

Getting Started: Record Hints and Attaching Sources to FamilySearch

The Difference between Mythology and My Family is Sourced!

What makes us an individual?

Birth Date and Location

Residences Lived in Throughout the Individuals Life

Relationships to Parents

Relationships to Siblings

Marriage Date, Location

Relationship to Spouse

Relationships to Children

Death Date and Location

Other Individual Events, Names, Locations and Relationships

To save your time, collect everything from home before you start researching!

Start your research with yourself and move back one generation at a time as you research each individual and family. Collect and attach every piece of information you can reasonably locate to the FamilySearch Family Tree. See the handout for "Individual Records to Search" located at the end of this handout. This is a helpful checklist for people in the United States after 1850.

FamilySearch has hints for many people that help us find sources to document our ancestors. These hints are easy to attach and should be checked carefully to be sure they apply to the correct persons before attaching. Attach records to every person listed, that you know. Boarders, servants, etc. may not be easily attached from these records.

Names, dates and locations in FamilySearch often do not match exactly when compared with the records. Many things affect the accuracy of the information in our records. Did the person taking the information get the correct data from the person giving the information? Who gave the information, a child, the neighbor?? Was it recorded properly? Indexing from records with difficult handwriting can also affect the presented information. Spelling a person's name in only one way is a modern invention. Names spelled differently and/or conflicting dates occurring on the records you find do not make the individual "wrong" or that person not your ancestor. Check the relationships, residence, time frame and other known information to determine if the record applies to your family.

Our ultimate goal is identifying every person as a unique individual and proving their existence by attaching records and documenting why you believe the records you attach belong to that individual. The person is then linked to their family as a child and as a parent to show their relationships in the

Family Tree. Once their identity has been established, their Temple Ordinances can be performed for them.

There are many kinds of records that can be collected. The most common and easiest records to find and work with (if you have ancestors in the United States) are the United States Federal Censuses.

These records help establish the name, gender, birth dates, country or state where born and family relationships.

All records you locate that include your ancestor should be attached to your tree at FamilySearch.

Usually there are many records and a person's life is well documented. Family Search has a limit of 200 sources per individual.

Occasionally, there are no records. Sometimes all we have to go by is a personal memory or someone's journal or a photograph of an individual. These can also be attached to the tree as sources to help identify them as unique individuals.

Best practices when searching include knowing what has already been collected before you start searching. This will help you not waste time searching for something that has already been found. Evaluate what you already know and what you would like to find out about your ancestor before you start. Determine what records are easily available and try to locate those records. See the handout for "Individual Records to Search" (follows on the next page). This is a helpful checklist for people in the United States after 1850.

View all images (if available) on all the records you locate. Evaluate all the information on the document and see what other information you still need.

Remember, Family History is a prayer activity. Your ancestors know what records they were mentioned in. Pray for inspiration. Pray for their help.

Help is always available at the Family History Center, from your ward Temple and Family History Consultants or by clicking the "Get Help" icon on the right hand side of any FamilySearch screen.

FamilySearch does not have all "the records". Search on other family history sites to locate other records.

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL:							
INDIVIDUAL FAMILY HISTORY RECORDS TO SEARCH							
UNITED STATES		MALES	FEMALES				
1850 CENSUS							
1860 CENSUS							
CIVIL WAR RECORDS							
ALEXANDER STREET *							
FOLD 3 * MILITARY SERVICE							
1870 CENSUS							
1880 CENSUS							
NO 1890 CENSUS BURNED		NO	NO				
1900 CENSUS							
1910 CENSUS							
WORLD WAR I REGISTRATION							
FOLD 3 * MILITARY SERVICE							
1920 CENSUS							
1930 CENSUS							
1940 CENSUS							
WORLD WAR II REGISTRATION							
FOLD 3 * MILITARY SERVICE							
BIRTH OR CHRISTENING RECORD							
MARRIAGE RECORD							
DEATH OR BURIAL RECORD							
FIND A GRAVE							
BILLION GRAVES							
GOOGLE SEARCH							
ANCESTRY.COM							
FAMILY TREES							
MYHERITAGE.COM							
FAMILY TREES							
NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE *							
CHRONICALLING AMERICA							
"STATE" DIGITIZED NEWSPAPERS							
STATE CENSUSES (CHECK LIST)							
IMMIGRATION / NATURALIZATION							
* PREMIUM WEBSITE COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE AT THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER							