

NEW FAMILYSEARCH

This handout will discuss the resources available to help you effectively use the new FamilySearch

PURPOSE AND VISION OF THE NEW FAMILYSEARCH

Why the new FamilySearch?

“One of the most troublesome aspects of our temple activity is that as we get more and more temples scattered across the earth there is duplication of effort in proxy work. People in various nations simultaneously work on the same family lines and come up with the same names. They do not know that those in other areas are doing the same thing.” President Gordon B. Hinckley further added, “To avoid such duplication, the solution lies in complex computer technology.” President Gordon B. Hinckley, “Opening Remarks,” *Ensign*, November 2005, 6-7

It allows members to:

- See what family history information the Church already has about themselves, their family, and their ancestors.
- Add additional family history information about their family and their ancestors.
- Edit or add a different opinion about information in the new FamilySearch.
- See what ordinances have been performed for their ancestors.
- Prepare and select temple ordinances to perform for their ancestors.
 - Simplify the Temple Process.
 - new FamilySearch will replace the TempleReady
 - eliminates the need for diskettes
 - reduces the number of steps involved
 - greatly simplifies the way in which names are qualified and cleared for temple ordinances.
 - aimed to eliminate duplication of temple ordinances
- Work with others to reduce duplication of ordinances and research efforts.

new FamilySearch contains data from:

- LDS Membership Records
- Ancestral File
- Pedigree Resource File
- International Genealogical Index
- New ordinances
- New data submitted by patrons

All data combined in one folder:

- Each individual has a personal folder.
- Combine all the duplicate information into one folder.
- Can view the individual summary, and all the various information about a person in one location on the pedigree.
- You can un-combine or dispute data that is wrong.
- No one can change your data.

new FamilySearch Tips:

- Please don't upload large GEDCOM files

- If someone does not appear in the new FamilySearch, first do a thorough search, and then if they are not found add the information. Please check IGI and Pedigree Resources file also.
- Only upload individuals or small family lines that are not in the system
- Only take Family Ordinance Request (F.O.R.) to temples that have been switched over to the new FamilySearch
- Please check a name for possible duplicates before you select temple ordinances
 - Don't believe the word "Ready" without first doing all of the combines and searches for duplicate records
 - Be sure to use the Possible Duplicates option
- Before disputing or correcting something be sure all duplicates are combined
 - It is best to combine duplicate parents first, then spouses and then children
 - Be patient

NEW FAMILYSEARCH TRAINING & RESOURCES

There are many resources to help you be self sufficient as you learn, use and eventually teach new FamilySearch.

- **new FamilySearch Overviews:**
 - These are general and not in-depth.
 - Use these as a resource when you eventually begin to teach and assist members.
- **On-line Training – E-learning:**
 - The New FamilySearch
 - 10 in-depth lessons
 - Contains Printable handouts and Guided Practices
 - Access the online training on the Internet by signing onto new FamilySearch.
 - Enter the username and password you created after registering as a new user in new FamilySearch. Click Sign In.
 - From the new FamilySearch home page, click on the Help Center link. Click the Training and Resources tab. Under the General Training section of the next screen, click E-Learning Courses.
 - To begin a training module, locate and click its title from the available list.
- **Help with this Page:**
 - Available on every page.
 - Offers advice, to the common questions asked, regarding the specific page you are viewing.
- **Help Center:**
 - Search for Answers
 - Using key words you can search a vast database of answers to the questions you have.
 - If you call or e-mail Support we use the same database to find our answers for you.
 - This is available to every user of the system.
 - Overviews and Guides
 - General guides to the system. Great to use when teaching others about the system.
 - A Users Guide to the new FamilySearch.
- **Helper Function – Sign in to Help Someone Else**

FAMILYSEARCH SUPPORT

Three levels of support:

- Local Support

- Consultants are the key to a successful program of family history
- Area Support
- Church Headquarters Support

Accessing Support:

- Help Center in new FamilySearch
 - Use all the vast resources you have at your fingertips to find answers to your questions
- To contact us by phone: 1-866-406-1830 (April 6, 1830)
- To contact us by e-mail: Send us e-mail at support@familysearch.org

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. This is not an individual or private database like PAF or a record manager on a PC. This is a shared database that everyone has access to (except for living data). When you make a change or add information anyone and everyone can see that change or that new information. This is a big change for longtime enthusiasts and will require some getting use to. Enthusiasts can still keep their own private database. However, the worldwide growth of family history work calls for families to work together through a single family tree in a united collaboration effort.
2. This is the first time that all church data has been consolidated into a single database. Attempts have been made to link all of the data together by person. However, because of subtle differences in various records (e.g. spelling of names and places, differences in key dates, etc.) automation could not combine all of the data. We will need family members and users of the new FamilySearch to combine all of the data. We will need family members and users of the new FamilySearch to come in and help us finish combining the records. This task may take some families a short amount of time, and it could take years for others. This is a necessary first step to achieve the goal reducing and eliminating duplication. Data consolidation means that all data about a person (both accurate and inaccurate) must first be combined before the next step can effectively happen. This may also be hard for long-time enthusiasts to get used to – combining a record with a date or an event they know to be inaccurate can be difficult, but it is essential as a first step.
3. As the data is combined, and the good and the bad information are mixed the next step will be to clean up the data. This means that historical sources of data and meticulous research can be demonstrated and made available for all family members to see. In most cases a consensus can be reached, and then by mutual agreement inaccurate data can be eliminated. In all of this we all must keep in mind that the ultimate reasons for doing this work is to provide for everyone the familial linkages that come through eternal covenants and ordinances; and to have this recorded in a book in a book that is “Worthy of all acceptations.”

For those who have already spent countless hours meticulously researching and documenting their family history this may seem like a step backwards into confusion and disarray. However, by consolidating data and providing tools for collaboration, ultimately time and effort will be saved. We will have a much more pristine record that is as free from duplication as possible.