

# Benefits of Networking With A Family History Consultant: An Example of Faith From China With FamilySearch Actions

## A Simple Email Request

All of us would like to have success with our family history challenges. But sometimes VIP assistance can be the very difference-maker between success or frustration. I have been actively pursuing genealogy for 50 years and I'm amazed of how many times I've failed but yet succeeded eventually after many, many frustrating encounters. I bear witness that whenever the Spirit of Elijah is ever invoked, it is as contagious as the common cold. My dear friend in China, Lily, has been trying to add onto her already very successful family history endeavors. She contacted me recently even though I know absolutely nothing about the Chinese language except Nǐ hǎo which translate to "Hello." But through technology, I moved at warp speed to assist her. Lily had recently opened a free account at FamilySearch and desired to learn more about the Ming Dynasty in the 15th-16th centuries where family history records originate from. She went to the FamilySearch command bar for *Search* and in its pull-down menu for *Catalog* typed in China and hit the enter key and found 1,975,909 Results. A second search on the "Ming Dynasty displayed 229 results, a more reasonable number to investigate. She eventually found a particular book that she was hoping it was digitally available on-line. It wasn't but that didn't stop me.

### List of factory records of the late East India Company, preserved in the Record Department of the India Office, London

Authors: [India Office. Record Department \(London\) \(Main Author\)](#)  
[East India Company \(England\) \(Added Author\)](#)

Format: [Books/Monographs](#)

Language: English

Publication: London, England : India Office. Record Department (London), 1897

Physical: xxviii, 91 p.

Subject Class: [942.1/L1 A3](#)

#### Notes

Includes records from India, Egypt, Japan, China ... etc.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

#### Subjects

##### Locality Subjects

[England, London - Archives and libraries - Inventories, registers, catalogs](#)

[India - Business records and commerce - Inventories, registers, catalogs](#)

[Egypt - Business records and commerce - Inventories, registers, catalogs](#)

## **Don't Give Up: Network With Family History Consultant(s)**

This book cited above was published in 1897 and apparently has some appropriate information about the East India Company from 1600 – 1644, so there is a 44 year overlap that may provide some historical coverage that my Chinese colleague might find insight since the Ming Dynasty which covered 1368 – 1644. Although the book is not digitally available but listed in the catalog as found on FamilySearch with 26 US libraries listed for this book. One of them is located here in Denver at the University of Denver library only ten miles from my home. When of I clicked on [View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#) in the FamilySearch report, I got a screen window with the University of Denver being only 10 miles from my home. I promptly called up the University of Denver Library and found out that the book is in their system but not on their main campus. They told me they could get the book to their campus for me to peruse it in the library. When asked if they had any connectivity with an interlibrary loan system to China, they said no. But there is a system that they used called the “Prospector” in which Jefferson County Library where I live, is a member. I called up the Jefferson County library and ordered the book from the University of Denver via the telephone and will have it within 7 to 10 days. All of this occurred within 30 minutes.

## **Create A Plan of Action**

Soon I will be able to scan the book to see what information Lily might desire. But even more important, one of my colleagues who I met in March at annual RootsTech Conference which is the largest in the family history conference in world, will be able to peruse the book as well through my scans as I will send both Lily and my colleague the table of contents and index to help me share the appropriate contents with them for further consultation. Which is quite an accomplishment when considering that the book is not available on-line even though it is on the FamilySearch web site catalog. I found that there are many copies around the world even though the book was published in 1897. I found that the book could be sent to me and can be taken to my home for my private use for several weeks. I could have also called every one of the other 25 USA libraries and probably would have received similar services being generated from a simple telephone request without ever going to that library to place the order.

## **Results Through Both Faith and Action(s) of Others!**

In summary, it is amazing what we can accomplish online with original research through FamilySearch.Org. Lily is only one example of how many people can be helped even though they are not in a position to know where to begin searching for their relevant documents. The consultants in the Foothills Ward are certainly capable of assisting members in their individual homes. At the Front Range Family History Center at the Jewell building, there are many stake consultants who could also assist and brain-storm with and [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Of note: I Initially had difficulty understanding Lily's email request for help. She had sent me screen captures from FamilySearch and I was just as

stunned as she was of how to proceed from these screen dumps. So I called the Church's Family History Library In Salt Lake City for assistance at 1-866-406-1830 and spoke to a family history missionary. Who in turn, read the information from the previously cited screen capture and told me that the information on the screen had relevant information where to find the book in the USA and aboard. And once I was guided, I quickly knew that the University of Denver Library had the book. The family history missionaries are assessible seven days a week by phone with extended hours. The available hours are astounding because even on Sunday, they're open from 2 PM to 10 PM Mountain Daylight Time and Tuesday through Saturday from 6 AM to 10 PM and on Mondays from 6 AM to 6 PM. In other words there's no excuse for not getting help almost whenever you have a question.

In Lily's case, she identified the book that she wanted but had no idea how to get it since it wasn't digitally available. And living in China made it even more impossible. And all I needed was a telephone number for the University of Denver library and the magical success story happened in a matter of minutes. I cannot promise that our consultants can do nearly impossible tasks immediately but I can safely state that the impossible might take a little time while the difficult tasks can be accomplished sooner than later.

### **Help is a Key Stroke or a Phone Call Away: Take The First Step!**

We live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century which is the networking century and through experts world-wide such as my colleague from RootsTech and me as a consultant, Lily received V.I.P. counsel and answers to her questions in short order when she contacted me. So have faith that affirmative action is possible if one will take the first step which is to seek help in the due process of doing family history. RootsTech is the largest family history conference in the country which has more resources available beyond your imagination both in the exhibit area and in the hundreds of clinics by experts that they offer for three days. The Church's Salt Lake City Family History Library is the largest in world with extended phone connectivity world-wide. The Jewell Family History Center has stake consultants who are experienced in consulting people regularly. This Family History Center will even give us an open night in which we are the only patrons if scheduled for a Wednesday evening. Our ward consultants are also ready and able to assist you. Through this Facebook group, I pray and hope that our members will take heed that help is readily available in this "warp speed" world through just a simple phone call, email or text message, through our Facebook group postings and/or with a visit to the Jewell building. Never underestimate yourself on what can be accomplished in your behalf if you exercise your "Faith with Actions" because "Faith without Works is Dead!" Follow Lily's Faith in initiating the first step by contacting me, resulting in this posting for your benefit which will lead to many more future encounters with FamilySearch now that she has and is using her FamilySearch account. Without the first step, the second step is not going to occur! Good role-modeling Lily.