

Family Tree Demonstration Follow-up

Sept. 2, 2014

FamilySearch.org has hundreds of millions of genealogy records available for free. Searching for ancestral records is free -- click "Search" at the top of the home page.

The **Family Tree** on Family Search is also accessible from the top of the home page (click Family Tree). Unlike the "Search" function, you cannot see the Family Tree unless you are registered and logged in. Registration is free and easy – use the "Create an Account" button on the FamilySearch.org home page. (I've read that registering also allows access to more results when you Search for records as described above.) See the end of this document for the Terms and Conditions associated with putting your data on Family Tree.

The major differences between Family Tree and other tree-making websites are:

- 1) Your tree on Family Tree is not "your" personal tree. Anybody who is logged in can see everyone in the tree (except living people who are not related to them by blood). Family Search's goal is for their Family Tree to eventually connect everyone in one "world" tree, with accurate documentation to prove the relationships.
- 2) This means that other registered users not only can see your relatives, they have the ability to add, change or delete information. The good news is that Family Search has developed very sophisticated ways of enabling communication and collaboration between users, including the ability to "watch" as many ancestors as you wish, and receiving an email anytime someone makes a change to someone you are watching. A "Discussion" section on every person's record page provides a convenient place to discuss any differences in data.

I have many ancestors on Family Tree, and have had no problems with anyone making unwanted changes to my people. In fact, I have discovered previously-unknown photos of great-grandparents on my tree, and been able to find and connect with distant cousins.

Family Tree How-To's

(words in blue are clickable hotlinks that will take you directly to the page described on FamilySearch.org)

[Family Tree Training Lessons and Videos](#). Read the description shown on the page. A "fake or sandbox account" means they will provide a safe place for you to play around (hence "sandbox"), with a pretend user account and pretend ancestors, so you can practice without fear of making mistakes or messing up anything in your own account on the real Family Tree. To actually get to the lessons, you have to click on the colorful graphic in the box next to the words "View This Lesson."

Personally, I prefer reading written instructions over watching videos. Here are links to some of pages on how to work in Family Tree. Each page has a Print button you can use to print and create your own Help manual.

[Why others can change information and how to prevent improper changes](#)

[Adding and correcting information about people and relationships](#)

[Reason statements for adding, editing, and deleting information](#)

[Uploading GEDCOM files and copying the information to Family Tree](#)

[Printing a portrait chart in Family Tree](#)

[Understanding Private Spaces](#) (Living and confidential people are managed in a private space. Only you are able to see and modify this person.)

[Merging duplicate records in Family Tree](#)

[Deleting a person from Family Tree](#)

[Transferring information between Family Tree and a personal genealogical database](#)

Websites that will make nice chart files, either automatically from your Family Tree (at FamilySearch.org) or from your uploaded GEDCOM (they just make the electronic file, you print the charts yourself):

[TreeSeek.com](#) - also makes a cool "Name Cloud" graphic, plus a unique "Source Tracker" function that helps you see which records you have or are missing for your ancestors. (If using a Mac computer, you must use the Safari browser for Name Cloud to work.)

[TenGenChart.com](#) - makes a 2(or 3)-foot square ten-generation tree, which can be printed very inexpensively by emailing to Walker's Office Supply. (Call them for details.)

Website that works in conjunction with your info in Family Tree to help you manage and navigate through your tree:

[Puzzilla.org](#) - a very cool application that will work for you only if you are registered at FamilySearch.org and have at least a few people in your tree. The more people you have, the more benefit you will get from this site. Give it a try - you can't break anything!

Terms and Conditions re: Using Family Tree (from their website)

"Use of Personal Information. We may use the personal information you provide to:

- (a) allow us to contact you,
- (b) fulfill requests you make,
- (c) seek your voluntary feedback on website features or content, or
- (d) help fulfill our mission." [this means LDS members can/may use any of the information found on your tree to baptize any or all your ancestors]

Donna Young says she's been told that once your tree information is up, it can be changed but not removed.