Information and ideas about family history research.

Goal = cultivate excitement for family history involvement

Audience= ward members

Why will people come to the website?

Hopefully, because they would like to learn how to be involved in family history.

What questions will your visitors expect answers to?

Why they should become involved in family history.

How they can become involved in family history.

What types of activities will visitors want to complete on your site?

What information is necessary to complete actions your site offers?

Links to family search

Why will your visitors come to your site instead of another to get information?

I will lay it out in very simple terms—"explain like I’m five”. The language will be casual so they feel welcomed and comfortable. I won’t talk to them like they need to be a genealogist. Hopefully remove the intimidation.

Ideas:

- **Getting started**

- how to set up tree= link to family search page on this?

- How to link to a spouse’s tree

- affiliate partnerships- link to FS

-make it fun- link to FS

**- Tell their story, making connections with your past**

- article I wrote for other class

- interview with an ancestor: questions to ask and where you might find the answers

- learn about where they lived

**- My family history is done**

- it’s not done

110 years- link to FS criteria for baptism

Try decesndancy research- link to FS

- more records continuously added, we need to work together

**-CONTACT**

- ask me a question box with contact information

- share your family history experience or testimony with contact information

- add to our list of family history ideas – here are a few to get you thinking

The home page will contain quick information about getting started with family history. The page will answer common questions and provide links to Family Search where appropriate. Most of the provided information for this page is readily available on Family Search, but the page will be customized to the ward and its needs. Another benefit is that all the links will be housed in one easy to access place.

There will be information about how to get started with Family Search and how to create a family tree. There will also be information about how to link to a spouse’s tree. There will be information about the difference between a living person’s profile and a deceased person’s profile. There will be information about affiliate partnerships offered through Family Search. There will be information about how to share your tree using your helper number. There will be information about making family history fun using Family Search’s activities.

At the bottom of the home page, there will be a sentence or two encouraging ward members to reach out for more help through the connect page. The webpage will strive to help ward members feel that they can be involved in family history even if they aren’t or don’t want to be a professional genealogist. I hope that the information provided will remove some of the intimidation that people can feel around genealogy.

The interview page will share information about how ward members can “interview” deceased ancestors. The page will provide details explaining how to tell an ancestor’s story, even if they didn’t leave behind diaries or many personal records. There will be an article that I wrote about how to write life sketches for any ancestor.

Another feature of the interview page will be a list of sample questions to “ask” an ancestor. The list will contain questions about various topics, such as career, military service, children, residence, religion, etc. The purpose of this page is to help ward members create connections with their ancestors. I hope this page will inspire ward members to see how they can connect with their ancestors, even if they never met them in this life.

The connect page will be a place for ward members to ask questions and share information. Currently, there will be three opportunities for connecting. First, ward members will be able to ask their family history questions. The ward’s family history consultants will work to answer the questions and share those answers. Second, ward members can submit their family history experiences and testimonies. In the future, the shared experiences and testimonies will be compiled onto another page of the website. Third, ward members will work together to compile a list of family history ideas. The purpose of this list is to inspire the ward to find ways that they would like to be involved in family history. The idea list will also be compiled onto another page of the website in the future.

Through the connect page, I hope to create an environment in which family history conversations will thrive among ward members. Sometimes, family history work can feel like a lone activity. However, it’s always more fun when you can share your family history experiences. Hopefully, ward members will feel a sense of joy and excitement about family history as they connect with one another. I also hope that the connect page will provide a safe space where ward members can feel comfortable asking their questions, no matter how experienced or inexperienced they are.

Getting started

1. You can start your very own family tree through FamilySearch. To do so, you’ll need an account. You can create an account here: Create an Account (<https://www.familysearch.org/identity/signup/>)

2. Now that you have an account, you can begin building your tree. Visit this page to learn how to start adding people to your tree: Build Your Tree (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/how-to-start-a-family-tree>)

3. FamilySearch Family Tree is the largest online collaborative family tree. When getting started, it’s important to note that your tree won’t connect to the globally shared Family Tree until you add a deceased ancestor’s profile. You can learn more about ID numbers and living versus deceased profiles here: Family Tree ID Numbers (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/article/what-are-id-numbers-used-for-in-family-tree>)

4. You may want to connect to a spouse’s family tree. Just as with your own tree, you won’t connect to the shared Family Tree until you add a deceased individual’s profile. Learn more about connecting to a spouse’s tree here: Connecting Trees (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/how-to-connect-to-a-family-members-tree>)

5. For church members, FamilySearch offers free access to multiple genealogical sites, including Ancestry. You can learn more about what they offer here: Partner Access (<https://www.familysearch.org/access/>)

6. Helper numbers allow another person to view your Family Tree. Learn more about helper numbers here: Helper Number (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/article/where-do-i-find-my-helper-number>)

7. You can change your permission settings for third-party and helpers at any time. Learn how to do so here: Revoke Access (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/article/how-do-i-revoke-access-to-partners-and-helpers>)

8. FamilySearch offers lots of fun family history ideas and interactive activities. View their activity page here: Family History Activities (<https://www.familysearch.org/discovery/>)

Have you ever wished you could interview a deceased ancestor? In this life, we may not have the chance to do so face-to-face, but we can still tell their stories. Even if they didn’t leave behind diaries or many personal records, compiling the facts can create a sense of who they were and what their lives were like.

A life sketch is a great way to tell an ancestor’s story in an approachable and meaningful way. By writing a life sketch you can summarize the key points of a life. Even when little is known about an ancestor, writing what you do know in narrative form can bring their story to life!

To write a life sketch, you’ll want to share a good amount of information about the person. However, it’s important to remember that you’re not writing a full biography. So, focus on key events to give a good overview and feel of what their life was like.

What to include (if possible):

* Birth information
* Parent’s names
* Career information
* Residence locations
* Movements, migrations, immigrations, etc.
* Marriage information
* The birth of children
* Other big events, such as military service
* Death information
* Anything else substantial about their life story

Tips for writing a successful life sketch:

* Keep it short. You don’t need to include all the details.
* Write in chronological order. Include the events in the order that they really happened.
* Write in a third-person narrative. Use words like he, she, and they.
* Don’t speculate. Don’t add your own personal commentary.
* Focus on the subject of the life sketch as much as possible. Don’t write about their family members’ lives the whole time.
* Use action verbs to engage the reader.

Lastly, share the life sketch with living family members. Doing so can help you connect with each other and with your common ancestor.

Connect With Our Ward

Ask a Question! We’re here to help one another, so please submit any questions you have. The ward’s family history consultants will work to answer the questions and share those answers.

Share your experiences and testimonies! Let’s share our experiences and testimonies and learn from one another. Nothing is too small or too big to share. Just share from the heart.

Share your family history ideas! Sometimes, family history can feel intimidating. Let’s work together to create a list of ideas for family history involvement. Share your tried-and-true ideas for research, quick activities, family involvement, making it fun… anything you’d like to share to inspire others.

Connect to the ward by sending an email to ourward@church.com