



Belnap Family Organization
Family Representatives Training

Part 4:

*“How Do I Locate Living
Descendants? Personal Networking
and Social Media Strategies”*

Part 4 Training Outline

- Family Sources
- Online Tools and Strategies
- Key Skills in Finding Relatives
- Helpful “Door Approaches”

#1 Resource: Family Experts

- Locate the family “go to” persons—the recordkeepers and contact information organizers for a specific family line
- Invite others to help; ask for assistance—including me! (Seriously!)
- There are a lot of willing helpers who are very likely just waiting to be asked—but they need to be asked

#2 Resource: Internet



Opera



Google Chrome



Safari



Mozilla Firefox



Internet Explorer



Microsoft Edge

Online Tools and Resources

- Google:
 - General information
 - Online obituaries (great for finding names of living children, surnames of married daughters, etc.)
 - Google Alerts: *Example: "Belnap" and "Obituary" or "Died"*

Specialized People Finder Resources

- anywho.com
 - peekyou.com
 - peoplefinder.com
 - pipl.com
 - searchpeoplefree.com
 - spokeo.com
 - truepeoplesearch.com
 - whitepages.com
 - voterrecords.com
 - publicrecords.directory
 - Etc., etc., etc.
- Many people finder sites use subscription “teasers” or require direct payment
 - Useful for locating phone numbers, residence addresses, names of close relatives, etc.

Specific Family History Resources

- Online Death Certificates:
 - *Example: Utah Death Certificate Index, 1905-1967* (free)
- Digital Historic Newspapers:
 - Examples: *newspapers.com; newspaperarchive.com* (subscription); *Utah Digital Newspapers (U of U)* (free)
- FamilySearch.org (“Memories” contributors, “Collaborate” submitters, data editors)
- Ancestry.com (online trees, city directories, yearbooks, Social Security Death Index, etc.)
- FindAGrave.com (“Memorials”)

Social Media Tools

- Facebook ★
- Instagram ★
- LinkedIn
- Twitter
- WhatsApp



BFO Facebook Page

LIKE "BELNAP FAMILY ORGANIZATION" ON FACEBOOK



The screenshot shows the Facebook profile for the Belnap Family Organization. The profile picture is a circular crest with a shield and a crown. The name is "Belnap Family Organization" with the handle "@belnapfamily.org". The navigation menu includes Home, About, Events, Photos, Community, Reviews, Posts, and a "Create a Page" button. The main content area features a large historical photograph of a family of five. Below this is a "Upcoming Events" section for "Saturday, Aug. 8 10:00 A.M. MT" featuring a keynote speaker, Dr. Ugo A. Perego, with a DNA double helix graphic. The event is titled "DNA & FAMILY HISTORY" and is a "Belnap Family 2020 'Virtual' Reunion" on Saturday, August 8th at 10 AM. The page also shows a 5.0 star rating, 732 likes, 734 followers, and 11 check-ins. The "About" section includes a map and the address: "c/o 1592 Oakcrest Drive (7,078.78 mi) Ogden, Utah 84403".

BFO Instagram Feed



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @

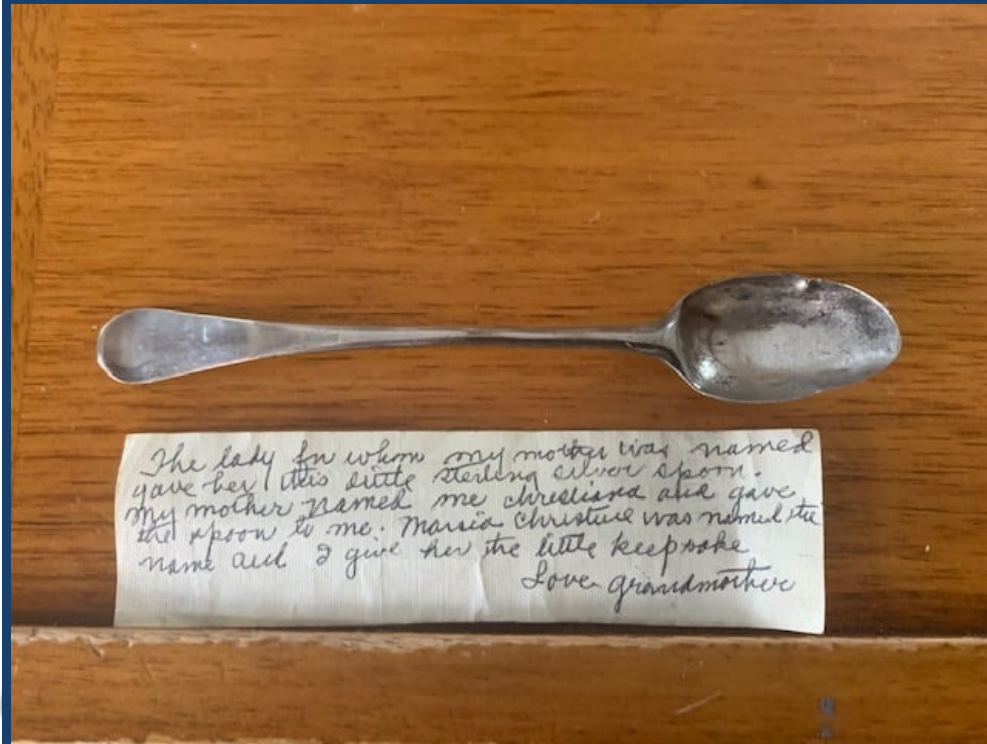
belnap_family_organization

Instagram

Successful Facebook Strategies

- Join Facebook and “Like” the Belnap Family Organization FB page
- Invite family members to “Like” the BFO FB page
- Locate known relatives on FB
- Send a “Friend” request
- Once you are connected, invite your new friends to “like” the BFO FB page
- Follow up as needed with private message family history requests
- Glean family history data: birthdates, names of family members, family events such as new births/marriages/deaths, contact information, etc.

Social Media Serendipity



BFO Digital Connections

- Belnap Family Organization website: wp.belnapfamily.org
- Email: belnapfamily.org@gmail.com
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/belnapfamily.org/>
- Instagram: https://instagram.com/belnap_family_organization/
- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3V_hHGFNZENJwb2Bj1F8KA

Key Skills in Finding Relatives

Finding relatives in branches of the family with whom you have lost contact—and renewing connection in a positive manner—is an art. Some helpful pointers:

- Be willing to contact related “strangers”—*personal* contact is best
- Be friendly and able to explain in a few words how you are related
- Be “respectfully inquisitive”
- Be quick to move on if now is not the right time
- Be patient—relationships take time to develop

“Do not let the very few people who are negative or disinterested prevent you from reaching out to achieve our higher goal.”

Helpful “Door Approaches”

- Hello! I am your cousin and we share a common ancestry through [identify closest common relative]
- I am trying to locate all the descendants of our common ancestor and would like your help
- Did you know that we currently have family history information on ### descendants of our common ancestor?
- We would like to make sure that you and your family are included in our records
- A lot of great information has been made available online about our shared heritage at www.belnapfamily.org
- I invite you to check it out when you have time

“Door Approaches” (continued)

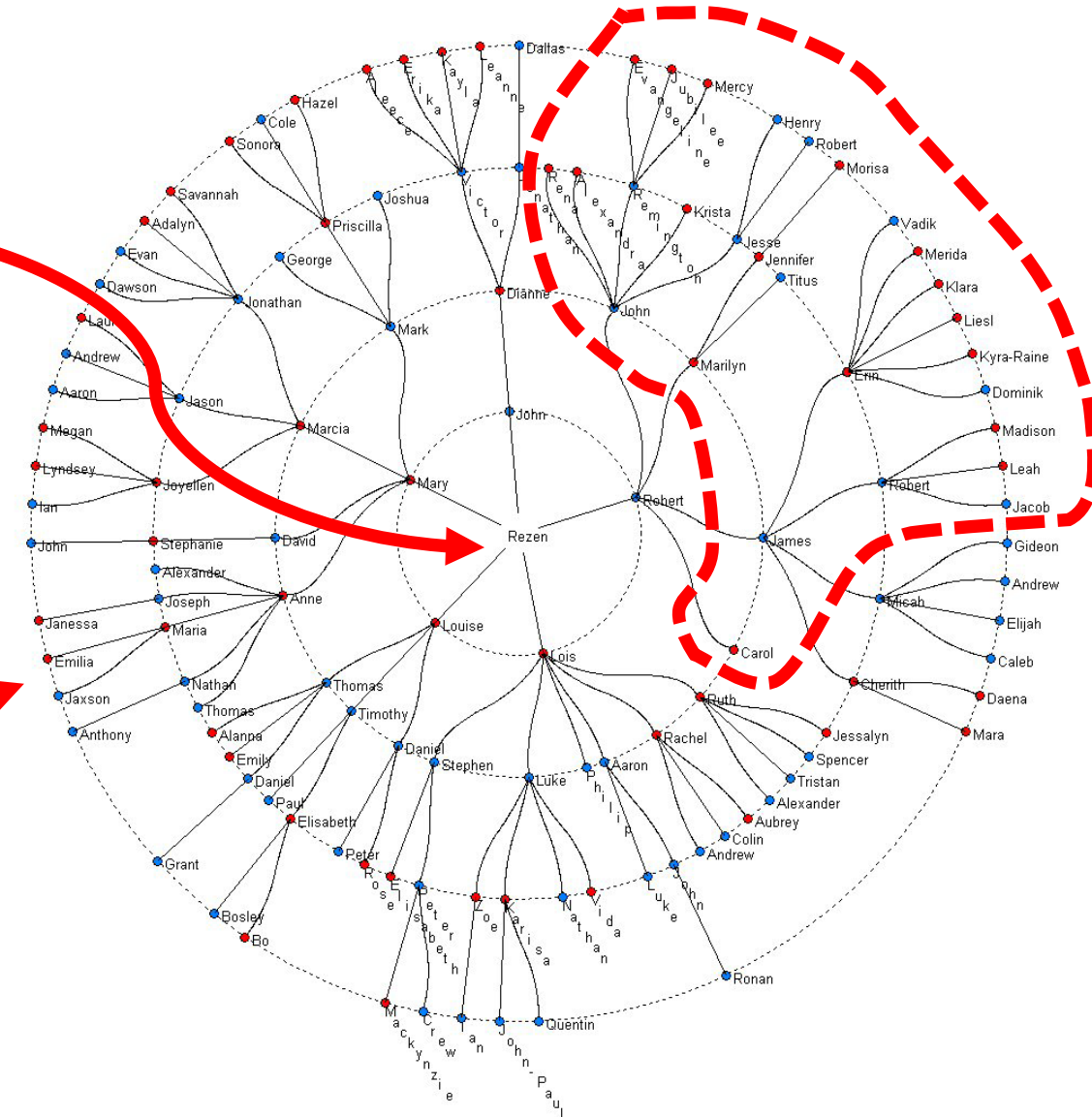
- The Belnap Family Organization began in 1904 and has been active in gathering and preserving our family history for over 100 years
- The Organization has some wonderful photos and stories about our family [give examples/share links]
- I would like to send you some information that you might find very interesting about our ancestry
- Meanwhile, I would be very appreciative if you could send me the names and basic genealogy information on yourself and your family
- Here’s some information on me and my family . . .

Locating Lost Relatives

Common Ancestor

Unknown Relatives

Your Immediate Family Branch



Online Search Tips

- When unable to find someone right away, think “creatively”:
 - Conduct Boolean searches—or not—in different combinations:
 - “Martha Davis Jones”; “Martha Davis” Jones Bountiful
 - Try searching for alternate or less-common spellings of names:
 - Caroline/Carolyn/Carolina; Lawrence/Laurence/Larry; May/Mae; La Vern/ Lavern(e); etc.
 - Try using abbreviations, synonyms, or related words:
 - California/Calif./CA; Buried/Burial/Interment/Vigil/Funeral
 - Try searching through a parent, sibling, or spouse with a less-common name:
 - “Marjorie is survived by her sister Mary (Julius) Singleton”

So How Are We Doing?

- Direct descendant and spouse email addresses: ~671
- Direct descendant and spouse phone numbers: ~409
- BFO Facebook page “Likes”: 745
- Instagram Followers: 54

Total known descendants: 11,500 (out of estimated total 14-16,000)

* Numbers are as of 21 Aug 2020

