

Family History Sprint

April 2014 – Find Earliest Church Member among your Ancestors



Summary:

Find your family ancestor who was the first to join the Church, i.e., the first to be baptized into the Restored Church. In this Sprint, also search back through those who are not in your direct line such as your great-grandfather's brother.

- Here are four procedures that you may follow:

1. Search through your ancestors on *FamilySearch.org*

- Log in to *FamilySearch.org* and look at your family tree.
- Start looking for baptism dates by clicking on:
 "Name" => "Person" => "Ordinances".
- If baptism dates show as being later than the other ordinances, select the date of the earliest ordinance (Confirmation, Initiatory, Endowment, etc.) as the (probable) baptism date.
- *FamilySearch.org* offers help by clicking on "Get Help" after logging in.

2. Search through your own materials at home or at relatives' homes.

- Look through family pedigree sheets, histories, photo albums.
- Go on-line and search through newspaper obituaries popular during the Church's early days (see #3 below for sources).
- Home PC genealogy programs such as *Roots Magic*, *Family Tree*, etc.
- Home PC genealogy sites such as *Ancestry.com*, etc. Search Google for 'genealogy programs'.

3. Visit the

- Family Search Library in Riverton,
- Family History Library in Salt Lake City,
- Church History Library in Salt Lake City.

4. Interviews with family members and family friends.

- Discussions/interviews with family members about ancestors joining the Church.
- Review genealogy records with older family member(s).
- Record interviews with camcorders or audio recorders, digital or analog (tape).
- Review family documents such as baptism certificates.
- Check with family members (living and deceased records) not in your direct line. This could include brother & sisters of direct descendants, in-laws of direct descendants, step relatives, adopted relatives, etc.
- Ask family members of others who might have additional information.

- Further help is available on the *FamilySearch.org* site. After logging in, click on 'Get Help' in the upper right corner of the screen.