



Attaching Sources in Family Tree

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Introduction

FamilySearch is not only dedicated to preserving the records of the family of humankind, we also provide an easy way to attach those records to your ancestors in Family Tree. Our purpose is simple: help people connect with their ancestors, both known and unknown by providing easy access to historical records and allow people to work together to find, document and preserve their shared family histories.

By providing this information, we hope to eliminate duplicate research and allow those who are interested in family history to focus their efforts on finding new information and missing ancestors.

Family Tree Sources

The Family Tree is collaborative and open, allowing users to fix erroneous data, even if they did not contribute that information.

To help in moving towards accuracy, Family Tree provides flexible and reusable sourcing that can be tagged to editable conclusions, reasons to explain why the conclusion is accurate, and a change log to easily recover from erroneous editing.

Total Source in Family Tree

Since Family Tree's release in 2014 patrons and FamilySearch have combined to add over 696 million sources. Every week patrons add an average of 1.9 million new sources from FamilySearch's record collection, partner collections, historical records from all over the world, and from memories uploaded as source's.

What are sources, why do we add them, why are they important?

Sources are artifacts, books, digital files, documents, film, people, photographs, recordings, websites, etc. A source can be anything that has information that might be of genealogical importance. We use sources to gain information about a person or place so that conclusions we make are based on relevant documented information.

SOURCES → INFORMATION → EVIDENCE

Record Hints

Under research help in Family Tree users will find Record hints. Record Hints are generated by the computer scanning persons in Family Tree and matching that person with records found on FamilySearch and on partner web sites. A Record Hint is not a guaranteed match, it is just a suggestion that the record might match the person in the tree and we need a living person to make a conclusion the person in the record and the person in the tree are the same. In this class we show you how to examine Record Hints and determine if that are a match or not.

Source Linker

The Source Linker is a tool for determining if a record you have searched for in FamilySearch matches a person or even a family in Family Tree. It is a powerful tool to easily and quickly attach a record as a source to an entire family.

Reason Statements in Sources

The reason statement acts as impedance to improper change. It also helps converge the date toward an accurate representation.

- Write clearly. Use complete sentences.
- Write in third person. Avoid using "I" statements
- Identify the evidence that support the conclusion
- Identify and explain any contradictory evidence
- Explain the logic if the conclusion was derived
- Explain why you are deleting information

Creating a New Source

In Family Tree patrons can add a source by using the source template. This template included five easy to use fields:

Title - This is the only required field

URL - Link to the record, if there is one

Citation - Where is the record found

Note - Describe the record

Reason - Why are you attaching this record

Source Box

Each user of Family tree has their own source box. The source box is a storage place where users can place their sources in to folders to organize them. We don't place a lot of restrictions on how your source box should or can be used. Many users use it as a workspace to save things they have found that they are not yet ready to attach.

Record Seek

Recordseek.com provides a widget to easily record a website as a source with virtually no effort.

2017 Planned Features

- Primary vs Secondary sources
- Better indexed data
- Showing all of the attached sources for a conclusion
- Better tagging options
- Adding meta data for users created sources
- Indicate if sources are not attached to everyone they could be