

# Finding Family—Clues and Tips to Finding People Missing from YOUR Family Tree

## Clue #1: Deceased or No Dates

## Clue #2: No Surname or Maiden Name for Women

## Clue #3: Collect the Children

- No children or only one child in a family
- Spacing of Children—average is every two years
  - Long gap and then more children--? 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage
- Naming Patterns
- Check birthdates of children against parents' death dates
- Search using parents' names only
- Where were known children born? Search in nearby locations.

## Clue #4: Collect all Census Records available during their lifetime

- See handouts in the *GoodToKnow* folder.
  - <https://www.preservingtime.org/census-records.html>
- Study Images, not just indexing
- Use Images from different sources
- Turn the Page (if family is at the bottom or top of the page)
- Browse rest of page and nearby pages for other family members
- Check Age of wife versus age of children (could she be their mother or is this a second marriage?) Is it indicated if this is a first or second marriage?
- Investigate all individuals in a household (step-children, parents, other family, even “unrelated” individuals)
- Watch for Neighbors and Associates that lived near your family in other census records
- Check for State Census Records
- READ CAREFULLY
- 1790—1st US Census
- 1850—1st Census that included names of household members
- 1880 + --Lists relationship to the head of household
- 1890—Census was burned; only limited special schedules remain
- 1900—List month and year of birth; Mother of how many children and how many still living (check all women for this information)
- 1910—Mother of how many children and how many still living
- 1920—More complete citizenship information
- 1930—Age at 1st marriage; (Own a radio set)
- 1940—Last census available right now

### **Clue #5: Find Records of Other Family Members**

- Most likely missed: Children who die young or don't marry; Couples with no children
- Children's birth, marriage and death records many times have information about their parents
- Families lived and moved together in the past
- Research often only done for a person's direct line
- Find **all known** records about known family members—Not just birth, marriage and death
- Use "non-name & date" type records (ie. Journals, Diaries, Family Stories, Published Histories, Newspapers (don't skip the society columns) etc. etc.)

### **Clue #6: Past Errors and Wrong Assumptions**

- Following the wrong family
- Online family trees—Important Clues but, use as clues only
- Desire to extend line vs. accuracy
- Mixing families together
- Work from you back to make sure you are actually working on your own family!

### **Clue #7: Use Common Sense**

- Children were not born before their parents or many years after their death
- Family Legends—use as clues and then verify

### **Clue #8: Learn Best Practices for Online Searching**

- Change Search Parameters;
  - Extend range of dates searched
  - Analyze results and use that input to refine your search parameters
  - Use Search limiters
  - Use Wildcards
- Just because it isn't there today, doesn't mean it won't be there tomorrow
- Save images and indexing—NOT links to information

### **Clue #9 (For LDS): Don't rely on the Temple Icon**

- Are all family members represented? There won't be a green temple icon for someone not represented in Family Tree.
- Check for duplicate using *Possible Duplicate AND FIND (under FamilyTree Tab)*

### **Clue #10: Use Sources Other than Online Sources**

- **Especially living individuals—either family members or those who understand family history**
- **Ask for help**