

Declaration of Salt Lake City

by Dirk Weissleder, DAGV, National Chairman (Germany) and D. Joshua Taylor, FGS President (USA) given at the Federation of Genealogical Societies Luncheon of the RootsTech Conference on Friday, March 22, 2013 in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Attending the Third Annual RootsTech Conference "Where families connect" it is clear that these two umbrella organizations have a realistic chance to increase the exchange between German and American genealogical societies on finding ancestors in Germany, tracing offspring in the United States and identifying living distant relatives in both countries. The RootsTech 2013 Conference in Salt Lake City shows how important it is to develop technical solutions to preserve and present records and to increase the mutual contact between our genealogical societies and their members. We want to further the exchange of information and ideas between us.

During the three days of the RootsTech 2013 Conference, the interest in genealogy is illustrated by the tremendous interest by over 7,000 registered guests and representatives of genealogical societies in attendance from the U.S. and overseas. Family is the center of what we do and all technical measures are "just" tools to dig out all the treasures and share what can be found. We as national chairmen are willing to increase the exchange between our two countries. We are seeking further International friendship and cooperation because the family of today becomes more and more internationally connected each day. We are seeking to preserve the cultural heritage of our families and their past, and feel we ourselves are part of the big "genealogical world family" here in this large genealogical gathering in Utah's capitol city.

Our two national umbrella organizations shall work closely together within the world umbrella organization of the Confédération Internationale de Généalogie et d'Héraldique (CIGH) that was founded in 1971 as a result of the LDS World Conference on Records in 1969 held in Salt Lake City and again in 1980. We desire a third World Conference to be held in the future to further the interest in genealogy. Until that event, we look forward to the International Congresses of the CIGH 2014 in Oslo, Norway and 2016 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. We want to strengthen the world organization to build bridges for generations to come in setting the world family history research agenda for the 21st century.

Salt Lake City is called "the Crossroads of the West" but we shall better say it is the crossroads of the tradition of family history research with a modern understanding for future genealogy. The Family History Library (FHL) is unique and the RootsTech Conference in Salt Lake City gives fresh impulses and inspiration to the genealogical community worldwide. We are honored to be a part of these genealogical events in our time because they can open doors and lead to new dimensions of a better understanding of each other. For family history researchers Dirk Weissleder from Germany stresses: "Genealogists are crazy ... if they do not take today's opportunities", and D. Joshua Taylor from the U.S. totally agrees to that.

Press information:

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