GENEALOGY RESEARCH NOTES

THIS DOCUMENT IS A *SYNOPSIS* ABOUT GENEALOGY RESEARCH.

POINTS IN THIS DOCUMENT ARE IMPORTANT TO ENSURE CORRECT FAMILY LINKS AND DOCUMENTATION IS RECORDED TO PROVIDE VALIDATION FOR:

1) ACCURATE RESULTS,

2) CORRECT POSTINGS,

3) RELIABLE SOURCES, AND

4) FACTUAL INFORMATION OF A NUCLEAR FAMILY.

THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES SOME RELIABLE SOURCES FOR GENEALOGY RESEARCH; BUT DOES NOT REFERENCE TO ALL POSSIBLE SOURCES.

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GENEALOGY RESEARCH NOTES

This information is intended for folks to learn, understand, and ensure their research is accurate, correct, and verifiable with the people in their files and/or data base. This *is not* an all-inclusive training document for genealogy research; It just covers important points about research.

I) **WHY DO GENEALOGY?**

    a. For some folks, it's a past-time activity or hobby to learn about family and history and to learn who came before them.

    b. Hopefully, to develop a library of information to share with families.

    c. Others do it professional to publish documents and/or books to sell their research.

    d. While there are many genealogy sources for research, the two on-line and most prominent are The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (LDS) and Ancestry-dot-com. They are different in the method for recording your ancestry research.

        i. Each maintains many searchable data bases of historical documents.

    e. What is The **Church** of Jesus Christ of **Latter-day Saints?**

        i. For **Latter-day Saints**, **genealogy** is a way to save more souls and strengthen the eternal family unit. Mormons trace their family trees to find the names of ancestors who died without learning about the restored **Mormon** Gospel so that these relatives from past generations can be baptized by proxy in the temple to strengthen the eternal family unit.

            1. FamilySearch is a nonprofit organization and website offering **genealogical records**, education, and software. It is operated by The **Church** of **Jesus Christ** of **Latter-day Saints (LDS)**. Its **purpose** is to create a **genealogical** library to be used both by its members and non-members and to share educational information about family history from recorded records located in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

       2. Also, there are many local LDS libraries in communities that help provide support and access to their files to help with research.

    ii. **FamilySearch.org**, only has one single **family tree**, but every one of its users can contribute to that tree and see all of the records along with changes and who made those changes, and they must include source documentation supporting their recordings. It will show your relationship in that tree to any of the people that have been recorded.

    iii. Your logon identifies you and your attached family names.

    iv. Members of The Latter Day Saints Church have access to more information than the general public who are not LDS members.

    v. However, errors can be presented, be sure to validate.

  f. What is **Ancestry.com LLC**

    i. It is a privately held online company based in Lehi, Utah County, Utah. The largest for-profit genealogy company in the world; it operates a network of genealogical, historical records, and related genetic genealogy websites. They are not part of the LDS system.

    ii. **Ancestry.com** boasts more than 8 billion names spread across more than 80 million _individual_ family trees recorded by their registered users.

       1. Each registered user has their own database that records their research findings.

          a. Those data bases are visible by other registered users.

          b. A registered user can set their data bases to private, and no one can view them without that users' permissions.

    iii. However, errors can be presented, be sure to validate.

II) WHAT IS A FAMILY GROUP RECORD?

  a. This is a record of a nuclear (or elementary) family.

  b. A nuclear family is a one set of parents and their biological and adopted children.

    i. Always record all women with given name and their birth surname (aka Maiden Name). Never use any married surname.

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    c. The Family Group sheet is a record of the basic facts about each individual of a nuclear family.

    d. This is the basis for research and validation required to support this document.

    e. Caution doing research of individuals may have a nickname that has been recorded in documents rather than the real given name. Always record a nickname separately in documents but not with the real given and surname.

    f. Also, folks may record a rhyming, nick or anglicized name of their birth given name. You must learn to translate those names to a given real name.

    g. Beware, when coming to the USA, names are changed to make it easier to pronounce or a person mis-spelled the names as they understood them when recording that name.

III) WHAT IS A GENEALOGY CHART

    a. A *family tree diagram* or *genealogy chart* is a visual representation of a person's lineage, tracing relationships to common ancestors.

    b. The *Family Tree* chart is similar to an organization chart except it begins with you, your parents, their parents then grandparents and continue as far back as you wish to go.

    c. Realize that for every individual there are parents that will expand the chart to great lengths and can get to be large poster size representation of connected families.

IV) WHAT TO DO WITH DOCUMENTS

    a. All documents (or media as they can be called) should have the file name recorded with the surname, given name, document title, year of the document, and filed in that order that will provide an index to search by or even locate those documents/media.

    b. Photographs should be named the same as in *IV-a.*

        i. Be sure to record the names of people as they appear in the photo.

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V) **PROBLEMS DISCOVERED WITH RESEARCHING**

    a. When reviewing the postings of other researchers, beware that they have supported their postings with proper documentation. If they have not, use only if you validate the information.

    b. People and marriages with same names are plentiful. Ensure that your names are validated by multiple sources.

    c. When finding a name, it is important to review birth, location, dates, names of township, locality name, or other information to validate your finding and to ensure they are of a nuclear family or a person you are searching.

    d. You must review the contents of documents to ensure the information contained applies to your found person before attaching to a name. This should correspond to other documented information to validate findings. Remember, names may be the same as you are researching, but are those your family?

    e. Not all documents can be for your person or family. Remember, folks have the same given and surname that may not be your person or family.

    f. Sometimes researching the territories can help learn more about where people live that help ensure it is the correct place your folks are found.

        i. People will have same names, but live in different areas.

        ii. Each Country will plan a way to divide land for jurisdictional powers.

        iii. Search printed Maps

        iv. Search using Internet mappings of the world areas.

        v. Understanding the jurisdictional divisions of the land.

        vi. Use the Internet to find the jurisdiction of family locations.

    g. Be sure to find families correctly and as a proven group before attaching to your files.

VI) **RESULTS IN POSTINGS**

    a. Folks' postings can have erroneous family listings and many times no supporting documents to validate their findings. **Validation is required!**

b. Folks' postings that have misaligned families and other folks copy that data thereby making many families posting to be listed in error. **Validate!!**

c. Folks fail to check and ensure birth, death, marriage, newspapers, and related documentation is correct with the people and the nuclear family they are researching.

d. *Caution* is advised when reviewing documents. Some folks or even relatives provide statements of incorrect data as they think it to be correct. **Validate!**

e. Census and other type records given by a person can provide inaccurate data.

VII) NAMING OF CHILDREN

a. Researchers must be aware of several things with children's names.

   i. Families tend to use the same given names when having the same surnames. Children's names have many duplicates but may not be linked to the family you are researching.

   ii. Birth date, birth location, and death date help identify an individual; but beware, there are many duplicates of this information (this is true!).

   iii. Ensure parents have the correct name for each child in a nuclear family.

      1. Also birth date & Location are important along with marriage dates and location.

   iv. Birth, and death certificates are good proof of parents but are not the only items to use. They can provide good information.

   v. Census or other type records can help identify correct families but pay attention to ages and birth locations. Sometimes the birth years given are incorrect.

   vi. Also, sometimes people use *nicknames* or variations of spelling of names.

VIII) URLS FOR DOWNLOADABLE FAMILY GROUP SHEETS

a. From Ancestry.com

   i. https://www.ancestry.com/ (a pay to use web site with a free trial period)

   ii. Family Group Sheet (free downloadable)

1. https://www.ancestrycdn.com/legacy/pdf/trees/charts/famgrec.pdf

iii. This URL provides many copies of Genealogy forms.

1. https://www.ancestry.com/cs/charts-and-forms

b. Family Search (The **Church** of Jesus Christ of **Latter**-**day Saints**. [LDS])

i. https://www.familysearch.org/en/ (a free web site)

ii. Family Group Sheets (free downloadable)

1. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/shared/content/images/gospel-library/manual/34824/31827_000_000.pdf

iii. This URL provides many copies of genealogy research forms

1. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogy_Research_Forms

IX) GENEALOGY WEB SITES

a. There are many web sites available to help with genealogy research. Too many to present here.

b. However, doing an Internet search using the words "genealogy web sites" will provide URLs to most of them.

c. This URL will help learn more about genealogy searching.

i. https://www.genealogyexplained.com/

d. There are a cemetery web sites that provide good information.

i. One of the best free ones is Find-a-Grave: https://www.findagrave.com/

e. Sometimes it's useful to put the word "Free" first in the search dialog.

X) GENEALOGY SOFTWARE FOR YOUR COMPUTER SYSTEM.

a. Doing an Internet search using the words "genealogy software" will provide many hits. You will find many programs for sale. Everyone has their own ability and knowledge of using a computer. In some cases you can download a copy to tryout; however, some features not accessible until you buy the product. It is a good way to check out software and decide what may work for you.

b. However, I recommend Family Tree Maker software at this URL.

i. https://www.mackiev.com/ftm/

ii. It runs on Windows and Macs.

      iii. It links with the above-Section I mentioned genealogy sites.

      iv. It is one of the oldest produced genealogy software programs.

      v. It has many other valuable features.

      vi. It creates standard genealogy documents for everyone including LDS folks.

c. Family Book Creator

      i. This is a great "plug-in" to Family Tree Maker to create a book.

      ii. It will show family trees, all documents (Media) attached to individuals and provide the documentation in book format of your research.

      iii. When downloading and installing, you access this program from the "Tools" menu, select "Plugins" in Family Tree Maker.

      iv. It can take many minutes and can create a few to hundreds of pages.

      v. The URL: https://www.familybookcreator.com/en/

d. Image viewer programs

      i. Many can be found on the internet, and some are free.

      ii. On Windows and Mac system, they provide image viewing capabilities. You just have to learn how to find them and use them.

      iii. Use the words "image viewer programs" to search by in your browser.

XI) BEWARE OF PUBLICATIONS

a. Some researchers have published their findings in books or other type documents about their genealogy research. Some are published for sale.

b. While these can be valuable sources for genealogy research, also *beware* that those writers have published **validated correct listings** in their publications.

      i. Be sure that you always **validate** those published material by other sources. Its best to use at least three other sources of validation.

c. I mention this as I have discovered in my family research three (3) publications that contained errors with referenced families. Therefore, providing incorrect data that folks do not realize are incorrect (not validated); then, they are published with folk's research incorrectly.

    d. Publications are found not only on genealogy research sites, but there are also other sites that provide digital copies to review or in some case they are downloadable.

    e. Using the Title and Author of the publication, do an Internet search to locate the publication.

XII) BEGINING YOUR SEARCH

    a. Be sure you use the [family group sheet](#) referenced in this document.

        i. Be sure to get Birth, Death, Marriage, Cemetery, and locations of these events as they will help with the search.

    b. Begin by writing down all that you know.

    c. Get information from family members.

    d. Obtain copies of records and photographs.

        i. Be sure to record order of names and dates in photos.

    e. Decide if you are to purchase a software program and enter your confirmed data into that system.

    f. You can upload files from your software or start your data entry on-line.

    g. Find what you want and be sure to VALIDATE, CONFIRM, AND ATTACH to your people and/or families.

    h. If you have a good printer that can scan items, use it, but be sure to name those files as stated in this document.

    i. When finding files on-line and downloading them, be sure to rename them as noted in this document.

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XIII) CLOSING STATEMENT:

Please be reminded, this is just a synopsis about genealogy research. This information is the foundation to seeking, validation, and documenting your family history.

There is so much to learn, and learning is key to ensuring you have found the correct family links and that you have recorded and/or posted validated and source documentation to prove your research is accurate, correct, reliable, and factual.

Don't be afraid to communicate with other researchers. Support your questions but also be aware you could be right or wrong. Most folks enjoy taking with researchers and you or them will learn more. That presents the need to do the key word, **"Validate"**! Be respectful and know that some researchers many feel like you are "stealing" from them. This may be that they are doing all the work to write a book for publishing. However, all the data can be found for free or paying for a genealogy web site that provides all the data.

Use the Internet to learn about sources and use them. Local historical societies can help with a small donation to them.

Have fun and enjoy and life and what made us to what we are today from our ancestry.

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XIV) GENEALOGY WEB SITES: CLICK ON THE NAME TO GO THERE VIA YOUR BROWSER

- **Genealogy.Com** - Genealogy.com is one of the premier genealogy web sites that offer a wealth of genealogy databases, passenger immigration records, census records, family histories and access to thousands of published genealogy books. Published family trees from other users are also posted on their web site.

- **Ancestry.com** - Ancestry.com is another of the largest and most complete collections of genealogy records available on the Internet. Their genealogy database records include everything from census records, marriage records, social security death records to complete newspapers records dating back into the 1800's. Published family trees from other users are also posted on their web site.

- **FindAGrave.com** - This site now contains over 190 million records and many of those records also have photos as well .

- **FamilySearch.org** - This excellent site will give you access to many of the records that have been compiled by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon Church) in Salt Lake City, Utah. Although their complete microfilm library is not available online, the content of their freely accessible genealogy databases is incredible. Included are marriage records, birth records, baptism records, social security death records and census records.

- **The US GenWeb Project** - Their main site has a click-able map that will take you to any state, and then in turn to any county. The individual county sites have been put up by volunteers and their content varies widely. Many of the better county genealogy sites are tremendous sources of a wide variety of genealogy information including transcribed census records, marriage records, land records, cemetery records, biographies, and old maps. We have personally found a large amount of our own family's genealogy information on these US GenWeb county sites.

- **RootsWeb.com** - This site features one of the most popular genealogy message boards on the Internet which is fully searchable using a variety of advanced search criteria. You'll also find a repository of published family trees posted by other users.

- **Archives.com** - This site is a scaled down version of Ancestry.com and focuses only on records from within the U.S.

- **Genealogy Printing** -We make family tree printing on large format, continuous roll paper so simple that anyone can now have a beautiful, eye-catching genealogy chart at an affordable price. We can print your genealogy chart or family tree chart on to continuous roll paper from Ancestry.com, Family Tree Maker, Legacy, Roots Magic, Generations Family Tree, PAF, Legacy, The Master Genealogist, or any of the popular genealogy software programs