Genealogy is all about.

What is the driving force that is motivating so many people in this day ~~xxx~~ to seek out and identify ~~our~~ ancestry?

We read in the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew where the Lord declared that one of the signs of the approaching end of ~~the~~ this dispensation, is that the Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations - and then shall the end come.

And we remember too that the Lord said, through the prophet Malachi, regarding one of the other particular characteristics of the last days, - That before that great and dreadful day of the Lord, Elijah the Prophet would be sent with a particular mission to turn the hearts of the children to the fathers and the fathers to the children - lest, the Savior says, Lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Now Elijah was one of the greatest of the prophets, and the reason for this is best understood by the LDS People.

Indication that we understand Elijah's mission might be strengthened by a couple of the late translations of the Bible.

You remember that these statements in regard to Elijah's coming are ~~in~~ made in the last two verses of the Old Testament. And they read Thusly: In the King James Version:

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

"And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

In the Living Bible, Paraphrased these ^{SAME} verses read:

"See, I will send you another Prophet like Elijah before the coming of the great and dreadful judgment day of God.

"His preaching will bring fathers and children together again, to be of one mind and heart, for they will know that if they do not repent, I will come and utterly destroy their land.

In the . .

We know that because of the coming of Elijah in this dispensation, the fulness of ~~the~~ salvation is again available for the living and the dead. That he was the last prophet that held the keys of Priesthood in ancient Israel.

His mission was to restore the authority and deliver the keys of the Priesthood in order that all the ordinances may be attended to in righteousness. - He held the keys to administer in all the ordinances of the priesthood.

The Prophet Joseph taught that "This is the spirit of Elijah, that we redeem our dead, and connect ourselves with our fathers which are in heaven, and seal up our dead to come forth in the first resurrection; and here we want this ~~new~~ power to seal those who dwell on earth to those who dwell in heaven. This is the Power of Elijah and the keys of the kingdom of Jehovah."

Now, one more getting back to this recent article in the republic, "Tracing family roots becomes popular American hobby, It turns out that the person being written about and reported by UPI, is a member of the Church.

A Mrs Joseph Van Sickler, of Cape Coral, Florida.

She said that for 14 years she had been seeking a trace of her father's mother's parents.

She said she found them in Chicago in the 1900 census. It showed they had been living in the United States for 15 years and that once she had that ~~xxxxxx~~ it was easy to go to the 1885 passenger lists to find where they had all come over from the old country.

She said that when she located her husband's immigrant great grandparents in the Chicago census, that she also learned a lot about their family history.

That they owned a house with a mortgage, - that they had 11 children - one of whom had died at sea, - that one son peddled meats and another was a printer - that all the children except one was born in Germany. - that an apartment in the house was rented to a married daughter, whose mother-in-law lived there too, and that the mother-in-law ~~had~~ had five children.

She said this work brings her closer to her family, and that it is well worth her time and effort.

What a fascinating exercise in family relationships this is!

You know, recently, I was sitting by President Porter's father William S. Porter.

When the meeting was over, I told Brother Porter, I ~~said~~ said, you know, Bill, your great grandfather baptized my great grandfather.

The folks were ~~leaving~~ leaving the meeting and we may have been blocking some of the traffic and Sister Porter said, "we need to go". Brother Bill said, "Wait Just a minute - We may be related".

Anyway the story I wanted to tell Brother Bill was this.

In the history of our family on the Phelps Line, ~~my~~ ^{my} great grandfather ~~xxxxxxx~~ I was always aware of the fact that Morris Phelps was ~~baptized~~ baptized by Sanford Porter Sr., ~~Brother~~ Brother Porter's great Grandfather.

Recently found out he was!
And it happened this way:

Both of these brethren were born in Massachusetts but they didn't meet until the Porters moved into Illinois, where Morris Phelps had lived for about six years. They built a saw mill together there but the Phelpses soon after sold out to the Porters, and moved on up north toward Chicago on the DuPage river.

Brother Porter continued to operate the Saw Mill and one morning as he stepped out of his ~~xxxx~~ house headed for the mill, there stood in his yard two strangers. They introduced themselves and handed him a letter from Morris Phelps.

~~In his autobiography, he says,~~ "Morris told ~~me~~ ^{me} in ~~his~~ ^{the} letter that these men had been preaching in their neighborhood, and had set ~~the~~ ^{the} Methodist, Baptist, and every other religious profession in an uproar, and he wanted me to search them to the bottom and find out if possible what their belief was and write him my conclusion.

He didnt go to the mill that morning. He turned around and with the ~~XXXXXX~~ visitors went back into the house and said, "Gentlemen, I am ready to hear you expound your doctrine."

And Brother porter said that as they talked he prayed in his heart that what t they were telling him was ture. They showed him the book they had with them a and ~~XXXX~~ explained where and how it was obtained. He said he took the book and with the missionaries searched it - for three days and nights, almost without sleep they searched it he said.

He was baptised August 10, 1831 by Lyman Wight and John Corrill, the two missionaries.

1831 about 14 months after the church was organized

Now, if you will look in Section 52 of the Doctrine and Covenants, you will note that ~~XXXX~~ a conference held in Kirtland, Ohio beginning on the 3rd and ~~XXXXXX~~ closing on the 6th ~~was held~~. The next day, the elders were appointed to go out two by two preaching and baptising. There were about 30 of them.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Verse 7 of that section reads like this:

"And again, verily I say unto you, let my servant Lyman Wight and John Corrill take their journey speedily."

Lyman Wight

These were the missionaries that baptised Bro. Porters Great Grandfather two months later. He had been ordained a High Priest at that conference - incidentally, the first high priests ordained in this dispensation were ordained at that conference. ~~XXX~~ Ten years later he was ordained an apostle.

After this event, The porters ~~XXXXXX~~ and others in the area, with the missionaries went on north to the Phelps home, and Morris Phelps ~~XXX~~ & others were baptised ~~XX~~ by Sanford Porter Sr. in the DuPage river in Illinois ~~XX~~. In August 1831, 16 months after the Church was organized.

Genealogical records are essential, - Family Histories ~~ARE AS FASCINATING~~ fringebenefit from genealogical research.

I pray that we may move closer to our ancestry through a consciencious effort to compile records in their behalf.