

FOUR FAMILYSEARCH COMPANION APPS

This class is for Temple and Family History Consultants and other researchers who want to be more productive. Students are encouraged to use their own laptops to apply the techniques as they are presented.

[Before class starts, ask 3 volunteers to log into Findarecord, TreeSeek and Puzzilla; pull up a record in Cyndislist.com for use in RecordSeek]

Opening prayer

BACKGROUND/MOTIVATION FOR USING THESE APPS

Using GPS to find your way in your family history quest

<http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>

LDS Standard of Excellence: D&C 128:24 "...worthy of all acceptance."

No gaps, no errors, documentation of all facts

=====

FINDARECORD.COM

Designed to identify gaps and errors

This has become my "To Do" list

In default mode can be daunting (will show how to tailor to your needs)

Defaults to 4 generations & cousins (can and should be adjusted to meet your needs)

6 color-coded classes of "opportunities for research" in table on left (use as filters)

GREEN: extensive accumulation of FS Hints (beats looking for them in Family Tree display)

GOLD: Can identify people above threshold for taking to the temple (try to develop the "details page" to avoid facts being disproven in future)

Can focus one specific kind of error at a time to allow you to specialize in fixing that kind of gap or error (e.g.: **RED**, Possible Duplicates—before you go into this jungle get a tour guide). Add one type of error/gap at a time and specialize in fixing those errors before moving on.

TREESEEK.COM

A commercial site offering pretty fan charts to keep or give as gifts

Source Tracker

US Census (don't hold your breath for census from other countries). **This is the "Superhighway" for collecting source records from the US Census.**

Row labels: you and your closest 30 direct-line ancestors in FS (Great-Greats)

Column labels: years of US Census

Intersections

- **Magnifying glass** can launch a tailored query for that person in only that census (very helpful!). Queries can be further tailored by adding birth place and year (+/- 2 years, for "windage") and/or names of parents or spouse.

<https://www.rootstech.org/video/censational-census-strategies>

- **Check mark** when census is in sources for that ancestor (goal, turn all magnifying glasses to check marks. Except when not in US, and 1890)

Vital Events

Row labels: the same as in US Census page

Column labels: the 6 items in the Vital Information portion of the “details” page

Intersections:

check mark when a source record is present and “tagged”

Why many people will not need a Christening record

Note that marriage records are not tracked here

Magnifying glass will launch a normal query

- Provides a quick look at how thoroughly your direct ancestors have been documented (goal: turn all magnifying glasses to check marks. Except for Christening)

PUZZILLA.ORG

How to find relatives who need research (Clusters of low-hanging fruit)

After logging in and “Searching For” resolves to zero

Your pedigree in a “Social Network Graph”

- Blue squares represent men
- Red dots represent women
- Defaults to 6 generations (more are available)
- As you hover over a symbol a summary page pops up

Look for an ancestor who was born near 1800 +/- 10 years

- Click on the square or dot symbol to pin the pop-up to the screen
- Click on “Descendants”

Descendants social network diagram

- May be the first time you have seen the extensive the holdings of FS/FT
- Starts with your ancestor in the center
- The gold thread is the direct line from that ancestor to (your grandfather/grandmother)
 - GREY flags: people born less than 110 years ago: de-emphasize
 - YELLOW flags: people who died before 16 years of age, unlikely to have descendants

Turn off Grey and Yellow flags, turn on

- RED flags: Targets—people to focus on for research
 - Logical inverse of GREY and YELLOW combined
 - Look for “**Clusters of low-hanging fruit**” (families with children but no grandchildren)

Pick a male in a cluster (the records are more abundant)

- Click on “View in FamilyTree”

Start with “Search Records” using FamilySearch historical records

- Concentrate on census, obituaries, marriage to spouse, children’s birth, marriage, and death

RECORD SEEK

Easily create source records for source documents anywhere on the internet outside of FamilySearch.org or Ancestry.com. The techniques below will create source records for FamilySearch.

How to Set up once on every computer/browser:

- Go to RecordSeek.com
- Click and drag the green box into your favorites/bookmarks bar. This leaves a Java script that works the magic. From then on, invoke RecordSeek from the favorites/bookmarks bar.

How to Use RecordSeek

- Go to the relative in FS/FT for which you are doing research so that you will have the Person ID (PID) handy
- Do a google search or go to Cyndislist.com or search a Partner site to find some record in the internet but not in FamilySearch.

Click on RecordSeek in your favorites/bookmark bar; select FamilySearch (or Ancestry)

Tailor the Source Title to answer WHO, WHAT, WHEN and WHERE

Click "Next"

Identify the ancestor to whom the record pertains (most)

Using the PID (or the identification fields), specifying that ancestor

Click "Next"

Explain WHY you are attaching the record (i.e., "leave a breadcrumb")

Specify the events covered in the source to get a TAG (in green box).

Attach the record to the relative;

if appropriate, attach the record to other relatives mentioned in the record.

HOMEWORK:

- In your web browser's favorites bar, create a folder for genealogy URLs and put the four apps into it
- Watch <https://www.rootstech.org/video/censational-census-strategies>

FindaRecord.com

1. Using the GREEN filter, evaluate and attach a source record to at least one ancestor
2. Using the GOLD filter, identify and prepare someone for temple work
3. Using another filter of your choice, "specialize" and work off one type of gap or error for the first 4 generations (over a period of weeks, if necessary).
 - a. When ready, add another type of gap/error to work on.

TreeSeek.com

1. On **US Census** page
 - a. Find at least one ancestor who needs a census record attached
 - a.i. Use the magnifying glass icon to launch a tailored query
 - a.ii. If necessary, further the query with other information
 - a.iii. Attach the record
2. On the **Vital Events** page

- a. Find at least one ancestor who needs a fact to be documented
 - a.i. Use the magnifying glass icon to launch a general query
 - a.ii. If necessary, tailor the query to find a good record
 - a.iii. Attach the record

Puzzilla.org

1. Watch videos in “How To” section
 - a. “How To Puzzilla”
 - b. “Search 10 Hints for Superhints” (a premium feature—can be used for free in your Family History Center) [a superhint leads to adding someone to the tree]
2. Find a “cluster of low-hanging fruit”; chose a cousin to research; “fully document” the cousin
3. Set a goal for using puzzilla as part of your research.

RecordSeek

1. Set up RecordSeek in your favorites/bookmark bar
2. Using a Partner site (e.g. Ancestry), Google search, or Cydislist.com, find a source not in FamilySearch and attach it to a relative
 - a. Hint 1: Ancestry has more marriages than FamilySearch
 - b. Hint 2: Cydislist has more marriages than Ancestry.
 - c. Hint 3: Google searches can find obituaries for people who have died after 2005