

The Rest of the Story

I've simplified Family History in 7 Easy Steps so a person will have some central Goals to keep in mind, while learning to use FamilySearch.org

Of course, there are many more details to know, and you will learn them along the way. Here are some details to augment the 7 Easy Steps:

#1 - Whenever you ADD an ancestor to FamilySearch, you should do so by connecting that person within the context of a Family.

Along with birth, death, and marriage dates and places, a person is primarily identified by his or her relationship to Parents, Siblings, Spouses, and/or Children.

#2 - When you ATTACH online records to a PERSON Page, those records are located at the "Sources" section of that PERSON Page. You will refer to these records during the Merge process. These Sources will indicate which Names, Dates, Places, and Relationships are correct.

#3 - When you ADD Children, Parents, Siblings, and Spouses, you can do so by typing in the Info one name at a time, and one date at a time — based upon the Info from the Vital and Census Records in the Sources section. OR

You can use a new function at FamilySearch.org called the "Source Linker" — which enters names, dates, and places for you, as you confirm correct Info, one person at a time.

#4 - Checking for POSSIBLE DUPLICATES must be done again and again while you prune your Family Tree, because there will often be multiple records for one Ancestor.

My mother used to have 26 duplicate records, and today, all those duplicates have been Merged into one accurate record, where each name, date, place, and relationship is documented by Vital and Census records that are ATTACHED in the "Sources" section of her PERSON Page.

#5 - When lower limbs of your Family Tree have been pruned and polished, then you can begin to "branch out" and ADD more ancestors. You do this by finding Dead Ends in TREE View, and repeating Steps #2 and #3.

Family History Research in 7 Easy Steps

- 1 - FIND your Ancestor in the Family Tree Database, or Enter that Ancestor if not there.
- 2 - ATTACH Vital and Census Records to the PERSON Page via SEARCH RECORDS
- 3 - ADD Children, Parents, Siblings, and Spouses per Info discovered in Vital and Census Records
- 4 - After researching and ATTACHING Online Records, check for POSSIBLE DUPLICATES & Merge Dups
- 5 - In TREE View, Locate Dead Ends then Repeat steps #2 and #3
- 6 - Climb TREE: Search for Ordinances not done, look 4 Green Arrows or Green Temple
- 7 - REQUEST ORDINANCES to TEMPLE File, then before going to Temple, PRINT F.O.R.

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Even if you have paper genealogy records, it's still good to locate the online records for two reasons: First, to confirm that your paper records are accurate, and Second, so your online "Sources" are openly shared with all family members who have FamilySearch accounts.

#6 - In TREE View, as you Climb your Family Tree, you will notice Icons that indicate whether Ordinances are Available for Request, or Completed, In Progress, or Needing More Info.

#7 - By clicking a Green Arrow, you can Request Ordinances. While making a request, a Duplicates WARNING may appear; and it's vital to check POSSIBLE DUPLICATES for the individuals who are flagged as having possible duplicates.

Merging Duplicates may ADD Temple Ordinances to the "Surviving Record." Merges can also ADD Parents, Children, Siblings, and Spouses as explained below:

PAGES #1 Find; #2 Record Hints & Search Records; #3 Search Results; #4 Vital & Census Records; #5 Sources at Person Page; #6 Ordinances at Person Page; #7 Checking for Possible Duplicates; #8 Duplicates via Find; #9 Ordinances; #10 Merging; #11 Tree View; #12 Request Ordinances; #13 Dead Ends #14 Temple File; #15 Dups #16 More Merge