

## Tips From A Pro

*Tips from a somewhat seasoned genealogist to make family history your friend and not your foe!*



### ❖ Get Organized

- Paper vs. Electronic Files

### ❖ What Tools To Use?

- Only use tools that address your research interests and are at your technological level
- Attend classes that are on topics relevant to you
- Bookmark favorite websites

### ❖ Don't Get Bogged Down

- When in doubt, look at the proof
- Dates and names will not always be consistent
- You may never solve every mystery in your tree
- Share and be kind with online connections

### ❖ General Tips and Rules

- Date format: day – month – year
- Location format: City, County, State, Country
- Add the word “genealogy” to your Google searches
- Take a break on brick walls
- Talk to living relatives
- Cite your sources

### ❖ Census Records

- Find family members grouped together
- 1850 onward lists all members of family
- 1890 – missing
- 1900, 1910 – asked mother for number of children
- 1940 is most recent available

### ❖ Where Can I find...

- Parents: vital/life event records, US SS Application, sibling records, census records
- Spouse: children's vital/life event records, census records

### ❖ Vital Information on Birth and Death Records

# GREAT FAMILY HISTORY WEBSITES

## SIDE BY SIDE COMPARISON

WEBSITE	FREE OR FEE	FOR RESEARCH	ONLINE TREE	COLLABORATIVE OR PRIVATE	PHOTOS, STORIES, DOCUMENTS	AUDIO	VIDEO	DNA	SPECIALTY
<a href="http://www.familysearch.org">www.familysearch.org</a>	FREE	YES	YES	COLLABORATIVE	YES	YES			FAMILY TREE, RESEARCH
<a href="http://www.ancestry.com">www.ancestry.com</a>	\$189-\$299/yr***	YES	YES	PRIVATE	YES	YES	YES	YES	FAMILY TREE, RESEARCH
<a href="http://www.findagrave.com">www.findagrave.com</a>	FREE	YES		NO TREE					RESEARCH CEMETERY RECORDS
<a href="http://www.puzilla.org">www.puzilla.org</a>	FREE (base version)			NO TREE					FINDING HOLES IN FAMILYSEARCH TREE
<a href="http://www.recordseek.com">www.recordseek.com</a>	FREE			NO TREE					CREATING ONLINE SOURCE FOR FAMILYSEARCH
<a href="http://www.fold3.com">www.fold3.com</a>	\$79.95/yr	YES		NO TREE					MILITARY RECORD RESEARCH
<a href="http://www.myheritage.com">www.myheritage.com</a>	\$120-\$159/yr***	YES	YES	PRIVATE	YES			YES	JEWISH/EUROPEAN RECORDS
<a href="http://www.findmypast.com">www.findmypast.com</a>	\$35-\$240/yr***	YES	YES	PRIVATE	YES				UNITED KINGDOM RECORDS
<a href="http://www.findarecord.com">www.findarecord.com</a>	FREE			NO TREE					LDS TEMPLE WORK RELATED

\*\*\*FREE to LDS Church Members