IMPLEMENTING A SURNAME-STUDY WEBSITE WITH DRUPAL

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Overview

- What is a surname-study website?
  - Their purpose
  - Their weakness

- Why a CMS?
  - Natural fit to problem
  - Viable

- How did you do it?

- So what?
The Surname-Study Website

“A one-name study is a project researching facts about a surname and all the people who have held it, as opposed to a particular pedigree (the ancestors of one person) or descendancy (the descendants of one person or couple).”

- The Guild of One-Name Studies
Johnson family history
News

Feb 19, 2008 - Society needs donation

From the Greenville Sun February 16, 2008:

The Genealogical Society and T. Elmer Cox Genealogical Center in Greenville are in need of 7 legal sized 4 drawer filing cabinets in new condition. They can purchase each for about $200 each. Any donations welcomed. Contact Don Miller. These will house the Chancery Court Minutes originals, which are presently being micro-filmed.

Feb 19, 2008 - Death of David Herman Johnson

We regretfully inform you of the unexpected passing of our dear friend, and the webmaster's uncle, David Herman Johnson, February 15, 2008, in Greenville, TN. David was 70 years old, active in researching family history, volunteering in many community and church endeavors, and will be sorely missed. His obituary from the Greenville Sun has been uploaded to the Files section, in the Vital Records module. You may access the obituary by clicking here. David passed away from a recently emerged illness affecting his lungs.

Finished upgrades - Monday, August 13, 2007

The site is now fully upgraded to the latest version of the Content Management software. Now we can work on making the site more attractive and informative. Your input is welcomed, just email david@justcallidad.com. There is much we can do here to further our quests for Johnson Family History.

Adjustments and additions - Sunday, January 28, 2007

I'm happy to say that the latest version of software for hosting the Johnson Family History website has provided quite a few improvements and new features. I'll draw from the best of those and increase the capabilities of the web site.

In the last couple of days I have worked to improve the color scheme of the site, and have added a "Resources" page for registered users. The discussions area is starting to get some activity, please log in and post your research goals and requests there! We'll all benefit just from that. If you have ideas or requests for our website, please let me know.

http://www.johnsonfamilyhistory.org

David Johnson
gg-grandson of Andrew Martin Johnson b. 1855
ggg-grandson of Nancy Jane (Lamons) Johnson b. 1825
Who Creates These Sites?

- Personal family historians
- Professional and certified genealogists

- **NOT** web designers
- **NOT** IT guys
How Are They Used?
The CMS – A Natural Fit

- Relatively simple
  - Free to download
  - Easy to install

- Powerful features tractable
  - Indexing
  - Searching
  - Storage
Kendall Ancestry

- Define content with relevant facets
- Search content using these facets
- Text-search specific content areas
Create Record Description

Title: *

Record Type:
Church

Locality:

- Announcements
- Annuals Directories
- Annulment
- Banns
- Baptisms Christenings
- Births
- Bishop's Notes
- Bishop's Registers
- Bulletins Newsletters
- Burial Registers
- Chapel Registers
- Clergy
- Communicant Lists
- Confirmations
- Deaths Funerals Burials
- Disciplinary Records
- Ecclesiastical Court
- Family Records
- Family Registers
CREATE RECORD DESCRIPTION

Title: *

Record Type:
- Civil
- Announcements/Notices

The record description.

Locality:
- United States
- Utah

The geographical description.

Part of Mexican Claim 1821 to 1848
- State 1896 to present
- Territory 1850-1896
- Territory of Jefferson 1859 to 1861
- State of Deseret 1848 to 1850
- Part of Mexican Claim 1821 to 1848
- Part of Spanish Claim 1535 to 1821
- Earliest Settlement 1847
- Exploration 1765 to early 1800s
- Indian Reservation(s)
Implementation in Drupal

- **Primary modules:**
  - CCK – common facets across content types
  - Views – queries that enable searching and auto-linking
  - Panels – page frame that enables browsing
  - Taxonomy redirect – clean, automatically-linked lists
What Genealogy Software Should Do

- It should **teach** us how to research Family History.
  - An important part of learning is understanding the related taxonomy.
  - Users are exposed to the taxonomy through search menus and browsing.
  - The system facilitates coalescence of historical data in a contextual framework.

- It should **organize**.
  - The two vocabularies of the taxonomy form the fundamental organization.

- It should **transcribe**.
  - Abstractions of historical records in the Record Repository include images, vocabulary terms, and other essential facets.

- It should **cite sources**.
  - Citations are a facet of the record abstractions.

- It should provide source **provenance** (origin).
  - The current location of the actual record is a facet of the record abstractions.

- It should **remember**.
  - As with every content management system, audit trails, logs, and usage statistics are readily available.

- It should **share**.
  - Access privileges can be controlled with fine granularity.
  - The configured modules can be rolled together into a ready-to-use module.
Questions