

Online Trees in Family History

LIFE IN THE TREES

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SILICON VALLEY COMPUTER GENEALOGY GROUP NOVEMBER 2014

WHY WOULD I WANT AN ONLINE TREE?

- ✘ Share information with others
- ✘ Easy to look up, show to others



WHY WOULD I WANT AN ONLINE TREE?

- ✘ Available for questions and clues
- ✘ Easy to look up, show to others



WHY WOULD I WANT AN ONLINE TREE?

- ✘ Set the record straight

A large and well improved ranch eight and a half miles southeast of the city of Moscow, in Latah county, is owned by John Warren Brigham, who is regarded as one of the most enterprising and progressive agriculturists of this part

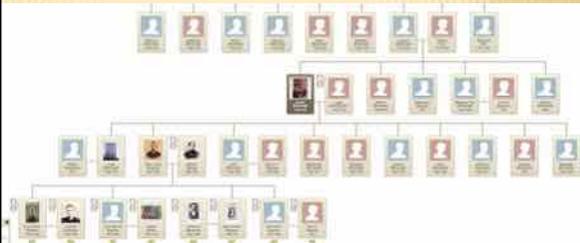


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AN ANCESTRY.COM TREE



WHAT AN ONLINE TREE ISN'T

- ✘ Not the best place to store mass of information
- ✘ Not good way to organize information
- ✘ Not good central organizing place for your family history
- ✘ Not a way to print reports
- ✘ **Not a personal database**
- ✘ **Not a replacement for personal database**

WHY ARE ONLINE TREES BEING PROMOTED?

- ✘ Big draw for Ancestry.com, which must attract and hold customers to survive as largest online genealogy repository
- ✘ Big emphasis at FamilySearch Family Tree (major expense, needed to straighten out >180 years of LDS records)
- ✘ Many other online trees have much to offer if they can attract and hold customers

WHERE CAN I CREATE AN ONLINE TREE?

Site	Cost	Upside	Downside
Ancestry.com	Subscription (\$99 - \$299) Free to LDS for now Series of free trials	Popular You own your info Hints GEDCOM-friendly	Cost Copying and junk Hints
FamilySearch.org Family Tree (cf. wikiTree.com)	Free to anyone	Popular, free, Hints LDS supposed to use it; Stories, photos GEDCOM-friendly	Wiki; you don't own it Merge, copy = possible mess, junk LDS changes
FindMyPast.com	Subscription (\$8.29 [x12] - \$9.95/mo) Free to LDS for now	You own your info GEDCOM-friendly	Some copying and junk
Geni.com	Subscription (\$119.40/yr) Free version Free 2-wk Pro trial	Free limited use You own your info Photos, stories Research links (Pro)	No GEDCOM import Some copying and junk MyHeritage.com
MyHeritage.com	Subscription (\$0 - \$9.95/month; varies) Free to LDS for now	You own your info GEDCOM-friendly	Some copying and junk

Plus dozens of others, free and subscription

HOW SHOULD I GO ABOUT THIS?

- ✘ Start with personal database software:
 - + PAF
 - + Ancestral Quest
 - + RootsMagic
 - + Legacy
 - + Reunion
- ✘ Build that database following best practices
 - + Evidence-based
 - + Documented
 - + Don't just copy other people's information

DECIDE WHAT TO EXPORT TO A TREE

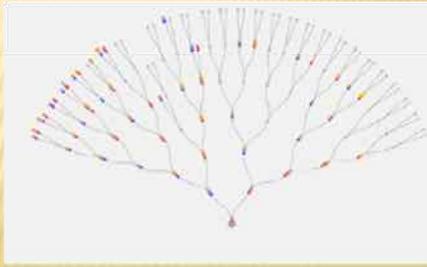
- ✘ Some trees require you + your ancestors
- ✘ Alternatively, other trees do not --
 - + Select a part of your database to put on a tree
 - + Plan trees to show information about specific family lines
 - + Don't plan a tree showing your entire research findings or all of your ancestors

EXPORT AND IMPORT

- ✘ Export GEDCOM file from the database
- ✘ Save to your computer
- ✘ Import GEDCOM file into an online tree system
- ✘ Tweak as needed

**FUN THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH FAMILYSEARCH
FAMILY TREE AFFILIATE PROGRAMS**

- ✘ Puzzilla.org
ancestors view



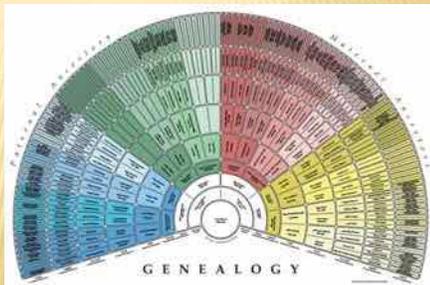
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- ✘ Puzzilla.org
Descendant view



**FUN THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH FAMILYSEARCH
FAMILY TREE**

- ✘ Fan charts (for example, treeseek.com)



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FAMILY TREE AFFILIATE PROGRAMS**

- ✘ Puzzilla.org
name cloud



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FAMILY TREE**

- ✘ Treeseek.com
Solitaire