

Using ancestry.com and familysearch.org Together to Find Our Cousins

Using ancestry.com (“Ancestry”) together with familysearch.org (“FamilySearch”) can help us find more of our cousins than by using only one of these databases. The class describes this synergistic process and the simple but valuable searching tips to find our cousins (our so called “low hanging fruit”).

Reasons for using “Ancestry” and “FamilySearch” together

- To use databases that have the necessary features and record collections
- To use a synergistic approach
- To take advantage of the differences between the two databases

Take advantage of the differences between “Ancestry” and “FamilySearch”

- Search criteria varies
- Record collections are different
- Indexing results may be different
- It is easier to test relationships in “Ancestry”
- The “Ancestry” tree is not editable by others but the “FamilySearch” tree is a wiki

Process for success

- Find direct line ancestors and enter results in “Ancestry” and “FamilySearch”
- Explore your tree in “FamilySearch” for descendants from your # great grandparents
- Find each uncle, aunt, cousin, and their spouse(s) and the parents of the spouse(s)
- Determine if there may be missing relationships, events, dates, and places
- Add your “FamilySearch” descendants to your “Ancestry” tree one family at a time
- Use information about your relatives found in other “Ancestry” trees as clues
- Find, evaluate, and attach records found within “Ancestry” and from other sources
- Use the “FamilySearch” wiki and other such resources to provide helpful information especially about history, geography, culture, and what records are available
- Find all of the spouses, children, and in-laws for the descendant(s) in “Ancestry”
- In “FamilySearch,” find and attach the records that you have found in “Ancestry”
- In “FamilySearch,” find any additional records and also add them into “Ancestry”
- Edit the titles of the sources in “FamilySearch” to clarify events
- Organize the “FamilySearch” records in chronological order
- Resolve “FamilySearch” icons and use other applications to review results
- Communicate with your relatives about your/their/our tree

Distractions

- More effort and time required (work!)
- Resolving conflicts and dealing with inaccurate and incomplete duplicates
- Wanting to fix mistakes in other people’s trees

Helps to improve searching success

- Get comfortable using the computer and using split or dual screens
- Be persistent and thorough as practical for each person
- Be systematic as you descend down your tree and keep track of where you are in your tree
- Be accurate with the names, dates, and places
- Be forgiving and kind to others since everybody makes mistakes
- Be open to changes and surprises
- Practice and experience helps
- Address questions to “FamilySearch,” “Ancestry,” consultants, and relatives
- Take a break
- Prayer, meditation, thinking straight
- Realizing that you are not in control