

# FINDING WILLIAM

By Sally Johnson Odekirk

Church Magazines

*A prompting in the temple convinced me that my Civil War ancestor wanted his work done.*

I had seen the name of my great-great-grandfather listed on my pedigree chart for years. All I knew was that he had served in the American Civil War and died shortly after my great-grandfather was born. Since he had the common name of William Johnson, I thought it would be nearly impossible to find out much more about him, but I was wrong.

One evening while I was enjoying the peaceful spirit of the temple, his name suddenly popped into my mind. I knew without a doubt that he wanted me to have his temple work done. That was the beginning of the sweet experience of finding William.

I knew my great-grandfather's date and place of birth, so I looked for and found his parents' marriage record.

I was excited! With that piece of information, their temple work could begin, but I still wanted to know more about them.

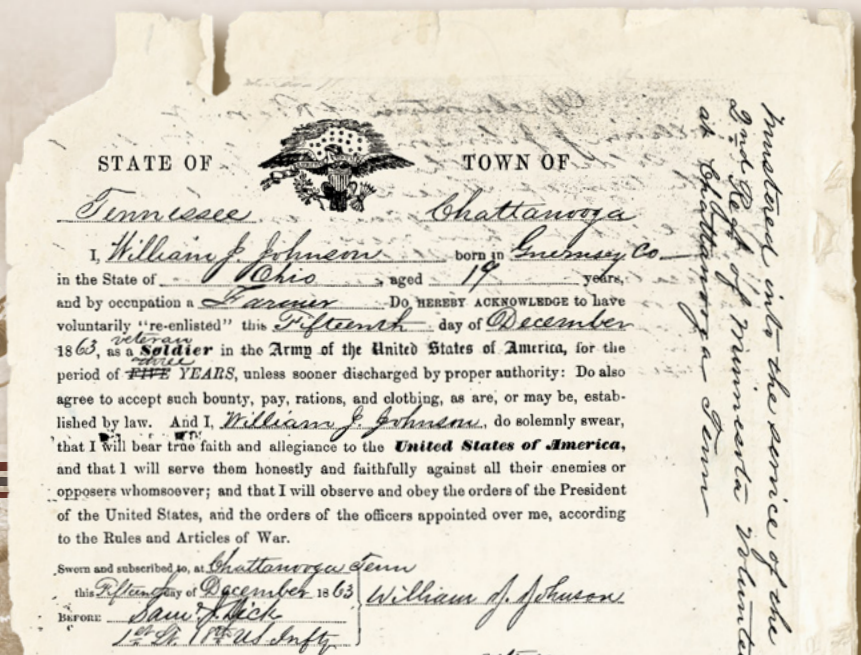
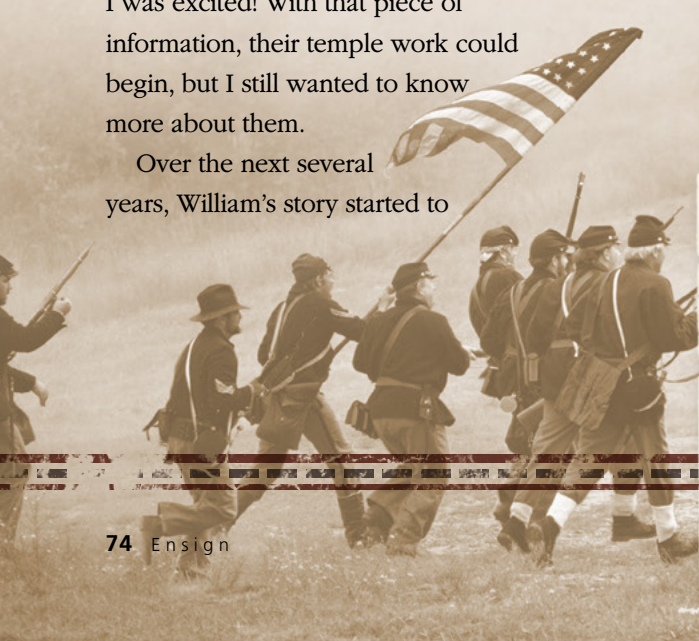
Over the next several years, William's story started to

unfold. One of my cousins contacted me and shared a copy of William's Civil War record, complete with his age, the state and county where he was born, his physical description, and his service record. Shortly after that, I found a book chronicling his regiment's experience in the Civil War, including a record of when he was injured. I was moved to tears when I compared his record with the regiment's story and began to understand a little of what he had endured. I also felt William's delight at being remembered.

Along the way we have found census records showing him with his parents and siblings, brief stories about his family in a county history where they lived, and photos of his parents'

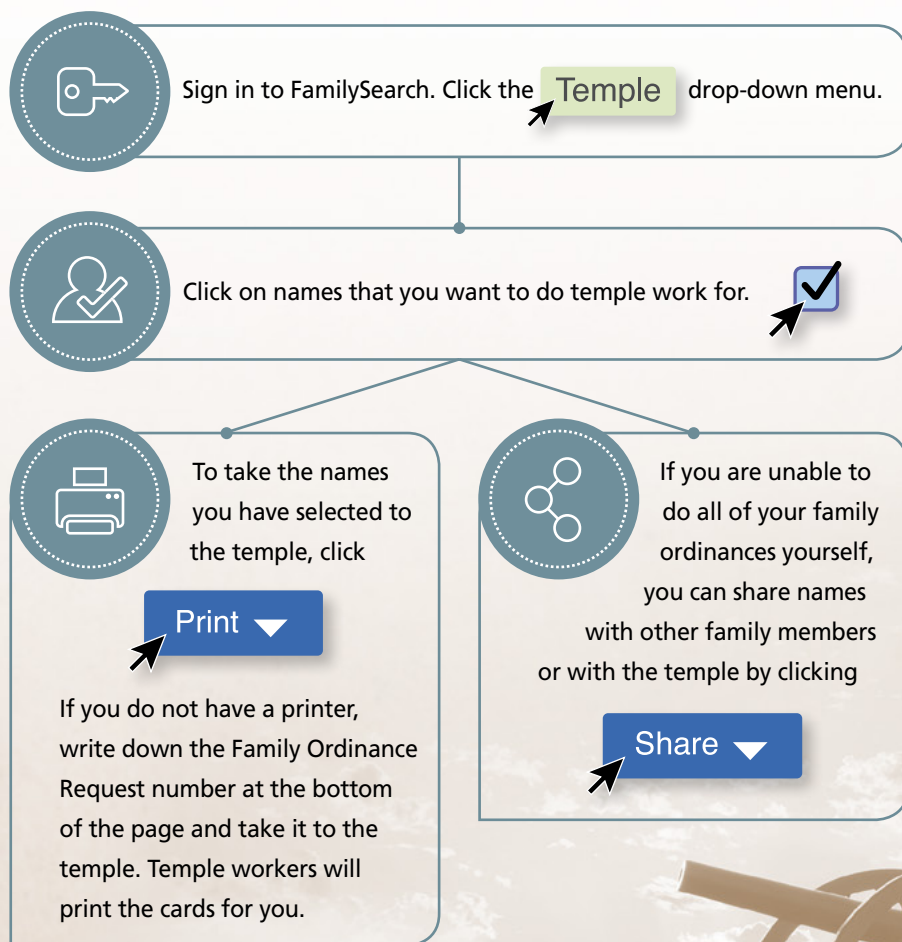
gravestones, along with his mother's obituary, at Findagrave.com. As each new piece of information is found, we take family names to the temple to have their temple work done, and we often feel their joy at being able to progress and be reunited with their loved ones. I still haven't found William's death date or grave site, but all of the records and stories that I have found have given me a glimpse into his life. He will never again be forgotten.

Finding William has helped me to understand myself better by deepening my love and appreciation for those who came before me. When I take family names to the temple, I feel more connected to my ancestors, and temple covenants feel sweeter and become more meaningful. ■



## TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF SUBMITTING NAMES FOR THE TEMPLE

Thanks to modern technology, finding and taking family names to the temple has never been easier. [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) makes it possible to print out cards that you can take to the temple:



## FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

“I bear testimony that the feelings of love you have for your family members—

wherever they may be—are a fulfillment of the promise that Elijah would come. He did come. Children’s hearts are turning to their fathers, and fathers’ hearts are turning to their children (see Malachi 4:5–6; Joseph Smith—History 1:38–39). When you feel the urge to find the names of your ancestors and take those names to the temple, you are experiencing the fulfillment of that prophecy.”

**President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, “The Promise of Hearts Turning,” *Ensign*, July 2014, 5.**

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch Temple interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for Family Tree, Memories, Search, Indexing, and Temple. Below the tabs, there are statistics: ALL RESERVED (52), NOT PRINTED (28), PRINTED (24), SHARED (0), and OPPORTUNITIES (0). There are buttons for Filter, Print, Share, and Unreserve. Below this is a table of reserved names with columns for NAME, ORDINANCES, and DATE RESERVED.

NAME	ORDINANCES	DATE RESERVED
Morgan, Susan A. 1870-Deceased - L747-1JX	Jackson 448006 Morgan, Susan A. 1870-Deceased	27 May 2016
Morgan, Susan A. 1870-Deceased - L747-1JX	Morgan, Susan A. 1870-Deceased	27 May 2016