FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

GENEALOGY NEWS

York, Pennsylvania   **Jack & Sylvia Sonneborn**   **Pages**

ROOTSTECH VIDEOS AVAILABLE

RootsTech, the world's largest family history and technology conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah, February 4-6, 2016, announced that 15 of its popular sessions have been **broadcast live and complimentary** over the Internet. The live broadcasts will give those unable to attend in-person worldwide a sample of this year's conference content. Interested viewers can watch the live presentations at RootsTech.org.

Also – Syllabi -
https://www.rootstech.org/about/syllabus?lang=eng

Google Is Shutting Down Picasa

Dick Eastman · **February 17, 2016** · **Cloud Services** · **24 Comments**

Google's Picasa has been one of my favorite photo editing tools and storing sites for several years. Now there is bad news and good news about the free service.

Bad news: Google will stop supporting the Picasa desktop application on March 15th, 2016. It will still work beyond March 15th, but Google will stop developing it and there will be no future updates.

Good news: Google is replacing Picasa with Google Photos, the company's new-and-improved photo service. In fact, Google Photos

is a better app than Picasa, although I am sure it will take some time for Picasa users to get used to the change. If you happen to have photos or videos stored away in a Picasa Web Album, Google says all of your media will already be available in Google Photos. Once you access Google Photos, you'll be able to share, download and organize all of your media in one location.

I just checked and found all of my photos from Picasa and from an Android cell phone are already waiting for me at https://photos.google.com/. For an Android user, Google Photos is an excellent automatic backup service for all photos taken with the Android device's camera.

Google Photo is a more powerful, mobile-focused service than Picasa ever was. It lets users backup an unlimited number of photos and videos to the cloud for free, and also comes with a search function that leverages artificial intelligence technology. For example, you can search for smiles and the app will show photos that include people smiling.

Google apparently wants to focus on one service that works across both mobile and desktop, rather than split its efforts across two different products.

You can learn more about Google Photos at https://www.google.com/photos/about/.

http://blog.eogn.com/2016/02/17/google-is-shutting-down-picasa/

BIG NEWS AT ANCESTRY, FAMILY TREE MAKER, & ROOTS MAGIC

It was announced today that RootsMagic and Ancestry have made an exclusive agreement that will (within the year) allow RootsMagic users to have full integration with the Trees at Ancestry.com and with the hinting feature that Ancestry uses. In other words, if you have a RM data base, you will be able to have RM show you the hints for your people in Ancestry, move people, sources, dates, etc., between the two programs, and even export your tree in or out of Ancestry without using a GEDCOM. I was predicting this would happen, and I suspect it was announced today because of RootsTech.

Here is a link to the RootsMagic announcement: http://blog.rootsmagic.com/?p=2612&cpage=1#comment-20380
Bob Givens

Ancestry, FamilyTreeMaker, RootsMagic!!!

FamilyTreeMaker has been acquired by the company that has worked on it for the past 6 years and will revive it. And, even bigger news to many of us is that RootsMagic will be making the transition during the calendar year to sync with Ancestry trees!

Terrific News! I've posted the news on my blog at Granite Genealogy!

Sue Maxwell
http://granitegenealogy.blogspot.com/
Utah Sandy Area Family History Advisor

Article below by Kendall Hulet of Ancestry.com:

Software MacKiev

Software MacKiev, with whom we have a long-standing relationship, is acquiring the Family Tree Maker software line as publisher for both Mac and Windows versions. Software MacKiev has been the developer of Family Tree Maker for Mac for more than six years and is thrilled at the opportunity to publish future versions of Family Tree Maker for Mac and Windows.

This new agreement means you will receive software updates and new versions from Software MacKiev, and have the ability to purchase new versions of Family Tree Maker from Software MacKiev as they are released. You will have continued access to Ancestry Hints, Ancestry searches, and be able to save your tree on Ancestry with Family Tree Maker moving forward.

RootsMagic

We have made an agreement with RootsMagic, a leading genealogy desktop software program publisher, to connect Ancestry with the RootsMagic software by the end of 2016. With this new relationship, RootsMagic can serve as your desktop family tree software, while having access to Ancestry hints, Ancestry searches, and the ability to save your tree on Ancestry.

Plan Ahead: Protect Your Genealogy from Disaster

Posted by Denise May Levenick on March 11, 2015 in Ancestry.com Site

Tips to Safeguard Your Home Archive

When you look for a location to store your family keepsakes, think about potential hazards and steer clear of danger areas:

- Avoid garages, basements, and attics
- Keep away from plumbing and electrical wiring, either exposed or hidden inside the walls
- Keep storage boxes on raised shelving off the ground
- Keep treasures away from windows, doors and fireplaces
- Avoid heating and air conditioning vents

Backup 3 – 2 -1

Make lots of digital copies and give them to everyone! Don't keep all your genealogy data and priceless heirlooms in one place. The Backup 3 – 2 – 1 strategy is a good one:

- 3 copies
- 2 different media (DVDs and external hard drives or cloud storage)
- 1 copy offsite (in the cloud, at your office, or with a relative)
- - See more at:
- http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/03/11/plan-ahead-protect-your-genealogy-from-disaster/?o_xid=57459&o_lid=57459&o_sch=Social
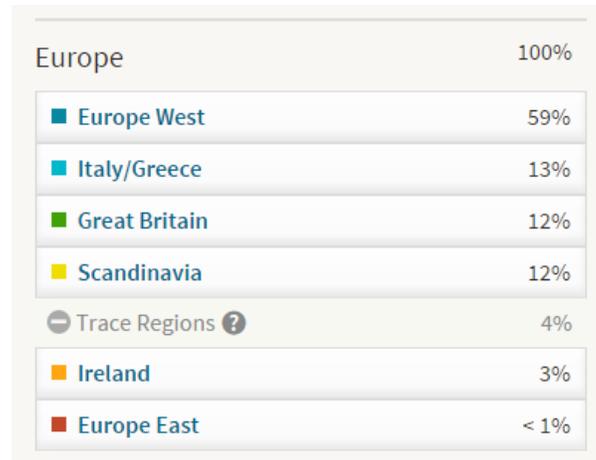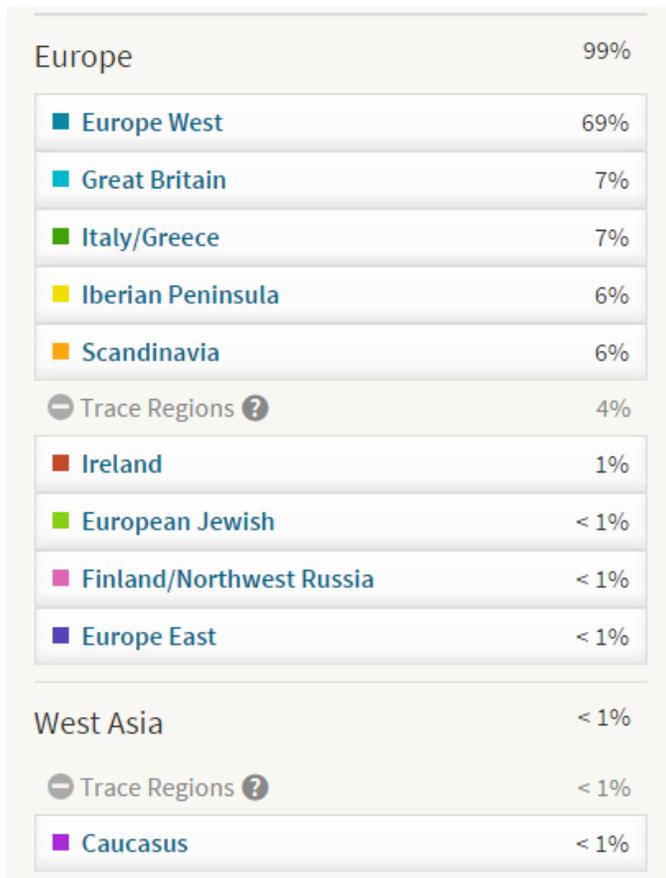
Sylvia's Genealogy Corner

Jack and I have resisted the impulse to get our DNA analyzed, but for Christmas this year, we broke down and gave that to ourselves as a Christmas present. We were surprised to learn that we have very similar backgrounds.

As it turns out, we are both predominantly European West. Note that we have quite a few similarities. Jack's background is from Germany, then Holland, and I also have a very strong German background. As for me, I never knew I had Italian and Greek ancestors, and I do not find any on my family tree. The Scandinavian of 12 % surprised me also, so I am not certain who belongs to this line. Jack has some trace regions that include 1% Jews, Russians, and Caucasus (Iraq area). My Europe East goes into Poland and Russia, but for both of these, the trace regions are very slight.

Here's our ethnicity report:

Jackson Sonneborn

Europe	99%
■ Europe West	69%
■ Great Britain	7%
■ Italy/Greece	7%
■ Iberian Peninsula	6%
■ Scandinavia	6%
⊖ Trace Regions ❓	4%
■ Ireland	1%
■ European Jewish	< 1%
■ Finland/Northwest Russia	< 1%
■ Europe East	< 1%
West Asia	< 1%
⊖ Trace Regions ❓	< 1%
■ Caucasus	< 1%

Sylvia Sonneborn

Europe	100%
■ Europe West	59%
■ Italy/Greece	13%
■ Great Britain	12%
■ Scandinavia	12%
⊖ Trace Regions ❓	4%
■ Ireland	3%
■ Europe East	< 1%

For me, my DNA turned up two extremely close relatives. The highest match is a first cousin Martha Krise Carl, whom I recognized as my uncle's daughter. [My mother's maiden name is Krise.] The other cousin was unknown to me, but his pedigree is included on Ancestry, and I was able to see that we have the same great-grandfather Reazin Haines of West Virginia as well as some related Hott ancestors. The reason I have never met him is that Reazin had two wives, and he comes through Elizabeth Tusing Haines while I come through Virginia Foltz Haines.
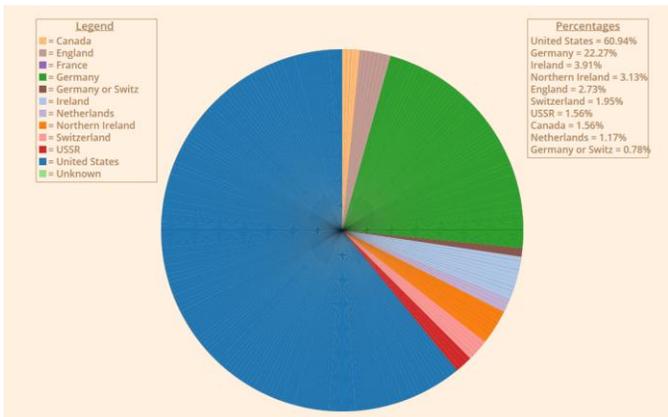
As I continue to look at those who matched with me, I spotted a third cousin whom I already communicate with; both of us are descended from the Krise line and share William Andrews Krise as a great-grandfather.

I found listed in the DNA report another distant cousin Sharon Sheldon that I share information with on my Barefoot family. We have common 5th/6th great grandparents through James and Mary (Sleek) Barefoot.

As for Jack, he ran into one of his aunt's children who does family history, and he has been having fun connecting with and getting information from several of his aunt's other daughters and a daughter-in-law. He never knew that they did genealogy.

It is a nice confirmation that a number of the people that I use for information really are related, and it is amazing that DNA can match us.   Sylvia

Legend
= Canada
= England
= France
= Germany
= Germany or Switz
= Ireland
= Netherlands
= Northern Ireland
= Switzerland
= USSR
= United States
= Unknown

Percentages
United States = 60.94%
Germany = 22.27%
Ireland = 3.91%
Northern Ireland = 3.13%
England = 2.73%
Switzerland = 1.95%
USSR = 1.56%
Canada = 1.56%
Netherlands = 1.17%
Germany or Switz = 0.78%

Above is my chart for grandma's pie, similar to my DNA. See page 7.

Thanks to Don and Jeanine Hartman of Utah for posting the newsletter online for us. You can contribute your family history of original York County ancestors at http://familyhart.info.

For older copies of **Genealogy News**, go to http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~payork/York2Ward/

RootsMagic and Ancestry: Working Together at Last Posted by Michael Booth

We're turning over a new leaf.
Search, Sync, & Download from Ancestry
Coming soon only to RootsMagic

Recently, the genealogy world was rocked with the news that Ancestry would be parting with their "Family Tree Maker" (FTM) genealogy software. Thousands of FTM users have since made the switch to RootsMagic. But the question everyone has been asking has been, "Will any other software be able to search and synchronize with Ancestry the same way that Family Tree Maker did?"
Today, we finally have an answer to that question- **"Yes!"** We're pleased to announce that we have partnered with Ancestry to bring these features to RootsMagic in the near future.

What does this mean for you?

Search   Sync   Import

1. **Search** – RootsMagic will be the only software besides FTM to search Ancestry's extensive collections of historical records from around the world and let you download those records into your own file.
2. **Sync** – RootsMagic will be the only software besides FTM to let you share data between your RootsMagic files on your computer with your personal Ancestry online trees. You'll also be able to download people, events, and even pictures from Ancestry onto your computer through RootsMagic.
3. **Import** – RootsMagic will be able to directly import your Family Tree Maker files, without having to go through an intermediate GEDCOM file, giving you the cleanest, most complete transfer of your data. RootsMagic will also be able to download your online trees from Ancestry.

4. **Information to Purchase [RootsMagic 7](#)**

5. **[This particular article is an advertisement. Also check the features of Legacy and Ancestral Quest, which also sync with FamilySearch Family Tree.]**

    Now you can search, sync, and download from Ancestry.com! RootsMagic is the award-winning genealogy software which makes researching, organizing, and sharing your family history easy! Whether you're a beginner or an experienced professional, RootsMagic is the *perfect* tool for you!

6. **Automatically search** your favorite genealogy records sites including FamilySearch and MyHeritage for possible matches to your data. NameClean finds and corrects many common problems in personal names in your file. Compare any two RootsMagic files and display their differences. Publish your family information to MyRootsMagic.com. See which groups a person belongs to with the click of a mouse. And much more!

Price: $29.95

[BUY NOW](#)

Yes, this is big news and we're sure you have many questions about it.

Questions
Does this mean that
Ancestry bought RootsMagic?
No. RootsMagic is still the same independent software maker that we've always been. We've simply arranged to work with our friends at Ancestry to make this happen - just as we work with FamilySearch, MyHeritage, and other genealogy companies.

Why are RootsMagic and Ancestry working together? This really is a win-win for both companies and their users. RootsMagic users will have convenient access to Ancestry's vast collections of trees and records, as well as synchronizing with private online trees. Former Family Tree Maker users will have a path forward, importing their original FTM files while using the Ancestry hints and trees that they've come to depend on.

When will these features be available?

As is to be expected with something this big, it will not happen overnight. Both Ancestry and RootsMagic are dedicating considerable time and resources to make this happen. We anticipate having many of these features available later this year in an update to our RootsMagic 7 software.
Are you the only other genealogy software working with Ancestry?

Besides Family Tree Maker, yes.

What if I don't want to upload my data to Ancestry? Like all of our integrations with other companies, these features are completely optional. You're free to use or ignore them as you like.

Will I need an Ancestry subscription to use these features? Use of Ancestry features will require an Ancestry account, even if only as a free Registered Guest. The features and records available to you will depend on your subscription level.

Will I still be able to use RootsMagic to work with FamilySearch, MyHeritage, and other companies? Of course. This will not affect any existing functionality in the RootsMagic software including sharing data with FamilySearch Family Tree and WebHints. In fact, these partnerships give RootsMagic users the ability to access more records from more sources than any other software.

I'm a Family Tree Maker user. Do I have to buy RootsMagic now? We certainly wouldn't mind if you did. But seriously, Ancestry has stated that current versions of Family Tree Maker will work with their services through 2016. So you don't have to make the switch immediately. We invite you to look at RootsMagic and its features and, if you like what you see, you're welcome to make the transition whenever you feel ready. You may be willing to wait until the new Ancestry features are available or you may wish to get started right away. Whenever that time comes, please visit www.rootsmagic.com/ftm for a special discount and instructions to help you make the change. Please visit www.rootsmagic.com/ancestry for more information.

Conducting Reasonably Exhaustive Research

To understand "reasonably exhaustive research" you may want to study what that phrase means, and all the record types it includes. Learn about Informal study options and Formal study options, click here.

http://genealogyeducation.blogspot.com/2016/02/conducting-reasonably-exhaustive.html

Using Timelines to Plot Out Your Ancestor's Life

Plotting out the events of an ancestor's life on a timeline can help you gain a fuller picture of them as a person. You may notice different locations they have lived, how old they were when their parents died, or which significant historical events took place during their lifetime.
There are several digital tools available to help you create these timelines. Find out what they are and how to use them-click here.

https://familysearch.org/blog/en/timelines-plot-ancestors-life/

The Easy, Low-Tech Way to Label Scanned Photos

You've scanned some family photos. Great! But who is in them? With file names like IMG_1092.jpg, it isn't readily apparent who is in the photo. How can you label scanned photos? You can embed the data into the metadata of the file, but there are two problems with that: time and access. It takes time to type all that up. And what happens when you email that photo to a cousin? Will they figure out how to read that metadata?
Fortunately, there's an easy, low-tech way of labeling those photos while you're scanning.
Want to know what it is-click here.

http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/2015/11/23/easy-low-tech-way-to-label-scanned-photos/

Why is FamilySearch changing the information on my ancestors?

Answer:
There are multiple systems in new.FamilySearch.org (nFS) that can modify data. They are all shown as FamilySearch. Currently, those modifications are synchronized with Family Tree. In the future, those systems will be moved to Family Tree. When you see data with FamilySearch as the contributor, it is data transferred from new.familySearch.org to Family Tree. FamilySearch does not add names to the system. All of the names in FamilySearch have been entered by patrons.

4 Steps for Using Google Earth for Genealogy

Use Google Earth for genealogy to find long-lost family locations on modern maps. Here's how!

1. Search each address in Google Earth.

2. Locate a map of the area for the appropriate time period.

3. Overlay and georeference the enumeration district map in Google Earth to compare the past to the present.

4. Dig deeper for addresses that have changed.

Click here to learn more.
http://lisalouisecooke.com/2016/01/google-earth-for-genealogy-map-the-past/

Autograph Books: Facebook for Our Ancestors

Many of us enjoy Facebook everyday to keep up with our family members, connect with others researching the same surnames we are and to keep up with the latest news and events. Our ancestors used different mediums to connect with friends and family. One of those mediums was autograph books. Click here to learn more.
http://agenealogistinthearchives.blogspot.com/2016/01/autograph-books-facebook-for-our.html

Make a Pie Chart of your Ancestors' Home Countries with Grandma's Pie

Have you tried the fun little website called Grandma's Pie? Grandma's Pie is a FamilySearch.org Certified App. It was developed at Brigham Young University by the Family History Technology lab. When you log in to Grandma's Pie with your FamilySearch credentials, Grandma's Pie extracts birthplace data from your Family Tree for up to 8 generations and creates a pie chart. If you don't use FamilySearch.org but would like to try it, here's how to transfer a family tree to FamilySearch.org. Click here for full information.
http://familylocket.com/grandmas-pie/

https://grandmas-pie.fhtl.byu.edu/

What was it worth? Calculating the Historic Value of Money

Money. It's everywhere in the documents we use for genealogical research: census reports, wills, bills of sale, and in the newspapers. I get excited when I see the notation of an amount of money, because it provides some insight into the lives of the people I am researching. That level of insight can be pretty detailed if you know how to convert the historical dollar amounts into their modern equivalents. Click this link.

https://legacytree.com/blog/what-was-it-worth-calculating-the-historic-value-of-money

12 Tips for Getting the Most Online From RootsTech 2016

Not everyone can attend RootsTech in person. For some it is a bucket list dream. As RootsTech grows in the future, the footprint of the conference space will stay the same. Those who attend in person are considered the "studio audience" of a global conference that reaches around the world throughout the coming year.
Here are 12 tips for getting the most out of RootsTech when you can't be in the studio audience.
Click here.

http://revealingrootsandbranches.blogspot.com/2016/01/12-tips-for-getting-most-online-from.html

How to Use a Microfilm Reader or a Microfiche Reader

I totally understand. Microfilm and fiche readers are not my favorite part of genealogy research, either. But despite the wealth of digitized records that continue to appear online, microfilm is going to be around for a while! FamilySearch and other publishers of microfilmed data (like state archives) do not have copyright permissions to digitize all their microfilmed materials. Even if they can get it, it's going to take a long time to make that happen. Meanwhile, we will continue to need microfilm and microfiche readers! Click here to learn more.
http://lisalouisecooke.com/2015/11/how-to-use-a-microfilm-reader/

Family Memories: Favorite Genealogy Documents from Family Historians

As soon as you discover it, you know you have something special.
Whether it's an elusive Census record, a long-sought birth certificate, or an obituary feared forever lost, certain family history documents illuminate your ancestry with bright, undeniable light. Perhaps an artifact helps open up a whole new line of family history. Maybe it confirms family memories long part of your legacy. Or a document might simply help you get to know ancestors better with everyday details about their lives. Learn more-click here.
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/family-memories-favorite-genealogy-documents-family-historians/

FamilySearch CEO Steve Rockwood addresses #RootsTech innovators; lays out future vision

Steve Rockwood, the recently appointed CEO of FamilySearch International, addressed attendees at the kick-off event of the 2016 RootsTech Conference - the Innovator Summit. He briefly outlined five categories of genealogy experiences that evoke these emotions, and remarked that FamilySearch would focus on improving the following categories of experience for all users. Click here to learn what they are.
https://blog.findmypast.com/rootstech-2016-family-1586000605.html

Alternate SPELLINGS for names instead of simply alternate names

Instead of adding alternate names for a person, how about a dropdown item that says alternate spellings. I have people in my family tree that don't necessarily have an alternate name, but their name is listed with different spellings on different records.
Answer:
I think this is the most common use of alternate name or also known as. I think it is fine to put the various spellings there as they are used in searching and matching. Just in the reason enter that it was an alternate spelling on a record or how they were called; etc. **Ron Tanner**

DING DONG, THE WITCH IS DEAD!

Great news everyone! Ding dong, the Witch is dead! And I have proof. Of course, the Fairy Tale Genealogist always has proof.
It's right there in the probate record for Green W. Witch. The "W" stands for Wicked, no doubt.
See for yourself-click here.

https://fairytalegenealogy.wordpress.com/2016/01/08/ding-dong-the-witch-is-dead/

Go Ye into All the Word -- Early Mormon Missionary Database

For members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and for those interested in their family history, The Church History Library is a valuable resource. But valuable family history information can also be found on many other websites, such as LDS.org and The Joseph Smith Papers. One relatively new valuable source is called "Go Ye into All the World. During the century that followed the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ in 1830, almost 40,000 men and women served proselytizing missions. They taught in 36 countries and spoke to millions of people. This database is a record of their service. Click here to enter your ancestors and review their service.
https://history.lds.org/missionary/

Scottish Genealogy Tips and Tidbits

Here's a blog to assist those researching in the Scottish records to gain ideas of where to look or how best to search in order to further their ancestral journey. Click here.
http://scottishgenealogytipsntricks.blogspot.com/2016/02/registering-and-researching.html

Facebook and Family History - What a Match!

Think Facebook is just for keeping up with friends and family? Think again!
Amy Archibald wants you to know that Facebook IS family history, and that it can be a powerful family history tool to help you in many ways.
Would you like to get your family "on the same page?" By creating a Facebook group for your family, members can share their memories of a picture, post answers to a question (like, "What do you remember about fishing trips with grandpa?"), announce and celebrate family events (even virtual family reunions), conduct ongoing discussions, and just keep each other up to date on doings. Connecting in this way can bring families closer. Click here to learn how.
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/facebook-family-historywhat-match/

The Surprising Secret that Holds a Family Together

Bruce Feiler was a keynote speaker at the RootsTech Convention on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016.
In 2013 Bruce Feiler, New York Times' columnist and six-time best-selling author, wrote an article that may have surprised even him. Called "The Stories that Bind Us," it was an answer to these questions: "What is the secret sauce that holds a family together? What are the ingredients that make some families effective, resilient, happy?" Read more-click this link.

http://ldsmag.com/the-secret-sauce-that-holds-a-family-together-three-ingredients/2/

Are we supposed to be attaching all sources that belong to a given person?

I was at the Ogden, Utah Family History Center last week and overheard a conversation. One person was instructing another to mark as not a match all records for a person that were duplicates of information already included on that person. This was especially a problem with marriage records in which multiple record collections contained the same marriage.

Are there any long term plans for records that are never attached to a person or family such as assigning researchers to investigate them or using them as extracted records for temple work? I see a potential problem in the future if people are treating Not A Match to mean truly not a match OR a match but a duplicate of information already included.

Answer: Marking them as "Not A Match" is the worst possible thing to do. According to comments from Family Search personnel, that tells the computer hinting routine that even though the information matches perfectly, it is not the same person and this will foul up future hinting for that person. Include duplicate sources in a record.

Personally I attach them all, viewing Family Tree as a master index to all historical database records for the person. If someone is searching a historical record database and finds a record for someone already in Family Tree, I want the other researcher to be led to the proper individual through the "Review Attachments" or "View on Family Tree" links, rather than make a duplicate individual in Family Tree for that person.

It appears that plans are being made for truly duplicate records. However, some of these hints that look like duplicates are not. I have seen some Utah marriage record collections where a marriage is indexed three times, but they only look like duplicates. One record is for the marriage license application, one is for marriage license, and one is for the county clerk's typed copy of the marriage license. Each can have additional information that was not indexed, and all are worth attaching so that future researches will be lead to all three originals.
Gordon Collett

Do I Own My Story? But What If It's Also Your Story, and You Don't Want Me To Tell It?

When I began working on my first memoir, I realized that it's not that simple. Yes, I own my story - that is, I have the right to tell the stories of my life. But I don't live in a vacuum, and in order to tell my stories, I cannot help but tell the stories of others. Do I have that right? Do I have the right to recall things that other people did, write them down, attach their names to them, and publish them in a book? Do I have to ask permission? What if they say no? Click here for five suggestions that may help you.
https://brevity.wordpress.com/2016/01/05/do-i-own-my-story/

State Archives and Libraries: Free Online Resources

An impressive amount of state historical books and records are available on free, state-funded websites; however, such sites, often with hundreds of different sources, can be hard to find and complex to use. Usually unknown and therefore overlooked by researchers, these state-supported sites are hidden gems; gold mines of ancestral information waiting to be discovered and used. They are free and paid for by tax dollars; it's time we make more people aware of these valuable resources. Read More-click here.
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/state-archives-libraries-free-online-resources/

U.S. Census Record Secrets Revealed!

It is too easy to just attach a source to a person without looking at it and discovering and connecting with all the hidden treasures found in these marvelous census records. You can find a whole treasure trove of valuable information from census records. What Treasures Are Hiding in Your Tree? Click here to discover more.

https://familysearch.org/blog/en/census-record-secrets-revealed/

6 Tips to Find Your Mexican Family History

For the millions of people with Mexican ancestry who want to celebrate by learning more about their Mexican heritage, here are recommendations for six quick research tips. Click here.
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/6-tips-find-mexican-family-history/

Colorado Adoptees Can Now Access Birth Records

The most recent state to allow its adoptees access to adoption records is Colorado.   The American Adoption Congress maintains a page which identifies which states provide access and then currently relevant legislation for every state. Learn more-click here.
http://upfront.ngsgenealogy.org/2016/02/colorado-adoptees-can-now-access-birth.html

RootsTech 2016: Resources for Priesthood Leaders and Ward Councils

New materials: "Strengthening Eternal Family Bonds through Temple Service" (booklets). A meeting, held at the Salt Palace Convention Center on the closing day of the RootsTech family history conference, was recorded, and content from it will be incorporated into training materials that will be used throughout the world in various Church units.
Several new resources were introduced during the session:

- From the Missionary Department, two new pamphlets that missionaries will use in teaching investigators and retaining them as new members of the Church.
- From the Temple Department, the newly offered ability for Church members to print ordinance cards at home before going to the temple to perform the ordinance work. [See related story.]
- From the Family History Department, a "beginner card" named "Strengthening Eternal Family Bonds through Temple

Service: Start Building Your Family Tree," and an accompanying online experience.
- Also from the Family History Department, the newly offered ability to enter names, pictures, and stories from the "My Family" pamphlet that has been available for several years into FamilySearch.org. The new tool is now available in 42 languages.

Learn more-click here.

https://www.lds.org/church/news/church-announces-new-tools-to-help-with-work-of-salvation?lang=eng

Explore User Submitted Genealogies - FamilySearch.org

Familysearch.org - International Genealogical Index (IGI) The International Genealogical Index was a family history database that listed several hundred million names of deceased persons from throughout the world.

Names in the IGI came from two sources.
- Community Contributed IGI (Personal family information submitted to the LDS Church),
- Community Indexed IGI (Vital and church records from the early 1500s to 1885).

Learn more
https://familysearch.org/search/collection/igi

LDS - PRINTING TEMPLE CARDS URL FOR INSTRUCTIONS

The instructions for printing temple cards are available on the temple page in Family Tree: click the light bulb at the bottom of the page; then click the link for more temple help.
You can also use this URL: https://familysearch.org/ask/moreHelp/temple/

or **http://ldsmediatalk.com/2016/02/16/print-lds-temple-ordinance-cards-at-home/**

When the help page opens, click the option on the left for printing ordinance cards. Note: There should be only 3 cards printed per page to keep a uniform size.

Could we have the ability to search through a person's memory documents?

It would be handy for people that have a lot of memories, stories and other documents attached to them, to be able to search through all of them. Ex: "Christmas" could bring up all the references across all stories and memories that have the keyword Christmas.

Answer:
A new view of Memories is coming, if you haven't seen it already. It is called the "Gallery." This new view has the ability to do exactly what you are asking. It's an exciting new way to view and manage your artifacts. Remember, the ability to "find" things based on words is dependent (currently) on searching the titles and descriptions of artifacts and only works for artifacts contain tags and those tags cannot include any living people.

HAVE LIMITED TIME FOR RESEARCH?

Here's what I Did Today in Just 60 minutes
As genealogists we all want more time. Whether we work full time, part time or are retired. There never seems to be enough time to work on our research or our files. And, if you have a family with children, there are even more distractions. What can we do with a limited amount of time? Here are some things I did today in 60 minutes. Click here.
http://www.michiganfamilytrails.com/2016/02/have-limited-time-for-research-heres.html

Can I use that picture?

We always like to add a picture or photos to our genealogy reports, blog posts, and social media, but don't always have the exact picture we want in our own photo collection. Recently I came across some very good information that is quite relevant to the genealogy community.
MakeUseOf.com wrote an excellent article on the subject called "Concerned about Copyright? A Guide for Legally Using Images On the Web," which you can access by clicking the link. You will enjoy the helpful simple flow chart - click here.
http://relativelycurious.com/can-i-use-that-picture/

Over 13,500 FREE U.S. Historical Newspaper Links - Big End of 2015 Update

On this website, the first set of online links to historical newspapers was published in February 2014. An update was completed in June 2015. This end of 2015 update has added another 1,000 titles since June 2015 and over 3,000 titles since 2014.
This gives us a total of over 13,500 Online Historical Newspapers to search for FREE. Click here for a complete list and links.

http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/over-13500-free-us-historical-newspaper-links-big-end-of-2015-update#.VsssGH0rKUI

MOTIVATING OTHERS TO DO INDEXING

Teaching and Training in Our Stake - We have a fairly active group of indexers but also a group of people registered but not indexing. We have been trying to change the equation for some time, move more people from inactive to active, and have recently come up with a plan: we have started a weekly workshop, Thursday evenings from 7-8 or 8:30 pm, and are promoting it throughout the stake. Response has been slow but steady as we have held the workshop over the past three months, but I can see it stagnating if we don't see some new growth. I'm looking for ideas to bring people in and get them coming to the workshop, and I'm pretty sure there are folks out there who have had successful workshops and other events, and can bring some ideas to the table for us

PRINT FAMILY BOOKLET ONLINE

Once you have your family history typed into FamilyTree, you can create your personal edition of "My Family" booklet which is sold for $1 for us to fill in the information for beginners. If your information is already in FT, go to FamilyTree and click the drop-down menu, and then click "Family Booklet." Click Get Started. Follow instructions to create your own "My Family" booklet.

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU UPDATE

The Freedmen's Bureau Project is 50% indexed and arbitrated.
http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/freedmens-bureau-project-reaches-halfway-point
Roots Tech is over and there are links to watch the various sessions. During Thursday night Roots Tech, they had a live 90 minute Indexing challenge for the Freedman Bureau records open to indexers world-wide. The Family Search goal is to have this project completed by June, 2016. At this point, the project is still behind.

The Index-A-Thon challenge was 900 batches indexed and arbitrated in 90 minutes. The **final result** for that 90 minute period was 1,867 Batches indexed and arbitrated. The project is still only at **47% complete** but there are 1,867 additional batches completely done and ready to be uploaded.

FYI Family Search offers free webinars. They are open to everyone

Webinars can be accessed by going to **FamilySearch.org;** click on **Search**; select **Wiki**. Type **Webinars** and choose the top entry. Click on **1.1 Monthly Class Schedule,** then the name of the month; scroll to find the desired class.

Make sure you check the times - I think the times listed are MST.

Thank you for your continued efforts and your support of the Lancaster Stake Indexing Group.

Have a good month, and the thought for this month is **"Share your Love" by Indexing and helping Fuel the Find.**

With warm appreciation for all you do.
Sister Janet Crandall
Lancaster PA Stake Indexing Director

Elder Renlund's Talk at RootsTech

1. The Temple Challenge has a new clause.
2. FamilySearch has apparently completed rolling out the new print at home temple card system.
3. Two new pamphlets that missionaries will give investigators who reach lesson 5 (now taught before baptism as well as after), are both associated with family history and temple work.
4. New card in association with 'My Family' booklet, online version now available in 42 languages. (Online version helps the member or non-member start his/her tree on Family Tree; in fact it fills those first generations out as you input them).
James

Apostolic Challenge Issued at Rootstech

By Scot and Maurine Proctor   February 7, 2016

Elder Dale G. Renlund, speaking with his wife Ruth, and daughter Ashley, at the opening session of Rootstech Family Discovery Day, strengthened an apostolic challenge that has been given for the past two years.

Elder Neil L. Andersen challenged the youth two years ago, "**Prepare as many names for the temple as baptisms you perform in the temple.**" Then last year the challenge was strengthened to add this phrase: "**and help someone else to do the same.**"

Elder Renlund further beefed up the challenge and issued it to all, **"Prepare as many names for the temple as *ordinances* you perform in the temple and teach others to do the same."**

If you do this, he said, blessings will flow to your family. You'll find not only protection from the temptation and ills of this world but also power to change, power to repent, power to be sanctified, power to learn, power to bind your family together and heal that which needs healing.

Then he invited all to share their experiences on his Facebook page using #templechallenge as the hash tag. http://ldsmag.com/apostolic-challenge-issued-at-rootstech/

POLICY ON SEALING "COUPLES" WHO NEVER MARRIED NOR LIVED TOGETHER

Issues Addressed
•I want to have a couple sealed together that was never married nor lived together but had a child.
•Sealing individuals that had a casual affair.

Policy
The decision to have a couple sealed that were never married and never lived together depends on the commitment shown in their relationship.

If they weren't married or didn't live together, the First Presidency will normally not approve a sealing. If there was a long-term relationship and there was evidence of commitment, then it may be approved. A casual affair is not a basis for a sealing. It is inappropriate to create a relationship for eternity when none existed in mortality. In these cases, you may want to consider having the child sealed to grandparents who were married.

If an individual feels strongly about having a couple sealed that were never married nor lived together in a committed relationship, he or she should write to the First Presidency through his or her priesthood leaders and explain the situation.

For related information on sealing children to grandparents, see What Are the Policies for Having Deceased Children Sealed to Adoptive Parents, Grandparents etc? (52716)
****

Can a Couple Be Sealed Who Never Married or Whose Marriage Date I Cannot Find?

Issues Addressed
•Can a couple be sealed who lived together but never married?
•Can a couple be sealed whose marriage date I cannot find?

Policy
A deceased couple may be sealed to each other if they lived together as husband and wife, even if no marriage can be documented or no marriage date can be found. Once the couple is sealed, their children can be sealed to them.
When recording the couple's information, do not enter a marriage date or place. If you want to indicate the couple never married, enter that information in a note.

Please note for couples that were never married, there must be evidence that the couple did live together as husband and wife even though there was no marriage or documentation of a marriage.

It is important to be careful to avoid any "matchmaking" where there is no evidence of having lived together in a reasonably stable husband-wife relationship. For example, from time to time the First Presidency receives requests from well-meaning relatives to have a deceased couple sealed simply because they dated, were friends in life, or had some other relationship other than an actual stable husband-wife relationship. These requests are generally denied.
****

Policies for sealing deceased children to adoptive parents, grandparents or others
Issues Addressed
•Can a child be sealed to adoptive parents, foster parents, or guardians?
•Can a child be sealed to stepparents or grandparents instead of the biological parents?
•Can a child be sealed to divorced parents?
•Can a child be sealed to multiple sets of parents?
•Can an illegitimate child be sealed to parents?
•Can a child be sealed to parents without a name for the father?

Policy
A deceased person is usually sealed to birth or adoptive parents (even if the parents were divorced). However, where justification exists, a deceased person can be sealed to other parents without First Presidency approval, even if already sealed to the birth parents or adoptive parents.

Justifiable cases can include sealings to the birth father and a stepmother, to the birth mother and a stepfather, to foster parents or grandparents who raised the child, or to a couple who intended to adopt the child but could not complete the adoption before the death of the child. Sealings to nonbiological or nonadoptive parents in circumstances other than the ones listed above require First Presidency approval.

If the question arises about which name to use when performing the ordinances (birth or adoptive), the usual best practice is to use the birth name and then update the record in FamilyTree with the additional adoptive name after the ordinances are completed.

A child cannot be sealed to parents without the name of the father, regardless of the circumstances. The first name or last name of the father must be provided. The birth father does not need to be involved in the sealing if he is not in the life of the child. A deceased child can be sealed to a natural parent and a stepparent without consent from the other natural parent.

While you can perform ordinances with minimal information, careful research for accurate and complete information before ordinance work is completed helps prevent duplications.
For questions about ordinances for the living, see your priesthood leader.

USUALLY A PERSON MUST BE DECEASED A YEAR BEFORE ORDINANCES CAN BE PERFOMRED - EXCEPTION

It is Church policy that a member who hasn't been able to enjoy the blessings of the temple because of the distance doesn't have to have relatives wait a whole year after the person's death for his/her ordinances to be completed. The person has indeed waited long enough! You need special approval for early temple work.

FAMILYSEARCH FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE Sponsored by FS

FamilySearch will present March 18-19 at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Family History Days

Whether you are new to genealogy or a seasoned researcher, find your story this spring with Family History Days on March 18 & 19 at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
Learn More   http://hsp.org/FHD

WASHINGTON DC CONFERENCE COMING

Annual Conference - May 7

Our annual conference will be held on Saturday, May 7, from 9:00 - 4:00 in the building which houses our FHC. We will begin registration in early March. A separate mailing will be sent to our Generations email list with the class schedules and registration form. Be sure to watch for this announcement, which will be coming soon!

A RootsTech 2016: Innovator Summit: Steve Rockwood

Innovator Summit General Session Steve Rockwood, CEO of FamilySearch shared the 5 areas of focus for FamilySearch. Click here to watch a short video of this presentation.
http://revealingrootsandbranches.blogspot.com/2016/02/rootstech-2016-innovator-summit-steve.html

TRACING YOUR SCOTTISH ANCESTORS

Follow these 5 guidelines to narrow down your search and find fun clues to your Scottish ancestry:

1. **Know Your Geography**: In the 1700s and early 1800s, there were no cars and trucks to make moving easier, so most people didn't move very far. By knowing what part of Scotland to search, you can narrow down your choices in a potentially long list of names.
2. **Find the Pattern**: Most Scots adhered to a naming pattern that involved naming children after other family members. First-born sons were usually named after their father's father, while second-born sons were named after their mother's father. And that's just the first two sons! Knowing the naming patterns will help you refine your search.
3. **Look for the "Anchor" Names**: Sometimes, the naming pattern was broken to incorporate the name of the baptizing minister or the nurse in charge of a birth. Names that break the pattern, along with middle names, can help distinguish one ancestor from another and create a strong anchor for your research.
4. **Try Different Spellings:** Up until the 1800s, spelling wasn't consistent, so it pays to try using different spellings. Use a soundex search to find variations of the same last name.
5. **Keep Other Details in Mind:** Surnames weren't adopted by the common man until the 1600s. Until then, people were identified by patronymics, physical traits, location, or occupation.

Posted by **Vanessa Wieland**
Online Editor
Family Tree University Family Tree University
[newsletter@familytreecommunity.com]

10 Things I Liked Enough to Share with You: RootsTech '16 Edition

This is a summary of 10 events that you will find useful. Click here.
http://www.littlebytesoflife.com/2016/02/10-things-i-liked-enough-to-share-rootstech16.html

Learn more-click here.
http://ancestorroundup.com/rootstech-2016-syllabus-links/

ANOTHER FAMILY HISTORY PROGRAM ALMOST BIT THE DUST

Family Tree Maker almost bit the dust. We have already lost Personal Ancestral File, Roots 4, The Ultimate Genealogist, The Master Genealogist, The Family Edge, etc.

Dick Eastman gave a few words of advice about choosing a program in his Feb 16 blog:
"Of course, the risk also extends to all of today's genealogy programs: RootsMagic, Legacy Family Tree, Mac Family Tree, Family Tree Builder, Reunion, RootsTrust, Heredis, Family Historian, The Next Generation, WebTrees, Ancestral Quest, and every other genealogy program I can think of. I wouldn't bet on any of them surviving forever. That is especially true as the trend of the computer industry these days is to move away from programs installed in personal computers and toward cloud-based solutions." Eastman concludes that you select one and use it but always have an exit plan and a storage file.

As for me, I am hoping that FamilySearch will continue to be a reliable program, but I will always keep another file for backup. This is the reason I use RootsMagic because I can keep my own file but also synchronize it with Family Tree. I also have the latest non-supported PAF file, but I do not update it. It is still there for earlier backup. And I also save my RootsMagic on a flash drive and also on my hard drive. It is a sinking feeling when you lose those records. I did once, but I had an earlier backup that had all but a week's work. As for me, I keep several copies and I share with relatives. My work is too valuable to lose.

ADDITION OF CHURCH SERVICE MISSIONARY COORDINATORS

CSM Coordinators - The "Arms and Legs" of the Church-Service Missionary Program

Newly called CSM Coordinators from around the United States attended a 3-day training workshop at Church headquarters in Salt Lake City this past month to learn their responsibilities and how all the individual components of the CSM Program work together. If you are a Church-service missionary, then you have a CSM Coordinator in your area.
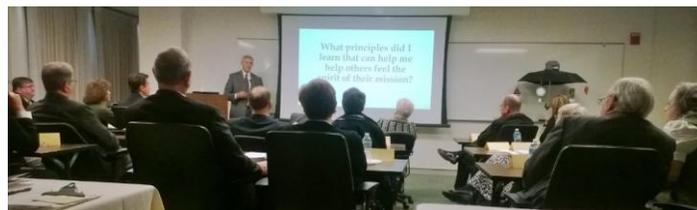
So what is a CSM Coordinator? These coordinators, who are actually Church-service missionaries themselves serving for two years, represent all areas of the Church and are essential to the smooth functioning of the entire Church-service missionary program and process. Here are a few of their responsibilities:

- Work with and provide CSM program training to local priesthood leaders, coordinating councils, operation managers and members to identify and fulfill operational needs.
- Process Church-service mission calls, extensions and releases.
- Build and maintain positive and effective relationships with priesthood leaders, department and operation managers, Church-service missionaries, and members.

They work closely with the local Church operations to make sure that requested Church-service missionary positions lead to fulfilling experiences by the CSMs. The CSM Coordinators are invaluable in providing assistance to local priesthood leaders in increasing awareness of the CSM program, and in helping priesthood leaders in their stewardship over specific/assigned positions.

CSM Coordinators are called under the direction of the Area Seventy and stake president. These presiding brethren look throughout their stakes and coordinating councils for couples that can perform these important duties, and are then led by the Spirit to extend the call to a couple.

Who do I contact if I have CSM questions?
You are invited to contact your bishop or stake president if you have any CSM-related questions. And be sure to check out our CSM Website for general information and the CSM Opportunity Site to browse current needs.

Jack and I served an eighteen month service mission several years ago. I was a support tech for New.FamilySearch and he was a support tech for Family History Research. For those of you who desire to serve a mission, we would recommend that you look into serving in one of the family history missions available.
Sylvia
https://www.lds.org/topics/service/family-history?lang=eng OR
https://www.lds.org/callings/missionary/church-service-missionary/?lang=eng&_r=1

Monday Mailbox: Best Kept Genealogy Search Secret

Posted: 11 Jan 2016 03:00 PM PST

Dear Readers,

In response to last week's post, "**Monday Mailbox: One Click Search of Acom, FMP, MH from Family Tree**," reader "Ann" left **a comment** worth repeating:

Dear Ancestry Insider,

While I use these logos for searching on FamilySearch, I also use a Chrome extension called **RootsSearch**, which can search, not only from FamilySearch, but also from:

* Ancestry
* BillionGraves
* FamilySearch
* Find A Grave
* FindMyPast
* Genealogie Online
* Open Archives
* WeRelate

The sites it will search are:

* American Ancestors
* Ancestry
* Archives
* BillionGraves
* Chronicling America
* FamilySearch
* Find A Grave
* findmypast.co.uk
* findmypast.com
* Fold3
* Genealogie Online
* Genealogy Bank
* Geneanet.org
* Genealogy Gophers
* Geni
* Google
* Mocavo
* MyHeritage
* Newspapers
* NLA Trove
* Open Archives
* USGenWeb
* WeRelate
* WikiTree
* World Vital Records

This is a best kept secret that needs to be shared!! It is not in the FamilySearch App Gallery. For more information, see

https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/rootssearch/aolcffalbhpnojekmimmelebjchjmmgn?hl=en-US

Signed, Ann   Posted on the Ancestry Insider

Looking for African American Ancestors?

Posted: 22 Feb 2016 07:21 AM PST

To get started looking for your African American ancestors in the large number of relevant collections on Ancestry, an easy place to start is on the African American Homepage. You can find a link at the bottom right corner of the search page or by typing into your browser http://www.ancestry.com/africanamerican. Scroll down the page to… **Read more** Ancestry .com Blog

Also: https://familysearch.org/blog/en/finding-african-american-ancestors-1850-mortality-schedules/

Another Genealogy TV Show: Relative Race

Posted: 25 Feb 2016 01:00 AM PST

It sounds like *The Amazing Race* meets *Who Do You Think You Are* meets *AncestryDNA*. *Relative Race* is a new family history television show, but with a twist: it's a competition. Cameras follow four married couples as they travel across the US in search of long lost relatives, armed with only paper maps, a rental car, a $25 per diem and a flip phone.

The couples embark on a journey that starts in San Francisco and ends in New York City, driving more than 4,500 miles in just ten days, stopping each day in a new city to complete a challenge, and find and stay with a newly discovered relative. At the end of each day, the team that finishes last receives a strike. After three strikes, you're out. The remaining teams travel on towards New York City for the grand finale, where a $25,000 grand prize awaits the winning couple.

As with the use of Ancestry.com in the Ancestry-sponsored *Who Do You Think You Are*, AncestryDNA technology plays a role in this AncestryDNA sponsored television show.

The show premiers on BYU-TV on Sunday, 28 February 2016 at 8pm ET, 6pm MT, and 5pm PT. (Do you ever stop to wonder why television show times are never given for Central Time? Do television executives believe no one lives in… well, whatever those states are in the Central Time Zone? Or maybe they think people there are good at math. So what do they think about people in the Mountain Time zone?) Ancestry Insider

Tips to Finding Unhindered Probate Records
Posted: 18 Feb 2016 10:05 AM PST

Last year, Ancestry put more than 170 million U.S. Wills and Probate Records online for all 50 states. If you haven't already discovered these records, you really need to check them out. Probate records offer unique insights into who and what was important to our ancestors and can often establish relationships not found in other records.… **Read more** Ancestry.com Blog

AncestryDNA Now Offered in 29 New Countries

Posted: 23 Feb 2016 11:08 AM PST

Have you been longing to connect with DNA cousins from your ancestral homeland? You're in luck! AncestryDNA is now available in 29 new countries from Asia to Europe. Here is a full list of countries in which AncestryDNA is now available for purchase: Albania Armenia Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland Georgia… **Read more**
Ancestry .com Blog

5 Tips for Getting the Most from City Directories

Posted: 26 Feb 2016 08:35 AM PST

City directories are useful for the year-by-year portrait they can paint of our ancestors. They document their moves, changes in occupation, and may note the widowed status of a wife who has recently lost her husband. All of this information can be obtained by simply looking up an ancestor's name. But consider the other types of information… **Read more**
Ancestry.com Blog

CHECK FOR BYU WEBINARS

http://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/

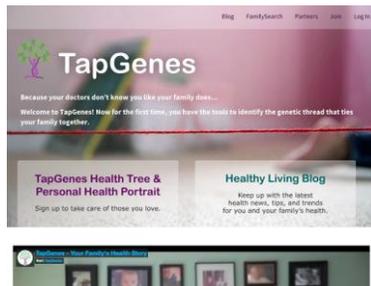http://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/classes-and-webinars/

Make the Resolution to Find, Take, and Teach in 2016

January is the time when we set resolutions for the new year-make one of yours to **Find** a name, **Take** it to the temple, and **Teach** someone else to do the same.

Read More

TapGenes -- Winner of the Innovator Challenge at #RootsTech 2016

Posted: 15 Feb 2016 07:31 AM PST

TapGenes.com won $45,000 in cash and prizes to win the annual Innovator Showdown at #**RootsTech 2016**. Here is quote from the **announcement from FamilySearch**.

In front of a crowd of close to 10,000 live and online viewers, the six RootsTech Innovator Showdown finalists battled for $100,000 in cash and prizes and bragging rights in the rapidly-growing, multi-billion dollar family history industry. TapGenes was awarded $20,000 in cash and $25,000 in-kind prizes.

TapGenes provides the tools to identify the genetic thread that ties a family together. Founder, Heather Holmes, got the idea for TapGenes after her father became very ill and the family struggled with multiple roadblocks to share his family medical history that impacted his treatment, care, and recovery. Heather made it her mission, if her father got well, to make sure this kind of frightening and desperate episode would not be faced by other families. Read more at Genealogy's Star http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/

"GOOGLE TRANSLATE" EXPANDS

Over the past few years, Google Translate has been an invaluable tool for assisting genealogical research in many different languages. Although the translations are not up to literary quality, they are sufficient to give researchers a good insight into the records and websites in languages other than the ones they are familiar with. For this reason alone, any improvements in the quality of the translation or in the number of languages available is significant.

Recently Google announced that they have added 13 languages. Here is the Google Translate Blog.

In 2006, we started with machine learning-based translations between English and Arabic, Chinese and Russian. Almost 10 years later, with today's update, we now offer 103 languages that cover 99% of the online population.

The 13 new languages — Amharic, Corsican, Frisian, Kyrgyz, Hawaiian, Kurdish (Kurmanji), Luxembourgish, Samoan, Scots Gaelic, Shona, Sindhi, Pashto and Xhosa — help bring a combined 120 million new people to the billions who can already communicate with Translate all over the world.

So what goes into adding a new language? Beyond the basic criteria that it must be a written language, we also need a significant amount of translations in the new language to be available on the web. From there, we use a combination of machine learning, licensed content and Translate Community. Posted in blog in Genealogy's Star at http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/

BillionGraves Plus adds powerful new analytic tools

Posted: 13 Feb 2016 07:48 AM PST

BillionGraves.com is the valuable world-wide cemetery mapping program that provides dynamic tools for analyzing the locations and clusters of graves. The basic program is free, but the advanced features are only available with a subscription to the Plus version. If you understand what is available, you will likely be persuaded of the utility of adding a subscription. The key feature of **BillionGraves.com** is the ability of the user to see geographic coordinate (GPS) information for all of the graves with photos of the grave markers. This system of user supplied photos is supplemented with "paper markers." If you are doing genealogical research, you probably realize that many graves, even in larger cemeteries, are unmarked. However, if the cemetery has records of the locations of the unmarked graves, as many do, or if you located an unmarked grave, you can use the BillionGraves program to "mark" the grave. All you do is create a paper copy of the grave marker and place it on the unmarked grave and upload the photo. The grave then appears in its correct geographically determined location with the paper marker as the reference point. In this way, even cemeteries with no visible markers can be mapped by the program. Read more at Genealogy's Star
http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/

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IDENTIFY A PHOTO WEBSITE

If you have old photos that you can't identify, add them to the Identify a Photo Website.

PUT A NAME TO A FACE at
http://www.identifyaphoto.com/

Black History Month at NEHGS

This week we feature two databases on African American families in Massachusetts: Hampden County, MA: Black Families in Hampden County, 1650-1865 and People of Color in the Massachusetts State Census, 1855-1865.

Visit our special African American research portal for resources to help you find your African American ancestors and learn more about the important role of African Americans in our country's history. Posted by NEHGS

100 MILLION RECORDS, 450 MILLION+ NAMES

Leading family history company, Findmypast, announced today at RootsTech that, in partnership with FamilySearch International, it will launch the single largest online collection of U.S. marriages in history.

Covering 360 years of marriages from 1650-2010 when complete, this landmark collection will contain at least 100 million records and more than 450 million names from 2,800 counties across America. More than 60 per cent of these marriage records have never before been published online. When complete, this collection will only be found in its entirety exclusively on Findmypast.

FINDMYPAST ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Leading family history site, Findmypast announced today at RootsTech a range of new global partnerships with leading technology providers. This will further strengthen its reach in the U. S. as well as U.K. markets. The raft of new partnerships include deals with **RootsMagic, Legacy Family Tree, FamilySearch, Family-Historian, Puzzilla, Billion Graves** and **RootsCity**. Findmypast will make its vast record collection of more than 8 billion records available to customers via these partners. The rollout of these partnerships will begin in 2016, with exact dates to be detailed later.

Introducing Family Tree Builder 8.0

Dick Eastman · February 5, 2016 · Software · 14 Comments

Family Tree Builder is one of the more popular genealogy programs in the world. I am always surprised when those in the U.S. are not aware of it as it seems to be very popular in most other countries. (Disclaimer, Family Tree Builder is produced by MyHeritage, the same company that sponsors this newsletter.) I gave a presentation at RootsTech about Family Tree Builder. The program is available **FREE** of charge for both Windows and Macintosh.

Today, MyHeritage announced a major update to the Windows version of the program is available today while an update to the Macintosh version will be available in a few weeks. Here is an excerpt from today's announcement:

We're excited to announce the release of a new version of our popular free software, Family Tree Builder (FTB). New version 8.0 has all of the features that you know and love, with a totally rewritten internal infrastructure that adds support

for very large family trees (up to 500,000 individuals), and delivers faster performance.

[Download Family Tree Builder 8.0 for FREE now](#)

Findmypast Announces Launch of 10 Million Irish Parish Registers

[Dick Eastman](#) · [February 5, 2016](#)

The following announcement from Findmypast was made today at the RootsTech2016 conference:

Leading family history site, [Findmypast](#), announced today at Rootstech that it will launch 10 million Irish Catholic Parish Registers, one of the most important Irish record collections, in March 2016.

Covering over 200 years from 1671-1900 and over 1,000 parishes, Findmypast has worked to transcribe the National Library of Ireland's online image collection of 3,500 baptism and marriage registers. This is the first time that the collection has been indexed with the images linked online, making the search much easier and the records more accessible. As a result, family historians will now be able to make all important links between generations with the baptism records and between families with the marriage registers. These essential records cover the entire island of Ireland, both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Store All Your Data in Your Pocket – Forever

[Dick Eastman](#) · [February 17, 2016](#) · [Hardware](#)

....Now researchers have found a way to store the entirety of the world's history on tiny slivers of quartz, not much larger than a quarter. Forever. Yes, forever. Well, at least for 14 billion years, and that is close enough to forever to meet my needs. The technology to do this is available here and now. The question is: "Will anyone buy it?"

Researchers at the Optoelectronics Research Centre (ORC) of Southampton University in the UK have improved upon a process first announced four years ago, whereby femtosecond laser pulses are used to inscribe binary data on nano-structured quartz crystals. Back in early 2012, the slivers were capable of storing 40 MB per square inch – about the same as a CD – for a period of 300 million years. Today's breakthrough ups those numbers to 360 terabytes (360,000,000 megabytes) of data for 14 billion years.

The disks are waterproof, can withstand heat up to 1000 degrees Fahrenheit or the cold of interstellar space, and have a "virtually unlimited lifetime at room temperature (13.8 billion years at 19°C)". Details are available at

http://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/2016/02/5d-data-storage-update.page.

Use eGENEe to Search for Genealogy and History Websites and Resources
[Dick Eastman](#) · [February 23, 2016](#)

eGENEe is a website containing a catalog of genealogy and history websites. Anita Brubaker, the owner of eGENEe, says she began keeping a list of useful, reliable websites in 2010. It was first a spreadsheet and later became a true database as the number of entries grew. It now has become eGENEe. The web site currently contains more than 150,000 links for US websites, and that number is growing daily. Currently only the United States is available, but there are plans for additional countries in the future. eGENEe is available at: http://eGENEe.com.

MyHeritage Launches Record Detective II

Dick Eastman · February 25, 2016

MyHeritage has long had the best record matching of any of the online genealogy sites. Its accuracy has to be seen to be believed. The accuracy of the matched records runs around 99%. MyHeritage also sponsors this newsletter so obviously I can be accused of bias. However, I honestly believe I would write the same thing even if MyHeritage was not the sponsor. Now the company has taken an already good thing and improved it even further. The following announcement was written by the folks at MyHeritage:

MyHeritage has just released Record Detective™ II, a powerful new technology that significantly builds on the original Record Detective™, adding over 2.2 billion new matches to historical records.

With the Record Detective™, records found in MyHeritage SuperSearch™ automatically point to additional records and family tree profiles relating to the same person. For example, if you're viewing a birth certificate you found in SuperSearch™, Record Detective™, it may point you to a census record containing information about the child's grandmother, a marriage license for their parents, a family tree profile of a connected ancestor, and so on, giving you new leads for your research. However, the Record Detective™ was only able to find information when there was at least one family tree profile on MyHeritage matching the record.

Family Historian 6.1 Has Been Released – the Biggest Free Upgrade for 10 Years

Dick Eastman · February 24, 2016

The following announcement was written by the folks at Calico Pie, the company that produces Family Historian software:

LONDON – February 24th, 2016. Calico Pie today announced the release of Family Historian 6.1 – a free upgrade for version 6 users, and the largest free upgrade of the program for more than 10 years.

Purchase Information Version 6.1 is free for version 6 users only. Version 6 is available for purchase as a download or boxed. There are also lower-priced upgrade options for version 5 and version 4 users. Please see http://www.family-historian.co.uk/store for purchase options.

African-American Medal of Honor Recipients

The Medal of Honor is the United States' highest military decoration for valor. There are currently more than 3,400 recipients of this medal, stretching back to 1863 when it was first awarded. This Black History Month, let's take a closer look at a few of the African-American recipients.

Robert Blake. Blake was the first African-American to receive the Medal of Honor, in 1864, for actions while serving with the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. William Harvey Carney is sometimes credited as the first African-American recipient since he performed his Medal of Honor action first. However, since Carney wasn't awarded the medal until 1900, Blake was the first to physically receive it. Blake, an escaped slave, was ...**Continue Reading** Fold3.com

FAMILYSEARCH BLOG

These are direct links to stories on the FamilySearch Blog. There are also older posts that are excellent. Go to the FamilySearch home page and click on BLOG at the bottom of the page, or click on this link to see more: **https://familysearch.org/blog/en/**

7 Lessons from RootsTech 2016 That Can Lead to Family History Breakthroughs
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/7-lessons-rootstech-2016-lead-family-history-breakthroughs/

Dealing with Ethical Dilemmas in an Online World
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/dealing-ethical-dilemmas-online-world/

Making Family Connections Memorable
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/making-family-connections-memorable/

Teach Yourself and Others: New Online Training Now Available March 2016
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/teach-online-training-availablefebruary-2016/

The Family History Library Announces Free Classes and Webinars for March 2016
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/family-history-library-announces-free-classes-webinars-march-2016/

Top 3 Reasons Why FamilySearch Historical Records Articles Should Be Your Favorite Research Resource
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/top-3-reasons-familysearch-historical-records-articles-favorite-research-resource/

10 Steps to Writing an Engaging Family History
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/10-steps-writing-engaging-family-history/

Relative Race—A New Show on BYU-TV
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/relative-racea-show-byutv/

Helping Your Photographs Live Forever
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/helping-photographs-live/

Can I Undo That? 25 Tech Mistakes You Should Avoid
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/undo-25-tech-mistakes-avoid/

Partner News – February 2016
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/partner-news-february-2016/

RootsTech 2016 Recap: Tweets Tell the Story of this Amazing Family History Event
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/rootstech-2016-recap-tweets-story-amazing-family-history-event-2/

Saving Families through Story Telling
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/saving-families-story-telling/

Soothe Your Tech Tummy Ache
https://familysearch.org/blog/en/soothe-tech-tummy-ache/

The Susquehanna Trail Genealogy Club **WILL NOT** meet on Thursday, March 24, 2016.

Instead, the STGC will be meeting with the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society for a combined meeting:

**Sunday, March 20, 1:30-5:00 p.m.
York County Heritage Trust
250 East Market Street, York**

SCPGC is having a very special program and guest speaker: "**Fundamentals of Irish Genealogical Research**," presented by Fintan Mullan, director of the Ulster Historical Foundation. We invite all of our members and guests to attend.

That's all, Folks!

New FamilySearch Collections Update: February 16, 2016

It will take some time to peruse this week's updates–50 in all! Check out all of the marriage records from a variety of states, including New York, Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. Other highlights include New York New York Index to Alien Crewmen Who Were Discharged or Who Deserted 1917-1957, California San Francisco Airplane Arrival Card Index 1936-1949, Ukraine Kyiv Orthodox Consistory Church Book Duplicates 1734 1920, and New Zealand Auckland Waikumete Cemetery Records 1886-1943 . Find these and more by following the links bellow.

COLLECTION	INDEXED RECORDS	DIGITAL RECORDS	COMMENTS
BillionGraves Index	227,783	227,783	Added indexed records and images to an existing collection
British Columbia Marriage Registrations 1859-1932; 1937-1938	6,123	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
California San Francisco Airplane Arrival Card Index 1936-1949	22,858	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
England and Wales Census 1861	2,504,271	111,092	Added indexed records and images to an existing collection
England Durham Diocese Marriage Bonds & Allegations 1692-1900	35,079	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Florida and South Carolina Airplane Arrival Manifests 1944-1945	0	127	New browsable image collection.
Florida Knights Keys Passenger Lists 1908-1912	5,399	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Honduras Civil Registration 1841-1968	0	609	Added images to an existing collection
Idaho Birth Index 1861-1911	60,430	0	New indexed records collection
Idaho Death Certificates 1938-1961	118,152	0	New indexed records collection
Illinois Cook County Deaths 1878-1994	3,732,138	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Indiana Marriages 1811-2007	276,945	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Italy Bergamo Civil Registration (State Archive) 1866-1901	6,965	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Italy Caltanissetta Civil Registration (State Archive) 1820-1935	78,629	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Italy Grosseto Civil Registration (State Archive) 1851-1907	113,690	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Italy Modena Civil Registration (State Archive) 1806-1942	67,474	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Italy Prato Civil Registration (State Archive) 1866-1923	7,183	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Italy Reggio Calabria Civil Registration (State Archive) 1784-1943	0	2,143,899	Added images to an existing collection
Italy Viterbo Civil Registration (State Archive) 1870-1943	90,051	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Kansas County Marriages 1855-1911	311,857	2,333	Added

			images to an existing collection
Kansas Marriages 1811-1911	185,068	0	New indexed records collection
Liberia Marriage Records 1941-1974	24,625	24,406	New browsable image collection.
Louisiana Parish Marriages 1837-1957	46,810	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Maine Crew List Arriving at Eastport 1949-1958	7,239	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Maryland County Marriages 1658-1940	53,762	0	New indexed records collection
Minnesota County Marriages 1860-1949	570,213	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Mississippi Tippah County Marriages 1858-1979	19,583	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Missouri County Marriage Naturalization and Court Records 1800-1991	57,837	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
New York County Marriages 1847-1848; 1908-1936	252,052	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
New York New York Index to Alien Crewmen Who Were Discharged or Who Deserted 1917-1957	1,270,298	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island) 1891-1924	0	3,243,611	New browsable image collection.
New York Passenger Lists 1820-1891	30,480	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
New Zealand Auckland Waikumete Cemetery Records 1886-1943	0	971	New browsable image collection.
North Carolina County Marriages 1762-1979	1,796	1,796	Added indexed records to an existing collection
North Dakota Manifests of Immigrant Arrivals 1910-1952	11,631	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Ohio County Marriages 1789-2013	92,719	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Ohio Washington County Court Records 1810-1930	0	6,421	Added images to an existing collection
Oklahoma County Marriages 1890-1995	126,532	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Ontario Births 1869-1910	125,109	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Pennsylvania Crew Lists arriving at Erie 1952-1957	44,119	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Peru Áncash Civil Registration 1888-2005	0	3,146	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Peru Cajamarca Civil Registration 1938-1996	0	3,175	Added images to an existing collection
Philippines Civil Registration (National) 1945-1984	180,213	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Poland Radom Roman Catholic Church Books 1587-1966	1,884	62	Added indexed records and images to an existing collection
Portugal Portalegre Catholic Church Records 1859-1911	4,441	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection

South Africa Netherdutch Reformed Church Registers (Pretoria Archive) 1838- 1991	48,422	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Spain Province of Cádiz Municipal Records 1784-1956	0	57	Added images to an existing collection
Ukraine Kyiv Orthodox Consistory Church Book Duplicates 1734-1920	0	189,353	Added images to an existing collection
Utah County Marriages 1887-1937	337,714	124,465	Added indexed records and images to an existing collection
Venezuela Archdiocese of Mérida Catholic Church Records 1654-2013	0	405,819	Added images to an existing collection

New FamilySearch Collections Update: February 22, 2016

You will find new marriage records from Kansas and Maryland this week along with England Devon Bishop's Transcripts 1558-1887, England Lancashire Oldham Cemetery Registers 1797-2004, and United States World War II Prisoners of War 1941-1945. Find these and more by following the links below.

COLLECTION	INDEXED RECORDS	DIGITAL RECORDS	COMMENTS
California San Francisco Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving 1954- 1957	375,314	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
England Devon Bishop's Transcripts 1558-1887	256,201	93,511	New indexed records and images collection
England Lancashire Oldham Cemetery Registers 1797-2004	481,340	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Indiana Gary and East Chicago Crew Lists 1945-1956	17,094	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Kansas County Marriages 1855-1911	148,676	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Maryland Marriages 1666-1970	96,638	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Massachusetts Delayed and Corrected Vital Records 1753-1900	31,701	11,788	New indexed records and images collection
United States World War II Prisoners of War 1941-1945	143,374	0	New indexed records collection