

Date: Sunday, April 19, 1998 1:30:16 AM  
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Subj: New Church Family History SourceGuide

Hi, y'all.

Today in the mail I got the Family History SourceGuide CD Elder Nelson announced in Saturday afternoon's Conference session. It is exciting, not only for the source information it makes available to genealogists, but also for the "click" genealogists have an option to take, to learn more about the gospel. It gives an outstanding overview, I think--and should be a real boost to our missionary effort, not to mention that to genealogists looking for the latest sources, maps, and other genealogical information. Of course this CD makes obsolete all those genealogical courses I took so

I could teach family history. There is no longer a need to teach family history at any university or in any church class. This SourceGuide, as available in various libraries, does it all, and at the pace the learner needs. For those who want to use this resource at home, it does require a Pentium processor, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 8 MG RAM (minimum; 16 MG recommended), CD-ROM drive, VGA monitor with 256-color-capable video card,

and 25 MG hard disk space. If you have identified what you know about your

family, selected your research goal, and have decided to select a type of record to search, then this CD takes you from there. Based on your research goal, the SourceGuide helps you select a source to search, helps identify sources in various world areas, and helps locate sources that are available at the FHL, 3,000 family history centers (addresses given), and addresses are also provided for specific source information at other depositories. You can click on a source and even bring up the call numbers--absolutely amazing! Many Church research aids, all the area/state

research outlines, pamphlets on family history research, census and research forms can be brought up at a click. I am following a lead in Delaware right now, so I clicked on "Delaware" and along with much other information also got internet "bulletin" addresses that I can hardly wait to pursue.

What the SourceGuide does not do is tell you how to do family history research (on your specific, personal lines, that is--general guides the Church has produced on how to do genealogical research can be brought up and read, page by page). The SourceGuide does not contain the Family

History Library Catalog, nor contain information about individuals--it does

provide information about sources used to find individuals. If you click on "How-to-Guides," you learn about the sources to search, what they contain, what time periods they cover, and how to find them. Click on "Word Meanings" and you learn definitions of words you may find in the How-to-Guides (clicking on highlighted words in the SourceGuide is practically an introductory family history course in itself). Click on "Catalog Helper," and you learn how to match your research goal with a subject in the Family History Library catalog.

To order, I called the Church Distribution Center at 1-800-537-5950 and within the week I received my package. The SourceGuide is \$20, and I also ordered the new 1881 British Census for \$5 (have your credit card # ready).

The Br. 1881 Census we ordered hasn't come yet. 1881 is too late for our ancestral searches anyway, but I heard so much about it from both members

and non-Members we met in England last spring who were involved in its production, I'm anxious to see it.

If you have equipment at home that can handle it, I think you'll find this one of the best \$20 ever spent.

We're excited that President Hinckley will be speaking at our graduation ceremonies next week. Laura and I get to "walk" in the same college convocation this Friday to get our MAs in Social Work and International Area Studies, respectively. The big difference between our degrees is that

Laura has a full-time job with Wasatch Mental Health where she interned--and I'm still as unemployable as ever. To teach in history, family history, English, or political science around here requires a Ph.D. or going back for recertification to teach at the secondary level--no thanks. So I'm back to the financially impoverishing, but ever-exciting