FamilySearch Demonstration

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The LDS Church provides this service free to everyone. Mormons believe families can be together after this life, so they work to strengthen relationships with both the living and the dead. They have collaborated with governments, churches, and libraries to gather and share records, creating the world's largest collection of genealogical data.

COMPONENTS

Search - thousands of indexed sources, billions of names

Family Tree - connections among more than a billion "Persons"

1. Data
   a. ID - unique alphanumeric
   b. Event - date & location for BMD, military, immigration, etc.
   c. Connection - child, parent, sibling (incl. adoptive & same-sex)
   d. Other - gender, affiliation, profession, religion, residence, etc.
2. Source - to back up data
3. Memory - photo, story, document, or audio

>> If you enter information on a LIVING person, it is ONLY visible to YOU! <<

ACCESS - use your email address to create a NEW account

OR access with your EXISTING Google, Facebook, or Apple login
When starting, you may receive help from an "Automated tree builder"

MENUS

- Family Tree > Tree,,Recents, Find, etc.
- Search > Records, Family Tree, Genealogies, etc.
- Memories > Gallery, etc.
- Get Involved > Indexing, etc.

FIRST STEP: connect to what's already there: look for your parents, grandparents, etc.
- Add a Person to the tree - click "Add Child," "Add Spouse," or "Add Parent"
     If it's someone who's already there, FamilySearch will find them
- OR add an unconnected Person (no place where they fit on the tree)
     Family Tree> Recents > At the bottom click **Add Unconnected Person**

SEARCH the RECORDS to find new information or back up the data you enter

- Wildcard symbols - * for multiple characters and ? for a single character
- If you get too many hits you can filter the results
    - Date, location, related family member name
    - Collection - type of record (BMD, census, immigration, etc.)

EDITING

- Enter or modify data
- Add sources, review suggested sources
        You can create sources from other databases, like Ancestry.com
- Make new connections
- Add new Persons

There's much more - such as printed reports

HELP BUTTON - click "Help and Learning" for tutorials and more

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UPSIDES / PROS

- Free - no one pays for anything.
- Data - an incredible amount to search through.
        (even if you decide NOT to keep your family tree there)
- It's easy to attach sources to Persons.
- You can tap into what everyone else has already done.
- You can't forget to save and you can't run out of storage space.
- Share your hard work on a site that doesn't make money from it.
- FamilySearch is unlikely ever to be sold or go out of business.

DOWNSIDES / CONS

- Not all users are clever and careful - mistakes happen.
    - There are multiple instances of some Persons.
    - Cleaning up messes can be time-consuming.
- Because it's a collaborative environment, you won't have complete control.
- There is no built-in DNA connection
- You can't upload a GEDCOM file (download, yes)
- You have to be online to use the service
        (the mobile app lets you download a 6-generation pedigree)