

# Record Linkage and Tagging for the BYU Historic Journals Project ([journals.byu.edu](http://journals.byu.edu))

Douglas J. Kennard and Dr. William A. Barrett  
(BYU Computer Science Department)

# Historic Journals - Introduction



15  
for Papeete, Tahiti. Wrote 3 cards  
one to Katie, one to Father &  
one to Streeter Tingley. Went  
aboard at 11 o'clock A.M. and at  
12 M. we left the pier. We, Elders  
Kenneth & Stevens of Pierson  
Utah and George C. Billings of  
Vernal Utah and I are in room  
36, second class passengers. We  
have quite a nice room 54 square  
feet. The weather has been  
cloudy and quite cold but not  
much wind. all well at 7 P.M.  
On Board. S.S. Moana. Pacific  
Ocean. Jan-23, 1920.  
We are plowing along thru  
the the water in old St. coarse  
Went 327 miles up to noon today.  
The weather is cloudy and looks  
like rain, but not much wind.  
I have had all I could do to  
keep from being sick to day  
but am feeling better tonight.  
stayed in room most of day.

- How would you know?
- Where is it?
- What does it say?

# Historic Journals - Introduction



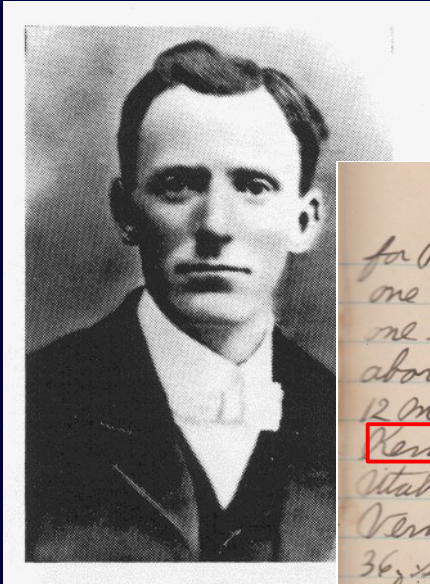
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- Who might care?

900 living descendants!  
(my great-grandfather)



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but am feeling better tonight.  
Stayed in room most of day.

- Who might care?

900 living descendants!  
(my great-grandfather)

Descendants of people  
he wrote about!

# Historic Journals - Introduction

**My questions:**

**Which of my ancestors wrote a journal?**

**Did anyone else write about my ancestors?**

**How can we share (within limits) diaries?**

# journals.byu.edu

http://journals.byu.edu/Google



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[Introduction Video \(click to view\)](#)

### Get to know your Ancestors

Your ancestors are more than just names, dates, and places. Find out who they really are - how they lived, what they thought, and how they felt - by reading their own personal diaries, letters, and biographies. Read what their friends, relatives, and acquaintances wrote about them, too. Do it quickly and easily here on the Historic Journals website for free. Help other people do the same thing.

### Discover forgotten History

Much of what we know about historical people comes from what other people wrote about them. Our approach to linking journal entries (and other materials) to who they are about makes it easier than ever to discover even the most obscure references to the people you are interested in.



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[Introduction Video \(click to view\)](#)

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# Previously Described Details

**JCDL 2009** (Joint Conf. on Digital Libraries)

**FHTW 2009** ([fht.byu.edu](http://fht.byu.edu))



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## Family Pedigree with Details

John Gleason Kennard

Frankland James Kennard

Gordon Keith Kennard

Marquerite Kennard

Leonidas Hamlin Kennard  
Joanna Louisa Gleason

Leonidas Hamlin Kennard  
Frances Catherine Frankland

William Richard Frankland  
Elizabeth Ann Anderson

James R. Kennard  
Elizabeth Ann Martin

John Streater Gleason  
Desdemona Chase

WILLIAM Richard Frankland  
Frances Teasdale

Alexander Anderson  
Catherine McKinzie

Add or find child

### Leonidas Hamlin Kennard (1842-1926)

Person identifier: KWCF-QGH

Summary Details LDS Ordinances Time Line

Changed by: [Irene Allen \(27 November 2008\)](#)

Name: Leonidas Hamlin Kennard

Gender: Male

Birth: 29 January 1842  
Mt Pleasant, Pumpkin Ridge, Vinton, OH

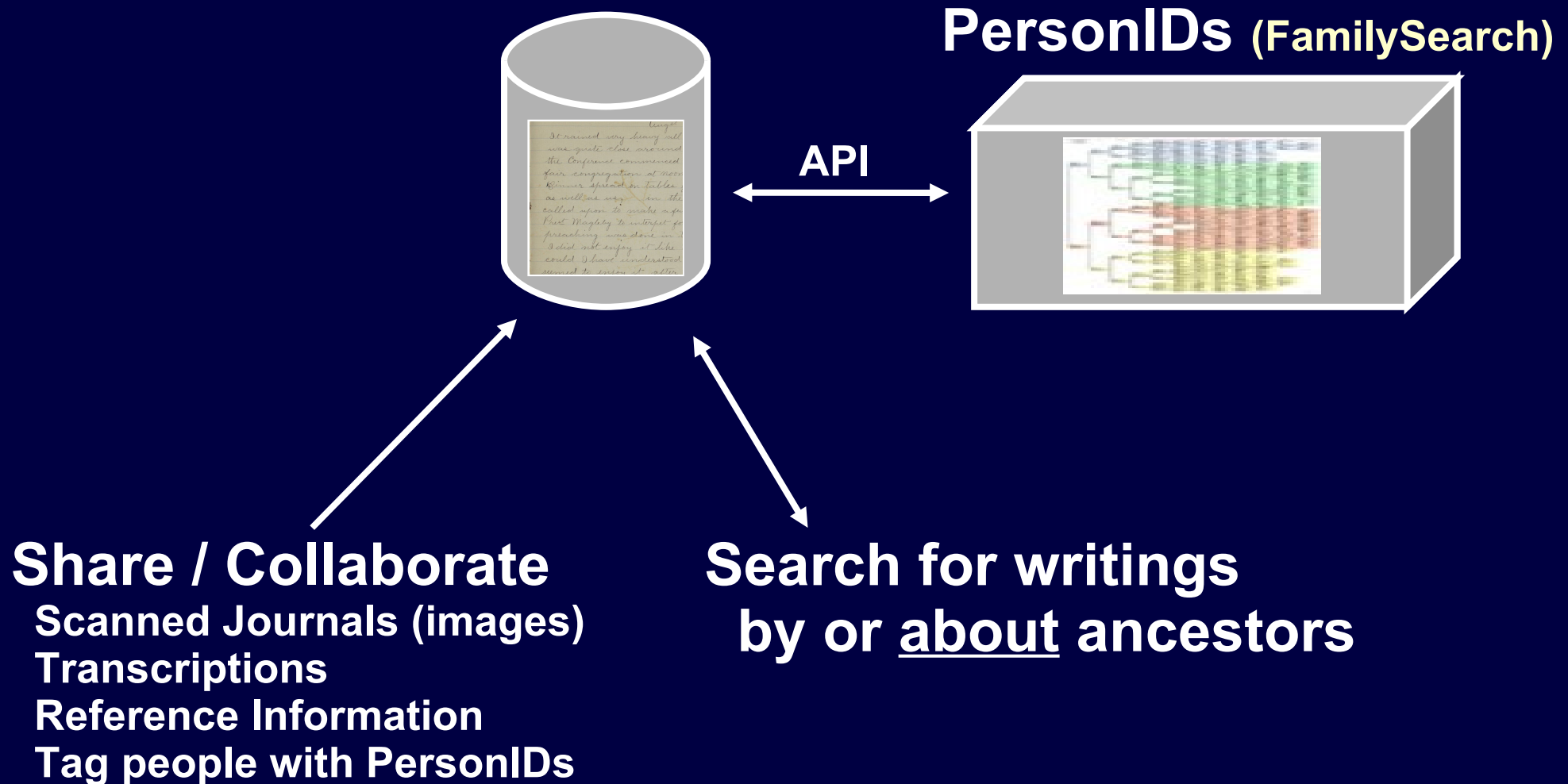
Farmington, Davis, UT

Possible Duplicates

Individual notes | Individual sources | Combined records

Person identifier: KWCF-QGH

# BYU Historic Journals



# Tagging who is written about (similar to tagging on social networks, but PIDs)

Historic Journals - Mozilla Firefox

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https://journals.byu.edu/diary\_pages.php?did=440#p10\_z

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People & Connections  
Rosters  
Synchronize Ancestors  
Synchronize Rosters  
Tutorial Videos  
My Profile

Tags (page) show all

1 person tag:  
Frances Catherine Frank

3 place tags:  
Papeete Tahiti, Iles du V...  
Ferron, Emery, Utah, Uni...  
Vernal, Uintah, Utah, Uni...

Page 10 of 10

15

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FamilySearch: Family Pedigree with Details - Mozilla Firefox

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Kennard, Douglas | Sign Out

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Change View History Print Help with This Page

Family Pedigree with Details

Leonidas Hamlin Kennard  
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Add or find child

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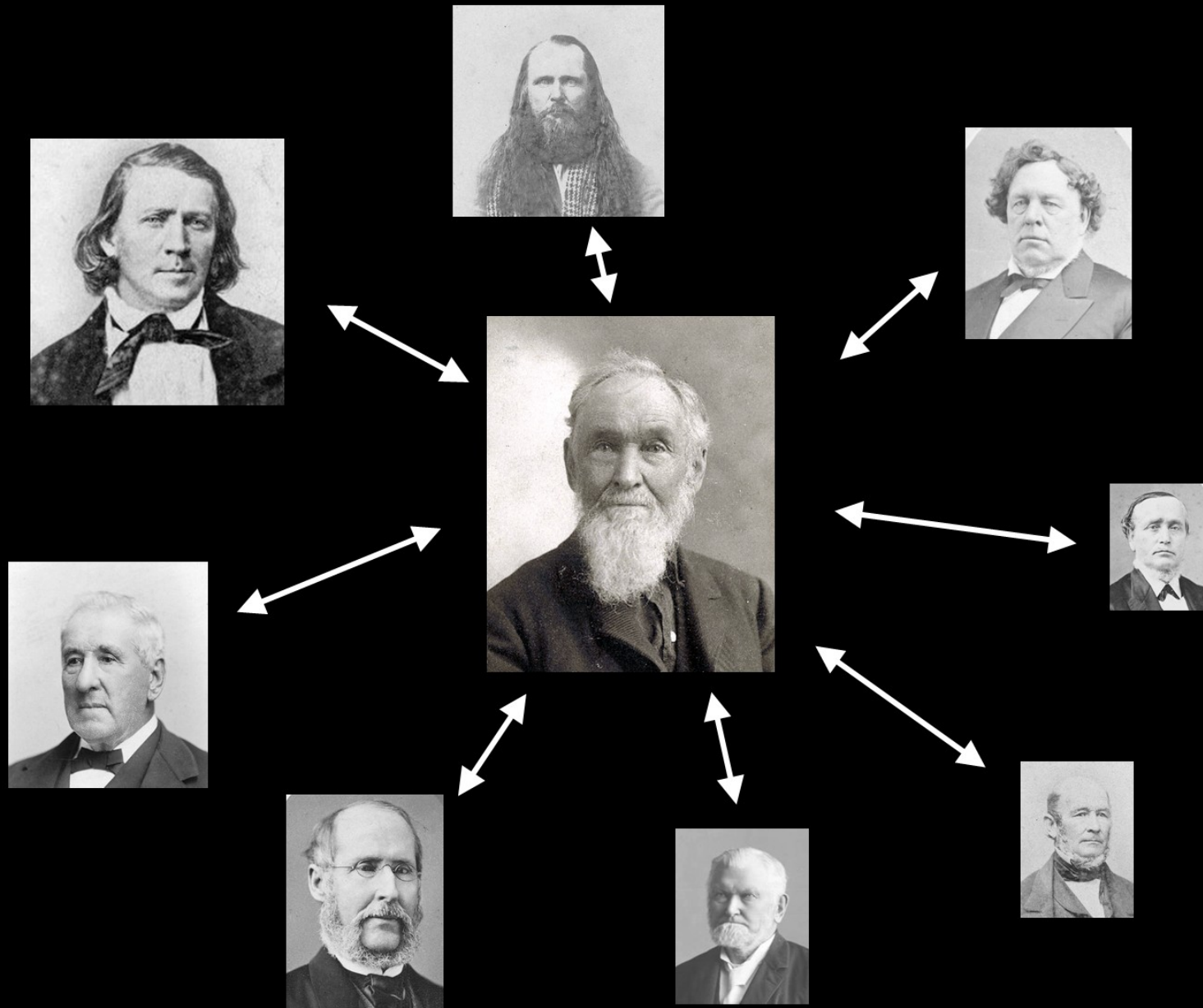
Individual notes | Individual sources | Combined records

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# Historical Social Network

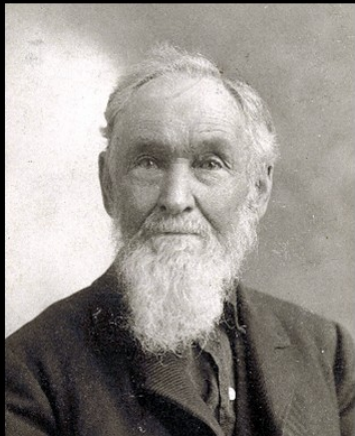




# Rosters (implicit connections)



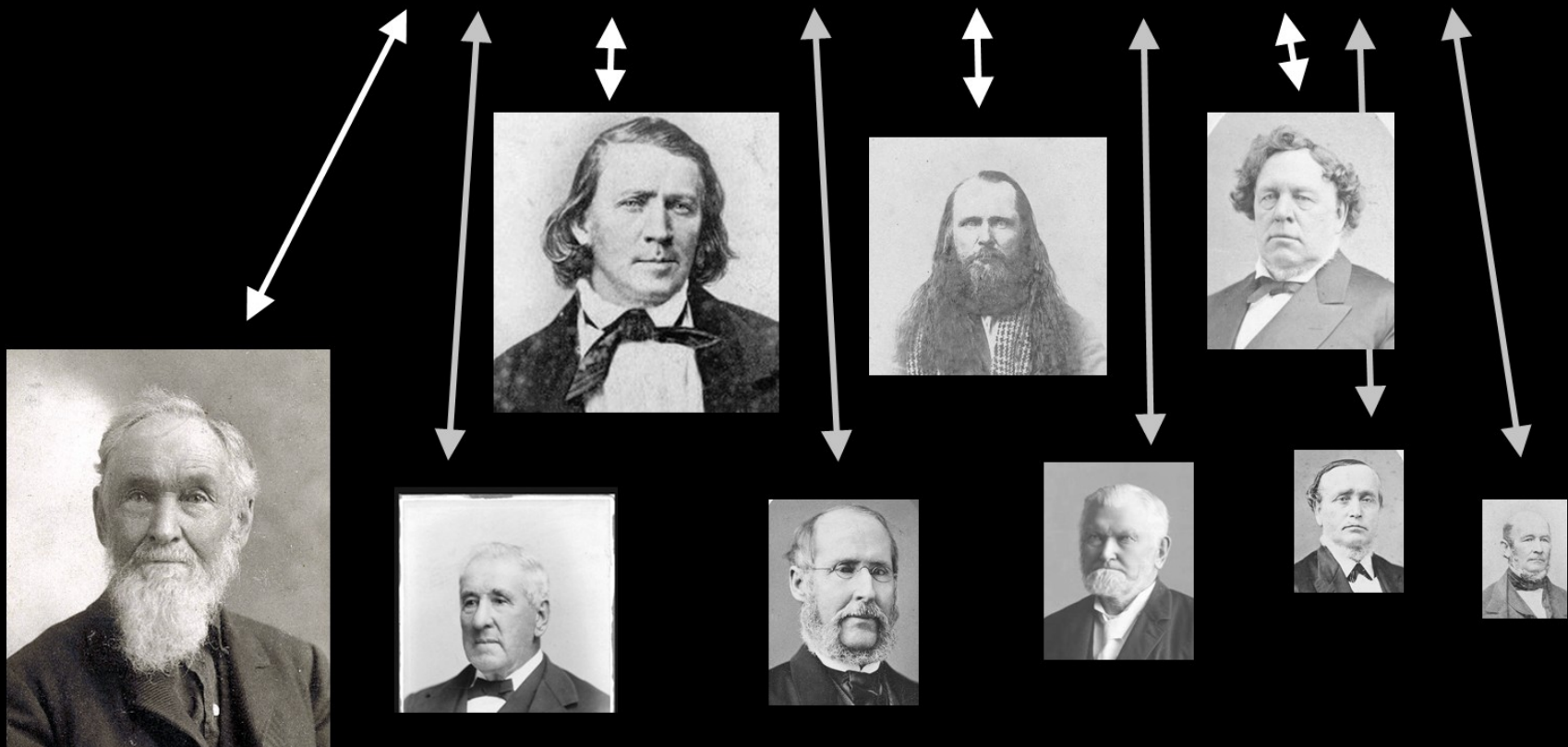
**Roster: Brigham Young's Pioneer Company - 1847**



# Rosters (implicit connections)



**Roster: Brigham Young's Pioneer Company - 1847**



# Rosters (implicit connections)

**Military** (ex: Captain Stout's Army, Revolutionary War)

**Community** (ex: Bastrop, TX, USA)

**Church** (ex: Bannockburn Baptist Church, Snowville, AK)

**Team** (ex: 1980 US Olympic Hockey Team)

**Class** (ex: Davis High School, Mr. Smith English class, Fall 1983)

**Work** (ex: Austin, TX, Joe's Grocery Store, 1980-1983)

**Other** (ex: Brigham Young's pioneer company, 1847)

# Record Linkage

## Manual Tagging / Crowd-Sourcing

**Davis Bitton “Guide to Mormon Diaries...”**

**BYU HBLL - Overland Trails**

**Mormon Missionary Diaries**

## Automatic / Semi-automatic Record Linkage

**F. Esshom “Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah” (photos)**

**Ids.org “Mormon Overland Travel” pioneer DB**



# Guide to Mormon Diaries and Autobiographies (Manual Tagging)

Reference book of  
2,894 known diaries

Alphabetical (last name)

Where to find the diary

Synopsis of content / bio info

to emigrate, 1852.891. Gill, David R.  
**Diaries (1887-1889)**  
Diaries (1887-1889)  
Holograph. 6 vols. 16-18 cm. HDC [LDS Church Archives] (Ms d 1486)  
British Mission, 1887-89.

892. Ginn, John L., *captain*  
**Autobiography (1857-1858)**  
Autobiography (1857-1858)  
Photocopy of typescript. 147 pp. Princeton [Firestone Library, Princeton U].  
Typescript. 184 pp. UHi [Ut St Hist Soc] (Man A77)

"Personal recollections." Departure from Independence, Missouri, 1857. Member of Magraw's Pacific Wagon Road Expedition. Joined Tenth Infantry at Fort Laramie. Amusing account of Mormon raid on males. Resigned and threw self on mercy of Mormons. To Salt Lake. Roomed with "Mother Taylor." View of Mormonism by a scoffer and unbeliever. Aiken party. Complaints about polygamy. To California, where author spread charges against Mormons. Details of investigations.

Not all first-hand observation. One section goes back to tell the history of Mormonism, says is a fraud. Written about 1903. Comment by Charles Kelly in 1959 suggests that the account is while generally reliable, drew upon "an old man's imagination." Repetition. Utah War is gone over a second time, with quotations from government reports. Details on Mormon-Indian cooperation.

893. Gleason, John Streater  
**Diaries (1857-1863)**  
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Microfilm of Holograph. 162 pp. HDC [LDS Church Archives] (Ms f 183 item 1)

Mission in New York State, April 1857 to July 1858. Visited home at Monroe, New York. Baptized his eighty-one-year-old father. Visited sister in Ohio. Another sister in Michigan. Return to Utah, 1858. Mission to England, 1860-63.

894. Gledhill, Sarah S. Moulding, 1858-  
**Autobiography (1858-c.1890)**  
Autobiography (1858-c.1890)  
Typescript. 12 pp. UHi [Ut St Hist Soc] (Man A581); USU [Merrill Libr, Ut State]  
(Mormon Diaries bx 2)

Rambling recollections of childhood, except for last paragraph. Born at Philadelphia, 1858. To Salt Lake, 1865. Description of covered wagon. Settled in Ogden. Living conditions. Married Adam Gledhill, 1888.

895. Glines, James H., 1822-1905  
**Autobiography (1822-1904)**  
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Adam Gledhill, 1888

895. Giles, James  
**Autobiography (1821–1822)**  
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Manual search in  
new FamilySearch using:

David Bitton's Guide  
pioneer DB on Ids.org

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(Mormon)  
Rambled  
Salt Lake  
Adam G  
895. G3B  
**Autobiography**  
Autobiography

Ellen Gleason  
John Gleason  
Alvius Horn Gleason  
Ezekiel Ogden Gleason  
Joanna Louisa Gleason  
Add or find child

**John Streator Gleason (1819-1904)**

Summary

Person Identifier: KWJ5-7SR

Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847-1868

**Gleason, John Streator**

Birth Date: **13 Jan. 1819**

Death Date: **21 Dec. 1904**


Gender: **Male**

Age: **28**

Company: **Brigham Young Pioneer Company (1847)**



# Guide to Mormon Diaries and Autobiographies (Manual Tagging)


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Journal #434  <http://lib.byu.edu/sites/mormonstudies/files/2008/09/bittons-guide.pdf> Edit the journal reference Delete the Journal Reference

Author: Davis Bitton PersonId: Not linked to FamilySearch  
(birth/death unknown)

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Journal dates: unspecified

Web Address:  <http://lib.byu.edu/sites/mormonstudies/files/2008/09/bittons-guide.pdf>













Contributed by: DougKennard

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Summary: Guide to Mormon Diaries and Autobiographies (refer

Description: This is a reference book by Davis Bitton, published autobiographies that are in several libraries. Information about the material. A PDF version of this reference book is available on just reference information about how to find them. Diary authors would love help tagging the rest. The page numbers listed on the

1548 Person Tags found in this journal: [show/hide](#)

Page 9 #1: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) James Smith A  
Page 9 #2: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) James Smith A  
Page 9 #3: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) Myron Abbott  
Page 10 #4: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) Myron Alma A  
Page 11 #5: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) William Elias  
Page 12 #7: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) Walter Ackroy  
Page 12 #8: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) Florence Eller  
Page 13 #10: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) Colenda Chr  
Page 13 #9: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) Arza Matson  
Page 14 #11: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) David Barcla  
Page 14 #12: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) David Edwar  
Page 15 #13: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) James Jamis

1,500+ tags  
(so far)

**Description:** This is a reference book by Davis Bitton, published autobiographies that are in several libraries. Information about the material. A PDF version of this reference book is available on just reference information about how to find them. Diary authors would love help tagging the rest. The page numbers listed on the

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Page 10 #4: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) Myron Alma A  
Page 11 #5: ( [Go there](#)) (Tag details) William Elias

# Mormon Missionary Diaries / Overland Trails

**433 Diaries**

**PersonIDs of authors:**

**used online biographical info to search**

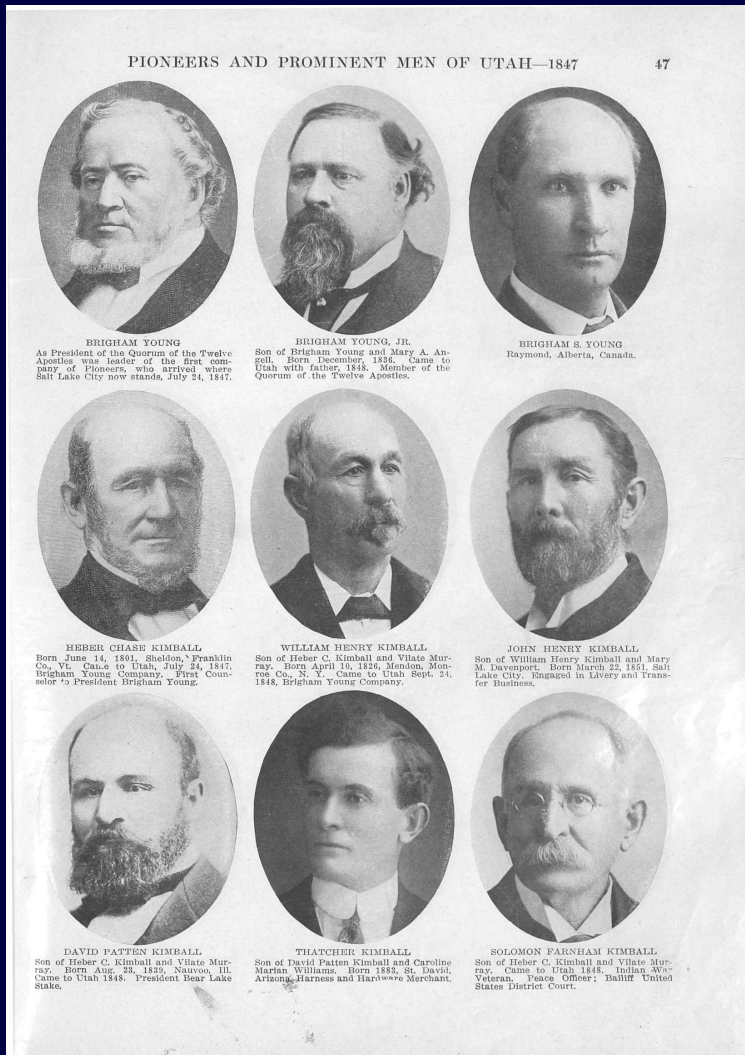
**PersonIDs of people talked about:**

**“Crowd-source” the tagging**

**Needed: bigger crowd to help tag**

# Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah (Frank Esshom, 1913)

5,894 photos



Start: PDF with (poor) OCR

Auto extract photos (3x3 grid)

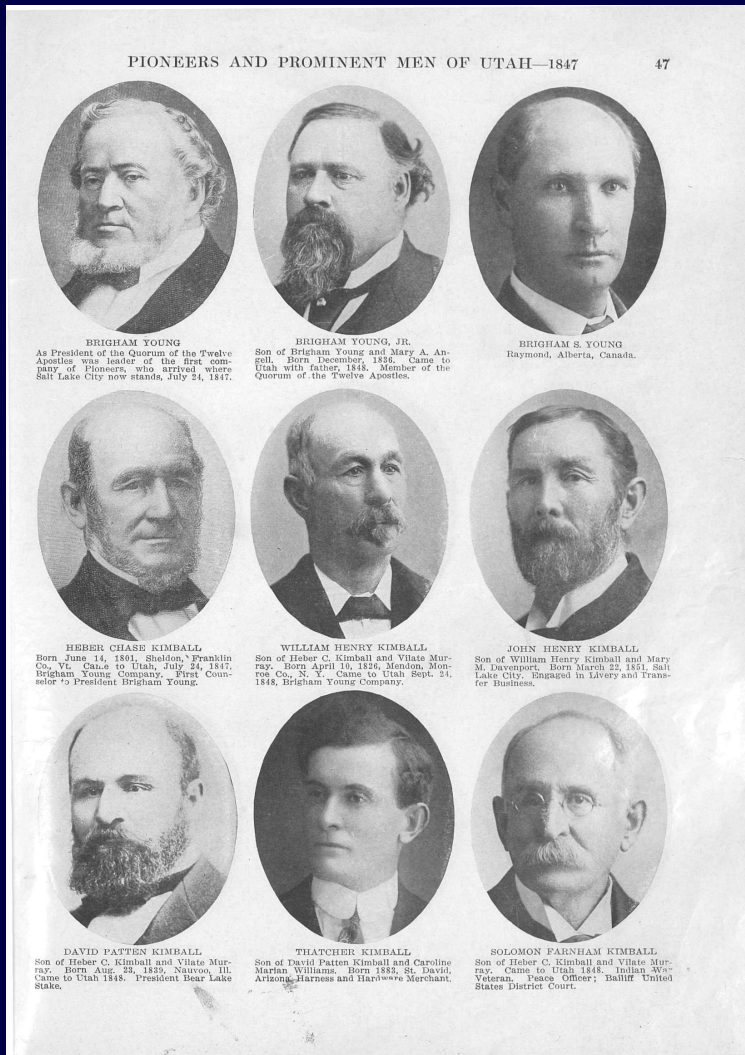
Manually correct obvious  
crop/OCR errors

Auto parse:  
name, birth, parents' names

API search, store PersonIDs  
for “close” matches (up to 3)

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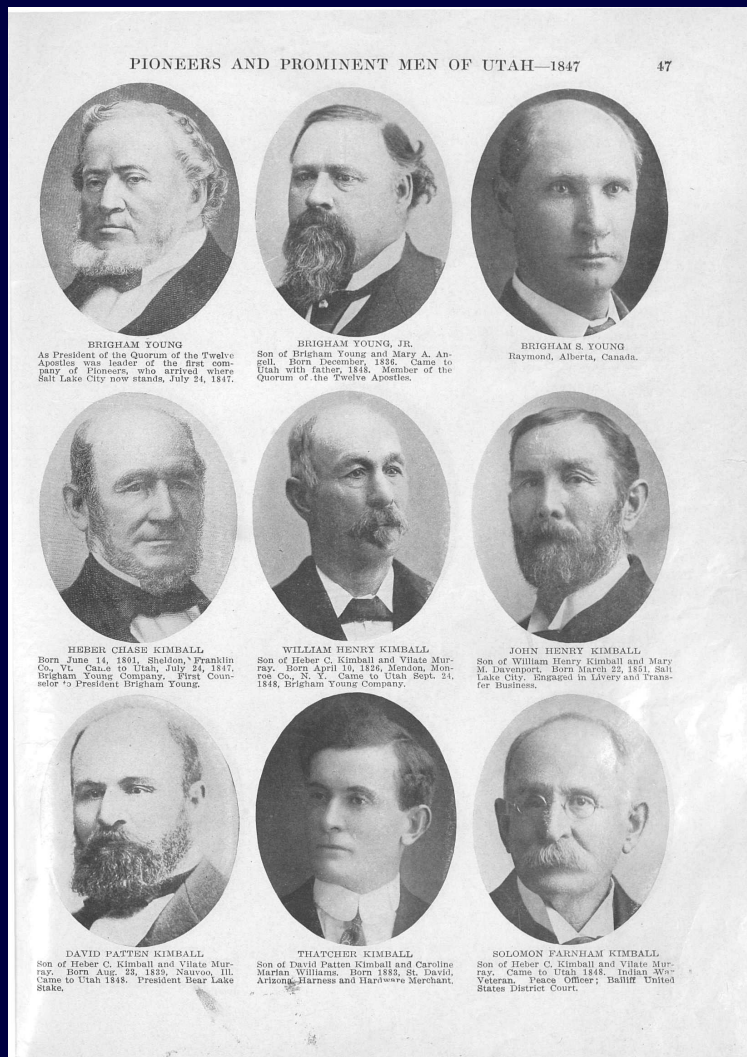
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name, birth, parents' names

API search, store PersonIDs  
for “close” matches (up to 3)



# Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah (Frank Esshom, 1913)

5,894 photos



Start: PDF with (poor) OCR

Auto extract photos (3x3 grid)

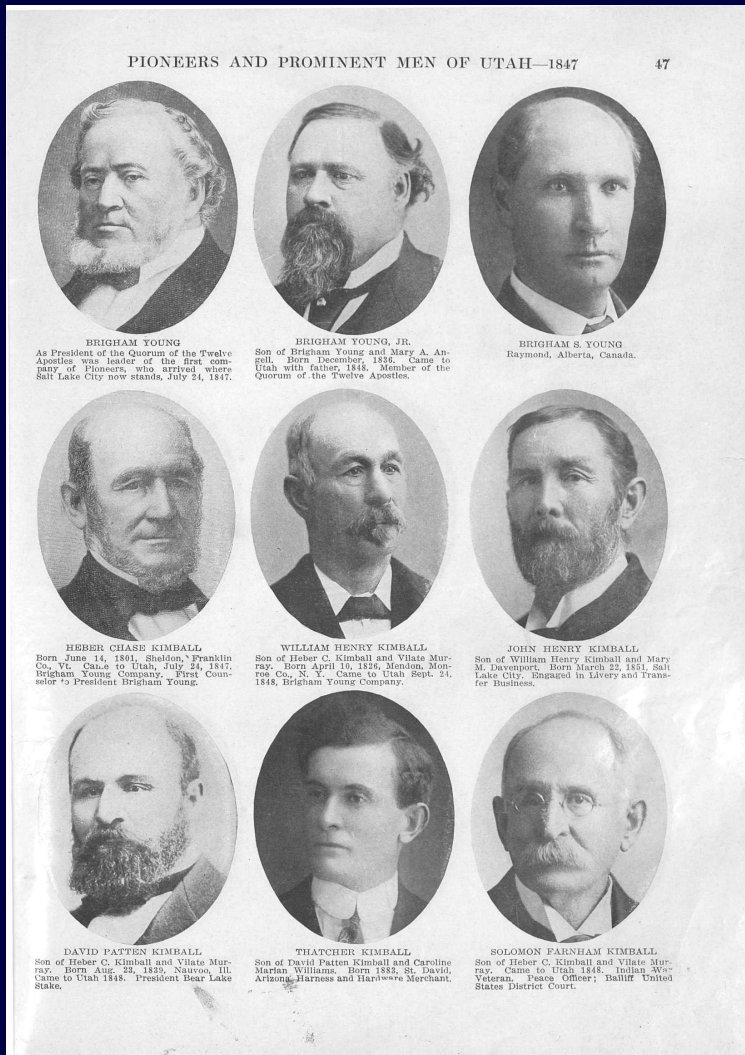
Manually correct obvious  
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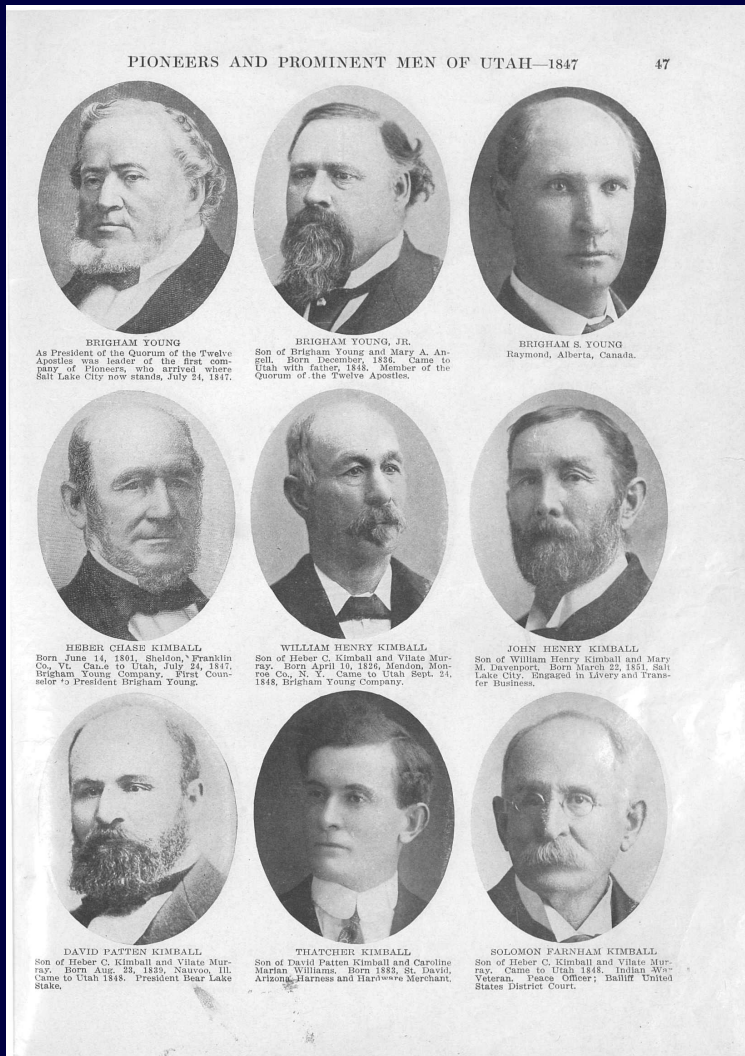
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# Mormon Overland Travel pioneer database (on classic.lds.org)

CHURCH HISTORY

The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day Saints

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Search Index

Alphabetical Company List

Chronological Company List

Submit Information

About this Database

How to use this Database

Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868

Search

Company  
All Companies... All Years...

First Name Surname

Search


*The Mormon Overland Travel, 1847-1868*, is the most complete listing of individuals and companies in which Mormon pioneer emigrants traveled west to Utah from 1847 through 1868. It is an incomplete listing, as rosters have not been found for all companies. It also identifies sources to learn more about the experiences of each company.

You can search for a specific person using the search form above or you can browse the list of companies [alphabetically](#) or [chronologically](#).

If you have information that could improve this database, you can also [submit a request](#) to add or correct information.

[How to use this Database.](#)

THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

[Ask a Librarian](#)  [How do I give gifts and donations?](#)

Rosters  
Trail Excerpts

Browse by company  
Search by person name (one at a time)



# Mormon Overland Travel pioneer database

The screenshot shows the website for the Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847-1868 database. The header features the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints logo and a navigation menu. The main content area includes a search form with fields for Company, First Name, and Surname, and a Search button. Below the search form, there is a description of the database and a link to submit a request. The footer contains the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints logo and links to Ask a Librarian and How do I give gifts and donations?

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THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
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[Ask a Librarian](#)

[How do I give gifts and donations?](#)

**Goal: index by PersonID,  
provide hyperlink back  
to the database**

**Code to automatically find  
the PersonIDs**

**Status: proof of concept,  
one pioneer company,  
no links on our site**



# Automatic Record Linkage



**Brigham Young's Pioneer Company - 1847**

**Crawl the roster to get:**

**Name, Birth, Death, URLs of Trail Excerpts**

**Use FamilySearch API to search**

**Store PersonIDs for “close” matches (up to 3)**

**Manually verify results**

# Automatic Record Linkage

**Observation: only use best match (not best 3)**

**Results:**

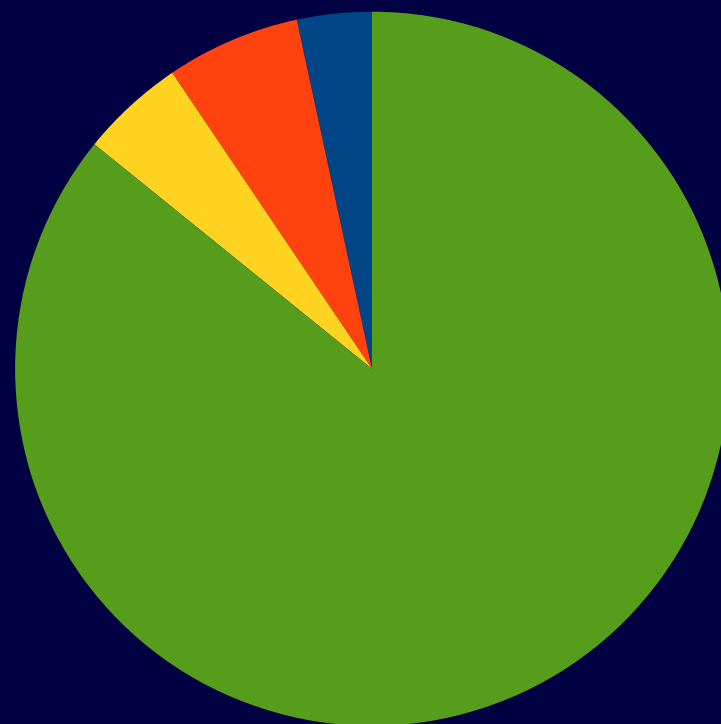
**Total People: 148**

 **Correct: 127**

 **Unsure: 7**

 **Incorrect: 9**

 **Not found: 5**



# Automatic Record Linkage

**Results very promising: auto-link entire database**

**Unanswered Questions:**

**First pioneer company (better records?)**

**Only 3 women, 2 were wrong (maiden vs married?)**

# Future Work

## **Investigate auto-linking more document types**

- Census**
- Birth records**
- Death records**

## **Semi-automatic tagging**

- find names in diary**
- compare to family names,  
other resources (rosters, city dir., census, news, etc.)**
- ranked suggestions in tagging tool**

Thank You



# Automatic Record Linkage

 **Incorrect: 9**

**3 - sons of person (2 of which were juniors)**

**2 - Females (maiden vs married name?)**

**2 - completely wrong**

**1 - James Cox instead of James Case, but had a James Case as an alternate name**

**1 - different guy with same 1<sup>st</sup> / last name and born / died within a year of the same dates**